

International Journal of Students Education



Page 475-479

ISSN 2988-1765

Vol 2 No 2 2024

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STRENGTHENING THE NATION'S CHARACTER AND MORAL EDUCATION THROUGH CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

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Abstract

The aim of this research is to find out how an education worker can achieve in strengthening the character education of elementary school students in implementing citizenship education as national education and instilling a spirit of nationalism from an early age. The research uses the literature study method to explore national character and moral education through citizenship education by citing previous studies and reading sources. The results of the analysis show that citizenship education can help increase awareness of civic values, social responsibility and ethics in society. This can have a positive impact on the formation of individual character and the moral development of the nation as a whole. In conclusion, the importance of citizenship education in strengthening the character and morals of the nation, as well as the emphasis on the role of teachers and the curriculum in achieving this goal. Also, there is likely to be an emphasis on the need to integrate moral values in civics learning to create a more responsible and ethical society.

Keywords : Education, character, morals

Introduction

Citizenship in Latin is *civis*, then the word *civic* appears in English, which means citizen or citizenship. From *civics*, the word *civics* emerged, namely citizenship science and citizenship education. In terms of *civics*, it means a study related to the work of government and the rights and obligations of the people. There is also one of the oldest articles that explains the definition of *civics*, namely about the issue of «education». is defined as the science of citizenship which relates to people as individuals in an association structured in relation to their country. A popular figure in the world of education, Ki Hajar Dewantara, expressed the meaning of education, namely as an effort to encourage all the natural strengths of children, so that they become good children as human beings and as part of society in order to get maximum physical and spiritual enjoyment of life. The education delivered is a way to form basic knowledge and emotional skills Citizenship Education (Civic Education) or *Civics*. According to Muhammad Numan Soemantri, it can be interpreted as a science of citizenship that discusses the relationship between:

- 1) humans in organized groups, whether political organizations, social organizations, or economic organizations
- 2) someone with a country. Meanwhile, Edmonson (1958) argued that, *Civics* has always been defined as a science of government and citizenship which is related to the obligations, rights and privileges of being a citizen. This definition explains *civics* as part of political science.¹

Citizenship education or civic education is an educational agenda that combines various scientific fields or is often called interdisciplinary and multidimensional, which is based on the theories of social science disciplines, which are systemically centered on the discipline of political science. HA Kosasih Djakhiri is of the opinion that the essence of *Civics* or civic education is programmatic-procedural learning educational activities that seek to humanize, civilize and empower humans/students (self and their lives) as a good society as a necessity for citizens

of a nation Education has a very important role in life, as an individual and as a society, which is inseparable from social life. The need for education is increasing every day, according to what follows, character education itself is an effort to build character which is of course influenced by the environment. Towards nature and fellow humans. Ki Supriyoko said that education is a way to develop human qualities themselves. Based on the explanation above, conclusions can be drawn, namely:

- 1) Education is a human activity
- 2) aims to direct, guide, teach and train
- 3) do it deliberately, organized and planned
- 4) It is hoped that students' attitudes will change for the better

Research Methodology

In this writing, the researcher used several methods, namely qualitative research methods where this method emphasizes study studies from the results of discussions found as reference material with literature reviews of civic education by citing previous studies and reading sources.

Result & Discussion

The character originates from Greek which means to mark or signify and focuses on how to apply good values in the form of action or behavior, which ultimately results in people being dishonest, evil, greedy and other bad behavior or what is often labeled as a person. who has a bad character. Another thing, people who behave in accordance with moral rules are said to have good character. Ghufuran stated that character is the character, personality and character inherent in an individual. Character is always related to the state of the body and soul. Somebody. National character is the unification of the identity of the various characters of the people of a nation. Character education is a form of cultivating character values in students, including the components of knowledge, awareness or will, and actions to carry out these values, both towards God Almighty (TYME), themselves, the environment and nationality, so that they become Kamil human. Character education can be interpreted as identity, namely linking cognitive aspects, affective attitudes, feelings and actions. Thomas Likona said that without these three aspects, character education will not be effective. As citizens of a country, you must have character as the identity and identity of the nation itself. Character is a fundamental value that becomes a role model when interactions between humans take place. Character is also used as a way of thinking and behaving for each individual. Furthermore, character education itself is an effort to build character which is of course influenced by the environment. Character education is also used as a foundation for building individual personalities, one of which can be formed due to genetic influences and the surrounding environment. Through this character education, it is hoped that using this knowledge will be able to improve morals in life. In the context of nation and character building, citizenship education, if viewed broadly, has a very important position, function and role. Citizenship education was originally a form of character education that was developed systematically and systemically. In this context, citizenship education cannot be separated from the national policy framework for nation and character development. Citizenship education is very important to foster the values of love for one's homeland, morals and national spirit which form the characteristics and character of the nation in achieving national unification, so it can be used as a strong and sturdy fundamental for developing and nurturing the personality of the younger generation and even every citizen. Indonesia. The character of the Indonesian nation is experiencing a decline, marked by the low level of ethics and morality in the younger generation of Indonesia. The Indonesian nation seems to have lost its identity, many young people love foreign culture more than domestic culture and consider the negative behavior of Westerners to be something cool, such as frequent brawls between students, acts of violence or bullying.

