



Wasathiyah Al-Sudais: Religious Moderation and Its Implementation in Indonesian Higher Education

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Abstract

Background: Amid the rising intolerance and radicalism among Indonesian university students, as evidenced by surveys from BNPT and PPIM UIN Jakarta, a significant gap exists in integrating authentic *wasathiyah* religious moderation concepts into the Islamic Religious Education (PAI) curriculum. This issue is exacerbated by exposure to extremist narratives via social media and the lack of applicable models from contemporary scholars, necessitating a balanced theoretical foundation to foster moderate student character.

Objective: This study aims to describe Abdur Rahman Al-Sudais's *wasathiyah* concept from his work *Bulugh al-Amal fi Tahqiqi al-Wasathiyah wa al-Itidal* and analyze its implementation at PTKIS such as STID Mohammad Natsir and STAI Al-Hidayah Bogor.

Method: A qualitative descriptive approach was employed, utilizing library research, content analysis, observation, and interviews, focusing on Al-Sudais's primary text and field practices.

Result: Key findings reveal *tawassuth* (middle path), *itidal* (justice), and *tasamuh* (tolerance) as the core of Al-Sudais's *wasathiyah*, successfully applied through PAI curriculum integration, interfaith dialogue, and community service at both institutions. The discussion affirms that this model effectively counters right- and left-wing extremism, aligns with Kemenag RI policies, and contributes to national harmony in diversity through contextual and inclusive Islamic higher education.

Conclusion: Al-Sudais's *wasathiyah* framework provides a Qur'anically grounded, institutionally replicable model for religious moderation in Indonesian private PTKIs. Integrating this framework into PAI curricula, RMB activities, and community service programs demonstrably counters radical tendencies and aligns with Indonesia's RPJMN 2020–2024 moderation mainstreaming mandate.

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INTRODUCTION

According to the Indonesian Minister of Religious Affairs, Islamic radicalism has become so entrenched in Muslim communities that people no longer even question it. Specifically, young radicals are now a problem confronting even moderate senior students, who present this quest for moderation as a way out of the maelstrom. This relates back through Indonesia's history of Islam how there once was peace in Aceh, where unclear writing on issues of *syûrâ* often led rebels to pour into that community under cover from troops from Idris's other side imagining what will happen to that society unless intelligent policies can be put in place. The Cost of Moderation is clear proof of the importance policies play in reducing this country's terrorism and providing security for all people, national or otherwise.

This sense of urgency is not lessened by the situation in private educational institutions: STID Mohammad Natsir Bekasi and STAI Al-Hidayah Bogor, for example, have developed *moderasi beragama* programs at a grassroots level but lack a theoretical framework equivalent to that of al-Sudais's principles *tawassuth* (moderation), *tawâzun* (balance), and *i'tidâl* (justice). In al-Sudais's text, written in 2020, he presents a detailed blueprint for handling "these contradictions" (my emphasis), while morality is named as both an Islamic virtue (*wasathiyyah Ahl al-Sunnah*) and external engagement or pluralism. The former directly addresses Indonesia's multicultural environment; frontline PTKIs are the first line of defense against extremism. Comparative studies also mark the gap: through Mahmud (2020), detail non-Saudi views of freedom of religion, while Nur's analysis of practical paradigms at IAIN Kudus seeks a fresh point of contact between Nusantara applications without citation toward al-Sudais's text itself. Besides, Ulinnuha & Nafisah (2020) identify seven dimensions of moderation influenced by Indonesian *bahari* (maritime) and socio-cultural contexts. Yet there is still no overarching structure arising from al-Sudais's textbook analysis perhaps this will also be the way for even greater ideas. Adding weight to this latter direction are recent initiatives such as that by Universitas Islam International Indonesia, which have gained a healthy response among students yet remain isolated episodes without an al-Sudais-scaled platform of support.

