

Increasing the Millennial Generation's National Defense Awareness through Citizenship Education Learning

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

*National Defense Awareness,
Millennial Generation,
Citizenship Education, Active
Participation,
Critical Thinking Skills*

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to investigate the effectiveness of learning methods in increasing the awareness of defending the country of the millennial generation through a Citizenship Education approach. This approach is considered important considering the important role of national defense in building awareness of social responsibility and concern for the country. This research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods. The research results show that through citizenship education that is integrated and oriented towards the needs of the millennial generation, they can increase their awareness of defending their country. By providing an understanding of national values, teaching critical thinking skills, encouraging open dialogue, and providing direct experience through field projects, the millennial generation can become active and responsible citizens in developing the country. This has a positive impact in strengthening the foundations of democracy, increasing participation in the country's development, and advancing the overall well-being of society.

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Jurnal Hukum, Politik dan Komunikasi Indonesia

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INTRODUCTION

The millennial generation, which consists of individuals aged between 20 and 40 years, plays a crucial role in forming and strengthening awareness of national defense among society. They are a group that is widely connected to information and open to rapidly developing global dynamics (Rahayu, 2021). Awareness of defending the country for this generation includes more than just a sense of obligation, but also reflects active involvement in protecting and promoting the values and interests of the country. In the era of globalization and developing information technology, the millennial generation has a unique opportunity to use digital platforms and social networks as a means to spread messages of awareness of defending the country and mobilize concrete action at the local and national level (Handayani et al, 2021). By adopting an inclusive approach and based on democratic values, the millennial generation can become a strong force in building a solid foundation of national defense awareness that is relevant to the demands of the times (Sobarningsih & Iskandar, 2022).

The millennial generation, often referred to as the "internet generation," has a strong attachment to the digital world, especially through the internet and social media. These platforms are not only a means for interacting and sharing information, but also an important forum for spreading messages about national defense awareness (Mukhtadi & Komala, 2018). Through social media, the millennial generation has broad access to expand understanding of citizenship issues and encourage in-depth discussions about the importance of active involvement in maintaining

the integrity of the country (Mihit, 2023). With the ability to disseminate information quickly and widely, the millennial generation has great potential to become effective agents of change in driving the awareness movement to defend the country at the community level (Satya, 2020).

However, the use of the internet and social media also poses its own challenges. Rapid and often unverified information fluctuations can lead to the emergence of disinformation and polarization of opinion, which in turn can damage awareness of national defense (Santoso et al, 2023). Therefore, it is important for the millennial generation to develop strong digital literacy skills, including the ability to sort correct and relevant information from what is not. Apart from that, it is also necessary to emphasize the importance of utilizing the internet and social media as tools to expand networks, build cooperation, and gather support in order to realize the goals of national defense awareness (Rahayu, 2021). With a wise and responsible approach to the use of digital technology, the millennial generation has great potential to play a positive and progressive role in building a strong and inclusive national defense awareness.

Citizenship education that is adapted to current needs and dynamics is an important foundation in equipping the millennial generation with a deep understanding of their responsibilities and roles as citizens (Damyanti et al, 2024). In an educational environment, the millennial generation can be taught not only about their rights as individuals, but also about the obligations inherent in building and maintaining the integrity of the country (Kamil et al, 2023). Through an integrated and innovative curriculum, they can develop critical thinking skills, effective communication abilities, and a strong social awareness attitude. This not only helps them become members of society who are more aware of important issues, but also prepares them to be actively involved in the democratic process and nation building (Ahyati & Dewi, 2021).

Active participation in social, political and local community activities is a concrete way for the millennial generation to apply the values of national defense awareness that they have learned. By being involved in togetherness initiatives and community service, they can feel the real impact of their contribution to community welfare (Arum, 2020). Through intergenerational collaboration and cross-sector cooperation, the millennial generation can build strong networks with various parties who have the same vision to strengthen state sovereignty and create an inclusive, just and sustainable society (Bani & Dewi, 2021). In this way, they not only play an important role in shaping the country's future, but also become agents of change who encourage the creation of a better society for everyone.

In the modern era filled with complex challenges and rapid global dynamics, citizenship education has a very important role in instilling the spirit of defending the country among the millennial generation (Khairunisa & Ismaya, 2020). Through a curriculum specifically designed to understand and respond to today's realities, citizenship education can equip the millennial generation with a deep understanding of the values of citizenship, democracy and freedom. They are not only taught about their rights and obligations as citizens, but also about the importance of active involvement in maintaining and advancing common interests (Faizah, 2020). By studying history, politics, culture and relevant social issues, the millennial generation can develop a broad and critical perspective on their role in building a better society (Harmadi & Jatmiko, 2020).

Apart from that, citizenship education also provides a platform for the millennial generation to discuss, debate and collaborate with others in solving complex problems faced by society (Saputra et al, 2023). Through interactive and project-based learning, they can develop critical thinking skills, effective communication, and teamwork which are important foundations in carrying out their role as active and responsible citizens (Iswardhana, 2020). Thus, citizenship education is not only a means of transferring knowledge, but also of forming the character and mental attitudes needed for the millennial generation to become agents of positive and progressive

change in strengthening state sovereignty and building an inclusive and sustainable society (Iswardhana, 2020).

