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## IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL DEFENSE IN THE TECHNOLOGY ERA IN CIVIC EDUCATION LEARNING

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### Abstract

Defending the country and national resilience are attitudes that every citizen must have. The younger generation, as the successors of the nation, needs to be well prepared so that they can contribute to the progress of the country. Defending the country has an important role in achieving the goals of a country. In the 1945 Constitution, Article 27 and Article 30 paragraph (1) regulate the rights and obligations of every citizen in efforts to defend the country and national security defense. Therefore, it is important to instill and implement an attitude of defending the country, especially among the younger generation through civic education. Amidst technological advances that have a negative impact on national resilience and reduce the sense of defending the country among millennials, the challenges that will be faced in the future are increasingly diverse and complex. Thus, the attitude of defending the country and its application in everyday life becomes very important. This article will discuss the results of research on the implementation of defending the country in Civic Education learning. In addition, this article will also explain the activities of defending the country that need to be implemented at various levels of education, from elementary school to college. The material in this work can be used as a reference for the development of curriculum, regulations, and policies related to defending the country.

**Keywords :** Implementation of national defense, the importance of citizenship education

### Introduction

The Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia has a unique history compared to other nations, which includes the pre-colonial and colonial periods. In the pre-colonial period, Indonesia experienced glory through various kingdoms that had their own struggles. Meanwhile, the colonial period was marked by the colonization of Indonesia which drained resources, both natural and human (Suwarno, 2011: 18). In this period, awareness and a sense of patriotism emerged, as well as the spirit to sacrifice and love the homeland. Currently, Indonesia is in a different condition from the past, with different challenges and difficulties. Therefore, every citizen plays a role as a successor to ensure that this country continues to progress and develop and is able to protect itself. Defending the country is one form of action or effort by every citizen in facing various challenges, which include ideological, economic, socio-cultural, and security issues. Current technological growth is more towards increasing digitalization. Modern technology has been utilized by humans to facilitate every job and task and become a tool to help various human needs. According to Kris W and Fahrud M (2018), this digital era brings changes that are both positive and negative. However, currently it seems that the era of technology is more dominant in bringing negative impacts, especially on national resilience. These negative impacts are reflected in various fields, such as politics, economics, socio-culture, defense, security, and information technology itself. The rapid advancement of technology has brought significant changes in various circles, where easy access to technology provides freedom that is sometimes uncontrolled. Since the 1980s, there has been a digital revolution that has changed technology from mechanical and analog to digital, and this development continues to this day. The development of this technology is increasingly massive with the emergence of new, more sophisticated innovations (Wawan, 2017). In

today's technological era, there are major threats to the nation, so civic education is important to overcome these challenges. Education functions as a system that develops a broad mission, including physical, psychological, and social development in interacting with the surrounding environment.

Every citizen has the right and obligation to maintain the integrity of the nation, especially through the attitude of defending the country. It is important to instill awareness of defending the country in order to face various threats, both military and non-military. Efforts to defend the country that include attitudes, determination, and regular actions of citizens are part of the attitude of defending the country based on the implementation of civic education. Awareness of the identity of the nation and state is very important, as well as belief in Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution in carrying out the rights and obligations of defending the country. Defending the country is interpreted as an effort to maintain and safeguard security (article 27 and article 30 paragraph 1), and has been regulated in legislation (I nengah, 2019: 47). Learning about defending the country is also included in civic education material, where at every level of education values are taught such as love for the homeland, compliance with regulations, and preservation of culture. Civic education is a subject that has a goal or vision as an education that prioritizes democratic, moral, social, and political values, and is one of the compulsory subjects in the self-development of every student (Endang, 2019). The goal of civic education is to form a society or good citizens, support the nation and state, and have intelligence, morals, and responsibility. Currently, we are in a technological era where progress and the flow of information from outside influence people's behavior, especially in terms of patriotism and love for the country. In facing various existing threats, the implementation of civic education is very necessary; one way to maintain national resilience is to implement an attitude of defending the country. This is very important for all groups, both students and educators. Civic education learning aims to train students to be able to assess various social, economic, and political problems intelligently and responsibly, so that they can avoid useless problems.

