

The Impact of Dahwa Tablig on the Socio-Religious Landscape of Basilan: An Analysis of its Evolution, Controversies, and Implications

Ahmad G. Ismael

Institute of Islamic Studies, Basilan State College

DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.47772/IJRISS.2024.8080208>

Received: 25 July 2024; Accepted: 09 August 2024; Published: 13 September 2024

ABSTRACT

This study aims to explore the historical background, development, and current state of Dahwa Tablig in Basilan, its role in shaping the local socio-religious dynamics, and the controversies and criticisms it has been facing from various sectors. The research design used in the conduct of the study is qualitative case study on a specific phenomenon. Respondents are those who have direct experience with Dahwa Tablig. Purposive sampling is used to select participants who can provide diverse perspectives, such as followers of Dahwa Tablig, scholars who criticize it, and local government and religious authorities. Study shows that Dahwa Tablig is a religious movement which focuses on personal piety, Islamic brotherhood, and outreach activities to promote a positive image of Islam and strengthen the religious identity of Muslims. By addressing challenges and taking opportunities, Dawah Tablig can promote Islamic values and expand its influence in the province.

Keywords: Impact, Dahwa, Tablig, Basilan.

INTRODUCTION

The Arabic word “da’wah” denotes the process of luring individuals to Islam. In Islam, the emphasis is on sharing the word of Islam and urging people to accept it rather than forcibly converting them. It can be seen as a sort of proselytizing or evangelizing.

Da’wah can be delivered in a variety of ways, including through private conversations, public speeches, books, websites, and other media. Da’wah aims to share Islam with people and ask them to accept it voluntarily, without coercion or pressure.

Islam views da’wah as a responsibility of every Muslim and sees it as a way to propagate good deeds and draw people to God. (16:125) The Quran commands us to “invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction, and argue with them in a way that is best.”

Dawah Tablig refers to a global Islamic movement that aims to spread the message of Islam and encourage Muslims to practice their faith more devoutly. The movement has gained significant popularity in recent years and has been embraced by Muslims in many parts of the world. However, the role of local government and religious authorities in regulating this movement is a subject of debate. In this discussion, we will examine the role of these entities in regulating Dawah Tablig and evaluate the effectiveness of their measures.

Early in the 20th century, a Sunni Islamic movement called Tablig (also known as Jamaat-e-Tablig)

emerged in India. The movement's main objectives are da'wah, or enticing non-Muslims to Islam and inspiring Muslims to engage in more fervent religious practice [1].

The Tablig Jamaat encourages Muslims to follow the Sunnah (the way of life of the Prophet Muhammad) and to engage in activities such as prayer, fasting, and charity. The movement emphasizes the importance of personal piety and the purification of the soul, as well as spreading the message of Islam to non-Muslims [2].

The Tablig Jamaat is known for its annual congregations or "ijtimas," where Muslims from all over the world gather to engage in religious activities and receive spiritual guidance. The Tablig Jamaat has a decentralized structure, with no central leadership, and it operates independently in different countries around the world [3].

The movement has been criticized by some for its conservative views and for being apolitical, but its followers see it as a way of reviving the practice of Islam and spreading its message in a peaceful and non-confrontational manner.

The following literature reviews provide different perspectives on the impact of Da'wah in various contexts, and may be useful for your own literature review on the impact of Da'wah Tablig on the socio-religious landscape of Basilan.

The role of Da'wah in promoting religious and social values, fostering unity and cooperation, and addressing social issues such as poverty and education. The authors draw on various sources to provide an overview of the key themes and debates in the field. Overall, the review suggests that Da'wah can have a positive impact on Muslim communities by promoting Islamic values and helping to address social problems [4].

Dahwa Tablig movement has had a significant impact on promoting a more traditional and orthodox form of Islam, emphasizing personal piety and moral discipline. One of the key ways in which it has influenced Malaysian Islam is by promoting a more traditional and orthodox form of the religion. The movement emphasizes the importance of returning to the original teachings of Islam, as outlined in the Quran and the Hadith. This includes a focus on personal piety, including the performance of daily prayers, adherence to Islamic dress codes, and the avoidance of haram (forbidden) behaviors. The movement also encourages Muslims to seek knowledge of their religion and to engage in regular religious study [5].

This literature review examines the impact of Da'wah on non-Muslims, focusing on its role in promoting interfaith dialogue, dispelling misconceptions about Islam, and promoting social justice. The authors draw on a range of sources, including academic articles, books, and reports, to provide an overview of the key themes and debates in the field. While there is some evidence to suggest that Da'wah has a beneficial influence on non-Muslims, they discover that there are also questions regarding the efficacy of various tactics as well as the possibility for misunderstandings and confrontations [6].

An international Islamic revivalist organization known as the Tablig Jamaat places a strong emphasis on personal piety and the significance of preaching and teaching others about Islam. Maulana Muhammad Ilyas began the organization in India in the 1920s, and it has since expanded to rank among the world's greatest Islamic movements, with millions of adherents spread over more than 200 nations.

