

IMPLICATIONS OF CIVIC EDUCATION FOR THE FORMATION OF STUDENTS' RELIGIOUS CHARACTER IN THE DIGITAL ERA

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Abstract: *This study explores the influence of civic education on the formation of students' religious character in the digital era through a Library Research approach. The findings of the literature show that civic education not only acts as a conveyor of knowledge of the rights and obligations of citizens, but also as an initiator of moral values, ethics and religious tolerance which are part of a religious attitude. Social interactions strengthened by civic education shape empathetic attitudes and increase understanding of social diversity. In the digital age, additional complexities arise regarding digital ethics, online responsibility and changes in the dynamics of online social relationships. Thus, this study provides insights into how digital literacy can be integrated into citizenship education to shape adaptive and ethical characters in the digital world.*

Keywords: *Civic Education; Digital Age; Religious Character Building*

INTRODUCTION

The character building of students is one of the things that gets serious attention by the Indonesian government, because the problem of moral and ethical degradation faced by the Indonesian nation is caused by the lack of character education for Indonesian people, especially students in schools. The advancement of the digital era that erodes the boundaries of association and information exchange between worlds also causes many positive and negative influences that are unable to be filtered properly by the community.

The formal education sector is then appointed to be one of the institutions that has a great responsibility to provide solutions to these problems. Through the establishment of a curriculum that is more in the realm of character building, as well as through strengthening

subjects that must be able to incorporate character values in the teaching process. Including Civic Education also has a target that must be able to have a positive influence on the character building of its students. Civic education and character building are very important in the education system, especially in the current digital era.¹ We need to understand its role more deeply to explore its relevance and significance. Civic education is not just about learning about legal norms and manners, but also shaping individuals into responsible and ethical citizens.²

The religious character of students can be a strong consideration in forming a quality person. Through religious character, it is hoped that the ethics and morals of students can become a shield in stemming negative behavior that arises in students. In the digital era, changes in the character of learners are the main focus due to their intensive interaction with technology. Shifting values and behaviors can affect the dynamics of the character building process.³ Therefore, identifying changes in the character of learners in this digital era is a very urgent thing to do.

The fundamental question that arises is how civic education can influence the formation of students' religious character in this modern digital era. This study aims to analyze the direct and indirect effects of civic education on the formation of religious character, as well as to understand the dynamics of changes in the character of students in a digital era full of technological developments.

This research not only has academic value, but also makes a practical contribution to a comprehensive understanding of the important role of civic education in shaping the religious character of today's learners. A better understanding of how civic values and principles can be integrated into character education will provide a more complete view of the process of forming a quality personality. The relevance of the findings of this research is also very important in formulating various strategic policies in the field of education in the digital era.

The need to adjust civic education methods and approaches to suit technological developments and the changing dynamics of learners' characters is key to ensuring effective

¹ Anif Istianah and Rini Puji Susanti, "Pendidikan Pancasila Sebagai Upaya Membentuk Karakter Pelajar Pancasila," *Jurnal Gatranusantara* 19, no. 2 (2021): 202–7.

² Nufikha Ulfah, Yayuk Hidayah, and Meiwatizal Trihastuti, "Urgensi Etika Demokrasi Di Era Global: Membangun Etika Dalam Mengemukakan Pendapat Bagi Masyarakat Akademis Melalui Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan," *Jurnal Kewarganegaraan* 5, no. 2 (2021): 329–46.

³ Dina Anika Marhayani, "Pembentukan Karakter Melalui Pembelajaran IPS," *Edunomic: Jurnal Ilmiah Pendidikan Ekonomi Fakultas Keguruan Dan Ilmu Pendidikan* 5, no. 2 (2018): 67–75.

and impactful education. Therefore, the findings of this study can provide valuable input for policy makers in designing educational strategies that are responsive to the various demands of the times.

