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## STRENGTHENING STUDENTS' CHARACTER THROUGH UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPT OF BHINNEKA TUNGGAL IKA IN PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

**Azelya Zahra Heriadi<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Skilled and Professional Teacher Educator Candidates of the Republic of Indonesia

Email: <sup>1</sup>[azelyazahraheriadi@gmail.com](mailto:azelyazahraheriadi@gmail.com)

### Abstract

Education is a learning and teaching process in order to realize 18 good characters in students, namely religious, honest, tolerant, disciplined, hard work, creative, independent, democratic, curious, national spirit, love of the country, respect for achievements, friendly and communicative, love peaceful, likes to read, cares about the environment, social care and responsibility. To be able to realize these 18 characters, education is needed that is based on Pancasila values and the meaning of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika. This research aims to provide information regarding ways that can be done to strengthen student character through understanding the concept of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika among elementary school students. The research method used is the literature review method, where the researcher examines articles that are relevant to the predetermined research title and topic. Based on research conducted using the literature review method, the researchers obtained research results which showed that understanding the concept of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika has great potential to strengthen the character of students in elementary schools, on the basis of tolerance, cooperation and respect for differences. Bhinneka Tunggal Ika can help enrich educational experiences, foster mutual respect and mutual appreciation amidst differences.

**Keywords :** Student character, Bhinneka Tunggal Ika

### Introduction

Character is an important part of a human being that shapes a person's personality and behavior. Character is also often referred to as temperament, character and behavior. According to Supranoto, H. (2015) in Indonesia there are 18 characteristics of the nation's hopes to be applied in everyday life so that they can live in harmony with fellow humans and the surrounding environment. Having a character who can understand and appreciate existing diversity can create harmony in social, national and state life, so it is not surprising why schools in Indonesia not only focus on students' cognitive development but also assess students' character development. This is a hope that students will become individuals who care about existing diversity and have an attitude that embraces differences because the diversity that exists in Indonesia is unique and rich in this country. According to Sari, I. K., (2023) revealed that female students in Indonesia have a diversity of characters, this is due to differences in backgrounds such as ethnicity, religion, culture, interests and abilities. However, according to Anwar, R., (2018), sometimes this diversity creates disputes, such as differences in communication or speaking between individuals, which can lead to differences in perception, giving rise to conflicts in the form of feuds or groupings in the class, which can result in ineffective teaching and learning processes in the classroom. class. According to researchers, this is due to a lack of knowledge of educators in understanding Bhinneka Tunggal Ika and a lack of attention in the form of concern from educators, both parents and teachers, towards students. According to Lestari, R et al., (2023) stated that parents who do not care are the cause of student learning failure. It doesn't matter here, which means that parents who don't support their child's learning process result in the child feeling unmotivated and then looking for a place where he or she will feel appreciated. According to researchers, this is where failure begins to occur when children/students misplace themselves so that there are many cases of crime, both bullying and so on, why does this happen? Clearly

this is caused by a lack of understanding of children/students in understanding and appreciating existing diversity. As we know, diversity is not limited to differences in ethnicity, race and religion but also interests, talents and abilities. This is where the role of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika comes with its meaning, namely:

- Unity diversity: With the diversity of tribes, religions, races and cultures in Indonesia, the Indonesian nation remains an inseparable unit. This diversity is recognized, appreciated and united in a spirit of unity.
- Tolerance and mutual respect: Respect each other, respect the rights of others and live side by side in harmony amidst differences.
- Unity in diversity: Unity and brotherhood which is the shared responsibility of the people of the nation and state.
- Cultural riches and uniqueness: All cultural riches in Indonesia are heritage that must be protected and maintained as national identity.

However, the meaning of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika will not be realized in the personality, especially the character of young citizens, if the students/children are not willing to learn to understand and appreciate it. From here the researcher realized that research that examined how to solve the problem of a lack of understanding in understanding and appreciating existing diversity needed to be carried out. Therefore, the aim of this research is to summarize the appropriate way to apply the meaning of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika in the character of *young citizens*.

### Research Methodology

Researchers use a literature review research method which uses information sources obtained from the internet in the form of literature reviews in (1). Local, national journals (2). Book. This research method was carried out by examining relevant articles with predetermined research titles and topics. Apart from that, researchers also searched several trusted internet network sources to get vocabulary references.

