

9. Cultural and Civic Literacy to Strengthen Pancasila as the National Identity and Unifier of Diversity in Indonesia

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Cultural and Civic Literacy to Strengthen Pancasila as the National Identity and Unifier of Diversity in Indonesia

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Abstract. Indonesia is a country that is rich in natural resources and has diversity in ethnicity, religion, race, and culture as a matter of pride that needs to be maintained and preserved. Efforts to protect and preserve diversity are not easy because lately a lot of information has been circulating leading to intolerance, hate speech, instant culture, not accepting differences, news hoaxes, and various expressions that discredit certain groups and even the government. Social media as a means of communication and information is both beneficial and a threat. Beneficial because it can be used as a learning tool, improve friendship, increase the number of relationships, increase nationalism, business and others. As a threat if not accompanied by adequate literacy skills. Through cultural and civic literacy, every citizen is invited to intelligently use, receive and process information so that life as the nation's children who have been knitted by the founding fathers can continue. The roles of families, communities, educational institutions, religious and cultural figures as well as the government also influence the realization of civic literacy and cultural literacy. Every citizen has the same opportunity to fill independence towards a prosperous Indonesian society as stated in the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution. The spirit of unity is the keyword for peaceful coexistence in diversity. Unity is strengthened through Pancasila and the slogan *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* as the national identity. Cultural and civic literacy nurture our togetherness through a common mission to protect Indonesia's home as a place to live.

Keywords: *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*; Cultural and Civic Literacy; Diversity; Pancasila

1 Introduction

Indonesia as a large and plural country needs to realize that maintaining unity and integrity is crucial for the survival of the nation and state. History has proven and reminded us that the Indonesian nation has experienced colonialism for a very long period. The occupation brought suffering, misery, and poverty. This history must be conveyed to the younger generation through families, schools, campuses, and also through social media. The development of technology and information places social media as the main means of communication and dissemination of information. The young generation as the nation's next-generation needs to know and have the awareness to take part in caring for the unity and integrity of the nation as capital to live together and build the nation towards a better life. This awareness needs to be built and manifests in harmonious relations among the nation's children. Currently, there is hoax news, intolerance, hate speech, high individualism, indifference. Attitudes like this can lead to the disintegration of the nation. We seem to sink into comfort for ourselves and lose our conscience. Words on

social media no longer recognize ethics and manners. In the past, we were known as a friendly, polite, and cultural nation that manifests in mutual respect, tolerance, and lives in harmony.

As a social being, change is certain and cannot be avoided, and it is commonplace. But how to make every change lead to goodness and progress for the Indonesian nation, and not the other way around. We live in a siege of information. Advances in technology and information make everyone can connect on social media. Through social media, everyone can exchange information with fellow media users. The information in circulation is not always correct, therefore it requires the ability to review and analyze any information that is circulating. Millennials as the largest social media users need to be observant and critical. Some certain individuals or groups use social media to commit fraud, tricking readers even though the author knows that what he wrote is not true. Anticipation of various information circulating on social media requires literacy. Literacy as a solution to disinformation for millennials in Indonesia (Pratiwi, 2019: 67)[1]. Disinformation is the delivery of misinformation, whether done on purpose to confuse others. Disinformation can occur in people who easily believe the information obtained without seeing or looking again for the source of information. Cultural and civic literacy helps shape the mindset of people who are smart in thinking, smart in attitude, and smart in acting. The disinformation that circulates can lead to friction, conflict, and division/disintegration. Cultural and civic literacy is the ability of individuals and communities to behave towards their social environment as part of a culture and nation (Ministry of Education and Culture, 2017). The ability of the Indonesian people to behave towards the social environment needs to be continuously nurtured and developed. Cultural literacy is a necessity in the context of non-negotiable national diversity. Through cultural literacy all differences become beautiful. It is a fact that humans are created because of love. Therefore humans love peace (Harahap, 2017: 11)[2].

In the era of globalization, it is essentially an era of world society competition where boundaries between countries are increasingly blurred. However, in every Indonesian citizen, there must be a spirit of independence, a soul of warrior who is needed in upholding the Republic of Indonesia. The spirit of national unity and integrity is stated in the third principle of Pancasila and the motto Unity in Diversity. As a country that has very diverse natural resources and communities (ethnicity, race, religion, language, culture, customs, and geographical conditions of an archipelagic country), which lives in peace side by side because of the internalized values of Pancasila and is implemented in its society. That the figures who formulated Pancasila were not creators, but they were extractors of the existing values of the Indonesian nation and summarized as Pancasila (Latief in Meinarno, 2016: 13)[3]. The experience of living together as the nation's children in differences that have a greater intensity of conflict is the background of the value content contained in Pancasila. The values of Pancasila are extracted from the earth and the pluralistic society of Indonesia and respect for diversity / difference as a national character. This is in line with that stated by Asmaroini (2017: 52)[4].

