

The Role of Citizenship Education in Raising Citizenship Awareness

Dadang Mulyana

Universitas Pasundan, Bandung, Indonesia

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Email :

dadangmulyana@unpas.ac.id

ABSTRACT

Citizenship awareness is a critical aspect in identity formation and active participation in community life. This research aims to explore and analyze the role of Civic Education (PKn) learning in developing civic awareness among students. This research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods. The research results show that learning Citizenship Education (PKn) has a positive impact in forming civic awareness among individuals. Through Civics, students can understand their rights and obligations as citizens, as well as develop skills for active participation in civic life. Apart from that, Civics also helps in instilling important civic values such as mutual cooperation, tolerance, justice, democracy and unity. The results of this research provide a strong basis for the role of Civics in forming individuals who are responsible, aware of their rights and obligations, and ready to contribute to building a better society.

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INTRODUCTION

Citizenship awareness is an important foundation in building an inclusive and civilized society. In Indonesia, the state gives the same rights and obligations to every citizen to protect each other and take part in the development of the country (Ediyono, 2022). However, in reality, conflicts between the rights and obligations of citizens often arise without realizing it. For example, when someone demanding their rights without considering their responsibilities as members of society, this can result in an imbalance in social relations and damage social cohesion (Fadhilah & Safitri, 2024). On the other hand, fulfilling obligations without understanding the rights they have can trigger oppression and injustice. Therefore, it is important for each individual to thoroughly understand their rights and obligations as citizens, as well as how these two elements are interconnected to create a harmonious and prosperous society (Santoso et al, 2023).

Pancasila values play a crucial role in shaping the attitudes and behavior of Indonesia's young generation. As a state philosophy, Pancasila emphasizes the importance of values such as mutual cooperation, social justice, unity and democracy (Fatmala et al, 2024). Mutual cooperation, for example, encourages cooperation and collaboration between individuals in society, strengthening a sense of togetherness and mutual benefit. Apart from that, the value of tolerance reflected in Pancasila teaches the younger generation to respect differences and accept diversity as the nation's wealth (Irhasy & Habibah, 2024). In this way, the young generation is empowered to behave inclusively, build harmonious relationships and take an active part in advancing society towards shared prosperity (Firdaus, 2023).

Even though the values of Pancasila have great potential to inspire and shape the younger generation, there are challenges in implementing their values in everyday life (Banke et al, 2023). These internal challenges can arise from various factors, including technological developments and globalization which influence traditional values, as well as political and economic polarization which can weaken the spirit of unity (Wagiono et al, 2020). Therefore, proper education and coaching is essential to overcome these challenges. The younger generation needs to be encouraged to understand and internalize the values of Pancasila through holistic and integrated education, as well as through example and coaching provided by qualified leaders and community figures (Permata, 2023).

The importance of cooperation between citizens in building a strong and stable country cannot be underestimated. Through the application of Pancasila values in daily behavior, the younger generation can form a solid and responsible community (Suwito, 2012). By prioritizing common interests above personal interests, they can create an environment that supports sustainable economic, social and political growth (Haerani, 2022). Therefore, efforts to strengthen the application of Pancasila values in the daily lives of the younger generation must be the main focus in developing a better future for Indonesia (Fahmi et al, 2022)

Citizenship Education (PKn) plays a central role in forming awareness of the rights and obligations of citizens in Indonesia. Through a comprehensive curriculum, Civics not only transfers knowledge about the constitution and law to students, but also aims to explore the attitudes, values and skills needed to play an active role in civic life (Alvira et al, 2021). Civics provides an in-depth understanding of the basic rights that every citizen has, while also illustrating the responsibilities attached to these rights. For example, through discussing human rights, students not only learn about the rights that must be respected, but also understand the responsibility to respect the rights of others. In this way, Civics helps form individuals who are aware of the importance of balancing rights and obligations in society (Aisy & Santoso, 2022).

In addition, education that focuses on civic awareness also contributes to the development of individual character and morality. Through discussions, simulations, and community-based projects, students learn to internalize values such as honesty, discipline, and mutual cooperation, which are the foundation for harmonious relationships in society (Pangalila, 2017). They are also trained to understand the complexities of social and political situations, as well as develop critical thinking and responsible decision-making skills. Thus, through holistic Civics education, it is hoped that the younger generation can grow into citizens who are active, empowered and care about common interests, and are able to fight for justice and democracy in society (Dwintari, 2018).

