



## Building the soul of Indonesian nationalism from children through strong character education

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### Abstract

The basic question in this research is how to build the spirit of nationalism from childhood through strong character education. The method in writing is the descriptive-analytical method, then searches for the most relevant and main data related to this study and a sharper analysis is carried out so that creative ideas or ideas can be generated through interviews with related sources. The result of this research is that building the spirit of nationalism since children is a benchmark for building a strong character, must really be practiced as a source of value and a reference in building the character of the children themselves. contained in Article 3 of Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the Indonesian education system. The spirit of Nationalism must be grown in real terms so that it can build Indonesian people who love their homeland as well as adhere to the spirit of unity among the nation and the country of Indonesia.

**Keywords:** Character, education, nasionalism

### Introduction

The level of success of Indonesia's national development in all fields will depend greatly on human resources as the nation's assets in optimizing and maximizing the development of all human resources owned. These efforts can be made and pursued through education, both through formal education and non-formal education (Amanudin, 2019) <sup>[1]</sup>. Education is expected to be able to create a generation that has intellectual intelligence, *lifeskill*, and good character (Melati, 2021) <sup>[2]</sup>.

Education aims to build a sovereign national order with the values of honesty, politeness, intelligence, sensitivity and concern for the life of the nation and state (Jaya, 2021) <sup>[3]</sup>. Currently, it is realized that the problems in the world of education that will be faced in the future will not become simpler, but more complex. In facing these increasingly complex problems and challenges, a generation is needed that is capable of higher order thinking (creative and innovative), character, love and pride in being an Indonesian nation. Character education is one of the things currently emphasized in education in Indonesia. Character education needs to be introduced to children from an early age, remembering that the treatment given to children at an early age will be firmly embedded in the child. The characters introduced include universal values and nationalism through simple methods that are easy for children to use (Suyanto, 2012) <sup>[4]</sup>. Character education is expected to produce the nation's next generation who have personal and social competence so that they become good citizens (*good care orgood citizen*) with characteristics including: daring to take a positive attitude to uphold social norms, legal rules and noble moral values or good character, for the sake of the future of the nation which prioritizes the values of freedom, equality, brotherhood, unity, nationality, diversity, multiculturalism, nationalism, democracy and democratization which originate from the character and moral values of the nation (Sudaryanti, 2012) <sup>[5]</sup>. Character is a reflection of a person's complete personality. The various problems faced by the Indonesian people range from

poverty, unemployment, terrorism and others. Causing one or more problems. One of them is the weakening of the spirit of nationalism of the Indonesian people, especially the younger generation (Werdiningsih, 2018) <sup>[6]</sup>. Indeed, it cannot be denied, because people prefer to survive rather than think about things like that which they consider unimportant.

Even though a sense of nationalism is very important for the Indonesian nation to become an advanced nation, a modern nation, a nation that is safe and peaceful, just and prosperous. This is also related to the phenomenon of globalization which is actually a challenge for the Indonesian nation. Will globalization result in decline or vice versa? This is where the important and central role of education lies in bringing teenagers in particular and the younger generation in general towards social change which also means social progress and national progress. In this case, education determines the future of the nation and state in the future. The results of this research are that building a spirit of nationalism from childhood is a benchmark for building strong character. This must really be practiced as a source of value and reference in building character. the children themselves.

Contained in Article 3 of Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the Indonesian Education System, it also states that national education functions to develop abilities and shape the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to make the life of the nation intelligent, aimed at developing the potential of those who have faith and devotion to God Almighty., have noble character, be healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and be a democratic and responsible citizen. In a broad scope, education can be said to be a process of acquiring knowledge, skills and habits that will be used as a legacy from one generation to the next. The learning process itself starts from teaching, training, to research.

## Library Study

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, the meaning of "nationalism" comes from the words national and ism, namely nationalism which contains the meaning of awareness and spirit of love for one's country, having a sense of nationality, or maintaining national honor. The meaning of Nationalism itself is a political attitude of the people of a nation that has the same culture and territory as well as the same ideals and goals, so that the people of a nation feel a deep loyalty to the nation itself, love for their homeland, race, language. or shared cultural history. Nationalism is the soul of the Indonesian nation that will continue to exist as long as the Indonesian nation exists.

