Citizenship education to face the challenges of the millennial generation and generation Z

Dadang Mulyana
Pasundan University

Article Info	ABSTRACT
	In this digital and globalization era, the millennial and Gen Z generations are faced with complex social, political and economic issues that require a deep understanding of active and sustainable citizenship. This research aims to explore the effectiveness of citizenship education in preparing the millennial generation and generation Z to face contemporary challenges. This research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods. The results of the research show that the implementation of Citizenship Education is effective in shaping the character of the millennial generation and generation Z. The respondents showed a deep understanding of the government structure, rights and obligations of citizens, and showed positive attitudes such as responsibility towards society, tolerance for differences and active participation. in social or political activities. Citizenship skills, such as argumentation, dialogue, and collaboration, are also visible in their contributions to solving social problems and participating in community development projects. Thus, the research results confirm that Citizenship Education has a positive impact in equipping the younger generation with the knowledge and skills needed to play an active role in society, in accordance with the objectives of citizenship education.
	Corresponding Author: Dadang Mulyana Pasundan University dadangmulyana@unpas.ac.id

INTRODUCTION

When technology develops rapidly, big challenges emerge in various fields, including economic aspects, values and morals, inequality, racism, and even education (Akbar & Noviani, 2019). The younger generation, especially the Millennial Generation and Generation Z, face the risk of becoming victims of the negative effects of technological progress. One of the main challenges is how to prevent them from getting lost in the endless flow of information, content that is not always of high quality, and the complex impact of social media (Zis et al, 2021).

In this era, understanding technology and digital literacy are not only additional skills, but are a necessity to involve the younger generation positively in society. Education plays a central role in responding to these challenges by providing a framework that strengthens understanding of digital ethics, media literacy, and social responsibility (Farid, 2023).

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Educational curricula need to be developed to include these aspects, enabling the younger generation to utilize technology wisely, creatively, and form positive values in an ever-developing digital environment (Pare & Sihotang, 2023).

Facing increasingly complex challenges in the era of globalization, the younger generation, consisting of the Millennial Generation and Generation Z, need to be equipped with 21st century skills to successfully compete in this ever-changing world (Lalo, 2018). Critical thinking, creative and communicative skills are essential in understanding and responding to global dynamics, as well as responding to rapid technological and economic changes. This generation is expected to not only be consumers of technology, but also intelligent users, able to produce creative solutions, and have the ability to communicate effectively in an increasingly connected environment (Bahijah et al, 20122).

Citizenship education plays a crucial role in preparing the young generation to face the challenges of the 21st century. Through citizenship education, they can be empowered to become intelligent, participatory and responsible citizens (Mahardika, 2023). These educational programs can provide a deep understanding of global issues, encourage active involvement in society, and foster strong civic values. Thus, this generation can become agents of change who are able to respond to global challenges with intelligence and awareness of social responsibility (Prastowo & Setyowati, 2023).

The Millennial Generation, also known as Generation Y, includes individuals generally born between the early 1980s to the mid-1990s, although the exact timeline may vary. This generation grew up in a significant technological transition, witnessing the development of the internet, personal computers, and the emergence of social media (Miftah, 2019). Millennials are often considered a generation that is open-minded, creative, and has an interest in social issues. They are also known as a generation that is active in using digital technology, influencing the way they communicate, work and interact with the world (Hidayat, 2018).

Meanwhile, Generation Z, also known as iGen or post-millennials, is a group born around the mid-1990s to early 2010s. This generation is growing up in an era where digital technology is becoming increasingly integrated into everyday life (Hastini et al, 2020). They are natural consumers of social media platforms, mobile apps and digital information. Generation Z is often identified as individuals who are globally connected, independent, and have a high level of interest in social issues, including sustainability and equality (Zis et al, 2021).

Citizenship education plays a crucial role in shaping individuals into active, responsible citizens and aware of their role in society. Although the concept may vary in different countries, the essence of citizenship education is to instill the attitudes and knowledge needed to participate constructively in national and state life (Purwatiningsih, 2023). In this context, citizenship education does not only focus on civic knowledge, but also includes the formation of a civic attitude (civil disposition) that reflects democratic values, tolerance and respect for diversity (Septiana, 2020).

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Furthermore, citizenship education involves developing civic skills, such as the ability to argue, dialogue and work together in a social context. In addition, civic commitment is a foundation that encourages individuals to engage in positive activities that contribute to the progress of society (Ubaedillah, 2016). All of these concepts also bring psychological aspects, such as civic confidence and civic competence, which support the formation of individuals who have a strong civic identity and are able to answer complex challenges in the modern world (Marsudi, 2020). Thus, citizenship education is not only a curriculum program, but also an investment in the formation of citizens who are aware and empowered in facing civic duties.

