



# Strengthening Citizen's Intelligence Through Community Civics Contribution

Ibnu Jamaludin Muslim<sup>(✉)</sup> and Dasim Budimansyah

Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, Bandung, Indonesia  
Ibnujams26@gmail.com

**Abstract.** So in this case community members and volunteers are tasked with creating social activities that can improve skills in civic competence to provide empowerment to the community. This study specifically examines how the implementation of the citizenship community strategy in strengthening citizenship intelligence as an effort to solve social problems that occur in society. This study uses a literature study with references following the research theme. The results of the study show that strengthening civic intelligence through the civic community can be done by: 1) Organization members and volunteers collaborate in determining social activities, 2) Organization members and volunteers can develop citizen competency skills, 3) Participation through the civic community can be used as a medium in increasing civic intelligence. The conclusion of this study through the citizenship community can influence strengthening civic intelligence in developing the values of skills and competencies of citizens to solve problems that occur in society.

**Keywords:** Citizenship Community · Citizenship Intelligence · Social Organization

## 1 Introduction

As a society that has awareness in building within a country to overcome various social problems. The need for a form of activity through participation with the values of intelligence possessed by each individual. One of the intelligence in the human brain is interpersonal intelligence which is related to the role of the individual in the activities of the social environment. Interpersonal intelligence is one type of intelligence that connects with the values of skills and the community civics movement as a place for the embodiment of civic intelligence.

Departing from the intelligence theory above, the focus of this research development leads to the discussion of civic intelligence which is the center of development in this research, Historically according to Castells (1997) [1] the emergence of civic intelligence through civil society which has been at the forefront of social movements such as human rights, community rights, women, and the environment.

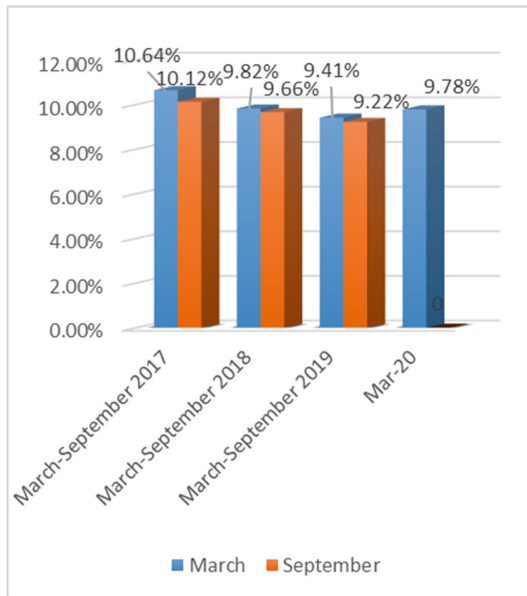
As a form of broad community involvement according to Rosario et al. (2018) [2] is a way for citizens to participate in social and public issues, Then it is also explained

that the community civics movement, the organization is a strategic vehicle and means to improve the quality of a nation and the progress of a nation which of course can be measured and seen from the progress of community participation.. Therefore, to improve civic intelligence, a forum or place is needed that can be a value for coaching, one of which is through community civics participation.

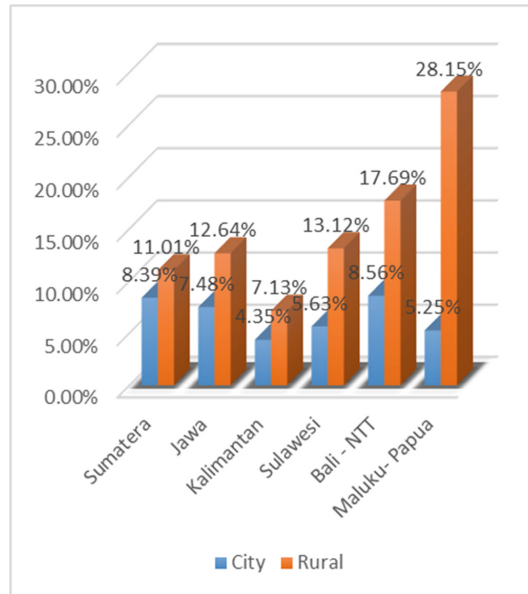
In dealing with social problems, especially in the covid-19 pandemic, it is a disaster value that must build each other and work together to minimize the downturn of society and especially for families directly affected by the pandemic. Citizenship intelligence is one component that can refer to developing the quality of human resources in solving social problems that occur, one of which is poverty (Fig. 1).