Nationalism is not a narrow meaning, perhaps it is even richer today. There are several factors that influence the erosion of the spirit of nationalism in children, namely globalization. The phenomenon of globalization is actually a challenge for the Indonesian people. This is where the important and central role of education lies in bringing teenagers in particular and the younger generation in general towards social change which also means social progress and national progress. In this case, education determines the future of the nation and state in the future. The results of this research are that building a spirit of nationalism from childhood is a benchmark for building strong character. This must really be practiced as a source of value and reference in building character. the children themselves. As stated in Article 3 of Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the Indonesian Education System, it also states that national education functions to develop abilities and shape the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to educate the life of the nation, aimed at developing the potential of those who have faith and devotion to God Almighty, with good morals. noble, healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and a democratic and responsible citizen (Kaelan, 2014) <sup>[7]</sup>.

Education, apart from being a means of transferring knowledge and social culture, is also a means of passing on the nation's ideology to the next generation, which again can only be done through education. A nation will be strong with a strong and good quality education system. Indonesian nationalism is a formed nationalism, an awareness of national identity as a result of construction due to experiences of suffering and discrimination by the Dutch colonial people. That is Indonesian nationalism, namely an assertion of self-identity versus colonialism-imperialism. Patriotism is an attitude of always loving or defending the homeland, a true warrior, a national fighter who has the spirit, attitude and behavior of love for the homeland, where he is willing to sacrifice everything, even his soul, for the sake of the progress, glory and prosperity of the homeland. Strengthening the spirit of nationalism and patriotism in the current context of globalization must focus more on strategic elements in the global arena.

Nationalism is predicted to disappear as a country becomes more modern. The challenge for Indonesian nationalism in the future is how we create a liberal-democratic national state where the basic rights of every citizen are recognized, respected and guaranteed, where the law is enforced definitely and fairly, where the state realizes general welfare, etc. Attitudes of patriotism, nationalism and independent living are very important. Because it will bring prosperity and progress to a nation. In Indonesia, nationalism gave birth to Pancasila as the state ideology.

Another theory regarding nationalism, Nationalism comes from the word nation which means nation. According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (Ali, 1994) <sup>[9]</sup> The word nation has the meaning: (1) a unity of people with the same descent, customs, language and history as well as self-government; (2) groups of humans, animals or plants that have the same origin and the same or concurrent characteristics; and (3) groups of people who are usually bound together by a common language and culture, and who usually occupy a certain area on the face of the earth.

Some of the meanings of the word nation above show the meaning that a nation is a unity that arises from similarities. descent, culture, government and place. Several tribes or races can form a nation provided there is a will to unite which is realized in the formation of a government that is obeyed together. The word nation has two meanings: the anthropological-sociological meaning and the political meaning. According to the anthropological-sociological understanding, a nation is a society which is an independent living community and each member of that society feels a unity of ethnicity, language, religion, history and customs. This understanding allows for the existence of several nations in a country and conversely one nation is spread across more than one country. Meanwhile, in a political sense, a nation is a community in the same area and they are subject to the sovereignty of their country as the highest authority outward and inward. Nation (*nation*) in a political sense is what then becomes the main topic of discussion of nationalism. The term nationalism which has been absorbed into Indonesian has two meanings: the understanding (teaching) of loving one's own nation and country and awareness of membership in a nation which, potentially or actually, together achieves, maintains and perpetuates identity, integrity, prosperity and the strength of the nation (Ali, 1994) <sup>[9]</sup>.

Thus, nationalism means declaring the superiority of a group affinity based on similarities in language, culture and territory. The terms nationalist and national, which come from Latin meaning "born in", sometimes overlap with the term which comes from Greek, ethnic. However, this latter term is usually used to refer to culture, language and ancestry outside the political context (Riff, 1995) <sup>[10]</sup>. In Indonesia, nationalism gave birth to Pancasila as the state ideology. The formulation of Pancasila as a state ideology occurred in BPUPKI (Investigative Body for Preparatory Efforts for Indonesian Independence). It was in this body that Soekarno came up with an idea which was a development of his thinking about the unity of three major currents: Nationalism, Islam and Marxism. His understanding of these three things is different from the understanding of other people who assume that the three cannot be combined. In an article he wrote he stated, "I am still nationalist, still Islamic, still Marxist, the synthesis of these three things fills my chest. One synthesis that in my own opinion is the synthesis that *awesome* (Orphan, 1995) <sup>[11]</sup>.

In the article, he also explained that Islam had strengthened the feeling and direction of nationalism. Soekarno considered that the Islamic ideal of realizing human brotherhood did not conflict with his concept of nationalism. This separation does not mean eliminating the possibility of enforcing Islamic laws in the state, because if the majority of parliament members are people with a Muslim spirit, they can propose and include religious regulations in state laws.