The aim of this research is to investigate the effectiveness of citizenship education in shaping the attitudes, knowledge and skills of citizenship in the millennial generation and generation Z, so as to provide a deeper view of the contribution of citizenship education to their readiness to face the challenges of the 21st century. It is hoped that the benefits of this research can make a significant contribution to the development of a more relevant and effective citizenship education curriculum, as well as provide guidance for educational institutions and policy makers in strengthening the formation of citizens who are active, responsible and committed to civic values.

METHOD

This research adopts a qualitative approach, which aims to gain an in-depth understanding of human perception of reality. Qualitative research is flexible and seeks to maintain the full context of the data throughout its analysis. The descriptive analysis method, as explained by Noor (2011), is used to draw significant conclusions from the data collected. In this research, observation, documentation and interview techniques were used as data collection instruments. Through the use of data reduction and technical triangulation, researchers collected, simplified, and verified data, enabling a deeper understanding of the impact of civics education on the perceptions and understanding of millennials and generation Z.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Citizenship education, as a mandatory subject in accordance with Republic of Indonesia Law no. 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System, plays a central role in forming nationalistic character and attitudes for generation Z and the millennial generation. As the foundation of education, this subject not only provides an understanding of the concept of nationality, but also guides individuals on how to live national and state life in accordance with the values of Pancasila. There is an increasingly real urgency in developing the character of the younger generation considering the rapid social and technological dynamics.

Citizenship education provides a foundation for the formation of Generation Z and Millennials who are nationalistic, intelligent, skilled, have character and morals. The goal not only involves protecting the country from negative aspects both from within and

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without, but also building a citizenship that is responsive to changing times. By referring to the values of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, citizenship education creates citizens who have the skills to think critically, understand diversity, and participate actively in society. Therefore, citizenship education is not only a legal obligation, but also the main pillar in forming the moral foundation and character of the nation's next generation.

The importance of citizenship education in the era of the millennial generation and generation Z cannot be underestimated, considering the various upheavals and challenges that can damage and erode Indonesian cultural values. Especially for the 21st century millennial and Z generations, who hold the hope for the nation's future, understanding citizenship education subjects is a must. In the midst of rapid globalization and technology, citizenship education is not only a means of maintaining cultural identity, but also an important tool in forming nationalistic character.

In this context, character education through teaching Citizenship Education at various levels of education has a strategic role. This subject is a forum for instilling the noble values of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, creating a spirit of nationalism, and nurturing a feeling of love for the homeland and Indonesian products. Preparing the millennial and Z generations is not only in terms of skills and knowledge, but also in building strong, Pancasila-based character. Thus, citizenship education is the main foundation in forming a golden generation that is not only qualified, but also has a high commitment to citizenship and national values.

In efforts to develop the character of the millennial generation and generation Z through citizenship education, there are significant challenges, especially considering the presence of increasingly sophisticated technology. This generation, which lives in the era of industrial revolution 4.0, is dependent on devices or gadgets as an integral part of everyday life. One of the main challenges is how to instill Pancasila values amidst the flood of information from the internet, which is not always in line with civic values. The influence of mass media, such as television, is also a crucial aspect that needs to be considered. The large number of shows that do not provide benefits and are not age appropriate can have a serious impact on the formation of the morals and character of the nation's next generation. Therefore, citizenship education needs to adapt strategies and approaches to overcome negative influences that can damage the values of Pancasila.

The effectiveness of Citizenship Education in facing the challenges of the Millennial Generation and Generation Z can be seen through several forms which include the understanding, attitudes and citizenship skills acquired by these individuals. First, understanding citizenship in the millennial generation and generation Z is not only limited to basic knowledge but includes an in-depth understanding of government structures, rights and obligations as citizens, as well as contemporary social and political issues. In this increasingly complex era, having a deep insight into these elements is the key to forming individuals who actively participate in the life of the nation and state. With a solid understanding, it is hoped that this generation will be able to see the social and political

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context with a broader perspective, enabling them to engage in constructive discussions and contribute valuable thoughts to the progress of society.

The effectiveness of citizenship education for the millennial and Z generations can be measured by the extent to which they are able to apply this knowledge in everyday life. Understanding applied in real contexts can be reflected in their ability to make informed and informed decisions. By actively using civic knowledge, this generation is expected to be able to play a more meaningful role in dealing with contemporary issues, take a stance based on civic values, and make positive contributions to desired social change.

