

## **CHARACTER EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION IN THE MIDDLE OF COMMUNITY**

***Maelani Pariani Puri***

Departement of Civic Education, Social Science Education Faculty, Indonesia

University of Education Indonesia

Email: maelani.puri@upi.edu

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**Abstract.** *Education is a conscious and well-planned effort to form an intelligent and well-characterized Indonesian society. Civic education is a place to prepare the younger generation with sufficient provisions in the social life needed in society. The ability to think critically, be responsible, have a democratic attitude and act is one of the supporters in the formation of the nation's character. The writing method in this article uses Literature Review. The condition of Indonesia's young generation is currently in a position that is quite disturbing. The declining enthusiasm for learning that is felt at this time has reached a very worrying point. The younger generation is increasingly showing moral deviations which indicate the younger generation no longer has a good character. Therefore, civic education has an important role in the formation of national character. Character values through civic education in schools are one of the mandatory subjects at every level and path of education, from elementary school to college. The formation of national character through civic education is a must because it can form a young generation that is intelligent, and has noble character so that its existence in social life becomes meaningful and characterized.*

**Keywords:** *Civic education; National Character; Public*

**Abstrak.** *Pendidikan adalah upaya yang sadar dan terencana dengan baik untuk membentuk masyarakat Indonesia yang cerdas dan berkarakter baik. Pendidikan kewarganegaraan merupakan tempat mempersiapkan generasi muda dengan bekal yang cukup dalam kehidupan sosial yang dibutuhkan di masyarakat. Kemampuan berpikir kritis, bertanggung jawab, memiliki sikap dan tindakan yang demokratis merupakan salah satu pendukung dalam pembentukan karakter bangsa. Metode penulisan dalam artikel ini menggunakan Tinjauan Literatur. Kondisi generasi muda Indonesia saat ini berada dalam posisi yang cukup mengganggu. Menurunnya antusiasme belajar yang dirasakan saat ini telah mencapai titik yang sangat mengkhawatirkan. Generasi muda semakin menunjukkan penyimpangan moral yang menandakan generasi muda tidak lagi memiliki karakter yang baik. Oleh karena itu, pendidikan kewarganegaraan memiliki peran penting dalam pembentukan karakter nasional. Nilai karakter melalui pendidikan kewarganegaraan di sekolah adalah salah satu mata pelajaran wajib di setiap tingkatan dan jalur pendidikan, dari sekolah dasar hingga perguruan tinggi. Pembentukan karakter kebangsaan melalui pendidikan kewarganegaraan merupakan sebuah keharusan karena*

*dapat membentuk generasi muda yang cerdas, dan memiliki akhlak mulia sehingga keberadaannya dalam kehidupan sosial menjadi bermakna dan berkarakter.*

**Kata Kunci:** Pendidikan kewarganegaraan; Karakter Nasional; Publik

## **INTRODUCTION**

One of the efforts to realize a noble, moral, ethical, cultured and civilized society based on the Pancasila philosophy is by strengthening national identity and character through education. This effort has the aim of forming and developing Indonesian people who are devoted to God Almighty, obey the rule of law, maintain internal and inter-religious harmony, carry out intercultural interactions, develop social capital, apply the noble values of the nation's culture, and have pride. as the Indonesian nation in order to strengthen the spiritual, moral, and ethical foundation of nation building. Education as an activity and process of activity that is intentionally carried out is a symptom of society when it has begun to realize the importance of efforts to shape, direct, and regulate human beings as the society aspires .

The urges and demands to produce quality education are always called for. Increasing public awareness of the importance of education, opening our minds about education can not only be interpreted as a school. A broad, meaningful understanding is needed, as well as providing benefits for the formation of a social order, which is not only intelligent but also has noble character. Strength of character forms by itself if there is support and encouragement from the surrounding environment. The role of family, school, and society is very dominant in supporting and building character strength. Character intelligence is the ultimate goal of true education. Character controls our thoughts and behavior, it will definitely determine success, how we live life, achieve obsessions and solve problems.

Character education through schools is not merely learning knowledge, but more than that, namely the cultivation of morals, ethical values, aesthetics, noble character. Character education is used to solve community problems because if you have good character it will make it easier to solve problems that are in the hands of the community.

