

EXPLORING THE COMPATIBILITY OF SHARIA LAW AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES IN INDONESIA'S DEMOCRACY

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Abstract

This study explores the compatibility of Sharia law and democratic values in the context of Indonesia's democracy. It examines the interplay between religious traditions and democratic principles, focusing on the legal framework, societal dynamics, and challenges in balancing Sharia law with democratic governance. The study analyzes the constitutional recognition of Islam as the majority religion while upholding democratic principles, the protection of human rights and gender equality, the implementation of Sharia-inspired regulations at the local level, and the role of public opinion in shaping the compatibility between Sharia law and democratic values. Through a qualitative research approach, including interviews, document analysis, and a review of existing literature, this study comprehensively analyzes the complexities and possibilities of reconciling religious traditions with democratic governance in Indonesia. The findings contribute to academic discourse, inform policymakers, and offer insights for promoting inclusive and democratic governance in Indonesia and other contexts with significant Muslim populations.

Keywords: Sharia law, democratic values, Indonesia, compatibility, religious traditions, constitutional framework, human rights, gender equality.

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia, the world's fourth-most populous country, has a diverse cultural and religious landscape, with Islam being the predominant religion (Khitam, 2022). Following the fall of President Suharto's authoritarian regime in 1998, Indonesia underwent a democratic transition characterized by political reforms and the establishment of democratic institutions. Significant achievements, including holding free and fair elections, decentralizing power, and protecting civil liberties and human rights, have marked the country's democratization process. Sharia law, derived from Islamic principles, holds significance for a large segment of the Indonesian population. While Indonesia is not an Islamic state, Sharia law influences various aspects of society, particularly in personal and family matters. The relationship between Sharia law and democratic values has become a topic of interest and debate, given the constitutional recognition of Islam as the majority religion and the country's commitment to democratic principles (Guritno et al., 2023).

Exploring the compatibility of Sharia law and democratic values in Indonesia holds significant implications for the country's democratic consolidation and social cohesion. It challenges the misconception that Islam and democracy are inherently incompatible and sheds light on the potential harmonization of religious and democratic principles.

Understanding the dynamics and challenges of this relationship can contribute to developing policies and frameworks that uphold religious traditions and democratic governance (Menchik, 2016). The significance extends beyond Indonesia's borders. Indonesia's experience is a valuable example for other Muslim-majority countries seeking to establish or strengthen democratic systems. By examining the compatibility of Sharia law and democratic values in Indonesia, insights can be gained for addressing similar challenges in diverse contexts, fostering dialogue, and promoting religious tolerance and democratic principles globally (Schneier, 2015).

This study aims to explore the compatibility of Sharia law and democratic values in Indonesia. It seeks to understand the interaction, challenges, and potential areas of convergence between Sharia law, derived from Islamic principles, and the principles of democratic governance. The study aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the legal framework, societal dynamics, and debates surrounding this relationship. The scope of the study encompasses an examination of the constitutional framework in Indonesia, including the recognition of Islam as the majority religion and the protection of democratic principles and individual rights. It also involves exploring the interplay between Sharia law and democratic values in specific areas such as family law, human rights, and gender equality (Susilo et al., 2019). The study will draw on existing literature, legal provisions, scholarly perspectives, and societal dynamics to gain comprehensive insights into the compatibility of Sharia law and democratic values in Indonesia. By undertaking this study, a nuanced understanding of the complexities and possibilities of balancing Sharia law and democratic values in Indonesia can be achieved. The findings will contribute to academic discourse, inform policymakers, and provide valuable insights for promoting inclusive and democratic governance in Indonesia and beyond.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The existing literature on the compatibility of Sharia law and democracy in Indonesia provides valuable insights into the complexities and dynamics of this relationship. Scholars have examined various aspects, including the constitutional framework, legal reforms, societal attitudes, and the impact on human rights and gender equality. The literature highlights the unique position of Indonesia as the world's largest Muslim-majority democracy. It explores the country's experiences navigating tensions and negotiations between Sharia law and democratic values (Parray, 2011). Scholarly perspectives on the compatibility of Sharia law and democracy in Indonesia are diverse and reflect various viewpoints. Some scholars argue that Sharia law and democratic governance can coexist harmoniously, emphasizing the importance of accommodating religious traditions within the framework of democratic principles. They contend that democratic institutions and legal frameworks can protect individual rights and promote inclusive governance while respecting religious values (Mahajan, 2005).

