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THE ROLE OF THE EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM IN SHAPING STUDENTS' SOCIAL AND CULTURAL IDENTITY

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ABSTRACT

The educational curriculum plays a central role in shaping students' social and cultural identities. By integrating cultural values in the curriculum, we create citizens who are well-rounded and appreciate diversity. These interactions play a key role in shaping the behavioral patterns, values, and norms that shape social identity. Additionally, a curriculum that reflects diversity allows students to better understand their own identities as well as the identities of others. In the process of forming national identity, citizenship education also plays a very important role. Through this education, the younger generation can develop a sense of nationality, appreciate cultural diversity, participate actively in political and social life, and strengthen unity and solidarity in society.

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INTRODUCTION

The educational curriculum has a central role in shaping students' social and cultural identities. In an educational environment, the curriculum is not just a series of subjects, but also a reflection of values, norms and views of life that influence how students define themselves and interact with others.

It forms the foundation for students' personal and social development, shapes their identity, and influences how they interact with their surrounding environment. In this context, the curriculum is not just a series of subjects, but also a reflection of the values, norms and outlook on life that influence how students define themselves and interact with others.(Suparman, 2020, p. 2)

The following are several important aspects that show the role of the curriculum in shaping students' social and cultural identity:

A. Acknowledging Diversity

1. A curriculum that reflects cultural, ethnic, and social diversity allows students to better understand their own identities as well as the identities of others. By introducing diverse perspectives and experiences, an inclusive curriculum helps students appreciate differences and enriches their understanding of culture.
2. Through subjects that introduce history, art, language and local traditions, the curriculum opens the door for students to explore and respect the rich culture that surrounds them.

Education has a central role in shaping social and cultural identity in Indonesia. In this context, educational curricula play a key role in integrating social and cultural values and enriching students' understanding of diversity. Education has a very important role in shaping individual abilities and building the character and civilization of a nation. In this context, education does not only focus on academic aspects, but also involves broader values.(Lismina, 2017, p. 5)

B. Lecturer Behavior Model

Lecturers as authoritative figures play an important role in shaping students' social identities. The attitudes, values and behavior of lecturers become examples for students. Therefore, the curriculum must pay attention to how lecturers show appreciation for diversity and build inclusive relationships with students. In the educational context, lecturers are not only teachers, but also have a broader role in shaping students' social and cultural identities.

C. Active Learning Experience

A curriculum that facilitates active learning experiences helps students internalize social values and norms. Through discussions, group projects, and interactions with classmates, students can strengthen their social identity and develop effective communication skills.

A curriculum designed to facilitate active learning experiences has a significant impact on student development. Through various interactive methods, such as discussions, group projects, and interactions with classmates, students can internalize social values and norms, and strengthen their social identity. A curriculum that introduces values such as integrity, empathy, and responsibility helps students internalize these principles. Through active learning experiences, students can relate these values to real-world situations and practice them in everyday life. Students learn about the social norms that apply in society.

D. Introduction to Cultural Heritage

Subjects that introduce local cultural heritage help students recognize their cultural roots. By understanding history, traditions and noble values, students can feel connected to their cultural identity and strengthen their sense of nationhood. Recognition of cultural heritage is an important first step in understanding the cultural roots of a society. Through subjects that introduce local cultural heritage, students can delve deeper into the history, traditions and noble values that shape their cultural identity. Cultural heritage includes all aspects that represent the value system, beliefs, traditions, lifestyle and traces of a culture. This is continuously passed down from the past to the present. By understanding cultural heritage, students can recognize their cultural roots and feel connected to a broader cultural identity.(Putra, 2024, p. 103)

In conclusion, the educational curriculum is not only about transferring knowledge, but also about forming individuals who have strong social and cultural awareness. Through an inclusive approach and diverse learning experiences, the curriculum plays a role in shaping students' social and cultural identities, preparing them to contribute positively in a diverse and global society.

METHOD

This journal explains research methods that focus on library research, which is also known as library research. Library research is a research stage that involves collecting data from various literary sources such as books, scientific journals, and other publications that are relevant to the subject of the journal. Apart from data collection, this research also involves analysis and interpretation of data to gain a deeper understanding of the subject under study.

