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THE INFLUENCE OF EDUCATION ON THE FORMATION OF NATIONAL IDENTITY

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ABSTRACT

Education in Indonesia has long been known as the main factor influencing the formation of a nation's identity. The character of a country is not only limited to its history and cultural heritage, but is also manifested in the shared values, norms and understanding that shape Indonesia's identity. This journal aims to evaluate the importance of the role of education in the formation of national identity. This journal seeks to answer the question of how education can contribute to the formation of national identity and how this influences our view of ourselves as a nation. This journal aims to present a comprehensive and in-depth picture of the role of education in shaping national identity. The approach applied is literature study, namely collecting information from various written sources, including books and journals. The findings of this journal show that education has a very important impact on the formation of national identity. This emphasizes that education is not just a teaching process, but also the formation of knowledgeable and cultured individuals, who are able to make meaningful contributions to society and the nation. So it can be concluded that education plays an important role in shaping national identity and helps us understand the meaning of being part of the Indonesian nation.

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INTRODUCTION

In Indonesia, education has long been considered the main tool in forming national identity(Dewantara, 2023, p. 5). National identity is not just history and culture; rather it includes the values, norms and collective understanding that unite us as Indonesian citizens. Since the beginning of independence, the Indonesian state has attempted to build a strong national identity based on national values. In this effort, education plays an important role(Arifin, 2022, p. 76).

In the current global and multicultural era, understanding the role of the Indonesian education system in shaping national identity is very important(Aisy, 2022, p. 166). Through the education system, the values of mutual cooperation, pluralism, justice and equality continue to be instilled in the younger generation.

The new generation in Indonesia is taught to appreciate and enjoy diversity in all aspects of life, both culture, religion and ethnicity. This not only helps strengthen understanding of our uniqueness as a nation rich in diversity, but also fosters awareness of national unity and integrity. Through education, we gain a strong foundation to strengthen our bonds as one nation. Indonesian is highly respected as a unifying communication tool, enabling effective interaction between various ethnicities and regions throughout the Indonesian archipelago.

By understanding in depth the journey of the nation's struggle, the next generation will be equipped with high respect for the heritage of their ancestors and the spirit of nationalism which is the basis for the development of this country.(Aditia, 2021, p. 8997). Education is not just knowledge, but also the formation of character and leadership that will guide Indonesia towards a better future.

Through the learning process, students are encouraged to gain personal integrity, strong responsibility, and awareness of the environment and surrounding communities(Rohiyatun, 2020, p. 446). So, the function of the education system in Indonesia is not limited to science alone, but also as a forum for character formation which is very important in building a strong and globally competitive national identity. The journey of education in Indonesia reflects its important role in shaping national character.

Since the beginning of the independence struggle until the reform era, education has played an important role as the main means of exploring and instilling national values in the next generation.

For example, schools based on nationalism such as Taman Siswa and Muhammadiyah are driving forces in fostering a spirit of unity and nationalism. Founded during the national movement, these schools not only functioned as formal educational institutions, but also became centers for spreading the spirit of unity and nationality. Founding figures such as Ki Hajar Dewantara and Ahmad Dahlan understood that education does not just convey wisdom, but also shapes the character of the younger generation who love their homeland and nation.(Darumurti, 2023, p. 38).

During the Dutch colonial period, public schools had a central role in preserving Indonesian culture and language. Despite limited facilities and resources, teachers at that time were diligent in maintaining national identity through a curriculum that prioritized the spirit of patriotism. They realize that education is an effective means of increasing awareness of the importance of independence and maintaining the integrity of the nation(Mansyuri, 2023, p. 107).

In the journey of independence, the important role of history education in shaping the identity of a nation was very visible. Education at that time focused on strengthening national values that had been forgotten. The use of a curriculum that prioritizes the spirit of mutual cooperation, plurality and unity is clear evidence of how education can strengthen the identity of a country(Dewi, 2023, p. 15).

The reform period experienced significant changes in the Indonesian education system. Discourse on national history is evolving towards greater inclusivity and criticism. The learning approach no longer only highlights the greatness of heroes, but also highlights past weaknesses as a starting point for future learning. This phenomenon reflects continuous changes in education in line with developments over time, while maintaining national values which are the basis of Indonesian identity.

In an era of increasingly widespread globalization, Indonesia needs to be prepared to maintain its identity amidst the increasingly strong flow of information and cultural influences from outside. In facing these challenges, the role of the Indonesian education system is very important in maintaining cultural diversity and local values which are an inseparable part of national identity. By designing the curriculum carefully, education in Indonesia can emphasize the importance of appreciating and understanding the rich culture of this country.

