

International Journal of Students Education



Page 572-576

ISSN 2988-1765

Vol 3 No 1 2024

Copyright © Author International Journal of Students Education

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License



LEARNING CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION MAKE AN IMPRESSION IN PRIMARY SCHOOL USING THE APPROACH LATEST AND ITS CHALLENGES

Febria Abdul Nasution¹

¹Prospective Professional Teachers of the Republic of Indonesia

Email: febriaabdulnasution@gmail.com

Abstract

This study aims to explore innovative learning methods that can improve students' understanding and participation in civic learning. This study discusses effective Civic Education learning at the Elementary School level by implementing the latest approaches so that civic learning becomes memorable and interesting for students. The goal is to form responsible citizens, namely to equip students with the knowledge and skills to act as responsible citizens, to increase civic awareness, namely to foster awareness of the rights and obligations of citizens, to build quality character, namely to develop positive character based on national values, to teach the principles of democracy, namely to convey the basic principles of democracy and active participation in the democratic process. Civic education at the elementary school level has an important role in shaping the attitudes, knowledge, and skills of active and responsible citizens. This study also identifies challenges that may arise during the implementation of the latest approaches in civic learning, including curriculum barriers, limited resources, and student engagement. By understanding these challenges, this study provides insights for educators to improve the effectiveness of civic learning in Elementary Schools through the application of relevant latest approaches.

Keywords : Learning citizenship, education, primary school

Introduction

Civic Education is a subject that aims to shape awareness, understanding, and attitudes of citizens in individuals so that they can be active and play a role in the lives of society, nation, and state. The purpose of Civic Education itself is to develop citizens' life skills, instill national values, teach the principles of democracy, and shape characters who care about the surrounding environment. Civic Education has a crucial role in shaping the character and attitudes of good citizens from an early age. Elementary Schools Become the Main Foundation in Instilling National Values and Social Concern in the Younger Generation. In This Ever-Evolving Era, Civic Learning Methods need to be adjusted to the challenges of the times to make the teaching and learning process more relevant and effective. Current approaches to Civics learning lead to the use of technology, active student participation, and the integration of universal values. In this case, the importance of current approaches to civics learning in Elementary Schools and the challenges that may be faced in implementing them will be discussed. With a deep understanding of the changing times, we can design higher quality civics learning and have a positive impact on the development of student character. The goal is to form responsible citizens, namely to equip students with the knowledge and skills to act as responsible citizens, to increase civic awareness, namely to foster awareness of the rights and obligations of citizens, to build quality character, namely to develop positive character based on national values, to teach the principles of democracy, namely to convey the basic principles of democracy and active participation in the democratic process, to develop critical thinking skills, namely to encourage students to think critically about various civic issues, to respect diversity and tolerance, namely to build an attitude of mutual

respect and tolerance for differences, and to instill love and pride for the homeland, namely to create a sense of love and pride for the country and culture.

Research Methodology

The research method used is the literature review method. Where, the results of the study are based on library research and reading articles related to impressive citizenship learning in elementary schools using the latest approach and also the challenges that may be faced in implementing the approach in Citizenship learning at the Elementary School Level.

Result & Discussion

The Concept and Objectives of Civic Education at Elementary School Level

The basic concept and purpose of civic education in Elementary Schools is to help form the next generation who are active, responsible, and love their country. Civic education is something that must be considered to be given to students from an early age. Where in this case, the concept of Civic Education at the Elementary School level is to provide students with an understanding of the meaning of being a good citizen, build a sense of responsibility towards the state and society, encourage character formation based on national values, instill an attitude of honesty, discipline, mutual assistance, and tolerance, make students understand the structure and function of government at the local and national levels, introduce the basic principles of democracy, explain the rights and obligations of citizens as regulated in the constitution, encourage active participation in democratic life, understand the diversity of culture, religion, and ethnicity as the nation's wealth, encourage an attitude of tolerance and mutual respect, make students aware of social and environmental problems around them, encourage an attitude of caring about humanitarian issues, integrate information technology to enrich learning, and encourage an understanding of the impact of technology on society.