Nation building and character building are national commitments that have long grown and developed in the life of the people, nation and state of Indonesia, nation building and character building are the commitments of the Indonesian nation that must be realized throughout life. Citizenship education in the context of national education is

not something new in the world. Indonesia. In Indonesia, schools have been given responsibility in efforts for development character since the time of independence through Citizenship Education subjects.

Since being included in the school curriculum starting in 1962 until now, Education Citizenship undergoes various changes in name, orientation, substance, as well as the learning approach. Citizenship Education is one of the fields of study in the context of national education which has a strategic role for the formation of national character in the midst of the heterogeneity of Indonesian society. The reality of plurality and heterogeneity is reflected in the principle of *Bhineka Tunggal Ika*. Citizenship Education as central in building unity has a role in shaping the younger generation. Citizenship Education is interpreted broadly to include preparing the roles and responsibilities of youth as citizens through schools, teaching and learning.

Citizenship Education has a role in fostering Indonesian citizens to become people who understand the duties and responsibilities as citizens of the life of the nation and state in the context of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia which holds the principle of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, for that Civic Education has a very important role in efforts to develop multicultural society. This is as stated in Article 37 of Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System which states that Citizenship (PKn) is a subject that focuses on the formation of citizens who understand and are able to carry out their rights and obligations to become intelligent Indonesian citizens, skilled, and have character as mandated by Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. This should be a revival of Civics to position itself as a driving factor for the development of the nation's character in order to prepare young citizens who have Indonesian character.

## **METHODS**

The design of this study is Literature Review which is a study that reviews or critically reviews the knowledge, ideas, or findings contained in the body of academic-oriented literature, as well as formulating its theoretical and methodological contributions to a particular topic. Literature review is conducted based on several international journals conducted using several databases concerned about the results of research Character Education And Citizenship Education In The Middle Of Community. The search for journal articles used in the 2011 – 2021 range uses title keywords such as “Character

Education And Citizenship Education In The Middle Of Community”. which are identified based on the relevance of the journal's content and the relevance of research topics. Then the articles that have been grouped researchers analyze the explanation of the structure of the interrelationship of articles and research topics. Then the authors compare if there are journals that are interconnected. Analysis of the journal literature review results using critical appraisal method. Critical appraisal is the process of journal analysis that is used to be the basis of the theory related to the differences, similarities and shortcomings of the journals used.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Character Education In The Middle Of Community**

Character Education In The Middle Of Community must be needed not only in schools, but also in the community and at home as well as in other social circles. Prioritized from the past, present and future. In today's era, students in character education are not only young children to teenagers, but also adults and even the elderly. Therefore, character education must be designed and implemented systematically to help students understand the values of human behavior related to themselves, fellow humans, the environment and God. Character education can be done through three stages, namely the introduction of socialization (introduction), appreciation (internalization), and confirmation (application) in life.

Character education will never be monitored for real if there is only a process of understanding the character or only information without any action. The concept of character is not enough to be used as something that is commonly used in syllabus and learning implementation plans in schools, but it must be more than that, run and put into practice. Character education is a process (step by step). The key to character education is discipline, commitment and application. Character education is not only given theoretically in schools, but also needs to be applied in everyday life, so that it will become a habit.

Building character education in society makes many parties want to increase the intensity and quality of the implementation of character education in educational institutions, especially in formal environments. The demands are based on developing social phenomena, namely the increase in juvenile delinquency, such as brawls, being

involved in drugs, trapped in free sex behavior, rampant corruption, and various other cases of moral decadence that hit this country. This happens not only in the cities but also in the countryside and in almost all sectors of life. Therefore, formal educational institutions as an official forum for the development of the younger generation are expected to increase their role in the formation of the personality of students through improving students' personality intensity and quality of character education.

The purpose of character education refers to the function of national education. RI Law No. 20 of 2003 Article 3 states that National Education functions to develop and assist the character and civilization of a dignified nation in the context of educating the nation. Aiming at developing potential, students become human beings who believe in God Almighty, have noble character, are healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent and become democratic and responsible citizens.

There are many benefits if we prioritize character education. There is moral improvement and awareness in the individual. Can overcome moral degradation. Individuals have a high tolerance. The level of violations and juvenile delinquency will decrease. The most important thing is that the individual is expected to be responsible for the knowledge he has.