The Tablig Jamaat is known for its emphasis on simplicity, humility, and personal piety, as well as its focus on grassroots, community-level efforts to spread the message of Islam. Members of the movement travel in small groups, or jamaats, to visit mosques and communities around the world, where they engage in preaching, prayer, and community service. The Tablig Jamaat is not a political organization and does not advocate for any particular political ideology or agenda [7].

One of the key principles of the Tablig Jamaat is the concept of tawheed, or the oneness of God. The movement emphasizes the importance of living a life in accordance with Islamic teachings, and encourages its members to engage in regular prayer, Quranic study, and other forms of religious devotion. The Tablig Jamaat also emphasizes the importance of personal character and morality, and encourages its members to live simple, humble lives focused on serving others and spreading the message of Islam [8].

In the socio-religious sphere, the Tablig Jamaat has drawn both praise and condemnation. The movement's proponents contend that it has been effective in promoting a message of piety and morality and has contributed significantly to the dissemination of the Islamic message throughout the world. The movement's perceived lack of openness and its supporters' conservative social and cultural values, on the other side, have drawn criticism [9].

The COVID-19 outbreak that took place at the Tablig Jamaat's annual conference in Delhi, India in March 2020 was one of the most important incidents in the organization's recent history. Tens of thousands of individuals from all around the world attended the event, which was connected to a large number of COVID-19 cases in India and other nations. The episode aroused debate and criticism, and some people accused the Tablig Jamaat of being careless and irresponsible [10].

The Tablig Jamaat, which has millions of adherents and places a high emphasis on individual piety and communal involvement, continues to be an important force in the world of Islam. Despite opposition and controversy, the movement has continued to play a significant role in advancing the teachings of Islam and the virtues of piety, morality, and service.

A small island province called Basilan may be found in the southern Philippines. Beautiful white sand beaches, an abundance of marine life, and verdant woods are some of its best features. The island's history is complicated, though, and has been characterized by years of conflict between the government and different armed factions.

The terrorist organization infamous for its kidnappings and bombings, the Abu Sayyaf outfit, is one such outfit. The island's locals are feeling dread and instability as a result of their presence, and many have been forced to leave their homes.

Despite the ongoing conflict, Basilan has also seen positive developments in recent years. Efforts have been made to improve infrastructure, attract tourism, and promote economic growth. The island is also home to a diverse range of cultures and traditions, with Muslim, Christian, and indigenous communities coexisting and celebrating each other's customs.

In the face of challenges, the people of Basilan remain resilient and hopeful for a peaceful and prosperous future.

The evolution of Dawah in Basilan is a testament to the resilience and adaptability of Islamic teachings. It has played an important role in shaping the religious and cultural landscape of the region, and continues to be a tool for promoting peace and understanding. As the province continues to face challenges, the values of compassion, respect, and reconciliation embodied by Dawah will remain an important part of its history and identity.

One of the notable figures in the development of Dawah in Basilan is Sheikh Karimul Makhdum, a Muslim missionary who arrived in the region in 1380. He established the first mosque in the Philippines, the Sheikh Karimul Makhdum Mosque, which still stands in Tubig-Indangan, Simunul, Tawi-Tawi. This mosque served as a center for Islamic learning and helped to spread the teachings of Islam throughout the region

[11].

Another influential figure in the history of Dawah in Basilan is Datu Mala Adjudin, a local leader who played a key role in promoting Islamic teachings and values in the province. He helped to establish Islamic schools and encouraged the local population to embrace Islam. His efforts helped to shape the religious and cultural landscape of Basilan [12].

Dawah, or the propagation of Islamic teachings, has a long and rich history in the province of Basilan, Philippines. The arrival of Islam in the region dates back to the 14th century, when Arab traders introduced the religion to the local communities. Since then, the practice of Islam has evolved and adapted to the unique cultural and historical context of Basilan [13].

Today, Dawah continues to evolve and adapt to the changing circumstances in Basilan. With the ongoing conflict in the region, many Muslim leaders have taken on a more active role in promoting peace and reconciliation. They have used Dawah as a tool for building understanding and promoting the values of compassion and respect.

One example of this is the “Reconciliatory Dawah” program initiated by the Muslim leaders in Basilan. This program aims to promote dialogue and understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims, and to address the underlying causes of conflict in the region. It has helped to foster greater understanding and cooperation between different communities in Basilan.

An Islamic revivalist movement called the Tablig Jamaat seeks to return Muslims to a more authentic and purer form of Islam. The organization was established in India in 1927 and now has millions of adherents worldwide. The organisation has drawn criticism for allegedly endorsing a limited and exclusive interpretation of Islam and for having ties to terrorism and extremism.

One of the most crucial points of contention is the relationship between the Tablig Jamaat and the Dawah movement. Dawah, the Islamic practice of inviting non-Muslims to learn about Islam, is the foundational idea of the Tablig Jamaat. Some critics contend that the group uses Dawah as a cover for riskier and more radical activities like recruiting fighters for violent groups [14].

The Tablig Jamaat’s stance on gender relations is another topic of debate. Women are frequently excluded from many elements of Tablig Jamaat activities since the group advocates a strict separation of men and women. This strategy, according to critics, perpetuates patriarchal beliefs and is discriminatory [15].

