

## **The Role of Citizenship Education in the Process of Forming the National Identity of the Indonesian Nation**

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<b>Article Info</b>	<b>ABSTRACT</b>
<p><b>Corresponding Author:</b> Dadang Mulyana E-mail: <a href="mailto:dadangmulyana@unpas.ac.id">dadangmulyana@unpas.ac.id</a></p>	<p>National identity is an integral aspect in building unity and diversity in a country. Citizenship education is considered a key instrument in strengthening and developing awareness of national identity among the younger generation. This research aims to explore and analyze the role of citizenship education in forming the national identity of the Indonesian nation. This research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods. The research results show that citizenship education has a significant impact in shaping the national identity and character of Indonesian citizens. Through the implementation of a curriculum that focuses on understanding the values of Pancasila, democratic principles, cultural diversity, as well as Indonesia's history and natural wealth, students are able to develop a sense of national awareness, tolerance, and be critical of social and political issues. Citizenship education has also succeeded in fostering a sense of love and pride for the homeland, which is an important factor in strengthening Indonesia's national identity. Therefore, the results of this research provide empirical support for the vital role of citizenship education in shaping the character and national identity of students in Indonesia.</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Citizenship Education, Identity Formation, National Identity, Pancasila Values</p>

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The identity crisis faced by young people in Indonesia is a complex phenomenon and requires a deep understanding of the social, cultural and political dynamics within it (Muslich, 2022). National identity, as explained by (Wibisono, 1992), is a concept that symbolizes the cultural values that are characteristic of a nation. In Indonesia, this national identity covers various aspects, from language, belief, to territory, which illustrates the diversity and richness of the Indonesian culture (Wibisono, 1992).

However, developments over time and the flow of globalization have brought new challenges in maintaining and developing national identity among the younger generation (Maulida et al, 2023). Young Indonesians often face tensions between local traditions and global culture which is increasingly pervasive through social media, technology and international information flows. This can result in feelings of confusion, loss of identity, and difficulty identifying themselves with authentic local cultural values (Alfiana & Najicha, 2022).

Understanding the purpose of national identity is crucial for society, especially young people who play a vital role in the development of a nation. However, currently, national values which are part of national identity are increasingly declining (Mahardika, 2023). The modernization process that goes hand in hand with globalization has accelerated changes in society. This causes a shift from traditional values to cultures that are more global in nature, especially influenced by Western lifestyles and values (Haliza & Dewi, 2021).

For example, the influence of westernization that has entered Indonesia has significantly changed the mindset and lifestyle of people, especially the younger generation. National culture is starting to be replaced by western culture which is often more dominant in media, fashion and daily lifestyle (Irmania,

2021). This phenomenon is sad because it threatens the continuity of Indonesia's rich and diverse cultural identity. Therefore, it is very important to make concrete efforts to preserve national values and strengthen national identity among young people so that they remain aware of the cultural heritage of the Indonesian nation (Hibatullah, 2022).

Citizenship education plays an important role in reinforcing national values among the younger generation. Through education based on Pancasila, Indonesian children and teenagers can be prepared to become citizens who are aware of their rights, obligations and responsibilities towards the nation and state (Maftuh, 2008). The material presented in citizenship lessons can form a deep understanding of the basic values of Pancasila, such as unity, justice, democracy, divinity and humanity (Asril et al, 2023). By understanding these values, the younger generation can internalize these principles in their daily lives, thereby creating a strong collective awareness about the importance of maintaining national identity and strengthening unity in cultural diversity in Indonesia (Lestari et al, 2019).

Apart from that, citizenship education also provides opportunities for the younger generation to learn more about history, culture and ethnic and religious diversity in Indonesia (Sofyan & Sundawa, 2015). With a broader understanding of the nation's cultural and historical heritage, they can develop a sense of pride in Indonesia's national identity. Apart from that, citizenship education also provides space for discussion, reflection and interaction between students who come from different cultural backgrounds, thereby strengthening a sense of unity and oneness in diversity (Hayqal & Najicha, 2023). Thus, citizenship education is an important foundation in rebuilding the identity of the Indonesian nation and forming a young generation who loves, understands and fights for common interests for the progress of the nation and state (Julfian et al, 2023).

