



## CHARACTER FORMATION OF STUDENTS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS THROUGH CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

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### Abstract

Developing the character of elementary school students through civic education is a strategic initiative to produce a young generation with integrity, responsibility, and awareness. high social. The research method used in this article is use method qualitative. Then for the method used that is with method *studies literature review*. Civic education noto only aims to instill an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, but also teaches moral and ethical values that are important in everyday life. Through an interactive value-based curriculum approach, students are encouraged to understand the importance of tolerance, mutual cooperation, integrity, and love of the homeland. The current era of globalization is marked by sophisticated technology, various easily accessible information, and a rapidly growing population. This education can be carried out through various learning methods such as discussions, simulations, and role plays that can effectively instill positive values in students. Therefore, civic education in elementary schools plays an important role in building the character of students who are prepared to become good and responsible citizens in the future. The implementation of character education in elementary schools can be included in the learning process such as several subjects, one of which is the subject of Civic Education.

**Keywords :** Character, Students Elementary School, Citizenship

### Introduction

Education is a process of changing the behavior of a nation so that it can act better, develop knowledge to become a smart and skilled young generation, and be able to overcome and solve life problems that it faces on its own initiative. It will be passed on to the next generation. Education is also a foundation that cannot be separated from humans, and from the womb to old age, humans go through the education process. The current era of globalization is marked by sophisticated technology, various easily accessible information, and a rapidly growing population. Moreover, in the current era of globalization which is marked by technological advances, where the values of politeness and character seem to be neglected (Fauzi et al., 2013), the challenges include Spirituality and attitudes that must be faced. There have been so many changes since the year that some have forgotten character education in the year, even though character education is very important and needs to be communicated to the entire community, especially students. Character education is a counseling process that helps grow, develop, mature, and shape a person's personality, namely their original nature and character (Shenfield, 2016; Putra, 2017; White & Shin, 2017). National The importance of character education in elementary schools for students who are in the process of growing and developing. Therefore, students should apply good morals to their surroundings so that they can also maintain good things. Likewise, in an environment that is not given character education, students can imitate bad behavior. We conclude that character education in is a conscious and planned effort through a learning environment that aims to develop all human capacities in order to obtain good character and morals for nature and society.

Civic education is a means for people to know their rights and responsibilities as citizens. Civic Education (PKn) subjects consist of subjects that focus on forming an understanding of citizenship for students through value and moral education that aims to form attitudes and character; Character is citizenship to become a wise and good citizen (smart and good person). Meanwhile, according to Susanto (2013), citizenship education is a subject used as a means to develop and maintain noble values and morals rooted in the culture of Indonesian society. The formation of student character in elementary schools through Citizenship Education (PKn) is one of the important aspects in the national education system. Citizenship Education functions as a means to instill moral, ethical, and national values from an early age. At the elementary school level, the main goal is to form individuals who not only have academic knowledge, but also attitudes and behaviors that reflect the values of Pancasila, such as mutual cooperation, tolerance, justice, and social responsibility. In addition, in elementary schools, teachers act as role models and facilitators in the formation of this character. Through an interactive and contextual approach, such as discussions, role plays, and mutual cooperation activities, students can better understand and internalize the values taught. Through citizenship education, students are taught the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, the application of democratic values, and the importance of love for the homeland. This subject also serves to improve empathy, discipline, and the ability to live in a diverse society. Therefore, character education instilled through civic education is expected to produce a generation that is not only intellectually superior, but also has integrity, responsibility, and dedication to nation and its integrity.

### Research Methodology

Research methods this is what is used in this article is approach qualitative . Then for the method used that is with method *studies literature review*. Where the author collect data from reference articles and journals available on trusted websites. Study qualitative aiming for understand phenomena experienced by objects study in a way comprehensive , such as perception , motivation , action self, and description through language and form Language through use context natural special and various method scientific

### Result & Discussion

Citizenship is a compulsory subject at all levels of education, from elementary school to higher education. Civics is one of the main contents of character education. However, sometimes Civics is considered unimportant because it contains material that is not remembered to be able to realize its excellence as an important part of character education. But there are two important character values in community life, namely core character values and main character values. Core character values seek to develop piety, honesty, intelligence, resilience, democracy, and care. At the same time, protagonist values have the goal of producing students who have a spirit of nationalism, respect social rules and respect diversity, realize the rights and obligations of themselves and others, be responsible, think logically and critically, be creative, innovative and independent (Juliardi, 2015). Civic education does not only focus on knowledge of the rights and obligations of citizens, but also forms positive attitudes and behaviors. Through this subject, students are taught the values of discipline, honesty, care, and brotherhood, which are very important for building good character. The formation of students' character in elementary schools through Civic Education is an important aspect in the educational process which aims to form a good and dignified personality. The formation of students' character in elementary schools through civic education (PKn) is one of the important efforts in building moral and ethical foundations from an early age. Civic education is not only about understanding the concept of citizenship and the rights and obligations of citizens, but also instilling basic values that shape character, such as honesty, discipline, responsibility, tolerance, and mutual cooperation. Here are some important aspects in the formation of students' character through PKn in elementary schools:

1. Instilling Moral and Ethical Values  
Through PKn, students are taught basic moral values that form the basis of everyday behavior. For example, learning about honesty, discipline, and responsibility is packaged in the form of stories or case studies, so that students can more easily understand the importance of these values in life.
2. Practice and experience based education  
In elementary schools, civic education should be given through a practical approach, such as simulations or role-plays that show real situations in society. In this way, students not only learn theory, but also practice directly, for example in flag ceremonies, group work, or classroom cleaning activities, so that values such as mutual cooperation and responsibility can be directly felt.