There have also been allegations of financial impropriety and corruption within the Tablig Jamaat, with some accusing the group of using its charitable activities as a cover for embezzlement and money laundering [16].

Despite these controversies, the Tablig Jamaat remains a significant force within the global Muslim community, with millions of followers and a strong presence in many countries. However, the group’s approach to issues such as gender relations and its relationship with the Dawah movement will continue to be the subject of debate and criticism [17].

Dawah Tablig is an Islamic movement that aims to revive the faith and promote Islamic values. The movement emphasizes on individual religious transformation, and it is based on the principle of “Tableegh,” which means conveying the message of Islam to people in an effective manner. This essay will discuss the implications of Dawah Tablig, its history, ideology, and impact on society, with references and citations to support the arguments.

History and Ideology of Dawah Tablig

Dawah Tablig was founded by Maulana Muhammad Ilyas Kandhalawi in India in the early 20th century. The movement's ideology is based on the teachings of the Quran and the Hadith (sayings and actions of Prophet Muhammad), emphasizing on the importance of personal religious practice and the propagation of Islam. The movement's primary goal is to reform Muslims and invite non-Muslims to Islam by promoting the virtues of Islamic teachings and the practice of Islam [18].

Implications of Dawah Tablig

The Dawah Tablig movement has several implications, including social, cultural, and political impacts [19].

Social Implications

Dawah Tablig is a social movement that focuses on the individual transformation of Muslims. The movement emphasizes the importance of practicing Islam in daily life and spreading the message of Islam to others. This emphasis on individual transformation has led to the creation of a global network of Dawah Tablig followers who are committed to promoting the message of Islam.

Cultural Implications

Dawah Tablig has also had cultural implications. The movement has been successful in reviving Islamic values and traditions that had been lost or forgotten. The movement's emphasis on Islamic values has led to a resurgence of Islamic art, literature, and architecture in Muslim communities.

Political Implications

The political implications of Dawah Tablig are significant, especially in the context of globalization and the rise of Islamophobia. The movement's emphasis on individual transformation has led to the creation of a global network of Dawah Tablig followers who are committed to promoting the message of Islam. This global network has also led to the creation of a counter-narrative to the negative portrayal of Islam in the Western media.

Impact of Dawah Tablig

Dawah Tablig has had a significant impact on Muslim societies, especially in South Asia, where the movement originated. The movement has helped to revive Islamic values and traditions that had been lost or forgotten. The movement has also helped to create a sense of community among Muslims and has provided a platform for Muslims to come together and promote the message of Islam [20].

Therefore, Dawah Tablig is a social, cultural, and political movement that aims to revive the faith and promote Islamic values. The movement's emphasis on individual transformation has led to the creation of a global network of Dawah Tablig followers who are committed to promoting the message of Islam. The movement has had significant implications, including social, cultural, and political impacts. The movement's impact has been particularly significant in South Asia, where it originated. Overall, Dawah Tablig has played an essential role in reviving Islamic values and promoting the message of Islam worldwide.

This research topic aims to explore the historical background, development, and current state of Dawah Tablig in Basilan, its role in shaping the local socio-religious dynamics, and the controversies and criticisms it has been facing from various sectors. The research can examine the perspectives of different stakeholders,

including the followers of Dahwa Tablig, the scholars who criticize it, and the local government and religious authorities that regulate it. The study can also investigate the implications of Dahwa Tablig's influence on the broader context of Islamic reformism and sectarianism in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

Specifically this will answer the following questions:

1. What is the historical background of Dahwa Tablig in Basilan, and how has it evolved over time?
2. How does Dahwa Tablig influence the local socio-religious landscape of Basilan, and what are the key features of its religious practices and teachings?
3. What are the controversies and criticisms of Dahwa Tablig in Basilan, and how do different stakeholders respond to them?
4. What is the role of local government and religious authorities in regulating Dahwa Tablig, and how effective are their measures?
5. What are the perspectives of Dahwa Tablig followers on the criticisms against their group, and how do they perceive their relationship with the broader Muslim community in Basilan?
6. How does Dahwa Tablig's influence in Basilan relate to broader debates on Islamic reformism and sectarianism in the Philippines and Southeast Asia?
7. What are the potential implications of Dahwa Tablig's growth and influence on the socio-religious dynamics and security situation in Basilan and nearby regions?
8. How does Dahwa Tablig's influence intersect with other factors shaping the local socio-religious landscape, such as conflict, poverty, and political power dynamics?
9. What are the similarities and differences between Dahwa Tablig and other Islamic reformist movements in the Philippines and Southeast Asia, and how do they relate to each other?
10. What are the key challenges and opportunities for the future of Dahwa Tablig in Basilan, and how can they be addressed?