National identity is a strong foundation that forms the unique characteristics of a nation, distinguishing it from other nations in the world (Akbar & Najicha, 2022). According to Muhammad Erwin (2018), national identity is the essence of the unique characteristics inherent in a nation, reflecting the personality and character that characterizes it. A similar opinion was expressed by Hendrizal (2020), who emphasized that national identity is an attribute that philosophically differentiates one nation from another. In Indonesia, national identity is a representation of the deep values of Pancasila, which represent the noble values of the nation and state. Pancasila is not only the philosophical basis of the country, but also the moral and spiritual foundation for Indonesian society. The concepts of divinity and humanity, which are an integral part of Pancasila, are reflected in various aspects of daily life, strengthening the national identity which is deeply rooted in the soul of the Indonesian nation (Faudillah et al, 2023).

Indonesia's national identity does not only include political or legal aspects, but also depicts the spirit of unity in cultural, linguistic and religious diversity. Pancasila is the glue that binds diversity into a common strength in developing the country (Mansyur et al, 2023). In this context, national identity is not a static concept, but develops along with social, cultural and political dynamics. Therefore, maintaining and developing Pancasila values is a shared responsibility for all elements of Indonesian society, especially the younger generation, to ensure that national identity remains a solid foundation in guiding the direction and goals of the Indonesian nation in the future (Ningsih et al, 2022).

The aim of this research is to investigate the role played by citizenship education in shaping the national identity of the Indonesian nation. The benefit of this research is that it provides a deeper understanding of the importance of citizenship education in building a solid foundation for Indonesia's national identity. It is hoped that the results of this research can become a basis for developing effective curriculum and learning strategies in increasing awareness and love of the nation as well as strengthening unity and diversity in Indonesian society.

## **METHOD**

This research adopts a descriptive qualitative method approach as the main basis for exploring and understanding the central phenomenon that is the focus of the research. In accordance with Yulianah's (2022) definition, qualitative research methods aim to explore in depth and understand the core symptoms involved. To achieve a deep understanding of the phenomenon, researchers conducted interviews with research participants, using in-depth open questions. The information obtained from the interviews, in the form of words and texts, is carefully collected and analyzed. The analysis process involves studying the details of the findings and their relationship to previous research conducted by other researchers. Data collection was carried out through triangulation, combining several data collection methods as explained by Sugiyono (2011). The data analysis approach in this research is inductive or qualitative, with a focus on understanding the meaning of the data rather than attempting to seek generalizations. The final findings from qualitative research will be presented in the form of a

written report, reflecting the research results and the researcher's interpretation of the phenomenon being studied.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The elements that make up Indonesia's national identity are very diverse, covering fundamental and in-depth aspects. One of them is the ethnic element, which reflects the ethnic diversity and unique customs of each region in Indonesia. Religion also plays an important role in national identity, considering that Indonesia has religious diversity which includes Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, and others. Language, as the main means of communication, is the glue that connects various ethnic groups throughout the archipelago. In addition, the rich and varied national culture, from traditional dances to typical cuisine, is also an inseparable part of Indonesia's national identity. The vast and diverse territory of the archipelago, with its natural wealth and stunning natural beauty, is also an important element in the formation of national identity. However, above all, Pancasila as the state ideology is the fundamental basis that binds together all elements of Indonesia's national identity, while the 1945 Constitution is the legal instrument that confirms the existence of the Indonesian state as a sovereign and independent entity.

Therefore, citizenship education plays an important role in forming national identity. Through citizenship education, Indonesia's young generation can be taught to understand the values of Pancasila, strengthen a sense of unity and nationality, and appreciate the diversity that exists in society. With a good understanding of the aspects that form national identity, such as ethnicity, religion, language, culture and the archipelago, they can grow into responsible citizens, aware of their rights and obligations towards the nation and state, and fighting for common interests for the progress of Indonesia. As a result, citizenship education not only plays a role in the formation of individual character, but also in building a strong foundation for a strong and sustainable national identity. The role of citizenship education in shaping Indonesia's national character includes:

### **1. Strengthening National Awareness**

Citizenship education plays a central role in strengthening awareness of the importance of nationhood and Indonesian national identity among the younger generation. Through a specially designed curriculum, students are introduced to national values such as unity, justice and loyalty to the country. They are taught to appreciate cultural, religious and ethnic diversity which enriches and strengthens Indonesia's national identity. Apart from that, citizenship education also teaches about the history of the Indonesian people's struggle to achieve independence, fosters the spirit of nationalism, and introduces national symbols such as the Red and White Flag and the Garuda Symbol. In this way, students can understand the importance of respecting and preserving the nation's cultural and historical heritage, as well as making awareness of nationality a moral basis for acting and contributing to the progress of the country.

