The Role of Citizenship Education in Building Students' **Moral Character in The Modern Era**

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Abstract

Civic Education (PKn) has an important role in building the moral character of students in the modern era, especially in the midst of globalization that brings moral challenges to the younger generation. This article examines how PKn functions as a forum to instill moral values such as tolerance, honesty, responsibility, and love of the homeland to students. Through a literature approach, this study emphasizes the importance of interactive teaching methods and the support of a conducive educational environment in fostering character rooted in national and humanitarian values. The results of the study show that with effective civic education, students are better able to apply moral ethics in everyday life, face the challenges of the modern era with a critical attitude, and contribute positively to society. Civic Education not only plays a role in teaching the rights and obligations of citizens, but also forms a strong moral character as a foundation for national development.

Keyword: Civic Education, moral character, students, modern era, national

1. INTRODUCTION

Civic Education (PKn) has a significant role in shaping the moral character of students in the modern era full of global challenges. PKn aims to create a generation that understands their rights and obligations as citizens, and has strong morals and ethics. According to Gunawan & Najicha (2022), this education is expected to encourage students to apply moral values in everyday life. In the context of modernization, students' morality is often threatened by the influence of external cultures that tend to be individualistic and materialistic. Therefore, PKn becomes an important instrument for instilling the values of nationalism and noble personality in the younger generation. This is relevant considering the advancement of technology that also influences students' mindsets and behavior. Moral challenges in the era of globalization are increasingly complex, so that PKn is needed to maintain students' morality from negative influences. According to (Mahdiyah et al., 2023), the flow of globalization has a strong influence on local culture, which often fades the values of nationalism. Civic Education serves as a foundation for forming intelligent and critical citizens in facing global competition. PKn learning in schools instills awareness in students about the importance of maintaining their identity as Indonesian citizens. That way, students are expected to have a strong moral character as the main capital in facing the dynamics of globalization. Therefore, effective character education is needed to strengthen students' morals. Moral education in PKn is also important in overcoming the moral crisis among students that is increasingly felt in this digital era. Yunita et al., (2024), explains that values such as honesty, responsibility, and tolerance need to be instilled in PKn so that students are able to practice behavior that is in accordance with social norms.

These values are not only important for social interaction, but also as provisions for life in a pluralistic society. Along with the development of technology, PKn plays a role in providing moral guidance so that students are able to sort out the positive and negative influences of the digital environment. That way, students can develop good moral character and maintain healthy social interactions in this era of globalization. This is important so that students continue to adhere to local values amidst the rapid development of technology. Civic Education also plays an important role in shaping students' attitudes and behaviors to be in accordance with the values contained in Pancasila. According to Sunaryati et al., (2023), Civics in elementary schools plays a role in instilling morals in students from an early age through positive values. Teachers have a crucial role in motivating students to practice these values in their daily lives. Character education in Civics must be pursued through interesting and relevant methods so that students are

interested in learning and practicing moral values. In the long term, Civics can help shape a generation with high morals and ready to contribute to the nation. Thus, Civics becomes an important pillar in elementary education as a basis for the formation of good student character. At the elementary school level, PKn also shapes students' character to have a commitment to democratic values and social responsibility. According to Adelia & Muthi (2022), PKn uses an interactive approach such as group discussions and simulations to develop students' skills in interacting and behaving according to social ethics. Through this method, students find it easier to understand and apply moral values in everyday life. Although there are challenges in implementing the PKn curriculum, this education remains important in shaping students' strong personalities. Therefore, support from schools and parents is needed to optimize this character education process. The integration of technology in PKn learning can also increase students' interest in understanding moral values. In addition to instilling moral values, PKn also functions as a means to foster a spirit of national defense among students. According to Hapsari et al. (2023), PKn not only teaches students about the rights and obligations of citizens, but also instills a sense of love for the homeland. In the modern era, the challenges to national awareness are increasing, so education is needed that can strengthen national identity. Through PKn, students are taught the importance of appreciating and maintaining local culture and values.