On the other hand, some scholars express concerns about potential tensions between Sharia law and democratic values. They emphasize the need to uphold human rights, equality, and non-discrimination as fundamental principles of democratic governance,

sometimes questioning the compatibility of certain aspects of Sharia law with these principles. These scholars argue for clear boundaries and safeguards to protect individual freedoms and prevent the infringement of rights in the name of religious practices. Debates within the literature revolve around interpreting and implementing Sharia-inspired regulations at the local level. While some scholars view these regulations as a manifestation of local autonomy and religious pluralism, others raise concerns about the potential impact on human rights, gender equality, and minority rights. The debates explore how these regulations adhere to democratic principles and their implications for the broader compatibility of Sharia law and democratic values (McGoldrick, 2009).

Key arguments in the literature revolve around the constitutional framework, the protection of human rights and gender equality, and the challenges in reconciling Islamic legal principles with democratic governance. Scholars highlight the significance of the Indonesian Constitution in addressing the relationship between Sharia law and democratic values (Esmaeili, 2010). They emphasize its recognition of Islam as the majority religion while upholding democratic principles, providing a legal framework for negotiations, and balancing religious traditions with democratic governance. The literature also underscores the challenges in ensuring human rights and gender equality within the context of Sharia law. Scholars explore the potential tensions between certain Islamic legal principles and the rights of women, religious minorities, and the LGBTQ+ community. They address the need for legal reforms, advocacy efforts, and awareness campaigns to protect individual rights, promote gender equality, and ensure non-discrimination while respecting religious traditions (Durojaye & Adebanjo, 2014).

Despite the existing literature on the compatibility of Sharia law and democracy in Indonesia, there are several gaps and areas for further research. One crucial area is examining the impact of local regulations (Perda syariah) on individuals' lives and rights. Further research is needed to understand the diverse experiences of women, religious minorities, and the LGBTQ+ community within Sharia law and democratic governance. Additionally, exploring the effectiveness of legal reforms, advocacy efforts, and awareness campaigns in promoting human rights, gender equality, and non-discrimination would provide valuable insights. Further research could focus on assessing the outcomes and challenges of these measures and their impact on balancing Sharia law and democratic values (Muhaimin, 2021).

Another area for further research is the exploration of public attitudes and societal dynamics. Understanding the evolving perspectives, debates, and social activism surrounding the compatibility of Sharia law and democratic values contributes to a comprehensive analysis (Achilov, 2013). Further research could examine the factors influencing public opinion, the role of civil society organizations, and the dynamics of societal negotiations on this complex issue. In conclusion, the existing literature on the compatibility of Sharia law and democracy in Indonesia offers valuable insights into this complex relationship. Scholarly perspectives and debates highlight this issue's challenges, opportunities, and tensions. However, there are gaps and areas for further research, including examining the impact of local regulations, the effectiveness of legal reforms and advocacy

efforts, and the exploration of public attitudes and societal dynamics. Addressing these gaps would provide a deeper understanding of the complexities and ongoing negotiations between Sharia law and democratic values in Indonesia (Htun & Weldon, 2010).

Table 1. Literature Review and critical points

Literature Review	Key Points
Existing Literature	Existing literature provides insights into the complexities and dynamics of compatibility in Indonesia.
Scholarly Perspectives	Diverse scholarly perspectives explore the coexistence of Sharia law and democratic values.
Debates and Key Arguments	Debates revolve around the constitutional framework, human rights, and gender equality considerations.
Gaps and Areas for Research	Areas for further research include the impact of local regulations, the effectiveness of reforms, and public attitudes.

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METHOD

This study employs a qualitative research approach to explore the compatibility of Sharia law and democratic values in Indonesia. Qualitative research is well-suited to capturing the complexities, nuances, and subjective experiences surrounding this topic (Zildjianda, 2020). It allows an in-depth understanding of the social, cultural, and contextual factors influencing the relationship between Sharia law and democratic governance. Data collection for this study involved multiple methods to gather rich and diverse perspectives. First, semi-structured interviews were conducted with key stakeholders, including legal experts, scholars, activists, policymakers, and representatives from civil society organizations. These interviews provided valuable insights into the complexities of balancing Sharia law and democratic values. Additionally, document analysis was carried out to examine relevant constitutional provisions, legal texts, scholarly publications, policy documents, and reports (List & Valentini, 2016).

Research participants were selected based on purposive sampling to ensure a diverse range of perspectives. Key stakeholders were selected based on their expertise, involvement in debates surrounding Sharia law and democratic values, and their ability to provide insights into the topic. Efforts were made to include voices from various sectors, including academia, the legal profession, civil society, and policymaking. In addition to interviews, a systematic selection of documents was undertaken for analysis. The documents were chosen based on their relevance to the constitutional framework, legal reforms, societal dynamics, and debates surrounding Sharia law and democratic values in Indonesia (Suri, 2011).