Furthermore, citizenship education also provides space for students to discuss and participate in activities that strengthen national identity, such as social, cultural and environmental activities. Through interaction with fellow students and the surrounding environment, they can exchange ideas and experiences about the meaning of being a good and responsible Indonesian citizen. By providing a platform to appreciate diversity and build a sense of solidarity between citizens, citizenship education strengthens social ties and unity in society. As a result, the younger generation has become more connected to their national identity and feels actively involved in shaping the nation's future, by prioritizing collective interests above personal interests.

### **2. Instilling Pancasila Values**

Citizenship education provides a strong foundation for introducing and understanding Pancasila values to Indonesia's young generation. As the basis of state ideology, Pancasila is a moral and philosophical guide that describes the characteristics and goals of the Indonesian state. Through citizenship subjects, students are guided to understand Pancasila values such as unity, which underlines the importance of unity in diversity; justice, which emphasizes the need for fair treatment for all citizens; democracy, which shows the importance of participation and decision making based on the will of the people; divinity, which emphasizes the principle of openness to belief and religion; and humanity, which underlines the importance of respect for human dignity and human rights. By understanding the values of Pancasila, the younger generation is given a solid moral foundation to form attitudes and behavior that are in accordance with the national principles adhered to by the Indonesian state.

Apart from that, citizenship education also provides opportunities for the younger generation to internalize the values of Pancasila in their daily lives. Through active and interactive learning, students are invited to reflect on and apply Pancasila values in real life contexts, both at school and in society. Discussions, role plays, case studies, and collaborative projects are some of the learning methods that can

be used to explore a deeper understanding of the implications of Pancasila values in various situations. Thus, citizenship education not only conveys Pancasila values theoretically, but also helps students to internalize and apply them in the practice of daily life, so that they become agents of change who are able to realize the vision and mission of the Indonesian state mandated by Pancasila.

### 3. Forming Responsible Citizens

Citizenship education plays an important role in equipping students with an understanding of the rights and obligations as Indonesian citizens. Through a well-structured curriculum, students are taught about the basic rights that every citizen has, such as the rights to education, health and legal protection. Apart from that, they are also given a deep understanding of the obligations that must be fulfilled as part of society, such as paying taxes, respecting the law, and protecting the environment. Citizenship education also emphasizes the importance of actively contributing to the development of the country in positive ways, either through participation in social activities, religious activities, or community service. Students are encouraged to become agents of change who play a role in advancing the nation, both through involvement in infrastructure development and in efforts to maintain the integrity and unity of the Indonesian state.

Apart from that, citizenship education also instills awareness of the importance of maintaining the integrity of the Indonesian state amidst ever-changing social, political and economic dynamics. Students are taught to respect cultural and ethnic diversity and maintain unity and integrity as the main foundation of the Indonesian state. They were given the understanding that maintaining the integrity of the country is the shared responsibility of all citizens, regardless of differences in social status, religion or ethnicity. Through learning about the history of the nation's struggle to achieve independence and maintain sovereignty, students are given inspiration and enthusiasm to become protectors and defenders of the Indonesian state. Thus, citizenship education not only teaches about the rights and obligations of individuals, but also inspires a sense of collective concern and responsibility in maintaining the integrity and glory of the Indonesian nation.

### 4. Cultivating a sense of tolerance and respect for diversity

Citizenship education plays an important role in strengthening tolerance and respect for differences among Indonesian citizens through learning about cultural, religious and ethnic diversity. Through a curriculum that includes material on pluralism and multiculturalism, students are given the opportunity to understand and appreciate the cultural diversity that exists in Indonesia. They are invited to explore various traditions, customs and religious beliefs that are an integral part of Indonesian society's life. In this way, students can understand that diversity is a wealth and strength that must be protected and maintained, not a source of conflict or division.

