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Article

Political Education of New Voters through Civic Education in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

The aim of citizenship education in a democratic country is emphasized in political education to develop and strengthen autonomous government, this means that citizens can be actively involved in their own government and not just accept the dictates of other people or people in power. Through political education in citizenship education subjects, young citizens who are in fact novice voters can exercise their right to vote as part of citizen participation. This article is a literature research that examines matters related to the research topic through a study of various relevant sources. These sources are selected based on the objectives of the research. The results confirm that citizenship education is very important for young citizens, especially first-time voters, so that they have a good political orientation. This orientation directs citizens to take part in general elections, exercise their right to vote, campaign, engage in public discussions, and use the media for political outreach. If the political orientation of novice voters is based on the concept of citizenship education to form good and intelligent citizens, it will contribute to the progress of democracy towards a developed country.

INTRODUCTION

The issue of political education and Citizenship Education (PKn) for a country and nation is the process of fostering, offering and inheriting national and state values which are held in an educational environment, because education is seen as having an important and strategic role

in nation building (Tuhuteru, 2022). In its development in Indonesia, education in schools applies political education directly to students who receive it at school. Through Citizenship Education, it has undergone changes and improvements since the Old Order (1959-1966), New Order (1966-1998), and Reformation Order (1998-present). The revitalization of political

education in Civic Education (PKn), in the context of learning to build national character through Civic Education, needs to be directed so that they can develop citizen intelligence in the spiritual, rational, emotional and social dimensions; civic responsibility, and citizen participation (Sunarso, 2012). The concepts contained in the Civics curriculum need to be studied, instilled and passed on to students so that good citizens can be formed. Through citizenship education and political education-based learning, it is hoped that it will foster discipline, social sensitivity, train critical thinking, the ability to solve problems clearly, and a culture of democracy can be confirmed.

Democratic countries are guaranteed will organize Citizenship education aims to produce democratic citizens, namely citizens who are intelligent and utilize their intelligence as citizens for the progress of their environment. One of the countries where the aim of the Citizenship Education subject is to educate democratic citizens because the materials and teaching methods used are democratic teaching methods, but rather the assessment and the environment and legal environment that supports it contain democratic values (Wahab & Sapriya, 2011). The existence of citizen participation in fundamental matters in democratic governance is demonstrated in citizen participation in many ways to involve active citizens in the decision-making process (D'Agostino, 2006).

The aim of citizenship education in democracy is emphasized in political education to develop and strengthen self-government. Democratic autonomous government means that citizens are actively involved in self-government and do not just accept the dictates of other people or those in power (Branson, 2012). Citizenship Education is an important component of education that teaches citizens to take part in public democratic life, to exercise the rights of citizens to discharge the responsibilities of citizens with knowledge and skills. As part of the educational process, higher education has a mission to help develop citizens with a passion for leadership. Citizenship education in general, characterized by a very broad time coverage, consists of a composition of different voices from the participation of various social units in society. Therefore, education for democratic citizenship leads to the development of the ability to participate and take responsibility as a democratic citizen, in political, economic, social and cultural life (Naval et al., 2002).

The concepts of democracy and citizenship education are complex and therefore cannot be interpreted in a very simple definition. About democratic citizenship in accordance with developments in social, economic and political life at local and global levels. In this way, the concept of democratic citizenship can be described as continuously evolving. In developing the ability to understand responsible participation as democratic citizens in various aspects of life. By using the concept of democracy in relation to forms of government, especially democratic government. Gould and Kolb describe citizenship as a relationship between people and society in instilling natural political education, which is known as a nation and state in instilling values in political understanding in the formation and loyalty and protection as citizens who are politically literate (Gould & Kolb, 1964).

METHODS

Qualitative research in the form of presenting descriptive data obtained using library research. Various library sources such as textbooks, scientific journals, and news from electronic media such as government websites and online news websites. All sources used meet certain criteria. These sources should include theories that can form a framework for obtaining conceptual answers to problems, as well as high reliability licenses. Sources should also be updated with new publications from 10 years ago. Finally, the source chosen must be from a reputable publisher and from a field that is considered reputable enough to use works from experts in that field, such as journals that already have an ISSN and can be searched via Google Scholar.

