



## EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES TO DEVELOP THE SPIRIT OF NATIONALISM IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS THROUGH EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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### Abstract

Elementary schools are very important in instilling a sense of nationalism in students through useful extracurricular activities. This study uses a qualitative method with a library research approach. The purpose of this study is to find the best way to foster nationalism. Extracurricular activities such as scouts, arts and culture, flag ceremonies, and sports are used as media to teach character. These activities help students understand the values of nationalism such as love for the homeland, discipline, cooperation, and patriotism. In addition, the role of parents, teachers, and mentors in assisting this process by implementing an experiential and contextual learning approach is very important. Studies show that students' active involvement in extracurricular activities increases their love for the homeland and their understanding of Indonesia's cultural diversity. These activities are more effective with the support of parents and the community. Extracurricular activities have been shown to improve students' social skills and foster a strong sense of nationalism in a well-planned manner. Therefore, to ensure the sustainability of nationalism-based character education, schools, families, and communities must work together. It is hoped that this study will be useful for schools and policy makers in creating ways to teach children nationalism through extracurricular activities.

**Keywords :** Effective strategy, nationalism, extracurricular activities, elementary school, character education

### Introduction

To maintain national identity and foster a sense of love for the homeland, the younger generation must be educated about the values of nationalism. Education is very useful for instilling a sense of nationalism, especially at the elementary school level (SD), where students' morals and characters begin to develop. So that students have a collective awareness As part of Indonesia, said Ki Hajar Dewantara (1935), education must be rooted in the culture and character of the nation. In a situation like this, effective extracurricular activities are very important to instill patriotism from an early age. Formal learning in the classroom is often not enough to make students feel emotionally attached to the values of the country. Therefore, alternative methods involving extracurricular activities involving active student participation are needed. Activities such as scouts, local dance arts, and flag ceremonies are carried out regularly. These activities are not only a way for students to show their abilities, but also help build social solidarity and national identity (Sardiman, 2012). This is in line with the active learning theory proposed by Sudjana (2005), which emphasizes that theoretical learning alone is not enough to foster understanding and attitudes. Some of the benefits of extracurricular activities show how important extracurricular activities are in fostering students' sense of nationalism. These activities foster a sense of love for the homeland, strengthen national identity, and instill an attitude of tolerance and cooperation. For example, scouts teach discipline, leadership, and love for the environment in accordance with the values of Pancasila. Students also learn to appreciate the diversity of Indonesian culture, which is part of the national identity, by taking part in arts and cultural activities such as regional dances and traditional music.

A good implementation strategy should consider the role of facilitators and teachers in addition to the activity elements. In order for them to convey nationalist values in an interesting and easily understood way for students, teachers and extracurricular instructors must have competence and a deep understanding of nationalism material. Hasbullah (2015) stated that the role of teachers is not only as educators but also as role models who demonstrate nationalist attitudes and actions in everyday life. This is very important because of the tendency of students to imitate what they see from their surroundings. To connect theory and practice, contextual learning strategies through extracurricular activities are also important. For example, students are educated about the principles of democracy and social awareness through school election simulations or community service activities. Through these activities, students will gain an understanding of national concepts as well as an understanding of real-world situations. Learning that is experiential and contextual will be more effective in shaping students' attitudes and characters, according to Muslich (2011). However, the principal, parents, and the surrounding community must work together to achieve the best results. Extracurricular activities require adequate time and facilities. On the other hand, students must be given moral and material support by parents and the community (Tilaar, 2012). Synergy between schools and families is very important to foster strong patriotism in students. Therefore, this study focuses on the role of effective strategies in extracurricular activities to foster nationalism in elementary school students. It is hoped that with this method, students can understand and appreciate national values, so that they can grow into a young generation who loves their homeland and is ready to face challenges around the world. This study is not only important for evaluating any strategies used, but also contributes to changes in the national education curriculum.

### Research Methodology

This research uses a qualitative method with a literature study approach (library research). The purpose of this study was to see how extracurricular activities and extracurricular activities function to foster a sense of nationalism in elementary school students. Researchers can collect data from various written sources, such as policy documents, books, and scientific journals, with this method (Zed, 2004). Moleong (2011) emphasized that qualitative methods aim to gain a comprehensive understanding of social phenomena. Therefore, an analysis of educational strategies related to the formation of nationalism is the right choice.

### Result & Discussion

This study found that an effective approach to extracurricular activities plays a major role in increasing the sense of nationalism of elementary school students. It is proven that activities such as scouts, arts, sports, and flag ceremonies instill national values in students. In addition, the success of extracurricular activities, as well as the role of families, mentors, and teachers greatly influence students' nationalistic attitudes.

#### *Extracurricular Activities and Formation of Nationalism*

Extracurricular activities such as scouts, arts, and sports play an important role in instilling national values. Scouts teach discipline, mutual cooperation, and obligation. Syahrul (2017) stated that scouts help students foster a sense of love for their homeland and social solidarity. In addition, routine flag ceremonies instill a sense of respect for the national flag and a sense of pride as Indonesian citizens. In addition, cultural arts such as regional music and traditional dances play an important role. According to Dewantara (1935), culture-based education helps students strengthen their national identity and improve their intellectual abilities. Students learn to recognize and appreciate the richness of Indonesian culture through cultural arts activities, which instill a sense of love for the nation's diversity.