The aim of this research is to explore and analyze the role of Civic Education (PKn) learning in developing civic awareness among students. Thus, this research aims to provide a deeper understanding of the effectiveness of Civics learning in forming students' character and civic awareness. The benefit of this research is that it provides valuable insight for educators, policy makers and other education stakeholders in designing Civics learning strategies that are more effective and relevant to society's needs. In addition, it is hoped that the results of this research can become the basis for improving the Civics

curriculum and developing learning programs that can have a more significant impact in forming a young generation who have a strong awareness and commitment to their country and society.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative approach which aims to investigate social problems by referring to the theoretical framework proposed by Moleong (2014). This research methodology is focused on an in-depth understanding of the research subject's experiences, such as behavior, perception, and motivation for action, with an emphasis on holistic descriptions using language and words. In particular, this research has a descriptive nature which aims to provide a clear picture of certain situations, events, populations or areas, in line with the concept of Yulianah (2022) which emphasizes systematic, factual and accurate descriptions. In the data analysis process, all information collected is analyzed and organized systematically to produce research findings which are then presented in the form of scientific writing. This descriptive approach was chosen to provide a comprehensive picture of the research topic being studied.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Citizenship awareness plays a very important role in the current context, where social, political and economic dynamics continue to develop. One of the clearest ways to demonstrate civic awareness is through active participation in various aspects of community life. For example, participating in social, professional and political organizations is a concrete manifestation of awareness of the importance of contributing to the improvement and development of society. By being involved in these organizations, individuals not only support initiatives and programs that benefit society, but also become active agents of change in creating a better environment for all (Asrori, 2016).

Apart from that, civic awareness is also reflected in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Complying with the matters and obligations as a citizen, as regulated in legislation, shows a commitment to maintaining order and justice in society. This includes paying taxes on time, following traffic rules, and complying with applicable social norms. By fulfilling these obligations, individuals not only strengthen the legal foundations of the state, but also make a positive contribution to maintaining social stability. General Elections (Pemilu) are also an important moment for citizens to show their awareness and involvement in the democratic process. By using their right to vote wisely, every citizen plays a role in determining the direction and leadership of the country. Participation in elections is not only an obligation, but also a form of moral responsibility towards the country and its future (Harjanti & Sarwoprasodjo, 2016).

Furthermore, civic awareness is also reflected in daily attitudes and behavior aimed at the common good. Thinking, acting and doing the best for the nation and state are fundamental principles for every individual who has a high sense of citizenship. This can be realized through mutual respect, mutual assistance, and upholding the values of unity and diversity. Finally, civic awareness also includes involvement in maintaining the sovereignty of the nation and state. This can take the form of support for national policies aimed at

protecting the country's interests, as well as vigilance against threats both from within and outside that could disrupt the stability and security of the country.

Citizenship education plays an important role in building civic awareness. Some of the main roles of Civics in forming civic awareness include:

1. Understanding Rights and Obligations

Citizenship Education (PKn) has a very important role in helping individuals understand their rights and obligations as citizens. Through Civics learning, individuals are introduced to the basic rights they have, such as the right to adequate education, the right to adequate health services, and the right to seek decent work. Apart from that, they are also taught about the obligations attached to their status as citizens, such as the obligation to pay taxes on time, respect applicable laws and regulations, and actively participate in community development. This understanding is not only important to affirm the position and rights of individuals in society, but also to ensure that every citizen can play an effective role in state development and shared prosperity.

Furthermore, Civics also plays a role in teaching the moral and ethical values that underlie the obligations of citizens. For example, learning about respecting the law and participating in community development helps shape the character of individuals who are responsible and care about the common good. By understanding that civic obligations are an integral part of responsible citizenship, individuals can understand the importance of their contribution in creating a more just, harmonious and prosperous society. Thus, Civics not only provides knowledge about the rights and obligations of citizens, but also forms the attitudes and values needed to become active members of society and play a role in the development of the country.

2. Formation of National Identity

Citizenship Education (PKn) plays an important role in the formation of a strong national identity among individuals. Through learning about history, students are introduced to narratives about the nation's struggles and achievements, which helps build a deeper understanding of their nation's origins and journey. Apart from that, Civics also teaches about the rich culture that Indonesia has, including traditions, arts and local wisdom which are an integral part of national identity. By understanding and appreciating this cultural diversity, individuals can develop a sense of love and pride for their country, and feel connected to fellow citizens who come from different cultural backgrounds. This helps strengthen national solidarity and provides a solid foundation for the building of a united and sovereign society.

Furthermore, learning national values in Civics also helps individuals understand their place in the broader national context. Through understanding the principles of Pancasila, Bhinneka Tunggal Ika, and the spirit of unity in diversity, students are given the opportunity to reflect on their role in strengthening national unity and unity. They also learn about their responsibility as agents of change in building a better country for future generations. Thus, Civics learning not only helps in forming a strong national identity, but also provides a moral and ethical foundation that guides individuals in contributing positively to the progress and prosperity of the nation.