Character education is closely related to understanding, appreciation and attitude towards values that are considered noble which must be realized in good behavior related to God, humans, and nature. To realize the situation as it should be, character education requires the support of moral education. values education (manners, manners and morals), religious education and civic education.

National character education is in an alarming state. This can be shown, among others, by the increasing practice of violating the law, such as drug abuse, having sex outside of marriage, corrupt practices, collusion and nepotism, brawls between classes, social conflicts, thuggery, violent acts, murder and so on. Such a situation causes human life to become increasingly uncomfortable, creates a sense of anxiety and fear, and is increasingly concerned about the future of the nation.

The character of the school which is expected to shape the character of the nation can also be done by applying the following two things. First, namely implementing democratic and multicultural education in every school. Democratic education is a process in which students participate in decision-making that will affect their school life.

Through this participation, all students will interact with other teachers and educators so as to create better learning conditions. While multicultural education is education that provides attention, service, and tolerance to students who have various backgrounds, including various strata of socioeconomic status. This diversity of socioeconomic status is another challenge for teachers. The attention and role of the teacher which is manifested in carrying out learning that is full of appreciation of the existing differences in socioeconomic status will be very meaningful for all students, especially students who are in low socioeconomic status. Second, with the implementation of a conducive school culture or culture, namely in the form of application, habituation and cultivation of noble values, such as honesty, discipline, work ethic, achievement, respect for differences, tolerance, quality-oriented, and sincere. This school culture will not only become an identity, it will also be a source of inspiration, cognitive frame work, and guide values that direct the entire school community, so that as a whole they become individuals with good character, even great ones. person (people who excel).

### **Citizenship Education In The Middle Of Community**

Citizenship Education (Civic Education) or Civics has many meanings and terms. According to Muhammad Numan Soemantri, the notion of Civics can be formulated as Citizenship Science which discusses the relationship between humans and humans in organized associations (social organizations, economics, politics) and the relationship between individuals and the state. According to Edmonson (1958), the meaning of civics is always defined as a study of government and citizenship related to the obligations, rights and privileges of citizens. This understanding shows civics as a branch of political science. Historically, citizenship education (Civics) comes from education about citizenship (Citizenship). Stanley E. Dimond explains that Citizenship as connected with school activities has two meanings in a narrow sense, citizenship only includes the legal status of citizens in a country, government organizations, managing power, legal rights and responsibilities. The interesting thing from Dimond's opinion is that there is a relationship between Citizenship and learning activities in schools considering the importance of this discipline of knowledge for the lives of citizens with each other and with the country in which they are located. At the time of further development, the

importance of citizenship has given birth to the civic community movement that is aware of the importance of civic education.

Citizenship Education has the aim of building the character (Character Building) of the Indonesian nation, which first forms participatory skills of qualified and responsible citizens in the life of the nation and state, making Indonesian citizens who are intelligent, active, critical and democratic, but still have a commitment to maintain unity. and the integrity of the nation, developing a civilized democratic culture, namely freedom, equality, tolerance and responsibility. Thus, after students participate in Citizenship Education properly and correctly, it is hoped that they will become Indonesian citizens who have the ability to make changes in society by transferring of learning (learning process), transfer of values (process of embodiment of values) and transfer of values. principles (process of transferring principles) of democracy, human rights and civil society in real life

Citizenship Education as education that aims to become citizens who are politically mature and participate in building democratic politics. Citizenship Education is one of the educational concepts that serves to shape the character of the younger generation so that they become citizens who have character. The linkage of civic education to character development has dimensions that cannot be separated from the aspects of character building and public morality of citizens.

The main and most important goal of civic education is to foster insight and awareness of the state, attitudes and behaviors that love the homeland and are based on national culture, insight into the archipelago, and national resilience in themselves who will later become future candidates for the nation who are studying and mastering science and technology, language and art. Realizing citizens who are aware of state defense based on an understanding of national politics, and sensitivity to developing national identity and morals in the life of the nation. In addition, it also has a goal to improve the quality of Indonesian people who are virtuous, personality, independent, advanced, tough, professional, responsible and productive as well as physically and spiritually healthy. The function of civic education is as a vehicle to form intelligent, skilled and personality citizens who are loyal to the Indonesian nation and state by reflecting themselves in the habit of thinking and acting in accordance with the mandate of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution.