#### *Effective Strategy in Implementation Extracurricular*

Effective strategies, such as the implementation of contextual and participatory learning, are needed to carry out extracurricular activities. According to Muslich (2011), contextual learning allows students to relate the principles of nationalism to the things they do every day. Students learn about togetherness and responsibility through group work activities, for example. This helps students understand that these principles are also important in national and social life. Participatory strategies also ensure that students are actively involved in activities. Nationalist attitudes, such as mutual cooperation in sports or cooperation in cultural arts events, are practiced by students by participating directly. Activities that actively involve students increase motivation and positive attitudes, according to Sardiman (2012). Students have a direct opportunity to understand the meaning of nationalism through active participation.

### *The Role of Teachers and Mentors in Building a Spirit of Nationalism*

Teachers and mentors play a central role in instilling nationalism in education through extracurricular activities. Teachers not only do their jobs as educators, but they also serve as examples that demonstrate nationalism in everyday life (Tilaar, 2012). Teachers who are firm and respect cultural differences will set a good example for their students. Extracurricular mentors must also be able to create a good and enjoyable activity environment. Good mentors in scouting activities are able to encourage students to work together and complete tasks together. Syahrul (2017) emphasized that mentors must be able to communicate well if they want to encourage students' interest and motivation. As a result, students find it easier to internalize the principles of nationalism and feel comfortable and involved in the activities.

### *The Role of Family and School Environment*

The success of extracurricular programs in fostering nationalism is greatly influenced by the support of the family and the school environment. The role of parents is very important in encouraging children to participate in activities outside of school (Sardiman 2012). Parents who support and appreciate their children's activities will be more motivated to foster patriotism towards their country and nation. In addition, adequate policies and facilities are needed to support the school environment. Schools that provide many extracurricular options and give awards to students who excel will encourage the growth of a sense of nationalism. In addition, cooperation between schools and the community is needed to improve students' experiences in activities related to love for the country.

### *Challenges in Implementing Extracurricular Activities*

Although extracurricular activities have many benefits, there are several problems that must be overcome before this strategy can be used. Time constraints, lack of facilities, and lack of coaching staff are some of these problems. Hasibullah (2015) said that extracurricular activities are often considered as additional activities and therefore do not receive enough attention from the curriculum. In addition, the lack of facilities and infrastructure is also a problem, especially for schools with limited budgets. Schools, government, and the community must work together to provide the facilities and funds needed to overcome these problems. It is essential for coaches and teachers to be trained so that they can acquire the skills needed to lead students.

### *The Impact of Extracurricular Activities on the Formation of Nationalist Character*

According to this study, students' involvement in extracurricular activities improves the formation of their nationalist character. Students who participate in activities such as scouting and arts and culture show better attitudes of discipline, cooperation, and patriotism. This is in line with Muslich's (2011) research, which states that direct experience is more effective in shaping students' attitudes and behavior. Extracurricular activities help students become more tolerant and appreciate cultural diversity. They learn to understand and respect differences when interacting with friends from different backgrounds. This is important in a diverse country like Indonesia, where tolerance is the key to unity.

### *Recommendations for Improving Extracurricular Programs*

This study shows that there are several steps that can be taken to increase the sense of nationalism through extracurricular activities. First, schools should include extracurricular activities in the formal curriculum and provide sufficient time for them. Second, the government and schools should provide adequate resources and facilities to enable these activities to run well. Third, schools should work together with parents and communities to support extracurricular activities. Students will have a better experience and the values of nationalism taught in schools will be strengthened with the participation of parents and the community. Finally, teachers and mentors should be trained to be able to guide students well.

### **Conclusion**

The results of the study show that effective extracurricular activities have an important role in fostering a sense of nationalism in elementary school students. Activities such as scouts, arts, sports, and flag ceremonies not only help students improve in their studies but also teach them national values such as discipline, solidarity, love of the country, and respect for diversity. Syahrul (2017) stated that active participation of students in extracurricular activities encourages them to behave well and contribute to the country. The success of extracurricular activities depends greatly on how teachers and instructors apply contextual and participatory methods. According to Tilaar (2012), teachers and instructors act as facilitators and role models, who are responsible for instilling national values

through an interesting and relevant approach. As explained by Sardiman (2012), cooperation between parents, schools, and communities increases the success of character learning. In addition, the role of the family and the school environment is very important to support student involvement. Schools, government, and communities can work together to achieve the best results, despite some obstacles, such as time constraints and lack of facilities. In addition, teachers and mentors must be trained to improve their abilities in mentoring students. Therefore, extracurricular activities not only serve to improve skills but also serve as a strategic tool to create a young generation that is nationalistic and has character, as outlined in the national curriculum on character education (Muslich, 2011). Overall, this study shows that extracurricular activities are an important tool for teaching nationalism. Therefore, schools, families, and governments must commit to continuing to develop and strengthen these extracurricular activities so that students have strong nationalism and are ready to face challenges around the world.

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