Thus, PKn is the key to forming a generation that has a high awareness of the importance of national defense. The spirit of nationalism that is formed from an early age will form a young generation that is ready to contribute to the progress of the nation. Civic Education also plays a role in facing the challenges of student character affected by the digitalization era. Devaraswari et al. (2024), states that modernization and dependence on technology often reduce social interactions that affect student character. Civics helps students understand the importance of social interaction and strengthens the values of politeness and ethics in everyday life. The implementation of Civics in schools is a solution to equip students with the social skills needed in a digital society. Thus, Civics provides a moral foundation for students to adhere to noble values amidst technological advances. This is important to avoid the negative impacts of rapid technological developments. Civic Education is an important instrument in shaping the moral character of students in the modern era that is full of moral challenges. Through a structured curriculum and innovative teaching methods, Civics is able to instill ethical values and patriotism in the younger generation. According to a study conducted by Hapsari et al., (2023), the role of teachers, school support, and parental involvement greatly influence the effectiveness of Civics. In addition, Civics also needs to be integrated with technology to increase students' interest in learning moral and national values. Thus, Civics is not only a subject, but also an important foundation in forming a generation with noble character and high awareness of national values.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative method based on literature study to explore the role of Citizenship Education (PKn) in building students' moral character in the modern era. The literature study method was chosen because it is considered capable of providing a comprehensive picture through secondary data analysis from various sources such as journals, books, and articles that are relevant to the topic. According to Gunawan & Najicha (2022), literature study is effective in understanding the fundamental concepts and theories related to moral values in citizenship education. By combining various academic perspectives, this study seeks to develop a holistic understanding of the implementation of PKn in a modern context. Therefore, this method is considered appropriate to explore the theory and practice of moral education in depth. This is in line with the study by Mahdiyah et al. (2023), which shows that literature analysis can support an in-depth understanding of moral character and citizenship values. Data collection in this study was conducted through a literature review, where relevant literature was collected and synthesized to gain a comprehensive understanding of the role of PKn.

The data collection process included the selection of scientific articles, journals, and books that discuss civic education and moral character. According to (Hapsari et al. (2023), the use of a literature review allows researchers to identify various perspectives and findings that have been revealed by previous studies. With this approach, researchers can evaluate and formulate findings based on comparative analysis from various sources. This method also allows researchers to assess how civic education shapes students' character in the era of globalization and modernization (Sunaryati et al., 2023). Data analysis was conducted descriptively to highlight the main role of civic education in the formation of moral character. Each finding from the relevant literature was arranged in the form of categories that identify key aspects of civic education, such as democratic values, social responsibility, and nationalist ethics, explained that the descriptive approach allows

the presentation of data in narrative form, thus providing a deeper understanding of the context of moral character in education. Through this descriptive analysis, researchers can compile a clear picture of the role of Devaraswari et al. (2024)civic education values in building students' personalities and morals. This approach is in line with the recommendations expressed by Adelia & Muthi (2022), which underlines the importance of descriptive analysis in highlighting the impact of civic education on the development of students' character.