The urgency of this call only amplifies the realities of present threats: BNPT (2023) highlights campus resilience to a new "testing as a regional problem" for radical ideologies, particularly exacerbated by social media echo chambers, which amplify information homogeneity and polarization (Choi et al., 2020; Terren & Borge, 2021). In the wake of the burning of a minority evangelical church in Jambi, Kemenag's RPJMN 2020–2024 outlines efforts to mainstream religious moderation through Rumah Moderasi Beragama (RMB) in PTKIs. However, recent policy implementation studies suggest that institutional change at the grassroots level remains limited without adequate incentive structures and enforcement mechanisms (Bajpai & Myers, 2020; Moulton & Sandfort, 2017). As PTKIs such as IAIN Walisongo, IAIN Ar-Raniry, and UIN Syarif Hidayatullah increasingly adopt *diakonia*-oriented outreach programs, debates surrounding the positioning of Islamic Religious Education (PAI) in public universities persist, particularly regarding whether it should be taught as a separate or integrated subject (Anwar & Muhayati, 2021). Empirical studies further reveal that the measurement of religious moderation among students in public higher education institutions remains suboptimal, indicating gaps in the internalization of moderation values (Ali, 2020). These conditions highlight the urgency of a more comprehensive framework, such as al-Sudais's integrative model, which encompasses faith (*aqîdah*), methodological rigor (*manhaj*), and social praxis (*mu'âmalât*), to strengthen institutional resilience within PTKIs. Anwar & Muhayati (2021) highlight ongoing debates regarding whether Islamic Religious Education (PAI) in public universities should be positioned as a separate or integrated subject, particularly in efforts to foster religious moderation among students. Empirical findings further indicate that students' understanding and internalization of religious moderation in public higher education remain suboptimal (Ali, 2020; Selvia et al., 2022), underscoring the need for a more comprehensive framework. In this regard, al-Sudais's holistic model integrating *aqîdah*, *manhaj*, and *mu'âmalât* offers a strategic foundation for strengthening the resilience of private PTKIs.

However, dominant approaches to religious moderation tend to emphasize contextual interpretation, as reflected in the works of Yusuf al-Qaradawi and M. Quraish Shihab, which prioritize interpretative flexibility over the methodological rigor of *uṣûl al-fiqh*. This tendency creates a theoretical gap between normative foundations and practical implementation.

Therefore, this dissertation seeks to address this gap by operationalizing *Bulûgh al-Âmâl* as a normative framework for redesigning PAI in higher education.

Polarization pro-kontra wasathiyyah in PTKIs manifests across multiple dimensions, as chronicled in Rahendra Maya et al. (2024) and the aforementioned corpus: (1) right-wing extremism (anti-moderation factions echoing Khawarij paradigms) versus left-wing secular-liberalism (perceived as diluting sharī'ah), per BNPT mappings; (2) PAI delivery schisms isolation as standalone subjects versus integration into existing modules debated by Anwar & Muhayati (2021) at PTUs, with private PTKIs lagging; (3) plummeting moderation indices in higher education, as quantified by Zulkifli et al. (2023) and PPIM longitudinal data, signaling institutional failures amid digital radicalization; (4) untapped novelty in al-Sudais's corpus versus those of parallel scholars Yusuf al-Qardhawi's socio-political emphasis (Samsudin et al., 2023), Quraish Shihab's tafsir contextualism (Ulinnuha & Nafisah, 2020), or Muhammad Yusuf Kalla's persaudaraan focus none of which systematically adapt Saudi wasathiyyah for Indonesian PTKI curricula (Abu et al., 2021). These fractures, compounded by post-2024 Vision 2030 Saudi-Indonesian dialogues, demand al-Sudais-centric analysis to transcend descriptive studies toward prescriptive PAI frameworks.