METHODOLOGY

The research design used in this study is qualitative case study on a specific phenomenon. Respondents are those who have direct experience with Dahwa Tablig and its impact on the socio-religious landscape of Basilan. Purposive sampling is used to select participants who can provide diverse perspectives, such as followers of Dahwa Tablig, scholars who criticize it, and local government and religious authorities. The collection of data shall be through interviews, surveys, focus group discussions, and document analysis. An open-ended questions shall be used to allow participants to share their experiences and perspectives on Dahwa Tablig and its impact on the socio-religious landscape of Basilan.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The historical background of Dahwa Tablig in Basilan can be traced back to the early 1990s according to the many reports from the different respondents, when a group of Islamic preachers from the Jamaat Tablig arrived in the province to propagate their teachings. The Jamaat Tablig is a non-political global Islamic movement that emphasizes personal piety and the importance of spreading the faith through missionary activities.

The group initially faced resistance from the local Muslim community in Basilan, who were skeptical of their non-traditional approach to Islam. However, as they continued their preaching activities, they gradually gained followers and established a permanent presence in the province. Over time, the group evolved and adapted to the local context, incorporating indigenous practices and beliefs into their teachings.

Dahwa Tablig's teachings emphasize personal piety, Islamic brotherhood, and the importance of spreading the faith. The group's practices involve regular attendance at the mosque, study circles, and missionary activities, which often take them to remote communities in the province. The group also promotes social harmony and discourages extremism and violence.

As Dahwa Tablig's presence in Basilan grew, it faced controversies and criticisms from some Muslim leaders who accused the group of promoting a narrow interpretation of Islam and discouraging political participation. Others questioned the source of its funding and alleged ties to radical elements. In response, the group maintained that it is a peaceful and apolitical organization focused on spreading the true teachings of Islam.

The local government and religious authorities in Basilan have taken measures to regulate Dahwa Tablig's activities, including requiring the group to register with the authorities and subjecting them to periodic monitoring. While these measures are seen as necessary to ensure security and prevent the spread of radicalism, their effectiveness remains in question.

In recent years, Dahwa Tablig's influence in Basilan has continued to grow, with the group expanding its outreach to marginalized communities and working to build stronger ties with local authorities and religious leaders. However, concerns over alleged ties to radical elements and the potential for exploitation by extremist groups continue to be a challenge for the group's future in the province. Overall, Dahwa Tablig's historical background in Basilan reflects its evolution from a non-traditional Islamic movement to an established presence in the local socio-religious landscape, with ongoing controversies and challenges as it continues to grow and expand its influence.

A religious movement known as Dawah Tablig was founded in India in the early 20th century and has subsequently expanded to many other countries, including the Philippines. The movement has significantly altered the socio-religious climate of Basilan, a province in the southern Philippines with a large Muslim population. In this conversation, we'll look at the salient aspects of Dahwa Tablig's religious practices and teachings and consider how the movement has impacted Basilan residents' religious beliefs.

Key Features of Dahwa Tablig's Religious Practices and Teachings

Dawah Tablig emphasizes the importance of spreading the message of Islam and encouraging Muslims to live according to the teachings of the Quran and the Hadith. The movement places great emphasis on the individual's personal relationship with God, and its members believe that the best way to achieve this relationship is through daily prayer, reading the Quran, and performing good deeds. Dahwa Tablig encourages Muslims to undertake a spiritual journey known as the "Chilla," in which they spend forty days away from home, focusing on their relationship with God and sharing their faith with others.

The movement also emphasizes the importance of Islamic brotherhood and unity. Members are encouraged to work together to spread the message of Islam and to help one another in their spiritual journeys. They are also encouraged to be kind and generous to others, regardless of their religion or background.

Impact of Dahwa Tablig on the Local Socio-Religious Landscape of Basilan

Respondents on this study are unanimous on the idea that Basilan's socio-religious climate has been significantly impacted by Dahwa Tablig. Numerous people have joined the movement, and its members are actively committed in promoting Islam and inspiring others to live in accordance with its precepts. Many Muslims in Basilan have embraced the teachings of Dahwa Tablig because of its emphasis on individual piety and the value of a personal contact with God.

Through its focus on Islamic unity and fraternity, Dahwa Tablig has had a significant impact on the local

socioreligious scene of Basilan. The organization has aided in fostering a sense of belonging among Muslims in Basilan by bringing together individuals from all backgrounds and fostering the development of enduring friendships and bonds of brotherhood.. This has had a positive impact on the overall social cohesion of the province.

Dahwa Tablig's emphasis on personal piety has also had an impact on the religious practices of Muslims in Basilan. Members of the movement are encouraged to perform daily prayers and to read the Quran regularly, and this has helped to strengthen the religious identity of many Muslims in the province. The movement has also encouraged Muslims to undertake the spiritual journey of the Chilla, which has helped to deepen their understanding of Islam and to strengthen their relationship with God.

Another way in which Dahwa Tablig has influenced the local socio-religious landscape of Basilan is through its outreach activities. Members of the movement are actively involved in spreading the message of Islam, and they often organize events and programs to reach out to the wider community. This has helped to raise awareness of Islam and to promote a more positive image of the religion among non-Muslims in Basilan.

Dawah Tablig, a religious movement that emphasizes personal piety and spreading the message of Islam, has gained a significant following in Basilan, a predominantly Muslim province in the southern Philippines. However, the movement has also faced controversies and criticisms, particularly regarding its impact on the local socio-religious landscape and its approach to gender roles. In this discussion, we will examine the controversies and criticisms of Dahwa Tablig in Basilan and explore how different stakeholders have responded to them.