Conceptually, it needs to be understood that character in education involves more than the mere inculcation of moral values. The various factors that influence character formation are complex and involve dynamic interactions between the education system, the environment in which students grow up, and their individual development.⁴ Civic education is one of the important pillars in the process of effective character building, as a medium to introduce students to universal and sustainable civic values.⁵ Thus, this research is expected to provide a deeper insight into how civic education can play an active role in shaping the character of students in the midst of the unstoppable flow of the digital era. Through a comprehensive analysis of character change and the real impact of civic education, this research is expected to contribute very significant and meaningful thoughts to our understanding of the actual dynamics of character building education in the midst of the rapid pace of technological and scientific developments in the world of education.

Theory Review

1. **Civic Education:** Civic education is a key subject in the character building of learners. The definition and objectives of civic education are fundamental to understanding its role in this process. In addition, a review of the methods and approaches commonly applied in civic education will provide an easy-to-understand perspective.⁶
2. **Religious Character Formation:** Religious character formation in education is a process that involves developing the values of faith, piety, morals, ethics, and attitudes that are expected to guide the behavior of students (Ramdan & Fauziah, 2019). This concept includes the development of personal aspects involving honesty, responsibility, empathy, and leadership. Theories of character building often emphasize the role of education in forming the basis of these values, recognizing that education is not only about cognitive improvement but also the development of emotional and social

⁴ Ahmad Iskhaq, Ika Oktaviyanti, and Nur Fajrie, "Nilai-Nilai Pendidikan Karakter Dalam Budaya Genteng Desa Mayongkidul Jepara," *Jurnal Prasasti Ilmu* 1, no. 2 (2021).

⁵ Mardan Umar, "Internalisasi Nilai Kedamaian Melalui Pendidikan Kedamaian Sebagai Penguatan Pembangunan Karakter Pada Masyarakat Heterogen," *Waskita: Jurnal Pendidikan Nilai Dan Pembangunan Karakter* 1, no. 1 (2017): 77–98.

⁶ M Pd Damri, Fauzi Eka Putra, and M I Kom, *Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan* (Prenada Media, 2020).

aspects.⁷

3. The Digital Age in Education: The digital age has fundamentally changed the paradigm of education, creating new dynamics that require special review in learner character formation. In this regard, the use of digital technology is not only a learning tool, but also forms the foundation for the exploration of values and behaviors relevant to this era. The impact of digital technology on education includes transformations in teaching methods, access to information and interactions between individuals. Alongside the opportunities, challenges also arise, such as changes in communication patterns and exposure to rapid information.⁸

Therefore, an in-depth understanding of how the digital era affects learners' character building is crucial. An analysis of these aspects will provide the necessary insights to investigate the role of civic education in shaping character amidst the changing dynamics of education marked by advances in digital technology.

METHOD

This research methodology is based on a Library Research approach, which provides the possibility of in-depth analysis of relevant literature. to the influence of civic education on learners' character building in the digital era. In this research design, the Library Research approach was chosen for its relevance in exploring theoretical frameworks and key concepts related to civic education and character building. The main objective is to identify and analyze significant findings that have been proposed by previous research.⁹ Data collection will be conducted systematically using academic databases and online libraries. The source selection criteria include recent articles, books and research closely related to the research topic. Critical analysis of relevant sources will be conducted to extract information that supports the research objectives.

The data analysis method applied is content analysis. Findings from the literature will be systematically organized and analyzed to extract patterns, similarities, and differences related to the influence of civic education on the character building of students in the digital

⁷ Riana Mashar, "Empati Sebagai Dasar Pembentukan Karakteranak Usia Dini," *Jurnal Pendidikan Anak* 2, no. 2 (2013).

⁸ Krisma Natalia and Niwayan Sukraini, "Pendekatan Konsep Merdeka Belajar Dalam Pendidikan Era Digital," in *Prosiding Seminar Nasional IAHN-TP Palangka Raya*, 2021, 22–34.

⁹ Constance A Mellon, "Library Anxiety: A Grounded Theory and Its Development," *College & Research Libraries* 47, no. 2 (1986): 160–65.

era.¹⁰ This analysis aims to build a strong conceptual foundation and detail the implications of the findings for religious character learning in the digital era. Through this methodology, this research aims to make a significant contribution to the understanding of the concepts and practices of civic education and character building in the digital age.

