

Citizenship Education in Forming Responsible Digital Citizens

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Abstract: *In the digital era, citizens' lives have changed, interactions now not only occur directly, but also through social media and other online platforms. Unfortunately, this development also brings challenges, such as hoaxes, cyberbullying, and privacy violations. This article discusses how Citizenship Education (PKn) can be a solution to form wise and responsible digital citizens. With a literature study approach, this article reviews various relevant literature. The results of the study show that PKn plays an important role in instilling digital literacy, critical thinking, and media ethics. Through PKn, students not only learn about the state and law, but also how to behave politely, safely, and be aware of responsibility in the digital world. Therefore, PKn remains relevant amidst the challenges of the times and can form active and positive citizens, both in the real and virtual worlds.*

Keywords : *Civic Education, digital citizens, digital literacy*

Abstrak: Di era digital, kehidupan warga negara berubah, interaksi kini tak hanya terjadi secara langsung, tapi juga lewat media sosial dan platform online lainnya. Sayangnya, perkembangan ini juga membawa tantangan, seperti hoaks, cyberbullying, dan pelanggaran privasi. Artikel ini membahas bagaimana Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan (PKn) bisa menjadi solusi untuk membentuk warga digital yang bijak dan bertanggung jawab. Dengan pendekatan studi pustaka, artikel ini meninjau berbagai literatur yang relevan. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahwa PKn berperan penting dalam menanamkan literasi digital, pemikiran kritis, serta etika bermedia. Melalui PKn, peserta didik tidak hanya belajar tentang negara dan hukum, tapi juga bagaimana bersikap sopan, aman, dan sadar tanggung jawab di dunia digital. Maka dari itu, PKn tetap relevan di tengah tantangan zaman dan bisa membentuk warga negara yang aktif dan positif, baik di dunia nyata maupun maya.

Kata kunci: Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan, warga negara digital, literasi digital

Introduction

The digital era has developed in various aspects of human life, including the social, economic, and political lives of citizens. Community interactions are now carried out not only directly, but also through digital platforms such as social media, online forums, and internet-based applications. However, this technological advancement also brings challenges, such as the spread of hoaxes, cyberbullying, and privacy violations that threaten the democratic order of society. Therefore, it is important for every citizen to not only be able to use technology, but also to use it in a good, honest, and responsible way (Khairunisa, 2024).

Digital awareness, or the ability to understand the rights and obligations of citizens in the digital space, is important in this era. Civic Education (PKn) has an important role in fostering this awareness. Through PKn, students are not only taught about the constitution and social norms, but also how to be critical of information, understand digital ethics, and maintain democratic values in cyberspace (Priyanka, 2023).

This article aims to examine how Civic Education can contribute to forming responsible digital citizens. The discussion will focus on the PKn learning approach that integrates digital literacy and citizenship values as a foundation in building wise digital behavior. Thus, PKn is not only relevant in the context of real life, but also in forming the character of active and ethical citizens in cyberspace (Wulandari, 2023).

Research Methods

The research method used is a literature review, which is an analytical activity that can be in the form of criticism of a study that is being conducted on a specific topic that is part of a scientific field, (Gilang, 2021). Data was collected through articles and books and analyzed using the compare, criticize, and synthesize techniques.

Results and Discussion

Digital Literacy as an Important Part of Citizenship Education (PKn)

Citizenship Education (PKn) is no longer limited to teaching the values of nationalism and national identity alone. In the digital era, PKn has a strategic role in equipping students with digital literacy skills, such as the ability to sort out true and false information, and think critically about content spread on the internet. The integration of digital literacy in PKn is important to form intelligent, critical, and responsible citizens in dealing with the massive and diverse flow of information in cyberspace. (Pradana, 2018)

Critical thinking skills are one of the main competencies that must be developed through PKn in the digital era. By thinking critically, students can analyze, evaluate, and assess the information received, so that they are not easily influenced by fake news or hoaxes. PKn can teach strategies for evaluating sources

of information, understanding context, and recognizing bias that may exist in digital content. (Lintong & Ginting, 2024)

Digital literacy also includes an understanding of the ethics of communicating in cyberspace. PKn can guide students to interact politely, respect differences, and avoid negative behavior such as cyberbullying or the spread of hate speech. Thus, PKn contributes to creating a healthy and inclusive digital environment. (Hidayat, Widyaningrum, & Sarjito, 2021). The integration of digital literacy in PKn can also increase students' awareness of their rights and obligations as digital citizens. They are taught to understand the importance of privacy, data security, and responsibility in using information technology. Civics can be a forum for discussing contemporary issues related to digital life, such as the spread of false information, cybersecurity, and the right to access information. (Cynthia & Sihotang, 2023).

The importance of digital literacy in PKn can also be seen from its influence on the development of students' national insight. With good digital literacy, they can understand and appreciate cultural diversity, and actively participate in democratic life through digital platforms. PKn can facilitate learning that encourages students to engage in online discussions, social campaigns, or community projects that strengthen their national identity. (Nurfauziyanti, Damanhuri, & Bahrudin, 2022).

