

International Journal of Students Education



Page 89-92

ISSN 2988-1765

Vol 3 No 1 2024

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CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION IN NATIONAL CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

Education is an effort in various ways so that students are able to develop themselves actively which includes reasoning, intelligence in science, sharpening mentality, having spiritual strength, self-control, and having other skills. Through education, citizens become intelligent, capable, and personable individuals. National character is a characteristic and attitude of a nation that is reflected in the behavior and personality of citizens. The purpose of this study is to shape the character of the nation through civic education (PKn) and to shape the nature of the Indonesian nation. The method used in this study is library research. The results of this study indicate that character education in civics includes the values contained in Pancasila as the main guideline for character education in students with the understanding and implementation of Pancasila values into everyday life as the main foundation of citizen character. Character education also functions to foster potential, habits, and behavior, instill a sense of responsibility and leadership, and create school abilities and environments. By using the literature study research method, which can present a discussion of civic education which is the basis of national character, we can understand the scope of civic education as education based on science as character education that forms the character of citizens according to the nation's culture.

Keywords : Nation, National Character, Education

Introduction

Education is one of the determining factors in improving the human resources (HR) of a nation. Quality HR is certainly based on educational values instilled in society. Education is an effort in various ways so that students are able to develop themselves actively which includes reasoning, intelligence in science, sharpening mentality, having spiritual strength, self-control, and having other skills (Arifin 2013). Through education, citizens become intelligent, capable, and personable individuals. Through education that teaches various sciences, knowledgeable individuals can create personal characters that are in accordance with national values, which is known that character is one of the Personal Values that cannot be underestimated, more important than science. Character comes from Latin which means carved, so character is a combination of various virtues and values carved in the stone of life that will realize the true value (Hidayatullah 2010), while the Ministry of National Education defines character as the nature, nature, morals, or personality of a person formed from the results of internalizing various virtues (*virtues*) that are believed and used as a basis for perspective, thinking, behaving, and acting (Nashir 2013). The character of the nation is manifested in the character of its citizens through the formation of personality in accordance with the values of the nation's culture through character education at all levels of education. National character is a characteristic and attitude of a nation that is reflected in the behavior and personality of its citizens. This attitude can be influenced by factors that have existed since the beginning (given) or efforts made by the state or government for the progress of the nation (willed). Therefore, national character is very dependent on the political will of the government or state leaders, because national character, in addition to existing since the beginning, can also be built according to the vision of the state.

History shows that the founders of the country have laid the foundation and foundation that became the character of the nation, which is important to be developed and transformed so that it is owned by all Indonesian citizens. The character of a nation is an important aspect that influences the socio-economic development of the nation. High character quality of the community will create good national quality. Some experts believe that the best character development is done from an early age (Kartadinata 2013). Character education is understanding the true nature of character education, this is important because according to HE Mulyasa "character education moves from awareness , understanding , concern, and commitment , to *doing or acting* " (Mulyasa 2012). Character education is taught from simple things such as sharing with others, speaking politely to older people, respecting differences and not discriminating against students at the early education level. The stages of education cannot be separated from the application of character education in the entire teaching and learning process in certain circumstances. Character education is taught to students in certain situations, for example if there is a conflict between students, the teacher will indirectly educate character in solving problems between students. Each level of education includes character education which is implemented in several subjects, especially Pancasila and Citizenship Education (PPKn) which applies character education to students based on the composition of their understanding. In this case, PPKn is expected to be a vehicle for the formation of national character values that are starting to erode. One of the missions carried out by PPKn is as character education, in addition to other missions as political education/democratic education, moral education and legal education in every type and level of education (Susiatik 2013). This is reflected in three important components of civic education, namely civic knowledge, civic skills, and civic awareness.

Research Methodology

Related to the type of data available, to compile this research using the library *research method*. The literature or libraries used in this study are books, journal articles, proceedings, and research reports as listed in the Bibliography. There are two stages in the data analysis technique in this study 1) analysis at the time of data collection, this is intended to better capture the essence or core of the focus of the research that will be carried out through the sources collected, this process is carried out aspect by aspect, according to the research map. 2) after the data collection process is carried out, the data that has been collected is analyzed by determining the relationship between each other. 3) study of literary works, this method is used to understand and gain knowledge from civic education which not only contains civic knowledge but also becomes character education for citizens who can shape the character of citizens according to the nation's culture.

Result & Discussion

National Character Building

1. Understanding National Character

Character comes from Latin which means carved, so character is a combination of various virtues and values carved in the stone of life that will realize the true value (Hidayatullah 2010). Character is a distinctive value, either in the form of character, morals, or a person's personality that is formed through the process of internalizing policies that are believed and used as guidelines in life views, thoughts, attitudes, speech, and daily behavior. A person who has character is interpreted as an individual who has a certain personality, behavior, nature, nature, and character. In this sense, character can be identified with personality or morals. Personality is a unique trait, characteristic, or nature of a person that comes from experiences received from the environment, such as family during childhood, and innate traits since birth. However, the term "character" actually has an ambiguous meaning. Character can also be called disposition, which is a combination of all human traits that are permanent and distinguish one person from another. Character or disposition is formed through basic development influenced by education. Therefore, some call it character education. The term "basic" refers to the basic potential or talent that a person has since birth. While "teaching" includes all teaching and education that forms a visible personality. National character is the characteristic and attitude of a nation that is reflected in the behavior and personality of citizens. National character is not only the result of individual character, but must also be reflected in a strong sense of nationality in the context of cultural diversity. National character involves cultural glue, which must be manifested in the cultural awareness and cultural intelligence of every citizen.

