



## THE RELATIONSHIP OF CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT IN STUDENTS THROUGH CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

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### Abstract

Education is an effort made by the nation to change behavior for the better and to develop knowledge to become an intelligent and qualified young generation who can face and solve the life problems they face, because this will be passed on to the next generation. In the current era of globalization, which is marked by technological advances, the values of politeness and character seem to have been neglected. It is very important for students in elementary schools to be instilled with national characters because they are in the process of growth and development. One way that can be taken to realize character education is through formal education institutions or schools which are expected to be able to implement the urgency of character education, especially in elementary schools. The application of character education in elementary schools can be included in the learning process in several subjects, one of which is Citizenship Education. Knowing the process of developing students' character through citizenship education. The research method uses a literature review or literature study by collecting various kinds of journals and books as study and research material published between 2021. Of the fourteen articles used in this research literature, four of them show that there is a relationship between developing students' character through citizenship education. Character development is the process of forming or fostering good character or personality in students.

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

### Introduction

Education is an effort made by the nation to change behavior for the better and to develop knowledge to become an intelligent and qualified young generation who can face and solve the life problems they face, because this will be passed on to the next generation. Education is also a basis that cannot be separated from the human self, starting from the womb until old age, humans undergo an educational process. In Soemanto's opinion (2006: 175), one of the goals of education is to help children develop their potential as much as possible, and therefore education is very beneficial for both children and society. Students view school as a place to find sources of provision or preparation that will open the world to them . (Aji, P. C, 2018). Education is an effort made by the nation to change behavior for the better and to develop knowledge to become an intelligent and qualified young generation who can face and solve the life problems they face, because this will be passed on to the next generation. In the current era of globalization which is marked by technological advances, the values of politeness and character seem to have been neglected. It is very important for students in elementary schools to be instilled with national characters because they are in the process of growth and development. One way that can be taken to realize character education is through formal education institutions or schools which are expected to be able to implement the urgency of character education, especially in elementary schools. The application of character education in elementary schools can be included in the learning process in several subjects, one of which is Citizenship Education. Citizenship Education (PKn) has a very important meaning in shaping students' character

and identity as intelligent, democratic citizens and with noble morals. Civics serves to provide an understanding of students' rights and obligations in life in society and the state, as well as fostering a sense of nationalism and moral values in all students from an early age. By providing citizenship education from an early age, it is hoped that it will shape students' personalities into complete human beings in accordance with the mandate contained in the 1945 Constitution, namely as religious (moral) human beings, having a high sense of humanity and nationalism and becoming an intelligent nation, populist and fair (Abidin R,F 2015). Citizenship education in Indonesia was developed by considering two main theories: Civic Republicanism Theory and Democratic Liberalism Theory. The theory of Civic Republicanism emphasizes the importance of the interests of society and the general interest above individual interests, with the assumption that individuals cannot do anything except act together or fight for the public interest. Meanwhile, the Democratic Liberalism Theory emphasizes individual autonomy, independence and individual freedom before common interests or common will. Citizenship education in Indonesia can be divided into two large groups: Civic Education for Schools and Civic Education for Society. Civics for schools is citizenship education that must be carried out in schools, both public and private schools, while Civics for the community is intended so that all elements of society can know, comprehend, understand and implement manners, order and act in accordance with norms and rules. laws that apply in society. The main goal of citizenship education is to shape the character of students who have a sense of love for their country, a sense of responsibility towards the country, and social awareness. It also aims to develop an independent, ethical and responsible personality. Citizenship education functions to guarantee all functions and roles in order to achieve the goals of national education, namely developing abilities in order to make the life of the nation intelligent, and forming dignified character and national civilization. This includes developing students into individuals who believe in potential and respect God Almighty, are healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and as democratic and responsible citizens.

### Research Methodology

The research method used in the journal which discusses the relationship between character development in students through citizenship education is a quantitative approach using literature study or literature review methods. This method involves a series of activities related to library data collection methods, namely reading and taking notes, as well as processing research materials. Literature studies are carried out by searching various written sources, journals or documents that are relevant to the problem being studied. In the literature study method, researchers need to be detailed in reviewing the sources that will be used, so that the study sources can be accounted for. Citizenship education is considered an integral part of the national education system, functioning to guarantee all functions and roles in order to achieve national education goals. Citizenship Education or PKN is a learning subject that carries a mission to shape the nation's personality, namely as a conscious effort in "nation and character building." The citizenship education process must be able to empower students, namely the process and results of education must be able to encourage students to develop the learning process, thereby broadening their horizons, and fostering the ability to do something in terms of learning to broaden their horizons, building the ability to do, learning to live and live and learn to live in a country. Citizenship Education (PKN) is to carry out the mission of moral education for the nation, to form citizens who are intelligent, democratic and have noble character, who consistently preserve and develop democratic ideals and build national character. According to JJ Cogan in the book *Citizen Education* (1998), citizenship education is formal and informal learning that takes place in families, religious organizations, community organizations, the media, and so on which helps shape the totality of citizens. Furthermore, according to David Kerr in his book entitled *Citizen Education: An International Comparison* (1999), broadly speaking, citizenship education is a process that prepares young people for their roles and responsibilities as citizens. And according to Cholis in a book entitled *Citizenship Education* (2004), it is an aspect of political education that focuses on the role of citizens in state life in order to become reliable citizens in accordance with the provisions of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution (Azurmadi Azra, 2003).