According to Suharyanto (2013: 192), one form of civic education is national defense, which aims to make society reliable for the nation and state. Gredinand in Asep et al. (2020: 131) stated that currently there are obstacles in implementing attitudes that can create citizens who love their homeland, are willing to sacrifice, are aware of the identity of the nation and state, and are loyal to the nation's ideology, namely Pancasila. This is the initial foundation for fostering a sense of national defense that is manifested both physically and non-physically. As a developing country, technological advances also continue to increase, both in aspects of life, information, and education (Wawan, 2017). Civic education has become a subject or course that must be followed by every student, with the objectives explained by several experts. According to Abdul Aziz and Sapriya in the book "Citizenship Education for Higher Education" (2012: 311), "the objective of civic education is to shape the attitudes of citizens to be better." Based on the Decree of the Director General of Higher Education number 43/2006, the objective of civic education is to improve students' understanding of nationality and statehood, foster a sense of love for the homeland, and encourage discipline and active participation in building national life in accordance with the rules and ideology of the nation, namely Pancasila. Awareness of national defense is very important, especially in terms of moral attitudes and their implementation, in order to strengthen the nation's defense against the threat of radicalism in everyday life. In the college environment, the threat of radicalism is addressed through several courses, such as Pancasila Education and Citizenship Education (Muwamanah, 2017: 61). In addition, in Suwarno's journal (2011: 20), it is explained that to increase the sense and attitude of defending the country, there needs to be an attitude of nationalism. This nationalism arises from a sense of love for the homeland, which in turn strengthens unity between citizens and the willingness to continue the present and the future on the basis of togetherness, so that the nation's ideals can be realized.

## Research Methodology

This study uses a literature review research method. Literature review is a systematic, explicit and reproducible method for identifying, evaluating, and synthesizing research works and ideas that have been carried out by researchers and practitioners or a research process that involves reviewing and critically evaluating existing literature sources.

## Result & Discussion

The implementation of civic education is very important to increase civic awareness among the community, both students and the general public. Civic Education (PKN) has the aim of being a civic education that functions and plays a role in civic learning (Asep, et al., 2020: 131). The aim of civic education learning in the world of education is to prepare students to become good citizens, with a commitment to maintaining the unity and integrity of Indonesia. Currently, civic education is a compulsory subject taught in schools. The material taught is expected

to provide understanding to each student, so that it can increase civic awareness and encourage them to apply civic values in everyday life. According to Farida (2017: 71), civic education learning has certain objectives related to the material and learning to be conveyed. The following are the objectives of civic education which include the vision, mission, and competencies:

1. Civic Education in higher education has a vision that functions as a source of values and guidelines in carrying out studies. The vision that students must have includes intellectuality, religiosity, national awareness, and a sense of love for the nation.
2. The mission of civic education is to help students establish and strengthen their personality so that they can act consistently and realize the basic values of Pancasila.

The function of civic education is to build civic awareness, especially in the context of national defense in every individual. This function has been stated in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, article 30 paragraph 1, which states that "every citizen has the right and obligation to participate in national defense and resilience efforts."

Defending the country is not only the duty of security forces such as the TNI and POLRI, but also the responsibility of every citizen, including the younger generation in today's technological era. The concept of defending the country is not only related to "taking up arms" and "fighting," but also includes various non-physical threats that can be felt today. Asep et al. (2020) explained that the biggest threat to this nation is related to the nation's identity which can be damaged through technological developments, such as the entry of drugs, pornographic videos, HIV/AIDS, hoaxes, radicalism, and terrorism. In a study involving 20 respondents from students and the general public, it was found that 94.7% of respondents knew what defending the country was, while 5.3% did not understand the concept. According to the respondents' understanding, defending the country means loving one's own nation or country and trying to protect it from various threats that disrupt national security. Defending the country can be defined as the attitude and behavior of every citizen that is carried out regularly and comprehensively, and is based on love for the Republic of Indonesia based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution to ensure the survival of the nation and state. The form of national defense attitude includes being willing to sacrifice for the nation and state, defending the nation's dignity, and maintaining the nation's existence. In addition, national defense can also be realized through serious learning (Bagus, 2006). Current technological advances bring the most significant negative impacts and are felt in everyday life, including: First, the threat of violation of intellectual property rights (IPR) due to easy access to information which leads to increased plagiarism. Second, the threat to children's mindsets which tend to be more practical but less critical. Third, the decline in morality among children which has the potential to lead to an increase in criminal acts. Fourth, the inability to make good use of time, such as students' study time which is more often spent playing online games (Wawan, 2017).

In facing various problems and threats in the current technological era, the role of civic education learning is very necessary for students and citizens. The following are some of the problems identified by Nurmalisa YA Mentari and Rohman (2020), as well as how to implement national defense awareness to strengthen national resilience. The current curriculum that is not yet optimal and the development of national defense in the technological era have caused a decline in the level of awareness of national defense and love for the country. One of the causes is the elimination of the Pancasila Moral Education (PMP) subject. To rekindle a sense of love for the country and nationality, steps that can be taken are to restore the subject and increase students' understanding of civic education. Other implementations that can be carried out in schools to support national defense include the application of Pancasila values, obeying school regulations, and singing the song Indonesia Raya. National defense awareness among the millennial generation is currently still low, marked by a lack of concern for others, responsibility, and a desire to advance the nation. This can threaten the resilience of the state system. Currently, there is no effective learning method to overcome these threats and problems; however, one step that can be taken is to strengthen students' ideology towards the four pillars of nationality: Pancasila, the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, and the awareness of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika. The importance of the civic education curriculum in fostering national defense for the nation also needs to be emphasized. In addition, the lack of synergy between ministries, institutions, and regional governments in implementing national defense awareness development has caused the low effectiveness of this program. The coordination that has been carried out has not been running well and tends to be separate; national defense implementation activities should not be a monopoly of any ministry or state institution.

