

The Actualization of Civic Education as a Solid Foundation for Youth in Countering Secularism

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Abstract

Civic Education holds significant importance as a scientific field in cultivating the moral values of the Indonesian population and shaping the future image of the country. In the present era, there is an urgent need for Civic Education among the Indonesian people, particularly the youth, to establish a solid national foundation and develop noble character traits that will protect them from the influence of secularism pervading society. Secularism is viewed as a formidable adversary to the Indonesian people, and it is crucial to prevent the younger generation from embracing such ideas within the boundaries of the Indonesian state. This article adopts a literature review approach, incorporating articles from various credible sources such as SAGE Journal, Google Scholar, and relevant books, in order to enhance the credibility and accuracy of the research findings. The outcomes of this study will comprehensively illustrate the implementation of Civic Education as a means to empower youth in firmly opposing the spread of secularism in Indonesia. The role of youth in shaping the nation's civilization is of utmost significance, as they serve as the vanguard in safeguarding against the encroachment of secularism and strive towards realizing the national ideals of independence, unity, sovereignty, justice, and prosperity.

Keywords: Civic Education, Youth, Secularism



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INTRODUCTION

Civic Education as a field of study has been integrated into the national education system, therefore PKN studies must be concretely realized in learning and curriculum across all educational paths and levels. Civic Education is also a multidimensional field of study with cross-disciplinary contexts. According to Abdul Azis and Sapriya (2011, p. 97), the object of Civic Education is now broader than its embryonic stage, making Civic Education truly multidimensional and can be approached as Civic Education, Political Education, Values and Morals Education, National Character Education, Community Education, Law and Human Rights Education, as well as Democracy Education. As a values and morals education, Civic Education plays a central role and bears the responsibility of shaping the morality of the nation's future generation, namely the youth, to build the nation's civilization in the present and future. A citizen will possess values and morals if they embrace religion, which serves as their protector from threats that come from within and outside themselves.

Civic Education is the main provision for young people to be firm in their stance in defending the integrity of the nation and state from obstacles and threats. The role of youth in the historical development of movements and struggles has been recorded in the golden ink records of the history of the formation of the Indonesian state. Youth in the future will always be the demands of the community, not only to be present, they must be proactive and participatory as pioneers and at the forefront of the life of the community, nation and state, treading the path of the future (Cecep Darmawan et al, 2022, p.1). The main problem being

faced by youth today is the rise of secularism in the context of the life of Indonesian society. It needs to be emphasized again that secularism is the common enemy of the nation, and therefore it must be eradicated as soon as possible because it will damage the order of life of the nation and state in the future. In counteracting secularism, of course, youth must be provided with broad scientific provisions so that secularism does not penetrate the soul of youth and reside in Indonesian youth, because if that happens, of course the struggle of the founding fathers in formulating the state ideology, namely Pancasila, will be in vain and of no use at all. Of course this is not desirable at all, Pancasila explicitly mandates that all citizens must embrace a religion according to their respective beliefs, because religion is a protector of mankind from worldly temptations that will mislead their way. Civics are substantially correlated with the norms of religious life, namely teaching Indonesian citizens to hold fast to implementing divine values and human values in everyday life as the foundation of life to live in the lap of this motherland.

Civic Education has a strategic role for youth to prepare them to become intelligent, responsible and civilized citizens (Farida Sekti Pahlevi, 2017, p. 67). As citizens who are intelligent, responsible, and have manners, youth will certainly realize the first precepts of Pancasila, namely Belief in One Almighty God to embrace religion in warding off secularism to its roots, because religion and Pancasila are virtuous values that will be useful for developing youth character. PKn strongly demands all citizens to have noble character so that they can become the spearhead and role model for eliminating secularism which is very much contrary to Pancasila and religious values. Reza Arfah, a youth leader, once made an analogy to Socrates' words, namely "don't force the current youth movement to be the same as before. What we must understand correctly is that the characteristics of today's youth are different from before. Of course, there are things that are universal and remain unchanged, such as social norms. and religious norms (Reza Arfah, 2020, p.5)". Social norms and religious norms certainly will not be shaken even by the times, because these two values are sacred values that will live eternally in the constellation of this dynamic society's life and of course the discussion of social values and religious values is in the scientific study of Civics, so threads can be drawn red that the actualization of Civic Education is so crucial as the foundation of youth life to strengthen the integrity of the nation and state. Young people who live following the path directed by the Civics discipline will of course find it easy to counteract secularism integrally, because secularism is a parasite in the life of society, nation and state.