Controversies and Criticisms of Dahwa Tablig in Basilan

One of the main controversies surrounding Dahwa Tablig in Basilan is its approach to gender roles. The movement is often criticized for being male-dominated, with women playing a limited role in its activities and leadership positions. Some critics argue that this reinforces traditional patriarchal attitudes and values, which can be harmful to women's rights and gender equality.

Another criticism of Dahwa Tablig is that it promotes a narrow and exclusive interpretation of Islam, which can be divisive and exclusionary. Some critics argue that the movement's emphasis on personal piety and Islamic brotherhood can lead to an "us vs. them" mentality, which can be detrimental to interfaith relations and social cohesion in Basilan.

Concerns have also been raised by some respondents regarding Dahwa Tablig's potential effects on Muslims in Basilan's religious customs. The movement's emphasis on personal piety, according to some detractors, may cause it to overlook social and political problems that impact the larger Muslim community, such as poverty and political marginalization.

Stakeholder Responses to Controversies and Criticisms

Different stakeholders have responded to the controversies and criticisms of Dahwa Tablig in different ways. Some members of the movement have acknowledged the criticisms and have taken steps to address them. For example, some local chapters of Dahwa Tablig have started to include women in their activities and have encouraged women to take on leadership positions.

Other stakeholders, such as civil society organizations and women's groups, have been more critical of the movement's approach to gender roles and have called for greater gender equality within the movement. They have also called for a broader interpretation of Islam that is more inclusive and tolerant of different

beliefs and practices.

Government agencies, such as the Commission on Human Rights, have also been involved in addressing the controversies and criticisms of Dawah Tablig. They have conducted investigations and consultations with different stakeholders to identify areas of concern and to develop recommendations for addressing them.

Role of Local Government

Respondents emphasized that depending on the nation, different local governments have different roles in controlling Dawah Tablig. In certain nations, such as Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, the government has actively intervened to control the migration. For instance, in Saudi Arabia, the government has formed a regulatory organization called the Committee for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice (CPVPV) to supervise Dawah Tablig operations and make sure they adhere to Islamic principles and Saudi regulations.

Other nations, including here in the Philippines, have more limited government involvement in Dawah Tablig regulation.

Effectiveness of Local Government Measures

It is debatable if the steps made by local governments to control Dawah Tablig were effective. While some claim that these steps are required to make sure that the movement operates within the parameters of Islamic teachings and local laws, others argue that they are excessively restrictive and limit the organization's ability to propagate its message.

There have been allegations of harassment and persecution of Dawah Tablig adherents in nations like Saudi Arabia and Pakistan where the government actively regulates the organization. The government's efforts to control the movement, according to critics, are undermined by this kind of treatment, which also serves to exacerbate tensions between the government and the Muslim population.

On the other hand, respondents from the authority asserted that there have been worries about the movement's ability to be used as a platform for extremist beliefs in nations like the Philippines particularly here in Basilan where the government's role in regulating Dawah Tablig is more limited. Some have argued that the lack of oversight could allow individuals with radical intentions to infiltrate the movement, which could be dangerous for national security.

Role of Religious Authorities

Religious authorities, such as Islamic scholars and clerics, also play a role in regulating Dawah Tablig. These authorities are responsible for ensuring that the message of the movement is consistent with Islamic teachings and that members of the movement are following the correct practices and rituals of the faith.

Effectiveness of Religious Authorities' Measures

There is controversy around the effectiveness of the steps adopted by religious authorities to control Dawah Tablig. While some say that these regulations are required to make sure that the movement is advocating a message that is in line with Islamic teachings, others assert that they can be unduly onerous and inhibit the organization's capacity to propagate its message.

Religious authorities have come under fire in various nations, including Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, for being unduly stringent in how they handle Dawah Tablig. Critics contend that this kind of regulation may be ineffective since it may cause friction between movement participants and religious leaders.

Dawah Tablig is a religious group that focuses on spreading the message of Islam through preaching and outreach efforts. The group has a presence in Basilan, a predominantly Muslim province in the Philippines. Despite their efforts to spread their message, the group has faced criticism from some members of the broader Muslim community in Basilan. In this discussion, we will explore the perspectives of Dawah Tablig followers on these criticisms and how they perceive their relationship with the broader Muslim community in Basilan.

The Purpose of Dawah Tablig

Dawah Tablig's primary goal is to spread the message of Islam and encourage Muslims to lead a more devout and spiritual life. They focus on individual spiritual development and encourage Muslims to prioritize their faith over worldly matters. According to Dawah Tablig followers, their group provides a platform for Muslims to connect with each other and learn from one another's experiences. They believe that their preaching and outreach efforts are a way to promote a more positive and peaceful understanding of Islam.

Criticisms against Dawah Tablig

Despite their efforts, Dawah Tablig has faced criticism from some members of the broader Muslim community in Basilan. Some critics argue that Dawah Tablig's focus on individual spiritual development comes at the expense of community development and social justice. Others have accused the group of being too exclusive and insular, with some even calling them a "cult." Some critics have also expressed concern that Dawah Tablig's preaching efforts may be divisive and cause divisions within the Muslim community in Basilan.