Along with the development of technology, it makes it easier for someone to use technology, one of which is a smartphone, to access things that can have a positive or negative impact. The nation's lack of awareness of the impact of technological developments causes misuse of this technology. As an example of the case reported by detikNews, a viral video of five students at Vocational School NU 03 Kaliwungu, Kendal Regency, at first the students were joking and some threw paper at each other, until the paper was thrown at the teacher (Pak Joko), then when asked who the student was who threw the paper, no one answered, until five students came forward as if nothing had happened and started touching their teacher's body. From this incident, even though the school principal said that the incident was a joke, this action still reflected the disrespectful attitudes and behavior of students towards their teachers, according to KPAI Commissioner Retno Listyarti. From this case example, it reflects the low level of ethics and morality of the Indonesian people, actions that are labeled as jokes are far from the attitude and character of the Indonesian people. The virality of the video, if there is no more serious action, will cause the nation's mindset to consider this despicable act to be something that is normally done, so there will be a

possibility of this incident happening again and the character of the Indonesian nation becoming increasingly damaged. It is not only the younger generation, the political elite who should be role models for the younger generation, their attitudes and behavior are not appropriate to be imitated. For example, we often see on television, people's representatives who have committed corruption are often seen smiling and waving their hands, their behavior seems to be doing normal things, things like this are just some of the examples that we often see. These actions are not even a good example to set for the younger generation. Based on the state of character of the Indonesian nation which is currently in crisis, it is hoped that with the existence of Civics subjects/courses, the character of the Indonesian nation can be formed through the education process to become good and dignified citizens.

As one of the missions of Civic Education, namely, as character education, in addition to other missions, namely as political education/democratic education, moral education and legal education at every level and type of education. The large number of cases either in the media or that we often experience that reflect the destruction of the nation's character is proof that character education in Indonesia has not been fully implemented in everyday life, both as individuals and as citizens. This proves how important it is to develop the character of the Indonesian nation. According to Republic of Indonesia Law, no. 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System states that National education 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 in and are devoted to God Almighty, have noble character and Become a democratic and responsible citizen. According to Sulistryarini, in the song Indonesia Raya by WR Supratman it reads. Wake up the soul, build the body for Indonesia Raya' the message is conveyed about the importance of building character for the nation. In the lyrics of the song, it is written that building the soul is the first lyric before building the body, meaning that building a healthy and good soul takes priority before building the body. This doesn't mean that building a body is not important, it's just that we need a good soul or character and we need a healthy body to realize or reflect good character. National character can be seen from patterns of thought and behavior which then become inherent traits of the nation, guidelines for citizens in behaving, namely the culture or values adhered to by the community itself. This opinion is in line with the Pancasila ideology which is formed from the culture and environment of society which becomes a way of life. In this way, the development of Pancasila values must always be ongoing, continuously developed and preserved because the character of the Indonesian nation is based on Pancasila values as a view of national character which is a unique quality of national collective behavior - both reflected in awareness, understanding, feeling, intention and National and state behavior is the result of thought, heart, feeling and intention, as well as sports of a person or group of people. Therefore, individuals who have the spirit of Pancasila have character values based on their sources as follows:

1. Exercise the heart, including being faithful and devout, honest, trustworthy, fair, orderly, obeying regulations, responsible, empathetic, brave to take risks, never give up, willing to make sacrifices, and have a patriotic spirit
2. Thoughts include intelligent, critical, creative, innovative, curious, productive (able to produce something), science and technology oriented and reflective
3. Sports include clean, healthy, sporty, tough, reliable, resilient, friendly, cooperative (able to work together), competitive, cheerful and persistent
4. Demonstrate feelings and intentions including humanity, mutual cooperation, togetherness, mutual respect, tolerance, nationalist spirit, caring, cosmopolitan (global), prioritizing the public interest, love of the country, proud to use Indonesian language and products,

Citizenship Education to Build National Character

In the opinion of Rosyada, et al. Citizenship Education is the same as Democracy Education which has the aim of preparing citizens to be able to think critically and act democratically, through activities to instill awareness that democracy is the form of social life that best guarantees the rights of citizens. Somantri provides characteristics regarding Civics, namely:

1. Civics is an activity for all school programs
2. Civics includes various kinds of teaching activities that can foster better life and behavior in a democratic society
3. Civics also includes matters relating to experience, community, personal interests and objective requirements for living in a state.