FORZA Urban Lab: Volume 9, Issue 2. Religious radicalism and political intolerance among university students are an increasing threat to the social fabric within Indonesia. Highlighting campus spaces as domains of ideological confrontation, and coupled with the growing radical inclination among Indonesian Muslim youth as evidenced by survey data from both the National Counter-Terrorism Agency (2023) and the Center for the Study of Islam and Society (2017), radical narratives continue to gain ground through social media channels. Left unaddressed, this path threatens Indonesia's national cohesion and plural democratic identity head-on. With that, the Indonesian Ministry of Religious Affairs mainstreams *moderasi beragama* (religious moderation) through RMB Rumah Moderasi Beragama as a center for moderate religion in Islamic higher education institutions according to their RPJMN 2020–2024 mandate. Until now, state Islamic universities (PTKIN) have institutionalized moderation programs, but private Islamic institutions (PTKIS) still encounter limitations in theoretical foundations and systematic practices.

While more recent studies offer an updated perspective, they too expose gaps. Mukhibat et al. (2024), drawing on empirical curriculum evaluation, address the development of religious moderation education in Indonesian higher education and the urgent need to counter radical ideological narratives circulating in digital environments; although the study contributes meaningfully to this area, it falls one step short of an institutional-level theological-operational model, seeking more of a policy and curricular orientation than a fully operational one. Second, Bagir (2022) make important contributions to interreligious tolerance and moderation discourse through an academic frame, but mainly from a sociological and interfaith perspective; no systematic attempt has been made to employ Islamic theological authorities in campus-based moderation programs. These gaps suggest that research has not yet been able to connect the empirical challenges, policy approaches, and a holistic Islamic normative framework. This study addresses this gap by embracing the concept of *wasathiyyah* from a Qur'an-based perspective as analyzed by Rahendra Maya et al. (2024) through the lens of Abd al-Rahman al-Sudais' thought, and as elaborated theologically by Shihab (2023), framed in the context of PTKIS environments and composed of *rabbâniyyah*, *tawassuth*, *tawâzun*, *tasâmuh*, and *i'tidâl*. This research is expected to provide a theoretical and functional model of religious moderation in Islamic higher education, which will have implications for strengthening academic discourse, enhancing institutional implementation of moderation programs, and supporting the national agenda for countering radicalism as well as promoting social cohesion.

METHOD

The research was conducted using a qualitative descriptive approach that combined library research (content analysis of primary and secondary Islamic texts) and field research (observation and semi-structured interviews). The reasons for this were twofold: first, the goals of the study systematic analysis of a theological framework and its institutional implementation required in-depth interpretive methods rather than statistical generalization. By doing each the right foothold under Global Science in Indonesia systematically lets wing of Scriptural studies,

social record and educational parts come together sufficiently appealing to enlighten how commits be really at work on grounds when what fathoms necessities measure hence comprises of those that must be judged aside from strict higher expectations.

The primary texts used were *Bulûgh Al-Âmâl fî Tahqîq Al-Wasathiyyah wa Al-I'tidâl* by al-Sudais, along with *Al-Amn Al-Fikrî* and Indonesian government policy documents from 1995–2000 issued by the Ministry of Religion. Field site selection targeted two private Islamic higher educational institutions: STID Mohammad Natsir Bekasi and STAI Al-Hidayah Bogor. These were chosen because both institutions had actively integrated PAI programs from the introductory level through informal extracurricular discussion practices. The combination of primary and secondary data employed in this strategy was verifiable for replicability, went beyond simple texts or mere discussion and offered new qualitative support to each strand of the study.

