



THE ROLE OF CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION IN BUILDING AN ATTITUDE OF RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE AMONG PUPILS IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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Abstract

The diversity of Indonesia can divide the unity of the country itself if it is not based on tolerance and acceptance of differences as cultural richness. The purpose of this study is to examine the influence of Civic Education in fostering religious tolerance, especially among elementary school students. The research method used in this study is literature review. The results indicate a correlation between Civic Education and religious tolerance among students. This is proven by the alignment of the basic principles of Civic Education with national education, which aims to develop students' abilities and shape the character and culture of the civilized nation to enhance the intelligence and quality of national life. One of the characteristics that Indonesian society must possess is tolerance. Suggestions for further development include the need to re-evaluate the implementation of Civic Education to make it an engaging subject for students so that they can understand the meaning and function of Civic Education in schools, especially in fostering religious tolerance.

Keywords : Civic education, religious tolerance, elementary school

Introduction

Indonesia has a very rich diversity that other countries in the world do not have. This diversity can be both an attraction and a tool for breaking unity. This can cause problems both at home and abroad. It is not uncommon for several other countries to steal and make claims on Indonesian culture. Bilateral relations between the two countries could also be damaged. Not only externally, diversity can also break the unity of the country itself if it is not based on a sense of tolerance and mutual acceptance of differences as cultural wealth. Currently, tolerance has become an unavoidable necessity for every individual in living their daily lives in order to create a peaceful and harmonious environment. Allowing everyone to carry out worship according to their beliefs is a form of tolerance which is reflected in Article 29 of the 1945 Constitution (Alkautzhar et al., 2023). The concept of tolerance includes various types of diversity such as religion, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation and other gender issues. Understanding tolerance as a person's open attitude towards differences, accepting other people's choices without disturbing them and with an attitude of responsibility and patience are the basics of tolerance that Indonesian society must have in the midst of cultural diversity. However, in the current era, the attitude of tolerance in Indonesian society has decreased significantly, which has an impact on various aspects of life. Research by Sufriani and Eva (2017, in Octavia et al 2020) shows that one example of intolerance is that *bullying* is still a serious problem. in society, especially in the school environment, which has a negative impact on the victim's mental health. This shows that tolerance is still not widespread in society, due to a lack of respect for other individuals. Tolerance is the foundation for peaceful and harmonious religious life in a heterogeneous society. Education is a medium for instilling and building a sense of tolerance. Education from an early age about true tolerance enables the younger generation to maintain unity as contained in the third basic principle of the state, namely Pancasila. Education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning environment where students actively develop their

spiritual potential, intelligence, personality, noble morals and skills needed for themselves, society, nation and state.

Over time, the mindset of educators has undergone significant changes from being lay and rigid to being more modern, which has influenced the progress of education in Indonesia (Kalangan et al., 2022). In the 1945 Constitution, it is stated that education in Indonesia must make the life of the nation intelligent, in accordance with the state philosophy regulated in Article 31 paragraphs 1 to 5, which emphasizes the right of every citizen to obtain basic education and the government's obligation to finance it. Schools have an important role in forming students' good morals and positive attitudes of tolerance, through the education taught at school. Schools are able to enable their students to live their daily lives peacefully. The attitude of tolerance that is formed will create a harmonious atmosphere in society, especially in the current era where tolerance is very necessary from all parties, including in the world of education. The school environment has a significant impact on the formation of students' personalities, especially because of their free access to media which cannot always be completely controlled by the family. This can result in conflict, intimidation and acts of violence against other people carried out by students, without adequate supervision from family and school. (Harum & et al, 2023). One subject that is closely related to tolerance is Citizenship Education (PKn). Citizenship Education has an important role in forming a deep understanding of the values of tolerance, teaching the importance of respecting differences, and encouraging dialogue between cultures (Suastra et al., 2020). By cultivating a sense of tolerance, it is hoped that mutual respect, respect and living in harmony will grow between individuals, so that conflict and hostility between people becomes minimal, creating a prosperous society. Even though tolerance has often been heard about, among elementary school students there are still those who do not understand and are not able to apply the concept of tolerance. Therefore, it is important to continue education to a higher level to better understand and realize the meaning of tolerance. To ensure the formation of tolerance among students, efforts are needed in the educational sector to instill these values. This task lies with citizenship educators because citizenship education does not only aim to develop the intellectual (cognitive) aspects of Indonesian students, but also aspects of attitudes and values (affective) as well as psychomotor aspects (Suharyanto, 2013).

Research Methodology

This research uses a literature study approach which refers to journals, books and other sources relevant to the role of Civic Education (PKn) in developing attitudes of religious tolerance in elementary school students. The literature review method, also known as literature study, means a research approach that relies on the views of experts and the results of previous research. This approach involves collecting data by gaining understanding and exploring theories presented in various literature relevant to the research (Adlini et al., 2022) .

