

THE RELEVANCE OF CIVIC EDUCATION IN NATIONAL CHARACTER BUILDING: A LITERATURE REVIEW

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Abstract

Civic Education (Civics Education) has an important role in shaping the nation's character. This literature review aims to examine the relevance of Civics Education in shaping the nation's character. The results show that Civics Education acts as a vehicle to develop the values of Pancasila, strengthen the nation's identity, and form citizens who are smart, skilled, and characterised. Civics learning not only provides knowledge about citizenship, but also develops the attitudes and skills needed to become active and responsible citizens. Through Civics, students are expected to integrate character values such as nationalism, patriotism, tolerance, justice, and democracy in their daily lives. However, the effectiveness of Civics in shaping the nation's character is also influenced by various factors, such as curriculum, teacher competence, school and community environment, infrastructure, and learning evaluation. Synergistic and sustainable efforts are needed from various parties to optimise the role of Civics in shaping the nation's character. Thus, Civics can be a strong foundation in building a young generation that has character, loves the country, and is able to face global challenges while remaining grounded in the noble values of the nation.

Keywords: Civic Education, national character, literature review

Introduction

Education is one of the most important aspects in the development of a nation. Through education, individuals can develop their potential and acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to become productive citizens and contribute positively to society. (Aslan et al., 2019); (Hutagaluh & Aslan, 2019). In the Indonesian context, national education not only aims to educate the nation's life, but also to shape the character and identity of the nation in accordance with the values of Pancasila. (Fauzi et al., 2023)..

Pancasila as the foundation of the Indonesian state contains fundamental character values in shaping the identity of the nation. These values include almighty divinity, just and civilised humanity, Indonesian unity, democracy led by wisdom in deliberation/representation, and social justice for all Indonesian people. (Agustin et al., 2020). These values become guidelines in the life of the nation and state, and become the basis for the formation of individual character in line with the nation's personality. By internalising and practising the values of Pancasila, the younger generation is expected to become pious citizens, uphold human values, have a spirit of unity, prioritise deliberation in decision-making, and be fair in social life. (Chotimah et al., 2021)..

Citizenship Education (Civics) is one of the subjects that has an important role in the national education system. Civics aims to form citizens who understand and are able to exercise their rights and obligations as smart, skilled, and characterised Indonesian citizens in accordance with the mandate of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. (Dunstan, 2024).

Civic Education (Civics) has a very important function for students in shaping their character and identity as good citizens. Civics plays a role in instilling moral values, ethics, and manners in accordance with Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, so that students can understand their rights and obligations as citizens. (Dwiputra & Halimi, 2022).. Through Civics learning, students are equipped with knowledge about government, law, and political systems, and taught how to think critically, rationally, and democratically in addressing various civic issues. Civics also encourages students to actively participate in the life of the nation and state, as well as develop attitudes of tolerance, mutual respect, and love for the country. Through Civics, learners are expected to gain an understanding of national values, love for the country, democracy, and the spirit of nationalism. (Budimansyah et al., 2020)..

However, in practice, the effectiveness of Civics in shaping national character is still debatable. Some studies show that Civics learning tends to focus on cognitive aspects, such as memorisation of material, and less emphasis on affective and psychomotor aspects related to the cultivation of character values. In addition, the learning methods applied are often less innovative and interactive, making it less interesting for students. (Fadhila & Pandin, 2021)..

On the other hand, the phenomenon of moral degradation and the fading of national character values among the younger generation is increasingly concerning. Cases such as student brawls, drug abuse, and other deviant behaviours show that character education has not been fully successfully instilled through learning in schools, including through Civics Education. (Fadilah & Pandin, 2021).

Based on these problems, it is important to conduct a literature review on the relevance of Civics in shaping the nation's character. This literature review aims to analyse the extent to which Civics has played a role in shaping the nation's character in accordance with the expected goals, as well as identify factors that influence its effectiveness. Thus, the results of this literature review are expected to provide input for educators, policy makers, and other stakeholders in improving the quality of Civics learning and strengthening its role in national character building.