This library research is an important basis for researchers because it helps in formulating and understanding the reality of the problem being researched.

Apart from that, this research also uses virtual articles and literature journals as additional sources of information. This research also emphasizes the importance of data validity, where the existence of the data used must be clear and its validity can be ensured to ensure accurate and trustworthy journal results. Thus, library research not only helps in understanding the research subject, but also ensures high integrity and accuracy in conducting research. (James P. Spradley, 1997: 43).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Interaction in an Educational Environment

Education has a very important role in shaping individual abilities and building the character and civilization of a nation. In this context, education does not only focus on academic aspects, but also involves broader values. Universities are higher education institutions that have a central role in developing individual knowledge, skills and character. In contrast to education at the preschool to high school level, universities offer more in-depth and specialized study programs.(Husamah, 2018, p. 120)

Universities provide higher education that prepares students to understand more complex and in-depth concepts. Bachelor's (S1), Master's (S2) and Doctoral (S3) programs are part of the educational spectrum offered by universities. Students at the university have the opportunity to choose a field of study that suits their interests and talents. This allows them to dig deeper in a particular discipline.(FIP-UPI, 2007, p. 197)

Interaction in the educational environment is a very important aspect in determining the quality of education. Interactions between lecturers and students, between students and each other, and between students and the overall learning environment have a significant impact on the learning process and academic achievement. Research in this field has highlighted various aspects of interaction in educational environments, ranging from its influence on learning motivation, academic achievement, to the formation of students' social and emotional identities.

Social interaction plays an important role in the educational context, because it relates to relationships between individuals in the educational environment. When individuals interact with each other in educational settings, they not only acquire academic knowledge, but also engage in complex social processes. Let's explore more about the importance of understanding social interaction in education and how it influences individual learning experiences.(Pratiwi, 2024, p. 16)

Verbal and nonverbal communication

This interaction includes verbal and nonverbal communication between lecturers and students. Lecturers not only deliver lesson material, but also interact with students directly. Through this communication, lecturers can influence students' motivation, interests and perceptions of learning.

Feedback and guidance

Lecturers provide feedback and guidance to students. These interactions create a positive learning environment and influence students' learning experiences.

University educational institutions, as complex entities involving various elements, have a central role in shaping social interactions among members of the educational community. The social structure, norms and values that exist in university educational institutions play a key role in shaping the dynamics of relationships between individuals within them. The following are factors that influence social interaction in the educational environment:

a. Social structure: university educational institutions have an organized hierarchy and structure. For example, there are different roles between teachers, students, administrative staff and school principals. The interactions between these individuals are influenced by their position and role within the structure. Teachers have the role of teaching and guiding, while students have the role of receiving knowledge. These structures influence how people communicate and interact with each other.
b. Norms: every university educational institution has norms that regulate behavior and interactions. These norms include formal rules (such as school rules) and social norms that develop informally. For example, norms of politeness, speech etiquette, and respect for others influence how individuals interact in educational settings.
c. Values : university educational institutions also reflect certain values. These values can be academic values (such as honesty, hard work, and enthusiasm for learning) or social values (such as tolerance, inclusiveness, and cooperation). These values influence how individuals interact and shape their social identities.
d. School culture: every university educational institution has a unique culture. University culture includes traditions, customs, and norms adhered to by the educational community. For example, there are schools that encourage collaboration and active participation, while there are those that are more formal

and authoritarian. This school culture influences how individuals interact, feel accepted, and develop their social identity. Longer.

A curriculum that reflects diversity is a highly relevant approach in educational contexts, especially in countries with rich social, cultural and ethnic diversity. Let's further explore this concept and how an inclusive curriculum can enrich the student learning experience.