Education is not just a means of transferring knowledge, but rather connecting the younger generation with the country's cultural roots. Through educational institutions, students not only gain knowledge about history, art and traditions that form Indonesian identity, but are also directed to appreciate and understand the cultural diversity that is our heritage.(Anggraini, 2017, p. 50). This approach not only builds a sense of pride in our cultural heritage, but also increases understanding of how this diversity can strengthen national unity and integrity.

The Indonesian education system needs to continue to develop by developing innovative curricula that respect local heritage while responding to the challenges of globalization. The next generation of the Indonesian nation can maintain cultural richness as an important part of national identity, while preparing themselves to contribute actively on the international stage. Therefore, a deep understanding of how the Indonesian education system maintains cultural diversity and local values, but remains responsive to universal values, is very important in the global era we are currently facing.

However, how much does education contribute to the formation of national identity? Has education in Indonesia been successful enough to strengthen national identity? How should education be planned and implemented in Indonesia to be more effective in strengthening national identity?

This article aims to provide comprehensive answers to various questions by applying an in-depth analytical approach. This journal will investigate the impact of education on the formation of national identity in Indonesia and provide suggestions for improving the effectiveness of education in this process.

METHOD

This article introduces a research approach that focuses on literature exploration, often referred to as library research. The research step through literature is the process of extracting data from various sources such as books, academic journals and related publications to support the topic discussed in an article. Apart from simply collecting information, this method also includes analysis and interpretation of data to gain a deeper understanding of the subject under investigation.

This literature review is an important basis for researchers, facilitating the formulation and in-depth understanding of the nature of the problem being studied. In

addition, this research utilizes digital articles and literature journals as sources of additional information needed.

This research also highlights the importance of data validity. Data contained in scientific publications must be clearly identifiable and its validity can be accounted for. Thus, this literature review not only helps researchers understand the research topic, but also ensures that the research is conducted with optimal integrity and accuracy(Kartono, 1995, p. 170).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Education is the deliberate and organized effort of an individual or society to create an effective learning environment. The main focus is so that students can activate their potential holistically, including spiritual aspects, self-control, character formation, increasing intelligence, developing morality, and developing skills that are useful for individuals and society.

In discussions about education, there are two important concepts that are often encountered, namely pedagogy and pedagogy. Even though they look similar, they have fundamental differences in meaning. Pedagogy refers to the general idea of "education", while pedagogy is more related to the "science of education", discussing various aspects and methods that are effective in the educational process.

According to education experts, the word "pedagogos" originally referred to service, but later developed into a noble profession. Because the essence of pedagogy (which comes from the word "pedagogos") is someone whose job is to guide children in the process of their growth and development towards independence and responsibility. Tasks in the realm of education involve various dimensions, covering everything related to human growth, starting from physical dimensions, health, skills, mental, emotional, motivation, social relationships, to spiritual aspects.(Munandar, 2022, p. 3).

In general, education is a human effort to stimulate and develop their physical and spiritual abilities, in accordance with the standards applicable in the social and cultural environment. Education and culture go hand in hand, mutually reinforcing each other. The two interact with each other and have an impact on the formation of personality and identity of individuals and society.

Since independence, Indonesia has understood that education is not just the transfer of knowledge. More than that, education also has a crucial role in forming

personality and strengthening national values. In Indonesia, education does not only focus on academic aspects, but also on developing national character and principles. However, unfortunately, there are still views in society that devalue or even ignore character education. Some consider it not that important or even neglected compared to other academic subjects.

In the midst of the complexity and diversity of the current situation, publications about education are very valuable. If aspects of character education do not receive sufficient attention, there is a risk that children will lose an important foundation for their future. Character education is not just mastery of subjects such as calculus or memorizing historical dates, but also the formation of morals, ethics and positive attitudes in carrying out daily life.

The education system needs to have the ability to create an atmosphere that supports the growth of character and values that are rooted in national identity(Risdiany, 2021, p. 701). This emphasizes that apart from focusing on academic aspects, education must also pay serious attention to aspects specific to the Indonesian country. Without using this method, it is very likely that Indonesia's young generation will feel they have lost their direction and identity amidst the fast waves of globalization.

Character education is an aspect that cannot be separated from the structure of Indonesian education. Not just providing knowledge of calculations or memorizing facts, but also strengthening character and guidance in instilling crucial values in their lives. This step includes building moral values, ethics and positive attitudes as a solid foundation in living daily life.

The important role of the Indonesian education system in this matter is very important. They need to create an environment that supports character growth and strengthens national values. This emphasizes the need to pay sufficient attention to these dimensions, not just focusing on academic knowledge alone.

Character education is more than just mastering mathematics or memorizing historical facts. The focus is more on the formation of morals, ethics and positive attitudes that are needed in living everyday life. These things support the formation of good and responsible individuals.