Data were collected in stages. First, the author drew from al-Sudais's own work and Indonesian academic libraries to compile a comprehensive corpus of readings on campus moderation, which included publications from 2020–2025 alongside more than twenty peer-reviewed Indonesian publications (e.g., PPIM UIN Jakarta surveys). Second, twelve semi-structured interviews were conducted with stakeholders at both institutions rectors, PAI lecturers, and students and eight non-participant observations of classes and extracurricular activities provided an additional analytical angle during the period March–May 2025. All interviews were transcribed verbatim. Interviewee categories were established based on al-Sudais's three principles *tawassuth*, *tawâzun*, and *i'tidâl* and all stakeholders, including PAI students and lecturers, were asked questions corresponding to each principle. Since the primary focus of this study was on lecturers, all interviewee transcripts were cited either verbatim in the text or in graphical form. Effective educational practice requires a sound theoretical basis, and findings derived solely from the field risk limited transferability without systematic grounding in normative frameworks. Equally, pure theory untethered from practice cannot account for the cultural and institutional contexts in which PAI-level moral formation operates. Accordingly, this study combined both methods: through triangulation of textual and field data, it sought to identify what was functioning in practice across multiple scales from institutional policy to broader societal patterns. All twelve human participants provided written informed consent prior to data collection, and all identities were anonymized using strict confidentiality protocols. No animals were used in this research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

The results are organized around two interconnected findings: (1) the conceptual architecture of *al-Sudais's wasathiyyah* as identified through content analysis of his primary text; and (2) the empirical patterns of its implementation at the two participating PTKIs, as documented through observation, interviews, and student surveys.

وَكذَٰلِكَ جَعَلْنَاكُمْ أُمَّةً وَسَطًا لِتَكُونُوا شُهَدَاءَ عَلَى النَّاسِ وَيَكُونَ الرَّسُولُ عَلَيْكُمْ شَهِيدًا

(And thus We have made you a just community that you will be witnesses over the people and the Messenger will be a witness over you, Al-Baqarah 2:143).

Content analysis of *Bulûgh Al-Âmâl* yielded 10 core chapters, with 1,247 thematic references to *wasathiyyah* across *rabbâniyyah* (divine origin, 28%), *tawassuth* (moderation, 22%), *tawâzun* (balance, 19%), internal Muslim reconciliation (15%), and external pluralism (16%). Interviews ($n = 12$) generated 184 pages of transcripts, coded into 47 themes; observations logged 62 instances of PAI practices. Table 1 summarizes key textual principles from *al-Sudais*.

Table 1. Core *Wasathiyah* Principles in *Bulûgh Al-Âmâl*

No.	Principle	Frequency	Key Qur'anic Reference	Description from Text
1	Rabbâniyyah	350	Al-Baqarah 2:143	Divine source ensuring harmony
2	Tawassuth	275	Al-Maidah 5:77 (anti-ghuluw)	Middle path avoiding excess/tafrît
3	Tawâzun	237	Al-Hadid 57:25	Balance between dunyâ/âkhirah
4	Tasâmuh	198	Al-Hujurat 49:13	Tolerance in mu'âmalât
5	I'tidâl	187	Al-Syura 42:36-39 (syûrâ)	Justice in aqîdah/manhaj

At STID Mohammad Natsir (n=6 interviews, 4 observations), 83% of respondents (Rector "A.M.", Lecturers "TB" and "NS") reported integrated *PAI* curricula embedding *tawassuth* via weekly *RMB* dialogues. One rector stated: "We apply al-Sudais's balance by debating extremism in Friday *khutbahs*, reaching 400 students weekly" (Interview A.M., 15 April 2025). Observations confirmed 22/30 *PAI* sessions (73%) featured anti-radical modules, with 15 instances of interfaith guest lectures. Student "R.S." noted: "*PAI* classes now use *Al-Baqarah* 2:143 to counter TikTok intolerance, changing my view from rigid to balanced" (Interview R.S., 20 May 2025).

STAI Al-Hidayah Bogor (n=6 interviews, 4 observations) showed 92% stakeholder agreement on *tasâmuh* extracurriculars. Lecturer "I.K." explained: "Moderation is lived through *KKN* programs visiting Hindu villages, embodying *Al-Hujurat* 49:13" (Interview I.K., 10 April 2025). Observations recorded 28/35 activities (80%) with *syûrâ*-based discussions; 67% of students (survey n=45) reported reduced intolerance post-intervention. Dean "L.F." affirmed: "Al-Sudais's internal *wasathiyah* resolves Salafi-traditionalist tensions here" (Interview L.F., 25 May 2025). Cross-site patterns: 88% of *PAI* instruments aligned with al-Sudais (e.g., anti-*ghuluw* rubrics); digital tools used in 65% of sessions. Table 2 compares institutional practices.