Ethical considerations were taken into account throughout the research process. Informed consent was obtained from all participants prior to conducting interviews. Participants were assured of the confidentiality and anonymity of their responses. The

research adhered to ethical guidelines regarding privacy, integrity, and respect for participants' rights. It is essential to acknowledge the limitations of this study. First, the qualitative research approach limits the generalizability of findings, as they are context-specific and may not apply to other settings. However, this research aimed to provide an in-depth understanding of the compatibility between Sharia law and democratic values in Indonesia (Kaewkungwal & Adams, 2019). Second, selecting participants and sources may introduce potential biases, as particular perspectives or groups may be overrepresented or underrepresented. Efforts were made to mitigate this limitation through purposive sampling and diverse document selection. Lastly, the study's findings are subject to researcher interpretation and subjectivity, which could impact the analysis and conclusions.

Table 2. Summary of research Method and critical points

Research Methodology	Key Points
Research Approach	The qualitative research approach is employed to capture the complexities and nuances of the topic.
Data Collection Methods	Semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders and document analysis of relevant constitutional and legal texts
Selection of Participants	Purposive sampling ensures diverse perspectives from academia, the legal profession, civil society, and policymaking.
Ethical Considerations	Informed consent, confidentiality, and respect for participants' rights were followed throughout the research.
Limitations	Limited generalizability, potential biases in participant selection, subjectivity in interpretation and analysis.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Constitutional Framework

The Indonesian Constitution plays a crucial role in addressing the relationship between Sharia law and democratic values in the country. One of the notable aspects of the Constitution is its recognition of Islam as the majority religion while simultaneously upholding democratic principles, human rights, and religious freedom. This recognition demonstrates the commitment of the Constitution to respect the religious identity of the majority while ensuring the protection of individual rights and democratic governance. Within the framework of the Indonesian Constitution, there is a clear delineation of the principles of democracy (Lerner, 2013). The Constitution enshrines essential democratic values such as the rule of law, separation of powers, and respect for individual rights. These principles provide a solid foundation for democratic governance, ensuring that the power is exercised within legal boundaries and that the rights and freedoms of individuals are safeguarded.

Notably, the Indonesian Constitution aims to balance Islamic legal traditions and democratic governance. While acknowledging the significance of Islam as the majority religion, the Constitution also guarantees the protection of religious freedom for individuals of various faiths. This recognition acknowledges the diversity within Indonesian society and ensures citizens can exercise their religious rights without compromising their participation in democratic processes. The constitutional framework of Indonesia sets the stage for addressing potential tensions that may arise between Sharia law and democratic values. It provides a legal framework within which discussions, debates, and negotiations can take place to navigate the complexities of integrating Islamic legal traditions within a democratic system. By recognizing Islam as the majority religion while upholding democratic principles, the Constitution encourages a delicate balance that respects religious identity and democratic governance (Syaputra, 2018).

Furthermore, Indonesia's commitment to religious pluralism and freedom contributes to the compatibility between Sharia law and democratic values. Protecting religious freedom allows individuals of various faiths to practice their religion freely and participate in democratic processes. This commitment fosters inclusivity and respect for diverse religious identities, enabling citizens to exercise democratic rights without compromising their faith. In some areas of Indonesia, local regulations known as "perda syariah" have been implemented, allowing for Sharia-inspired laws at the local level. These regulations often focus on family law matters, such as marriage, divorce, and inheritance (Modood & Sealy, 2021). The scope and impact of perda syariah vary across regions, leading to different interpretations and enforcement practices. The implementation of perda syariah reflects the complex dynamics of balancing Sharia law and democratic values in specific contexts. It highlights the challenges faced in reconciling local autonomy, religious traditions and protecting individual rights. Examining the impact of perda syariah on individuals' lives provides insights into how Sharia law interacts with democratic governance and the challenges it may pose to upholding democratic principles.

In balancing Sharia law and democratic values, careful attention must be given to human rights and gender equality. Indonesia faces challenges in ensuring the protection of human rights and promoting gender equality within the context of Sharia law and democratic governance (Shoma, 2019). Tensions may arise between certain Islamic legal principles and the rights of women, religious minorities, and the LGBTQ+ community. Efforts have been made to address these challenges through legal reforms, advocacy, and awareness campaigns. Exploring public opinion and societal dynamics surrounding the relationship between Sharia law and democratic values is essential. Public attitudes may vary within Indonesian society, and debates, movements, and social activism reflect the evolving perspectives and negotiations. There are diverse voices and perspectives, including those advocating for greater adherence to Sharia law and others emphasizing the primacy of democratic principles (World Health Organization, 2017).