Character is a very important and basic thing, it has a very important role in determining a person's future life. The word character comes from Greek which means "to mark" or to mark and focus on how to apply a good value or habit in the form of action or behavior. Character is strength and then what will control the life of a nation so that it does not drift into obscurity. (Akbal, M 2017). According to Majid and Dian (2013:12), character is character, traits, or very basic things that exist in a person. Furthermore, according to Hidatutullah (2010: 13), character is quality, mental strength, morals or character which is a special personality as a driving force and differentiator between one individual and another. In the context of citizenship education, students' character needs to be built from an early age to prepare the young generation for the future of the nation and state. Citizenship education plays an important role in building the character of students. Students are invited to understand the

meaning, meaning, goals and urgency of citizenship education in developing attitudes and character. So that efforts to develop character can be successful, the most appropriate suggestion is through general education, especially citizenship education. Because citizenship education according to Kansil (1994:84) states that: "Citizenship education is a subject that serves as a vehicle for developing and preserving noble values, morals rooted in the culture of the Indonesian nation which are expected to manifest in the form of behavior in everyday life, students both as individuals." (Hidayatullah 2011). According to Puspa Dianti, "the Civics subject is actually one of the subjects that is rich in character values." Because of this, character education in Indonesia should be implemented well because at every school level there must be citizenship education subjects. In Law number 20 of 2003 concerning the national education system, it also explains that, citizenship education which is based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, functions to develop abilities and shape the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to make the life of the nation intelligent, aimed at developing the potential of students to become human beings who believe. and have faith in God Almighty, have noble character, be healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and become democratic and responsible citizens. (Dianti, P. 2014). Based on this, it shows that citizenship education has a very important role in implementing the character and moral education of the nation's children. And also proves that basically character education can really be realized in classroom learning on citizenship education subjects and needs better innovation from teachers who will teach it to students. The Citizenship Education (PKn) subject is education that aims to form citizens who are intelligent, democratic and have noble character, as well as preserving and developing democratic ideals and building national character. Civics also focuses on developing individuals' abilities to become intelligent, participative and responsible citizens. The material taught in Civics covers the dimensions of humans as individual, social, moral and religious creatures, with the aim of developing personal potential, collaborating with other people, obeying societal norms, and being devoted to God Almighty. (Fitrayadi, D . S 2016).

## Result & Discussion

The term education comes from the Greek word "Paedagogie" whose roots are "Pais" which means child and "again" which means to guide. So "paedagogie" means guidance given to children. In English, education is translated as "education". "Education" comes from the Greek word "educare" which means bringing out what is stored in a child's soul, to guide it so that it grows and develops. The German people see education as *Erziehung* which is equivalent to *educare*, namely: awakening latent strengths or activating a child's strength or potential. (Fauzi, F 2013) Javanese, education means *pelvicawentah* (processing), cultivating, changing the psyche, maturing feelings, thoughts, will and character, changing the child's personality. In the book *Basics of Education* (2017) by Syafril and Zelhendri Zen, the following is the definition of education according to Langeveld: "Education is guidance given by adults to children to reach maturity in their development. According to Ki Hajar Dewantara, education means efforts to promote the growth of character (inner strength, character), mind (intellectual and child's body) in the Student Garden which must not be separated into these parts so that we promote the perfection of children's lives. we educate, so that we are in harmony with the world. Meanwhile, according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, education is the process of changing the attitudes and behavior of a person or group of people in an effort to mature humans through teaching and training efforts, processes, actions and ways of educating. In the National Education System Law (UUSPN) no. 20 of 2003 Chapter I Article 1 defines that education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have spiritual, religious strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, morals. Therefore, education is the process of changing the attitudes and behavior of a person or group of people in an effort to mature humans through teaching and training efforts, educational processes, methods and actions. According to KI Hajar Dewantara, the role of education is that education is used as a guide in the life of children's growth, where children who are free as human beings both mentally, physically and spiritually are a form of educational guidance that gives all the strength to the children to realize that goal. Character education is an effort to apply religious, moral and ethical values to students through science, assisted by parents, teachers and the community which is very important in the formation and development of students' character. National education functions to develop abilities and shape the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to make the nation's life more intelligent, aimed at developing the potential of students to become human beings who believe in and are devoted to God Almighty, have noble character, are healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent and become democratic and responsible citizens (Karsadi, 2018).

