
Integration of Character Education in PKN Learning in Elementary Schools

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Abstract

The aim of this research is to explore an in-depth understanding of the integration of character education in PKN learning in elementary schools today. This research is a type of literature study research. The literature materials used include books, scientific papers or essays, theses, dissertations, encyclopedias and other relevant sources. This research shows that there are several approaches that we can take in integrating character education in PKN learning in elementary schools, including: project-based approach, use of local stories and literature, citizenship simulations, collaboration with the community bringing real experiences into PKN learning, and portfolio-based evaluation. . The integration of character education is not only the task of teachers but also of the entire community involved in education

Keywords – Learning; Character; Civic education



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1. Introduction

Citizenship Education (PKN) in Elementary Schools (SD) is an integral part of the educational curriculum which aims to form intelligent and responsible citizens (Darmadi, 2020; Ubaidillah, 2020). However, in an increasingly complex and volatile environment, PKN's role is not only limited to conveying historical and constitutional facts. More than that, PKN also has great potential to become a vehicle for building student character and ethics (Bukoting, 2023; Amelya et al., 2023; Fauziyah, 2023; Karimah & Marini, 2023). In an effort to face increasingly complex moral and ethical challenges in today's society, the integration of character education in PKN learning has become a hot topic of discussion among practitioners and academics.

Over the last few years, developing character education has become the main focus in efforts to strengthen education in elementary schools (Farid, 2023). Not only academic knowledge, character education also includes the development of values such as honesty, empathy, social awareness and a sense of responsibility (Akib, 2023; Haryati & Hidayat, 2023; Hayati et al., 2023). This article will review the extent to which character education has been integrated into PKN learning in elementary schools and how this contributes to the formation of student character.

Through this article, we hope to provide in-depth insight to educational practitioners and academics regarding the importance of integrating character education in PKN learning in elementary schools. We will explore the benefits, challenges, and best practices that have evolved in this effort. Hopefully this article can be a source of inspiration and information for those who are committed to forming a young generation of intelligence and character in this increasingly complex society.

This article aims to explore an in-depth understanding of the integration of character education in PKN learning in elementary schools today. We will present a comprehensive review of the concept of character education, the role

of PKN in shaping student character, and the latest developments in implementing the integration of character education in PKN subjects.

2. Method

The type of research used is a qualitative approach and library research methods to write this essay. The literature materials used are primary literature and information regarding topics and problems that are being considered and investigated by researchers. Print and electronic sources include books, scientific papers or essays, theses, dissertations, encyclopedias, and other sources from which this article was obtained. (Azizah & Purwoko, 2019).

3. Result and Discussion

a. Project-Based Approach in Civics Learning

One of the unique efforts that has developed in integrating character education in PKN learning in elementary schools is a project-based approach. This approach emphasizes practical and participatory learning, where students are involved in projects related to civic issues (Bukoting, 2023; Sholeh, 2023). Through these projects, students not only learn Civics concepts, but also practice character values such as cooperation, leadership, and responsibility. For example, students can organize social campaigns at their school or take part in environmental projects to develop awareness of their social responsibilities as citizens.

b. Using Typical Local Stories and Literature

The use of local stories has become a unique way to integrate character education in PKN learning (Istiningsih, 2021; Novidayanti et al., 2023). In many cultures, there are traditional stories or myths that summarize the ethical and moral values respected by society (Zulkefli, 2023; Yusnan, 2022). PKN teachers can use these stories to illustrate character values such as honesty, courage, and cooperation. Linking Civics learning to local stories not only makes it more relevant for students, but also teaches them about their own cultural heritage.

c. Citizenship Simulation

Citizenship simulation is a unique method of teaching PKN with a practical approach (Santoso et al., 2023; Salampessy, 2023; Nasution, 2023; Rosyida, 2019). In this simulation, students take on the role of members of society or government and participate in real situations that reflect the lives of citizens. For example, they can hold elections at school, draw up rules of conduct, or confront conflicts and find fair solutions. In this kind of simulation, students learn not only about democratic principles, but also develop good leadership, negotiation and participation characteristics.

d. Collaboration with Communities and Social Organizations

Another unique effort is to involve local communities and social organizations in PKN learning in elementary schools (Alhudawi, 2020; Kurniasih, 2023; Hidayat, 2019). Teachers collaborate with civil society institutions or experts in the field of PKN to provide students with deeper insight into civic issues. For example, inviting representatives of social organizations to speak about human rights or the environment, or giving students the opportunity to be involved in social projects with the community. This helps students understand the real impact of character values in everyday life and increases their sense of involvement as citizens.

e. Portfolio Based Evaluation

Penting to measure the impact of integrating character education in PKN learning. One unique approach to integrating character education is the use of portfolios (Saputra et al, 2023; Dewi, 2021). Students can create portfolios that reflect their character development throughout the year, including concrete examples of behavior based on character values such as empathy, hard work, or honesty. This portfolio provides a holistic picture of students' character development and helps them self-reflect on the learning experience.

In this article, we have outlined several unique efforts to integrate character education in PKN learning in elementary schools. Each of these approaches makes a valuable contribution in shaping students' character, creating

a more meaningful learning environment, and preparing them to become responsible citizens with character. As education evolves, we can continue to explore creative ideas and innovative methods to strengthen this approach for the benefit of young people and society as a whole.

4. Conclusion

Various unique approaches to integrating character education in Citizenship Education (PKN) learning in Elementary Schools (SD) include project-based approaches, use of local stories and literature, citizenship simulations, collaboration with communities bringing real experiences into PKN learning, and portfolio-based evaluation. The integration of character education is not only the task of teachers but also of the entire community involved in education.

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