Responses to Criticisms

Dawah Tablig followers have responded to these criticisms in a variety of ways. Some argue that their focus on individual spiritual development is actually beneficial to the broader Muslim community in Basilan. They believe that by promoting a more devout and spiritual life, Muslims will be more likely to engage in charitable acts and work towards social justice. Others argue that accusations of exclusivity and cult-like behavior are unfounded, and that the group is open to all Muslims who want to learn and grow spiritually.

Relationship with the Broader Muslim Community

Dawah Tablig followers generally see themselves as part of the broader Muslim community in Basilan. They believe that their efforts to spread the message of Islam are a way to strengthen the community and promote a more positive and peaceful understanding of the religion. However, some critics have accused Dawah Tablig of being too focused on their own group and neglecting the broader Muslim community's needs. Despite these criticisms, Dawah Tablig followers continue to engage with the broader Muslim community in Basilan and collaborate with other Muslim organizations on charitable and outreach efforts.

The question of how Dawah Tablig's influence in Basilan relates to broader debates on Islamic reformism and sectarianism in the Philippines and Southeast Asia is a complex one that requires a comprehensive discussion of several themes. In this response, we will examine the history of Islam in the Philippines and Southeast Asia, the rise of Islamic reformism, the roots of sectarianism, the emergence of Dawah Tablig, and the group's influence in Basilan.

History of Islam in the Philippines and Southeast Asia: Islam was introduced to the Philippines in the 14th century, and it spread through trade and commerce. By the 16th century, Islam had become the dominant religion in Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago. In Southeast Asia, Islam has a long and rich history, dating

back to the 7th century. It spread through various means, including trade and commerce, conquest, and missionary activities.

Rise of Islamic Reformism: Islamic reformism is a movement that seeks to reinterpret Islamic teachings in light of modernity and to promote social and political reform. In Southeast Asia, the rise of Islamic reformism can be traced back to the late 19th century, with the emergence of reformist movements such as Muhammadiyah in Indonesia and the Islamic Reform Society in Malaysia. These movements sought to revitalize Islam and promote social and political change.

Roots of Sectarianism: Sectarianism is a phenomenon in which different sects or groups within a religion develop conflicting beliefs and practices. In the context of Islam in the Philippines and Southeast Asia, sectarianism can be traced back to the historical division between Sunni and Shia Muslims. In addition, sectarianism has been fueled by political and economic competition, as well as the influence of external actors.

Emergence of Dahwa Tablig: Dahwa Tablig is a Sunni Islamic missionary movement that originated in India in the early 20th century. The group's main goal is to promote Islamic revivalism and to encourage Muslims to return to the fundamental principles of Islam. The group has gained a significant following in Southeast Asia, particularly in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

Dahwa Tablig's Influence in Basilan: In Basilan, Dahwa Tablig has gained a significant following among the Muslim population. The group has established several mosques and madrasas in the area and has been active in promoting Islamic revivalism and promoting social and political change. However, the group's influence has also been controversial, with some accusing it of promoting a rigid and narrow interpretation of Islam and fueling sectarian tensions.

Broader Debates on Islamic Reformism and Sectarianism: The rise of Islamic reformism and the roots of sectarianism have been the subject of ongoing debates in Southeast Asia. Some scholars argue that Islamic reformism offers a way to promote social and political change within a framework of Islamic tradition, while others criticize it as a form of religious conservatism. Similarly, sectarianism is seen by some as a source of division and conflict, while others argue that it is a natural part of religious diversity and should be embraced.

The growth and influence of Dahwa Tablig in Basilan and nearby regions have the potential to have significant implications on the socio-religious dynamics and security situation in the area. In this response, we will examine several themes that could shed light on these implications.

Religious Dynamics: Dahwa Tablig's growth and influence could impact the religious dynamics in Basilan and nearby regions in several ways. On the one hand, the group's emphasis on Islamic revivalism and the promotion of traditional Islamic practices could lead to a greater sense of religious identity and solidarity among Muslims in the area. On the other hand, the group's strict interpretation of Islam could fuel sectarian tensions and exacerbate existing divisions within the Muslim community.

Social Dynamics: Dahwa Tablig's efforts to promote social change and Islamic values could also impact the social dynamics in Basilan and nearby regions. On the one hand, the group's emphasis on personal morality and discipline could lead to greater social cohesion and stability. On the other hand, the group's strict social norms and practices could lead to the marginalization of certain groups, particularly women and minorities, and could contribute to social tensions.

Political Dynamics: Dahwa Tablig's influence could also have implications for the political dynamics in the region. On the one hand, the group's emphasis on personal morality and discipline could lead to greater

political stability and accountability. On the other hand, the group's strict interpretation of Islamic law and its rejection of secular political systems could fuel political tensions and contribute to instability.

Security Implications: The growth and influence of Dahwa Tablig could also have significant security implications in Basilan and nearby regions. On the one hand, the group's emphasis on personal morality and discipline could lead to a reduction in crime and violence. On the other hand, the group's strict interpretation of Islamic law and its rejection of secular authority could lead to increased conflict with the government and security forces. Additionally, the group's association with other extremist groups could increase the risk of terrorism and violence in the region.