Building character is an important goal in an education system. As in Article 3 of the Law, the national education system states that the function of national education is to develop abilities and shape the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to educate the life of the nation with the aim of developing the potential of

students or students so that they become human beings who believe and are devoted to God Almighty. healthy, knowledgeable, noble, creative, independent and a responsible citizen. (Anderson. I 2016). Suyanto (2011) stated that character is a way of thinking and behaving that is characteristic of each individual to live and work together, both within the family, community, nation and state. In line with Suyanto, Hasanah (2012) said that national character is built from core ethical values which originate from religious values, state philosophy and culture. The values originating from national culture are many and varied and contain noble national values which can make this nation have strong social capital to build a superior civilization. (Bego, K. C 2016). Citizenship education has an important role in building civic awareness or civic consciousness. This is a process of learning about the rights and obligations of citizens, as well as the importance of participating in democratic processes and collective decision making. Citizenship education includes an understanding of the constitution, human rights, the rights and obligations of citizens, as well as the importance of tolerance and harmony in society. According to Budimansyah (2008), briefly the characteristics of citizenship which consist of private and public characters are:

- a) Become an independent society
- b) Fulfill personal economic and political responsibilities
- c) Respect the human dignity of each individual
- d) Participate in civic affairs effectively and wisely
- e) Developing the healthy functioning of constitutional democracy. (Budiamansyah, D 2008).

At this time, the character possessed by students is greatly influenced by the flow of globalization, therefore character development is needed. Because basically the character we have is expected to prevent students from the negative influences caused by globalization. Remembering that the mission and goal of Civics is to shape the character of good citizens. The character that the Indonesian people should develop should be in the form of concepts, values and actions that are in accordance with applicable regulations. Pancasila as the basis of the state will be the basis for various types of regulations or in the Civics program. Based on this, it can be stated that Civics is an important part of character education. Civics subjects in elementary schools are very relevant because they are about everyday life which will later guide students to become human beings with character and thus prepare themselves to become full citizens. (Humaeroh, S 2021). Citizenship education also functions to teach democratic values, such as freedom of opinion, freedom of religion and freedom of communication. Apart from that, this education also teaches the importance of respecting differences and respecting the rights of others. Thus, citizenship education aims to form individuals who are responsible and participate actively in society, and have a good understanding of how to play a role in forming public policies and making decisions in a democratic context (Kaelan, 2016). Citizenship education also plays a role in forming positive character and attitudes towards the country and society. This includes teaching about the importance of cooperation, tolerance, and togetherness in achieving social justice. Thus, citizenship education aims to form citizens who are responsible, tolerant and dedicated to the development of the country (Dianti, P, 2014). The character traits that serve as a benchmark for student character development can vary depending on the values and norms held by society and educational institutions. However, some general characteristics that are often used as benchmarks in developing student character include:

1. Integrity  
The ability to act in accordance with ethical and moral values, as well as consistency in carrying out correct actions.
2. Discipline  
Ability to organize oneself, obey rules, and be responsible for assigned tasks.
3. Cooperation  
Ability to cooperate with others, respect opinions, and contribute to achieving common goals.
4. Independence  
Ability to be independent in making decisions, responsible for actions, and have strong self-motivation.
5. Empathy  
The ability to understand and feel other people's feelings, and to be caring about other people's circumstances and feelings.
6. Leadership  
Ability to lead, inspire and influence others positively.
7. Social concern  
The ability to care about social and environmental problems and be able to contribute to improving the conditions around them. The characters above are often used as benchmarks in developing student

character because they can help students become individuals who are responsible, caring, and able to adapt in diverse social environments. (Dikdik Baehaqi Arif, D 2014).

## Conclusion

Citizenship education is indeed an important aspect in developing student character. Citizenship education not only teaches students about their rights and obligations as citizens, but also helps in forming good and responsible student characters. Citizenship education focuses on developing civic values, such as obedience to the law, tolerance, and awareness of students' rights and obligations as citizens. In the context of civic education learning, the integration of character education is very important. Character education is a process of forming students' character through learning that integrates civic values. This includes teaching about ethics, morals, and other values that are important in forming students of good character and responsibility. Character education in citizenship education aims to develop students who not only have knowledge of the law and their rights, but also have strong and ethical character. It includes developing the social, emotional, and cognitive skills necessary to be a good and responsible citizen. Education is a planned basic effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have religious spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, morals, life sciences, general knowledge and the skills they need for society. Character is a set of traits that are always admired as signs of goodness, virtue and moral maturity of an individual. The term character comes from the Latin "character," which means character, mental qualities, manners, personality, and morals.

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