



## The Role of Civic Education in Shaping Social Awareness of Elementary School Children

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### Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menggali peran pendidikan dalam membentuk kesadaran anak SD. Kesadaran akan pentingnya menjadi kewarganegaraan dalam masyarakat modern yang kompleks, di mana anak-anak perlu memahami hak, kewajiban, serta tanggung jawab mereka sebagai warga negara. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode wawancara dengan guru-guru dan anak-anak murid. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pendidikan kewarganegaraan mempunyai peran penting dalam membentuk kesadaran anak. Melalui kurikulum yang relevan dan pendekatan pembelajaran yang interaktif, anak-anak dapat belajar tentang nilai-nilai demokrasi, pluralisme, toleransi, dan hak asasi manusia. Pendidikan kewarganegaraan juga membantu anak-anak memahami peran mereka dalam membangun masyarakat yang adil dan berkelanjutan. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga mengidentifikasi beberapa tantangan yang dihadapi dalam implementasi pendidikan kewarganegaraan, seperti kurangnya sumber daya dan pelatihan bagi guru, serta perbedaan pandangan politik yang ada dalam masyarakat. Oleh karena itu, rekomendasi diberikan untuk memperkuat peran pendidikan kewarganegaraan melalui pengembangan kurikulum yang lebih inklusif dan pelatihan yang lebih baik bagi guru. Dengan demikian, penelitian ini mengkonfirmasi bahwa Pendidikan kewarganegaraan memiliki peran penting dalam membentuk pemahaman anak-anak tentang hak, kewajiban, dan tanggung jawab mereka dalam masyarakat. Dengan pendidikan kewarganegaraan yang baik, anak-anak SD dapat meningkatkan kesadaran sosial mereka, membantu mereka memahami isu-isu sosial, dan mengembangkan sikap partisipatif dalam kehidupan masyarakat.

**Kata kunci:** Peran Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan, Kesadaran Sosial, Anak Sekolah Dasar

### Abstract

*This research aims to explore the role of education in forming children's awareness. Becoming civically aware is increasingly important in complex modern societies, where children need to understand their rights, obligations and responsibilities as citizens. This research uses interview methods with teachers and students. The research results show that citizenship education has an important role in forming children's awareness. Through a relevant curriculum and interactive learning approach, children can learn about the values of democracy, pluralism, tolerance and human rights. Citizenship education also helps children understand their role in building a just and sustainable society. Apart from that, this research also identified several challenges faced in implementing citizenship education, such as a lack of resources and training for teachers, as well as differences in political views that exist in society. Therefore, recommendations are given to strengthen the role of citizenship education through the development of a more inclusive curriculum and better training for teachers. Thus, this research confirms that citizenship education has a significant role in forming children's awareness of their rights, obligations and responsibilities as active citizens and participants in the development of society and the country.*

**Keywords:** The Role Of Citizenship Education, Social Awareness, Elementary School Children

## INTRODUCTION

Civic education is an integral part of the education curriculum in many countries. However, there has not been much in-depth research on the extent to which this education contributes to shaping children's understanding and awareness of their rights and responsibilities as citizens. Civic awareness is the basis of active participation in the democratization process, and a good understanding of citizenship rights and responsibilities can help children become more active and responsible citizens.

Social awareness is the ability possessed by children directly to feel, and be aware of an event that occurs so that children can take action when the event is happening. so, social awareness can be described by the ability possessed by children to be more empathetic to an event, more sensitive to events that occur, so that the existence of social awareness (social awareness) children can take action or actions that will be carried out when the event occurs.

Social awareness can grow through various means, including education, personal experience, social media and social interaction. It can have a positive impact in shaping an individual's attitude towards social issues and encouraging constructive action to solve such problems.

However, it is important to remember that social awareness can also vary in its level and focus, depending on the social and cultural context of each individual or group. Social awareness is often the basis for positive social change and advocacy for better change in society.

Because the Indonesian Nation has a variety of tribes, regional languages, ethnicities, religions and cultures. Indonesia is based on differences that are united from the history of the struggle of the founding fathers and common ideals. Differences between individuals and groups sometimes create conflicts between individuals and groups due to differences.

The role of teachers in schools is to always set an example for their students if they participate in society in their lives. The success of an education that involves educational institutions parents and society equally and forms a learning process for students who often violate values and norms can be controlled by these different components. The role of teachers as substitute parents at school has a great responsibility, providing learning and instilling character values in students. Thus, Teachers can be a second father to their students at school, helping them feel comfortable and open with their teachers. So that teachers can later instill the value of individuality in students and guide them in a better direction towards finding their own noble personality (Fauzi, Arianto, & Solihatin, 2013; Suprahatiningrum, 2017).