Based on data and facts obtained through the Central Statistics Agency, according to the Ministry of Social Affairs currently, poverty in Indonesia shows the condition of obtaining the percentage of poor people in 2017–2020 and poverty conditions from various islands with the following percentages, (Fig. 2).

Based on the percentage table above, shows that poverty in Indonesia is below the single digits, namely 9.22% in 2019 or decreased by 0.44% from 2018. The current decline in the number of poor people to 24.79 million people within a year succeeded in removing 0.89 million poor people. Then in the last 10 years, Indonesia was able to reduce the poverty rate by 4.93%, or equivalent to 7 million poor people. If based on region, urban poverty conditions are lower than rural poverty in 2019, urban poverty reached 6.56%, and meanwhile, in rural areas, it reached 12.60% of the total population in Indonesia (Ministry of Social Affairs’ strategic plan for 2013. 2020–2024). However, with the pandemic conditions gradually over the next year, the poverty rate showed an increasing percentage in 2020 to 9.78%, or equivalent to 26.42 million poor people in



**Fig. 1.** The condition of obtaining the percentage of poor people in 2017–2020



**Fig. 2.** Poverty conditions from various islands with the following percentages

Indonesia. The island of Java is ranked third out of all islands in Indonesia in terms of the percentage of poor people with the percentage gain in urban areas which is 7.48% and in rural areas 12.64%.

Looking at the poverty conditions that occur based on the current analysis of prospective researchers, shows that there is a need for more awareness and participation of citizens to target the development of social empowerment for the population in need. For social problems, social empowerment is needed to deal with the problems occur. So social empowerment is an effort to empower or develop groups, families, individuals, and communities who experience some problems with social welfare within a certain time limit based on meeting these needs. One form of social empowerment is the provision of business assistance, both material and non-material.

To realize the above expectations, based on the analysis of prospective researchers, a process is needed to develop the potential in humans who need a place or place by honing and increasing the ability of civic intelligence and participation as implemented through social movements. Citizenship intelligence is the ability of a person or individual to actively actualize his or her role as a citizen in a complex life order based on the nation's normative identity to deal with various life problems that occur [3]. Therefore, in dealing with life problems, a proactive attitude can provide support to reduce the increasing poverty rate.

As a form of proactive attitude as citizens who participate in social organizations, it is necessary to understand the dimensions of citizenship intelligence, according to Nurmalina & Syaifullah [4] reveals the dimensions of civic intelligence which consist of intellectually intelligent, morally intelligent, emotionally intelligent, and spiritually intelligent.

The application of civic intelligence certainly influences civic skills themselves. Citizenship skills need to be understood according to Branson (1999) [5] citizenship skills consist of, intellectual skills include several concepts, namely the ability to identify, such as recognize and interpret something tangible such as values and ideals, the ability to identify and capture emotional language and symbols, the ability to describe, such as identifying objects, processes, institutions, functions, objectives, tools, and qualities that are clear or not clear through written and oral reports. Meanwhile, according to Winarno (2014) [5] citizenship skills there are several abilities, intellectual skills include several concepts, namely, the ability to explain and analyze, such as identifying, describing, clarifying something and one's ability to distinguish facts and opinions, intentions and goals, the ability to evaluate, take, and defend positions, such as assessing existing problems, and the ability to discuss judgments in the private and public spheres.

So that the formulation of the problem in this study is how to form participatory organizational activities as a manifestation of civic intelligence that provides a form of skill to the community.

And the purpose of this research is to examine and analyze how efforts contribute to the development of civic intelligence through the participation of the community civics movement as the formation of community skill values.

## **2 Method**

This research uses qualitative research with the literature study method. Qualitative research according to Strauss and Corbin (2007) [6] defines that qualitative research is research that can be used and functioned in researching community life, history, a person's behavior, the role and function of an organization, social movements, and empowerment, or social relations with kinship.