Citizenship Education (Civic Education) is an education that is very important in educating the character of the Indonesian nation who will later become Indonesian citizens who are critical, active, democratic and civilized where they realize their rights and obligations in the life of society and the state and their readiness to become part of citizens of the world (global society) in today's modern era. Second, Citizenship Education can be a means of meeting various values and principles originating from outside and the treasures of Indonesian thought and values, which are oriented to give birth to a creative synthesis needed by Indonesia as a new democratic country based on Pancasila. To become a mature democratic country, Indonesian democracy can be in line with the corridor of strengthening national insight based on the four basic national consensus of Indonesia: Pancasila, the 1945 Constitution, the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI) and Bhinneka Tunggal Ika. Humanist-participatory Citizenship Education is expected to be a laboratory for seeding democratic principles that are integrated with Indonesian values originating from Pancasila as the philosophical basis of the nation which is later expected to become the main element in the formation of Indonesia's national character.

The role of civic education is to foster citizens, especially the next generation who are good and appropriate for the life of the nation and state. Civic education for the next generation is very important in order to raise awareness of defending the country and increase love for the homeland. Because it is the next generation who will become the nation's leaders in the future. In civic education, students (the next generation) are always provided with things that can increase the sense of nationalism. Understanding and improving attitudes and behavior based on the values of Pancasila and the nation's culture is a priority in civic education. As the main goal of civic education, all of this is to foster insight and awareness of the state, attitudes and behaviors that love the homeland and are based on national culture, insight into the archipelago, and national resilience in the nation's future generations. Through civic education, all future generations of the Indonesian nation are expected to be able to understand, analyze and answer the problems faced by the community, nation and state as well as being sustainable and consistent with national ideals and goals as outlined in the preamble to the 1945 Constitution. important actors, it is necessary to introduce a civics education material that is linked to the character values of a nation.



## CONCLUSION

Character education aims to revive the character of citizens in accordance with the values of Pancasila, including the value of piety, the value of faith, the value of honesty, the value of caring, to ethical values or manners. character education for students, because the purpose of Civics is basically to create students to become democratic citizens and have character in accordance with the values of Pancasila. Therefore, character education is appropriately implemented through Civics in shaping the morals of the younger generation.

Citizenship education for the community aims so that all elements of community members individually and in groups can know, understand, understand and carry out etiquette, orderly and act in accordance with the norms of legal rules that apply in society. aspects that need to be considered in public life. Throwing trash into the river, obeying traffic rules, being orderly on the highway, getting used to queuing are examples of commendable behavior that must be educated to the community so that people live in an orderly and peaceful manner.

The failure of education in building character in society. First, the education system that does not emphasize character building but emphasizes intellectual development, such as the educational evaluation system emphasizes cognitive/academic aspects in the form of national exams. Second, social conditions that do not support good character development. The authority to carry out character building, both in the school, family, and community environment. All components have a sense of responsibility to carry out character building.

Through such character education, it will be possible to produce cadres of national leadership who have a strong commitment to advancing the nation and state, have a clear identity, and are not carried away by the flow of globalization which tends to prioritize short-term, hedonistic, individualistic and materialistic. This 21st century character education must, among other things, be based on the noble values contained in the teachings of Islam, Pancasila, the 1945 Constitution, the spirit of the Youth Pledge, the views and thoughts of credible national leaders, values that grow and develop. in various islands in Indonesia.

Character education in Civics learning is one solution that can revive the role of Civics as a subject which is the leading sector in the development of student character.

Civics is a subject that in its material content is very rich in character values, it will be more helpful to integrate the concept of character education. The development of student character is not only developed through the content of Civics material, but the character of students can be developed indirectly through stages in learning activities, then it can also be supported by the use of methods, media, and learning resources.

Character education in learning must be prepared starting from the planning, implementation, and evaluation stages of learning. At the planning stage, you have to prepare materials, methods, media, learning resources, stages of learning activities, and evaluations that will be used to support the implementation of character education. These learning components will indirectly help develop the type of character that has been set.

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