1. The Importance of Education in Forming National Identity

   Education as character formation and national values education plays an important role in shaping individual character. Through education, national values such as mutual cooperation, diversity and a spirit of unity can be instilled in the younger generation. Apart from that, schools and colleges also teach ethics, morals and social responsibility to students. This helps strengthen national identity by teaching the norms that apply in society.(Yayan Alpian, 2019, p. 71)

   The educational curriculum includes history and culture lessons. Through this subject, students understand the history of their nation, important figures, and events that shape national identity. Education also introduces students to local arts, literature, and traditions. This helps enrich their understanding of Indonesian culture. History lessons provide insight into past events, including the Indonesian nation's struggle to achieve independence. Students learn about heroic figures, revolutions, and social changes that shaped the course of history. Cultural lessons teach about the richness of Indonesian culture. It includes traditional arts, dance, music, language, and customs. Students understand the diversity of cultures in various regions and how these cultures are part of national identity.(Makkawaru, 2019, p. 117)

2. A Curriculum That Reflects Diversity

   Diversity as a reality: Indonesia is a country with an extraordinary diversity of cultures, languages, religions and customs. Therefore, educational curricula must reflect this reality. A curriculum that ignores diversity will fail to meet student needs holistically.

   Indonesia is a country that prides itself on its cultural diversity. Each region has different traditions, languages and customs. This diversity is one of the riches that forms our national identity. In an educational context, it is important for the curriculum to reflect this diversity so that students can understand and appreciate differences and strengthen their sense of unity as part of the Indonesian nation.

An inclusive and diverse curriculum will help students understand the history, values and norms inherent in each culture. By studying various aspects of culture, students can develop a deeper understanding of Indonesia's diversity and appreciate the role of each region in shaping national identity. Indonesian as a unified language must be taught well, but we must also respect and introduce students to regional languages. Language is not only a means of communication, but also carries identity and history.(Fauzan, 2017, p. 105)

Language is the way we communicate, but it also reflects our cultural values, norms and traditions. Each regional language has its own unique richness, and learning these languages opens a window into Indonesia's cultural diversity. By understanding the regional language, students can understand the traditions, folklore and customs of the local community more deeply. This helps them appreciate diversity and enriches their understanding of Indonesian culture.(Noermanzah, 2019, p. 311)

Language carries identity, when we speak a particular language, we reveal our origins, cultural background, and the history of our ancestors. Regional languages often contain ancient stories, legends, and values passed down from generation to generation. Therefore, learning regional languages also means understanding our history and cultural heritage.

Social identity is an integral part of a person's self-concept. This concept comes from an individual's knowledge about his or her membership in a particular social group. The values and emotional significance associated with membership also influence how a person understands and interprets himself. Social identity includes a person's understanding of his or her membership in various groups, such as family, friends, community, religion, or culture. Social identity forms part of a person's overall self-concept. It involves how a person sees himself based on his roles and relationships with others.

A. The Influence of the Education Curriculum on Social and Cultural Values in Society

Education has an important role in shaping national identity and values. In the Indonesian context which is rich in cultural and linguistic diversity, integrating social and cultural values into the curriculum becomes very relevant. The following are several things that need to be considered in integrating socio-cultural values in education:

a. Tolerance and Diversity

One of the main goals of education is to create responsible citizens. In a diverse society, this means teaching values such as tolerance, diversity and inclusion. Tolerance is the ability to appreciate differences and respect the rights of others without ignoring our own values. In the curriculum, teaching about tolerance can help students understand that differences are inevitable in society and that we must learn to live side by side with mutual respect. In the context of education, tolerance refers to an open attitude and respect for differences, be they differences in culture, religion, ethnicity or way of life.(Alinawati, 2019, p. 6) curriculum that includes the values of tolerance teaches students to appreciate differences as wealth. Each individual has different experiences and views, and this can enrich our discussions and understanding of the world. Teaching about tolerance also helps overcome stereotypes and prejudice. Students are taught to see each individual as a unique human being, not just based on a certain group or category.(Febriyanti, 2013, p. 296)

Activities such as visits to places of worship, cultural exchanges, and collaborative projects can help students understand the values of tolerance more deeply.

b. Social Change and Its Influence on the Curriculum

Every society experiences continuous change in various aspects, including social, economic and political. The curriculum must be responsive to these changes. If not, then the educational curriculum will become something foreign and no longer suitable for a society that has experienced change. Curriculum changes are made from time to time to improve, develop and make the education system more advanced and developed.

c. The Importance of Understanding Social Values

Social values help us interact with others effectively. When we understand the norms and ethics that apply in society, we can speak, act and behave with courtesy and respect for others. This creates a positive and supportive environment.