Meanwhile, according to Rosyada, et al, the objectives of Civics include the following:

- a) To form quality and responsible participatory skills in political and community life, both at the local, national, regional and global levels
- b) To create good citizens who are able to maintain national unity and integration in order to create a strong, prosperous and democratic Indonesia
- c) Producing students who think comprehensively, analytically, critically and act democratically,
- d) Developing a culture of democracy, namely freedom, equality, independence, tolerance, the ability to make decisions and the ability to participate in social political activities
- e) Able to shape students into good and responsible citizens through instilling morals and skills (social skills) so that in the future they are able to understand and solve actual problems of citizenship such as tolerance, differences of opinion, being tolerant, differences of opinion, being empathetic, respecting plurality, awareness of law and social order, upholding human rights, developing democratization in various fields of life, and respecting local wisdom.

Education is a strategic effort in forming a value system within a person, which is related to the realization of honor and dignity as a human being in accordance with the social order of life that surrounds him. Education always directs efforts to increase a person's awareness and dignity both personally and as a member of a nation's society. Education is a conscious and planned 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, noble morals, and the skills needed by themselves, society, nation and state. In connection with this, education that aims at character building, one of which is Civics. Civics has become part of the national education instrument to educate the lives of the Indonesian people. Civics prepares students to become good and capable citizens, with noble character, intelligent, participatory and responsible. Civics creates a generation with character and a high sense of nationalism. Values in character education are a system of instilling character values in school members which includes the components of knowledge, awareness, will and patterns of action. To implement these values. Character values must be instilled from an early age, this is because it will form a habit in implementing character values in life without them realizing it and will slowly form good character in students as the nation's next generation who are vulnerable to the onslaught of globalization, which will bring they will slowly abandon the identity of the Indonesian nation by living apathetically. The core of a citizen's personality is civic policy (civic virtues). The development of citizenship policy needs to be supported by the development of elements which include citizenship insight or knowledge (civic knowledge), citizenship attitude (civic disposition), citizenship skills (civic commitment), civic confidence. In general, the development of citizenship policies is very necessary for everyone to be able to realize intelligent and responsible civic participation. In this regard, Civics plays a very important role and responsibility in preparing citizens to have a strong and consistent commitment to defend the Republic of Indonesia. Civics contributes to the responsibility of education which focuses on self-formation from the fields of religion, socio-culture, ethnicity, language, to create citizens who are intelligent, skilled and have character based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. Dasim Budimansyah stated that citizenship education is defined as the contribution of education to the development of characteristics that mark it as the contribution of education to the development of characteristics that mark one as a citizen.

Goals of Citizenship Education

The main aim of citizenship education is to foster insight and awareness of the nation, attitudes and behavior that love the homeland and are based on national culture, insight into the archipelago, and national resilience in the nation's future candidates who are studying and mastering science and technology, language and art. Creating citizens who are aware of nationalism based on an understanding of national politics and sensitivity. Developing national identity and morals in national life. Apart from that, it also aims to improve the quality of virtuous Indonesian people. Personality, independent, advanced, tough, professional, responsible and productive as well as physically and spiritually healthy. The function of citizenship education is as a vehicle for forming intelligent, skilled and personable citizens who are loyal to the nation and state of Indonesia by reflecting themselves in habits of thinking and acting in accordance with the mandate of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. The essence of citizenship education is a conscious and planned effort to make national life more intelligent for citizens by cultivating national identity and morals as a basis for implementing rights and obligations in national defense, for the sake of the survival and glory of the nation and state. The standard of citizenship education is the development of: (1) The values of love for the homeland (2) National and state awareness (3) Belief in Pancasila as the State ideology (4) Democratic values, human rights and the environment (5) Willingness to sacrifice for society, nation and state, and (6) Initial national skills

Conclusion

Based on the state of character of the Indonesian nation which is currently in crisis, it is hoped that with the existence of Civics subjects/courses, the character of the Indonesian nation can be formed through the education process to become good and dignified citizens. As one of the missions of Civic Education, namely, as character education, in addition to other missions, namely as political education/democratic education, moral education and legal education at every level and type of education.

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