3. Habituation of Daily Positive Attitudes

Elementary schools have an important role in accustoming students to positive attitudes such as discipline, tolerance, and respect for teachers and friends. Teachers and the school environment serve as role models that show how these values are applied daily. For example, teachers can set an example of arriving on time, keeping the environment clean, and respecting students' opinions, so that students can emulate them.

4. Extracurricular Activities that Support Character Building

Extracurricular activities such as scouts, social service activities, or community service can also help shape students' characters. In these activities, students can learn many civic values, such as cooperation, leadership, and love for the environment.

5. Learning Tolerance and Diversity

In civics learning, it is important to introduce students to the concept of diversity in Indonesia, from ethnicity, religion, language, to culture. This is to develop an attitude of tolerance, mutual respect, and avoid discriminatory attitudes from an early age. By understanding diversity, students are expected to become individuals who are open to differences and more inclusive.

6. Use of Interactive and Participatory Methods

The use of interactive learning methods, such as group discussions, Q&A, and collaborative projects, can help students be more active in learning and understanding the values of Civics. Through participatory methods, students are not only listeners, but also involved in the process of critical thinking and problem solving in everyday life situations related to citizenship.

Civic education in elementary schools has an important role in shaping the character of students as the next generation of the nation who have strong personalities, good morals, and love for their country. The implementation of effective civics learning in elementary schools can create responsible citizens who play an active role in society in the future. At present, the character possessed by students is greatly influenced by the flow of globalization, therefore character building is needed. Because basically with the character possessed, it is expected to be able to prevent students from negative influences caused by the flow of globalization. Considering the mission and purpose of civics, namely to shape the character of good citizens. The character that should be developed by the Indonesian nation should be in the form of concepts, values, and actions that are in accordance with applicable regulations. Pancasila as the foundation of the state will be the foundation in various types of regulations or in civics programs. Based on this, it can be stated that civics is an important part of character education. Building character is an important goal in an education system. As stated in Article 3 of the Law on the National Education System, the function of national education is to develop abilities and form the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to educate the life of the nation which has the aim of developing the potential of students or learners so that they become human beings who believe in and are devoted to God Almighty, healthy, knowledgeable, have noble character, are creative, independent and become responsible citizens.

Character education is an option that must be optimized in the education system in Indonesia. This is an effort to develop the potential of students with cultural values and national character so that they have strong personal values and characters (Yulianti, 2017). Character education has been implemented in Indonesia for a long time, such as in Pancasila moral education, religious education, and history education. However, until now, this approach has not provided satisfactory results. Therefore, innovation and a more effective approach are needed from teachers so that character education can be successfully implemented in the classroom. Character education in elementary schools includes various values and skills that aim to form positive attitudes and behaviors in students from an early age. Character education at this level usually consists of several main aspects, including:

1. Religious Values

Teaching children to have a religious attitude in accordance with their beliefs, for example, respecting prayer times and being kind to others.

2. Integrity and Honesty

Helping students understand the importance of telling the truth, acting on their word, and keeping their word in everything they do.

3. Discipline

Teaches the importance of time discipline, school rules, and responsibility for daily tasks, such as doing homework on time and keeping the classroom clean.

4. Cooperation and Social Concern

Cultivating an attitude of mutual cooperation, helping each other, and caring for friends who need help.

## 5. Responsibility

Introduce children to a sense of responsibility for their actions, both academically and in social interactions.

Civics is eye very unique lesson PKn is one of the field that is studied part big his character. Therefore that, the goal designated individual in learning civics need reach the real effect useful, isn't it? just effect supporters. However in a way general, citizenship is current topic this considered no important. Presentation civics restricted only covers material practice, which is not can increase its effectiveness because citizenship is field learning main. Character guide. Embedding character this is for students school base already should Because awareness democracy in the future front that is a form from life in society and guarantee right for inhabitant society. If students accustomed to with education citizenship for behave critical and democratic so will a person with character is also formed critical and democratic in life. Because of character will formed in each individual when used to do it.

## Conclusion

It can be concluded that Civic Education (Pkn) in elementary schools plays an important role in developing students' character. Through materials such as norms, values, rights, duties, and responsibilities, students are taught to be good citizens, respect differences, and respect their social environment. This training teaches ethics and morality in everyday life, including the values of honesty, discipline, tolerance and mutual cooperation. By using interactive learning methods such as group discussions, case studies, and role-playing, students learn to empathize, work together, and develop attachment to their country. In general gradual, education citizenship help develop character students who are not only academically superior, but also socially aware and responsible as good citizens. Efforts to develop student character occur through learning. Civic education functions as a buffer for character development, meaning that civic education leads students to become good citizens, especially as the next generation of the nation who must face developments and changes in the world in the era of globalization.

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