National defense in the context of defense must reflect the spirit of the entire nation. The implementation of national defense is not only limited to military activities, but also covers all areas of life. As part of the nation, the implementation of national defense that can be done is through proper education, understanding the goals of the nation's ideology, and controlling or filtering every information received. According to Sutarman (2011: 82), the

concept of national defense is divided into two categories, namely physical and non-physical. First, physical national defense is carried out to face external threats, while non-physical national defense is interpreted as an effort to maintain the unity and integrity of the Republic of Indonesia by increasing national attitudes and instilling a sense of love for the country through active participation in advancing the welfare of the nation. Non-physical national defense refers to Law No. 3 of 2002, which states that citizen participation in national defense is carried out through civic education. Suryatni (2019: 53) emphasizes that our role as citizens in non-physical national defense is very important, and in fact, non-physical national defense can be done easily and integrated into everyday life. Some forms of activities that can be carried out by citizens to implement the attitude of national defense include:

- a) Increasing awareness of nationality and statehood within oneself, including experiencing democracy and accepting differences of opinion.
- b) Play an active role in advancing the nation and state by providing real contributions, not just rhetoric.
- c) Demonstrate awareness and compliance with the nation's ideology and uphold human rights.
- d) Mental spiritual provision is needed for citizens so that they can filter foreign cultures that have the potential to have a negative impact on life.

The community tries to use social media not only to have a negative impact, but also to support national defense in Indonesia. As many as 20 participants stated that they use social media wisely, spread valid information, and are not influenced by hoaxes. They also learned how to use social media for positive purposes, such as providing education and creating content that can increase public understanding of national resilience through simple posts that do not always follow trends. Some basic elements of the state that can be implemented in daily life include: First, love of the homeland, which can be realized by protecting and caring for the nation from various threats and avoiding actions that can embarrass the nation's name. Second, awareness of nation and state, which can be demonstrated through devotion or achievement as a contribution to the country. Third, believing in the nation's ideology by practicing Pancasila in every principle and realizing its function to unite differences between citizens. Fourth, an attitude of being willing to sacrifice for the nation by prioritizing the interests of the country over personal interests. Fifth, having basic skills in defending the country. Examples of state defense actions include:

1. Preserving culture
2. Study hard for the nation's successors to improve human resources.
3. Provide examples of good behavior in accordance with national regulations and ideology
4. Achieve according to expertise as a contribution to making the nation proud
5. Comply with state laws and regulations, for example by paying taxes correctly and on time

According to Muawanah (Sutarman, 2011), the form of national defense includes various activities that can be done by every citizen. Some activities that can be done to realize national defense in the family, school, and community environments include: In the family environment, national defense can be realized by understanding the rights and obligations of each family member, which function to maintain the integrity of the family. At school, national defense is carried out by obeying all existing regulations, speaking politely, behaving according to the rules, and being responsible for the tasks given. Meanwhile, in the community environment, national defense can be realized by actively participating in community activities, being willing to sacrifice for the integrity of citizens or the people, and preserving the customs and culture that already exist in the community. The importance of defending the country for the progress of the nation is to maintain the sovereignty of the people. The reason why every citizen is obliged to defend the country is to maintain the sovereignty of the nation, as an expression of gratitude from citizens, to create peace and security in the surrounding environment, and to preserve the culture that has existed since the colonial era.

## Conclusion

Every citizen actually has the right and obligation to carry out national defense. National defense is a sense possessed by the community to maintain national security, which is demonstrated through attitudes based on love for the homeland, awareness of the identity of the nation and state, and the ability to face various threats, both from within and outside the country, which can damage the integrity of the nation. Civic education plays an important role in national defense efforts with the aim of forming good citizens and supporting the future of the nation. Various methods are applied to increase the sense of love for the homeland among the Indonesian people, as well as to overcome various problems faced by the country. The implementation of national defense is very important, especially for the younger generation in the technological era, where technological advances can have negative impacts that threaten the integrity and resilience of the nation. The government has made various efforts to ensure the implementation of national defense is achieved through civic education, which is now a compulsory subject at

every grade level. In addition, the government has also issued policies and regulations to address the decline in national defense attitudes among the current generation. Efforts and responsibilities in national defense are now the obligation of all citizens, not just the task of security forces in facing the challenges of radicalism.

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