



## CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION AS A MEANS OF DEFENSE OF NATIONAL IDENTITY

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### Abstract

As Indonesian citizens, we should protect and defend our national identity, globalization which is increasingly spreading at this time and is eroding Indonesian values and culture, especially among young people or what is known as Gen Z. If we don't overcome this, then Indonesia will lose their identity and identity, it is feared that the younger generation will no longer apply the values of Pancasila and our motto Bhinneka Tunggal Ika. Therefore the purpose of writing this article is to explain the importance of Citizenship Education as a means of defending Indonesia's national identity. As we know, one form of Indonesian national identity is Pancasila as the basis of the state. Apart from that, the red and white colors of our flag, the national anthem Indonesia Raya, the state language is Indonesian, and our national symbol is the Garuda bird. The method used in this research is a literature study, which presents information from various sources such as books and journals. The results of the discussion show that Citizenship Education is what can teach the nation's children at a young age to begin to be aware of their identity as Indonesian people because the competencies students will achieve contain elements of nationalism. Citizenship Education subject teachers must be able to adapt learning to current developments, have strategies and interesting ways to teach Citizenship Education so that students can learn more about it. This should not be underestimated anymore, student awareness must be grown with the guidance of the teacher.

**Keywords :** National Identity, Citizenship Education, and globalization

### Introduction

Research in the area of national education is focused on citizenship education. In the diverse Indonesian society, citizenship education plays a crucial strategic role in shaping the character of the country. The idea put forward by Bhineka Tunggal Ika (Desmon, 2018) captures the realities of variety and heterogeneity. Identity itself has significance and is a quality that all parties possess; this is referred to as the point of distinction or point of comparison with other parties. At the same time, nationalism or nationalism has an idea, namely the conviction that a person's country of citizenship deserves their absolute allegiance. The characteristic that sets one nation apart from another is its national identity or personality. The nation of Indonesia is going through an identity crisis. This identification essentially transforms into self-identity as a country. National identity, according to Klean (2007), is an expression of cultural ideals that expand and evolve in parts of a nation's existence with its features. Knowing and understanding the nation's mission and identity is suitable for a good nation. National identity and values are vanishing in the modern world, especially among the younger population. Undoubtedly, the effects of globalization on individuals, particularly the younger generation, have an impact on changes in people's lifestyles. Society is impacted by global conduct because of the incorporation of global factors. According to Waters (1995), globalization is a social phenomenon that eventually affects people's subconscious minds and disregards geographical limits. In addition, according to Giddens (1990), globalization is the presence of interdependence between one nation and another through wide, cross-border tendencies in communication, interaction, fashion, and other areas of culture. Following global trends in fashion, cuisine, politics, and musical preferences is one instance of how our civilization imitates other cultures.

The emergence of community trends highlights a serious issue, namely the decline of societal norms and cultural values. Due to the fast currents of modernity, national values demonstrated by the phenomena of collaboration, politeness, tolerance, harmony, and mutual aid are fading more and more. Teenagers are also quite popular for trends like Korean pop. Because of this, the younger generation will do anything for their hero, increasing the risk of national fragmentation and diminishing the significance of the national identity itself. To overcome the aforementioned issues and create a country that is autonomous, honorable, and deserving of respect in the eyes of the rest of the world, national identity must be strengthened. National identity is the identity that each nation possesses. According to Hidayat (2009), national identity refers to how a country expresses its cultural values and may be utilized to set it apart from other countries. According to Monteiro (2015), national identity is a product of cultural values that present themselves in different facets of daily life and set them apart from other countries. Additionally, this Indonesianness is embedded in the principles of the precepts of Pancasila, which are mirrored in people's daily lives, within the context of the Indonesian nation's National Identity. The red and white flag, Garuda Pancasila, Bhineka Tunggal Ika, and other symbols of Pancasila are used to carry out the nation's and state's daily operations. These symbols also represent the noble qualities of Pancasila. The Pancasila principles and these symbols represent an endeavor to love the homeland as well as a national identity that may be shared with the rest of the globe.