The aim of this research is to evaluate the effectiveness of the Citizenship Education learning approach in increasing awareness of defending the country among the millennial generation. The benefit is to provide a better understanding of how citizenship education can be an effective instrument in building a national spirit and active involvement in maintaining the integrity of the country, so that it can make a real contribution in strengthening the foundations of democracy and building an inclusive society.

METHOD

This research adopts a qualitative approach with descriptive methods. Data collection techniques were carried out through literature studies using previous research that was relevant to the problem to be studied, as was done by Anggito & Setiawan (2018). A literature review is carried out to collect information from various sources such as books, scientific journals and research supporting documents. The author uses relevant previous studies to critically examine the understanding of ideas and scientific findings related to the challenges and opportunities of democracy in the digital era and their implications for constitutional law. Data analysis was carried out descriptively qualitatively, following the interactive model of Milles and Hubberman (1994) which consists of three stages, namely data reduction, data analysis, and conclusion drawing and verification.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

National defense education is important because it is a legal requirement. Legally (referring to the 1945 Constitution article 27 paragraph (3) "Every citizen has the right and obligation to participate in national defense and security efforts", and Article 30 Paragraphs (1 and 2), every citizen has the right and obligation to participate in national defense and security", National defense and security efforts are carried out through a universal people's defense and security system by the TNI and POLRI as the main force and the people as supporting forces". Apart from the 1945 Law, in Law No.3 of 2002 concerning National Defense Article 9 Paragraphs (1 and 2) state (1) Every citizen has the right and obligation to participate in national defense efforts which are realized in the Implementation of National Defense. mandatory basic military training, service as a TNI soldier voluntarily or compulsorily, and service in accordance with the profession.

The attitude of defending the country itself is the strength of the Indonesian State for the national development process towards national goals and is a condition that must be realized so that the process of achieving these national goals can run successfully. Therefore, a conception of national resilience is needed that is in accordance with the characteristics of the Indonesian nation. With awareness of defending the country, we must be able to have attitudes and behavior that are in line with struggle, love for our country and are willing to make sacrifices for our homeland and nation. In relation to young people who are the successors of the nation, it is very important to instill an attitude of love for the country from an early age so that their love for the nation and state is more confident and deeper. Human resources are the central point of the nation's potential which plays a role in carrying out development and overcoming all forms of threats, both from within and from abroad.

Increasing the Millennial Generation's National Defense Awareness through Citizenship Education Learning can be done through various integrated approaches.

1. Understanding National Values

A comprehensive understanding of national values, such as love for the country, the spirit of patriotism, and loyalty to the country, plays an important role in shaping the identity and awareness of defending the country of the millennial generation. Love for the homeland is not only an emotional expression, but also includes appreciation for the history, culture and natural riches of the country. By understanding the roots and values that shape the nation, millennials can feel emotionally and intellectually attached to their country, which in turn builds a strong foundation for active participation in the development and protection of the country. The spirit of patriotism, which includes pride in the nation's achievements and readiness to make sacrifices for the common good, is also important in forming awareness of defending the country. When the millennial generation feels called to contribute their energy and talents to the national interest, they bring a unique spirit of renewal and innovation to advance the country in a better direction.

Furthermore, loyalty to the country is a moral foundation for the millennial generation in carrying out their role as responsible citizens. This loyalty includes obedience to laws and regulations, as well as a commitment to maintaining the sovereignty, security and welfare of the country. Through a deep understanding of national values and unwavering loyalty to the country, the millennial generation is encouraged to take a proactive role in strengthening the country's foundations and ensuring the survival and progress of the nation. Thus, building the millennial generation's national defense awareness not only strengthens their emotional ties to their homeland, but also inspires concrete actions that support holistic and sustainable national development.

2. Introduction to History and the Constitution

Conveying knowledge about the history of the nation and the state constitution is an important step in providing a solid foundation for understanding the rights and obligations as citizens among the millennial generation. National history provides a clear view of the struggles and achievements that shape a nation's identity and identity. By studying historical events, the millennial generation can understand the values upheld by their nation and appreciate the role played by their predecessors in fighting for independence and freedom. Apart from that, knowledge of the state constitution is important because the constitution is the basic charter that determines the rights and obligations of citizens. By studying the content and principles contained in the constitution, the millennial generation can understand the government structure, political processes and legal systems that apply in their country. This allows them to access the rights they have as citizens and understand their obligations in maintaining the sovereignty and integrity of the country.

Thus, knowledge of the nation's history and the state constitution provides a strong foundation for the millennial generation in understanding and appreciating the true meaning of being a responsible citizen. With this understanding, they can exercise their rights wisely and fulfill their obligations with full awareness, so that they are able to play an active role in building a democratic, just and sovereign country. Through in-depth knowledge of history and the constitution, the millennial generation can be at the forefront in maintaining and strengthening the foundation of civic values which are the foundation of the nation's success.

