

# The Role of Civics Learning in Shaping Moral Student Character at UPT SDN Pojok 02

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## Abstract

One of the important components of education in primary school is character education. Teachers as agents of education hold great responsibility in instilling character values through learning materials, especially in the topic of Civics learning in elementary schools. The purpose of this article is to analyze the role of teachers in instilling character values through Civics learning in primary schools. In this research using direct interview method. The results of this study show that students internalize character values such as discipline, responsibility, tolerance, and nationalism through the teacher's role as a model, facilitator, and motivator. However, challenges such as lack of time, facilities, and students' understanding of abstract values are still encountered. Therefore, innovative learning strategies and collaboration between parents and teachers are needed to strengthen the internalization of character values.

## 1. Introduction

In general, Civics Education is a field of study that includes material that aims to make students the successors of the nation who are educated, disciplined, independent, defend the country, and uphold human rights. Civic Education is a subject that aims to produce students who are smart and have character (Anastasya ervina, 2021). Civic Education subjects are very important in the Indonesian education system (Nasution, 2023). Elementary school is the starting point where students acquire knowledge. Students at the elementary level must learn Civics Education. Civics learning in elementary schools is very important to improve the quality of education by creating innovative, critical thinking, responsive, and creative students (lisnawati ai, 2022).

Character education is based on Pancasila. This is in accordance with the goal of national development, which is to create an ethical, moral, moral, cultured, and civilized society. Elementary school is the best place to start character building in a person (Sutarna, 2018). According to Abidin (2012), character building is a term that refers to education that instills character values in students so that they have their own values and can apply them in their lives as members of society and as citizens who are religious, nationalist, productive, and creative.

Character education, a term used by many experts to define. Character education is defined as a type of moral education that aims to teach young people about good things or policies and build socio-moral competencies so that they can act as moral agents of the world (Efendi, 2022). Character education in children now really needs more attention by teachers at school. One of the important components in education is character education, which aims to shape students into moral, responsible, and highly moral people. Primary schools and classroom teachers play an important role in character education. It is very important for elementary school children to instill character values for the future of students and the country of Indonesia.

As substitute parents at school, teachers have a big task to teach and instill character values in their students. teach and instill character values in their students. Successful education can be improved by education that incorporates the role of parents and society in a balanced manner and builds a student learning process that is often and society in a balanced way and builds the learning process of students who often violate values and norms. violate values and norms. Teachers are

responsible for instilling character values character values in their students, as they serve as substitutes for parents at school.

In order for character values to be strong in students, teachers must be able to develop learning methods that are fun, contextual, and meaningful. meaningful. One of the consequences of rapid technological development is loss of moral values in students. It definitely requires special attention. special attention. National education is needed so that students can instill moral values. According to article 3 of Law no. 20 of 2003 on the national education system national education system, the purpose of national education is to improve the potential of potential of each student and build the character of a dignified nation by the intellectual life of the country. (Pibadi Rekza, 2023). Therefore, teachers can act as a second father or mother to their students at school, helping them feel comfortable and open with their teachers. Furthermore, it is important to conduct further research on the role of teachers in instilling moral values through civic moral values through civics subject in elementary school. This will help strengthen character from an early age.

## 2. Method

The method used in this research is a qualitative method. According to Sugiyono (2023), the qualitative approach focuses on an in-depth understanding of a phenomenon by paying attention to the context and experiences of research participants. Qualitative research is a research method that aims to describe existing phenomena and describe conditions as they are (Saadati & Sadli, 2019). This research collects data through interviews. Sugiyono, (2016) states that interviews are a data mining technique that involves question and answer interactions, either directly (face-to-face) or indirectly (through the media), between researchers and individuals who provide information. In this way, both parties can exchange ideas to build a better understanding of a subject. In addition, observation was also used to evaluate the teacher's role in instilling character values through Civics learning at SDN Pojok 02. On the other hand, the homeroom teacher of grade 6 was interviewed to obtain direct information about the teacher's efforts in shaping student character through Civics learning.

## 3. Results and Discussion



Interviews with teachers show that the role of teachers is very important in building the character of their students. Teachers believe that building character is an important part of the learning process in the classroom, and they believe that a teacher is someone who should be guided and imitated, so a teacher must set an example and guide a student well. A teacher must have a good attitude, obey the rules, and be an example in learning so that it can motivate students to behave positively.