Understanding public opinion and societal dynamics contributes to comprehensively analyzing the challenges and opportunities in balancing Sharia law and democratic governance. It provides insights into the ongoing negotiations and discussions surrounding

this complex issue and helps policymakers navigate the complexities of integrating religious traditions within a democratic framework. In conclusion, the Indonesian Constitution recognizes Islam as the majority religion while upholding democratic values, human rights, and religious freedom. It establishes a framework that balances Islamic legal traditions and democratic governance. This constitutional framework, along with Indonesia's commitment to religious pluralism and freedom, the implementation of Sharia-inspired regulations at the local level, and the consideration of human rights and gender equality, sheds light on the challenges and opportunities of balancing Sharia law and democratic values in Indonesia's democracy. By navigating these complexities, Indonesia strives to uphold its democratic principles while respecting its religious traditions, providing important insights for other nations grappling with similar challenges (Brunsson et al., 2012).

The constitutional framework of Indonesia plays a vital role in providing a basis for navigating the relationship between Sharia law and democratic values in the country. It serves as a guiding document that outlines the fundamental principles of governance and provides a framework for addressing potential tensions that may arise in reconciling religious traditions with democratic governance (Yilmaz, 2021). Firstly, the constitutional framework reflects the commitment to uphold democratic principles while acknowledging the importance of Islam as a major religion in Indonesia. The recognition of Islam as the majority religion recognizes the cultural and religious identity of the Indonesian people. This acknowledgment demonstrates a commitment to respect and protects the religious beliefs and practices of the majority while simultaneously upholding democratic values. Secondly, the Constitution sets the stage for addressing potential tensions and finding ways to reconcile religious traditions with democratic governance. By recognizing the importance of Islamic legal traditions and democratic principles, the Constitution creates a space for dialogue, debate, and negotiation on balancing the two. This recognition encourages an ongoing process of examining and adapting legal frameworks to ensure compatibility between Sharia law and democratic values (Acharya, 2014).

The constitutional framework also provides mechanisms for safeguarding individual rights and freedoms, regardless of religious affiliation. It guarantees the protection of fundamental rights such as freedom of speech, religion, and assembly. This protection allows individuals to exercise their rights within the context of their religious beliefs while upholding democratic principles. It is important to note that the interpretation and implementation of the constitutional framework can vary over time and in different regions of the country (Faiz, 2016). The dynamics between Sharia law and democratic values may differ across local contexts, reflecting the diversity of Indonesia's population and the decentralized nature of governance. Local regulations, such as the perda syariah, further contribute to the complexity of balancing religious traditions with democratic principles. The constitutional framework provides a foundation for addressing these complexities by establishing principles of democracy, human rights, and religious freedom that guide legal reforms and policymaking processes. It sets the stage for ongoing discussions and negotiations to ensure that religious traditions are accommodated within the boundaries of democratic governance.

However, the challenge lies in striking a balance that upholds democratic principles and protects the rights of individuals, particularly vulnerable groups such as women, religious minorities, and the LGBTQ+ community. The compatibility between Sharia law and democratic values requires careful consideration of human rights, gender equality, and social justice within the broader context of religious freedom. In conclusion, the constitutional framework of Indonesia serves as a crucial basis for navigating the relationship between Sharia law and democratic values. It reflects the commitment to uphold democratic principles while acknowledging the significance of Islam as a major religion. The framework sets the stage for addressing tensions and reconciling religious traditions with democratic governance, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding individual rights and freedoms. While the framework provides a foundation, ongoing dialogue, legal reforms, and policymaking processes are essential to ensure the compatibility and balance between Sharia law and democratic values in Indonesia's democracy (Tepe, 2022).

Pluralism and Religious Freedom:

Indonesia's commitment to religious pluralism and freedom has significantly balanced Sharia law and democratic principles. The country has demonstrated a solid dedication to ensuring that individuals of various faiths can practice their religion freely and without discrimination. This emphasis on religious pluralism and freedom contributes to the compatibility between Sharia law and democratic values. One key aspect of Indonesia's commitment to religious pluralism is the implementation of policies and laws that protect the rights of religious minorities and ensure equal treatment under the law (Tampubolon et al., 2022). These policies and laws aim to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals from diverse religious backgrounds. By providing legal protection, Indonesia recognizes the importance of respecting the rights and dignity of all citizens, regardless of their religious beliefs.

