

The Role of Students as Agents of Change in Strengthening the Welfare of Orphanage Children Through the Perspective of Pancasila and SDGs

Devia Dian Indriyanti¹, Serlin Aprilia², Muhammad Habib Azzacky³, Bambang Darmawan Saputra⁴, Moh. Chandra Wardana⁵

deviaindriyanti@gmail.com¹, serlinaprilias32@gmail.com²,
 muhammadhabibazzacky@gmail.com³, bambangdarmawan2022@gmail.com⁴,
 mohchandrawardana@gmail.com⁵

Telkom University Purwokerto^{1,2,3,4,5}

Abstract: *This study aims to analyze and describe the role of university students as Agents of Change in strengthening the welfare of children in orphanages. It explores how student contributions can align with Pancasila values and support the SDGs. The study seeks to identify and map students' real contributions to the educational, social, and psychological aspects of orphanage children, as well as to measure the extent to which these roles align with the expectations of orphanage administrators. A qualitative descriptive approach was employed through literature review and interviews with orphanage administrators. The interview data provided factual findings about the needs and expectations of the orphanages regarding the role of students. The results indicate that students are expected to take an active role, particularly in assisting children with learning and creating positive activities. Overall, student involvement contributes significantly to strengthening human capital and sustaining children's welfare, in line with the ideals of Pancasila and the goals of the SDGs.*

Keywords : *Student Involvement, Orphanage Child Welfare, Pancasila, SDGs*

Abstrak: Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis dan mendeskripsikan peran mahasiswa sebagai agen perubahan dalam menguatkan kesejahteraan anak panti asuhan. Penelitian ini merumuskan bagaimana kontribusi mahasiswa dapat selaras dengan nilai-nilai Pancasila dan mendukung SDGs. Untuk mengidentifikasi dan memetakan kontribusi nyata mahasiswa dalam aspek pendidikan, sosial, dan psikologis anak panti, serta mengukur tingkat kesesuaian peran tersebut dengan harapan pengurus panti. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif melalui studi literatur dan wawancara dengan pengurus panti asuhan. Data wawancara digunakan untuk mendapatkan temuan faktual tentang kebutuhan panti dan harapan terhadap peran mahasiswa. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa mahasiswa diharapkan untuk mengambil peran aktif, khususnya dalam mendampingi anak-anak belajar, serta menciptakan kegiatan positif. Secara keseluruhan, keterlibatan mahasiswa berkontribusi signifikan terhadap penguatan human capital dan keberlanjutan kesejahteraan anak panti, yang sejalan dengan cita-cita Pancasila dan tujuan SDGs.

Kata kunci: *Kontribusi Mahasiswa, Kesejahteraan Anak, Panti Asuhan, Pancasila, SDGs*

Introduction

Students play an important role in driving social transformation, particularly by improving the health of children in orphanages, as a strategic pillar of development. According to a study (Hidayat, 2025), published in the *Global Citizen Journal*, the responsibility of students as agents of change has an important role in spreading and applying the values of Pancasila in community life. Students are the main drivers who promote tolerance, social justice, and mutual cooperation amid the challenges of globalization marked by increasing individualism and hedonism. Through their activities in the academic field and community service, they are required to translate noble principles into real life to create a harmonious and just society. In this situation, the contribution of students is very important in raising social awareness, making sustainable changes, and strengthening collective awareness of the values of Pancasila.

The direct involvement of students in social activities is also a concrete manifestation of the implementation of Pancasila values. Direct student involvement in social activities is also a concrete manifestation of the implementation of Pancasila values, where these values can be internalized through educational and social activities carried out by students (Sukmawati & Kurniawaty, 2022). These values encourage students to have social responsibility and make justice and compassion as the basis for action in helping marginalized groups, including children in orphanages.

From a global development perspective, student involvement in supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is highly relevant. Nelania (2021) in her research at Prof. Dr. Hamka Muhammadiyah University showed that the level of student knowledge about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) correlates positively with pro-environmental behavior and social participation. This finding proves that students who understand the principles of SDGs are more likely to be involved in social actions to support sustainable development, particularly in the aspects of quality education, equality, and poverty alleviation.

In addition, strengthening children's character through an education approach based on Pancasila values has also received attention in research by (Qusyaeri, 2022) at the Indonesia University of Education. He emphasizes that the implementation of Pancasila values in education not only shapes strong morals but also increases children's social empathy towards others. In this context, student activities in orphanages have the potential to become a vehicle for character education that supports sustainable human development, in line with the spirit of the SDGs.

Thus, the role of students as agents of change reflects the synergy between the implementation of Pancasila values and the achievement of SDGs. Through mentoring, education, and social innovation activities in orphanages, students not only improve the welfare of children, but also strengthen the foundations of sustainable social development in Indonesia.

Research Method

This study uses a qualitative research method with a descriptive approach that aims to describe in depth the role of students as agents of change in strengthening the welfare of orphanage children through the application of Pancasila values and their relationship with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Jumini et al., 2025).

