



THE IMPORTANCE OF CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION TO BUILD NATIONAL CHARACTER

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Abstract

This research aims to find out how important citizenship education is for building national character. Citizenship Education or PKN is education that contains the values of the rights and obligations of citizens so that they become citizens who can think sharply and think critically in life in society and the state. In this research, we explore the importance of citizenship education in building a national spirit for the younger generation in the Millennial era. We analyze the role of citizenship education in shaping civic understanding, attitudes and skills in the younger generation. The research method used in this article is a systematic *literature review*. The author searches for journals that have been published on *Google Scholar* which are related to the research title or topic that the researcher has determined, the articles that are searched. limited to 10 articles, then the researcher filtered them to 3 articles that were deemed appropriate and related to the research topic. The research results show that as many as 3 articles from the search results show how important citizenship education is in building national character.

Keywords : Education, Citizenship, National Character

Introduction

The word for citizenship in Latin is called *Civicus*. Subsequently, the word *Civicus* was absorbed into English to become the word *Civic*, which means citizens or citizenship. From the word *Civic*, the words *Civic* were born, namely *civic science*, and *Civic Education*, namely *Citizenship Education*. In Indonesia, *Civics* or citizenship lessons have been known since the Dutch colonial era under the name *Burgerkunde*. Citizenship Education or PKN is education that contains the values of the rights and obligations of citizens so that they become citizens who can think sharply and think critically in life in society and the state. Education Citizenship is a program whose main aim is to develop citizens towards a better direction according to the criteria and measures of the preamble to the 1945 Constitution (Azrah 2003: 9). Citizenship Education, which is often known as *Civic Education*, is a science that focuses on the fields of political, legal, educational, national and social studies. This science has a multi-package nature that is interdisciplinary and multi-dimensional. The essence of Citizenship Education is of course to create a learning program that can make a citizen have humanitarian, civilized and empowering characteristics as required by the constitutional juridical requirements of every nation and country (YND Putri et al., 2021). Political and legal knowledge is one of the areas of study in Citizenship Education that is often touched upon in every learning context. The field of political and legal studies is an important basis for social, national and state life because it can guide citizens to be aware of all the problems that exist in each country, especially for the 21st century millennial generation who still need to understand and interpret them more deeply (Martini, 2022). In the era of globalization and development of information technology, it is important for the younger generation to understand digital citizenship. They must be aware of their rights and responsibilities when using social media, participating in public debate, and maintaining the integrity of information. Citizenship education can provide an

understanding of digital ethics, privacy, security and the importance of making a positive impact in cyberspace. From the perspective of the younger generation, the importance of citizenship education is increasingly emphasized. The young generation is a strong agent of change, and with good citizenship education, they can become responsible citizens, aware of their rights and responsibilities, and have a high commitment to national development. In this research, we explore the importance of citizenship education in building a national spirit for the younger generation in the Millennial era. We analyze the role of citizenship education in shaping civic understanding, attitudes and skills in the younger generation. It is hoped that the results of this research can contribute to strengthening understanding of the importance of citizenship education and provide relevant recommendations for improving citizenship education in the educational environment.

Research Methodology

This research will adopt a systematic literature review method. The systematic literature review method uses data sources obtained from the internet in the form of literature reviews on *Google Scholar*. Then, in this research, it is also targeted that 10 articles have been published as answers to the results of the research, but later 3 articles will be filtered and selected that are in accordance with the research theme. The analysis technique used in this research is literature study analysis. According to Mestika Zed (2003), library or literature study can be defined as a series of activities relating to methods of collecting library data, reading and taking notes as well as processing research materials.

Result & Discussion

Based on the search results of 5 articles, it was found:

Table 1. Document Review

Writer	Title	Method Study	Findings
Sofyan (2014)	The Importance of Citizenship Education for the Young Generation as Agents of Change	Literature Review	The younger generation has a big role in the journey of the Indonesian nation in achieving its national goals, the role of the younger generation as agents of change has a role in being the center of the progress of the Indonesian nation itself. Agent of change or change agent is a motivational word that is used to encourage better forms of change. agents of change are a group of people who receive the attention and hope of society to be able to live and lead the social system
SB Putri & Dewi (2021)	The Importance of Citizenship Education for a Country in the Millennial Generation of the 21st Century	Literature Review	In the 21st century, Citizenship Education is an educational program that prioritizes the attitude and intellectual development of complete citizens. Even so, Citizenship Education still has the same concept, psychologically the learning should be so that a citizen has civic virtues whose development needs to be supported by the development of other elements such as civic knowledge, civic attitudes, civic skills, and civic skills. state commitment (civic commitment), state confidence (civic confidence), and state skill (civic competence)

