

## IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL EDUCATION IN NATIONAL CHARACTER BUILDING

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### Abstract

This research examines the implementation of social education in national character building, highlighting the importance of developing character with integrity and civilised through a holistic approach. Social education is not only limited to the academic environment but also covers various aspects of life, including family and community. Through curricula that emphasise civic education, extracurricular activities and community programmes, individual character can be firmly established. In addition, the active role of families and the media in instilling moral values also supports this process. The results show that the synergy between formal education, social participation, and environmental support is crucial in building a solid and sustainable national character amidst complex global dynamics.

**Keywords:** Implementation, Social Education, Development, National Character.

### Introduction

National character development has become one of the main focuses in carrying out the national agenda in various countries. Strong and quality character in citizens is believed to be the main foundation for the creation of a harmonious, productive, and integrity society (Sitopu et al., 2024); (Guna et al., 2024); (Fawait et al., 2024). In the current era of globalisation and modernisation, challenges in character building are increasingly complex because they are influenced by various factors, such as technology, social media, and cultural changes. Therefore, a comprehensive approach is needed to address these challenges.

Social education is one of the critical elements in the effort to build a solid and virtuous character. Through social education, moral, ethical and social values can be internalised by individuals from an early age until adulthood. Social education does not only take place in schools, but also through various media and other non-formal institutions, such as families, communities and social organisations (Chu et al., 2021).

Social education plays a vital role in the nation's character building process as it focuses on the development of moral, ethical and social values that form the basis for individual behaviour in society. By instilling these values early on, social education helps create individuals who are not only academically intelligent but also dignified,

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responsible and able to contribute positively to their surrounding environment (Davis et al., 2022). In the context of globalisation and rapid technological advancement, social education is an important counterbalance to ensure that intellectual development is balanced with emotional and social development, so that individuals are able to face the challenges of the times with a wise attitude and strong morals (Jenkins & Sheehey, 2022).

In addition, social education contributes to building social cohesion and solidarity in society. By understanding and appreciating differences and promoting co-operation and tolerance, social education can reduce social conflict and improve the quality of life together. When individuals in a society have a strong character and a high sense of empathy and justice, it strengthens national integrity and reinforces the foundations for sustainable development. Therefore, investment in social education is essential to create future generations who are able to maintain and promote the nation's noble values, while building a harmonious and highly competitive society (Park & Kim, 2022).

However, the implementation of social education in national character building faces various challenges. Firstly, there is a gap in the understanding and application of the concept of social education in various educational institutions and communities. Secondly, there is a lack of integration and coordination between educational policies and existing character building programmes. Third, limited resources, both human and material, that support the effective implementation of social education (Syakhrani & Aslan, 2024); (Judijanto et al., 2024).

This research aims to dig deeper into how social education can be effectively implemented in national character building.

## **Research Methods**

The study in this research uses the literature research method. The literature research method is an approach that involves collecting and analysing data obtained from various relevant literature sources, such as books, scientific journals, articles, and other documents. (Arikunto, 2000); (Fadli, 2021).

## **Results and Discussion**

### **Concept of Social Education**

Social education is a learning process that aims to develop an individual's ability to understand, interact and contribute effectively in society. Its main focus is to provide an understanding of social norms, values and responsibilities, and equip individuals with the social skills necessary to participate in community life. Through social education, individuals are expected to understand social dynamics, appreciate diversity, and play an active role in promoting social welfare and maintaining harmonisation in various social contexts (Park & Kim, 2022).

The aim of social education is to develop individuals who are more aware and responsible in their social context. Specifically, social education aims to instil moral and ethical values, raise awareness of rights and obligations as members of society, and strengthen the ability to communicate and collaborate with others. In addition, social education also seeks to promote equality and social justice, reduce discriminatory behaviour, and encourage active participation in community activities and civic engagement (Zhai et al., 2021).

The scope of social education is broad and covers various aspects of community life. It includes learning about social norms and values, social and political systems, human rights, global and local issues, and how to make responsible and ethical decisions. Social education also teaches practical skills such as conflict resolution, teamwork and community involvement. Various teaching methods, including group discussions, simulations, and community service projects, are used to achieve these goals (Rozikin et al., 2024).

Thus, social education plays an important role in shaping individuals who are not only intellectually intelligent but also socially minded and ethical. With the aim of developing social awareness, responsibility and skills, it covers various important aspects of community life and uses practical approaches to prepare individuals to participate actively and positively in society.

### **Concept of National Character Development**

National character is the collection of values, norms, customs and culture held in high esteem by the majority of members of a society within a country, which shapes their collective identity and behaviour. It reflects a nation's unique history, traditions and social environment, and plays an important role in how its citizens interact with each other and the outside world. In other words, national character is a reflection of the collective morals and ethics that shape national identity and influence social and political dynamics within the country (Miller, 2023).

The aspects of national character to be built include several fundamental elements that aim to reinforce national identity and strengthen social cohesion. One of the main aspects is integrity, which includes honesty, responsibility, and commitment to truth and justice. By building integrity, it is hoped that ethical, non-corrupt citizens will emerge and uphold the principles of justice. In addition, discipline is also an important element, which includes compliance with rules and laws, as well as the ability to self-regulate and work hard to achieve common goals (Nazari et al., 2021).

