

# The Urgency of Citizenship Education in Building Citizen Political Literacy in the Digital Era

Mahmud

*Department of Civic Education*

*STKIP Kusumanegara*

Jakarta Timur, Indonesia

[mahmud@stkipkusumanegara.ac.id](mailto:mahmud@stkipkusumanegara.ac.id)

Tina Atikah

*Civic Education*

*SMK PGRI 39*

Jakarta Timur, Indonesia

[tintinsabie@gmail.com](mailto:tintinsabie@gmail.com)

Urwatul Wutsqah

*Department of Civic Education*

*STKIP Kusumanegara,*

Jakarta Timur, Indonesia

[urwatulwutsqah@stkipkusumanegara.ac.id](mailto:urwatulwutsqah@stkipkusumanegara.ac.id)

Edi Kusnadi

*Department of Civic Education,*

*Universitas Islam Nusantara,*

Bandung, Indonesia

[edi.kusnadi@fkip-uninus.ac.id](mailto:edi.kusnadi@fkip-uninus.ac.id)

**Abstract—**Political literacy of citizens is a necessity amid the proliferation of digital information that is cornering, provocative, hoax, slander, nuanced SARA that can poison politics is under the substance of Citizenship Education. The sophistication of technology in this digital era should be used as a temperament to realize the acceleration of useful and credible information, not otherwise used as instrumentation for the dissemination of destructive information that causes the loss of values of civilization as good citizens. Citizenship Education substantively has the aim of making citizenship who commits to love for the homeland, to defend the country, to reach high levels of diversity in the temperament of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia which is rich in differences. Thus the existence of Citizenship Education is seen as very important in its existence in developing citizens who are literate in politics. This article discusses the existence of the importance of Citizenship Education in building citizens' political literacy in this Digital Era.

**Keywords:** *Citizenship Education, political literacy, digital era*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Digital age marked by the massive advances in information technology have an impact on the use of internet technology by citizens seemed to have become a primary need, and therefore it is in this age of course highly necessary skills in a variety of skills that support the demands of this era can answer correctly. The digital age makes life more effectively, quickly, accurately and assists citizens in a variety of more modern life activities, as well as making the world without borders, space and time. The digital age makes life accelerated in both the education sector, political, social, economic, cultural, defense and security.

On the other hand, the digital era can easily be used as a loophole by people to do various activities provocative, destructive, damaging, or in other words misused by people who are not responsible, which in turn can cause the turmoil of the nation's problems which is so quaint. Thus the life in this era requires citizenship values manifested in everyday life for Citizenship Education within the framework of formal education is political education. It can be given to students as learners and subject exert efforts to achieve Citizenship Education in schools that emphasize science competence, character, and skills students. Civics existence tied to the state of a nation's political life, both substantive material and learning objectives. It thus realized with the Citizenship Education taught in schools contained in the Indonesian Education Curriculum in detail contained in the material scope of democracy, politics, and others.

## II. THEORETICAL REVIEW

### A. *Digital era*

With the increasing sophistication of digital technology today to make significant changes to the world, the birth of a wide range of increasingly advanced digital technology has been emerging. The digital era is a term used in the emergence of digital, network computer information technology, especially the Internet. New Media Digital Age is often used to describe digital technology. This medium has the characteristics can be manipulated, is a network or the Internet, in addition to the Internet such as print media, tv, magazines, newspapers, and others are not included in the category of new media. Switching the mass media to new media or the internet because there is a cultural shift in the delivery of information. The digital era media capabilities make it easier for the public to receive information more quickly. In this case, the Internet makes mass media flock moves the bow.

With the increasing sophistication of digital technology today to make significant changes to the world, the birth of a wide range of increasingly advanced

digital technology has been emerging. Various groups have been facilitated in accessing the information in many ways and can enjoy the facilities of digital technology with the free and controlled. However, pity the development of technology is precisely the increasing number of crimes detected. Therefore everything must have copyright protection and control of children and adolescents in particular.

In the development of technology digital age has an impact on the behavior of citizens, in this case, we can see that the implications of these developments that the information required to be faster and easier access to, the growth of innovation in various fields oriented on digital technology, this innovation further facilitate the process in our work, the advent of mass media based on digital, especially the electronic media as a source of knowledge and information, improving the quality of human resources through the development and utilization of information and communication technology, in education such as online libraries, media online learning, online discussion and more, in the business world as an online store by using the connected applications on the online store site. Technology has been used by humans to make it easier to do any task and job. The important role of technology is what brought human civilization into the digital age[1].