Data validity is ensured through source triangulation, which involves the use of multiple references to ensure the accuracy and depth of the data. In literature studies, this source triangulation aims to minimize the researcher's subjective bias and increase confidence in the research results. The results of literature reviews from various credible literature sources are considered to strengthen the validity of this study, because each reference supports and enriches the information obtained (Hapsari et al., 2023). With this triangulation method, this study does not only rely on one source, but combines several relevant points of view. This approach ensures that the research results are reliable and relevant in the context of moral education for students in the modern era. In the data analysis process, this study uses an interpretive approach to link the theory and concept of civic education with current social phenomena. This interpretive method gives researchers the freedom to interpret data according to developments and challenges in the modern era. Interpretation is carried out based on the guidance of relevant moral and civic education theories, so that the results of the study can reflect the actual conditions of students in facing global challenges (Yunita et al., 2024). Thus, this interpretive approach is expected to provide insight into how PKn can shape the moral character of students who are strong and have integrity in the era of modernization.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This study aims to explore the role of civic education in building students' moral character in the modern era. The results of the study indicate that civic education has a significant impact on forming positive moral values among students. Through structured learning, students are taught to understand and implement moral values in their daily lives. This is very important amidst the challenges of globalization that can affect the moral integrity of the younger generation. This study also indicates that a relevant and interesting curriculum can improve students' understanding of the importance of morality in (Gunawan & Najicha, 2022)citizenship. In the context of education, the application of interactive and participatory learning methods has proven effective in building students' moral character. This approach involves students in group discussions and problem-based projects, allowing them to apply the values learned in practice. These results indicate that active involvement in the learning process strengthens students' understanding of social and ethical responsibilities. This method also helps in overcoming the moral crisis faced by students in the modern era, where ethical challenges are increasingly complex (Yunita et al., 2024). In addition, research shows that support from the school environment, including teacher and parent involvement, is very important in supporting civic education learning. The success of civic education programs is greatly influenced by how teachers deliver materials and encourage students to discuss and actively participate. Parental involvement in the educational process can also strengthen the values taught in schools. These results indicate the need for collaboration between schools, parents, and the community to build strong moral character in students (Mahdiyah et al., 2023). The results of the study also revealed the importance of technology integration in civic education. The use of information technology can increase students' access to relevant information and learning resources. In addition, technology can be used to create simulations or educational games that teach civic values. Thus, students can learn in a fun and interactive way, which can improve their understanding of citizenship and morality (Adelia & Muthi, 2022).

In an effort to build students' moral character, this study emphasizes the importance of instilling positive values from an early age. Civic education at the elementary level, for example, plays an important role in forming a strong moral foundation for students. The results of the study show that the values contained in Pancasila can be used as a guideline in instilling morals in students. By instilling these values, it is hoped that the younger generation can become responsible and noble citizens (Sunaryati et al., 2023). The following table shows some moral values that can be instilled through citizenship education and appropriate learning methods:

Table 1. Learning Methods

Moral values	Learning methods
Honesty	Group discussions, case studies
Responsibility	Problem based projects
Tolerance	Simulation, role-playing
Justice	Debate, project based learning
Social concern	Social activities, community service

This study also shows that civic education can help students face the challenges of globalization. By understanding the values of nationalism and national ethics, students can develop an awareness of their identity as Indonesian citizens. This is important so that they are not influenced by foreign cultures that can erode their love for their country. Good civic education will facilitate the strengthening of students' identity amidst the rapid flow of globalization (Hapsari et al., 2023). In addition, this study notes that civic education learning can strengthen students' ability to participate in democratic life. Students are taught to understand their rights and obligations as citizens, so that they can play an active role in the decision-making process in their environment. This skill is very necessary in the modern era, where community participation in the political process is increasingly expected. Thus, civic education can form students who are not only academically intelligent, but also socially and politically active (Devaraswari et al., 2024). The results of the study also show that civic education contributes to overcoming the moral crisis among students. By teaching moral and ethical values, civic education can be a means to improve students' behavior and attitudes. Although challenges such as the negative influence of social media and an unsupportive external environment exist, civic education still has the potential to build strong moral character. Therefore, an appropriate strategy is needed in its implementation so that it can have a positive impact on students (Yunita et al., 2024). In addition to the moral aspect, civic education also serves to foster a sense of empathy and social concern among students. Through various activities, students are invited to understand the social problems faced by the community. This will shape the character of students to be more sensitive to the surrounding environment and take the initiative to help solve existing problems.

Thus, civic education does not only focus on the knowledge aspect, but also on the formation of positive attitudes and behaviors (Adelia & Muthi, 2022). The study also noted that civic education must be adjusted to the needs of the times. An adaptive and responsive curriculum to social change and the development of information technology will make civic education more relevant. By utilizing technology, learning materials can be presented in a more interesting and easy-to-understand way. This is expected to increase students' interest in learning and understanding civic education (Mahdiyah et al., 2023). Furthermore, this study shows that there needs to be a periodic evaluation of the implementation of civic education in schools. Through evaluation, the weaknesses and strengths of the program can be identified, so that improvements can be made continuously. This is important to ensure that the goals of civic education in building students' moral character are achieved properly. Therefore, support from various parties, including the government, schools, and the community, is needed to achieve these goals (Gunawan & Najicha, 2022). This study also highlights the importance of training for teachers in teaching civics. The quality of teaching is highly dependent on the competence of teachers in delivering materials in an interesting and relevant manner. Continuous training will help teachers to develop pedagogical skills and a better understanding of civic values. Thus, civics can be more effective in building students' character (Hapsari et al., 2023). In addition, the results of this study indicate that active participation of students in extracurricular activities can strengthen their moral character.