### Result & Discussion

Based on research conducted using the literature review method of several articles relevant to the title and topic, the researcher found several pieces of information that were used as a reference for writing this journal, namely as follows:

**Table 1. Research Table**

Researcher	Title	Method	Findings
Akbal, M. (2016)	Citizenship education in building national character	Literature review	Holistically, citizenship education aims to ensure that every young citizen <i>has</i> a sense of nationality and love for the country in the context of the values and morals of Pancasila, the values and norms of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, the values and commitment of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika, and commitment the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia.
Tjarsono, I. (2013).	Pancasila Democracy and Bhinneka Tunggal Ika, Solutions to Heterogeneity	Literature review	Bhinneka Tunggal Ika is the essence of Indonesia's national outlook, because Indonesia is geographically an archipelago and its population is heterogeneous. In such conditions, the choice of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika is not a coincidence but a necessity. Sociologically, differences do have the potential for conflict, although philosophically, a synergistic, productive union is one whose elements are different.
FAUZIAH, L.	Bhinneka Tunggal Ika Realizing Indonesian Unity	Literature review	Bhinneka Tunggal Ika, our motto, is actually a rational thought for Indonesia as a pluralistic, multicultural, multireligious, multiracial and multilingual nation. We must maintain our motto as best as possible, because what we

			want is dignified Bhinneka Tunggal Ika. To maintain this dignity, various things that threaten Bhinneka Tunggal Ika must be rejected, such as regionalist sentiments and separatism.
Niken, NSR P et al., (2023)	Bhinneka Tunggal Ika, the Foundation of the National Spirit of Mutual Cooperation	Literature review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bhinneka Tunggal Ika as one of the four pillars of nationality, apart from Pancasila. The 1945 Constitution, the Republic of Indonesia is a value that must be instilled in every Indonesian citizen which is discussed in the book Pancasila (Santoso, Karim, et al., 2023c)</li> <li>2. The principle of unity in diversity, which is included in the understanding of the archipelago insight, is an understanding that is based on the human way of thinking, so that it becomes a pattern that underlies the way of thinking, behaving and acting in order to face, respond to and deal with problems in social, national and state life that are oriented towards the interests of the people. and the territorial integrity of the homeland which includes the implementation of the archipelago insight in political, economic, socio-cultural and defense and security life as well as the challenges to the Archipelago Insight requires the awareness of every Indonesian citizen to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Understanding, comprehending and appreciating the rights and obligations of citizens so that they are aware that they are Indonesians who love their homeland based on Pancasila, the 1945 Constitution and Archipelago Insights.</li> <li>b. Understanding, comprehending and appreciating the nation that has become a state that in carrying out life requires the Concept of Archipelago Insight, namely Archipelago Insight, so that you are aware of being a citizen who has an archipelago perspective/insight in order to achieve national ideals and goals. The principle of unity in diversity which is realized in the life of the nation and state, one form of implementation is as explained in Nusantara Insight, which is the way the Indonesian people view themselves and their surrounding environment based on their national ideas which are based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution (Indradewi, 2017) (Santoso, 2021).</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Without love and selfless self-sacrifice, unity cannot be realized (Kusumawardani et al., 2020).</li> </ol>