3. Participation Skills Development

Citizenship Education (PKn) has a vital role in teaching skills for active participation in civic life. Through Civics learning, students are not only taught to be passive viewers, but are also encouraged to think critically about social and political issues that affect society. They are trained to carefully analyze information, evaluate the arguments presented, and formulate their own views independently. Apart from that, students are also guided to develop good argumentation skills, so that they can convey their opinions effectively and convincingly in various discussion forums. All of this helps prepare students to participate actively in democratic decision-making processes, both at the local and national levels.

Apart from critical thinking and argumentation skills, Civics also teaches students to understand complex social and political issues. Through a deep understanding of social, economic and political dynamics in society, students can recognize the challenges faced by the country and its society. They are taught to identify the root causes of problems, find sustainable solutions, and participate in positive change efforts. In addition, Civics also helps students develop effective communication skills, both in conveying their ideas and in interacting with other people in a civic context. Thus, Civics not only teaches knowledge, but also equips students with the skills needed to become active, critical citizens and contribute to building a better society.

4. Instilling Citizenship Values

Citizenship Education (PKn) has a very important role in instilling civic values which are essential for the formation of individual character. Through learning about values such as mutual cooperation, students are invited to understand the importance of working together and helping each other in achieving common goals. This helps build awareness of social solidarity and a sense of responsibility towards the collective welfare of society. In addition, learning about tolerance helps students understand and appreciate differences, whether in terms of religion, culture or political views. This forms the basis for creating an inclusive and peaceful social environment, where every individual is valued for his or her identity and contribution.

Furthermore, Civics also helps in forming an understanding of justice, democracy and unity as values that underlie national and state life. Students are taught to internalize these principles in their daily behavior and interactions. Through an understanding of justice, students learn to uphold the principles of equality and justice in various aspects of life. Meanwhile, understanding democracy helps students understand the importance of active participation, respect for human rights, and the importance of respecting fair and transparent decision-making processes. The value of unity is also emphasized, emphasizing the importance of national solidarity in facing complex challenges and changes. In this way, Civics provides a strong moral foundation for the younger generation to become responsible, caring citizens and contribute positively to building a just, democratic and united society.

5. Development of Political Awareness

Citizenship Education (PKn) has a significant role in developing political awareness among individuals. Through the Civics curriculum, students are introduced to various aspects of the political system, including government structure, the legislative process, and the function of political institutions. They also learn about the political rights they have as

citizens, such as the right to vote and be elected, as well as the right to express opinions and assemble peacefully. Learning about the political decision-making process helps students understand how public policies are created, passed, and implemented in society. This opens their minds to the importance of active participation in the political process to influence desired changes. Thus, Civics plays a role in providing individuals with a solid understanding of politics, preparing them to play an active role in political and societal life.

Apart from that, Civics also provides opportunities for students to be directly involved in the political process through simulations of general elections and leadership elections in the school environment. Through these activities, students can practice their political rights in a safe and structured environment. They learn to select candidates based on their understanding of vision, programs, and competencies, and understand the importance of participation in determining the direction and leadership of a country. Thus, Civics not only provides knowledge about politics, but also provides practical experience that builds the skills and attitudes necessary to participate effectively in the political process. This all helps to form a strong political consciousness among individuals, making them influential agents of change in their societies and countries.

CONCLUSION

Citizenship Education (PKn) has a very important role in forming civic awareness among individuals. Civics helps individuals understand their rights and obligations as citizens, including basic rights such as education, health and employment, as well as obligations such as paying taxes and participating in community development. Apart from that, Civics also plays a role in forming a strong national identity by teaching history, culture and national values which arouse feelings of love and pride for the country as well as understanding its role in the broader context of the nation. Furthermore, Civics helps in developing skills for active participation in civic life, including critical thinking skills, argumentation, understanding social and political issues, and effective communication skills. Civics also plays an important role in instilling civic values such as mutual cooperation, tolerance, justice, democracy and unity, which shape the character of individuals who are responsible and care about the common interest. In addition, Civics helps in the development of political awareness among individuals by providing an understanding of the political system, political rights, political decision-making processes, and involvement in political processes such as general elections. Through the curriculum and practical activities, students are given the opportunity to be directly involved in the political process, preparing them to become active citizens and participate in political and societal life. Thus, Civics has a holistic role in forming individuals who are responsible, aware of their rights and obligations as citizens, and ready to participate in the development of a better country and society.

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