Data collection techniques in this study were carried out using two main methods, namely interviews and literature studies. Interviews were conducted directly with the heads of orphanages to gather information about orphanage management, the forms and mechanisms of student involvement, and concrete contributions to the welfare of children, as well as the practice of applying the values of Pancasila and SDGs in the orphanage environment (Imami, 2023).

Meanwhile, the literature study examined various written sources such as books, scientific journals, articles, and relevant official documents to strengthen the theoretical basis related to the concept of social welfare, the role of students as agents of change, and Pancasila-based character education and its relevance to sustainable development goals (Farwati et al., 2023).

The data obtained from interviews and literature studies were analyzed using qualitative analysis through three main stages, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The data reduction stage was carried out to filter and summarize important findings; data presentation aimed to compile findings systematically so that patterns and relationships between themes were clearly visible; while drawing conclusions focused on interpreting the contribution of students in strengthening the welfare of orphanage children and the extent to which Pancasila character values were implemented in these social practices.

The results of this analysis are expected to provide a comprehensive understanding of the role of students and practical recommendations for strengthening the welfare of children in orphanages. In addition, the results of the analysis also serve as a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of student activities in implementing Pancasila values and their contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the social sector. Thus, the research method used not only describes the phenomenon descriptively, but also produces findings that can be used as a reference for further research and community service programs.

Results and Discussion

Students as Agents of Change The concept of “Agent of Change” refers to individuals or groups who proactively participate in promoting positive transformation in society, involving various dimensions such as social, economic, political, and cultural (Jannah & Sulianti, 2021). This term is often associated with efforts to overcome structural challenges, such as social injustice or environmental

degradation, through structured and sustainable initiatives. In a global context, agents of change are considered the main drivers change, where they not only respond to current issues but also devise long-term strategies to create a lasting impact.

Students are in a strategic position as an educated generation with analytical skills and innovative spirit, thus having great potential to become drivers of social change (Syaiful, 2023). They can utilize their analytical and creative abilities to identify and overcome social problems around them, including issues of child welfare in orphanages. Through activities such as community service, educational mentoring, or social campaigns, students can channel the knowledge they have acquired in the classroom into real-world practice. This advantage lies not only in the theoretical understanding gained from formal education, but also in the youthful energy that allows them to adapt to social and technological changes (Jannah & Sulianti, 2021).

In addition, the role of students as agents of change also includes social responsibility to empower communities, including children in orphanages. Students have great potential to become pioneers of social change through collaboration and innovation. In the context of orphanages, student contributions can be realized through various activities such as tutoring, skills training, and character development programs that can increase children's independence. With a sustainable strategy, students can help create a more inclusive environment that supports children's holistic growth.

Thus, students have a strategic position as agents of change in improving the welfare of children in orphanages. Sustainable social change can only be achieved through concrete actions that involve all elements of society (Jannah & Sulianti, 2021). Therefore, it is important for students to continue to hone their social awareness and leadership skills so that they can become the driving force for change towards a more just and prosperous society (Syaiful, 2023). Strengthening Pancasila Values in Orphanages through Student Support On October 8, 2025, we visited an orphanage in North Banyumas and interviewed the head of the orphanage. This orphanage has a clear vision and mission to assist the government in alleviating poverty, especially for abandoned children and underprivileged families. Operational costs The orphanage is supported by donors and 11 churches on a rotating basis, so its finances are relatively stable.

In addition, the orphanage has an economic enterprise that is owned and managed as a means of training independence for children and to increase the orphanage's income. However, the biggest obstacle is still the lack of human resources, especially caregivers and nutritionists. The head of the orphanage revealed that students around Purwokerto actively provide soft skills and hard skills training on a scheduled basis and in coordination with the orphanage, so that the results of their service are more effective and impactful. Student participation also

includes fundraising and the provision of basic necessities as a tangible form of support.

On the other hand, Pancasila values are deeply ingrained in the daily life of the orphanage. For example, every morning and evening, there are reflection activities, with a schedule that involves the orphanage caregivers on Monday to Wednesday, the church council on Thursday, and the pastor on Friday. Students are also invited to play an active role in applying their knowledge, for example by creating interactive games that teach tolerance. Children are also taught to respect cultural differences, strengthening the spirit of unity and integrity in accordance with the values of Pancasila.

In addition, based on the results of student community service in several journal studies, strengthening Pancasila values through education and community service has been proven to increase awareness and practice of national values among the younger generation. For example, community service involving workshops, seminars, and collaborative activities by students can increase national awareness and strengthen Pancasila values in everyday life (Suhendra, 2024). This is in line with the role of students as agents who spread Pancasila values in society through structured and sustainable community service activities.