Sari, I. K et al., (2023)	Implementation of the Project for Strengthening the Profile of Pancasila Students Phase A on the theme of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika	qualitative descriptive,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The concept of "Unity in Diversity" recognizes uniqueness or diversity, while the concept of "Tunggal Ika" seeks unity (Dewi &amp; Nawawi, 2023).</li> <li>b. Implementation of the project to strengthen the profile of Pancasila students by applying 4 dimensions, namely; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. have faith in God Almighty and have noble character,</li> <li>b. global diversity,</li> <li>c. Work together as well</li> <li>d. Creative has provided good reinforcement to elementary school students. Pupils and girls are involved and experience directly how they interact with friends of different ethnicities, religions and hobbies by getting to know them more closely by observing, asking questions, expressing opinions and listening to other people's opinions. This increases knowledge and understanding that every individual is different and that it is okay to be different.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Aryani, ED, Fadjrinn, N et al., (2022)	Implementation of Pancasila values in character education	Literature review	Character is the values of human behavior related to God Almighty, oneself, fellow humans, the environment and nationality, which are manifested in thoughts, attitudes, feelings, words and actions based on religious norms, law, manners, culture. and customs.
Ainun, SI, Dewi, DA, & Furnamasari, YF (2021)	The Role of Pancasila Values as a Foundation for Moral Education for the Young Generation	Qualitative, literature study	<p>Pancasila instrumental values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Belief in the one and only God Article 29 paragraph 2 reads: The State guarantees the freedom of every resident to embrace their own religion and to worship according to their religion and beliefs.</li> <li>b. Just and civilized humanity Article 26 paragraph 3 reads: Matters concerning citizens and residents are regulated by law. Article 27 paragraph 2 reads: Every citizen has the right to work and a living worthy of humanity. Article 28 which reads: Freedom of association and assembly, expressing thoughts verbally and in writing and so on is determined by law</li> <li>c. The unity of Indonesia. Article 1 paragraph 1 states that the State of Indonesia is a unitary state, in the form of a republic. Article 32 paragraph 2 reads: The State respects and maintains regional languages</li> </ul>

			<p>as national cultural assets.</p> <p>Article 36 which reads: The National Flag of Indonesia is the Red and White</p> <p>d. Democracy Led by Wisdom in Representative Deliberations</p> <p>1 paragraph 2 reads: Sovereignty is in the hands of the people and is implemented according to the constitution</p> <p>e. Social for All Indonesia</p> <p>Article 27 paragraph 1 which reads: All citizens have the same position under the law and government and are obliged to uphold the law and government with no exception</p> <p>to Article 33 paragraph 3 which reads: The earth and water and the natural resources contained therein are controlled by the State and used for the greatest prosperity of the people</p> <p>Article 34 paragraph 3 reads: The state is responsible for providing adequate health service facilities and public service facilities</p>
Winarno. (2017)	New Paradigm of Pancasila education book	Literature review	<p>Every knowledge is knowledge, but not every knowledge is science.</p> <p>Knowledge is the property or content of the human mind which is the result of the process of human effort to know. Science is knowledge that is structured systematically and is scientific in nature. Science is not just knowledge.</p>
Supranoto, H. (2015)	implementation of national character education in high school learning	Observation and literature study	<p>Ministry of National Education (2011), 18 character values have been identified that need to be instilled in students originating from Religion, Pancasila, Culture and National Education Goals. The eighteen values are: Religious, honest, tolerant, disciplined, hard working, creative, independent, democratic, curious, national spirit, love for the country, respect for achievements, friendly/communicative, love of peace, like to read, care for the environment, social care, responsibility</p>
Lestari, R et al., (2023)	Educational Study of the Effect of Parental Attention on Elementary School Students' Learning Achievement	Systematic Literature Review	<p>However, what is happening nowadays is that parents who don't care are the cause of students' learning failure (Putri Et Al., 2020). Apart from Hendi Nur Mahfudi, The Influence of Parental Support on the Learning Achievement of Class V Students at State Elementary School 001 Pana ' Mamasa Regency by Marlina Bungan &amp; Leonard Sumule states that it is not only teachers and the environment that cause students' learning</p>

			<p>failure but also family factors, especially parents. Various reasons for parents that have been studied are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Parents are busy working so they don't pay enough attention to their children's learning supervision,</li> <li>➤ Lack of support such as providing motivation, guidance, attention in learning.</li> </ul>
Arsali, I., & Sari, IK (2023).	Bullying Crimes against Jiyu 2 Mojokerto Elementary School Students in a Criminological Review	Observation	The number of cases of bullying that befell students even started to occur at the elementary education level, as happened in Mojokerto Regency. One case of bullying occurred at Jiyu 2 State Elementary School, Mojokerto, which was carried out verbally against a female student who received ridicule or insults because she was fat, or better known as body shaming. This was done by repeatedly intimidating the victim which resulted in the victim being cornered and experiencing psychological suffering in the form of a hunger strike, health problems, resulting in drastic weight loss.
Anwar, R. (2018)	Barriers to intercultural communication between native Papuan students and immigrant students in the city of Jayapura	qualitative research study with a purposive sampling approach	Differences in perception between Indigenous Papuan Students (OAP) and immigrant students often lead to conflict in the form of feuds or groupings in the classroom which can result in ineffective teaching and learning processes in the classroom.