### Research Methodology

The research methodology, in general, refers to a process or step used to acquire scientific information. This study employs the literary analysis approach, which entails many steps including gathering library data, reading, and analyzing research materials. There are many different types of reference materials utilized, including books, journals, and numerous articles about the study subject being investigated.

### Result & Discussion

Civics education is a required subject for all students at all educational levels. Particularly today, some challenges must be overcome, such as the challenges of globalization, so citizenship education needs to adapt to changing times. The goal of citizenship education, a branch of study, is to instill national morality in students and to produce citizens who are morally upright, intellectual, and committed to preserving and advancing democracy. The National Council of Social Studies (NCSS) of the United States defines civics as a process that incorporates all the beneficial factors meant to mold a citizen in his position in society. The findings of the Tawangmangu National Civics Teaching and Education Seminar confirmed this, describing civics as an educational program with the primary objective of creating better citizens following the terms, criteria, and dimensions outlined in the opening paragraphs of the 1945 Constitution. Civics is a subject that trains students to think critically, analytically, and democratically to prepare them for a democratic life based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, according to Nu'man Soemantri. This understanding is provided by the fact that civics is a subject that has political democracy at its core, is expanded with knowledge from other sources, and has a positive impact on school education, society, and parents. According to the Curriculum Center, which Sunarso, et al. (2008) cite, Civics is intended to impart the following competencies: (1) When responding to citizenship-related questions, think critically, logically, and imaginatively. (2) Take part in social, national, and state activities respectably and responsibly. (3) Form themselves with Indonesia's national identity constructively and democratically, which enables them to coexist with other nations (4) Use information and communication technologies to interact with other nations directly or indirectly.

The idea of civics, which derives from the Latin *civicus*, which in ancient Greek meant "citizen," evolved from this core subject. The first stage of civic education, then, intellectual. This was then transformed into "citizenship education" in Indonesia. According to its methodology, civics is a development of one of the five social studies traditions, namely the teaching of citizenship. To provide a thorough understanding of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, a strong and consistent commitment to the principles and spirit of nationalism in the life of society, nation, and state based on Pancasila and the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia needs to be transmitted continuously. The Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia is how the Indonesian state was first founded. The Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia is a people-sovereign state founded on the conviction that there is a single, all-powerful God, that humanity is just and civilized, that Indonesians are one, and that they should be guided by wisdom in representative discussions to achieve social justice for all Indonesians. All facets of the Indonesian nation, especially the younger generation as the country's successors, must be instilled with a profound understanding of and a strong and steadfast commitment to the principle of national spirit in the life of society, nation, and state based on Pancasila and the Indonesian State Constitution. In the future, Indonesia will be better because its political structure will protect citizens' rights to implement democratic values in society, the

country, and the state. For the glory of the Indonesian nation and state, democratic life in daily affairs within the home, classroom, community, government, and non-governmental organizations must be acknowledged, begun, promoted, and executed.

### *National Identity*

The term "national identity" has two distinct definitions. The word "identity" is derived from the word "identity," which refers to the traits, features, signs, and identity of a certain group that might set it apart from other individuals or groups. While "national" refers to the identification associated with an individual, a specific group, or a larger organization based on physical similarity, variation, language, history, beliefs, and aspirations. National Team of Citizenship Education Lecturers (2011) defined national identity as a national personality or national character that differentiates one nation from another. Each country has a unique identity because of some characteristics, including geography, environment, population, history, culture, and the nature of the people who live there. Countries with physically large land masses will have a different personality from islands. People's personalities are significantly influenced by the natural world. National identity is evolving rather than static. Ethnicity and globality have always been at odds with one another. Since ethnicity is static and upholds what has been passed down from generation to generation, attempts at fundamentalization and purification are constant, whereas globality is dynamic and constantly changing and tearing down established things, wisdom is required in understanding this. Soedarsono claims that national identity serves two purposes, the first of which is to signify the presence of a nation in Erwin (2013: 42). In the life of the country and state, national identity is crucial. A nation with no identity typically doesn't exist. Secondly, as an indicator of the state of the country, namely of the national will, fighting spirit, and strength. And lastly, as a way to set themselves apart from other countries. National identity is not developed naturally; rather, it is purposefully and actively constructed based on national identity. All relationships, even those with other nations through other identities, are essential to a nation's existence. Direct or indirect relationships can be established between these parties. As was previously said, a nation's national identity is a feature and identity that sets it apart from other nations via elements of cultural values that evolve and expand during life and are gathered into a single unit. Fundamentally, national identity is a representation of cultural values that evolve and flourish in all facets of a nation's life while retaining its distinctive features. Therefore, having a strong national identity is crucial because it helps other countries recognize a nation for its unique traits. Additionally, a nation's national identity serves as the cornerstone upon which its goals, missions, and principles are based.