These activities provide opportunities for students to apply the values they learn in a broader context. Through extracurricular activities, students can learn to work together, be responsible, and respect each other. This is an important part of forming good character for students (Yunita et al., 2024). The results of the study also show that civic education can be a tool to prevent deviant actions among students. By providing an understanding of the consequences of unethical actions, students are expected to be able to make better decisions in everyday life. Good civic education can be a fortress for students to face temptations and pressures from an unsupportive environment. This is very important to build a young generation that has integrity (Adelia & Muthi, 2022). In this case, civic education must involve a holistic approach. In addition to the academic aspect, education must also consider the emotional and social aspects of students. Through

holistic education, students not only learn about citizenship, but also develop the social skills needed to interact with others. This will help them become better and more responsible individuals in society (Devaraswari et al., 2024). This study also shows that interactions between students from different backgrounds can improve their understanding of tolerance and diversity. Civic education that emphasizes these values is essential in the context of Indonesia's diverse society. Through dialogue and collaboration, students can learn to respect each other and accept differences. This is an important part of building strong moral character (Mahdiyah et al., 2023). This study also emphasizes the importance of good communication between schools and parents in supporting civic education. Effective communication will help parents understand the goals of civic education and how they can contribute to supporting the values taught in schools. With collaboration between schools and parents, it is hoped that students' moral character can be formed better. In addition, civic education should be integrated with other subjects to create a more comprehensive understanding. For example, linking civics material with history, sociology, or economics lessons can enrich students' insights.

This approach will help students see the relevance between various disciplines and their influence on everyday life. In this way, civic education can be more meaningful and interesting for students (Yunita et al., 2024). Community service activities can be an effective means of instilling moral values. Through community service, students can directly feel the positive impact of the social actions they take. This will strengthen their sense of social concern and responsibility as citizens. Therefore, it is important to include community service activities as part of the civic education curriculum (Adelia & Muthi, 2022). The importance of moral character development must begin at an early age. Civic education at the early childhood education (PAUD) level can be a good first step in instilling moral values. By providing learning that is in accordance with the child's developmental stage, it is hoped that a strong moral character can be formed early on. This will have a positive impact on their moral development in the future (Gunawan & Najicha, 2022). The results of this study provide new insights into the importance of civic education in building students' moral character. In facing global challenges and rapid social change, quality civic education will be the key to creating an ethical and responsible young generation.

Therefore, there needs to be a commitment from all parties to optimize civic education as an effort to build strong moral character in students in the modern era. At the end of this study, the author recommends that all related parties, including the government, schools, and communities, work together to develop better civic education programs. Continuous evaluation and development of the curriculum, learning methods, and teacher training are needed to achieve the expected educational goals. With these steps, civic education can make a significant contribution to building a strong moral character of students. In addition, the author also recommends that further research be conducted to explore other factors that influence the formation of students' moral character. This research can include aspects such as the influence of social media, family environment, and local culture. With a better understanding of these factors, citizenship education can be tailored to meet the specific needs of students in various contexts (Mahdiyah et et al., 2023). Through the results of this study, it is hoped that there will be an increase in awareness of the importance of civic education in building students' moral character. It is hoped that the young generation of Indonesia can grow into individuals with noble morals and responsible citizenship. Thus, civic education is not only a subject, but also a basis for building a better society in the future.