In this increasingly sophisticated era, the value of unity is vulnerable to fading. This could be caused by many things, but certainly the waning of the value of unity was caused by the nation in that era itself. Why is that? This can happen because of a lack of understanding of what is the basis of nationhood and statehood, a lack of citizen concern for young citizens and a lack of concern for oneself in the form of implementing good character. The lack of understanding which results in an attitude of indifference can be overcome by the role of parents and teachers as educators who teach students through the values of the Pancasila principles and strengthening understanding through the meaning of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika. According to Ainun et al., (2021) the instrumental values of Pancasila have protected society as stated in the articles in the Constitution. One of them is Article 32 paragraph 2 which reads "The State respects and maintains regional languages as national cultural treasures." This is a form of regulation for how unity works, namely by respecting it. As a pluralistic, multi-cultural, multi-religious, multi-racial and multi-lingual nation, we must maintain unity and integrity. According to researchers, the process of understanding through the values of the Pancasila principles is as follows:

1. Teaching worship in accordance with the religion/belief held, and not disturbing the worship of adherents of other religions/beliefs (tolerance)
2. Teaches to be fair, kind to oneself and fair to others
3. Inviting students to give alms, so that their social spirit will emerge in the form of empathy and sympathy
4. Teaching an attitude of mutual cooperation, working together and deliberating in every work that must be completed together.

Then Santoso, G, (2023) revealed that efforts that can be made to strengthen students' character through the meaning of Bhineka Tunggal Ika are in the following way:

- a. Mutual respect between religions, ethnic groups, appreciating other people's work, working together to build the nation regardless of ethnic, cultural and religious differences, not distinguishing between each other or even insulting each other

- b. A person's personal behavior is required not to see themselves as taking priority over other interests, especially in an organization
- c. Citizens must respect each other's opinions and deliberate to reach a consensus
- d. Respect every other person's religion, by being friendly, tolerant and not differentiating between certain groups or different religions
- e. Respect differences in social strata when interacting and do justice to individuals or groups
- f. Help each other, help citizens affected by disaster
- g. Avoid discrimination that can harm yourself and others in the form of fights, disputes, insults or whatever.
- h. Respect each other's culture, language and customs

This is an effort that can be used to strengthen the good character of the nation's hopes in students as well as increase the understanding of information for educators so that it can be applied to students. Why can this effort strengthen the good character of the nation's hopes in students? It is clear because this effort is an ideal contained in the values contained in the 5 principles of Pancasila, namely divinity, humanity, unity, deliberation and justice. With these efforts, it is hoped that the way students, society and educators think, behave and act will always be oriented towards shared interests and concerns as citizens.

## Conclusion

Character is an important part of human personality that shapes a person's behavior. In Indonesia, there are 18 characteristics of national hope which are expected to be applied in everyday life to create harmony in society, nation and state. However, in the midst of the progress of this sophisticated era, the value of unity is vulnerable to fading due to a lack of understanding of the foundations of the nation and state, a lack of understanding is also caused by a lack of concern for others and oneself, so that the implementation of the good character of the nation's hopes has not been fully realized. Lack of support and concern from parents can cause student learning failure, which can ultimately lead to cases of crime. To overcome this, understanding and respecting diversity as reflected in the meaning of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* is very important. However, implementing the meaning of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* to strengthen the character of young citizens requires collaboration between educators, parents and students to learn to understand and appreciate diversity. Therefore, to overcome this problem, the researcher is of the opinion that a relevant method that can be used to increase students' understanding in understanding and appreciating existing diversity is in accordance with the values of Pancasila and the meaning of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*. The hope is that strong personality traits will be realized. and not easily eroded by the times, such as helping each other, respecting and respecting each other, being fair and so on. That is what the researcher can summarize, the researcher is aware that in this journal there are still shortcomings due to limited knowledge and the researcher is a student who has never written a journal. Therefore, constructive criticism and suggestions from readers to researchers are expected to improve the journal in the future. Thank You.

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