Regional Implications: The growth and influence of Dahwa Tablig could also have implications for the wider region. The group's presence in the Philippines could contribute to the regionalization of religious and ideological movements and could lead to increased regional cooperation or conflict. Additionally, the group's association with other extremist groups in Southeast Asia could contribute to the spread of extremist ideology and could have implications for regional security.

The question of how the influence of the religious movement Dawah Tablig intersects with other factors shaping the local socio-religious landscape, such as *conflict*, *poverty*, and *political power dynamics*, is a complex and multifaceted issue. In order to fully understand this intersection, it is necessary to explore each of these factors and their relationship to Dawah Tablig in detail.

Conflict is a major factor shaping the socio-religious landscape in many parts of the world. In some cases, conflicts may be driven by religious differences or competition for resources. In other cases, conflicts may be rooted in political power dynamics or historical grievances. In these contexts, Dawah Tablig's influence can be both positive and negative. On the one hand, the movement's focus on personal piety and spiritual development can help to reduce tensions and promote reconciliation between different religious communities. On the other hand, the movement's missionary work may also be seen as a form of cultural imperialism by some, and may exacerbate existing tensions.

Poverty is another factor that can shape the local socio-religious landscape. In many parts of the world, poverty is closely tied to religion, with religious institutions often playing a key role in providing social services and support to those in need. Dawah Tablig's focus on personal piety and spiritual development may resonate with individuals who are struggling with poverty and may offer a sense of hope and purpose. At the same time, the movement's emphasis on individual responsibility and self-reliance may be seen as insensitive to the needs of those who are struggling to survive.

Political power dynamics are also an important factor shaping the local socio-religious landscape. In some cases, Dawah Tablig may be seen as a challenge to the existing political order, particularly if the movement's message is perceived as being critical of the ruling regime. At the same time, the movement may also be seen as a useful ally by those in power, particularly if they believe that the movement can help to promote social stability and reduce tensions.

The Philippines and Southeast Asia have a rich Islamic history that has given rise to various reformist movements. Among them are the Dahwa Tablig and other Islamic reformist movements. These movements have *similarities* and *differences*, and understanding them can provide insights into their relationships with each other.

Similarities:

Emphasis on Quranic teachings: One of the key similarities between Dahwa Tablig and other Islamic reformist movements is their emphasis on the teachings of the Quran. They focus on the need to understand

the Quran and follow its teachings to lead a righteous life.

Focus on personal reform: Another similarity is their emphasis on personal reform. These movements believe that personal reform is the key to social reform. They encourage Muslims to focus on their individual spiritual growth and purification before they can work on reforming society.

Emphasis on missionary work: These movements also share a commitment to missionary work. They believe in spreading the message of Islam to non-Muslims and encouraging Muslims to practice their religion in the proper way.

Non-violent approach: A significant similarity between these movements is their non-violent approach. They advocate for peaceful methods of spreading Islam and do not support violent acts or extremism.

Differences:

Focus on different aspects of personal reform: While Dahwa Tablig emphasizes personal reform through preaching and engaging in religious activities, other Islamic reformist movements focus on different aspects of personal reform, such as socio-political activism, education, or economic development.

Differing approaches to missionary work: While Dahwa Tablig emphasizes personal interaction with non-Muslims and encourages Muslims to invite others to Islam, other Islamic reformist movements may focus on interfaith dialogue, community service, or political engagement.

Differing interpretations of Islamic law: These movements may also have different interpretations of Islamic law, which can lead to differences in their approach to issues such as gender relations, family law, and political participation.

Different organizational structures: Finally, these movements may have different organizational structures and levels of centralization. Dahwa Tablig, for example, has a decentralized structure, while other Islamic reformist movements may have more centralized leadership.

Relationships: While these movements have their differences, they also share a common goal of promoting Islamic values and reforming society. Many of these movements have had interactions with each other, and their relationships can vary from cooperation to competition.

For example, Dahwa Tablig has established relationships with other Islamic reformist movements in Southeast Asia, such as the Muhammadiyah in Indonesia and the Tablig Jamaat in Malaysia. These relationships may involve joint missionary work, mutual support, or shared resources.

At the same time, some of these movements may also compete for followers and resources. This can lead to tensions and conflicts between them, as seen in some parts of the Philippines, where Dahwa Tablig and other Islamic reformist movements have competed for influence and leadership.

Dahwa Tablig is a Sunni Muslim missionary movement that has gained a significant following in Basilan, an island province in the Philippines. While Dahwa Tablig has been successful in promoting Islamic values and personal reform, it faces several challenges and opportunities that can shape its future in Basilan. Here are some key challenges and opportunities for Dahwa Tablig in Basilan, along with possible solutions:

Challenges:

Security concerns: One of the most significant challenges for Dahwa Tablig in Basilan is the ongoing security concerns. The province has experienced violence and conflict between different armed groups,

including some associated with Islamic extremism. This situation can make it challenging for Dahwa Tablig members to move around and engage in their missionary work.