To shape the character of students, schools need an educational vehicle in the form of content material in subjects to develop students' values, morals, attitudes and Pancasila character (Nurgiansah & Rachman, 2022). PPKN is an educational concept that aims to shape the character of students as individual citizens (Suardi, Herdiansyah, Ramlan, & Mutiara, 2019). Civics helps students develop a civic mindset and attitude that reflects human values. Methodologically, PPKN as a pedagogical vehicle aims to develop affective, cognitive and psychomotor competencies and

so that Pancasila values receive a more proportional emphasis substantially in education (Rachman et al., 2021). Civics is encouraged to develop the character of students to have a Pancasila learner profile (Rachman & Azam, 2021; Rachman et al., 2021).

## RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses the interview method, the interview method is one of the research approaches carried out by asking the source, by asking about the role of family education in shaping the social awareness of elementary school children. The documentation method is the process or activity of recording storing, compiling, and recording to collect information.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### The Role Of Citizenship In Creating Awareness For Elementary School Children

Every elementary school child has a different social spirit depending on the environment they are placed in, this is where the teacher's role in developing the social character of each individual in Civic Education. Civic Education has an important role in improving the social spirit of society. Here are some of the roles of Civics Education in improving the social spirit:

1. Building the spirit of nationalism: Civics helps to revive core values, such as divinity, humanity, unity, populism, social justice, competition, respect for others, independence, and peace These values are important for developing the spirit and soul of nationalism so that people can play an effective role in the global arena without leaving their identity as Indonesians.

2. Increase social awareness: Civics helps students understand their roles and responsibilities as members of society Through Civics learning, students are taught about their rights and obligations as citizens, as well as the importance of participating in social and political life.
3. Developing attitudes of tolerance and unity: Civics plays an important role in teaching students about the importance of tolerance, peace-loving and unity. In the context of a diverse society, an understanding of cultural, religious and ethnic differences is essential for creating social harmony.
4. Encouraging active participation in democratic life: Civics helps students understand the basic principles of democracy and the importance of participating in decision-making processes, Through Civics learning, students are taught about their rights as citizens and how they can contribute to building a democratic society.

Teaching moral and ethical values: Civics also plays a role in teaching students about moral and ethical values that are important in social life. Through Civics learning, students are taught about the importance of having a good, humble, fair and responsible attitude.

The reason our group chose this is because we see that nowadays there is a lot of violence, starting from physical violence, psychological violence, and bullying. In addition, there is a lot of news that bullying in Indonesia is very high starting from high school 18.75%, junior high school 25% and elementary school also 25%. It can be seen from the data on bullying cases in elementary schools that there are 480 cases

of bullying that increase from year to year such as in 2020 there were 119 cases, in 2021 there was a decrease and only 17 cases, and in 2022 there was an increase in cases up to 226 cases ranging from physical, psychological violence and including bullying. in 2023 there were 64 complaints of cases, until there was a case in June that made an elementary school child die due to bullying. from these data it is questionable how the role of civic education teachers is about fostering social awareness for students in elementary school. Many reasons that make elementary school children start bullying start from trends seen from social media and the environment around where they live, it makes children start discriminating against their friends who do not match them starting from their physique, nature, and different economies.

The results of the interviews we conducted with teachers at SD Negeri 060829 said "that there have been cases of bullying in elementary schools, for example: The problem of mocking parents' names and fighting between friends about mocking each other and the bullying cases can still be reprimanded and anticipated, that is why it is important for schools and parents to educate children about the importance of respecting and supporting each other, we can see that if the lack of role from parents makes children misbehave, therefore support is needed from teachers in raising awareness in respecting differences.

This school also studies PPKN subjects because this study can help children to understand national values such as national unity and ordinary small things such as mutual cooperation and care for the environment and here. And in the environment of elementary school children, there are still frequent cases of fighting

between friends and the reason is usually because there are friends who mock their parents' names and bully their friends. However, there are ways that teachers overcome these problems, we break up, reprimand and advise both parties of students who fight to follow up so that the two students forgive each other and do not do the same thing again. And the role played by teachers in shaping the social awareness of elementary school children is that a teacher must be able to unite the various traits and characters of these different children in order to develop children's social attitudes properly. So that children can socialize with their peers and people who are in the school environment well."

The teacher also provides guidance and understanding about the importance of good communication, having empathy and learning to understand differences, and tells them that violence is not the way to solve this, but to speak calmly and respect each other.

## CONCLUSION

Civic education plays an important role in shaping children's understanding of their rights, obligations and responsibilities in society. With good civic education, primary school children can increase their social awareness, help them understand social issues, and develop a participatory attitude in community life.

Implementing character education in every lesson is also a must because it is considered capable of making students smart, ethical and polite, especially in this civic education subject. Elementary school students as the future of the nation with a golden age are the main capital to save the nation in the future. With several cases of students lacking character, as a teacher must

be able to build character education so that students can apply it in their daily lives.

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Character values must be appropriate and expected in the development of national character applied to civic education subjects in elementary schools such as religion, tolerance, discipline, responsibility and social care.

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