
THE IMPORTANCE OF CHARACTER EDUCATION IN INSTILLING PANCASILA VALUES FOR MILLENNIAL GENERATION

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ABSTRACT

Millennial generation as a new generation that emerges as a pioneer of information technology development in the era of 4.0. They are called the millennial generation because they were born at the end of the 20th century (between 1990 and 2001). The millennial generation, living in the millennium era, is heavily influenced by lifestyles shaped by social media as a societal trend in the 21st century. Many potential social vulnerabilities will arise due to cultural and behavioral changes that occur in the millennium era. The widespread use of smartphones, internet access, and social media today enables quick and easy access to information, which has its benefits and advantages, but also impacts by facilitating access to negative content that affects behavior not in line with the culture and noble norms of the Indonesian nation. Character education, as a model of education that strengthens the understanding of Pancasila ideology, is essential in fortifying and equipping the millennial generation. With systematically implemented character education, it is hoped to maintain attitudes and behaviors so that they always preserve the customs, cultural heritage, and noble values of the Indonesian nation in facing the massive technological developments in the current millennium era.

KEYWORDS Character Education, Pancasila Values Cultivation, Millennial Generation



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INTRODUCTION

The development and progress of information technology today, also known as the digitalization era, has brought changes in all fields, especially in the field of education, which has had a very broad impact on various human activities, especially in facing the dynamics of increasingly advanced life. In an effort to meet various complex needs and competitions, the world of education needs to adjust to

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these technological developments, so that it can have an influence on shaping someone's character. Looking at the profile of the current younger generation, commonly referred to as the Millennial Generation, is a reflection of the quality of the nation and the country in the future. Therefore, strengthening and equipping the character of this generation is important at this time.

The character of a person formed since childhood is influenced by genetics and their surrounding environment. In his writing, Muhammad Hidayat (2019), as quoted by Hayaturrahmi, said that maturity takes place ceremonially according to the culture of each region. The process of character formation, whether realized or not, will affect how the individual views themselves and their environment, which will be reflected in their daily behavior.

According to Ryan and Bohlin (1999), character is a pattern of someone's behavior. A person with good character understands goodness, likes goodness, and does goodness. Someone whose behavior is in accordance with moral principles is called noble character. One way to realize this is by strengthening the identity and character of the nation through education. This effort aims to shape and build students who are devout to the One God.

Currently, the term millennial generation is indeed familiar. The term originates from "millennials" coined by two American historians and writers, William Strauss and Neil Howe, in their book titled "Generations," as quoted by Reynaldi Satrio Nugroho (2016). The Millennial generation or Generation Y is also commonly referred to as the "generation me" or "echo boomers." Literally, there is no specific demography to determine this generation group. Experts classify it based on the beginning and end years. The classification of Generation Y is formed for those born between 1980 - 1990, or in the early 2000s, and so on.

According to Don Tapscott in the book "Grown Up Digital," as quoted by Fransisca Jallie Pattiruhu (2022), he said that in the future there will be three generations that will influence human life: Generation Y (born 1981-1994), Generation Z (born 1995-2010), and Generation Alpha (born 2011-2025). Generation Y is a generation that is about to end and is the parents of Generation Z and Generation Alpha. Generation Z, also called the e-generation, is a generation proficient in using information technology and various artificial intelligence, multitasking, lacking in verbal communication, desiring everything to be fast and practical, tending towards egocentrism and individualism, and tending to undervalue processes. Then, what is called Generation Alpha is individualistic, highly mobile, unconcerned about privacy, able to break through boundaries, discovering many new things, and always experiencing change. (GMKI, 2017). From the characteristics of Generation Z and Generation Alpha, Tapscott refers to them as the millennial generation. (Lalo, 2018)

The role of the millennial generation in changing the structure of society today is very influential. A survey institution, Ericsson, in 2016 released 10 Consumer Lab Trends to predict various consumer desires. In its report, Ericsson is based on interviews with 4,000 respondents spread across 24 countries in the world (Republika Data Center, 2016). Among the 10 trends is special attention to the behavior of the millennial generation. It is mentioned in the report that technological products will follow the lifestyle of the millennial generation. As stated by Ericsson Indonesia's President Director Thomas Jul, behavioral shifts also change in line with

technology. New technological products will emerge as accommodations for technological changes," he said.

The existence of the millennial generation is also marked by the increasing use of information technology known as the Fourth Industrial Revolution. This technology is what makes the current millennial generation, or what can also be called the internet generation, rely on social media as a place to obtain information. Currently, social media has become the primary platform for reporting and as a news source for the public.

The massive use of social media today has a significant impact on social life. Along with the rapid development of information technology, in reality, we are faced with a dilemmatic condition between the benefits and disadvantages that arise. On one hand, the abundance of information availability and easy public access can broaden the community's insight into the current conditions of their lives. But on the other hand, many are concerned that this information openness will cause problems in national life, as quoted from M. Rodinal Khair Khasri (2021).