The realization of Civics learning will unite all youth by gripping the principles of Unity in Diversity and can internalize nationalism to improve the quality of education and morals of today's youth (Acep Supriadi, Harpani Matnuh, & Mitha, 2014, p. 649). The unity of youth on the basis of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* and nationalism is a powerful weapon in paralyzing secularism. People who are trapped in secularism will slowly kill them physically and spiritually, therefore youth cannot be killed by secularism. Religion and state cannot be separated at any time, both have a very strong magnet in fulfilling the human rights and obligations of Indonesian citizens. This research article written aims to be a real reference in the form of actualization in the field for all education stakeholders in creating a young generation of noble character and reviewing the meaning of the characters contained in Civics as a strong foundation in counteracting secularism. Secularism is very much against the ideology of the Indonesian state and the values of religious virtues. This research presents a revitalization or renewal with Civic Education capital which is the main basis for youth in strongly condemning the presence of secularism in the midst of Indonesian people's lives which will destroy the civilizational order of social life in the territory NKRI.

RESEARCH METHODS

Research methodology plays a crucial role in determining the process of a research study. As stated by Haddy Suprpto (2017, p. 8), research methodology refers to the systematic procedures or steps employed to acquire knowledge or scientific information. In other words, research methodology represents the scientific approach to obtaining information for specific purposes and benefits. Indeed, acquiring scientific knowledge requires significant effort through the procedures of the scientific method. The methodology employed in this article is qualitative research with a literature study approach. The reason for selecting the qualitative method is to obtain comprehensive data, as qualitative research involves analyzing natural data without any manipulation. Qualitative research methodology is a research method used to study objects in their natural conditions (in contrast to experiments), where the researcher acts as the key instrument. Data collection techniques are conducted through triangulation, data analysis is inductive in nature, and the research findings emphasize meanings rather than generalizations (Sugiyono, 2020, p. 9). In this article, the research is conducted in a natural setting, ensuring that the presented data are factual and not a result of manipulation. By employing this qualitative method, the researcher believes that it will support the research, as this approach allows for a detailed exploration and focused examination of the research subject.

The approach used in writing this article is a literature study or literature review. It begins by providing a comprehensive overview and subsequently conducting field research, which will be analyzed as a whole to identify recommendations provided by the researcher. The chosen model for this review involves outlining and comparing selected books, journals, and other sources that the author has chosen to thoroughly examine. The data collection technique of literature study or literature review will assist the researcher in addressing the research problem in this article. This article utilizes a literature study method, which involves searching for articles from various sources that provide theoretical support through SAGE Journals, Google Scholar, and relevant books to enhance the writing of this article. In this research, a thorough examination will be conducted on how the actualization of Civic Education serves as a solid foundation for Indonesian youth to counter secularism holistically. However, youth undoubtedly play a crucial role in national development, especially in combating secularism. Therefore, it is essential for youth to be proactive in countering this ideology, which serves as a divisive force for the future of the nation and state.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Before discussing holistically about the dangers of the emergence of secularism for the Indonesian people, it would be better to start from the terminological and historical understanding of the emergence of secularism.. Terminologically, the notion of secularism can be taken from what is written in the Webster Dictionary namely "a system of doctrines and practices that rejects any form of religious faith and worship (Mursal, 2014, p. 198)". In simple terms, in terms of terminology, it is a movement that calls for worldly life based on material things. It is this material principle that further encourages them to keep religion away from their lives, including in matters of politics and the state. The concept of secularism has originated since the beginning of the European Enlightenment, after power was under the hands of the hegemonic power of the Catholic Christian church in the Middle Ages (5th – 15th century AD). Where church and state collaborate to dominate all aspects of people's lives. Under the reins of church power, policies made by unscrupulous clergy are no longer in accordance with the spirit of humanity and the development of the times. This made human life feel like they were in a dark world, the climax of which was when humans were fed up with the arbitrariness of the domination of the church in intervening in human life at that time. This

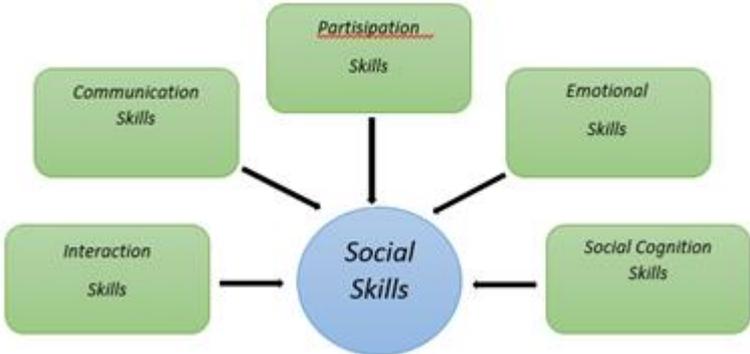
theory of secularism acknowledges that there was an excessive act in the name of religion in dealing with political and state life at that time. Going too far in elaborating the meaning of secularism is what Indonesian youths as the backbone of the country are trying to break to prevent this secularism from growing and developing in the territory of The Republic Indonesian (NKRI).