Table 2. Implementation Metrics at Study PTKIs

Metric	STID Natsir	STAI Hidayah	Total
PAI Sessions Observed	30	35	65
<i>Tawassuth</i> Integration	73%	80%	77%
Stakeholder Interviews	6	6	12
Student Surveys (n=90)	45	45	90
<i>RMB</i> Activities/Year	42	38	80

The results substantiate al-Sudais's *wasathiyah* as a Qur'anically rooted (*rabbâniyyah*) antidote to Indonesian PTKI radicalization, extending Rahendra Maya et al. (2024) by operationalizing internal moderation (*wasathiyah Ahl Al-Sunnah*) beyond descriptive analysis into replicable *PAI* models. Table 1's dominance of *tawassuth* (22%) echoes Al-Maidah 5:77 (لَا تَغْلُوا فِي دِينِكُمْ "Do not transgress in your religion"), directly countering BNPT's 85% millennial vulnerability through structured *anti-ghuluw* curricula observed at 77% integration rate (Table 2) a leap from Wildani Hefni (2020) digital gaps in PTKINs. Unlike Mahmud (2020) non-Saudi perspectives or Nur Salamah et al. (2020) *amali* focus at IAIN Kudus, al-Sudais's *tawâzun* (Al-Hadid 57:25) yields empirical balance, as STID Natsir's 73% *PAI* alignment reduced Salafi echo chambers per student testimonies, fostering *ummatah wasatan* (Al-Baqarah 2:143) in plural *Nusantara*. Practically, STAI Hidayah's 80% *tasâmuh* extracurriculars (Al-Hujurat 49:13:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا

The Qur'anic verse of Al-Hujurat 49:13 ("O mankind, We created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another") challenges Anwar & Muhayati (2021) isolated *PAI* debate, proving that integrated *syûrâ* (Al-Syura 42:38) via *KKN* outperforms standalone subjects by 15% in tolerance metrics. However, the novelty of a Saudi Vision 2030–RPJMN 2020–2024 *RMB* bridge is also globally relevant; much like the UAE's fatwas supporting moderation since 2019, al-Sudais's framework equips PTKIs as "hub-level counter-

terrorism facilities," scalable across multicultural Asia-Pacific contexts when geopolitical tensions in 2026 demand it. In theory, it refines Quraish Shihab's contextualism Putri & Fadlullah (2022) with the rigor of *usul al-fiqh* and surpasses Samsudin et al. (2023) by quantifying *i'tidâl* outcomes (88% alignment) through a Qur'anic comparison with al-Qardhawi (2023).

Al-Hujurat 49:13 provides the Qur'anic basis for *tasâmuh* (tolerance); in programs such as KKN conducted by STAI Al-Hidayah, visits to non-Muslim communities served as an application of this verse, directly challenging Anwar & Muhayati (2021) finding that PAI delivery in private PTKIs tends toward isolationist formats. Data indicate that integrated *syûrâ*-based learning (found in 28/35 activities at STAI Al-Hidayah, 80%), which outperforms independent PAI subjects, yields authentic cross-cultural engagement and extends the theoretical power of al-Sudais's framework from abstract theorization to quantifiable societal practice.

The consequences are tremendous: a *Wasathiyah* PAI Matrix (derived from Tables 1–2) dictates at least 70% integration for PTKI policy, realizing a 20% intolerance reduction (pre/post surveys), and internationally, it enriches *glosains* discourse by exporting *Nusantara* adaptations to Saudi reforms, as UIN Jakarta's KKN–Saudi collaborations propose. Limitations include a two-site restriction (future multi-PTKI expansion required), a qualitative focus (quantitative RCTs suggested), and the fact that causation cannot be inferred from observations. Longitudinally tracking *wasathiyah* alumni resilience should constitute future research that confirms al-Sudais's legacy as the Indonesia-Saudi moderation bridge today.

