

# Reconstruction of Mandatory General Courses as General Education

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Abstract—Reconstruction Research Public Compulsory Courses as General Education at the Implementation Level in the Department of General Education UPI aims to identify a portrait of general education at the University of Education in Indonesia which includes elements of general education in the vision of education, philosophy or basic principles of general education development and what lecturers do MKWU in creating and implementing silabi, creating an atmosphere of classroom education and evaluation of learning at the Indonesian Education University- analyze the implementation of MKWU at the Indonesian Education University in developing good citizens- and explore the efforts of MKWU lecturers at Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia in operationalizing MKWU which can develop good citizens. The research method used is a mixed method with reference to Cresswell (1994). The design of this study uses a less dominant and qualitative quantitative quantitative approach, both of which are carried out simultaneously. Quantitative research is carried out through a survey method that is identifying and describing the characteristics of research subjects in natural conditions as they are. The research subjects were students participating in the General Compulsory Course (MKWU) who had graduated or who were attending lectures in even semester 2017-2018 and odd semester 2018 - 2019.

Keywords—reconstruction, MKWU, general education

# I. INTRODUCTION

The rise of problems related to drug trafficking, radicalism/terrorism, LGBT, intolerance, a fairly high unemployment rate, and other problems can disrupt the survival of the nation and state. Students as the nation's next generation need to get an increase in competence and basic values of the nation and state. For this reason, it is deemed necessary to increase awareness and understanding in the nation, state and society for students through the learning process in higher education.

General education was born because of an increasingly specialized education [1]. This makes education concerned with only one aspect, particular and partial. The General Compulsory Courses given at public and private universities have the aim of providing students with provisions to be able to care about social problems that occur in the environment and

can solve these problems using a basic socio-cultural approach. This can be done by:

- In particular, the general basic course aims to produce undergraduate citizens who have the spirit of Pancasila so that all decisions and actions reflect the practice of Pancasila values and have high personality integrity, which prioritizes national interests and humanity as Indonesian scholars.
- Taqwa to God Almighty, behave and act in accordance with the teachings of his religion and have tolerance for followers of other religions.
- Have comprehensive insight and an integral approach in addressing life problems, both social, political and defense and security.
- Having broad cultural insight about social life and jointly being able to participate and improve its quality, as well as its natural environment and jointly participate in its preservation.

There have been many criticisms directed at our education system by a number of scholars, especially education, social and cultural scholars who consider our education system to be colonial, and is still a legacy of the Dutch government's education system, namely the continuation of the politics of reciprocity advocated by Conrad Theodhore van Deventer. This system aims to produce skilled workers to become "artisans" who fill their bureaucracies in the fields of administration, trade, engineering and other skills, with the aim of exploiting the wealth of the State.

It turns out that now there are still many experts who have special and deep knowledge of expertise, so their horizons are narrow. Though the contribution of thought and the existence of scientific communication between disciplines is needed in solving various social problems of such a complex society. Another thing, our education system has become something "elite" for our own society, less familiar with the community environment, does not recognize other dimensions outside the disciplines it has. Universities are like ivory towers that produce many "artisan" scholars who are unwilling and



sensitive to the pulse of life, needs, and community development.

With this background, it is necessary to study more deeply about the position of MKWU as a general education and reconstruct General Compulsory Courses (MKWU) so that the purpose of giving MKWU in universities can provide better social skills for students in dealing with problems that are currently increasingly difficult. controlled, especially the morality of the Indonesian people.

#### II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Higher education is expected to produce scholars who have a set of knowledge consisting of:

#### A. Academic Ability

Ability to communicate scientifically, both orally and in writing, master analytical tools, as well as think logically, critically, systematically, and analytically, have the conceptual ability to identify and formulate problems encountered, and be able to offer alternative solutions

## B. Professional Ability

Ability in the professional field of the relevant expert. With this ability, experts are expected to have high knowledge and skills in their professional fields.