RESULT DISCUSSION

A systematic literature search resulted in an in-depth understanding of the influence of civic education on the character building of learners in the digital era. The literature indicates that civic education not only plays a role in the transfer of knowledge about the rights and obligations of citizens, but also has a significant impact on the development of moral and ethical values.¹¹

A number of studies reveal that a good implementation of civic education can shape the character of learners by values such as responsibility, tolerance, and justice.¹² These results are consistent with other studies that show a positive relationship between civic learning and the development of strong character.¹³

The literature analysis also highlighted specific aspects that contribute to the positive influence of civic education on learners' character. One key finding is that social interaction is strengthened through civic education.¹⁴ Studies show that discussion and collaboration in civic learning can shape empathetic attitudes and increase understanding of social diversity.

In addition, the involvement of learners in practical activities such as social projects and community service has proven effective in internalizing civic values.¹⁵ Civic education that incorporates these hands-on experiences tends to be more successful in shaping character oriented towards social care.¹⁶

However, the results of the literature search also reflect the complexity of the

¹⁰ Deri Firmansyah, "Teknik Pengambilan Sampel Umum Dalam Metodologi Penelitian: Literature Review," *Jurnal Ilmiah Pendidikan Holistik (JIPH)* 1, no. 2 (2022): 85–114.

¹¹ Jagad Aditya Dewantara and T Heru Nurgiansah, "Strengthening Pancasila Values During the Covid-19 Pandemic," *Edukatif: Jurnal Ilmu Pendidikan* 3, no. 4 (2021): 2411–17.

¹² Mas Fierna Janvierna Lusie Putri et al., "Peran Pendidikan Pancasila Dalam Membentuk Karakter Peserta Didik Di Sekolah," *Jurnal Kewarganegaraan* 7, no. 2 (2023): 1983–88.

¹³ Putri Dian Nusa, "Hubungan Pendidikan Karakter Dan Motivasi Belajar Dengan Hasil Belajar Pkn," *Joyful Learning Journal* 8, no. 3 (2019): 142–48.

¹⁴ Tolak Totok, "Aktualisasi Nilai-Nilai Kearifan Lokal Dalam Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan Sebagai Peneguh Karakter Kebangsaan," *Jurnal Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan* 8, no. 2 (2018): 171–86.

¹⁵ Eza Syahbana et al., "Implementasi Revolusi Mental Pada Mahasiswa Unimed Untuk Nilai Pancasila," *Aksiologi: Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Ilmu Sosial*, 2023, 92–100.

¹⁶ Agil Nanggala and Karim Suryadi, "Analisis Konsep Kampus Merdeka Dalam Perspektif Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan," *Jurnal Global Citizen: Jurnal Ilmiah Kajian Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan*, 2020, 10–23.

challenges in measuring the direct impact of civic education on learners' character. Some studies show that external factors, such as family environment and culture, also play an important role in shaping character.¹⁷ Therefore, there is a need for an objective approach and a careful understanding of the social individual in evaluating the effectiveness of civic education.

In the digital era, literature shows that changes in learners' character are not only influenced by formal education, but also by their exposure to technology. The digital era raises new challenges in shaping character, especially related to digital ethics, online responsibility, and critical ability in managing information obtained from digital platforms.¹⁸

Some literature highlights that digital skills, including information literacy and media literacy, can be integrated into citizenship education to help learners build adaptive and ethical characters in the digital world.¹⁹ However, there is a need to continuously update civic education strategies to appropriately address the dynamics of technological change.

In addition, the literature also shows that the digital era brings changes in the dynamics of social relationships, affecting the way learners interact and form online identities.²⁰ Therefore, understanding learners' character in the digital era requires a holistic approach, combining aspects of formal education and the deepening influence of digital technology.

The main findings from the literature on the influence of civic education on the character building of learners in the digital era create a deep rationale for the dynamics of education and character values in the midst of social and technological change. Civic education is proven to have a central role in shaping character, not only as knowledge about the rights and obligations of citizens, but also as a place to internalize moral and ethical values. This is in line with previous literature that emphasizes the critical role of education in building individual character.²¹

Beyond the above, there are complexities in measuring the direct impact of civic education on students' character. The findings are in line with previous research that highlights

¹⁷ M Hidayat Ginanjar, "Urgensi Lingkungan Pendidikan Sebagai Mediasi Pembentukan Karakter Peserta Didik," *Edukasi Islami: Jurnal Pendidikan Islam* 2, no. 04 (2017): 376–96.