Civic education has a very important role in building the moral character of students in the modern era. Amidst the rapid development of technology and information, civic education serves as a foundation for instilling moral values needed in everyday life. Along with the changing times, the challenges faced by the younger generation are also increasingly complex, so civic education is expected to be a means of strengthening character and ethics. Various interactive and participatory learning methods can be implemented to make the learning process more effective and enjoyable. Through this approach, students not only understand the theory but can also apply it in real life. Thus, the moral character of students can be formed well through effective civic education (Gunawan & Najicha, 2022). One of the main aspects of civic education is the development of leadership and responsibility among students. In this context, civic education is not just a transfer of knowledge, but also includes the formation of positive attitudes and behaviors. Through group discussions, collaborative projects, and extracurricular activities, students are taught to take initiative and be responsible for their actions. These activities can create a learning environment that supports the development of good moral character and leadership. Thus, civic education contributes to the formation of individuals who have social awareness and a willingness to contribute to

society. The role of education in building moral character is crucial, especially in facing the increasingly complex challenges of globalization (Mahdiyah et al., 2023).

In the modern era marked by global influence, national values are often eroded by foreign cultures. Therefore, civic education plays an important role in instilling a sense of love for the homeland and national identity in students. Through a deep understanding of the nation's history, the values of Pancasila, and the 1945 Constitution, students are expected to have an attitude that respects cultural heritage and nationalism. Teaching that touches on emotional and cognitive aspects can trigger students' awareness of the importance of maintaining national identity. That way, they will be able to become citizens who are not only academically intelligent but also have high social awareness and responsibility. Civic education, in this case, becomes a tool to build a strong moral character in facing the currents of change (Yunita et al., 2024). Civic education also plays a role in forming awareness of national defense among students. This awareness is important to encourage the younger generation to actively participate in national development. Through various extracurricular activities oriented towards nationalism, students are taught to prioritize the interests of the nation over personal interests. This can be done through simulations, discussions on national issues, and involvement in social activities. Thus, civic education serves as a bridge to instill a sense of love and responsibility towards the country. Students who have awareness of national defense will be better prepared to face the challenges faced by this nation (Hapsari et al., 2023).

One of the challenges faced in civic education is the increasing moral crisis among students. In this context, civic education serves as a means to address this problem by instilling strong ethical values. Education that focuses on moral values such as honesty, responsibility, and tolerance can help reduce deviant behavior among students. In the learning process, it is important to include case studies and real experiences that can make students more sensitive to moral issues in society. In this way, civic education is not only a theory, but can also be a guideline in everyday life. Thus, students can have a strong moral character and be able to face challenges in the modern era. (Sunaryati et al., 2023). Civic education must also be able to adapt to changing times, including technological advances. Information technology can be used as a tool to deliver civic education materials in a more interesting and interactive way. For example, the use of social media and other digital platforms can be used as a means to disseminate information and civic values. Thus, students will find it easier to understand and apply the principles of citizenship in everyday life. In addition, the integration of technology in learning can also encourage students to be more critical and creative in dealing with existing problems. Therefore, civic education must make maximum use of technology to support the development of students' moral character (Adelia & Muthi, 2022). In addition, the involvement of parents and the community in civic education is also very important. Collaboration between schools, families, and the community can create an environment that is conducive to the development of students' moral character. The involvement of parents in the teaching and learning process and support from the community can strengthen the values taught in schools. Activities such as community service programs or seminars on civics can increase awareness of social responsibility among students. By creating synergy between formal and non-formal education, students' moral character can be formed more holistically. The involvement of all parties is the key to achieving the goals of effective civic education.

The importance of civic education lies not only in teaching theory, but also in applying values in everyday life. Students must be taught to be able to apply moral values in different contexts, both in the school environment, home, and society. For example, through small actions such as respecting teachers, helping friends, and participating in social activities, students can strengthen the moral character that has been taught. This direct practice will help students internalize the values taught and apply them in real life. In other words, civic education must bridge theory and practice to form a strong moral character in students. Learning that is oriented towards experience will be more effective in building character compared to learning that is only theoretical (Safitri et et al., 2023). The table below illustrates the moral values taught in citizenship education along with examples of their application in everyday life:

Table 2. Application Examples

Moral values	Application Examples
Honesty	Admit mistakes and do not cheat during exams
Responsibility	Complete tasks on time
Tolerance	Respecting differences of opinion