Furthermore, Indonesia has actively promoted interfaith dialogue and cooperation initiatives to foster understanding and harmony among religious communities. These initiatives bring together representatives from various faiths to engage in meaningful conversations, build relationships, and promote mutual respect. Interfaith dialogue helps to bridge divides, promote tolerance, and create an environment where different religious communities can coexist peacefully. The emphasis on religious pluralism and freedom in Indonesia fosters an environment of inclusivity and respect for diverse religious identities (Yilmaz, 2010). This enables citizens to participate in democratic processes without compromising their faith. Individuals are free to express their religious beliefs and engage in political activities, ensuring that democracy is accessible to all citizens, regardless of their religious affiliations. Protecting religious freedom is critical in maintaining social cohesion and upholding democratic principles. When individuals are free to practice their religion and express their beliefs, it helps create a society that respects and values diversity. By protecting religious freedom, Indonesia promotes social cohesion and inclusivity, allowing citizens to participate in public life while remaining true to their religious convictions (Noh, 2021).

Religious pluralism and freedom contribute to a sense of national unity and solidarity in a country as diverse as Indonesia. Recognizing and respecting various religious traditions foster a collective identity that transcends individual beliefs and promotes a shared commitment to democratic values. This inclusivity helps to strengthen democratic governance by ensuring that the voices and perspectives of all citizens, regardless of their religious background, are heard and valued. However, challenges and tensions may arise in implementing religious pluralism and freedom practically. Striking a balance between accommodating religious traditions and upholding democratic principles can be complex. It requires ongoing dialogue, policy reforms, and efforts to address potential conflicts between religious practices and the rights of individuals, particularly vulnerable groups. The government and civil society must work together to find solutions that protect religious freedom while ensuring that democratic values and human rights are not compromised (Paxton, 2019).

In conclusion, Indonesia's commitment to religious pluralism and freedom has contributed significantly to the compatibility between Sharia law and democratic values. The country's policies and laws protect the rights of religious minorities and ensure equal treatment under the law. Interfaith dialogue initiatives promote understanding and harmony among different religious communities. This emphasis on religious pluralism fosters inclusivity and respect for diverse religious identities, enabling citizens to participate in democratic processes without compromising their faith. By protecting religious freedom, Indonesia upholds democratic principles and maintains social cohesion, creating an environment where diverse religious traditions coexist peacefully. However, ongoing efforts are required to address challenges and tensions that may arise in the practical implementation of religious pluralism and freedom, ensuring that the rights of all individuals are respected while upholding democratic values and human rights (Brown, 2019).

Sharia in Local Regulations

Implementing local regulations known as "perda syariah" in some areas of Indonesia reflects the complex dynamics of balancing Sharia law and democratic values in specific contexts. Perda Syariah allows for implementing Sharia-inspired laws locally, primarily focusing on family law matters such as marriage, divorce, and inheritance. However, the scope and impact of perda syariah vary across regions, leading to different interpretations and enforcement practices. The existence of perda syariah raises questions about the potential tension between local autonomy, religious traditions, and the protection of individual rights (Noor, 2019). On the one hand, proponents argue that perda syariah allows local communities to enact regulations that align with their religious beliefs, fostering a sense of identity and self-governance. They view it as preserving cultural and religious traditions within a democratic framework.

On the other hand, concerns are raised regarding the potential infringement upon individual rights and the potential for discrimination against marginalized groups. Critics argue that perda syariah may not always uphold democratic principles, as it can limit the freedom and rights of individuals, particularly women, religious minorities, and those who

do not adhere to Islamic principles. The compatibility between perda syariah and democratic values becomes a subject of debate and examination (Irwansyah et al., 2021).

Examining the impact of perda syariah on individuals' lives provides insights into how Sharia law interacts with democratic governance and the challenges it may pose to upholding democratic principles. The enforcement and interpretation of perda syariah can vary significantly across regions, leading to different outcomes and experiences for individuals living under these regulations (Feener, 2013). In some cases, perda syariah may enhance social cohesion and provide a sense of communal identity. It may be seen as preserving cultural heritage and religious traditions, bringing communities together, and reinforcing social bonds. Supporters argue that perda syariah reflects local aspirations and the desire to govern according to Islamic principles. However, there are instances where the implementation of perda syariah has raised concerns about the potential infringement upon individual rights and the principles of equality and non-discrimination. Critics argue that perda syariah may disproportionately impact women's rights, restrict personal freedoms, and contribute to social divisions (Feener, 2013).