The determination of Civic Education is urgently needed to reconstruct the paradigm of the Indonesian youth movement to always stay away from and even kill secularism in this country. The country will depend on youth in the future to create peace and prosperity in people's lives. According to Dasim Budimansyah (2010, p.8) Civic Education is a means of coaching the younger generation to become good and smart citizenship, there is no task more important than the development of responsible, effective, and educated citizens. With the capital of responsibility and being educated, it will certainly prevent youth from secularism, because the goal of secularism will definitely lead youth to ideologically indoctrinate youth thinking. Tan Malaka (2019) in his book entitled *Young Spirit* says "Part of that progress was born because of war, a nation that won a victory in that war would be richer, more powerful, and more intelligent (Tan Malaka, 2019, p.100)". The substance of Tan Malaka's statement when correlated with the role of youth in counteracting secularism is very integrally connected, because after all this secularism must be fought by Indonesian youth to achieve victory, namely the life of an independent nation and state, united, sovereign, just and prosperous. Do not let the youth lose the war to save the people and nation who are trapped in the indoctrination of the ideology of secularism.

The concrete presence of secularism that disturbs the stability of life in Indonesia is LGBT, where these LGBT activities have violated God's natural rules and Pancasila ideology. The sad thing is that there are several Indonesian citizens who voice their support for LGBT people, even though it is clear that if we follow the guidelines for living according to Pancasila, a person will have religious beliefs, as if following Pancasila. Pancasila will teach all citizens, including youth, to have religious beliefs as a guide for them to achieve a plenary life goal. Secularism will not make a person achieve a perfect life, because it violates the nature that God has planned. Civic Education is an effective form of actualization to encourage Indonesian youth to have the motivation and commitment to always reflect Pancasila values in everyday life. Secularism is very dangerous if not fought thoroughly by all elements of the nation. Secularism will eliminate sacred values and norms in religion and state ideology and replace them with an understanding of relativism which has no value (Hamdiah A. Latif, 2011, p. 62). Civic Education in the learning process is very important in training the younger generation or youth to always practice values final As stated in Pancasila, youth who are committed to continuing to defend the basic values of the state's philosophy will certainly not be degraded by the conditions of the times. Secularism will bring harm to the life of the nation and state. The real proof is that secularism will open a wide door for moral decay, secularism does not look at the taboo or disgrace of free association of the younger generation as long as they are adults and make their own choices, this evidence is juvenile delinquency and the nation's moral decadence (Ibrahim Bafadhol, 2015, p. 888). Of course, if moral decadence occurs in Indonesia, it will gradually destroy the social life of the Indonesian people, this is something that all Indonesians really don't want.

Rearranging the structure of people's lives so that they are not trapped in ideological thoughts of secularism, of course, is a task that is borne by a young man for the sake of realizing national development. To do all that of course the youth must have softskill to solve the problems that are currently plaguing the Indonesian nation. According to Cecep Darmawan (2021, p. 16) one softskill that can support the youth to create change is to have social skill and political skill, because the secondskill This is very closely related to youth who live to

interact and socialize in real political realities in society. Especially for social skill when manifested in the concept image will be formed as below.



Picture 1. Social Skills
Source: Cecep Darmawan (2021, p. 19)

The picture above, when interpreted carefully, what youth need in training social skills is to have social interaction, social communication, social participation, social emotion, and social knowledge. These five elements are youth elements in order to have good social skills. Having social skills plus political skills will certainly be an important capital for youth to change the paradigm of people's thinking to always be consistent and resistant in any conditions that will shake people's lives, such as secularism is a real shock that disrupts the stability of national life.

Discussion

Social and political skills are the scope of discussion in Civic Education if young people have these skills it will certainly be a gift for the life of the Indonesian nation to counteract secularism in totality. It needs to be reiterated that the existence of civics education is vital as a solid foundation in building the nation's civilization in the future. Fostering national insights and love for the motherland through civic education programs is something that needs to be carried out on an ongoing basis in order to ensure the continuity of the life of the state and nation as a whole and strong (Dasim Budimansyah, 2010, p. 8). The state and nation will continue to stand firm if the younger generation is given sufficient national insight as a provision to carry on the life of the nation and state.