The formulation of the problem in this paper is how the role of cultural and civic literacy can strengthen Pancasila (Bhinneka Tunggal Ika) to glue the differences that exist to realize one Indonesia. The formulation of this problem is raised because of the various phenomenon that occur in the life of the nation and state. Various "sara" issues were raised on various media including social media, rampant hedonism, consumerism, instant culture and apathy. The purpose of this writing is to raise awareness of the soul of the nation's children to study the cultural heritage of the ancestors as stated in the Pancasila as part of the nation and state that has an important role in realizing a safe, peaceful and prosperous Indonesia.

2 Research Methods

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method to provide an overview of the social phenomenon that occurs in society with a literature study approach. Data collection is done through e-books, e-journals, books, and proceedings. The data collection technique is done by taking notes, reading and processing data, and drawing conclusions. The purpose of this research is to explain the phenomenon of the existence of various disinformations, hoax news that leads to the disintegration of the nation which can be overcome with cultural and civic literacy to strengthen Pancasila as an identity and unifier of diversity.

3 Discussion

National awareness is a sense that comes naturally due to social togetherness that grows from culture, history, and past aspirations. History provides a very valuable lesson, how important it is to cherish unity and integrity. During the colonial period, various sufferings were experienced which led the founders of the country to put aside differences and achieve unity which in turn led the Indonesian nation to independence. The independence that had been proclaimed with the aspirations to be achieved and contained in the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution was then used as a reference for filling independence. Various progress and achievements have been made, infrastructure development has been carried out and efforts to improve human resources have been and will continue to be encouraged. However, it is unfortunate that there is another side to this nation that is being eroded. The long history seems to be forgotten, the identity of the Indonesian nation, which was once known as a friendly, caring, mutual, helpful, deliberative nation began to disappear. Looking back we find that the founding fathers were aware of the dangers that loomed amid our pluralism. Advances in technology and information continue to develop and manifest in various media including online media. Online media offers convenience and efficiency. So that everyone can send information, receive, and access information. Unfortunately, a lot of information turns out to be hoaxes and cannot be justified. Mastel in Cristiany Juditha, (2018: 32)[5] reveals that currently, it is not easy to find information that is considered true. The results of research on 1,146 respondents revealed that 44.3% of them received hoax news every day and 17.2% received hoax news more than once a day. This condition is certainly concerning and it is necessary to find a way out so that hoax news can be minimized and recipients of information can filter so that they do not become victims of the spread of hoaxes. Hoax news is mostly spread through social media. This condition can be used as a momentum for the government to take action to prevent it. As written by Siswoko (2017: 16)[6] regarding government policies to prevent the spread of fake news or hoaxes and research results conclude that the government is taking other steps beyond blocking sites by forming the National Cyber Agency and collaborating with the Press Council and Facebook. The efforts made by the government are not optimal if they are not supported by community literacy. Literacy awareness needs to be continuously socialized, developed, and implemented so that unity and integrity are maintained.

3.1 Cultural and Civic Literacy

Through civic literacy, each individual is made aware of his rights and obligations as citizens, the meaning and importance of national integration, the meaning, and importance of national identity, national insight, democracy, nationalism, and national resilience. All of these materials' contents are included in the civic education material. Civic education is a subject that is given to all types and levels of education as an effort to provide information, instill and foster

students' awareness to know their identity as part of the Indonesian nation. Through civic education, awareness is created for every citizen to be a good citizen. Citizens who exercise their rights and obligations in a balanced manner. Willing to accept the difference as a given condition. It cannot be denied. Difference/diversity is a gift from God to the Indonesian people. This diversity has existed since the Indonesian nation was founded. The awareness of seeing and studying history helps every Indonesian, especially the younger generation, to open up to differences and be willing to work together, work hand in hand to develop Indonesia. Through literacy, citizens have an awareness that differences are not to be contested but something to be grateful for as a nation's wealth. Through civic education, cultural and civic literacy can be formed. Cultural and civic literacy should be attached to the activities of national and state life.