In the world of education, everyone should know that the teacher's job is not only to teach and convey knowledge, but also to be responsible for instilling character values in students so that they can develop into ethical individuals. According to (Syah, et al, 2019), explaining that the role as a director is important for teachers in shaping student character. Teachers must not only act as teachers but also be able to direct and help their students. Teachers have a central role in planning, implementing, and evaluating learning. This means that the overall success of education is strongly

influenced by the teacher's ability to create quality learning. The quality of learning is highly dependent on the teacher's ability, especially in providing opportunities for students to learn effectively and efficiently.

Habituation of character values in daily life is very important. Character education for a nation is a very important aspect of social, national and state life. Therefore, the education and development of the nation's character values should have a solid constitutional basis. The diverse social, economic, and educational aspects of families can affect the level of support and impact students receive (An, Wang, Yang, & Du, 2018), each learner must have diverse characteristics, the character of a learner is primarily formed in the family environment, then continued at school, this process requires a patient and gradual approach, where the teacher acts as a facilitator who understandingly guides students to understand and internalize positive values. A teacher must be slow in giving understanding to children.

Civic education is a subject taught at school. Based on Law No. 20/2003 on the National Education System, the purpose of education is to increase the potential of students so that they become individuals who are faithful and devoted to God Almighty and have a national spirit. Civics learning in elementary schools has an important role in shaping students' character because the material contained in it has the ability to foster young people who are not only intelligent but also have noble character in the future, both at school and in society.

SDN Pojok 02 uses a comprehensive approach in instilling character education through Civics lessons, namely:

1. Exemplary, educators become real examples in practice; educators teach character values through daily life, not theoretically. Exemplary role is the core of the character development program. It serves as an example and moral inspiration for students. Therefore, the implementation of examples in education units is a requirement for student character development. Students' character development is directly and reciprocally influenced by the teacher's example. Teachers will shape good personalities in their students if they become good role models for their students; conversely, if teachers do something bad, students will more easily imitate them. The proverb that says that "one example is better than a thousand pieces of advice" illustrates the importance of examples provided by teachers (Prasetyo et al., 2019).
2. Inspirational, here the learning is designed to trigger students' intrinsic motivation through inspirational stories, connecting the material with actual issues.
3. Internalization of values, this is a personal reflection after the learning is complete, for example, students are given a lighter question "What can you apply from today's lesson?", then connect the value with the emotional experience of the question "how does it feel if you are treated unfairly?" from there we can find out the attitude of each student. Internalization is the adjustment of one's beliefs, values, attitudes, and behaviors (Rhysszcky Noviannda et al., 2020). The process of incorporating ideal values or attitudes that were previously considered outside into one's thinking so that they are integrated in one's thinking, skills, and life perspectives is called internalization. In this sense, internalization can be interpreted as the collection of certain values or attitudes to form into a complete personality (Jamaluddin, 2021). Teachers apply and teach values such as discipline, responsibility, and mutual cooperation through examples and assignments related to daily life (nanda1 et al., 2025).
4. Alignment with the students' stage of moral development, meaning that the material is adjusted to the students' grade level so that the children can easily adjust to the next step is the use of visual media to eliminate student boredom. Pictures, comics, posters, magazines, miniatures, teaching aids, and other visual media are examples of visual learning media. Multimedia can help reduce cognitive load by visualizing complex concepts. In addition, it has been proven that video narration and interactive questions support active learning (Suci et al., 2025). This is in accordance with Nurdianti's 2019 research that shows visual media can increase student engagement, creativity, and interest in learning.

In learning practices, teachers integrate character values through various creative methods, Civics learning is designed to involve students actively through group discussions. The results of interviews with sources of preparation made by teachers in delivering Civics material that adapts character in students, namely:

First, teachers must understand the material and learning objectives to be taught, by understanding the material the teacher can bring Pkn lessons with methods that suit the students in the classroom. Teachers must have four teaching abilities: educational, personality, social, and professional (Dewi, 2022). The existence of a learning strategy that is owned so that it has a goal to achieve, this helps the teaching and learning process run smoothly. In addition, even the best learning strategies will not be successful without the support of teachers. Teachers must understand the situation and conditions before they make learning strategies interesting to prevent students from getting bored during learning (Mufatihah, 2023). Then recognize the characteristics of students in the classroom, by recognizing the characteristics of students teachers can adjust the delivery of material using lectures or practices, questions and answers, demonstrations, or experiments. Each student has different characteristics, teachers must understand the initial characteristics of each student to make learning easier. This includes choosing appropriate management strategies to organize teaching and student abilities so that teaching components can be tailored to their characteristics, so that learning becomes more meaningful (Estari, 2020).