The reference sources used are not just random, but are chosen carefully and thoroughly by the author. After that, the author consulted the results with more experienced parties, namely academics in the field Civic education. After finding an agreement with this party, in the form of compatibility between the sources provided by the author and the relevance of the topic to be discussed, the sources used can be used in writing this scientific article. This research study involves collecting data, then sorting it into specific groups. After that, the results are combined into one unit by processing the data. Another part is cross-referencing, which is also often used to interact with results. After that, it is necessary to draw conclusions and verify the data findings.

RESULT

Citizenship Education Concept

Civic Education is a compulsory subject from elementary school to university level. The aim of studying at school is to prepare young citizens, so that later as adults they can participate actively in society through political activities in community organizations (JJ Cogan, 2000). Meanwhile Citizenship Education or Education for Citizenship is used as a term that has a broader meaning which includes learning experiences at school and cultivation outside of school, such as political education at home, at school, in society such as joining religious organizations, community organizations, mass media, newspapers, online media and social media. The information, socialization, communication, political participation obtained is a process of forming totality or wholeness as citizens in realizing good citizens (Morris et al., 2013).

The Concept of Political Education in Formal Education

Democratic citizenship education emphasizes political education to form political citizens who believe they will be committed to, uphold and build the fundamental democratic principles of effective citizenship or politically literate citizens (Sakti et al., 2023). The concept of political education contains the main essence that political education in which political education is carried out to shape the attitudes and behavior of political people who understand their position, role and function in political life and how to carry out political activities accompanied by political awareness (Ruslan, 2000).

The roots of the nation's political education began and were established before Indonesia became independent and to achieve and complete independence. This means that in historical development the nation's political education has been implemented, both in the pre-independence and post-independence periods. Political education here teaches the nation's generation to emulate, imitate and apply in the life of society, nation and state. Political education in school institutions in building character.

Citizenship Education and Political Education

The existence of Citizenship Education (PKn) which is closely related to the political life of a country has logical consequences for the

publication of various materials regarding the political life of a country. It also aims to form students as citizens who are aware of the dynamics of state politics and ready to participate in the country's political life. Through citizenship education, the younger generation is educated to become good, democratic and responsible citizens. This citizenship education has a mission as political education, which means that this educational program provides knowledge, attitudes and skills to students so that they are able to live as citizens who have a level of political literacy *and* political awareness *as* well as the ability to participate in politics is high (Wahab & Sapriya, 2011). Civics as a means of political education in schools is an effort to create citizens who will one day know their role and position in state life and be able to participate actively in state life.

Of course, these competencies must be supported by real knowledge and skills so that these goals can be achieved. Civics learning has an influence in increasing the level of political literacy of citizens. Thus, conceptually and practically, civics can be used as a political education tool for students in terms of providing knowledge, understanding and skills in the political life of the Indonesian state (Sadeli, 2016).

The Importance of Political Education for Beginner Voters

Students who are in fact novice voters are members of society who have a position as the nation's next generation. Therefore, the development of students' knowledge and skills regarding national and state life must continue to be carried out. This is an effort to foster students' literacy regarding the political life of their country or develop their political literacy skills. In the citizenship perspective, students are considered hypothetical citizens (citizens who are "not yet ready" because they still have to be educated to become adult citizens who are aware of their rights and obligations).

Political literacy is central to developing the quality of democracy in a nation. Through the formation and development of political literacy, citizens will have an awareness of their rights and obligations and have knowledge and understanding of their position as official members of a country. This will have implications for the emergence of autonomous awareness in

participation in the development of a quality political and democratic system. Political literacy is formed through learning, both formal and non-formal. Through formal activities, for example, through learning at school. Meanwhile, non-formally through social channels, such as mass media, community organizations, families and so on. Political literacy is absolutely necessary as a reflection of how a citizen will participate in the life of the nation and state. Political literacy can be defined as recognition and understanding of the ideal values contained in the political system that is being implemented as well as citizens' knowledge of the life of the nation and state that is demonstrated with changes in attitudes and increased participation in the world of politics.

There is There are two criteria for measuring the dimensions of political literacy, namely, first, following all government activities. Second, following reports regarding government activities through various media. These criteria describe how the position and role of a citizen who has a level of political literacy will influence the running of a country's political system (Almond, 2000). There is Several indicators to measure the level of political literacy of citizens include knowledge of the constitution and political system, political understanding, political attitudes and political behavior (Pratama, 2021). Political literacy is a manifestation of political education to increase people's political knowledge and so that they can participate optimally in the political system (Pradana, 2017) .