The implementation of cultural and civic literacy supports the realization of a harmonious, peaceful, and prosperous community life even though living in diversity and difference. Literacy is meant as comprehensive skills that include the ability to read, write, literate technology, politics, think critically, and be sensitive to the surrounding environment (Irianto & Febrianti, 2017)[7]. Cultural literacy shows that abilities and skills in understanding and having attitudes towards Indonesian culture as a national identity and civic literacy are the abilities, skills, and awareness to be able to understand/sort out the rights and obligations as citizens and the willingness to practice relationships and interactions. Through cultural literacy all differences become beautiful. It is a fact that humans are created because of love. Through civic literacy, moral values are revived as a basis for building, fostering, and developing smart and good citizens. (Ristekdikti, 2016: 1)[8] explains that learning civic education is learning Indonesian, learning to be human who has an Indonesian personality, builds a sense of nationality, and loves the Indonesian homeland. This statement shows that the development of civic literacy is the development and application of civic education materials in social life. Civic education plays a role in influencing, fostering a mindset, harmonious, tolerant behavior following the motto of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*. As a teaching material, it is important that civic education is delivered attractively and involves students in exploring various phenomena and problems that can threaten the unity of the nation.

Methods of discussion, inquiry, and various other methods including presenting short videos/films that can arouse a sense of humanity, a sense of nationalism, a sense of empathy, sharing and a willingness to accept differences can be selected. The goal of civic education is not just knowing but how students become actors of all the good things they have learned. Knowledge without implementation has no impact on others. The roles and functions of community leaders, religious leaders, educational figures can contribute through socialization, seminars, discussions with the community as part of civic literacy, and on these occasions, regional songs, regional dances, or national documentary films, or other forms of literacy can be shown as part of cultural literacy.

The large and varied number of regional arts owned by the Indonesian people seems to be neglected, losing prestige to outside culture. This condition is very unfortunate. If there is no awareness from the younger generation, those local arts will disappear. Future generations cannot see and enjoy it. These arts may also be claimed by other nations as theirs. The pride of the parents towards their sons/daughters who can speak the local language, sings folk songs, do regional dances are fading, it is no longer a matter of pride. The national anthem is rarely sung. The national anthem which was created with great enthusiasm, full of love, pride, and hope for the nation became meaningless. Most of the younger generation have not memorized the lyrics of the national songs.

3.2 Pancasila as the Identity and Unifier of the Nation

Pancasila is the national principle and the way of life of the Indonesian nation that must be cultivated and must be endeavored so that there is appreciation and practice of the noble values of Pancasila in various fields of life for all people. Conflicts that occur can certainly erode unity and even lead to the disintegration of the nation and can lead to a civil war that leaves countless tears, suffering, and material losses. National unity as one of the important milestones that were achieved when the Youth Pledge was made and then inscribed in the third principle of Pancasila and the slogan *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, seemed to be being tested. Will this nation be able to go through various "differences" and knit back the nationality with the belief that differences are not to be contested but how the existing differences become colors and enrich as well as become an attraction for foreign nations to study and come to Indonesia. Cultural and civic literacy not only saves and develops local and national culture but also builds the identity of the Indonesian nation in the midst of a global society so that they continue to love and be able to preserve this culture (Pratiwi, 2019: 51)[9].

The existence of nationality can be measured from the following three indicators: First; a sense of nationality is always related to efforts to foster and maintain a collective identity that binds and fosters a sense of brotherhood. Second; there is an obsession and shared ideals to build collective goodness and pride. Third: there is an understanding and appreciation of national symbols such as an appreciation for the flag, national anthem, hero figures, geographical location, and the values needed to actively participate in society (Samsuri in Sulianti 2018: 49)[10].

The purpose of civic literacy is to develop quality and responsible citizen participation, citizens who understand their duties, roles, and responsibilities as citizens towards national and state life in the context of the Republic of Indonesia which holds the principle of Unity in Diversity. The identity of the Indonesian nation, which was once known by many nations in the world as a friendly, caring, cooperative, helpful, and deliberative nation began to disappear. Overcoming the insistence on value shifting in the midst of national life, various activities such as symposiums, seminars, focus group discussions (FGD), and workshops were carried out. All of these activities need to be packed in an attractive manner and broadcast through various media so that they can be conveyed to all generations. Mass media is still the choice of most middle-aged people, whereas social media is the main choice of the younger generation. Apart from presenting these various events, the most important thing is the social environment and the exemplary figures. The role models of teachers and lecturers become a reference for students. Parents become guides and role models for their children.