The entry of the digital era to provide innovations for human survival are practical and easy to perform various activities. In this digital era of human tasks previously requiring human presence physically tangible can be replaced only with a tool that can replace the human work. For example, can we look at the original entrance and exit toll served by the officers immediately, but in this digital age that case is not, as a form of work that can amid with energy in the form of an appliance, the habit of shopping at the supermarket, the mall now with the sophistication of Internet technology the digital era is enough to hold the phone book directly are no longer doing traveling and many such other examples.

#### B. Political Literacy

The political participation of voters experienced ups and downs since the first general election in 1955. The highest participation in 1993 at 93%, much higher than the 1955 election, which reached 87%. Then decreased in the 2004 elections which reached 84, 9%, and the 2009 elections reached 70.99% drop dramatically. While the 2014 election is the lowest nadir reached 70, 2%, or the equivalent Abstentions figure which reached 29, 8%..[2] This is certainly very closely related to intelligence, political literacy of citizens.

Political literacy is something related to power intended to regulate the operation life of the nation. Power is a necessary tool to achieve rights in the administration of national and state life. Power itself does not run away, but it takes an understanding and knowledge to be able to run as it should. This political literacy is the most crucial foundation in building a nation. It would be better if a nation is built and driven by all elements of society

involved actively, rather than being driven by a particular group. The political role of the public is crucial where the direction of the screen and then to be driven either when the sea is calm.

In several articles and books, political literacy term often equated with the term political literacy (political literacy). In his Essays on the basic definition of Citizenship Politics is a practical understanding of concepts drawn from everyday life and language. Is an attempt to understand the significant issues surrounding the politics, what the core beliefs of the contestants, how likely they affect you and me. In short, political literacy is a compound of the knowledge, skills, and attitude. Crick assert greater political literacy but rather how to "make themselves to be effective in public life" and encouraged to become more active, participatory[3]

Political literacy refers to the set of skills necessary for citizens to participate in public administration. In connection with the implementation of the general election, political literacy can be divided into two types, namely literacy procedural and substantial literacy[4]. Literacy among other procedural understanding of electoral regulations, understand the process of elections, and to understand the components involved in organizing the elections. Substantial literacy among others understands the essence of elections in a democracy, to understand the urgency of political participation, understand the political disease that should avoided, to understand the substantive content of political campaigns, as well as selecting and sorting in voting.

#### C. Digital Citizenship

By promoting the concept of "Digital Citizenship" Citizenship Education in the learning process. As stated by[5] Digital citizens are those who use technology frequently, who use technology for political information to fulfill their civic duty, and who use technology at work for economic gain ". Digital citizens are those who frequently use the technology they are using technology for information technology to meet the obligations of citizens and those in employment for economic purposes.

Digital Citizenship is a concept which helps teachers, technology leaders and parents to understand what students / young people/technology users should know to use technology appropriately. Digital Citizenship is more than just a teaching tool; it is a way to prepare students/technology users for a society full of technology [6]. Digital citizenship is a concept that helps teachers, technology figures, parents to understand about the pupil / young people/technology users know to use the technology appropriately. Citizenship is more than just a tool for teaching, but it is a way to prepare students/users of the technology to a society filled with technology.

Each individual certainly will never escape from dependence on technological progress needs to be known to anyone who may regard as a digital citizen, namely: 1. Today's young people are navigating a new digital culture in which the rules and social norms are sometimes

unclear. They must learn about digital citizenship and develop a sense of ownership and personal responsibility to make right, ethical decisions in the online world 2. The online world presents excellent opportunities for young people, but it is not without risks. We can mitigate some of the Reviews those risks by helping young people develop a strong sense of digital citizenship. 3. Rather than relying solely on protective measures, an approach to online safety that includes digital citizenship will help young people interact safely in the online world. Teaching them about digital literacy and digital ethics and etiquette Merely is no longer an option; it is an imperative. [7]

Nowadays, young people are in a new digital culture in which rules and social norms are sometimes unclear. They have to learn about digital citizenship and develop a sense of ownership and personal responsibility for creating good, ethical decisions in the world of network 2. Network World provides a great opportunity for young people, but not without risk. We can reduce the risk of some that are by helping young people develop a sense of digital citizenship. 3. Rather than relying solely on protective measures, an approach to security in a network that includes digital citizenship can help young people secure interaction in a networked world.

Based on the characteristics of the digital citizen mentioned above and is supported by rapid technological advances, it is necessary to apply the concept of "Digital Citizenship" in the history of the learning process so that the quality of teaching history in schools will increase. This is because, throughout the educational component involved in the activity of both parents, and teachers monitor the progress of learners in the digital era.

### III. RESEARCH METHOD

Writing this article using the methodology by reviewing the literature both journal articles and research literature relevant books in studying the problems related to the discussion in this article is by doing an in-depth assessment to obtain writing conclusions are supported on a variety of relevant sources.

### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### A. *Citizenship Education in Developing Political Literacy Citizenship*

Citizenship education has an important role in the life of the nation. Value and purpose of education are the main structural factors affecting Citizenship Education. Citizenship education contributes to supporting the objectives of the state, realizing the purpose and function of the national education based on Pancasila and the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia in 1945.

The goal of civic education is to form good citizens (good citizen). Citizens who are patriotic, tolerant, faithful to the nation and the state, to be democratic, critical, and quick response in dealing with the various problems that exist in particular in responding to the issue of citizenship, to participate intelligently and responsibly as well as developing positively and act consciously in social

activities, nation and state. However, it is undeniable that the context of good citizenship to everyone is not always the same.

Citizenship education is also a political education to introduce political literacy (have a political and legal awareness), to provide materials such as the role of citizens in the state of life by Pancasila and the Constitution NRI 1945 to produce good citizens and be relied upon by the state. Also, the Citizenship Education teaches character education because it has a charge in moral education and nationalism. As a vehicle to develop and preserve the noble values and moral Indonesian nation rooted in the national culture.

With taught Civics expected to produce citizens who have an identity in accordance with Pancasila and the Constitution NRI 1945 which is manifested in everyday behavior, citizens have a high work ethic, citizen qualified, disciplined, productive, has the intellectual ability, professional , responsibility, and moral as well as personality and character in accordance with the values of Pancasila and the Constitution of 1945 NRI.

Politically literate citizens who can actively involve himself fully participatory consciousness in response to political circumstances following the values of political ethics not only understand the current situation but engaged in affairs of state. As for where according to [8], An individual with political literacy skills have the skills to understand the other person's perspective, be aware of the effects of and respond to it ethically. Also, political literate people have basic knowledge, skills, and values regarding how to express themselves in everyday life.

The existence of Civics closely with the political life of a country provides a logical consequence of the publishing of various materials on the political life of a country. Also aims to form students as citizens who are aware of the political dynamics of state and is ready to participate in the political life of the country. Unfortunately, there are some weaknesses in the application of these efforts include learning is still centered on the teacher and the provision of material that are tend to be textbook as well as much of life so that the students contextual learning objectives and expectations of the Civic Education have not been reached.

Citizenship Education within the framework of formal education can be cultivated as giving political education to students as learners and subject exert efforts to achieve Citizenship Education in schools that emphasize science competence, character, and skills students. Besides, Civics very closely with the state of a nation's political life, both substantive material, and learning objectives. It is realized by the civic education given in schools in Indonesia Education Curriculum.

Furthermore, on the association Citizenship Education as a political education in schools expressed by [9] that citizenship education as political education, provides the knowledge, attitudes, and skills to students so that they are able to live as citizens who have high

levels of literacy of politics (political literacy) and political awareness (political awareness), as well as the ability of political participation (political participation) is high.

Citizenship education as a means of political education in schools is an effort in realizing that future citizens will know the role and position in national life and be able to participate actively in the life of his state. Of course, these competencies should be supported by real knowledge and skills so that these goals can be achieved. The results of the [10] concludes that the Citizenship Education learning effect in increasing the level of political literacy citizens.

#### B. Implementation of political education through civic education

Students are community members who have a position as the next generation. Therefore, the development of knowledge and skills students about the life of the nation must continue to do. It is an effort to foster the literacy of students about political life in his country or foster political literacy. In the eyes of citizenship, citing the terms [11] students are considered as citizens of a hypothetical (citizen "unfinished" because they must be educated adult citizens who are aware of their rights and obligations).

Political literacy became central in the development of the democratic quality of a nation. Through the establishment and development of the political literacy of citizens will have the awareness of their rights and obligations as well as having the knowledge and understanding of his position as an official member of suaru countries. This will have implications on the emergence of an autonomous consciousness development participation and democratic political system quality. Political Literacy was created through good learning formal and informal nature. Through formal activities as an example is through learning in school. While non-formal basis through the channels of the society, such as mass media, community organizations, families and so on.

Political literacy can be defined as the recognition and understanding of the values of the ideal embodied in the political systems of its being applied as well as the knowledge of citizens about the life of the nation which is indicated by a change in attitude and increased participation in the political world.

Suggests two criteria for measuring the dimensions of political literacy, first follow all government activities. Both followed a report on the activities of the government through a variety of media. The criteria describe how the position and role of a citizen who has a level of political literacy that will affect the course of a country's political system[12]. Suggests several indicators to measure the level of political literacy of citizens which includes knowledge of the constitution and the political system, political understanding, political attitudes, and political behavior.

Defines literacy as the political embodiment of political education to improve people's political knowledge and enable them to participate optimally in the political system[13]. The formation and development of political literacy of students can be realized through Civic Education which serves as a formal political education in schools. Embodiment role Citizenship Education was published in the formal curriculum of education in schools that provide knowledge and understanding of the supra and infrastructure of the political structure in Indonesia, participation in the political system and political culture in Indonesia. In this regard, the role of civic education as political education by Maftuh and Sapriya (2005: 321) provides knowledge[9].