At the beginning of the class, teachers should know about their students' diverse learning styles. This is because the match between the learning approach based on students' psychological development level and their preferred learning style is crucial to determine the approach and delivery of materials. Student characteristics which are usually defined as students' basic experiences such as general abilities, learning expectations, and other elements present in students, expectations towards learning, and students' physical and emotional traits. All these factors have an impact on learning effectiveness. Learning may or may not go well. This depends largely on what the teacher knows about the nature of the students. The activities to be carried out, the desired learning outcomes and the application of appropriate student assessment can be influenced by understanding student characteristics (Purwanti et al., 2021). Next, prepare learning materials and media. Media and learning materials that help deliver Pkn material in accordance with the character of students in the classroom are needed when teaching Pkn lessons in class. Such as tools (pictures, videos, props), student worksheets, power points in order to create a pleasant situation. Visual media is a way to teach by using props so that students can see. Students can be trained to remember, rephrase, and retrieve and decide the right one. This kind of model also makes students think more deeply. In this case, students actively participate in addition to the teacher who delivers the material (Wandini et al., 2021). Because many learning resources for Pkn are difficult to explain using books alone, Pkn teaching in elementary schools is essentially inseparable from learning media. In addition, the use of learning media is very helpful because it has certain objectives in the educational process, such as increasing motivation and encouragement for Pkn learning activities and helping to achieve learning objectives more easily, effectively and efficiently.

Predicting obstacles and solutions in learning civics and student characters in the classroom, there must be obstacles in learning civics in the classroom with various student characters and student adjustments to learning. Obstacles faced such as lack of discipline in students, lack of focus in paying attention to the teacher's explanation, students also often leave the class during learning. With this, teachers can also provide good examples and focus on shaping student character and applying it in classroom learning such as having an attitude of responsibility, in daily activities applying throwing garbage in its place, arriving on time, obeying rules, and respecting teachers and friends (Sitinjak et al., 2024). This results in students' ability to participate responsibly and with quality in life, creating a good society or citizen who can maintain unity and integrity (Devaraswari et al., 2024).

During classroom learning, teachers also incorporate character habituation education for students in accordance with Civics learning. Students will become accustomed to the things they do repeatedly. Character education that is instilled can work well if it is consistently familiarized. The habituation will become a culture that students will do until old age. This method is used to develop the principles of Pancasila and internalize Pancasila values at school or at home (kusumawardani et al., 2021). Citizenship learning based on Pancasila teaches eighteen traits to students in primary

school. These values include religiosity, integrity, tolerance, discipline, unyielding spirit, innovation, independence, democratic spirit, high curiosity, nationalism, concern for the environment and society, and good communication skills. Meanwhile, schools can teach students to pray before and after class, pray in congregation for Muslim students while other students worship according to their religion, a culture of throwing garbage in its place, deliberation, respect for others without discriminating, tolerance, love for the country, and courtesy towards teachers. (Nasution, 2023).

### 3.1. Conclusion

The results show that students who receive character education in primary school tend to be more moral, responsible and patriotic. As the values of Pancasila and national spirit are relevant to students' lives, civic education (Civics Education) becomes a strategic tool to instill patriotism and moral values. This study used qualitative methods to collect data through observation and interviews. This allowed the researcher to gain a good understanding of teachers' roles and approaches to teaching character in the classroom.

Educators in schools do not simply provide knowledge, but also help students grow into moral individuals. To prepare for Civics learning, teachers must understand the material, understand students' characters, prepare learning media, and anticipate difficulties in the classroom. In addition, learning is integrated with regular habituation of Pancasila values, so that students' characters can be formed through daily practice. As a result, teachers play an important role in the achievement of character education through interesting and successful Civics learning.

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