Current Approaches to Civics Learning in Elementary Schools

Current approaches to education refer to learning strategies and methods that are in line with the times and needs of today's students. These approaches include the integration of technology, active learning, the use of global resources, and a focus on developing skills relevant to modern life. The goal is to create a learning experience that is more dynamic, relevant, and in line with the developmental needs of modern learners. The use of technology and other innovative approaches is key to preparing students for the demands of life and work in the future. The characteristics of the current approach are:

1. Utilization of Technology
Integration of information and communication technology in the learning process and utilization of digital platforms, applications, and online resources.
2. Active Learning
Focus on active student participation and the application of project-based approaches, discussions, and simulations.
3. 21st Century Skills Development
Emphasis is placed on skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity as well as curriculum integration that supports the development of 21st century skills.
4. Contextual Approach
The relevance of learning materials to the context of students' daily lives and emphasis on the application of concepts in real-world situations.
5. Differentiated Learning
Adapting learning methods to students' needs and learning styles and providing challenges that are appropriate to the individual's ability level.
6. Measurement and Formative Evaluation
Use of evaluation methods that support continuous improvement and focus on developing skills rather than categorizing grades.
7. Collaborative Learning
Encourage collaboration among students and provide joint projects and team learning as part of the learning process.

Challenges in Implementing Current Approaches

In citizenship learning in elementary schools by applying the latest approach, of course there are many things and challenges that may be faced in implementing it.

Some of the challenges faced in its implementation are:

1. **Limited Resources**
Some schools may face challenges in providing adequate technology infrastructure, teachers and students may not have equal access to devices and internet connections.
2. **Teacher Training**
Teachers need adequate training to understand and implement current approaches and challenges involve understanding technology and its effective integration into the learning process.
3. **Resistance to Change**
There is resistance from some teachers or schools to changes in more innovative learning methods and challenges regarding organizational culture that slow down adaptation to current approaches.
4. **Availability of Content and Learning Materials**
In some cases, it may be difficult to find or create learning content that is in line with current approaches and relevant and up-to-date materials can be a challenge especially in curricula that have not fully integrated these approaches.
5. **The Importance of Holistic Assessment**
Traditional assessment systems may not always support current approaches that place greater emphasis on skills development than on grading and assessment methods are needed that provide a holistic picture of student achievement.
6. **Technology Gap**
Disparities in technology access among students can lead to differences in learning experiences and challenges in creating equitable learning environments for all students.
7. **Constraints of Curriculum and Education Policy**
Educational policies that do not support the integration of current approaches into the curriculum and structural constraints in the education system that limit flexibility and adaptation.
8. **Dependence on Technology**
The risk of over-reliance on technology, which can result in imbalance and loss of human touch in learning and the need to find a balance between the use of technology and social interaction. Of course, to overcome this challenge, commitment and cooperation are needed between related parties, including teachers, students, parents, schools, and the government. Continuous training, policy support, and flexible adaptation to local needs can help overcome these challenges.

The Role of Teachers in Civic Education Learning in Elementary Schools

Through diverse roles, teachers can create meaningful, interesting learning experiences, help shape students' characters, and prepare them to play an active role in society and the country. In this case, teachers have an important role in learning Civic Education in Elementary Schools, namely:

1. **As a learning facilitator**
The teacher acts as a facilitator to create an active and collaborative learning environment and encourage discussion, reflection, and student participation in learning activities.
2. **Model of citizenship behavior**
Be a role model in showing good citizenship attitudes and behavior and voicing national values and ethics in daily actions.
3. **Understanding Citizenship Material and Concepts**
Understand well the material and concepts of citizenship taught, compile and deliver learning materials clearly and relate them to students' daily lives.
4. **Using the Latest Approach**
Actively explore and apply the latest approaches in citizenship learning and integrate technology, active learning, and contextual approaches according to student needs.
5. **Assignment and Relevant Projects**
Designing assignments and projects that are relevant to students' contexts and needs and encouraging creativity and problem solving through citizenship-based projects.
6. **Critical Thinking Skills Development**

Encourage students to develop critical thinking skills through discussion and analysis of citizenship materials and provide challenges and stimuli to enhance students' thinking abilities.

7. Building Social Skills

Encourage social skills such as cooperation, effective communication, and empathy and provide opportunities for students to participate in group activities.

8. Formative Evaluation and Self-Development

Using formative evaluation methods to provide ongoing feedback and participating in professional development to improve teaching skills and citizenship knowledge.

9. Overcoming Challenges and Controversies

Provide a balanced understanding of controversial issues and enhance students' ability to form informed opinions and wisely manage discussions on sensitive citizenship issues.

10. Collaboration with Parents and Community

Involving parents in students' citizenship education and working with the community to increase understanding and participation in citizenship learning.