The importance of measuring the effectiveness of citizenship education is not only the level of knowledge acquired by this generation, but also their ability to apply this knowledge in everyday life. Thus, the results of citizenship education are not only fulfilling academic needs, but rather creating individuals who can play an active and positive role in building a more inclusive and just society.

Second, the effectiveness of citizenship education can be reflected through the positive attitudes that are fostered in the millennial generation and generation Z. First of all, a sense of responsibility towards society is an important indicator. If citizenship education is able to stimulate this sense of responsibility, it is hoped that this generation can become agents of change who care about welfare and the common good. By understanding their respective roles in society, they can contribute positively to creating a more harmonious and empowering environment.

Tolerance for differences is also a crucial civic attitude. In an increasingly diverse society, citizenship education needs to encourage this generation to accept and appreciate diversity, whether in terms of culture, religion or other backgrounds. This attitude of tolerance is the basis for social harmony and understanding across groups, which can directly form a society that is inclusive and friendly towards differences.

Active participation in social or political activities is also a measure of the effectiveness of citizenship education. If this generation is able to be actively involved in various community initiatives or political processes, then citizenship education can be considered successful. This participation reflects their understanding of their rights and obligations as citizens, as well as the courage to play a role in creating positive change in society. Thus, the effectiveness of citizenship education is not only measured in terms of knowledge, but also from real results in forming positive attitudes that have a positive impact on society as a whole.

Finally, citizenship skills, which include the ability to argue, dialogue and collaborate, have a central role in assessing the effectiveness of Citizenship Education. The millennial generation and generation Z who are able to apply these skills effectively prove that citizenship education has had a real impact in forming individuals who are active and empowered in society. The ability to argue is important in the context of citizenship. The younger generation who are able to formulate logical arguments and are based on civic knowledge can become effective agents of change. They can defend their views tactfully,

confront differences of opinion with strong arguments, and participate actively in constructive discussions.

Furthermore, the ability to dialogue is an important foundation in forming citizens who can communicate effectively. In this context, this generation is able to listen to other people's views, open space for inclusive discussions, and reach mutual understanding. Good dialogue is an instrument for responding to social challenges and building unity in diversity. Finally, collaboration skills are an important pillar in making a positive contribution to community development. A generation that is able to work together with others, involve themselves in collective projects, and contribute to solving social problems shows the effectiveness of citizenship education in producing individuals who not only care about themselves, but also about the common good. Thus, if the younger generation can apply these citizenship skills in practical contexts, such as solving social problems and collaborating in community development projects, it can be considered positive evidence of the effectiveness of Citizenship Education.

Overall, the effectiveness of Citizenship Education can be seen through the extent to which the millennial generation and generation Z are able to integrate civic understanding, attitudes and skills into their daily lives. The success of this education is reflected in their ability to apply in-depth knowledge of government structures, the rights and obligations of citizens, as well as contemporary social and political issues. In addition, positive civic attitudes, such as a sense of responsibility towards society, tolerance for differences, and active participation in social or political activities, are indicators that this education has succeeded in forming the character of citizens who contribute positively to society. The ability to argue, dialogue and collaborate, as part of citizenship skills, is also seen in their contribution to solving social problems and participating in community development projects. Thus, this comprehensive integration proves that Citizenship Education has succeeded in achieving its goal of equipping this generation with the knowledge and skills needed to face today's challenges and play an active role in building a more inclusive and just society.

CONCLUSION

Citizenship education plays an important role in shaping the character of the millennial generation and generation Z. As a mandatory subject, this education not only provides in-depth knowledge about government structures, the rights and obligations of citizens, but also focuses on forming civic attitudes and skills. The effectiveness of this education can be measured through the ability of the younger generation to integrate these understandings, attitudes and skills into everyday life. Positive citizenship attitudes, such as responsibility towards society, tolerance for differences, and active participation in social or political activities, are benchmarks for the success of citizenship education. In addition, citizenship skills, such as arguing, dialogue and collaboration, are indicators of effectiveness in solving social problems and contributing to community development. With the success of Citizenship Education, the millennial and Z generations are able to become intelligent,

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responsible citizens and contribute positively in facing today's challenges. The integration of knowledge, attitudes and civic skills proves that this education achieves its goal of forming individuals who not only understand their role in society, but also have the ability to actively participate in building an inclusive and just society.

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