Carole L. Hahn (2015, p.5) says "Many researchers discuss about civic education need to situate conceptions of citizenship in the context of historical and contemporary issues specific to the country or region". If translated, that is, many researchers discuss the need for civic education to place the conception of citizenship in the context of historical and contemporary issues for countries or regions. The history of Indonesian state thinkers has always strongly rejected the ideology of secularism developing in the country. Secularism can completely destroy the state of the country and of course there will be decadence of morality for the nation and state in the future. The opinion about how important it is to study the history of the state in civics education is strengthened by the opinion of Heinrich Mintrop (2003, p. 449) who states "The country's national history is indeed seen as one of the most important topics of civic education, and obeying the law one of the most important civic attitudes to be taught". It can be learned from Heinrich's statement that studying state history is crucial in discussions in civics education as a way of forming the character of good citizens.. Civic education is an important foundation in studying the history of the country and provides a good embodiment for young people to sacrifice their bodies and souls for the integrity of the nation and state. Secularism will clearly destroy the nation's civilization, therefore Indonesian youth must be ready to

combat secularism in the territory of the Republic of Indonesia. Civic education as a scientific study will determine the character of Indonesian youth to have a commitment to always love their homeland until the end of their lives, the Indonesian state at this time really needs help from the younger generation so that they continue to love it for the sake of the upholding and sovereignty of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia on this earth.

Secularism is a major disturbance to the progress of education and the state, and therefore it must be eradicated as soon as it eradicates corruption. People who have fallen into secularism in their lives will find dead ends and lose their way, because they do not have ideal goals like normal people in life. Normal people in their lives must have a strong belief that religion and state cannot be separated and will always have coherence at any time. State affairs will always be related to religion, because the state in the goals set forth in its constitution will definitely prioritize the affairs of the people and that is in religious teachings in general. People's affairs will be the main topic of discussion in religion, therefore if people adhere to secularism by separating religion and state at any time they will not find a bright path in their life. Youth can basically become the main actors in eradicating a secularism that is growing and developing in Indonesia by being equipped with a broad insight regarding nationality and statehood as contained in the Citizenship Education discipline. Normal people will of course balk at the teachings of secularism, how can sane people accept the presence of secularism, only people who are mentally and psychologically disabled can accept the presence of this secularism. The impact of the presence of secularism grows and develops as an LGBT that pervades life in this world, LGBT is clearly disgusting if accepted. God has created everything in pairs, day and night, earth and moon, and male and female.

Secularism will have the effect of erasing religious values and norms and Pancasila ideology from the souls of all citizens, then replacing them with Western product values (Ibrahim Bafadhol, 2015, p. 889). It is very clear that western products are in principle the opposite of culture in Indonesia which prioritizes courtesy over knowledge. If knowledge takes precedence over courtesy, an institutionalized depravity will be created in the context of social life. Actualization Civic education will essentially foster character for the younger generation, it is this character that will create a change from just being good to being great which is needed for the success of building a nation's civilization (S. Widiyono, 2019, p. 20). Civic education will remind the younger generation to remain upright in carrying out the teachings of Pancasila and religion as a solid stronghold to conquer the development of secularism. Secularism is poison to life and must be cleaned up immediately so that its existence is not even visible. Humans who believe in secularism, surely they will live abnormally. Actualization Civic education as a medium of learning and scientific studies is urgently needed as a provision for Indonesian youth to counteract the secularism that is currently growing and developing. Youth must join hands and unite their determination to commit to reflecting Pancasila values and religious values as grand design in his life.

CONCLUSION

The Indonesian state requires high determination from youth such as the ability to take a responsible and responsive attitude to phenomena that occur in social life. Indonesian youth with integrity will certainly balk at the presence of secularism that wants to reside in this motherland. Secularism is actually a dogma that is contrary to the constellation of people's lives in Indonesia, because after all religious affairs and state affairs will always go together to form a collaborative principle of positive life for humanity. Supporting secularism to continue to develop is a major destruction for the life of society, nation and state. Actualization Civic education as a learning medium as well as scientific studies is urgently needed to shape the

character of the younger generation to have a noble spirit of nationalism (nationalism). Separating the affairs of religion and the state will certainly create a gap and widen existing problems, because the nuances of state ideology and religion must continue to coexist as a provision for the lives of citizens. Substance actualization civic education will combine Pancasila values and religious values as a solid foundation for expelling secularism in the territory of the Republic of Indonesia.

The vital capital of youth in counteracting secularism is that they are able to embody the material content of civics education in real life as a way of life to maintain the stability of national development. The contribution of civics education in the national education system will never be reciprocated by anything, because civics education will form a fundamental character foundation in reconstructing the soul of youth in maintaining the integrity and sovereignty of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. The ideal education is education that combines faith and science, morals and skill, intelligence and piety. Civic education certainly covers all of this holistically as a scientific study which always has implications for morals, knowledge and skill. Secularism is poison for humans, someone who has been carried away by secularism will experience strange symptoms in their life, they will commit acts that are prohibited by religion and the state constitution.

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