While the literature study method is a method that is considered appropriate by researchers to support the results of research researchers. Literature study is the process of seeking information and research data sources by reviewing and analyzing various data sources, including articles, books, and journals related to research interests, which will then be developed, generalized, and concluded.

## **3 Results and Discussion**

### **3.1 Citizenship Intelligence**

Based on the implementation of the research, regarding the strengthening of civic intelligence through the contribution of community civics, several competency values have an impact on the individual's personality for the better.

The results showed that the development of competencies obtained through organizational participation as a form of embodiment of strengthening citizenship intelligence, such competencies as analyzing and filtering the assessment of community background, then developing communication skills formed through habits in organizational activities, then building relationships with the community as forms of interpersonal intelligence development, and provides a systematic form of thinking because there is a plan

drawn up through meetings of the organization's activities and the value of cooperation in the implementation of organizational activities as a form of development of civic intelligence.

The competency value is the basis for developing civic intelligence to be able to participate as a part of solving problems that occur in the community, strengthening civic intelligence can be achieved through participation in organizational activities.

Intelligence is the ability to recognize changing circumstances and adapt appropriately and the latent ability to interpret, respond and survive. While the term citizenship comes from the Latin, namely *civicus* and is related to other words *civic*, namely citizens [7].

Citizenship intelligence describes the capacity organizations and communities use to find solutions to environmental and other challenges collectively [8].

Based on the theory, there is harmony with the research results. This research shows that the concept of civic intelligence can be improved through the participation of the community civics movement carried out by the organization's administrators and volunteers through the forms of activities organized by the organization.

This research is based on the development of the theory of citizenship intelligence that has been developed by Douglas Schuler several years, Schuler (2001) [9]. The expression of civic intelligence is to describe the ability of a society or even a group to understand the problems they face and to develop fair and effective approaches to solving problems.

Based on this theory, that management and volunteers who are in organizations who participate in activities have the opportunity to form the ability to solve a social problem that occurs and can be a value for developing skills that are elements of a positive personality for those who actively participate.

The above is also following the values that will be formed, in the theory of Winataputra (2012) [10] argues that seven skill values must be built to form civic intelligence, namely Civic Knowledge, Civic disposition, Civic skills, Civic confidence, Civic Commitment, Civic Competence, and Civic Culture. Then not only that, according to Hidayah, there are four dimensions given by citizen intelligence, namely civic intelligence, civic knowledge, civic character, and civic skills [11].

Then this research is based on the thoughts of Schuler [12] who explains that civic intelligence has categories in the development, improvement, and maintenance of civic intelligence including knowledge, attitudes and aspirations, organizational capital, relational or social capital, and financial and other material resources. The following is a table chart that describes all the components bound to this category (Fig. 3).

The results of the study show that civic intelligence provides problem-solving value to social problems and can be pursued through the form of participation in social organizations. This research is also in tune with the theory of Good (1959) [13] explained that Community civics is a branch of citizenship studies that emphasizes the relationship of individuals with their social environment which is understood as a community that continues to grow, both at the regional and national levels. In addition, to strengthen the above research, Fraenkel's theory is added [3] argues that citizenship intelligence contained in the affective point of view includes a person's expected values and goals, freedom of expression of aspirations, the appearance of attitudes, feelings, the behavior

