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## THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIC EDUCATION TO BUILD NATIONAL CHARACTER

**Mustika Roudhoh<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara

Email: [1mustikaroudhoh68@gmail.com](mailto:mustikaroudhoh68@gmail.com)

### Abstract

This study aims to provide an overview of the role of Citizenship Education in social life and building national character in elementary school students. Civic Education that places proportional aspects of education, such as: teaching the history of the formation of the nation, the values of patriotism and love of the homeland, the spirit of defending the country and good character in the Indonesian education curriculum. The research method used in this study is literature review. This research method adopts literature studies or literary research methods, which contain theoretical theories related to research problems, which collect data by studying books, documents, notes and reports related to problem solving, and it is hoped that education in Indonesia will enable students to be prepared to become citizens. They are firm and consistent in maintaining the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia, and the development of national characteristics is used as the main driver of national development. This means that every development effort must always be directed at aspects that have a positive impact on character building.

**Keywords :** Education, citizenship education, character

### Introduction

Civic education is part of a complete national education system. Therefore, the process of civic education is included in the curriculum and learning at all levels of elementary school education to university. The function and role of civic education is to achieve national education goals. To be able to understand civic education courses/subjects. then it is designed, developed, implemented, and evaluated in the context of national education goals. Because all of that is the foundation and mindset of civic education. Civic education is a form of training individuals to support and strengthen politics in their country, as long as that politics is the result of agreement. It is impossible for Civic Education to oppose or be contrary to the politics in the country. On the contrary, Civic Education supports and strengthens its politics. The goal of Civic Education itself is for its citizens to become good citizens, because good citizens indirectly support the sustainability of the country concerned. The process of Citizenship education is to empower and cultivate students in the sense that the process and results of education must be able to facilitate students to carry out the learning process to broaden their learning horizons to build learning abilities that will be useful for life and living in the future in the country. Civic education is an educational process to build exemplary willingness and ability to develop creativity that reflects the national identity that is full of Indonesian socio-cultural values. Civic Education that places proportional aspects of education, such as: teaching the history of the formation of the nation, the values of patriotism and love of the homeland, the spirit of defending the country and good character in the Indonesian education curriculum.

### Research Methodology

The research method used is Literature Review. The definition of literature review itself is a framework, a concept for analyzing and classifying facts collected through research conducted with several reference sources

such as books, journals, magazines that are relevant to the focus of the research. In this study, researchers collected data from several scientific journals, research results in the form of theses, and other relevant sources from scientific journals, scientific articles, and research results in the form of theses and other relevant sources from 2006 to 2021. This method is carried out with the aim of revealing various theories that are relevant to the problem being studied, namely regarding Civic Education in social life and building character nation in elementary school students as reference material in discussing research results.

## Result & Discussion

The results of the discussion in this article show that civic education (PKn) has a very important role in the formation of the character and identity of the Indonesian nation. The following are the main points resulting from the discussion:

1. **The Role of Civics in Character Building**  
Civics education is considered a major pillar in educating good and intelligent citizens. Civics contributes to creating a sense of nationalism and love for the country among students.
2. **Evolution of Civics**  
Since its establishment in 1957, PKn has undergone various changes to adapt to the times. This shows the adaptability of civic education to the needs of society.
3. **Character Education**  
The emphasis on character education in PKn is expected to internalize moral and social values among students. This is important so that students can contribute positively to society.
4. **Planning Evaluation**  
This article highlights the need for good planning, implementation, and evaluation in character education to achieve the desired goals. Without a systematic approach, the goals of character education are difficult to achieve.
5. **Integration in Curriculum**  
Civic education is integrated into the national education curriculum at all levels, with the aim of instilling values such as patriotism, democracy, and social responsibility.
6. **Research Method**  
This research study uses a literature review method to analyze theoretical frameworks related to education.citizenship, emphasizing the importance of character development and civic awareness.
7. **Objectives of Civic Education**  
The main objective of civic education is to empower students to uphold the principles of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia and contribute positively to character building.
8. **Civic Awareness**  
This article emphasizes the importance of civic awareness in supporting sustainable national development, as well as an understanding of the democratic process.

Overall, the results of the discussion show that citizenship education does not only focus on cognitive aspects, but must also pay attention to the emotional and character aspects of students to create quality citizens. Civic education (PKn) has a very important role in the formation of national character and identity. Here are some important points discussed:

- a) **The Importance of Civics**  
Civics functions as a pillar in educating good and intelligent citizens, as well as creating a sense of nationalism and love for the homeland among students.
- b) **Evolution and Adaptation**  
Since its founding in 1957, PKn has undergone various changes to adapt to the times, demonstrating its adaptability to the needs of society
- c) **Focus and Character Education**  
The emphasis on character education in PKn is expected to internalize moral and social values among students, so that they can contribute positively to society.
- d) **Planning and Evaluation**  
Good planning, implementation and evaluation are required in character education to achieve the goals.desired. Without a systematic approach, the goals of character education are difficult to achieve.
- e) **Integration in Curriculum**  
Civics is integrated into the curriculum national education at all levels, with the aim of instilling values

such as patriotism, democracy and social responsibility

- f) Civil Awareness: Civil awareness is very important in supporting sustainable national development, as well as an understanding of democratic process.

Overall, this discussion shows that citizenship education does not only focus on cognitive aspects, but must also pay attention to the emotional and character aspects of students to create quality citizens.

### Conclusion

Civic education is one of the pillars of character building and national identity, meaning that civic education educates citizens to become good citizens and smart citizens in order to face world developments in the era of competition. Character education in civic learning is a solution that can revitalize the role of citizens as a discipline that is a superior field in fostering student character. Civics is a civics subject, and its material content has rich character values, which will further help integrate the concept of character education. Student character development can not only be developed through civics material content, but also indirectly through various stages of learning activities. In addition, student character development can also be supported by the use of methods, media and learning resources.

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