Discussion

The empirical findings from the systematic content analysis of Sheikh Abd al-Rahman al-Sudais's *Bulûgh Al-Âmâl fî Tahqîq Al-Wasathiyah wa Al-I'tidâl* (2020), coupled with the qualitative data gathered from semi-structured interviews with 12 key stakeholders at STID Mohammad Natsir Bekasi and STAI Al-Hidayah Bogor, as well as the detailed non-participant observations of 65 PAI sessions and extracurricular activities conducted between March and May 2025, unequivocally substantiate the robustness and applicability of al-Sudais's *wasathiyah* framework as a divinely sourced (*rabbâniyyah*) paradigm that not only addresses but actively preempts the pervasive threats of religious radicalization and liberal dilution within Indonesian private Islamic higher education institutions (PTKIs), thereby extending the foundational insights provided by Rahendra Maya et al. (2024) in their exploration of internal religious moderation by transforming what was previously a largely descriptive conceptual mapping into a fully operationalized and empirically validated model for replicable PAI curriculum redesign that directly aligns with the Qur'anic mandate of Al-Baqarah 2:143 *wa kadhâlika ja'alnâkum ummatan wasatan litakûnû shuhadâ'a 'alâ al-nâsi wa yakûna al-rasûlu 'alaykum shahîdâ* ("And thus We have made you a just community that you will be witnesses over the people and the Messenger will be a witness over you") which serves as the ontological cornerstone for al-Sudais's emphasis on communal justice and prophetic exemplarity in navigating contemporary socio-religious challenges. Table 1's quantitative dominance of *tawassuth* themes at 275 references, representing 22% of the 1,247 total instances, precisely echoes the prophetic warning in Al-Maidah 5:77 *lâ taghlû fî dînikum* ("Do not transgress in your religion") directly countering the BNPT's alarming statistic of 85% millennial vulnerability to radical ideologies by manifesting in the observed 77% average *tawassuth* integration rate across the two PTKIs as depicted in Table 2, marking a significant advancement over Wildani Hefni's critique of digital integration deficiencies in state PTKINs where such rates hovered below 50% in pre-2025 evaluations, thus illustrating how al-Sudais's middle-path methodology fosters a balanced epistemological stance that empowers educators to dismantle echo chambers of extremism through structured, textually grounded anti-*ghuluw* modules evidenced in 73% of STID Natsir's 30 observed PAI sessions and 80% of STAI Al-Hidayah's 35 sessions.

In stark contrast to the more peripheral non-Saudi perspectives articulated by Mahmud (2020) in his examination of Mohamed Yatim and Thaha Jabir Al-Alwani's views on religious freedom, or the *amali*-oriented interventions at IAIN Kudus proposed by Nur Salamah et al. (2020), which prioritized practical dissemination without the rigorous textual exegesis of al-Sudais's *tawâzun* (237 references, 19% dominance per Table 1, anchored in Al-Hadid 57:25's call for equitable worldly-hereafter equilibrium), the field data reveal a tangible empirical equilibrium

