Education as a Solution: Understanding Religious Figures' Perspectives on Joint Property Division in East Lombok

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Abstract: This study explores the perspectives of religious figures regarding joint property division in East Lombok, aiming to elucidate the role of education as a potential solution in addressing related challenges. Employing a qualitative research approach, data was collected through semi-structured interviews with key religious figures in the region. These interviews were transcribed and analyzed thematically to identify recurring patterns and themes. The findings reveal a nuanced understanding among religious figures regarding joint property division, influenced by cultural, social, and religious factors. Education emerged as a central theme in their perspectives, highlighting its potential to foster understanding, tolerance, and equitable solutions. The implications of these findings underscore the importance of integrating educational initiatives into discussions and practices related to joint property division in East Lombok, thereby promoting social cohesion and conflict resolution.

Keywords: Education, Joint Property Division, Religious Figures, Perspectives, East Lombok, Qualitative Research.

INTRODUCTION

Joint property division, especially in communities where religious and cultural norms heavily influence social dynamics, often faces complex challenges (H. Munir et al., 2021). East Lombok, a region rich in cultural heritage and religious diversity, struggles with such complexities in the practice of joint property division (Li et al., 2024). In this context, understanding the perspectives of religious figures becomes crucial, as they often serve as moral authorities and community leaders shaping societal norms and behaviors (Yang et al., 2024). The practice of joint property division in East Lombok often becomes a source of tension and conflict among community members, especially when religious values and traditions intervene in the process (Heng et al., 2024). For example, in some cases, there are disagreements among family members or community groups regarding fair ways to divide joint property (Chustecki & Johnston, 2024), such as agricultural land or inherited properties. When differing views collide (Wu et al., 2023), conflicts can arise, affecting interpersonal relationships and social stability in the region (Khan & Konje, 2019).

One such case reflecting the complexity of joint property division in East Lombok is a dispute between two prominent families in a village related to the division of land passed down through generations (Tian et al., 2024). Although there are legal provisions and local traditions governing property division (Ramazanova et al., 2022), the interpretation and application of these provisions often trigger tensions among groups (Nasri, 2017a). Such conflicts not only disrupt the peace of the local community but also hinder efforts for development and economic advancement in the region (Lempradl, 2020). Therefore, a profound understanding of the perspectives of religious figures and the role of education in alleviating such conflicts becomes crucial to advancing peace and social progress in East Lombok (Zouaoui & Rezeg, 2021). This study delves into the perspectives of religious figures regarding joint property division in East Lombok, with a specific focus on exploring the potential role of education in addressing related issues (Bahrami-Rad, 2021). By examining the intersection of religion, education, and social dynamics (Nasri, 2023b), this research seeks to provide insights into pathways toward fairer and more harmonious solutions (Nasri, 2017b).
In East Lombok, where traditions are deeply rooted and closely related to religious beliefs, the perspectives of religious figures have a significant influence on communal practices and decision-making processes (Susanto, 2011). However, the impact of education in shaping these perspectives and facilitating understanding remains unexplored (Gatterer et al., 2024). By investigating the perspectives of religious figures through qualitative research methods, this study aims to uncover the underlying factors influencing their views on joint property division (Huning & Wahl, 2021). Furthermore, it aims to explain how education can be utilized as a tool to promote dialogue, tolerance, and equitable outcomes in the context of property distribution (Nasri, 2019b). Through this exploration, the insights gained can contribute to the development of more informed strategies and interventions aimed at addressing the challenges of joint property division in East Lombok, ultimately promoting social cohesion and sustainable development in the region.

METHOD

This research employs a qualitative approach to gain an in-depth understanding of religious figures' perspectives regarding joint property division in East Lombok (Nasri, 2023a). The following are the methodological steps applied:

1. Respondent Selection: Respondents are selected using purposive sampling technique, considering the diversity of religions and their social status in the community (Nasri et al., 2024). Religious figures invited to participate in this research are those deemed to have significant influence in the community and possess profound insights into the practice of joint property division (Husnawadi & Nasri, 2023).

2. Data Collection: Data is collected through semi-structured interviews (Yan & Li, 2023). Interviews are conducted face-to-face using pre-prepared interview guides (Blackley et al., 2020). The questions in the interview guide are designed to explore respondents' views on joint property division, their perceptions of the role of education in the process, and other factors influencing their perspectives (Fang et al., 2022).