Research Methods

The study in this research uses the literature method. The literature research method is an approach used to collect, analyse, and synthesise relevant information from literature sources, such as books, scientific journals, articles, and other documents. The purpose of this method is to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the topic

under study, identify gaps in existing knowledge, and provide a theoretical basis for further research. (Firman, 2018); (Suyitno, 2021). In conducting literature research, researchers follow systematic steps, such as determining the topic and research questions, developing a literature search strategy, selecting relevant and credible sources, analysing and evaluating the information obtained, and preparing a synthesis of the findings. The results of literature research can be in the form of a literature review, conceptual framework, or theoretical propositions that can be used as a basis for empirical research or policy development. (Jelahut, 2022).

Results and Discussion

The Relationship between Civic Education and National Character Building

Civic Education (Civics Education) has a very important role in shaping the character of the nation. Civics Education aims to instil moral values, ethics, and manners in accordance with Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution to the younger generation. Through Civics learning, students are equipped with knowledge about their rights and obligations as citizens, and taught how to think critically, rationally, and democratically in addressing various civic issues. (Pangalila & Winoto, 2022)..

Civics also plays a role in developing an attitude of nationalism and patriotism among the younger generation. By learning the history of the nation's struggle, heroic values, and local wisdom, students are expected to appreciate the services of heroes and have a high sense of patriotism. Civics also encourages students to actively participate in the life of the nation and state, such as by participating in civic activities and involving themselves in public decision-making. (Komalasari & Saripudin, 2020).

In addition, Civics also teaches students to respect diversity and uphold the values of tolerance. Indonesia is a country rich in ethnic, religious, racial and cultural diversity. Through Civics learning, students are taught to respect differences, establish unity, and maintain harmony in social life. Thus, Civics plays a role in preventing conflicts and divisions that can threaten the integrity of the nation. (Rawanoko et al., 2022)..

In the long run, Civics learning is expected to shape the character of the nation in accordance with the values of Pancasila. Young people who have internalised the values of Pancasila are expected to become pious citizens, uphold human values, have a spirit of unity, prioritise deliberation in decision-making, and be fair in social life. (Rachman et al., 2020). Thus, Civics Education becomes a solid foundation in preparing the younger generation to become smart, skilled, and characterful national leaders in the future.

The Relevance of Civic Education in National Character Building

Civic Education (Civics) has a very close relevance to the formation of national character. In the midst of globalisation and rapid technological development, Civics becomes a bulwark in maintaining the moral values and identity of the nation. Through

Civics learning, the younger generation is equipped with knowledge and understanding of their rights and obligations as citizens, as well as guided to become responsible, disciplined, and have high integrity. (Pangalila & Winoto, 2022)..

Civics also plays an important role in fostering a sense of nationalism and patriotism among the younger generation. By learning the history of the nation's struggle and heroic values, students are expected to appreciate the services of the founding fathers and have a high fighting spirit in building the country. Civics teaches the importance of maintaining national unity and encourages students to actively participate in the life of the nation. (Mirra, 2022).

In addition, Civics Education is also relevant in developing an attitude of tolerance and respect for diversity. Indonesia is a multicultural country, with various ethnicities, religions, races and cultures. Through Civics learning, students are taught to respect differences, uphold human values, and maintain harmony in social life. Civics becomes a means to strengthen national unity and prevent conflicts that can divide the nation. (Clark, 2021).

In the context of national character building, Civics Education has a strategic role. Civics teaches the values of Pancasila as the ideology and foundation of the state, which serve as guidelines in the life of the nation. By internalising the values of Pancasila, the younger generation is expected to become citizens who have faith and piety, uphold human values, have a spirit of unity, prioritise deliberation in decision-making, and be fair in social life. Through Civics Education, the national character that is in accordance with the identity of the Indonesian nation can be formed and passed on to the next generation. (Journell, 2024).

In addition, Civic Education also plays a role in preparing the younger generation to become future leaders who have good integrity and competence. Through Civics learning, students are equipped with knowledge about government, law, and political systems, and are trained to think critically, make wise decisions, and solve problems in a democratic way. Civics also encourages students to actively participate in social and political activities, and to care about issues in society. (Lee & Nasir, 2024).