2. The Importance of National Character Building

Building national character is an effort to form and develop positive values, attitudes, and behaviors in individuals in a country. National character is the distinctive features and attitudes of a nation that are reflected in the behavior and personality of its citizens. National character is manifested in the character of

its citizens through the formation of personalities that are in accordance with the values of the nation's culture through character education at all levels of education.

In this era of globalization, national character becomes an important basis in facing complex and dynamic challenges. A society with a strong character will be better able to overcome various global changes and challenges wisely and innovatively. National character development helps create a harmonious community life, mutual respect, and based on the principle of justice. This will strengthen national unity and encourage sustainable development. The importance of national character development makes values and ethics the basis of everyday life.

Citizenship Education

1. Understanding Citizenship Education

Education is an effort in various ways so that students are able to develop themselves actively, which includes reasoning and intelligence, in science, sharpening mental, having strength spiritual, self-control, and have other skills (Arifin 2013). To achieve these expectations, education requires an important element, namely subjects. Subjects are part of an effort to provide students with an understanding of various sciences, improve skills, and form good attitudes according to the objectives of each subject. One of the subjects included in the education curriculum in Indonesia is Citizenship Education (PKn). Civic Education is defined as a field of study that has the object of study of civic policy and culture, using the disciplines of education and political science as the main scientific framework and other disciplines. Civic Education as a subject and as a course is one of the statuses of civic education that is practical in education in Indonesia today. The role of civic education is to guide citizens, especially the younger generation, and influence future generations that are beneficial to the life of the nation and state. Akbal (2016) argues that civic education has a very important function and role in the context of national and character development. Civic education is a form of character education that cannot be separated from the framework of national development regulations, national development, and character. However, the purpose of civic education in each country has similarities, namely to form good citizens. However, the concept of a good citizen can vary from one country to another, as in Indonesia where it was explained earlier.

2. Foundations of Citizenship Education

The foundation of civic education is the framework or basis used in developing the curriculum and learning of civic subjects. This foundation includes the values, principles, objectives, and learning materials that must be conveyed to students so that they can understand and internalize civic concepts. The foundation of citizenship education can vary between countries, but generally includes things like the rights and obligations of citizens, the constitution, the history of the country, democracy, and important social and political issues. The main goal of citizenship education is to form citizens an informed, participatory and responsible state in democratic life. The 1945 Constitution as the Constitutional basis in the Preamble to the fourth paragraph provides a basis for thinking about the goals of the state. One of the goals of the state can be stated from the statement 'to enlighten the life of the nation'. If examined, these three words contain quite deep meaning. Enlightening the life of the nation contains a message about the importance of education for all children of the nation. In the life of citizenship, this statement provides a message to state administrators and all people to have the ability to think, act, and behave intelligently both in the process of solving problems and in making decisions about the state, nation, and society. Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System as the operational basis and message related to civic education. Article 3 paragraph (2) concerning the functions and objectives of the state states that: National education functions to develop and shape the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to enlighten the life of the nation, aiming to develop the potential of students to become human beings who believe in and are devoted to God Almighty, have noble morals, are healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, who become democratic and responsible citizens.

Civic Education for National Character Building

According to Rosyada *et al.* 2000, Civic Education can be equated with Democracy Education which aims to prepare individuals as citizens who have the ability to think critically and act democratically. Through various activities, the goal of this education is to instill awareness of the importance of democracy as a form of social life that provides protection for the rights of citizens. In the context of national development and character building, civic education has a very important function and role. Civic education is one type of character education that is

developed systematically and systematically and cannot be separated from the framework of national development, national development, and character policy (Akbal 2016). Education has a strategic role in forming a value system inherent in individuals, which is related to the development of movement and self-esteem as humans in accordance with the order of life in the society that surrounds them. Education always directs efforts to increase awareness and dignity of individuals both personally and as members of society in a country. Education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning environment and learning process so that students actively develop their potential, including spiritual religious strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble morals, and skills needed for themselves, society, nation, and state (Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 20 of 2003). It can be concluded that civic education has a very strategic position in the formation of national identity. In essence, civic education is used as a means to achieve certain goals in accordance with the interests of each regime in power in Indonesia. Civic education is one of the right methods to apply personality values in the process of learning civic education for students, because basically the purpose of civic education is to make students become good people, the younger generation has high moral values, becomes a democratic citizen, and has a personality that is consistent with the values by Pancasila.

Objectives of Citizenship Education

The purpose of civic education is to develop the understanding, values, morals, and commitment of citizens to Pancasila, the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Bhineka Tunggal Ika, and the unity of the Republic of Indonesia. Learning Civic Education materials according to the Ministry of National Education (2006) is aimed at providing the following competencies:

- a) Have the ability to think critically, rationally and creatively regarding issues of Citizenship.
- b) Participate intelligently and responsibly, and behave consciously in social, national and state activities.
- c) In order to develop positively and democratically in order to form individuals with Pancasila character in the daily lives of the people of Indonesia in order to create a good national and state life together with other nations.
- d) In dealing with other nations in various world regulations that directly utilize information and communication technology.

Based on the objectives of civic education above, namely to know and understand the contents and meaning contained in Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution or in other words to become good citizens based on the state philosophy and the 1945 Constitution and thus civic education is one of the educational efforts concerning the formation and development of the personality and students, or in other words is one way to shape the character of the Indonesian nation and shape the personality of the Indonesian people as a whole in accordance with the values contained in the principles of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution.

Conclusion

Civic education plays an important role in shaping the character of the nation. The character that is in accordance with the character of the Indonesian nation is the character of citizens based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. Civic education is an effort to improve the quality of citizens through education. The role of education is very important in building student character. Civic education is required to be studied at all levels of education, from elementary school to college, so that it can shape the character of the Indonesian nation. Therefore, civic education can be the foundation of a dignified and integrated national character for Indonesia.

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