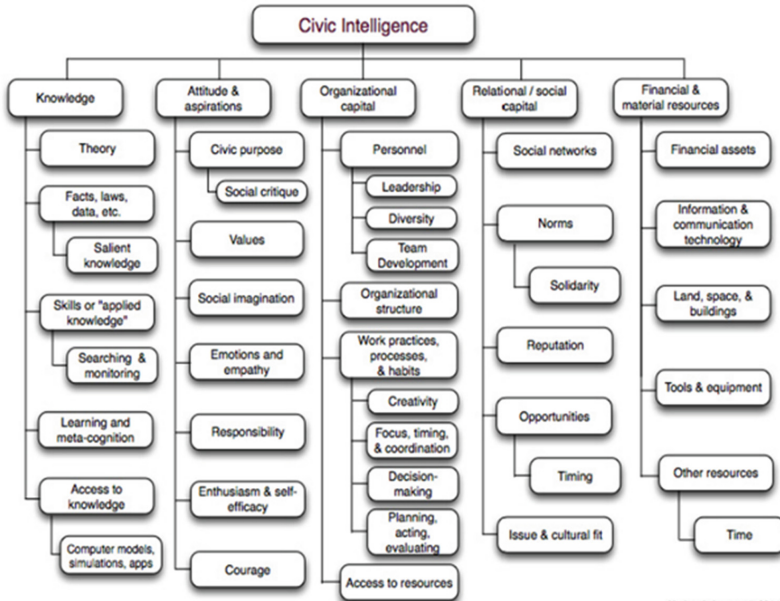


Fig. 3. All the components bound to this category

of an action taken, and concerns expressed. This shows that there is a form of action that influences someone to solve the problems that occur.

In the perspective of developing a democratic society, there is a connection with civic intelligence, as explained by Concilio’s theory, namely civic intelligence is a necessary resource in a democratic society and can be developed or derived to increase the capacity of citizens to use information, form voluntary networks, and revive the principles of democracy [7].

It is also added that John Dewey (1927) [14] described the need for civic intelligence in 1927 stating that the idea of democracy is broader and more complete than can be exemplified in the state and even at its best.

On the other hand, according to Putnam (1995) [15] explain that citizenship intelligence represents a potential that is no different from the concept of social capital. So that there is an alignment of the intentions of Putnam’s theory with social activities that help in solving problems.

Then in subsequent research findings, it was found by the researcher that civic intelligence has elements that can provide active character formation to be directly involved in understanding the problems that occur and can develop knowledge, skills, and social relationships between individuals.

So this statement is following previous research conducted by Masrukhi [10], which discusses the development of civic intelligence based on extra-curricular activities in elementary schools with research results showing that students in developing civic intelligence show a percentage for civic knowledge, civic disposition, civic skills, civic

confidence, civic commitment, civic competence, civic culture with a score of the overall civic intelligence questionnaire was at a low score of 5,465 from the ideal score of 12,250. Then the development of extra-curricular-based civic intelligence in elementary schools can be done through a combined model, namely the integration model or teacher team and those outside of learning together. Furthermore, in this study, there is the development of extracurricular-based civic intelligence which principally involves aspects of cognitive, affective, psychomotor, and social intelligence.

In addition, in previous research by Nurul et al. [16]. Which discusses reading culture with Gelis tree media (School Literacy Movement) in developing civic intelligence the results of the research that there is an increase in the development of civic intelligence competence in intellectual, emotional, and moral intelligence aspects, then Gelis tree media contains aesthetic and competitive values as a means of controlling reading culture, and there is an increase in developing the character of a love of reading, curiosity, active, creative, disciplined, appreciation, and communicative.

Not only that to strengthen the research, the researcher also analyzed other studies made by Sartika et al. [3]. Which discusses the integrated social studies learning model, the values of teacher chess as civic intelligence in Bali with research results showing knowledge through experience, students showing an increase in socialization skills and recognition of the presence of people around them, then the value of teacher chess as empowering civic intelligence creates a society that has integrity, nationalism, obeying regulations, and having noble character, and civic intelligence are the keys to the success of the goals of the social studies learning model and national education.

The difference in this study is to examine how to strengthen civic intelligence through the community civics movement as a value in developing the skills of citizens who are proactive towards the problems of social problems in their environment, the object of study in this research is the management of community organizations who are then included in the activities of community organizations to hone and improve skills as the embodiment of civic intelligence.

So according to the analysis of researchers in the discussion of the study of civic intelligence, it has elements that can be taken through the movement of community organizations or community civics participation in the social sphere and become a value for developing skills for those who actively participate in the activities of the organization.

Citizenship intelligence through the form of participation in community organizations is expected to be able to make a proactive personality in solving problems that occur in the surrounding environment and have a positive impact on oneself in developing critical thinking skills, communicative, analyzing problems, and providing assessments in evaluating a problem that occurs.