Findings from Literature Studies on Child Welfare In efforts to strengthen the welfare of children in orphanages, the role of students as agents of change is strongly relevant to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This global commitment is not only the responsibility of the government, but also calls on every element of society, including the educated, to contribute. Government efforts to promote education to higher levels, as emphasized by Armida S. Alisjahbana Endah Murniningtyas (2018) emphasizes that higher education is key to innovation, providing the right framework for concrete action by students. Social innovations that originate on campus—such as ongoing learning assistance programs, digital literacy training, or career guidance—can directly target children in orphanages. These strategic actions directly touch on the core of several SDG targets, particularly Goal 4 on inclusive and equitable Quality Education, Goal 8 on Economic Growth and Decent Work by preparing a skilled workforce for the future, and Goal 10 on Reducing Inequality by providing equal opportunities for vulnerable children. Thus, the students' contributions are not only meaningful locally for orphanages, but also part of a global movement to build a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

According to Prof. Dr. Drs. Hadi Prayitno M.Kes, children are one of the most vulnerable groups in society because they do not have the ability to protect themselves in the midst of society. Adults here must be able to take proactive steps to protect children from threats in this harsh world.

The impact of the lack of adult involvement in the family can lead to children being abandoned on the streets. In Indonesia, there are already many children living on the streets. This certainly prevents these children from having the

life they deserve, unlike their more fortunate peers. There are many children who are victims of violence in Indonesia, both physical and psychological. The main factors that can cause this are poverty and poor family relationships. This is also inseparable from the influence of an environment that is not conducive to child growth and development.

Here, the role of orphanages has a huge impact on saving these neglected children. It is only fitting that institutions such as orphanages provide an atmosphere and environment that makes children feel the warmth of family harmony. Based on the above discussion, children, especially those aged 6-18 years, are in a very vulnerable situation, which can include being victims of kidnapping, human trafficking, and parental abuse and neglect. Children require a great deal of protection, including protection from discrimination, economic or sexual exploitation, protection from neglect, protection from injustice, and many other forms of mistreatment. Analysis of the Role of Students in the Welfare of Children in Orphanages The role of students here includes various things such as increasing empathy and social awareness. Here, students can provide empathy and social awareness to children in orphanages by setting an example or inspiring them.

Here, the role of students also provides benefits to children in orphanages, such as strengthening bonds with others. In practice, students can also help meet the basic needs of children, which can make them happy. In some cases, students can provide non-material assistance, such as teaching children how to grow vegetables, or material assistance, such as providing food for children.

Students can also encourage children to improve their social interaction and provide additional encouragement to children in orphanages. (Serly et al., 2023). In this case, students can have a positive effect on children in orphanages because they can increase the children's enthusiasm to live happily without feeling different from other children. Many children in orphanages show great potential in many areas, including academics, sports, and others. Students can help children in orphanages by motivating them to survive with the aim of providing fuel to overcome difficulties (Novita et al., 2024).

Students have an important role in helping children in orphanages through teaching and learning activities. However, they can also provide motivation and enthusiasm for life through social activities, mentoring, and mental coaching. Students can be both an inspiration and a mentor for children in orphanages. The goal is to increase their self-confidence, optimism, and strong desire to continue fighting and overcoming life's difficulties. With this kind of motivation and moral support, children in orphanages will have the fuel to continue moving forward to achieve their dreams.

Students here help improve the lives of children in orphanages. After all, they are the future leaders of the nation. With the help of students who have a positive impact on orphanages, these 18 children can feeling what it's like to live without parents but still feeling the warmth of family. In terms of basic needs,

students can help optimize the nutritional needs of children in orphanages by providing education on nutritious and balanced foods to consume. The health of children in orphanages is certainly a top priority in order to fulfill their nutritional needs so that they can grow and develop optimally.

Of course, orphanages do not just sit idly by. To secure additional funding, orphanages establish business entities to increase their income. This flow of funds is also strengthened by donations from churches throughout Purwokerto. Children in orphanages also have a high level of tolerance thanks to education from many parties, one of which is from students. Students here provide soft skills and hard skills training for children in orphanages so that they can have added value in society when they later enter society. In practice, children in orphanages often watch educational films about reflection to improve their emotional intelligence. In essence, children are the future leaders of the nation who must be nurtured and guided in their growth so that they can contribute to the nation and country. Consistent guidance and a supportive environment will help children in orphanages grow into a resilient generation that is ready to face life's challenges and play an active role in building a better future.

Conclusion

Based on analysis and field findings, it can be concluded that the role of students as agents of change is important in strengthening the welfare of orphanage children, in line with the values of Pancasila and supporting the achievement of SDGs. Interviews with orphanage administrators show that although the orphanage has a relatively stable source of funding, the lack of caregivers and nutritionists remains a major obstacle. Therefore, the contribution of students is highly expected, especially in the form of educational assistance and the creation of structured positive activities, such as the scheduled Pancasila education activities that are already underway.

Students also play a role in increasing empathy, strengthening bonds of brotherhood, and motivating children in orphanages, which directly contributes to strengthening their human capital. Orphanage administrators also emphasize the practice of Pancasila values, such as through reflection activities that can be further strengthened by student intervention through interactive games that teach tolerance and respect for cultural differences. Student involvement contributes significantly to the sustainability of the welfare of orphanage children and has a positive impact on their academic, social, and psychological aspects.

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