The role of the education system in Indonesia has important meaning in this context. The system needs to have the capacity to create an atmosphere that supports the development of character and patriotism values. This indicates the need to pay

sufficient attention to these dimensions, in addition to concentrating on aspects of academic knowledge.

Without implementing this approach, there is the potential for our young generation to get lost and lose their identity amidst the increasingly strong currents of globalization. Therefore, it is very important to fight for the integration of character education in our education system. However, we need to understand that character education is not only the responsibility of formal education institutions. On the contrary, this is a joint effort involving parents, the community and the surrounding environment to shape children's character with an irreplaceable role.

The important role of parents as primary educators lies in providing examples and role models that become the basis for children's growth and development. Meanwhile, the social and cultural environment also plays a large role in shaping their character. Children's interactions with the community and surrounding environment are very valuable learning moments. Strong collaboration between schools, families and communities is the main key to ensuring that character values are applied consistently in children's lives. Collaboration between various parties is needed to ensure that character education is not only limited to schools, but is also carried out at home and in the surrounding environment(Grace, 2019, p. 15).

Not only that, character formation also has a crucial role in strengthening solidarity and unity amidst the diversity of Indonesian society. By understanding and accepting values such as collaboration, justice and solidarity, Indonesian youth can become pioneers of transformation that brings positive benefits to the entire society(Dinarti, 2021, p. 7894).

They will be guided to appreciate and enjoy the diversity of culture, religion and ethnicity in Indonesia. Diversity is not an obstacle, but a valuable asset. In this way, an awareness of unity in diversity will be formed within them, thus making them part of a plural and united nation.

Discussion Character education not only plays a role in developing personality and leadership which is important for Indonesia's future progress, but also encourages students to become honest, responsible individuals who care about the surrounding environment.

The education system in Indonesia is not just a place to gain knowledge, but also an important place in the formation of personality which is the main foundation for building a strong national identity and able to compete at the global level.(Rachman,

2023, p. 1029). Therefore, character development is a crucial process that must be carried out together to ensure that Indonesia's young generation has strong personalities and is ready to lead the future.

The journey of education in Indonesia describes in detail how education is the main pillar in the formation of national identity. One prominent example is the involvement of educational institutions in the dynamics of national movements, such as Taman Siswa and Muhammadiyah. Its role is not only limited to being a forum for learning, but also as a channel for the spirit of unity and love of the country(Sugiarta, 2019, p. 128).

The founders of this educational institution have a deep understanding of the importance of a focused vision and mission. They realize that education is not just about introducing subject matter, but also understand that the task is more than that, namely forming character and patriotism in the next generation. They realize that education has an important role in forming national identity and spirit.

In the midst of the Dutch colonial period, the Indonesian education system played an important role in maintaining and strengthening national identity. Despite limited facilities and infrastructure, educators are serious about maintaining the integrity of national identity. They integrate the concept of nationalism into the curriculum as an effort to instill an awareness of independence and maintain national values(Safarani, 2023, p. 235). This illustrates awareness of the power of education in fostering a spirit of patriotism and maintaining the collective identity of a nation.

Character development also has an important role in increasing understanding of individual responsibilities in society. Education in Indonesia not only prioritizes academic achievement, but also prioritizes the value of social skills, adaptability, and the spirit of playing an active role in the nation's progress.

In this era of globalization, a full understanding of the importance of character education as an important part of the formal education system is very important. With a deeper understanding of the role of education in shaping national identity, we can ensure that Indonesia's young generation will grow into superior individuals, full of the spirit of nationalism, and ready to face global challenges. Our shared vision is to see a young generation of Indonesians who are strong and competent to face the future.

CONCLUSION

The important role of education in Indonesia cannot be underestimated in forming a sense of national identity. Through the education system, the next

generation is guided to understand historical heritage, cultural richness, depth of language, religious values, and the importance of symbols that represent national unity. Apart from that, education is also a vehicle for cultivating national values such as pride in the homeland and affection for the homeland. A journal shows that education has an important role in forming national identity.

However, debate has emerged regarding how effectively education can shape national identity in Indonesia. Even though education rooted in local cultural values is recognized as a strategic step to instill and maintain national and state identity so that it remains relevant for Indonesia's young generation, there is still room for continuous improvement and adaptation in the face of changing times.

The formation of an ideal national identity through the design and implementation of education in Indonesia requires comprehensive consideration of various aspects. One crucial aspect is integrating cultural elements into the educational curriculum and optimizing citizenship education that is rooted in culture. In addition, education must provide a deep understanding of the culture and traditions of every tribe and religion in Indonesia, and make tolerance and harmony an essential value.

Thus, the role of education in Indonesia in shaping national identity is very important, but it still requires continuous improvement and adaptation in order to remain effective in the ever-growing dynamics of change

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