One serious problem currently related to the rampant use of social media is the emergence of hoaxes (fake news) due to the lack of literacy (digital literacy). Hoaxes are part of a significant digital problem that should not be underestimated. Several hoax cases on social media have the potential to cause disintegration in society, and this seems to escape the attention of society, especially for social media users, most of whom are Millennials. And the situation will be even more worrying when they, as a millennial community, are easily exposed or influenced by hoax information they receive through social media.

Based on the above description, the author considers the importance of character education, which is also expected to provide reinforcement for the millennial generation in facing various life changes as a result of current information technology developments. Therefore, character education based on Pancasila as the basic ideology of the Indonesian state is expected to have an influence in improving, repairing, changing attitudes and skills, as well as behaviors to shape personality for oneself and society in the current 4.0 Revolution era.

Based on the above description, the author will formulate the issues to be discussed:

1. What are the challenges facing Indonesia's millennial generation in facing the 4.0 revolution era?
2. How to instill Pancasila values as character education for the millennial generation?
3. How important is character education in instilling Pancasila values for the millennial generation?

Literature Review

In the current era of globalization, technological and informational advancements are rapidly evolving. As we all know, Indonesia is currently in the midst of the Industry 4.0 era, a term that is not unfamiliar, because in reality, without us realizing it, we have already been engaged in most of the key characteristics of the Industry 4.0 era, namely the advancement of technology and internet usage in daily

activities such as shopping, learning, eating, and even payments, all of which can be done through digital applications, as quoted from Fransisca Jallie Pattiruhu(2022).

The question arises, what is the Fourth Industrial Revolution? The Fourth Industrial Revolution is an effort that enables industry players to allow computers to connect and communicate with each other, ultimately leading to decision-making without the involvement of human physical presence, i.e., a combination of the real and virtual worlds, the Internet of Things (IoT), and the Internet of Systems. According to the Chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel, as quoted from the Gamedia website, the understanding of the Fourth Industrial Revolution is a comprehensive transformation of all aspects of production that occur in the industrial world through the integration or connectivity between digital technology and the internet with conventional industry.

This is consistent with the opinion of Schlechtendahl et al. (2015), who define the industrial revolution as a phase that emphasizes the speed of information availability, i.e., an industrial environment where all entities (resources) can always be connected and easily share information with each other.

Yahya explained in (Fadilah, 2019), as quoted by Fransisca Jallie Pattiruhu (2022), that the Fourth Industrial Revolution brings many changes in human life, namely:

- A. Fundamentally changing the way humans operate and significantly influencing the world of work.
- B. Bringing positive effects such as effectiveness and efficiency of resources and production costs, albeit impacting employment fields.
- C. The Fourth Revolution requires a workforce with skills in digital literacy, technology literacy, and human literacy.

Throughout 2016, several predictions made by Ericsson proved to be true. One of them is the increasingly popular Streaming Native behavior. The number of teenagers consuming video streaming services is unstoppable. On average, they spend about three hours a day in front of mobile device screens. Four years later, this figure soared to 20 percent. The time allocated for streaming watching has also tripled. These facts prove that millennial generation behavior cannot be separated from watching online videos. In accessing significant events, such as terrorist bomb attacks, society today relies entirely on social media to get the latest information about an event.

Character education is a form of human activity in which actions that educate are intended for the next generation. The purpose of character education is to continuously shape individual self-improvement and train self-abilities towards a better life. Character education is a system of naming character values that include components of knowledge, awareness or willingness, and actions to implement these values, both towards Allah SWT, oneself, the environment, and the nation.

Thomas Lickona (1992), as cited by Ace Suryadi, stated that character education is a powerful tool to promote a more democratic collective life in society. Democracy reflects the quality of human life formed by character that grows in every individual in collective life. In society, everyone has a commitment to moral

foundations in collective life, such as respecting their own and others' rights, obeying norms and legal rules, participating in life, caring about the common good, and so on.

RESEARCH METHOD

In this article, the author employs the method of literature review. This method is used to collect and analyze various references or literature related to the situation and the importance of character education in instilling Pancasila values for the millennial generation in Indonesia. The literature used in this article includes scholarly journals, books, research reports, and articles from mass media and the internet. After relevant literature is gathered, the author conducts data analysis and compiles descriptions regarding the situation and issues related to the behavior of the millennial generation in Indonesia, as well as efforts that can be made to strengthen Pancasila values.