In addition, citizenship education also creates space for dialogue and interaction between students from different cultural backgrounds. Through discussions, role plays, and other collaborative activities, students are invited to respect each other and understand the differences that exist between them. They learn to be open to different views and values, and accept that every individual has the right to practice their beliefs and culture peacefully. Thus, citizenship education not only provides an understanding of diversity, but also helps form inclusive and tolerant attitudes among Indonesia's young generation, which is an important foundation in building a harmonious and peaceful coexistence society.

### 5. Encouraging Active Participation in Democratic Life

Citizenship education has a vital role in equipping students with a deep understanding of democratic principles. Through structured learning, students are introduced to basic democratic concepts such as general elections, freedom of opinion, human rights, and government based on the will of the people. They are taught to understand that democracy is not just a political system, but is also a principle that underlies justice, equality and active participation of citizens in making decisions that affect people's lives. With a strong understanding of these democratic principles, students become better able to think critically, understand political dynamics, and identify and fight for their rights as citizens.

Furthermore, citizenship education not only provides a theoretical understanding of democracy, but also encourages students to be actively involved in the democratization process in Indonesia. Through election simulations, political discussions, and other participatory activities, students are given the opportunity to experience firsthand how the democratic process works and what their role is as voters or even potential future leaders. They are invited to understand the importance of voting rights and responsibilities as sovereign citizens in determining the direction and policies of the country. Thus, citizenship education not only produces students who are academically intelligent, but also prepares them to become active, responsible citizens and have the capacity to participate in building a more democratic and inclusive society.

#### 6. Forming a Critical Attitude and Critical Thinking

Citizenship education has a very important role in helping students develop a critical attitude towards information and think critically about social and political issues related to the life of society and the country. Through a well-designed curriculum, students are taught to not only passively receive information, but also to evaluate and analyze it critically. They are given the opportunity to identify bias, manipulation or inaccuracy in various sources of information, including mass media and online platforms. In addition, students are also trained to understand various complex social and political issues, such as poverty, inequality, human rights, and the environment, as well as to question the causes, root problems, and implications of these issues.

Furthermore, citizenship education also teaches students to consider various points of view, arguments, and existing solutions related to these issues. They are invited to participate in discussions, debates or research projects that allow them to speak and interact with a variety of views and thoughts. This helps students develop the ability to think critically, analyze information objectively, and make informed decisions. Thus, citizenship education not only provides students with knowledge about social and political issues, but also equips them with the thinking skills necessary to become active, competitive citizens and play a role in shaping the future of a better society and country.

#### 7. Developing Love for the Motherland

Citizenship education has a significant role in developing a sense of love and pride for the Indonesian homeland through a deep understanding of Indonesia's history, culture and natural wealth. Through learning about the history of the Indonesian nation, students are introduced to the nation's struggle to gain independence from colonialism as well as various accomplishments and accomplishments in developing this country. By understanding the long journey that the Indonesian nation has gone through, students can develop respect and appreciation for the heroes and figures who have fought for the country's independence and progress.

Apart from that, citizenship education also introduces students to Indonesia's cultural diversity and natural riches. They are invited to explore the beauty and unique culture of various regions in Indonesia, including traditional dance, fine arts, music and other local traditions. Apart from that, students are also introduced to Indonesia's natural wealth, from the beauty of beaches and exotic islands to the biodiversity of tropical rainforests. By understanding Indonesia's cultural and natural riches, students become more aware of the beauty and uniqueness of their homeland and feel proud to be part of Indonesian society which is rich in diversity.

### CONCLUSION

Citizenship education plays a very important role in shaping the national identity and character of Indonesian citizens. Through a deep understanding of Pancasila values, democratic principles, cultural diversity, as well as Indonesia's history and natural wealth, students are equipped with the moral foundation, knowledge and skills necessary to become responsible, active and caring citizens. common interest. Citizenship education encourages the formation of inclusive, tolerant and critical attitudes towards various relevant social and political issues, as well as fostering a sense of love and pride for the Indonesian homeland. Thus, citizenship education is not only about academic knowledge, but also about forming character and attitudes that are in accordance with national values, so that it can become a solid foundation in building a harmonious, democratic and advanced society.

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