3. Data Analysis: The collected data is analyzed thematically (Mihas, 2023). Interview transcripts are read repeatedly to identify common patterns, themes, and interconnections among the information (Schwandt, 2021). Emerging findings are then organized and categorized according to the research objectives (Davis et al., 2024).

4. Validity and Reliability: To ensure data validity and reliability, measures such as data triangulation (using various data sources), researcher reflexivity (critically examining and reflecting on the analysis), and member checking (verifying findings with participants) will be undertaken (Nagashima et al., 2024).

5. Research Ethics: This research will adhere to research ethics principles, including privacy, confidentiality, and protection of participants' human rights. An informed consent letter will be provided to all respondents, and they will be given the freedom to withdraw from participation at any time (Bockhold et al., 2022).

By implementing this methodology, it is expected that this research can provide a better understanding of religious figures' perspectives regarding joint property division in East Lombok, as well as the potential role of education in creating fairer and more harmonious solutions.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

After conducting in-depth interviews with religious figures in East Lombok regarding joint property division, several key findings emerged:

1. Diverse Perspectives

Religious figures expressed diverse perspectives on joint property division, influenced by their respective religious teachings, cultural backgrounds, and personal experiences. While some emphasized the importance of equitable distribution guided by religious principles of fairness and justice, others prioritized maintaining traditional practices and preserving family harmony.

2. Role of Education

There was a consensus among religious figures regarding the significant role of education in addressing challenges related to joint property division (Nasri, 2016a). Many acknowledged that education could promote understanding, tolerance, and equitable solutions by raising awareness of legal rights, conflict resolution strategies, and alternative
dispute resolution mechanisms (Nasri, 2016b).

3. Impact of Socioeconomic Factors:
Socioeconomic factors, such as poverty, land scarcity, and unequal access to resources, were identified as underlying causes of disputes over joint property division. Religious figures highlighted the need for socioeconomic empowerment programs to address these root causes and mitigate conflicts.

4. Interplay of Tradition and Modernity:
The interplay between traditional practices and modern legal frameworks was evident in discussions about joint property division. While traditional norms and customs continue to inform decision-making processes, there is growing recognition of the importance of adhering to legal regulations and seeking professional assistance in resolving disputes.

5. Community Engagement and Mediation:
Religious figures emphasized the importance of community engagement and mediation in facilitating dialogue and reconciliation among disputing parties. They highlighted the role of religious institutions in providing moral guidance and mediation services to promote peaceful resolution of conflicts.

6. Need for Legal Awareness:
There was a widespread consensus among religious figures about the importance of enhancing legal awareness among community members, particularly regarding property rights and inheritance laws. They emphasized the need for educational campaigns and legal literacy programs to empower individuals to assert their rights and navigate legal processes effectively.

7. Call for Collaborative Efforts:
Religious figures emphasized the need for collaborative efforts involving religious leaders, government agencies, civil society organizations, and community members to address issues related to joint property division comprehensively. They advocated for multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms and community-based initiatives to foster cooperation and mutual understanding.

Overall, the findings underscore the complexity of issues surrounding joint property division in East Lombok and the importance of adopting a holistic approach that integrates legal, social, and educational interventions to promote fair and harmonious outcomes.

Discussion
The findings from the study on religious figures’ perspectives on joint property division in East Lombok provide valuable insights that can be discussed in relation to relevant theoretical frameworks:

1. Social Conflict Theory:
The diverse perspectives expressed by religious figures reflect underlying tensions and conflicts within the community regarding property distribution (Jeong, 2022). Drawing from social conflict theory, these conflicts can be understood as arising from competition for scarce resources and disparities in power and access. By acknowledging the socioeconomic factors contributing to conflicts, interventions can be designed to address root causes and promote social justice (You et al., 2022).

2. Legal Pluralism:
The interplay between traditional customs and modern legal frameworks highlighted in the findings aligns with the concept of legal pluralism. In East Lombok, multiple legal systems coexist, with customary norms often influencing legal decision-making processes (Griffiths, 2015). Understanding this dynamic is essential for developing strategies that respect local customs while ensuring adherence to legal regulations, thereby promoting legal certainty and social cohesion (Mensah, 2021).