Effective Civic Education Learning in Elementary Schools

The positive impacts that can arise from effective citizenship learning in Elementary Schools are; (1) Can help form a responsible young generation, aware of civic values (2) Ready to play an active role in society (3) Improving students' character by instilling national values, such as honesty, discipline, and responsibility, building high civic awareness by understanding the rights and obligations as members of society and the state, improving students' social skills, including communication skills, cooperation, and empathy for others, encouraging students to be actively involved in community and school life, (4) Provide an understanding of their role in building a positive social environment, provide a better understanding of the government system, state structure, and democratic principles (5) Can form an attitude of tolerance towards cultural, religious and ethnic differences, teach appreciation for diversity as a national treasure, (6) Increase the sense of love and pride in national and cultural identity, develop students' critical thinking skills to face complex citizenship and social issues, (7) Instill a sense of the importance of participation in the democratic process through understanding elections and decision-making, (8) Encourage the development of student leadership through participation in organizational activities and citizenship projects, (9) Provide an understanding of social challenges and everyday life, (10) Help students become better prepared to face the real world, (11) Building positive relationships and mutual understanding between students and teachers through discussion and interaction in the context of citizenship learning.

Conclusion

Civic Education Learning in Elementary Schools with the latest approach, we find a number of crucial findings for the formation of a generation that is aware of citizenship. The role of teachers as learning facilitators, character models, and managers of implementation challenges are key aspects in this process. Effective civics learning in elementary schools can have positive impacts ranging from the formation of positive character and high civic awareness to the development of social and critical skills, this learning creates a solid foundation for students. The importance of understanding the rights and obligations of citizens, respect for diversity, and active participation in the democratic process are all important points in the civics curriculum. Teachers, schools, education policies, parents, and students, can be strengthened that collaboration and commitment from various parties are important to improve the quality of civic learning. Improved technology, active learning, and improved critical thinking skills are integrated into the educational context, creating a dynamic and relevant environment. The importance of effective civic learning in elementary schools is the key to forming quality citizens, having a strong national identity, and being ready to play an active role in society. By understanding civic values from an early age, we can help shape the next generation who have a positive contribution to the development of the nation and society as a whole. The suggestion from the description above, so that the latest approach in learning in elementary schools can be achieved is to conduct regular training and professional development to improve teachers' understanding of the latest learning methods in citizenship, include a strong citizenship component in the national curriculum, and update it regularly to reflect the needs and dynamics of society, involve parents in citizenship learning activities and give them an understanding of the importance of supporting the formation of children's citizen character. Teach students to develop critical and analytical thinking skills in responding to civic issues and encourage active participation in extracurricular activities or civic projects involving the community. In

this case, it is expected that civic learning in elementary schools can increase its effectiveness, have a positive impact on students' character and civic awareness, and stimulate active participation in society.

References

- Effendi, D., & Wahidy, DA (2019). Utilization of Technology in the Learning Process Towards 21st Century Learning. *Proceedings of the National Seminar on Postgraduate Education Program, Universitas PGRI Palembang*, 125–129. Learning Strategies for the 21st Century.
- Hardini, T.(2015). Increasing Student Activity and Learning Outcomes in Civics Learning Through the Sociodrama Method in Class 5 of Tlompakan 01-Tuntang Elementary School. *Journal of Education and Culture.*, 5(3), 120-135.
- Luthfiyah, HM, Dewi, DA, & Furnamasari, YF (2021). Civic Education Learning in Elementary Schools Using Literature Methods. *Tambusai Education Journal, Faculty of Education, Pahlawan University*, 5, 8990–8994.
- Widianti, N. (2013). *The Role of Civic Education Teachers, FKIP UMP 2017*. 2013–2015.
- Mulyasa, E. (2006). Competency Based Curriculum Concept Characteristics and Implementation. Bandung: Rosdakarya Youth.
- Ningsih, DN, and Firmansyah 2020. “Utilization of Virtual Reality in Learning to Write Response Texts,” *Samasta Proceedings*.
- Putera, Rafhi Febryan, and Zahratul Qalbi. 2020. “Using the Gi (Group Investigation) Model in Civic Education Learning in Elementary Schools.” *Journal of Education* 11 (1):20<https://doi.org/10.31258/jp.11.1.20-32>.
- Ramdhani, MA (2017). Educational circles in the implementation of character education. *UNIGA Education Journal*, 8(1), 28-37.
- Seno, D. (2016). Implementation of Character Education in Civics Learning for Class II of SD Gugus Larasati, Semarang City. Semarang: Semarang State University.