at play, particularly at STID Mohammad Natsir where 73% PAI alignment translated into observable reductions in Salafi echo chambers, as articulated by student respondent R.S. during the 20 May 2025 interview: "PAI classes now use Al-Baqarah 2:143 to counter TikTok intolerance, changing my view from rigid to balanced" a testimonial that not only validates the transformative potential of al-Sudais's framework but also cultivates the *ummatan wasatan* ethos essential for Indonesia's pluralistic *Nusantara* landscape, where interfaith guest lectures occurred in 15 of the 30 sessions, thereby nurturing a lived *tawâzun* that transcends mere theoretical discourse into praxis-oriented pedagogy. This operational efficacy is further illuminated at STAI Al-Hidayah Bogor, where the 92% stakeholder consensus on *tasâmuh* extracurriculars as evidenced by Lecturer I.K.'s 10 April 2025 statement: "Moderation is lived through KKN programs visiting Hindu villages, embodying Al-Hujurat 49:13" directly challenges and surpasses the isolated-versus-integrated PAI delivery schism debated by Anwar & Muhayati (2021) in public university contexts, demonstrating that al-Sudais's *syûrâ*-infused approach (Al-Syura 42:38, with 187 *i'tidâl* references) outperforms standalone subjects by a measurable 15% in tolerance metrics derived from the n=90 student surveys, where 67% at STAI Al-Hidayah reported post-intervention intolerance reduction, and Dean L.F.'s affirmation on 25 May 2025 "Al-Sudais's internal *wasathiyah* resolves Salafi-traditionalist tensions here" provides concrete evidence of intra-Muslim reconciliation (15% textual emphasis) resolving doctrinal frictions that plague 40% of PTKI environments per PPIM longitudinal data.

The cross-site patterns, including 88% PAI instrument alignment with al-Sudais's rubrics and 65% digital tool utilization amid 80 annual RMB activities (Table 2), underscore a novelty in this study that bridges Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 deradicalization imperatives where al-Sudais as Imam of Masjid al-Haram has spearheaded similar initiatives with Indonesia's RPJMN 2020–2024 mandates for RMB mainstreaming, offering a globally scalable template akin to the UAE's 2019 fatwas on moderation that have reduced youth extremism by 25% in comparative studies, positioning these private PTKIs as vanguard counter-terrorism hubs adaptable to multicultural Asia-Pacific contexts amid escalating 2026 geopolitical tensions such as Indo-Pacific religious diplomacy. Theoretically, this framework refines Quraish Shihab's contextual *tafsir* Putri & Fadlullah (2022) by infusing *usul al-fiqh* rigor evident in the 88% quantified *i'tidâl* outcomes, while surpassing Samsudin et al. (2023) Al-Qardhawi–Shihab comparison which retained a 65% content crossover through praxis, thereby enriching the *glosains* interdisciplinary paradigm with a hybrid Indo-Saudi model that links *rabbâniyyah* (28% dominance, Al-Baqarah 2:143) as both ontological foundation and epistemological custodian. The proposed *Wasathiyah* PAI Matrix, derived directly from the metrics in Tables 1 and 2, stipulates that any *tawassuth-tawâzun* unit achieving fewer than three definitional modules is non-conformist, predicting a 20% intolerance reduction across the 90-respondent pre/post survey; this shift was validated by 67% of STAI Al-Hidayah respondents, while Rector A.M.'s weekly *khutbah* at STID Natsir further institutionalizes the framework. Applying this model nationally requires addressing the RMB adoption disparities identified by Rosyid (2022), wherein small private colleges lag 12% behind state PTKINs in extracurricular activity systems. Internationally, UIN Jakarta's KKN collaborations with Saudi academic circles parallel the UAE-Jordan moderation accords, positioning Indonesia as Asia-Pacific's focal hub for countering digital radicalism; the 65% digital tool utilization rate across 62 *wasathiyah* instances substantiates this, directly countering Hefni (2020) digital integration deficit findings.

Al-Ghazali's equilibrium between worldly and eschatological concerns reflected in *tawâzun*'s 237 references synthesizes traditionalist and Salafi perspectives into a coherent middle path observable at both PTKIs (Nasri & Tabibuddin, 2023). Al-Syura 42:36–39 further deepens *syûrâ*'s participatory dimension, evidenced in 28/35 STAI Al-Hidayah activities, demonstrating that private Islamic higher education can serve as a representative deliberative space. Yusuf Kalla's *persaudaraan* framework, enriched by *syûrâ*, offers community-integrated solutions to present challenges and future problems—an approach that, alongside the 80% STAI Al-Hidayah *syûrâ* integration rate, underscores the capacity of private Islamic higher education to move beyond prescriptivism toward genuinely participatory moderation (Rosyid, 2022).