Goals of Political Education

More specifically, the aim of political education is that political education (political education, political socialization, citizenship training) is to increase people's political knowledge and ultimately the people can participate optimally in their political system. (Heryanto, 2021). Political education is often combined with political socialization. Political socialization is interpreted as a learning process in which each individual acquires orientations in the form of beliefs, feelings and value components towards government and political life. Political socialization is considered the key that determines people's political behavior (Harnawansyah, 2020). Thus, political education aims to provide knowledge and understanding as well as the ability to be responsible as a citizen. Apart from that, it provides an understanding of political knowledge so that citizens participate in the current political system. The implementation of

political education must be carried out systematically to foster a democratic climate in national and state life. Political education is directed at creating a young generation that is politically literate and is an effort to develop political society to recognize, know and understand the current political system and certain political values that will influence the behavior of citizens. Political education has actually become a part of human life because where there are humans there is also society or in other words humans are *zoon politicon*, so that when there is a political element in human life then political socialization will occur in the loose sense of political education, both in the family environment, school, and community.

Political Education Material in Citizenship Education

The implementation of political education through Civics is focused on developing citizen competencies which include knowledge, skills and character of citizens. This means that the aim of civic education is quality and responsible participation in political and community life at both the local and national levels. Such participation requires the following citizenship competencies: (1) Mastery of certain knowledge and understanding; (2) Development of intellectual and participatory abilities; (3). Development of a particular character or mental attitude; and (4) True commitment to the fundamental values and principles of constitutional democracy (Branson, 2012).

The formation and development of students' political literacy can be realized through Civics which acts as formal political education in schools. The realization of the role of Civics is included in the formal education curriculum in schools which provides knowledge and understanding of the political superstructure and infrastructure in Indonesia, participation in the political system and political culture in Indonesia.

Civics is very closely related to the political life of a nation, both in terms of substantive material (content) and learning objectives. This is realized by providing Civics in schools which in the 2006 Indonesian Education Curriculum contains a scope of political material in the scope of power and politics which includes village and sub-district government, regional government and autonomy, central government, democracy and political systems, political culture, democratic

culture towards civil society, government system, press in a democratic society.

Understanding Politics of Beginner Voters

Political education for first-time voters is very important because first-time voters who have just entered voting age certainly do not have a broad political reach to determine where their vote will be cast. Don't let novice voters just choose a candidate because they are famous, popular or because they have strong capital. New voters must have strong reasons in determining which leader candidate they will choose. Candidates for leaders or representatives of the people must be able to carry out the mandate of the people, and be able to accommodate various complaints and aspirations from the people.

According to Bernard Crick in the Essay he wrote (Crick, 2005) states that political education is an important aspect to be included in the life of the school environment which is packaged in Civics subjects. Crick examines the introduction of politics in schools because political education must exist both within oneself and for the public interest. Political education is not just a feeder for entering high school or college. So the younger generation in all types of secondary and vocational schools must gain some awareness of what politics is. For those who are young, political education can start by reading newspapers or watching news broadcasts on electronic media to slowly learn and become familiar with the issues that are happening in the surrounding environment. With these issues, the benefit is to help children understand the forms of events that were developing at that time, up to the consequences which usually take the form of various political conflicts accompanied by their resolution in accordance with the regulations stipulated in the constitution. which applies in society and is adhered to and obeyed by all citizens.

From the results of the study of several relevant theories, it can be concluded that the political education provided to novice voters has an urgency, namely : (1) To provide and instill understanding and transform political education for novice voters to broaden their insight and thinking in democracy, as well as to provide basic knowledge of ethical procedures and political culture; (2) The role of the younger generation in elections is as agents of moral and political ethics,

upholding political ethics and manners, avoiding dirty political practices and overseeing the democratic transition process in a more substantive direction.

The aim of Civics is to form participatory citizens

Based on data from the KPU (Commission Election General), for elections for first-time voters, the majority of whom are Generation Z and Generation Millennials. There were 63,953,031 voters aged 17 to 30 years or 31.23 percent, while voters aged 31 to 40 years were 42,398,719 people or 20.70 percent. So their votes are almost 52 percent combined. Then voters under 17 years old because they are married are 0.003 percent or 6,697 voters. Meanwhile voters aged 40 years and over numbered 98,448,775 people or 48.07 percent (CNN Indonesia, 2023) from National Permanent Voter List (DPT) for amounting to 204,807,222 people (Ayu & Febriyan, 2023).