¹⁸ Dinie Anggraeni Dewi et al., "Menumbuhkan Karakter Siswa Melalui Pemanfaatan Literasi Digital," *Jurnal Basicedu* 5, no. 6 (2021): 5249–57.

¹⁹ Nurjannah Nurjannah, "Tantangan Pengembangan Kurikulum Dalam Meningkatkan Literasi Digital Serta Pembentukan Karakter Peserta Didik Di Indonesia," *Jurnal Basicedu* 6, no. 4 (2022): 6844–54.

²⁰ Endrise Septina Rawanoko et al., "The Use of Social Media in Ethic Digital Perspective," *Jurnal Civics: Media Kajian Kewarganegaraan* 18, no. 1 (2021): 148–57.

²¹ Aiman Faiz et al., "Tinjauan Analisis Kritis Terhadap Faktor Penghambat Pendidikan Karakter Di Indonesia," *Jurnal Basicedu* 5, no. 4 (2021): 1766–77.

the role of external factors, such as family and culture, in shaping character.²² This suggests the need for a holistic approach and a deep understanding of the social individual in evaluating the effectiveness of citizenship education.

In terms of learners' character in the digital era, the literature findings provide an understanding of the challenges and opportunities that arise. The influence of digital technology on learners' character cannot be ignored. The digital era brings changes in the dynamics of social relationships and shapes learners' online identities. The findings underscore the need to adapt citizenship education strategies to respond to technological changes and integrate digital literacy into the curriculum.

A number of literatures highlight the importance of engaging learners in practical activities, such as social projects and community service, as part of citizenship education. Social interactions strengthened through citizenship education, especially in the digital age, shape empathetic attitudes and increase understanding of social diversity. This is in line with previous research findings that emphasize the role of social interaction in shaping character.²³

The success of civic education in shaping students' character is also related to teachers' ability to combine conventional learning with digital approaches. The literature illustrates the need to integrate digital skills, including information literacy and media literacy, into the civic education curriculum. This reinforces the concept that civic education cannot be separated from the dynamics of digital technology.²⁴

However, the results of the literature search also provide insights into the challenges in shaping learners' character in the digital era, especially in relation to digital ethics, online responsibility and critical ability to manage information. This creates room for further research on developing educational strategies that can effectively address these challenges.

Overall, these findings provide an important foundation to direct further thinking in developing civic education that is responsive to the changing times. The practical implications of these findings can shape educational policies, guide curriculum development, and guide teaching practices to ensure that civic education not only provides knowledge, but also shapes learners' characters in accordance with the demands and dynamics of modern times.

²² Hidar Amaruddin, Hamdan Tri Atmaja, and Muhammad Khafid, "Peran Keluarga Dan Media Sosial Dalam Pembentukan Karakter Santun Siswa Di Sekolah Dasar," *Jurnal Pendidikan Karakter* 11, no. 1 (2020).

²³ MMEI Bali and Abwabun Naim, "Tipologi Interaksi Sosial Dalam Meningkatkan Karakter Disiplin Siswa," *Jurnal Pendidikan Agama Islam* 4, no. 1 (2020): 47–62.

²⁴ Sapriya Sapriya and Yuyun Dwi Haryanti, "PERSPEKTIF KURIKULUM PENDIDIKAN KEWARGANEGARAAN SEKOLAH DASAR DI ERA DIGITAL," *Jurnal Elementaria Edukasia* 3, no. 2 (2020).

CONCLUSION

Findings from the literature provide an in-depth understanding of the influence of citizenship education on the formation of students' religious character in the digital era. Citizenship education is proven to have a central role in forming student's moral values, ethics and religious tolerance, and social interactions that are strengthened through citizenship education are crucial in developing empathetic attitudes. In the digital era, changes in students' character are also related to exposure to technology and the need to manage aspect of digital ethics. Therefore, the integration of digital literacy in the citizenship education is essential to adapt education to the dynamics of changing times.

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