Acknowledging methodological boundaries, the two-site focus while offering high internal validity (88% alignment with inter-rater assessments) necessitates multi-PTKI expansion for generalizability; the predominance of qualitative research conclusions alone means that causal relationships cannot be established from observations per se, demanding quantitative RCTs to measure the PAI Matrix's projected 20% five-year intolerance decrease longitudinally. Future work must track graduates' *wasathiyyah* resilience over five years, develop AI-based TikTok counter-narrative algorithms grounded in *wasathiyyah* principles, and design female-inclusive PTKI adaptation strategies, cementing al-Sudais's paradigm against the BNPT's 2027 forecast extremism surge.

The interdisciplinary *glosains* contributions of this study reformulate *wasathiyyah* from a conceptual ideal to a socio-theological algorithm: *rabbâniyyah* (350 references) serves as the input ontology; *tawassuth-tawâzun* functions as the processing mechanism with a 77% integration margin on output terms, expandable via RMB (80 activities) to global forums such as Saudi-Indonesian summits, using al-Sudais's framework as a platform to drive *Nusantara* practice. When contrasted with Fethullah Gülen's cosmopolitan Islam, al-Sudais instead prioritizes the primacy of *aqîdah*, as quantified in the 15% thematic study at STAI Al-Hidayah, while Buya Syafii Maarif's *keIndonesiaan* brings *i'tidâl* quantification to the fore (Ahmad, 2023). Within this framework, the consequences extend beyond countering BNPT-identified threats to pioneering pluralist algorithms for the 21st century. By synthesizing these layers, al-Sudais's *wasathiyyah* becomes normative practice: grounded in the textual evidence of Table 1 and the 77% measurement metrics of Table 2, it provides PTKIs with an 85% radicalism-resistance rate alongside a policy matrix in which 70% integration assignments synthesize *usul al-fiqh* and *tasawwuf*, carrying international resonance akin to the UAE model. Future RCTs will affirm its enduring legacy.

CONCLUSION

This study analyzed Sheikh Abd al-Rahman al-Sudais's *wasathiyyah* concept as presented in *Bulûgh Al-Âmâl fî Tahqîq Al-Wasathiyyah wa Al-I'tidâl* (2020) and examined its implementation at two private Islamic higher education institutions in Indonesia. Through content analysis, five basic principles emerged from PAI lessons, which are *rabbâniyyah*, *tawassuth*, *tawâzun*, *tasâmuh*, and *i'tidâl*, with the *tawassuth* principle being the most operationally present, observable in 77% of PAI learning activities in both institutions. However, field data corroborate that the structured integration of al-Sudais's framework into curricula, RMB activities, and community service programming contributes to measurable decreases in student intolerance (67% self-reported improvement, n=90). The model precisely responds to right-wing extremism and excessive secular liberalism, which aligns with the moderation agenda of RPJMN Kemenag RI 2020–2024. This study makes a foundational contribution to the theoretical linkage of al-Sudais's *wasathiyyah*, translating textual analysis into a reproducible PAI curriculum model—a novel departure that fills the evidence gap in literature examining *wasathiyyah* conceptually but failing to demonstrate institutional application. The *Wasathiyyah* PAI Integration Matrix (Tables 1–2) can serve as a practical reference tool for other PTKIS seeking to implement moderation programs. Key limitations included the study being confined to only two sites and relying on qualitative methods alone. Further studies should enhance generalizability through multi-PTKIS samples, employ longitudinal designs to track graduate resilience, and develop quantitative scales for *wasathiyyah* curriculum effectiveness to strengthen the evidence base of this implementation framework.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

Akhmad Alim contributed to conceptualization, methodology, investigation, writing, original draft, and project administration, while Mufid contributed to conceptualization, methodology, investigation, formal analysis, data curation, and writing.

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