# C. Personal Ability

Ability in the field of personality. With this capability, experts are expected to have knowledge so that they are able to show attitudes, behaviors, and actions that reflect the Indonesian personality, understand and recognize religious, social and state values, and have a broad view and sensitivity to various problems faced. by the Indonesian people.

With a set of abilities, university graduates are expected to become capable scholars, experts in the fields they are engaged in and willing and able to devote their expertise to the interests of the Indonesian people and mankind in general. So, we can conclude that the General Compulsory Course is a course that is expected to provide basic knowledge and general understanding of the concepts developed to study social phenomena so that the responsiveness, perception, reasoning of students in dealing with the social environment can be improved again. so that students' sensitivity to their social environment can be greater, gain broader insight into thinking, and have the personality expected of every member of the Indonesian educated group, especially with regard to human behavior in dealing with other humans, as well as human attitudes and behavior. in dealing with other humans against the human in question.

Citizenship in Latin is called "Civis", then from the word "Civis" in English comes the word "Civic" which means about citizens or citizenship. From the word "Civic" was born the word "Civics", civics science and Civic Education, Citizenship Education. Civics lessons were introduced in the United States

in 1790 in order to "Americanize the American nation" or known as the "Theory of Americanization". Because as is known, Americans come from various nations who came to the United States and to unite them into an American nation, it is necessary to teach Civics to citizens of the United States. In this level, Civics studies discuss the problem of "government", the rights and obligations of citizens and Civics is a part of political science. In Indonesia, Citizenship Education which means "Civic Education" is used as one of the compulsory subjects that must be taken by every student in higher education for diploma/polytechnic programs and Bachelor (SI) programs, both public and private. In Law number 2 of 1989 concerning the National Education System, which is used as the basis for the implementation of higher education, article 39 paragraph (2) states that the curriculum content of each type, path and level of compulsory education contains a) Pancasila Education, b) Religious Education, and c) Citizenship Education which includes Preliminary National Defense Education (PPBN).

Citizenship Education which is used as one of the core courses as mentioned above, is intended to provide understanding to students about basic knowledge and abilities regarding the relationship between citizens and the state, as well as Preliminary National Defense Education as a provision to become citizens who can be relied on by the nation. and the state (Decree of Director General of Higher Education No. 267/ DIKTI/ Kep/ 2000 Article 3). Seeing the importance of Citizenship Education or Civics Education for a country, almost all countries in the world include it in the educational curriculum they organize. Even the International Congress of the Commission of Jurist which took place in Bangkok in 1965, requires that the government of a new country can be said to be a democratic government when there is a clear guarantee of human rights, one of which is Citizenship Education or "Civic Education". " This is understandable, because by incorporating it into the education system they organize, it is hoped that its citizens will become intelligent citizens and good citizens (smart and good citizens), who know and are fully aware of their rights as citizens. at the same time know and be fully responsible for his obligations to the safety of his nation and country. Thus, the provision of Citizenship Education will give birth to citizens who have a high spirit and spirit of patriotism and nationalism.

Every time listening to the word citizenship, the brain indirectly responds and associates citizenship with citizenship lessons at school, and citizenship courses at college. The bias of being the word citizenship in the memory of the brain is stored strongly because every year from elementary school to high school there is a civics lesson that must be learned, and it turns out that during college there are also. The Beginning of Citizenship Education and reluctance to study it. Citizenship Education became a subject after being split from PPKN or Pancasila and Citizenship Education. Why initially merged into one? Because the content of Citizenship Education itself comes from Pancasila itself. Furthermore, it is broken down into its own subjects because civic education is considered important to be taught to students and in civics education is taught civics



material that is broader and not only sourced directly from Pancasila.

Studying Citizenship Education for some students is like learning the second stage of Pancasila, or even not much different from Pancasila Moral Education and National History. Some of the materials are related or the same. That is why many do not like or do not want to study Citizenship Education. It could be because they are bored or they are considered unimportant such as Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and others. In the end, Citizenship Education is always the stepchildren in every learning.