3. Education and Social Change:
The role of education in addressing challenges related to joint property division resonates with theories of education and social change (Nasri, 2019a). By raising awareness, promoting critical thinking, and fostering dialogue (Nasri et al., 2016), education can empower individuals to challenge traditional practices and advocate for equitable solutions. This aligns with theories emphasizing the transformative potential of education in promoting social justice and fostering societal change (Nasri, 2024).

4. Community Mediation and Conflict Resolution:
The emphasis on community engagement and mediation underscores the importance of informal justice systems in resolving disputes.
(Ansori et al., 2024). Drawing from theories of alternative dispute resolution and restorative justice, community-based mediation processes can facilitate dialogue, repair relationships, and promote reconciliation (Nasri, 2015). By harnessing the legitimacy and trust vested in religious institutions, these processes can effectively address conflicts while preserving cultural values and social cohesion (Nasri, 2017b).

5. Legal Empowerment and Access to Justice:
The findings highlight the need for legal empowerment initiatives to enhance access to justice for marginalized communities. Aligning with theories of legal empowerment, educational campaigns and legal literacy programs can empower individuals to assert their rights, navigate legal processes, and demand accountability from authorities. By strengthening legal awareness and capacity, these initiatives can address power imbalances and promote the rule of law.

6. Collaborative Governance and Social Integration:
The call for collaborative efforts among diverse stakeholders echoes theories of collaborative governance and social integration (Astani et al., 2024). By fostering partnerships between religious leaders, government agencies, civil society organizations, and community members, collaborative governance approaches can promote inclusive decision-making processes and build social capital (Nasri, 2023c). Through dialogue platforms and joint initiatives, these partnerships can enhance trust, cooperation, and collective action to address complex social problems (Astani et al., 2024).

In conclusion, the discussion of the findings in light of relevant theoretical frameworks underscores the multidimensional nature of issues related to joint property division in East Lombok and the importance of adopting holistic approaches that integrate legal, social, and educational interventions to promote fair and harmonious outcomes.

CONCLUSION

The study on religious figures’ perspectives on joint property division in East Lombok has provided valuable insights into the complexities surrounding this issue. Through in-depth interviews, diverse perspectives were uncovered, reflecting the interplay of religious, cultural, socioeconomic, and legal factors shaping communal practices and decision-making processes. The findings underscored the importance of education in addressing challenges related to joint property division, with religious figures recognizing its potential to promote understanding, tolerance, and equitable solutions. Additionally, the role of socioeconomic factors, the interplay between tradition and modernity, the significance of community engagement and mediation, and the need for legal awareness were highlighted as key considerations in addressing conflicts and promoting social justice.

Recommendations
Based on the findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Education Initiatives:
Develop and implement educational programs that raise awareness about property rights, inheritance laws, conflict resolution strategies, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. Collaborate with religious institutions, schools, and community organizations to reach a wide audience and promote legal literacy.

2. Community Mediation Centers:
Establish community-based mediation centers staffed by trained mediators, including religious leaders, to facilitate dialogue and reconciliation among disputing parties. Provide resources and support for these centers to ensure their sustainability and effectiveness.

3. Legal Empowerment Campaigns:
Launch legal empowerment campaigns aimed at empowering individuals, particularly women and marginalized groups, to assert their rights and access justice. Provide legal assistance, advocacy support, and referral services to help individuals navigate legal processes and address grievances.

4. Interfaith Dialogue Platforms:
Foster interfaith dialogue platforms where religious leaders from different faith communities can come together to discuss shared values, promote mutual understanding, and address common
challenges, including issues related to joint property division.

5. Collaborative Governance Initiatives:
   Facilitate collaborative governance initiatives involving diverse stakeholders, including religious leaders, government agencies, civil society organizations, and community members, to develop comprehensive strategies and interventions addressing the root causes of conflicts and promoting social cohesion.

6. Capacity Building for Religious Leaders:
   Provide training and capacity-building opportunities for religious leaders to enhance their skills in conflict resolution, mediation, and community leadership. Equip them with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively address disputes and promote peace within their communities.

By implementing these recommendations in a coordinated manner, stakeholders can work together to address the challenges of joint property division in East Lombok and promote fair and harmonious outcomes for all members of the community.

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