When various problems occurred, the Indonesian nation seemed to be reminded of its identity again. Pancasila, which is extracted from its cultural wealth, has become a hot topic of discussion. The awareness of the nation and state is revived with an understanding of the diversity and multiculturalism of the nation. The values contained in the Pancasila Precepts are clear and can be used as guidelines in respecting differences in beliefs. Through the First Precepts, every person is invited to have faith and obey to worship according to their beliefs, to have a tolerant attitude, be willing to cooperate, be open, independent, and responsible. The survival of the state and nation of Indonesia in the era of globalization requires us to preserve the values of Pancasila so that the future generations of the nation can still live and practice them and so that the essence of these noble values is maintained and becomes the guide for the Indonesian nation throughout the ages (Asmaroini 2017: 52)[11].

4 Result

The spirit of nationalism of all the nation's children needs to be nurtured and developed by maintaining a balanced relationship and still recognizing their existence and identity. Unity does not mean eliminating differences. The educational process must be able to empower and provide knowledge and experience of value to students as a whole in a conducive environment that is able to provide reinforcement to students so that these values become internalized to form a character as the character of a whole Indonesian human being. Increasing awareness and social responsibility and citizenship of each individual for the advancement of society, nation, and country. Interpreting diversity starts with family, school, and neighborhood.

Cultivating correct values in a small community has an impact on the wider community, including the nation. Cultivating nationality/diversity starting from childhood has a bigger impact. On the other hand, failure to instill the values of diversity can give birth to individuals who are not ready to accept differences. The history of the process of becoming Indonesia must never be forgotten and, a sense of belonging, nationalism does not fade so that it becomes a "binder" in facing various national challenges. National history must not be lost, let alone be forgotten. Nationalism does not only appear when a nation is faced with challenges, threats from other nations. Nationalism must live in everyday life. Strong nationalism becomes a "guard door" in communicating, spreading information through social media. The information circulating is true, polite, ethical, and accountable information.

In the family, the parents become role models, setting an example when making relationships with fellow children of a pluralistic nation. The living environment through village officials, RT, RW carries out interesting, programmatic, and sustainable activities about Indonesianness, including the history of the formation of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. Schools and campuses as educational institutions take part and are responsible for implementing the curriculum on the history of the nation's struggle. The material does not always have to be in the form of a story, but it can be through videos, role plays, and so on. A great nation is a nation that remembers the services of its heroes. This memory is manifested in various activities involving all citizens.

5 Conclusion

Pancasila as the basis of the state and outlook on life should be the frame in knitting the life of the nation and state. Pancasila is used as a reference in every relationship that occurs. The values contained in the principles of Pancasila have provided a sign that every element of the nation's children can live side by side peacefully. The difference is an asset to continue to cultivate and build national integration. Advances in information technology can be used as a means of learning, strengthening unity, supporting each other, sharing experiences that motivate and foster nationalism. Literacy intelligence needs to be built continuously. Through cultural literacy and citizenship, each individual can place himself, know his rights and obligations and be able to implement all the good values that have been received.

The government in collaboration with educational institutions for all levels and types of education can carry out various social and innovative events such as singing competitions for the national anthem, poetry reading competitions, national songwriting competitions, national hero recognition competitions, narrating songs or culture from their respective regions, student exchanges (which are currently being promoted by the government), speech competitions, video competitions, discussions and seminars related to cultural and civic literacy. Schools and colleges can raise and revive local cultural values, by inserting them into each teaching material.

The delivery of teaching materials should always be linked to real examples of everyday life. Students can learn from various cases that occur in society such as queuing culture, cooperation culture, democracy culture (not interrupting the conversation), accepting differences, respecting elders culture, willingness to give unconditionally. Cultural and civic literacy is a means of shaping the personality of students, students, and also society.

In communities in the RT, RW, and Village environment, community gatherings can be held on certain days, especially before the National Education Day, Kartini Day, Heroes Day, Proclamation Day, and other opportunities to get closer to residents and convey various information that strengthens ties among the nation's children. Collecting reading books from the community and creating a shared library are also fine undertakings. People who are more economically capable can help people who are less fortunate in various forms. One of them is through the provision or installation of an internet network that can be used by residents together, especially for school children. Delivery of material is not only based on theory but is directly related to real conditions in the field. The utilization of the environment as a learning resource helps all participants get a pleasant learning atmosphere so that they can better understand, and can absorb well. Learning lasts a lifetime. There is no final word. As long as life is still in the body, the body continues to learn, explore, sort, and process information. Cultural and civic literacy play a role in making Indonesia a just and prosperous society.

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