Furthermore, there are things that make many people and especially students reluctant to study Citizenship Education. During the New Order era, Citizenship Education which came directly from Pancasila and the Constitution was used as a tool to take advantage for several parties. Instead of being citizens who obey and implement Pancasila, some of these parties actually use Pancasila, the Constitution, and civic education to legalize whatever they want. Finally, many do not believe anymore and then develop a reluctance to study the Citizenship Education. Citizenship education is one of the subjects in lecture activities. This course is a personal development course, meaning that this course is intended to shape students' personalities to become good citizens. Citizenship education is a compulsory subject in higher education, in accordance with Law no. 28 of 2003 concerning the National Education System and also the Decree of the Director General of Higher Education No. 267/Dikti/Kep/2000 concerning Completion of the Curriculum for Personality Development Courses in Higher Education, which was later updated with the Decree of the Director General of Higher Education No. 43/Dikti/2006 concerning Signs for the Implementation of Personality Development Courses in Higher Education.

If seen in the law above, it is stated that citizenship education is something that must be taught starting from basic education to higher education. Why should citizenship education be given to universities? The main purpose of civic education is to foster insight and awareness of the state, attitudes and behaviors of love for the homeland that are built from national culture, insight into the archipelago, and national resilience in students as prospective scholars of the hope of the Indonesian nation. As prospective scholars, students are expected to be able to master various fields of science according to their respective interests and abilities which can later be used as a means of nation building. In addition to having a scientific basis, an Indonesian student is required to have a good personality and have a national perspective. Therefore, it is necessary to provide briefing to students in relation to the development of values, attitudes and personality. Serang Citizenship Education graduates are expected to have competence as citizens who are able to act intelligently and responsibly in dealing with the State and in solving various problems of living in society, nation and state by applying the concepts of national philosophy, insight into the archipelago and national resilience. A student is someone who has had a high education. With the education he has obtained, he can be said to have extensive knowledge. However, as there is a saying "The taller the tree, the stronger the wind", the more knowledge a student gains, the more temptations he will get to misuse the knowledge he has acquired. For example, a computer student who already has good programming skills, instead of making programs that are useful for the community, makes computer viruses that can harm society. Things like this certainly should not be allowed to thrive among students.

Therefore, signs are needed so that the application of knowledge that has been obtained through educational activities can be practiced properly and does not harm others. This is where the important role of Citizenship Education. Citizenship Education provides important guidelines so that students who will later enter the world of work do not get lost either in the practice of knowledge that is not in place, or in actions that are not commendable in the practice of science, such as accepting bribes, selling company secrets, and so on. other. In addition, in Citizenship Education, students are also provided with guidelines for living as good citizens. As someone who is still young, a student still often acts on his own, and sometimes doesn't really care about the life of the nation and state. For example, there are many students who do not participate in the general election because they are lazy to go home, or are lazy to take care of their population transfer. This kind of thing cannot be allowed to happen because youth are the nation's hope generation. What will happen if the next generation is filled with people who do not have that kind of concern. Given this, it is necessary to have a civic education in order to foster student awareness as the next generation for the survival of the nation and state. Love for the homeland is one of the important elements that must be possessed by a student as a citizen. With a sense of love for the homeland, a student will be willing to do something for the nation, including in matters of defending the country and preserving the nation's resources. Recently, we have seen a lot of harassment of the nation's self-esteem which is manifested, among others, by violating national boundaries, mistreatment of Indonesian workers, recognizing Indonesian culture as the culture of other nations, and so on. If I want to be honest, there will be many students who don't really care about such things. Or maybe some just talk that they care but don't do anything about it. Usually there are only a small number of students who really care and do to maintain the dignity of their nation. This kind of thing should be avoided, because only with cohesiveness, maximum results will be obtained.