Another aspect is tolerance and respect for diversity. In a multicultural and plural context, it is important to instil mutual respect and acceptance of differences in religion, ethnicity and culture. National character education also emphasises nationalism, which includes a love for the country, a sense of pride in belonging to the nation, and a willingness to contribute to the welfare of society. Cooperation and a spirit of mutual

aid are also prioritised, encouraging people to work together to build and sustain a harmonious and productive society (Tapalova & Zhiyenbayeva, 2022).

By strengthening these aspects, it is hoped that a solid, integrative national character will be formed, capable of facing global challenges without losing the national identity and noble values that have been inherited for generations.

### **Relationship between Social Education and Character Building**

Social education plays a crucial role in character building, as through social education, individuals are taught about the values and norms prevailing in society. Social education teaches social skills such as communication, co-operation and conflict resolution, all of which are essential for building a strong and positive character. In addition, social education also helps individuals understand and appreciate the diversity of cultures, religions and other social backgrounds, which in turn forms an attitude of tolerance and respect towards others (Sartika & Fransiska, 2024); (Iksal et al., 2024). Thus, social education not only creates individuals who are academically smart, but also wise in their social interactions.

Furthermore, social education can help instil moral and ethical values that form the basis of everyday behaviour. For example, through social education, individuals are taught the importance of integrity, honesty and responsibility. These values form the foundation of building good character as they help individuals make responsible and ethical decisions. Social education also highlights the importance of justice and treating others with respect and fairness, which are important aspects of strong character (Smakman et al., 2021).

Social education also provides opportunities for individuals to engage in social and community activities, which helps them understand the importance of contributing to society. Through participation in various social activities, such as charity projects or environmental activities, individuals can learn about social responsibility and community service (Anthony et al., 2022). It also helps them develop an attitude of empathy and concern for others, which are essential components of good character. Moreover, involvement in social activities can also strengthen the sense of community and solidarity, which are important for social cohesion (Susanto et al., 2022).

Overall, social education and character building are interrelated and mutually supportive. Social education provides the framework and context in which values and norms can be taught and practised, while character building focuses on the internalisation of these values within individuals. Through good social education, individuals can build a strong character, which not only benefits themselves, but also society as a whole. In an increasingly complex and diverse world, the importance of social education in character building is becoming increasingly important to create a harmonious and dignified society.

## **Application of social education in national character building**

The implementation of social education in national character building is crucial to creating a civilised, inclusive and integrity society. One of the main ways it is implemented is through the formal education system, where the school curriculum includes subjects that focus on developing social skills and moral values. Programmes such as counselling, civic education and extracurricular activities can be designed to teach the importance of cooperation, a sense of social responsibility, and understanding and appreciating diversity. With this learning, young people can be better prepared to face social challenges and become agents of positive change in society (Gallagher & Savage, 2023).

In addition to formal education, social education can also be implemented through community-based activities that involve active participation from citizens. Programmes such as community service, leadership training, and environmental initiatives can be run by community agencies, non-governmental organisations, or local communities to develop a sense of solidarity and build relationships among community members. These activities help individuals to learn practically how to work together, solve problems together, and revive the culture of gotong royong that is part of the Indonesian national character (Stieger et al., 2021).

The role of families and the media also cannot be ignored in the implementation of social education for national character building. Within the family, parents can teach ethics and social values early on, guiding children to internalise virtues such as honesty, responsibility and empathy. The media, both print and electronic, can be a powerful tool to disseminate positive messages and inspiring stories depicting role models in society. The media can also highlight important issues that can trigger discussion and reflection, ultimately encouraging people to adopt a more proactive and caring attitude (Elbes & Oktaviani, 2022).

Overall, the implementation of social education in national character building is a multidimensional effort that involves various elements in society. The integration of social education into various aspects of life has the potential to foster a strong national character based on virtues. With a joint commitment from the government, educational institutions, families and communities, social education can become the foundation for harmonious and sustainable national character development amid increasingly complex global challenges.

## **Conclusion**

The implementation of social education in national character building is an urgent necessity to form a civilised society with integrity. Social education does not only focus on academic understanding, but also includes the development of interpersonal skills, the application of moral values, and the strengthening of a sense of social

responsibility. In the context of formal education, this can start with a curriculum that emphasises civic education, counselling guidance, and extracurricular activities that support character development.

Apart from formal education, active participation from the community through various social activities also plays an important role in individual character building. Through community-based programmes such as community service, leadership training, and environmental initiatives, people can build solidarity and a sense of community. These activities not only strengthen social ties but also educate the younger generation on the importance of co-operation, empathy and mutual aid.

The role of family and media is also crucial in supporting social education. Parents as the first educators in the family have the responsibility to instil social ethics and values early on. Meanwhile, the media can be used as a tool to spread positive messages and inspiring examples that portray role models in society. With this synergy between various aspects of life, social education will become a solid foundation for harmonious and sustainable national character development amidst increasingly complex global challenges.

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