That is the ideal of an Islamic state according to Soekarno. With this rationale in mind, Soekarno proposed five principles for an independent Indonesian state. The five principles are: (1) Indonesian Nationality, (2) Internationalism or humanity, (3) Consensus or democracy, (4) Social welfare, (5) Belief in God. This proposal gave rise to differences of opinion between secular nationalists and Islamic nationalists and prompted the formation of a sub-committee consisting of four representatives of secular nationalists and four representatives of Islamic nationalists and Soekarno as chairman and mediator. This sub-committee meeting resulted in a formulation which became known as the Jakarta Charter (Yatim, 1995) <sup>[11]</sup>.

Soekarno's proposal became the core of the Jakarta Charter with several changes: the order of the five precepts and the addition of clauses to the divine precepts. Finally, the clause contained in the Jakarta Charter was changed to "Belief in One Almighty God", which then became the final form of Pancasila, the basis for secular, religious Indonesian nationalism. In principle, Pancasila nationalism is a view or understanding of the love of Indonesian people for their nation and homeland which is based on the values of Pancasila.

The principle of Indonesian nationalism is based on the values of Pancasila which are directed so that the Indonesian people always:

1. Placing unity, interests and safety of the nation and state above personal interests or group interests
2. Showing a willingness to sacrifice for the sake of the nation and country
3. Proud to be Indonesian and have Indonesian roots and do not feel inferior
4. Recognizing equality, equality of rights and obligations between fellow humans and fellow nations
5. Cultivate an attitude of mutual love for fellow human beings
6. Develop an attitude of tolerance
7. Don't be mean to other people
8. Enjoys carrying out humanitarian activities
9. Always uphold human values
10. Courage to defend truth and justice
11. Feeling that the Indonesian nation is part of all humanity
12. Consider the importance of mutual respect and cooperation with other nations.

In modern times, nationalism refers to political and military practices based on ethnic and religious nationalism, as stated below. Political scientists usually focus their research on extreme nationalism such as national socialism, exile, and so on. Nationalism can highlight itself as a part of a popular state ideology or movement (not a state) based on the opinions of citizens, ethnicity, culture, religion and ideology.

### Research Methods

The research in this article uses a normative study approach by measuring the use of normative legal rules and principles that are linked to the problem theme that is used as the research object. This normative approach will be linked to secondary data through books, concepts, theories and expert opinions as well as findings that are closely related to the core issues discussed. The discussion in this article also uses an approach *statute approach* (related statutory approaches),

*comparative approach* (comparative approach) and *sociology approach* (sociological approach) (Ibrahim, 2005) <sup>[12]</sup>.

### Results and Discussion

Strategies that can be implemented to strengthen the sense of Nationalism and Patriotism in the Global Era. The spirit of nationalism and patriotism is very necessary in nation building so that every element of the nation works and struggles hard to achieve identity and self-confidence as a dignified nation. This identity and self-confidence as a nation is strong capital in facing various challenges and obstacles in the future. Strengthening the spirit of nationalism and patriotism in the current context of globalization must focus more on strategic elements in the global arena. Therefore, strategies that can be implemented include: 1). Strengthening the role of social institutions in helping to build the spirit of nationalism and patriotism, especially among the younger generation. For example: Scout Movement. The younger generation is a strategic element in the future. They seem to realize that in the era of globalization, the younger generation can act as both subjects and objects. 2). Strengthening the spirit of nationalism and patriotism in people living in areas that are considered strategic from a national interest perspective. 3). Strengthening the spirit of nationalism and patriotism in people living in food insecure (poor), conflict-prone and natural disaster-prone areas. 4). Increased appreciation for members or community groups who strive to preserve and develop the nation's cultural riches.

Likewise with members or groups of society who have succeeded in achieving proud achievements in the international world. Increasing the role of the Indonesian Government and society in taking an active role in resolving various regional and international problems, such as: conflict resolution, health, the environment, and others.

Generating a Sense of Nationalism by Respecting Diversity in our Republic of Indonesia does not recognize ethnic differences, who they are and which group they come from, it is clear that this is Indonesia, which through the 1928 Youth Congress in Jakarta was bound by the spirit of the Youth Pledge. Having One Homeland, Indonesia's Homeland. One Nation, the Indonesian Nation. And speak one language, Indonesian. Unifying all of this, let us always adhere to the spirit of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, which has been the motto of unifying the nation for a long time. Eliminate new thoughts that are damaged and irresponsible in efforts to make a shift in the meaning of a sense of togetherness within the framework of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI).