The literature review method is used because it allows the author to obtain comprehensive and up-to-date information on the topic at hand. It also enables the author to examine the phenomenon of millennial dynamics from various perspectives and disciplines. Additionally, the literature review method can be conducted at relatively low cost and can be done remotely. By using the literature review method, this article can provide a more comprehensive overview of the current situation and issues regarding the behavior of the millennial generation, as well as recommendations and efforts that can be made to strengthen Pancasila character values.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The development of national character can be achieved through the development of an individual's character. However, because humans live within certain social and cultural environments, the development of an individual's character can only be done within the relevant social and cultural context. This means that cultural and character development can occur in an educational process that does not detach learners from their social environment, community culture, and national culture. The social environment and national culture are embodied in Pancasila, so cultural and character education involves developing Pancasila values in learners through education of the heart, mind, and body. Character education represents a new transformative process in both formal and non-formal education, aimed at accelerating the achievement of each learner's aspirations for success in both worldly and spiritual endeavors.

In Article 1 of the Regulation of the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia Number 20 of 2018 concerning the Strengthening of Character Education in Formal Education Units, it is explained that Character Education Strengthening is an educational movement under the responsibility of educational institutions to strengthen learners' characters through the harmonization of heart, feelings, thoughts, and physical activities, with the involvement and cooperation

between educational institutions, families, and communities as part of the Indonesian National Mental Revolution Movement.

The importance of character education is emphasized by Daniel Goleman in his book "Emotional Intelligence" (Goleman, 2000), which discusses multiple intelligences. Goleman explains that emotional and social intelligence in life accounts for 80%, while intellectual intelligence only accounts for 20%. Therefore, character education becomes paramount in education, ensuring that school outputs become individuals of character, beneficial to religion, nation, and state. In facing life's challenges, humans often find that intellectual intelligence (IQ) alone is insufficient; emotional intelligence (EQ) and spiritual intelligence (SQ) are also required. Teaching emotional and spiritual intelligence cannot be achieved solely through cognitive means, as with intellectual intelligence. One of the best ways to teach affective aspects is by providing exemplary role models through teachers in the school environment.

Character education not only promotes the formation of positive behavior in children but also enhances their cognitive quality. Character building requires participation and responsibility from parents, society, and the government. According to FW Foerster, there are four basic characteristics of character education:

1. Character education emphasizes every action guided by normative values, where it is expected that generations can respect existing norms and use them as guidelines for behavior within society.
2. There is coherence or building self-confidence and courage, so that individuals become firm and unwavering, unafraid of risks in new situations.
3. There is autonomy, where individuals internalize and practice external rules until they become personal values. Therefore, individuals can make decisions independently without being influenced or pressured by others.
4. There is firmness and loyalty. Firmness is the resilience in realizing what is deemed good, and loyalty is the basis of respect for chosen commitments.

The goal of character education is to cultivate attitudes that lead the millennial generation towards progress without conflicting with prevailing norms, aiming to develop the potential of learners to become morally upright individuals who are faithful, pious, knowledgeable, competent, creative, independent, democratic citizens, and responsible. According to Sunarti (2005), character education for individuals aims to: recognize various good human characters, interpret and explain various characters, demonstrate examples of character behavior in daily life, and understand the good aspects of implementing character behavior.

Sulistiyowati (2012) suggests several important reasons for implementing character education, including the fact that character is essential for the nation. The loss of character will result in the loss of the nation's future generation. Character acts as a rudder and strength, ensuring the stability of the nation. Character does not develop naturally but must be built and nurtured to create a dignified nation.

The importance of instilling character values in the millennial generation, as the nation's future leaders, cannot be overstated. Therefore, schools play a strategic role. Furthermore, teachers, as the frontline of education, significantly influence the formation of learners' characters. The implementation of character education in schools can be supported by all members of the academic community, including

principals, vice principals, teachers, and all other school stakeholders. Character values that need to be fostered in students include religiousness, honesty, discipline, hard work, creativity, communicativeness, environmental concern, responsibility, curiosity, and cooperation. The success of character education is reflected in changes in students' attitudes towards school regulations.

Thus, character education is a system for instilling noble personality values, encompassing relationships with oneself and the environment. The goal of character education is to create intelligent, creative, morally upright individuals with positive personalities who are capable of managing and contributing to the building of a great and dignified nation.

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion above, the writer can conclude that:

1. A person's character formed since childhood is influenced by genetics and their surrounding environment.
2. The process of character formation affects how an individual perceives themselves and their environment, which is reflected in their daily behavior.
3. Character education is a system for instilling noble personality values, encompassing relationships with oneself and the environment.
4. The goal of character education is to create intelligent, creative, morally upright individuals with positive personalities capable of managing and contributing to the building of a great and dignified nation.
5. The millennial generation, as a new generation emerging as pioneers in the development of information technology in the 4.0 era, plays a significant role in the current societal changes.
6. The role of the millennial generation marks the growth of information technology usage known as the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
7. This technology has led today's millennial generation, also known as the internet generation, to rely on social media as a source of information.
8. One serious issue today related to the widespread use of social media is the emergence of hoaxes (fake news) due to the lack of digital literacy skills. Hoaxes are a significant part of the digital problem that should not be underestimated.
9. Character education, as a model of education that strengthens the understanding of Pancasila ideology, is essential in shaping and equipping the millennial generation.

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