AprianiandSari20 (2020)	The Importance of Citizenship Education in Building a National Spirit for the Young Millennial Generation	Literature Review	Generation Alphas in their daily lives cannot be separated from the use of gadgets, so that it influences their daily activities such as learning style, social relationships and character. For this reason, the family, school and community environment have an important role in educating the alpha generation. The main priority in education for the alpha generation is character strengthening. One of the important character values to instill for the alpha generation in the digital era is strengthening the value of nationalism
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Source: Document Review By Author

Citizenship education is an educational concept that plays a role in molding the younger generation as citizens with character. The relationship between citizenship education and character development has dimensions that cannot be separated from the character formation and public morality of citizens. The aim of Citizenship Education is to create citizens who are aware of defending the country based on an understanding of national politics, and sensitivity to developing national identity and morals in national life. Citizenship education is very important in the Indonesian context. Citizenship Education contains, among other things, pluralism, namely an attitude of respect for diversity, collaborative learning and creativity. Education teaches civic values within the framework of national identity. Apart from that, education also aims to build the readiness of all citizens to become intelligent citizens of the world (global society). The scope of material in Citizenship Education is:

1. Human Rights

Human rights are rights that humans have not because they are given to them by society, not based on applicable positive law, but based on their dignity as human beings.

2. Rights and Obligations as an Indonesian Citizen

As an Indonesian citizen, you need to understand the process of nationhood and statehood as well as the rights and obligations of an Indonesian citizen towards their country. Based on the 1945 Constitution, the rights and obligations of the Indonesian state are:

- a) Right to citizenship
- b) Obtain equal standing in law and government
- c) The right to work and a decent living
- d) Rights and Obligations to Defend the State
- e) Freedom of Assembly and Association
- f) Freedom to embrace religion
- g) Right to Education
- h) Participate in Defending and Securing the Country

3. Defend the State

National defense is a concept formulated by the legislative apparatus and high-ranking officials of a country regarding the patriotism of a person, a group or all components of a country in the interest of maintaining the existence of that country. Defending the country has a meaning that must be understood by the younger generation.

4. Archipelago Insight

The archipelago insight as Indonesian geopolitics, and the values contained in the archipelago insight have been internally integrated into five aspects, namely territorial unity, national unity, economic unity, cultural unity and defense unity.

5. Social Resilience

Social resilience is an integral part of national resilience. Survive at the local system level from the currents of globalization and decentralization. The ability to change threats and challenges into opportunities and opportunities (Mu'man Nuryana, 2002).

6. National Strategy Politics

National politics are the principles, directions, efforts and policies of the State regarding guidance (digestion, development, maintenance and control) and the use of national power to achieve national goals.

As with other countries, the existence of Citizenship Education is one of the lessons that needs to be improved and applied in the Indonesian education system in order to form citizens who can help in realizing the ideals of their country. Moreover, after entering the 21st century, changes have begun to appear in citizens. Through the

development of science and technology, now the benefits and existence of citizenship have begun to become more subtle and even less visible in the souls of citizens. The occurrence of this must certainly make us limit the influence of foreign culture through science and technology on citizens. Meanwhile, this reality ultimately escalates and spreads to everything related to human life. In the end, we need to strengthen the development of science and technology for today's young generation so that they continue to have good morals, norms, manners and role models. If we pay attention, one of the signs of life in this era of globalization is competition as well as cooperation. This problem is very important to pay attention to in the current conditions, because there are many problems that arise due to citizens not being able to work together and win (Wahab & Sapriya, 2011: 39). Therefore, every nation and country recognizes the importance of the presence of Citizenship Education in forming a national character (nation and character building) in order to maintain and maintain its existence as a nation. It is hoped that this citizenship education can shape the character and personality of a nation that is strong, sturdy and resistant to various external influences. However, the very difficult problem is how to ensure that this character continues to be firmly ingrained in the nation's identity so that it continues to exist properly. Another problem that arises is regarding what will be formed from a citizen himself (Wahab & Sapriya, 2011:39). Apart from that, Citizenship Education can shape the intelligence and potential of each student. Intelligence is the ability to think so that you are able to provide solutions in solving a problem (Haloho, 2022).