3. Active Participation

Encouraging the active participation of the millennial generation in social, political and community activities is an important step to strengthen their involvement in the country's development. Through participation in social activities, the millennial generation can develop sensitivity to relevant social issues and make a real contribution to improving society's welfare. For example, they can be involved in environmental campaigns, poverty alleviation programs, or other social activities aimed at improving social conditions in the surrounding environment. In addition,

participation in political activities is an effective way for the millennial generation to voice their aspirations and interests in the decision-making process that has an impact on collective life. By getting involved in elections, public policy discussions, and other political activities, they can make a meaningful contribution to shaping a more responsive and inclusive state policy direction.

Apart from that, active participation in local community activities also opens up opportunities for the millennial generation to build strong networks with fellow residents and expand their understanding of the challenges and potential in the environment where they live. Through collaboration with various parties, such as local governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, the millennial generation can create innovative and sustainable initiatives to improve community welfare. By strengthening their involvement in the country's development at the local and national levels, the millennial generation can become effective agents of change in formulating solutions to the challenges faced by the nation, as well as ensuring inclusiveness and justice in sustainable development.

4. Critical Reflections on Social and Political Issues

Teaching critical thinking skills and analysis of relevant social and political issues, including challenges and opportunities in the digital era, is an important aspect in preparing the millennial generation to face the complexities of the modern world. In an era where information is spread quickly and widely through social media and the internet, critical thinking skills have become an essential basis for the millennial generation to filter valid and relevant information from what is not. Through civics education, they are taught to analyze various points of view, identify bias, and evaluate the veracity of information before taking a stance or action. This helps them develop the intellectual acumen necessary to understand social and political issues better, and make informed decisions.

Apart from that, citizenship education also needs to emphasize the importance of understanding the challenges and opportunities that arise in the digital era. Millennials need to be equipped with an understanding of the impact of technology and social media on social and political dynamics, including the potential spread of fake news, online privacy, and polarization of opinion. By understanding these risks, millennials can learn to deal with them wisely and responsibly, and harness the positive potential of technology to strengthen democratic participation and expand the reach of their advocacy. Thus, critical thinking skills and an understanding of the challenges and opportunities in the digital era will equip the millennial generation with the tools needed to become active, intelligent and responsive citizens to changing times.

5. Collaborative and Inclusive Approach

Encouraging open and inclusive dialogue between the millennial generation is an important strategy in broadening perspectives and building a strong sense of national defense. Through open dialogue, the millennial generation has the opportunity to exchange views, experiences and thoughts on various social, political and civic issues. This not only helps them deepen their own understanding, but also broadens their horizons to other points of view that may be different or conflicting. By listening actively and respecting diversity of opinion, the millennial generation can develop the ability to understand and respond wisely to differences, thereby strengthening tolerance, unity and solidarity in society.

Apart from that, inclusive dialogue between the millennial generation also creates space to build understanding and consensus on shared values and goals in building awareness of defending the country. By facilitating cross-generational dialogue, millennials can draw on the wisdom and experiences of previous generations, while also bringing new perspectives and fresh ideas to the discussion. This not only strengthens intergenerational connections, but also enriches

shared thinking and learning processes. Thus, encouraging open and inclusive dialogue between the millennial generation is a key step in building a strong and relevant national defense awareness to the realities of the times, as well as strengthening the foundations of unity and a strong nationality in the future.

6. Practical Learning

Providing direct experience through projects or field activities related to national defense is an effective approach in forming sustainable awareness of national defense among the millennial generation. Through active participation in projects such as social activities, environmental cleanup, or community assistance programs, the millennial generation has the opportunity to feel the real impact of their contributions to the welfare and development of the country. By being directly involved in field activities, they can see firsthand how their efforts bring positive change in the lives of those around them, strengthen their emotional ties to their homeland, and foster a sense of responsibility towards society. This experience not only enriches their understanding of the role of citizens in building the country, but also provides motivation and inspiration to continue to actively contribute to nation building.

Furthermore, this direct experience also helps the millennial generation to develop the practical and leadership skills needed to become effective agents of change in strengthening awareness of national defense. Through participation in field projects, they learn to work in teams, manage resources, and communicate effectively with various parties. This not only increases their ability to adapt and innovate in facing challenges in the field, but also shapes their character as responsible and empathetic individuals. Thus, providing direct experience through projects or field activities related to national defense not only strengthens the millennial generation's emotional ties and commitment to the country, but also prepares them to become future leaders who are dedicated to building a better and more just society.

CONCLUSION

Citizenship education plays an important role in increasing the millennial generation's awareness of defending the country. Through a comprehensive approach, such as providing an understanding of national values, teaching critical thinking skills, encouraging open dialogue, and providing direct experience through field projects, the millennial generation can be equipped with the knowledge, skills and experience needed to become active citizens. and responsible for developing the country. Thus, a strong awareness of state defense among the millennial generation can strengthen the foundations of democracy, increase participation in state development, and advance the welfare of society as a whole. Therefore, efforts to increase the millennial generation's awareness of national defense through citizenship education have a significant impact in strengthening state sovereignty and encouraging the creation of an inclusive, just and sustainable society in the future.

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