MKWU has a role in scientific development related to national character building. Improving the professionalism of MKWU lecturers in an effort to develop the character of students throughout Indonesia, preparing the academic community to face the opportunities and challenges in the era of globalization in a multicultural situation, and equating the perception of the MKWU family in fostering national character are important. Today there has been a process of shifting national values, therefore the role of MKWU is needed to foster personality so that students have noble characters. Globalization is also not only blurring the administrative boundaries of a country but also a global entity. How to survive



in the era of globalization is to know global ethics, and one of the requirements of global ethics is to become a global citizen. The task of MKWU contained in the National Education Goals is to foster the personality of students (Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 12 of 2012 concerning Higher Education) which is further clarified in Law Number 20 of 2003. So that what universities must develop is to develop the character of the nation. Character is a personality that is evaluated based on certain values and norms. Meanwhile, personality is a dynamic organization of the entire psycho-physical system that determines the unique adjustment of the individual to his environment (Gordon Williard Alpord (1897-1967)). Physical can affect the psycho, likened to if the person is short, black and fat it will affect the sense of According to Gordon W Allport, a person with a mature personality has the following characteristics: Self-expansion, Warm relationships with other people, Emotional security and self-acceptance, Realistic view of the world, Insight and sense of humor, and Has a philosophy of life that directs his attitude and behavior. Personality there is a standard in the form of values (in Indonesia in the form of Pancasila values) that can shape personality and emerge a character. In that character there are good and bad values. Character has strengths and virtues (virtue) which amounted to 6, namely: (1) cognitive strength, wisdom and knowledge; (2) interpersonal strength, humanity; (3) emotional strength, chivalry; (4) the power of citizenship (civic), justice; (5) the strength to face and overcome unpleasant things, temperature; and (6) spiritual power, transcendence.

Article 35 concerning the curriculum (Law no 12 of 2012), the Higher Education curriculum must contain courses on Religion, Pancasila, Citizenship Education and Indonesian Language. Religion is good moral behavior as human beings who have various relationships (God, oneself, fellow human beings, environment, nation and state). Pancasila as the provision of basic norms for the life of the nation and state. Citizenship is the participation of citizens both in matters of community and state life. Indonesian language is one of the national cultures that functions as a communication tool but also as a unifying tool for the nation and as the identity of the Indonesian nation. It is impossible for the character to be taught only by MKWU alone, thus all lecturers must be involved, and various activities must be carried out so that the character of students can be developed, because there are other factors that play a role in developing the nation's character through MKWU, namely Lecturers/teachers as models, formal learning environment – academic climate, social environment, living environment, and of course parents as models.

General education is a program given to every student that provides the values, knowledge, attitudes and essential meanings and skills needed by every student. Thus, general education needs to be taught so that there is no division of disciplines. The background of the existence of general education is the excessive specialization of science, the tendency of educational practice to emphasize the cognitive aspect, the need for complete human development, the need for attention to the development of affective aspects and the

symptoms of the life of today's young generation that are worrying. MKWU's moral values must come from the Pancasila Religion, Universal, and Local Wisdom. The theory of learning moral values and learning approaches in MKWU, namely the theory of value/moral acquisition comes from the perspective of socialism and constructivism, while the learning approach includes a direct approach and an indirect approach. The educational process is carried out through changing behavior so that learning is carried out directly. Meanwhile, to emphasize certain values, learning is carried out indirectly.

Ideally, students as students have a high level of education; the type of scholarship chosen by students should be relevant to the world of work; and the quality of PT graduates should meet the KKNI standards; PT graduates should produce educated workers and Indonesian students are not enough just to rely on knowledge and specialization skills. However, in practice, the opposite is true. The plot and process of character building from Heraclius are Thoughts become words, words become actions, actions become habits, habits become character and character determines fate in the future.