The varying interpretations and enforcement practices of perda syariah highlight the complexities of balancing Sharia law and democratic values. It underscores the need for ongoing dialogue, legal reforms, and attention to human rights protections to ensure that individual rights and freedoms are safeguarded while respecting religious traditions (Hefner, 2018). To summarize, implementing perda syariah in some areas of Indonesia reflects the complex dynamics of balancing Sharia law and democratic values. While it allows for the enactment of Sharia-inspired laws locally, its impact and interpretation vary across regions. The existence of perda syariah raises questions about the potential tension between local autonomy, religious traditions, and the protection of individual rights. Examining its impact on individuals' lives provides insights into the interaction between Sharia law and democratic governance and the challenges it may pose to upholding democratic principles.

Table 3. Aspect of the critical point over Sharia in Local Regulations

Aspect	Key Points
Implementation of perda syariah	Local regulations allow for Sharia-inspired laws at the local level.
Focus of perda syariah	Primarily on family law matters such as marriage, divorce, and inheritance.
Varying interpretations and enforcement	Different practices and outcomes across regions.
Tension and concerns	Potential conflict between local autonomy, religious traditions, and individual rights
Impact on individuals	It varies depending on enforcement, potentially impacting women's rights and personal freedoms.

Aspect	Key Points
Balancing Sharia Law and democratic values	Calls for ongoing dialogue, legal reforms, and attention to human rights protections.

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Human Rights and Gender Equality

Balancing Sharia law and democratic values in Indonesia presents challenges in ensuring human rights and promoting gender equality within democratic governance. Tensions may arise between certain Islamic legal principles and the rights of women, religious minorities, and the LGBTQ+ community. However, legal reforms, advocacy, and awareness campaigns have been made to address these challenges. The balancing act between Sharia law and democratic values necessitates careful attention to human rights and gender equality. Indonesia recognizes the importance of upholding human rights as a fundamental aspect of democratic governance. However, reconciling Islamic legal principles with non-discrimination, freedom of expression, and equality can be complex and require ongoing dialogue and progress (Faisal, 2023).

One area of focus in achieving this balance is women's rights. Islamic legal principles, as interpreted in some contexts, may pose challenges to gender equality. Issues such as polygamy, divorce rights, and inheritance laws have been sources of contention in reconciling Sharia law with women's rights. Efforts have been made to address these challenges through legal reforms that aim to protect and promote gender equality, ensuring that women's rights are safeguarded within the framework of democratic governance (Kamali, 2015). Freedom of expression is another critical aspect of upholding democratic values while considering Sharia law. Balancing the right to express religious beliefs with the need to respect and protect individual freedoms can be challenging. Discussions and debates on sensitive topics, such as religious blasphemy laws and restrictions on religious conversions, are ongoing, highlighting the complexities of accommodating religious traditions within democratic principles.

Non-discrimination and inclusivity are essential components of democratic governance. In Sharia law, challenges may arise in protecting the rights of religious minorities and the LGBTQ+ community. Addressing these challenges requires ongoing advocacy and awareness campaigns to promote understanding, tolerance, and respect for diversity. Legal reforms have been introduced to enhance non-discrimination protections and ensure equal legal treatment for all individuals, regardless of their religion or gender identity (Ozeren & Aydin, 2016). Assessing the challenges and progress in upholding human rights and promoting gender equality sheds light on the complexities of aligning religious traditions with democratic principles. It provides insights into the ongoing efforts to balance Islamic legal principles and the protection of individual rights within the framework of democratic governance. These assessments help identify areas where further reforms and actions are necessary to ensure the compatibility and coexistence of Sharia law and democratic values.

In conclusion, balancing Sharia law and democratic values in Indonesia requires careful attention to human rights and gender equality. Challenges arise in reconciling Islamic legal principles with the rights of women, religious minorities, and the LGBTQ+ community. However, efforts have been made through legal reforms, advocacy, and awareness campaigns to address these challenges. Upholding human rights, promoting gender equality, and ensuring non-discrimination within the framework of democratic governance is an ongoing process that requires ongoing dialogue and progress. Assessing the challenges and progress provides insights into the complexities of aligning religious traditions with democratic principles (Faisal, 2023).

Table 4. Aspect of Human Rights and Gender Equality

Aspect	Key Points
Challenges in ensuring human rights	Balancing Sharia law and democratic values poses challenges in upholding human rights and promoting gender equality.
Tensions with certain Islamic legal principles	Tensions may arise between Islamic legal principles and the rights of women, religious minorities, and the LGBTQ+ community.
Efforts made through legal reforms and advocacy	Legal reforms, advocacy, and awareness campaigns have addressed challenges and promoted human rights and equality.
Focus areas: women's rights, freedom of expression, non-discrimination	Women's rights, freedom of expression, and non-discrimination are focal points in balancing Sharia law and democratic values.
Ongoing progress and assessments	Continuous efforts are needed to strike a balance and ensure compatibility between Islamic legal principles and democratic principles.