Cooperation	Work together in groups to complete tasks
Feeling of Love for the Country	Participate in activities that support cultural
	preservation

This table shows how important it is to integrate moral values into civic education. Through the application of these values, it is hoped that students can understand the importance of behaving well in various aspects of life. In addition, the instillation of these moral values also becomes the basis for forming the character of students who have integrity and are committed to their social responsibilities. Thus, civic education contributes significantly to building the moral character of students in the modern era. It is hoped that students who have strong moral character will become a generation that is able to bring positive change to the nation. A well-structured and well-planned learning process is essential to achieve this goal. One of the challenges in implementing civic education is the limited time in a dense curriculum. In many cases, civic education is considered an additional lesson that does not receive serious attention. In fact, this education has a central role in shaping the character and morals of students. Therefore, there needs to be a policy that encourages the integration of civic education into the main curriculum. By placing civic education as a priority, students will be more exposed to moral values that are important in national and state life. Reforms in this curriculum are expected to answer the challenges faced by civic education in the modern era (Adelia & Muthi, 2023).

Furthermore, it is important to conduct continuous evaluation and development in civic education programs. This evaluation can include assessment of teaching methods, materials used, and results achieved by students. With good evaluation, schools can find out to what extent civic education can shape students' moral character. Continuous development of civic education programs is essential to meet the needs of the changing times. Through proper research and development, civic education can continue to be relevant and effective in building students' character. Various interactive teaching approaches and methods can be implemented to make civic education more effective. In addition, the involvement of parents and the community also greatly supports the achievement of this educational goal. Strengthening moral values and social awareness among students is the key to facing the increasingly complex challenges of globalization. Therefore, commitment from all parties is needed to ensure that civic education can run well and have a positive impact on the younger generation.

4. CONCLUSION

Civic Education (PKn) has a very significant role in shaping the moral character of students in this modern era. In the context of rapid development of science and technology, PKn functions as one of the pillars to educate the younger generation to become intelligent and responsible citizens. Through teaching moral and ethical values, PKn not only teaches lessons about rights and obligations, but also instills positive character needed to face challenges in the global community. In this case, PKn contributes to strengthening identity and nationalism, which is very important in the midst of globalization that often erodes local values. Research shows that to achieve optimal educational goals, structured and systematic learning planning is needed. This includes the use of innovative and participatory teaching methods, such as group discussions and problem-based projects, to actively engage students in the learning process. By engaging students in contextual and relevant learning, they are better able to understand and internalize the moral values taught. In addition, support from the school environment and parental involvement are also very important in supporting the successful implementation of PKn. In addition, in the era of globalization, the challenges faced by civic education are increasingly complex. The western phenomenon that has begun to penetrate people's lives can reduce the sense of nationalism and national identity. Therefore, civic education must be able to adapt to changing times while still emphasizing the importance of local and national values. Through a relevant and responsive approach to social conditions, civic education can remain an effective means of building students' moral character in accordance with the demands of the times.

Considering the importance of developing moral character through civic education, it becomes clear that collaboration between various parties is needed. All elements of society, including the government, educational institutions, and families, must work together to support this educational process. Policies that support strengthening civic education need to be implemented consistently to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of this program. Only with cooperation solid, we can create a young generation that has good morals and strong character. In facing the challenges and changes that continue to occur, PKn is expected to

be a tool to create a more civilized and responsible society. This includes building awareness of national defense, where the younger generation is trained to actively contribute to national development. Strengthening moral values through PKn is not only beneficial for individuals, but also has positive implications for society as a whole. Thus, civic education not only functions as a curriculum, but also as an integral character-building process for students. The role of civic education in building the moral character of students in the modern era is vital. Through the right and collaborative strategies, we can face the challenges of globalization while maintaining moral values and national identity. With a shared commitment to improving the quality of civic education, it is hoped that the next generation will be able to become individuals who are not only academically intelligent, but also have strong characters and are responsible as citizens. Building good moral character through civic education is an investment for a better future for our nation.

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