Social values help us build strong relationships with friends, family, and coworkers. When we understand the importance of trust, cooperation, and empathy, we can strengthen bonds with others. Good relationships enrich our lives and provide support in facing challenges.

Social values help us in making wise decisions. When we understand the consequences of our actions on others, we will be more careful in making decisions.

For example, understanding values such as honesty and integrity helps us avoid behavior that harms ourselves and others.(Maryati, 20017, p. 32)

Social values also include respect for diversity of cultures, religions and backgrounds. When we understand these values, we will be more open to differences and better appreciate the uniqueness of each individual. This helps create an inclusive and tolerant society.

Social values form part of our identity. When we understand the values we hold, we can understand who we really are. Our social identity includes aspects such as religion, culture, and the values we hold. Understanding these values helps us recognize ourselves and respect the identities of others.

The importance of integrating social and cultural values into the curriculum cannot be ignored. By understanding cultural diversity and paying attention to people's aspirations, education can play a role in forming an inclusive and tolerant national identity. A multicultural approach in the curriculum is a very important step. This helps students understand cultural diversity, appreciate differences, and strengthen unity in an increasingly global society. By understanding and appreciating cultural diversity, students can grow into inclusive and tolerant citizens.

One of the main goals of education is to create responsible citizens. In a diverse society, this means teaching values such as tolerance, diversity and inclusion. By integrating social and cultural values in the curriculum, we provide opportunities for students to learn about diversity, respect differences, and strengthen unity in an increasingly complex and global society.

Culture and education mutually support each other. Education can help encourage cultural development by embedding cultural values in the learning process. By integrating cultural values in the curriculum, we provide opportunities for students to understand culture in more depth, from structural to philosophical aspects. This helps create citizens who are well-rounded and appreciate diversity.

By paying attention to social and cultural values in the educational curriculum, we can create a generation that is more tolerant, understands differences, and is ready to contribute to a diverse society. Language and education are windows into our culture and identity. (ntinda et al, 2019, p. 98).

Discussion

Efforts by Educational Institutions to Increase Students' Understanding of Social and Cultural Identity Through the Curriculum

One of the main goals of education is to create responsible citizens. In a diverse society, this means teaching values such as tolerance, diversity and inclusion. By integrating social and cultural values in the curriculum, we provide opportunities for students to learn about diversity, respect differences, and strengthen unity in an increasingly complex and global society.

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By paying attention to social and cultural values in the education curriculum, we can create a generation that is more tolerant, understands differences, and is ready to contribute to a diverse society. Language and education are windows into our culture and identity. Representation of cultural identity in students can be strengthened through socio-cultural education. The use of social media and cultivating a character that respects cultural diversity can help students understand and appreciate cultural differences and develop intercultural skills. Sociocultural education plays an important role in forming an understanding of cultural values, history and traditions. By introducing students to various aspects of culture, we help them understand the complexity of the world and appreciate its diversity. Social media can also be an effective tool for broadening students' knowledge of culture and facilitating intercultural dialogue. By promoting a character that values diversity, we create an inclusive environment and prepare students to interact with an increasingly globally connected world.

The integration of socio-cultural values in curriculum design is an important step for educational institutions. By integrating social and cultural values into relevant subjects, we provide opportunities for students to understand and internalize these values.(Aji, 2023, p. 57)why is this important? First, it helps enrich students' learning experiences by introducing them to a variety of cultural perspectives and traditions. Second, it ensures that education does not just focus on intellectual aspects, but also

on character development and understanding of the world around us. Third, the integration of social and cultural values helps strengthen students' identity as citizens who value diversity and understand their role in a diverse society. Thus, education is not only about knowledge, but also about forming individuals who are caring, empathetic and responsible.

CONCLUSION

The educational curriculum plays a central role in shaping students' social and cultural identities. By integrating cultural values in the curriculum, we create citizens who are well-rounded and appreciate diversity. In this sentence, we highlight the importance of the curriculum as a reflection of values and a foundation for students' personal and social development. The integration of cultural values helps create responsible citizens who respect differences.

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