In fact, Citizenship Education has identified five citizenship attributes that must be possessed by a citizen, but their application and implementation will certainly differ in each country because it will be adjusted to each country's political system: (1) sense of identification (2) the enjoyment of certificate rights (3) the fulfillment of correspondence obligations. (4) a degree of interest and involvement in public affairs (5) acceptance of basic societal values. For the Indonesian people, the character of citizenship will have specificities in accordance with the Pancasila ideology and the applicable constitution, namely the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (Wahab & Sapriya, 2011: 39). These indicators will at least provide a basis for establishing benchmarks for a person's citizenship in a democratic society. However, conceptually in the 21st century, Citizenship Education is an educational program that prioritizes the attitude and intellectual development of complete citizens. Even so, Citizenship Education still has the same concept, psychologically the learning should be so that a citizen has civic virtues whose development needs to be supported by the development of other elements such as civic knowledge, civic attitudes, civic skills, and civic skills. civic commitment, civic confidence and civic competence (SB Putri & Dewi, 2021). So citizenship education has a very high urgency to form responsibility in every citizen, so that later they can have a strong commitment to defending their country, and efforts that can be made are by equipping citizens with Citizenship Education, so that later they can work equal and responsible in making an active contribution to their nation.

Citizenship education is important, this is because citizenship education is a fundamental thing that will bring individuals to know values, the role of systems, rules and everything related to society and the state. With citizenship education, it is intended that the younger generation can become virtuous, responsible, moral individuals and good citizens. Citizenship education is actually a form of education for the nation's future young generation. Citizenship education must be studied by all young people, from elementary school to university level. This education is important for the younger generation so that they become individuals who are more critical regarding national and international issues, have high tolerance, become individuals who love peace by understanding democracy, so that the goal of Pancasila democracy can be realized, becoming a generation that participates in local, national and international political life. In this way, the role of the younger generation as a change that can encourage planned social and economic change can be achieved. There are several reasons why citizenship education is important in building a national spirit for the younger generation

1. Citizenship education provides knowledge and understanding of national values, history and national identity which are the basis for forming a strong national spirit
2. Citizenship education involves students in participatory activities that build a sense of responsibility, social skills and leadership, which are important in forming an active national spirit and contributing positively to society
3. Citizenship education also helps develop attitudes of tolerance, respect for diversity, and understanding of human rights, which are important in building an inclusive and just national spirit

The aim of Citizenship Education is to instill the values of nationalism and national morals in the younger generation, and to become a benchmark for carrying out duties and realizing the rights of citizens, in order to support the glory and honor of the nation. Through this citizenship education, it is hoped that the millennial generation will have a complete understanding of democracy and Human Rights (HAM). With this understanding, they will peacefully and wisely make a significant contribution to various state problems, such as conflict and

violence that occur by implementing methods who is peaceful and intelligent. Why is Citizenship Education important for the younger generation as agents of change? because they will become individuals who know their rights and obligations as Indonesian citizens. In this way, the younger generation can become pioneers in the life of a nation and state that is just, humane and democratic. The young generation becomes agents of change or agents of change who can encourage sustainable educational, social, cultural and economic change. Become a person who has high tolerance by understanding Indonesian culture, customs and language. In this way, the younger generation can become the next generation of the nation who has high tolerance for diversity, ethnicity, plurality of cultures. By becoming peace-loving individuals by learning about democracy, it is hoped that the younger generation can become the successors of a democratic and peace-loving nation. Become someone who knows and participates in giving meaning to life.

Conclusion

Based on the research conducted, it can be concluded that making citizens become global citizens certainly requires having several skills that need to be implemented by every country. The 21st century millennial generation is a citizen who needs to be formed in such a way that their lives can be directed as best as possible. Citizenship education has a very good contribution if the implementation system is clearly directed and constructed. Smartcitizen and goodcitizen are the main goals in forming the 21st century millennial generation so that in the future they can help their country in solving rapidly developing problems. Good character in children. Through an environment that supports literacy and numeracy, students can continue to improve their literacy and numeracy skills, so that they have better abilities in understanding, using and interpreting numerical information in everyday life.

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