Result & Discussion

Citizenship Education (PKn)

In Law Number 20 of 2003 Article 3 explains that the aim of national education is to develop students' abilities and shape the character and culture of a civilized nation in order to improve intelligence and the quality of life of the nation. The formation of students' character can be done through habituation in the learning process at school, one of which is Citizenship Education (Aeni, 2021). Citizenship education is an essential component of the national education system, which has been regulated in the curriculum structure and learning process in the school environment. In the context of building national character and identity, the role of citizenship education is very significant and cannot be ignored. In general, citizenship education is an integral part of character formation efforts that are designed systematically and integrated. This indicates that citizenship education is an inseparable part of the national policy framework in developing national character and identity (Otniel Nasozaro, 2019). The main principle of Citizenship Education is a deliberate and planned effort to achieve the national goals of a nation, namely to make people's lives smarter. Smartening people's lives can be realized through the formation of national identity and morality as a basis for fulfilling the rights and obligations in defending the country, with the aim of maintaining the survival of the country as an entity that has a structured identity and government (Salsabila & Dewi, 2021).

Tolerance

Tolerance is an attitude that allows someone to accept differences from other people without avoiding interaction, respecting beliefs, and supporting each other regardless of factors such as race, ethnicity, class, or religion. Indonesia, as a country rich in diversity, faces various impacts from this diversity, both positive and negative. Therefore, an attitude of tolerance is very important in the context of Indonesian society. Citizenship

education starting from elementary school is an important starting point in forming this attitude of tolerance. Tolerance has an important role in forming awareness that every individual has a role in building a better future, as well as respecting each other. The learning program implemented in schools aims to teach students to study diligently, be responsible for their own tasks, and respect the freedom and rights of others. (Sunaryati et al., 2023). Respecting friends' opinions when studying is proof of having a tolerant attitude. There are several forms of tolerance based on the scope:

1. Social tolerance
Social tolerance plays an important role in social life, enabling harmonious interaction and socialization between individuals with different backgrounds, as well as respecting these differences.
2. Religious tolerance
Religious tolerance involves respect for the diversity of religious beliefs and religious practices, as well as respecting other people's beliefs even if they differ from our own.
3. Cultural tolerance
Cultural tolerance respects cultural diversity in Indonesia, respecting traditions, customs and customs that are different in each region.

Examples of tolerance in Elementary School include:

1. Respect the views and thoughts of others regardless of race, religion or ethnicity .
2. Do not mock or insult friends of different ethnicity, religion or culture.
3. Be friends with anyone regardless of origin or belief.
4. Support friends who are victims of intimidation or *bullying* .

The Role of Civics in Building an Attitude of Religious Tolerance

Tolerance between religious communities shows mutual respect and openness towards diversity of beliefs, as well as not intervening in individual religious affairs (Dewi et al., 2021) . Muslims are permitted to collaborate with followers of other religions in various aspects of life, such as social, economic and world affairs. Diversity of beliefs in everyday life is a reality that cannot be avoided, but has the potential to enrich life experiences. Tolerance towards differences in beliefs means respecting each individual or community without causing conflict. Differences are considered a source of cultural richness that can provide benefits if understood wisely. Citizenship Education (PKn) has an important role in establishing harmony in the school environment. The main aim of Civics is to understand and appreciate the values of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, as well as to become good citizens in accordance with the country's philosophy and constitution. Civics plays a role in forming students' personalities and characters, which are in accordance with the values contained in Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. Religious tolerance must be emphasized as part of a belief that originates from an individual's conscience, not due to coercion from outside parties. Civics learning that is fun for students shows that Civics teachers can teach by delivering material in accordance with curriculum objectives, creating harmonious interactions between teachers and students, which need to be maintained and improved. Citizenship education aims to provide basic knowledge about the relationship between citizens and the state, as well as preparing students to become citizens who can be relied on by the nation and state. Overall, the aim of Civics is to form individuals who obey God Almighty and build Indonesia into a strong country with tolerance. (Suharyanto, 2013). So it can be concluded that the suitability of the basic principles of Civics as a subject does not only focus on intellectual aspects (cognitive) but also aspects of attitudes and values (affective) where in this aspect students are taught how to build an attitude of religious tolerance amidst Indonesia's diversity.

Conclusion

Citizenship education is an important part of the national education system, integrated into the curriculum and learning in schools. The role of citizenship education is very important in forming national character and identity. Tolerance is an attitude that allows acceptance of differences without regard to factors such as race, ethnicity, class or religion. Indonesia, with its rich diversity, experiences both positive and negative impacts from this diversity. The basic principles of Civics include intellectual and attitudinal aspects, including teaching religious tolerance amidst Indonesia's diversity.

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