More specifically, the purpose of political education than proposed by [13] by saying that the political education (political education, political socialization, citizenship training) is to improve people's knowledge of politics and eventually people can participate optimally in the political system. Political education is often paired into political socialization. According to [14] says that political socialization is interpreted as a learning process in which individuals acquire orientations in the form of beliefs, feelings and the components of value to the state and political life. Political socialization is regarded as a key determinant of the political behavior of society.

Argues that the aim of political education is as follows: The aim of political education should, therefore, be to develop the professionals interest and to point them toward Reviews their political responsibilities, while at some time endeavoring to give them the necessary knowledge and skills to carry out Reviews those responsibilities[15]. Thus, political education aims to provide knowledge and understanding and the ability to take responsibility as citizens. Also, it provides an understanding of the political knowledge that citizen participates in a political system that is running. Implementation of political education must be done systematically to foster a democratic climate in the life of the nation.

Political education aimed at creating a political-savvy younger generation as well as an attempt by the political development community to recognize, know and understand the political system that runs as well as certain political values that will influence the behavior of citizens. Political education is indeed an integral part of human life because where there are humans, there is also a community or in other words, man is zoon political, so that when there is a political element in human life, there will be socialization of politics in the sense of a loose of political education, both in the family environment , schools, and communities.

Implementation of political education through civic education focused on the development of citizen competence which includes knowledge, skills, and character of the citizens. This fits what is proposed by Branson[16] that the purpose of civic education is quality and responsible participation in political life and society,

both at local and national levels. Such participation requires citizenship competence as follows: (1). Mastery of specific knowledge and understanding; (2). Intellectual ability and participatory development; (3). Development of a character or a certain mental attitude; and (4). A true commitment to the fundamental values and principles of constitutional democracy.

## V. CONCLUSION

Literacy Politics citizens in the digital age is very important in supporting the reality of the political stability of value of ethics in accordance with the order of the norm of Indonesia which uphold high values of civility, courtesy, politeness by the noble values of the nation Indonesia thus the literacy of political citizenship should be an issue of strategic discussed and manifested in the activities of the political life of a good citizen, so that the political reality of Indonesia is the emission values of a strong philosophy and ideology in politics realize that corresponding ethic values of Pancasila as the personality of the Indonesian nation. To achieve this goal thus clear that the existence of civic education as an important instrument in contact either directly through a learning process as well as in other life practices in building citizens can actively participate in politics either.

## REFERENCES

- [1] W. Setiawan, "Era Digital dan Tantangannya," in *Seminar Nasional Pendidikan 2017*, 2017.
- [2] C. Abdul, "Survey Tingkat Melek Politik Pemilih Pemula dalam Pemilihan Kepala Daerah Kabupaten Gresik Tahun 2015," Gresik, 2015.
- [3] B. Crick, "Essays on citizenship," 2000.
- [4] J. S. Bev, "The urgency of teaching political literacy," 2008.
- [5] C. J. T. Karen Mossberger and R. S. McNeal, "Digital Citizenship THE INTERNET, SOCIETY, AND PARTICIPATION," 2008.
- [6] M. S. Ribble, G. D. Bailey, and T. W. Ross, "Digital Citizenship: Addressing Appropriate Technology Behavior," *Learn. Lead. with Technol.*, 2004.
- [7] Microsoft, "Fostering Digital Citizenship," 2013. .
- [8] I. Fyfe, "Hidden in the curriculum: Political Literacy and Education for Citizenship in Australia Melbourne," *J. Polit.*, vol. 32, pp. 110–134, 2007.
- [9] Sapriya and B. Maftuh, "Pembelajaran Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan Melalui Pemetaan Konsep," 2005.
- [10] Suhiyat, "Pengaruh Pembelajaran PKn dalam Meningkatkan Melek Politik Warganegara," 2009.
- [11] D. Budimansyah, *Inovasi Pembelajaran Project Citizen*. Bandung: SPs Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, 2009.
- [12] S. Verba, Almond G. A, "Budaya Politik: Tingkah Laku Politik dan Demokrasi Politik di Lima Negara," 1990.
- [13] R. Kantaprawira, *Sistem Politik Indonesia: Suatu Model Pengantar*. Bandung: Algesindo, 2004.
- [14] S. Plano, Jack. C., Robert E. Riggs dan Helenan, "Kamus Analisa Politik." 1985.
- [15] P. S. Robert J. Brownhill, *Political Education*. 1989.
- [16] Bronson, "The Role Civic Education, A Fortcoming Education Policy Task Force position," *Komunitarian Network*, 1998.