### **3.2 Development of Citizenship Intelligence Through Community Civics Participation**

To develop and improve civic intelligence following the implementation of intelligent citizens, based on the study and analysis of researchers, it is necessary to have a place or container that can realize this application. Implementation through appropriate expectations needs to pay attention to several categories in citizenship intelligence, one of which is community civics.

Historically, the Community Civics movement in 1970 was pioneered by WA Dunn. This was intended to expose students to the social environment of society or everyday life in local, national, and international scope.

Based on the analysis of researchers, a community civics is a form of appropriate strategy to realize civic intelligence by the characteristics of citizens who are proactive in addressing social problems. These characteristics can be explained as follows:

Community civics has an element of active involvement in the community so that they can find out and analyze a form of a social problem that occurs and has a good impact on the development of their skills.

The results of the study show implementation in the form of organizational activities such as planning of activity discussion meetings that provide the concept of thinking in a planned and systematic way in carrying out activities, then building cooperative relationships with several community leaders as a form of developing interpersonal intelligence and assisting in the implementation of organizational activities, then through prosocial activities such as assisting with the basic food needs to meet housing needs the community ladder, controlling health for the community to be able to increase the value of health welfare and people's lives for the future for the better, as well as carrying out learning that is more motivating to be able to increase knowledge.

The above is by the development of theory according to Rusnaini (2018) [13] explained that community civics focuses on the intelligence of citizens starting from the closest environment which is supported by shared awareness. This movement has a mission to prepare the younger generation to develop knowledge and skills in building a community by focusing on citizen involvement as a form of civic responsibility.

To strengthen the previous research added theory according to Youniss et al. (1997) [17] explained that community service and involvement in civic activities help to promote citizenship and civic identity during adolescence by connecting youth to their communities, stimulating interest in caring for others, and increasing a sense of social justice and responsibility.

The attitude of organizational participation based on the explanation above can be interpreted as an attitude of being a volunteer which is not concerned with material benefits, but rather with the development of a personal attitude that leads to an experience. This is in line with the results of survey research by Larson Nippolt et al. (2012) [18] who found that volunteering in a Youth Development program provides opportunities for personal growth, increases self-confidence, improves social skills, increases community connections, learns new subject matter, and builds social capital with their community.

The results of the study also show that civil society, in general, can be interpreted as a space in community participation activities, such community groups as the formation of community organizations that participate in the development of citizen independence become a much-needed value as a support to overcome several social problems. This is as explained by Dunn (2004) that each state in a union is a community and so is the nation itself because each consists of a group of people who occupy a certain area and have a government where people work for a common goal.

Subsequent research findings that community organizations have a role in developing community characteristics that have a personality to advocate for the needs of the community to the government through proficient skills in solving problems, then



in developing motivation as civic action and being involved in community service are the keys to positive youth development for support and help build relationships between communities.

This is by referring to one of the other theories described by Jensen (2008) [17] that participating in community activities is a way to connect with family and cultural roots to promote the well-being of others from one's own family or cultural community; this participation is often enthusiastically supported by parents who view community involvement as a way for the community to come together.

It was also explained that structured civic activities provide a supportive context for identity exploration and opportunities for youth to build their own experiences and values, which promote wellbeing [17].

So that it can be analyzed that the development of community civics in their involvement can be a reference that can increase civic intelligence through the skills developed, besides that civic intelligence can be a benchmark in assessing community activity towards social problems in their environment and being able to take action according to their capacities.

## 4 Conclusion

The development of competencies obtained through organizational participation as a form of embodiment of strengthening citizenship intelligence, such competencies as analyzing and filtering the assessment of community background, then developing communication skills formed through habits in organizational activities, then building relationships with the community as a form of developing interpersonal intelligence, and provide a systematic form of thinking because there is a plan that is prepared through the meeting of the organization's activities and the value of cooperation in the implementation of organizational activities as a form of development of civic intelligence.

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This research can transform the value of strengthening civic intelligence through community civics contributions, this research constructs the value of civics intelligence and strengthens civic skill development through community civics participation.

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