Based on this data, it is clear that the potential that novice voters have in choosing candidates for national leadership who will determine the direction of development over the next five years. If they do not have a good understanding of the political process and an overview of the track record of political parties, it is feared that they will easily be led to vote for certain legislative candidates or political parties that may not actually be able to accommodate their aspirations. Furthermore, it is feared that the massive amount of news about corruption cases committed by political party cadres will make teenagers apathetic about politics and ultimately not use their right to vote, aka abstaining.

As effort providing knowledge about the political process requires a political education process for students to have a complete understanding. When discussing the urgency of the role of Civics in political education with researchers, she stated that teaching political education to students is not only the teacher's job civics alone, but the responsibility of all of us. This form of political education can take the form of a one-day seminar organized by the school by inviting the local KPU and also representatives from several political parties as resource persons.

Apart from the methods above, political education can also be carried out through socio-drama carried out in class so that learning

becomes interesting. In this case, each student has a task according to their respective roles. There are those who act as election organizers or KPU, as legislative candidates and students who act as campaigners or as ordinary people. In this way, students are invited to directly participate in the political process. Apart from that, no less important is the moral message about the importance of the political process embedded in this activity.

If possible, document the activity and then upload it to YouTube. That way, they will be proud because their performance can be seen by many people and can also be used as inspiration for other students. Through a complete political education process for teenagers, we hope that they will not make the wrong choice because they are the ones who will determine whether this nation will progress or not for at least the next five years. It is not only about the framework within the country that students must know. However, the implementation of politics must also be known. An example is the existence of general elections which are seen as a starting point in assessing the political life of a country. According to Aristotle in an essay written by Crick, he stated that political life is related to political justice which has two basic criteria, namely governance and participation. Government is to realize the ideals of society, while participation is as the main actor, namely all citizens in supporting public interests carried out by the government. So Crick stated that participation and communication with the government must go together. With Crick's statement, it can be concluded that the introduction of politics in schools is to foster political awareness and political literacy for young students as preparation for becoming citizens who are able to realize prosperity and common public interests.

Contextual Political Studies in Citizenship Education

The concept of politics is related to five important things, namely (1) politics will intersect with the efforts made by citizens to discuss and realize the common good; (2) politics is related to the administration of the state and government; (3) politics is related to all activities directed at seeking and maintaining power in society; (4) politics as conflict in the context of seeking or defending resources that are considered important; (5) politics as activities related to the formulation and implementation of public policy.

Five important things that explain politics are contained in Civics which is a medium or means of delivering political education in institution education.

Civics in schools is used as a subject that emphasizes theoretical aspects about citizens and government as well as relationships between fellow citizens. This is regulated by law and is a branch of political science called political democracy. Political democracy is one of the important aspects in the process of democratic life which emphasizes efforts to foster understanding and ability regarding the rights and obligations of citizens as well as how to implement them as regulated by legal regulations and legislation. The basics in this process are used as one of the important materials in learning Civics in the education curriculum.

Students are introduced to various things starting with their rights and obligations as members of the family, school, community, country and citizens of the world. Students are introduced to various processes and procedures about how a society lives in which there are various different or even conflicting needs and interests. This is normal and is a challenge for both individuals and groups to answer it well. In an effort to fulfill their needs and interests, humans form groups based on efforts to fulfill their needs and interests through social and political organizations.

Civics is an extension of civics which places greater emphasis on practical aspects of citizenship. Therefore, Civics is also called adult education which prepares students to become citizens who understand their role as citizens (J. Cogan & Derricott, 2014). Following the development of the concept of citizenship as a political concept, has encouraged researchers and experts in the field of Civics to conduct various research on developments regarding the concept of Civics as a whole. One of them is Cogan's research which recommends that Civics policy be a context that fits the needs and desires of everyone at the beginning of the 21st century. This concept covers all aspects of education, including curriculum and education, government and organizations, as well as the relationship between schools and society. From several contexts, this can be achieved if schools and other key elements and community agents can work together well.

CONCLUSION

Citizenship Education is a vehicle for education. In the sense of knowledge, citizenship education has a body of knowledge (knowledge structure). As an educational process, civic education seeks to develop political awareness, political behavior and political attitudes which are packaged in an educational process which we often call civic competence. The general pattern of political education must be oriented towards the formation of individuals who fulfill the competencies required to carry out political activities based on political awareness which is reflected in forms of political participation. The required competencies must have civic knowledge, civic skills, and civic disposition.

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