Everyone must be aware that the human rights of someone who was born and originates from the territory of the country stretching from Sabang to Merauke also has the same rights, obligations and responsibilities for their nation and state. Because we need to respect its diversity. Of course, wherever a democratic party takes place, whether at the center or in the regions, it should be an arena for the most democratic aspirations without being overshadowed or haunted and poisoned by the narrow thoughts of some or certain groups of people who want to diminish the spirit of Nationalism in the context of the nation and state. By upholding a high spirit of nationalism or appreciating diversity as intended above, in the end the community as the holder of supreme sovereignty will truly enjoy this

democratic celebration. direct, public, free and confidential as well as honest and fair in accordance with what is mandated in the 1945 Constitution and Pancasila.

The influence of globalization on nationalist values. The presence of globalization certainly has an influence on the life of a country, including Indonesia. This influence includes two sides, namely positive influence and negative influence. The influence of globalization has also penetrated various areas of life, including political, economic, ideological, social and cultural life and so on. This will of course influence the values of nationalism towards the nation. Globalization takes place in all areas of life such as ideology, politics, economics, socio-culture, defense and security and others (Krisna, 2005) <sup>[13]</sup>. Information and communication technology is a major supporting factor in globalization. Nowadays, technological developments are so fast that all information in various forms and interests can be spread widely throughout the world. Therefore, we cannot avoid globalization (Jamli, 2005) <sup>[14]</sup>.

The positive influence is seen from political globalization, government is run openly and democratically. Because government is part of a country, if government carried out honestly, clean and dynamic will certainly get a positive response from the people. This positive response took the form of an increased sense of nationalism towards the country. From the aspect of economic globalization, opening international markets, increasing job opportunities and improving foreign exchange. The increasingly open international market will open up great opportunities for cooperation in the national economic sector. With this, it will further improve the nation's economic life in order to support the national life of the nation and state. The influence of globalization in the socio-cultural sector, we can imitate good thinking patterns. Such as building a high work ethic and discipline, as well as imitating Science and Technology (IPTEK) from other advanced nations to increase the nation's progress.

In the end, it will bring progress to the nation and strengthen our sense of nationalism towards the nation. Apart from having a positive impact, the emergence of globalization also has a negative impact which is no less important to pay attention to. Globalization is able to convince the Indonesian people that liberalism can bring progress and prosperity. So it does not rule out the possibility of changing direction from the Pancasila ideology to the ideology of liberalism. If that is the case, the nation's sense of nationalism will disappear. The emergence of globalization also has an impact on economic aspects. Namely, the feeling of love for domestic products is increasingly lost. Because, there are more and more foreign products such as *Mc Donald*, *Coca-Cola*, *Pizza Hut*, and so on, which flooded the world market in Indonesia. The loss of love for domestic products shows symptoms of a reduction in our society's sense of nationalism towards the Indonesian nation. Public Many of us, especially young people, have forgotten our identity as Indonesians. Because their lifestyle tends to imitate western culture which the world community considers to be the mecca.

Apart from that, globalization has also resulted in sharp social disparities between rich and poor people. This is due to free competition in economic globalization. The influences above do not have a direct impact on nationalism. However, overall it can cause feelings of nationalism towards the nation to diminish or even disappear. Because

globalization is able to open up horizons of the global community. Anything that exists abroad is considered good and capable of giving aspirations to our people to be implemented in our country. Based on the analysis and description above, the negative effects of globalization outweigh the positive effects. Therefore, steps are needed to anticipate the negative influence of globalization on nationalist values.

Indonesian nationalism is increasingly fading, whether Indonesian nationalism will soon end, this is relevant to discuss when we celebrate Youth Pledge Day, 28 October 1928, when Indonesian youth determined to have one nation, one homeland and one language, Indonesia. It is not enough just to desire united Indonesian nationalism, namely an affirmation of self-identity versus colonialism-imperialism. Awareness as a nation which is the result of construction or formation contains serious internal weaknesses when colonialism and imperialism are no longer a threat. Therefore, our nationalism will disappear if we stop constructing or forming it, without having to call it a new nationalism. First, some collective experiences should become a "new spirit" that generates the spirit of Indonesian nationalism. Second, Indonesia is a very pluralistic country. The identification of an ethnic or religious group in a collective identity as a nation is only possible if the state recognizes, accepts, respects and guarantees their right to life.