### *Efforts to Strengthen National Identity*

To help pupils appreciate their own culture more, we may foster a love of the homeland in the learning environment. The school environment can make an effort to foster a mindset and develop human character, beginning with the application of rules regarding the significance of learning and using regional languages, traditional clothing, days when regional batik clothing is required, and the existence of a special location to introduce regional culture. It is also possible to create creative material with an Indonesian cultural subject to share culture with the outside world. Filtered assimilation of incoming foreign culture to advance glocalization and the country as a whole. We ought to be in a position to benefit as much as we can from the fast currents of globalization. Education-based nationalists in Indonesia, like R.A. Kartini, Dr. Soetomo, and Ki Hajar Dewantara, battled for this country via education even before Ir. Soekarno first proposed the idea of Indonesian independence. The next time was KH's turn. Muhammadiyah is the name of the social and educational institution that Ahmad Dahlan created. After some time, KH. Hasyim Asy'ari used his NU to help educate the country. Education is the key to everything. By doing this, educated individuals everywhere eventually started to consider their country and work toward independence from colonization. A nation's hue is determined by its educational system. The national identity that emerges via education is anticipated to have a good influence on the development of this nation or country, enabling it to preserve its traits and identity as a nation that always supports moral, civilized, and polite principles. Sociologically speaking, leaders in society encourage people to love their home country and the Indonesian nation to carry out Indonesian citizenship education at the sociocultural level. The younger generation who have excellent and intellectual character or character (smart and decent citizens) are also prepared via citizenship education for life in society, the country, and the state (Ristekdikti, 2016: 24). The variety of the Indonesian people is what makes them strong from a sociocultural perspective. The state's slogan, Unity in Diversity, has come to serve as the cornerstone for the perception of Indonesia as a unitary state that takes the shape of a republic in both national and social life. This translates to the nation being one Indonesian nation, speaking one Indonesian language, and having one Indonesian homeland. It also signifies that while the color and diversity of ethnic groups are a treasure of life, the soul and spirit are still one. The Unitary State of the Republic of

Indonesia, however, may be in danger if its variety cannot be adequately promoted (Mahifal, 2011:4). The nation's national identity has to be strengthened, especially for schoolchildren, and one way to do this is by ensuring that they receive civics education. For students to support the sovereignty of the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia, it is important to develop their capacity for critical thought, a sense of responsibility, and an excellent national vision.

## Conclusion

For a nation or country, national identity is crucial. A nation's identity is something we must safeguard and cultivate. A country's intrinsic identity is what makes it exceptional and distinctive in the eyes of the rest of the world. The thinking, conduct, and activities of the people of the country also exhibit this national identity in practice. The Indonesian country, which is made up of several ethnic, cultural, tribal, and religious groups dispersed throughout Indonesia, should preserve and actively participate in efforts to safeguard its national identity. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that if we don't develop and conserve it in the millennial period like now, it would disappear. This is because along with technological advancements in the globalization era. National identity is deteriorating from its basic cultural values in the millennial period. It is no longer possible to regulate the influx of other cultures due to globalization's rapid progress. According to Keller (2006), globalization may result in a change in identity or it can lead people to lose their moral compass, and feel marginalized and alienated from their communities. To address this, we can carry out a strategy to maintain our national identity by developing a sense of nationalism, through Citizenship Education which has been instilled in us since childhood, while also preserving culture through learning activities. Teachers must be able to adapt learning materials to the times so that students are motivated and motivated to learn their identity so that they can strive for it.

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