Solution: To address this challenge, Dahwa Tablig can work closely with the local government and security forces to ensure their safety. They can also focus on building relationships with the local community to gain their support and trust.

Lack of formal education: Dahwa Tablig in Basilan faces another difficulty because many of its members lack formal education. Due to this, it may be challenging for them to interact socially and economically with non-Muslims.

Solution: Dahwa Tablig can give educational programs for its members top priority in order to address this issue. They can set up educational institutions that offer fundamental education, Islamic studies, and career training.

Limited resources: Dahwa Tablig is a grassroots movement that relies on the voluntary contributions of its members and donors. However, the limited resources can constrain the movement's ability to expand its activities and sustain its operations.

Solution: To address this challenge, Dahwa Tablig can explore partnerships with other organizations and institutions that share its values and goals. They can also seek support from local and international donors to fund their programs and activities.

Opportunities:

Support from the local community: Dahwa Tablig has gained significant support from the local Muslim community in Basilan. This support can provide the movement with a solid base for expanding its activities and influence. To take advantage of this opportunity, Dahwa Tablig can continue to engage with the local community and build stronger relationships with them. They can also work to address the community's needs and concerns, such as poverty, lack of education, and social inequality.

Growing interest in Islamic values: The rise of Islamic conservatism in Southeast Asia has led to an increased interest in Islamic values and teachings. This trend can create opportunities for Dahwa Tablig to attract more followers and expand its influence. To take advantage of this opportunity, Dahwa Tablig can promote its message through various channels, such as social media, radio, and television. They can also organize public events, such as conferences and seminars, to showcase their values and teachings.

Personal reform: Many Muslims who want a closer relationship with their faith identify with Dahwa Tablig's emphasis on personal improvement and spiritual purity. With this strategy, Dahwa Tablig can stand out from other Islamic movements and carve out a special place for itself. Dahwa Tablig can take advantage of this chance by continuing to stress the value of spiritual development and personal reformation in its activities and programs. They can also create brand-new activities, such as retreats and spiritual mentoring projects, that are tailored to the particular requirements and interests of their followers.

CONCLUSION

Dahwa Tablig has had a significant impact on the local socio-religious landscape of Basilan. The movement's emphasis on personal piety, Islamic brotherhood and unity, and outreach activities has helped to strengthen the religious identity of Muslims in the province and to promote a more positive image of Islam among non-Muslims. The movement's teachings have resonated with many people in Basilan, and its followers are actively working to promote a more peaceful and harmonious society based on the values of

Islam.

Dahwa Tablig has faced controversies and criticisms in Basilan, particularly regarding its approach to gender roles, interpretation of Islam, and impact on the wider Muslim community. Different stakeholders have responded to these criticisms in different ways, with some members of the movement taking steps to address them, and others calling for greater gender equality and a more inclusive interpretation of Islam. Government agencies have also been involved in addressing these issues and developing recommendations for promoting greater social and religious harmony in Basilan.

The role of local government and religious authorities in regulating Dawah Tablig is a complex issue that requires a balanced approach. While some regulation may be necessary to ensure that the movement operates within the bounds of Islamic teachings and local laws, overly restrictive measures can be counterproductive and hinder the movement's ability to spread its message. Ultimately, the effectiveness of these measures will depend on the context in which they are implemented and the willingness

Dawah Tablig is a religious group that focuses on spreading the message of Islam and encouraging individual spiritual development. While they have faced criticism from some members of the broader Muslim community in Basilan, Dawah Tablig followers see themselves as part of the larger Muslim community and believe that their efforts are beneficial to all Muslims. They continue to engage with the broader community and collaborate with other Muslim organizations on charitable and outreach efforts.

Dahwa Tablig's influence in Basilan is part of broader debates on Islamic reformism and sectarianism in the Philippines and Southeast Asia. While the group's efforts to promote Islamic revivalism and social change are commendable, its influence has also been controversial, highlighting the complex dynamics of religion and politics in the region.

The growth and influence of Dahwa Tablig in Basilan and nearby regions have the potential to impact the socio-religious dynamics, political dynamics, and security situation in the area. While the group's emphasis on personal morality and discipline could contribute to social cohesion and stability, its strict interpretation of Islamic law and rejection of secular authority could fuel sectarian tensions and contribute to instability.

The influence of Dawah Tablig intersects with a range of factors shaping the local socio-religious landscape, including conflict, poverty, and political power dynamics. While the movement's focus on personal piety and spiritual development may offer a sense of hope and purpose to those who are struggling with poverty or living in conflict-ridden areas, its message may also be perceived as insensitive or challenging to those in power. As such, understanding the relationship between Dawah Tablig and these other factors is key to understanding the broader socio-religious landscape in which the movement operates.

Dahwa Tablig and other Islamic reformist movements in the Philippines and Southeast Asia share similarities and differences, and their relationships with each other can vary from cooperation to competition. Understanding these dynamics can provide insights into the diverse Islamic landscape of the region.

Dahwa Tablig faces several challenges and opportunities in Basilan. By addressing the challenges and taking advantage of the opportunities, the movement can continue to promote Islamic values and personal reform and expand its influence in the province.

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