Civics is also relevant in strengthening national resilience and maintaining state sovereignty. In the midst of global threats such as terrorism, radicalism, and the spread of ideologies that are contrary to the values of Pancasila, Civics becomes a stronghold of the nation's ideology. Through Civics learning, the younger generation is equipped with awareness of these threats and taught to be vigilant and critical in facing challenges that can threaten the integrity of the nation. (Sulisstyowati & Machful, 2023)..

Thus, Civic Education has a very important relevance in the formation of national character. Civics plays a role in maintaining the moral values and identity of the nation, fostering a sense of nationalism and patriotism, developing an attitude of tolerance and respect for diversity, as well as strengthening national resilience and maintaining state

sovereignty. Through Civics learning, the younger generation is equipped with the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to become good and responsible citizens. Civics becomes the foundation in building the nation's character in accordance with the values of Pancasila and preparing the next generation capable of facing future challenges. Therefore, Civics learning needs to continue to improve its quality in order to optimally contribute to the formation of a strong and dignified national character.

Factors Affecting the Effectiveness of Civic Education in Shaping National Character

Civic Education has an important role in shaping the character of the nation. However, the effectiveness of Civics Education in achieving these goals is influenced by various factors. The following are the factors that influence the effectiveness of Civics Education in shaping the nation's character (Jacoby, 2022).

First, the Civics curriculum and learning materials must be relevant and contextualised to the needs of students and the times. The Civics curriculum needs to be designed comprehensively and dynamically, covering aspects of knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to become good citizens. Learning materials must be interesting, easy to understand, and applicable to students' daily lives. Irrelevant curriculum and uninteresting materials can reduce students' interest and motivation in learning Civics. (Hyun et al., 2024)..

Second, the competence and quality of Civics teachers determine the success of learning. Civics teachers must have good mastery of the material, adequate pedagogical skills, and be able to be role models in implementing the values of Pancasila. Teachers must also be creative and innovative in using learning methods and media that suit the characteristics of students. Teachers who are less competent and unable to inspire students will hinder the effectiveness of Civics learning. (Purbono, 2020).

Third, the school and community environment also play a role in supporting Civics learning. Schools must create a culture and climate conducive to internalising character values, such as discipline, honesty, tolerance and responsibility. In addition, synergy between schools, families and communities is needed in providing role models and strengthening positive characters. An unfavourable environment can hinder students' character building process (Sant, 2023).

Fourth, the facilities and infrastructure for Civics learning also need to be considered. The availability of adequate textbooks, learning media and other learning resources can support the effectiveness of learning. In addition, the utilisation of information and communication technology in Civics learning can also increase students' interest and understanding. Limited facilities and infrastructure can hinder the learning process and the achievement of Civics goals. (Clark, 2021).

Fifth, evaluation and assessment of Civics learning must be carried out comprehensively and authentically. Evaluation not only measures the cognitive aspects, but also the affective and psychomotor aspects of students. Authentic assessments

such as observation, portfolio assessment and project assessment can provide a more accurate picture of students' character development. Non-comprehensive evaluations and assessments that only focus on cognitive aspects can reduce the effectiveness of Civics in shaping national character. (Adawiah, 2022).

By paying attention to these factors and making continuous improvement efforts, the effectiveness of Civics Education in shaping the nation's character can be improved. It takes commitment and cooperation from various parties, ranging from policy makers, schools, teachers, students, families, to the community to realise the goals of Civics Education in building a generation with character and national identity.

Conclusion

Civic Education has a strong relevance in the formation of national character. Based on the literature review, Civics Education acts as a vehicle to develop the values of Pancasila, strengthen the nation's identity, and form citizens who are smart, skilled, and characterised. Civics not only provides knowledge about citizenship, but also develops the attitudes and skills needed to become active and responsible citizens. Through Civics learning, students are expected to integrate character values such as nationalism, patriotism, tolerance, justice, and democracy in everyday life.

However, the effectiveness of Civics in shaping national character is also influenced by various factors, such as curriculum, teacher competence, school and community environment, infrastructure, and learning evaluation. Synergistic and sustainable efforts are needed from various parties to optimise the role of Civics in shaping the nation's character. Thus, Civics can be a strong foundation in building a young generation that has character, loves the country, and is able to face global challenges while remaining grounded in the noble values of the nation.

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