#### III. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The research method used is a mixed method, which is a method that combines two methods at once, namely qualitative and quantitative methods, aiming to find more in-depth findings. with reference to Cresswell [2]. The design of this study used a less dominant quantitative approach and a dominant qualitative approach, both of which were carried out simultaneously. Quantitative research is carried out through survey methods, namely identifying and describing the characteristics of research subjects in natural conditions as they are. In this study qualitative methods are used to support and/or explain quantitative results. According to Cresswell [2] the benefit of this approach is to provide a consistent picture and gather information on a limited focus in detail on certain aspects of research. Researchers in this case use a variety of sources and methods in data collection. Thus, this study produces numerical data and narrative data in explaining the answers to research questions.

General Compulsory Courses as General education, especially at the Indonesian Education University, have been well established, have had such a long path, until now the General Course at Upi has become one of the reference universities for other universities in Indonesia regarding General Courses, UPI is committed to being one of the an education-based Higher Education in order to create graduates who are balanced both scientifically intelligent, but also good in character and personality, so that the optimization of the usefulness of graduates in society will be higher in achievement. MKWU at the Indonesian Education University has become a role model for other universities, so there are still many who hold comparative studies at the Indonesian Education University to study MKWU for their universities. Thus, this Indonesian Education University has a characteristic that distinguishes it from other universities, especially in MKWU. MKWU itself has been going well and is held in



harmony with the courses in the respective Study Programs at the University of Education Indonesia, so that this collaboration can form students who do master science in their majors, with enriched knowledge that shapes personality, character and national insight.

Globalization is also not only blurring the administrative boundaries of a country but also a global entity. How to survive in the era of globalization is to know global ethics, and one of the requirements of global ethics is to become a global citizen. The task of MKWU contained in the National Education Goals is to foster the personality of students (Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 12 of 2012 concerning Higher Education) which is further clarified in Law Number 20 of 2003. So that what universities must develop is to develop the character of the nation. Character is a personality that is evaluated based on certain values and norms. Meanwhile, personality is a dynamic organization of the entire psycho-physical system that determines the unique adjustment of the individual to his environment (Gordon Williard Alpord (1897-1967). Physical can affect the psycho, likened to if the person is short, black and fat it will affect the sense of believe in someone.

The results of the questionnaire show that UPI students know that MKU has the same perspective, where MKU is a mass course or contracted by all students from various majors, MKU is a course that can shape the personality and character of students, and this MKU can be linked or collaborated with science or courses in their respective majors. The research method is one of the most recommended methods in learning methods at MKU, on the grounds that it can hone students' skills in the world of problem analysis by going directly to the field or simply reviewing the existing literature. The results of the questionnaire also show that MKU is one of the important elements in lectures, because then every department that cannot learn some abilities in lectures, can feel the acceptance of knowledge across majors, so that it can improve the abilities of other aspects that exist within itself. The results of the questionnaire also explain that the MKU is expected to be able to assess graduation rejections from various aspects that are integrated into a single unit. According to Hamalik [3], the aspects that need to be assessed are based on aspects of the goals to be achieved, both curriculum goals , learning objectives and student learning objectives. Each aspect that is assessed stems from what components are to be developed, while each component contains elements of knowledge, skills and attitudes and values. The determination of the assessed aspects refers to the learning success criteria that have been determined in the curriculum.

## IV. CONCLUSION

General education was born because of an increasingly specialized education [1]. This makes education concerned with only one aspect, particular and partial. The General Compulsory Courses given at public and private universities have the aim of providing students with provisions to be able to care about social problems that occur in the environment and can solve these problems using a basic socio-cultural approach. MKWU has a role in scientific development related to national character building. Improving the professionalism of MKWU lecturers in an effort to develop the character of students throughout Indonesia, preparing the academic community to face the opportunities and challenges in the era of globalization in a multicultural situation, and equating the perception of the MKWU family in fostering national character are important. Today there has been a process of shifting national values, therefore the role of MKWU is needed to foster personality so that students have noble character.

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