Challenges in Educating Digital Citizens

The development of digital technology has created a major transformation in social life, including in the way individuals participate as citizens. However, this progress also brings various complex challenges in forming responsible digital citizens. Civic Education, which has so far focused on character building and national awareness, is now required to adapt to digital realities. Challenges such as hoaxes, cyberbullying, misuse of personal data, and weak social media ethics are urgent issues that must be addressed systematically through a relevant and contextual educational approach (Rahmayanti, 2023).

The existence of hoaxes (false information). In the digital era, the spread of hoaxes is a major challenge in educating responsible citizens. Easy access to information without adequate digital literacy skills makes society vulnerable to fake news. Civic Education (PKn) needs to integrate materials that equip students with critical skills in assessing information, so that they can distinguish between facts and opinions and recognize reliable sources. This is important to prevent the spread of disinformation that can damage social order and democracy (Rahmayanti, 2023). Cyberbullying or online bullying is a form of violence that occurs in cyberspace, often through social media. This action can have serious impacts on the mental health of victims, including anxiety, depression, and even the risk of suicide. Civic Education (PKn) must instill the values of empathy, tolerance, and ethics in communicating in the digital world. Thus, students can understand the

consequences of their actions in the digital space and act with social responsibility (Marlef, Masyhuri, & Muda, 2024).

Misuse of personal data is a crucial issue in the digital era, where individual information can be easily accessed and misused. Lack of awareness of the importance of privacy and data security makes many internet users vulnerable to identity theft and fraud. Civics education needs to educate students about their privacy rights and how to protect personal data online, including the use of strong passwords and being careful about sharing personal information (Kayes & Iamnitshi, 2015).

Ethics in social media include attitudes and behaviors that reflect moral values and responsibilities in interacting in the digital world. Civics education should emphasize the importance of internet ethics, such as respecting the opinions of others, not spreading negative content, and thinking before sharing information. By understanding and implementing social media ethics, students can become wise and responsible internet users (Saputra, 2023).

Solution Through Civic Education (PKn)

Civic Education (PKn) plays an important role in forming responsible digital citizens in Indonesia. One of the main solutions is to systematically include digital literacy education into PKn material so that students understand ethics, rights, and obligations in cyberspace. Nugroho and Wicaksono (2020) stated that the integration of digital literacy in PKn learning can equip students to become smart and responsible internet users. This education is very important to anticipate various challenges in the digital world, such as the spread of hoaxes and cyberbullying.

In addition, the use of digital media in the PKn learning process needs to be optimized so that students can learn interactively and contextually. Putra and Wijaya (2019) found that the use of information technology in PKn learning in high schools improves students' understanding of digital social responsibility. With this approach, students find it easier to understand the consequences of their actions in the digital world and can apply citizenship values in real terms.

Character development in digital citizenship education must also prioritize values such as tolerance, empathy, and mutual respect. Sari and Hermawan (2021) emphasize the importance of citizenship education based on local cultural values to form responsible and harmonious digital citizen attitudes. This approach that combines local values and technology helps reduce negative behavior on social media such as hate speech and the spread of false information.

Training for civics teachers is the key to the successful implementation of digital citizenship education. Dewi and Prasetyo (2022) show that teachers who receive digital literacy training are better prepared to teach digital citizenship values effectively. Teachers who are competent in the use of technology and mastery of digital citizenship materials can be important agents of change in guiding students

to face the digital world wisely. Finally, synergy between schools, families, and communities is needed to strengthen the formation of responsible digital citizens. Hidayat and Kartika (2020) highlight the role of parents and communities in supporting children's digital education so that they have awareness and responsibility in interacting in cyberspace. This collaboration creates a holistic learning ecosystem and supports the growth of a positive digital culture in the surrounding environment. According to Ahn (2017), he emphasized that digital literacy education that emphasizes ethics and cybersecurity can improve students' responsible attitudes in using technology. Therefore, a combination of local and international approaches in digital citizenship education is highly recommended to face global and contextual challenges.

Conclusion

Civic Education (PKn) in the digital era not only teaches love for the homeland and national identity, but is also important for forming citizens who are wise in using technology. Currently, there are many challenges in the digital world such as hoaxes, online bullying, theft of personal data, and lack of ethics when communicating in cyberspace. To overcome this, PKn needs to teach students about digital literacy, such as how to distinguish between true and false information, and how to behave politely and responsibly in cyberspace. The use of digital media in PKn learning also helps students understand the material in a more interesting and relevant way. In addition, it is important to instill values such as tolerance and empathy so that students are not easily carried away by emotions when interacting on social media. Teachers also play a big role in this, they need to be equipped with training so that they can teach PKn material that is in accordance with current developments. Outside of school, support from family and society is also needed so that students are accustomed to being positive in the digital world. If all parties work together, PKn can be the key to forming smart and responsible digital citizens.

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