People will feel safer and more accepted within their ethnic or religious group when the state fails to guarantee religious freedom - including freedom to worship and establish places of worship, equality before the law, the right to get cheap and quality education, the right to work and a decent living, and so on. Our nationalism must be liberal. Nationalism can be practiced in a socialist, communist, ultranationalism, ethnic, or liberal-democratic. Indonesia's very pluralistic society will pose a serious threat to nationalism if the national state we build is socialist, ultranationalist in the style of German Nazism and Italian fascism, or communist. The reason is simple, the individual's right to freedom, autonomy and equality (*equality*) in society seized by the state in a socialist, communist, and ultranationalism (Ian, 1995) <sup>[15]</sup>. The challenge for Indonesian nationalism in the future is how we create a liberal-democratic national state where the basic rights of every citizen are recognized, respected and guaranteed, where the law is enforced definitely and fairly, where the state realizes general welfare, etc. That was the basic reason for the youth's determination 78 years ago, namely to become one Indonesia in order to create a just and prosperous society.

The benefits of patriotism in education. We know that patriotism is a form of love for one's country. Good education is education that touches the soul aspects of students. Patriotism brings progress to the nation, especially in the field of education. Attitudes of patriotism, nationalism and independent living are very important. Because Will bringing prosperity and progress to a nation. This program must be instilled in children from an early age. By instilling this attitude from an early age, our next generation will be able to act according to their conscience and be able to build a nation without depending on other nations. Given the importance of this, it must be taught to children from an early age. Because of the education given to children from an early age can provide a basis for spiritual, emotional and intellectual knowledge in achieving optimal potential. If

education is provided appropriately according to the participants' talents and environment, then in the next five or ten years our country will have quality and strong human resource assets so that it can compete with other nations and have an advantage.

Education character namely a form of human activity in which there is an educational action intended for the next generation. Various efforts have been made by the government to improve its character. Young students who have begun to lose their identity and spirit of nationalism include implementing education with national character and culture. According to Slamet Iman Santoso, as the father of Indonesian psychology who founded the Faculty of Psychology, University of Indonesia, firmly stated that; "Character development is the main task of education". Education character for a nation that has lost its identity, it is very necessary. Character education was developed to strengthen national identity and prevent the turmoil of problems in the country which tended to further cloud the spirit of nationalism.

According to Mrs. Sri Mulyani, as a kindergarten teacher, she revealed that to create young students who have noble character, synergistic efforts and cooperation between parents, school and community are needed. We as educators are the spearheads in the field in creating students who are strong and have a high sense of nationalism and must always play an active role through various efforts that can revive the spirit of nationalism among young students which is starting to fade due to the current of globalization. Strengthening the role of educators and students so that there is synergy between the implementation of knowledge transfer activities that still prioritize quality and the creation of students who are moral and uphold the spirit of nationalism.

Strengthening the spirit of nationalism must begin with restoring students' identity so that they can form strong individuals with noble morals. Identity can radiate and growth and development begins with recognizing ourselves and rediscovering our identity as educators and students. As stated by Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono that there are five important issues in the world of education. One of them is the issue regarding the relationship between education and character formation or known as character development (*character building*). states that educational progress must not forget about character development. Therefore, the President through Ministry National Education (Kemendiknas) launched the Character Education Program. The cultivation of the spirit of nationalism needs to be carried out in schools, this is because schools are places of education and formation of the soul and enthusiasm for the younger generation who will determine the future of the Indonesian nation in the future.

In addition, a large number of the young generation of the successors of the Indonesian nation still have the status as students in school so that if the school is able to provide nationalism education to strengthen the character of the Indonesian nation then it will be safe in the future.

### Conclusions and Recommendations

Nationalism is a person's identity as a result of love for their homeland. Therefore, don't let nationalism fade away in the global era like now. Specifically for future youth to always uphold a sense of nationalism and patriotism towards this homeland in various fields. Nationalism is very necessary in

various areas of life, because with high nationalism, the unity and unity of a country will be more complete and stronger. High nationalism is very necessary for a multicultural country like Indonesia. To build the spirit of nationalism again among the younger generation, there needs to be continuous character education, starting from the family, educational institutions and society and carried out from elementary school to university. Therefore, strong character education must be carried out for children so that a personality of love for the homeland and nation emerges.

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