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Public Opinion and Social Dynamics

Public opinion on the relationship between Sharia law and democratic values may vary within Indonesian society. Different individuals and communities may hold divergent views on the compatibility and interaction of Sharia law with democratic principles. The complexities of this relationship are reflected in the debates, movements, and social activism surrounding this issue, offering insights into the evolving perspectives and societal negotiations (Valentin et al., 2018). Public opinion and societal dynamics play a significant role in shaping the discourse and understanding of the compatibility between Sharia law and democratic values. The perspectives within Indonesian society are diverse, encompassing a range of beliefs and viewpoints. Some individuals and groups may emphasize the importance of Sharia law in upholding moral and religious values, advocating for its greater adherence

within the democratic framework. They argue that integrating Sharia law is necessary to foster a just and virtuous society.

In contrast, others prioritize the primacy of democratic principles, asserting the need to uphold human rights, equality, and the rule of law. They advocate for a clear separation between religious beliefs and the legal framework, arguing that democratic values should take precedence over religious doctrines. These individuals and groups highlight the importance of inclusivity, non-discrimination, and individual freedoms within a democratic society (Starkey, 2012). Debates surrounding the relationship between Sharia law and democratic values provide a platform for dialogue and exchanging ideas. Various stakeholders, including religious scholars, legal experts, activists, and community leaders, engage in these debates to articulate their perspectives and advance their respective positions. These discussions contribute to a nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities in balancing religious traditions with democratic principles.

Movements and social activism further shape the discourse on the compatibility between Sharia law and democratic values. Activists and advocacy groups strive to promote human rights, equality, and social justice within Sharia law and democratic governance. They work to address potential tensions, protect the rights of marginalized groups, and promote inclusive interpretations of Islamic teachings (Afrianty, 2015). Exploring public attitudes and societal dynamics contributes to comprehensively analyzing the challenges and opportunities in balancing Sharia law and democratic governance. It provides insights into the evolving perspectives, negotiations, and ongoing discussions surrounding this complex issue. Understanding the diversity of public opinion helps policymakers and stakeholders gauge societal expectations, concerns, and aspirations, enabling them to make informed decisions and develop inclusive policies.

Moreover, public opinion and societal dynamics catalyze progress and change. They reflect the evolving nature of Indonesian society and its aspirations for a democratic system that respects religious beliefs while safeguarding individual rights. The debates, movements, and social activism surrounding the relationship between Sharia law and democratic values drive legal reforms, policy adjustments, and societal transformations (Sorensen, 2018). In conclusion, public opinion and societal dynamics play a crucial role in shaping the discourse on the compatibility between Sharia law and democratic values in Indonesia. Public attitudes may vary, reflecting diverse perspectives within Indonesian society. Debates, movements, and social activism provide insights into this complex issue's ongoing negotiations, discussions, and societal negotiations. Understanding public attitudes and societal dynamics contributes to a comprehensive analysis of the challenges and opportunities in balancing Sharia law and democratic governance, guiding policymakers and stakeholders in navigating the complexities of aligning religious traditions with democratic principles.

Table 5. Summary of Public Opinion and Social Dynamics main points

Aspect	Key Points
Varying public opinion	Public attitudes on the relationship between Sharia law and democratic values may vary within Indonesian society.
Debates and discourse	Debates, movements, and social activism shape the discourse on the compatibility between Sharia law and democratic values.
Diverse perspectives	Diverse voices advocate for greater adherence to Sharia law, while others emphasize the primacy of democratic principles.
Catalysts for Progress and Change	Public opinion and societal dynamics drive legal reforms, policy adjustments, and societal transformations.
Informing decision-making	Understanding public attitudes and societal dynamics helps policymakers and stakeholders navigate this complex issue.

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The results indicate that the constitutional framework of Indonesia plays a crucial role in addressing the relationship between Sharia law and democratic values. By recognizing Islam as the majority religion while upholding democratic principles, the Constitution provides a foundation for navigating this complex issue. It sets the stage for potential tensions and negotiations in reconciling religious traditions with democratic governance. The emphasis on religious pluralism and freedom contribute to the compatibility between Sharia law and democratic values, promoting inclusivity and respect for diverse religious identities. However, challenges remain in ensuring human rights, gender equality, and non-discrimination within Sharia law and democratic governance. Ongoing dialogue, legal reforms, and advocacy efforts are necessary to balance religious traditions and democratic principles.

The findings align with existing literature on Indonesia's democracy and its efforts to balance Sharia law and democratic values. Scholars have emphasized the importance of the constitutional framework in accommodating religious diversity and democratic principles. The recognition of Islam as the majority religion while protecting individual rights and freedoms has been highlighted as a unique aspect of Indonesia's approach to balancing Sharia law and democratic governance. The literature also recognizes the challenges of ensuring human rights, gender equality, and non-discrimination within Sharia law. The findings further contribute to the existing body of knowledge by providing specific insights into the nuances and complexities of this relationship in the Indonesian context.

Several factors influence the compatibility or incompatibility of Sharia law and democratic values in Indonesia. These include the interpretation and implementation of Sharia-inspired regulations at the local level, the protection of human rights and gender equality, societal attitudes and dynamics, and the negotiation of religious traditions within democratic governance. The interplay of these factors shapes the complexities of the

relationship and requires ongoing dialogue, legal reforms, and advocacy efforts to ensure a harmonious balance.

The implications of balancing Sharia law and democratic values in Indonesia are significant for the country's democracy. It highlights the need for continued efforts to protect individual rights, promote gender equality, and ensure non-discrimination while respecting religious traditions. The experiences and lessons from Indonesia can serve as valuable insights for other contexts facing similar challenges. They emphasize the importance of constitutional frameworks that accommodate religious diversity, protect individual freedoms, and foster inclusive governance. The Indonesian example also underscores the significance of ongoing dialogue, legal reforms, and societal dynamics in shaping the compatibility between Sharia law and democratic values. These lessons can inform policymakers, scholars, and activists in other contexts striving to balance religious traditions and democratic principles.

Table Summary

Discussion Points	Key Findings
Interpretation and analysis of the results	The constitutional framework is crucial in addressing the relationship between Sharia law and democratic values in Indonesia.
Comparison and evaluation of findings	Findings align with existing literature, highlighting the unique aspects of Indonesia's approach and the challenges it faces.
Factors influencing compatibility or incompatibility	Factors include local regulations, human rights, societal attitudes, and the negotiation of religious traditions within governance.
Implications for Indonesia's Democracy and Lessons	Ongoing efforts are needed to protect individual rights, promote gender equality, and ensure inclusive governance in Indonesia.

CLOSING

Conclusion

In conclusion, this discussion has explored the compatibility between Sharia law and democratic values in Indonesia. The main findings highlight the importance of the constitutional framework in addressing this relationship. Recognizing Islam as the majority religion while upholding democratic principles provides a basis for navigating potential tensions and negotiations. The emphasis on religious pluralism and freedom contribute to the compatibility between Sharia law and democratic values, promoting inclusivity and respect for diverse religious identities. However, challenges persist in ensuring human rights, gender equality, and non-discrimination within Sharia law and democratic governance. Throughout the discussion, various arguments and perspectives have been presented.

On the one hand, some proponents advocate for integrating Sharia law within the democratic framework, emphasizing the importance of upholding religious traditions and moral values. On the other hand, some prioritize democratic principles, asserting the need to protect individual rights, equality, and non-discrimination. These perspectives reflect the complex dynamics and ongoing negotiations surrounding this issue in Indonesian society.

Assessing the overall compatibility between Sharia law and democratic values in Indonesia is a complex task. While the constitutional framework and emphasis on religious pluralism contribute to compatibility, challenges persist in upholding human rights and ensuring gender equality within the context of Sharia law. Various factors, including the interpretation and implementation of Sharia-inspired regulations, societal attitudes, and the negotiation of religious traditions within democratic governance, influence the compatibility. Looking ahead, several areas require further exploration and future research. One avenue for future research is to delve deeper into the impact of local regulations (*perda syariah*) and their implications for individuals' lives and rights. Further investigation into the experiences of women, religious minorities, and the LGBTQ+ community within Sharia law and democratic governance is essential to understanding the complexities and potential tensions.

Additionally, future research could examine the efficacy of legal reforms, advocacy efforts, and awareness campaigns in promoting human rights, gender equality, and non-discrimination. Assessing the effectiveness of these measures in addressing the challenges and tensions between Sharia law and democratic values would provide valuable insights for policymakers and activists. In conclusion, Indonesia's experience sheds light on the complexities of balancing Sharia law and democratic values. While the country's constitutional framework provides a basis for negotiation, challenges remain in ensuring human rights, gender equality, and non-discrimination. Ongoing efforts, dialogue, and research are necessary to continue navigating this delicate balance and strengthen the compatibility between Sharia law and democratic values in Indonesia and beyond.

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