

Integrating National Character Values through Scouting Education: An Ideal Strategy in the Modern Era

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Article history	ABSTRACT
Upload : October 1, 2024	Character education is the process of inheriting culture to shape the personality of the younger generation. The world of technology is experiencing rapid development, and the world of education is experiencing many changes due to the advancement of technology. However, there are negative and positive sides to technological advancement. The enormous influence of technology also affects the character of the nation. Therefore, it is important to provide a filter against the negative impact of technology. One of the activities that can be done to filter out the negatives of technological advances is Scouting activities. Scouting, as an informal activity, can be an effective means to instill character values because it has pillars that are relevant to everyday life. In Scouting, young people are taught to have responsibility, discipline, and love for the country. In addition, this activity also encourages character building through activities that involve cooperation, leadership, and social care. This research, through a literature study, analyzed information from various sources and found that Scouting is a suitable platform for instilling National Culture and Character Education. However, Scouting is not the only solution.
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INTRODUCTION

Education today prioritizes teaching about the nation's culture and character values. Various print and digital media talk about the importance of such education. Various seminars and discussions are conducted by experts and public figures. In the current era of globalization, information exchange occurs so quickly and can access anything on the internet both positive and negative. Character cultivation is very important to filter incoming foreign cultures ([Anwar et al., 2023](#)). As a result of conversations by experts and public figures, education is one of the solutions as a preventive measure. Law No. 20 of 2003 article 3 of the National Education System contains the function of national education to develop and shape character in order to educate the nation's life ([Supinah & Ismu, 2011](#)).

Character education is very important in this digitalization era. The rapid advancement of technology affects many things in life, especially in the world of education. In the world of education, teachers not only provide material so that students are smart, but teachers must also educate, which means also directing students' personalities or characters to behave well in society and wherever they are. Available technology is a threat to the nation's next generation ([Miranda, 2024](#)). If education personnel do not take part in silencing the negativity of technology, the future of the

nation will be chaotic 21st century education must be able to be realized through learning. According to the speech delivered by Anies Baswedan, it must fulfill three main components, namely: (1) character; (2) 4C competencies namely critical thinking, creative, communicative, and collaborative; (3) literacy consisting of reading literacy, cultural literacy, financial literacy, and technological literacy ([Nindiantika et al., 2019](#)).

Scouting education is one of the media to foster the younger generation based on educational units. Scouting is a non-formal education path in the national education system that can be implemented from elementary to high school levels. Scouting activities can be integrated into formal education, such as through extracurricular programs ([Afandi & Rocmah, 2015](#)). The Scout Movement with the code of honor Satya and Dharma Pramuka is a source of positive character values that can form a whole person. When these values are embedded in the heart, they will influence an individual's actions and behavior, forming a strong and positive character.

In addition, scouting can affect academic achievement, self-confidence and social skills. Students who participate in scout activities are better able to overcome conflicts that occur to them ([Asensio-Ramon et al., 2020](#)). Scouting is an organization that is consistent to help instill national character and is expected to meet the expectations set out in Law No. 12 of 2010.

METHOD

This type of research uses a literature study. According to Sugiyono ([Julianto et al., 2023](#)), he argues that research methods can be studied by relying on theoretical studies related to the values, culture, and social norms of the subject under study. Literature research, or literature review (literature review, literature study) is research that examines or critically evaluates information, ideas, or observations. Researchers systematically analyze information from various sources and explain it in detail to provide readers with a thorough understanding.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Character Value Education

In the KBI, the word educate means the process of "nurturing and giving training in the morals and intelligence of the brain" ([Muhammad, 2019](#)). Education is a structured and deliberate process to facilitate the development of individual potential, including spiritual, character, intellectual, moral and skill aspects. The functions of education include teaching, guiding, discovering, disseminating knowledge, reaching out to society, and building character. Character education is a structured plan to help individuals recognize, appreciate, and act in accordance with norms, so that they are able to act right even when faced with pressure or temptation ([Gularso & Firoini, 2017](#)).

Character education according to Thomas Lickona is threefold, namely understanding goodness, loving goodness and doing goodness ([Fitria, 2017](#)). Character is behavior based on religious, cultural, legal, customary, and aesthetic norms. Character education aims to help understand, appreciate, and implement norms in order to act as a whole individual. To overcome the collapse of character, it is necessary to know the

factors that cause it. The five domains that can foster good character are the family, the individual himself, the place of study, the environment, and society ([Mustari, 2011](#)). And education is the dominant factor in character building.

The Need for Character Education

The cultural character of each nation is different and can change, either towards improvement or decline, and can even disappear if not properly protected. Character education includes two aspects: education and character itself. Education is the process of transferring the nation's culture and character to improve the quality of life of the people and the country in the future. Character includes traits, habits, and personality formed from the cultivation of virtuous values ([Kosim, 2012](#)).

Character education is an important element in developing the quality of Indonesian people and supporting national character education. Character education is more effective if provided from an early age, because it is easier to accept and affects the development of children's character until adulthood. Goleman points out that a person's success in society is more influenced by emotional intelligence (80%) than brain intelligence (20%) ([Adhim, 2012](#)). Character education, including through non-formal education channels, helps develop emotional and social intelligence that has an impact on children's lives and careers. Character education also functions as a vehicle for development, improvement, and filtering ([Siska et al., 2021](#)). In addition, there are values in character education according to Simbolon ([2023](#)), such as; religious, honest, tolerance, discipline, hard work, creative, independent, democracy and so on.

The Dharma of Scouting

The Scout Movement aims to form scouts who have a religious personality, have morals, love the country, uphold the noble values of the nation and others. Scouting education contributes significantly to increasing the attitude of nationalism ([Budiawan & Miftuh, 2017](#)). Scouting uses 10 pillars of the code of honor that regulate the morals and behavior of scouts. According to ([Rahmatullah, 2023](#)) the 10 pillars are called *dasa darma*, including; 1.) Piety to God Almighty, 2.) Love of nature and compassion for fellow humans, 3.) Patriot who is polite and chivalrous, 4.) Obedient and like to deliberate, 5.) Willing to help and steadfast, 6.) Diligent, skillful and joyful, 7.) Thrifty, careful and unpretentious, 8.) Disciplined, brave and loyal, 9.) Responsible and trustworthy, 10.) Pure in thought, word and deed.

Some brief examples of practicing the 18 character values in the Scout Satya and Dharma are; 1. Religious: Practicing religious teachings (*Darma 1*), 2. Honest: Can be trusted (*Darma 10*), 3. Tolerance: Appreciating differences (*Darma 1*), 4. Discipline: Obeying the rules (*Darma 8*), 5. National Spirit: Prioritizing the interests of the nation (*Darma 3*), 6. Love of Country: Loyalty to the country (*Darma 3*), 7. Environmental Care: Love nature (*Darma 2*), 8. Social Care: Helping others (*Darma 2*), 9. Responsibility: Carrying out obligations (*Darma 9*). Explanations can be seen in [table 1](#).

Tabel 1. Tabel of Character Values in the Scout *Dasa Darma*

Scout <i>Dasa Darma</i>	Character Values Contained	Examples of Practices in Scout Activities
Piety to God Almighty	Religious	Praying before and after activities, tolerance
Love of nature and compassion for fellow humans	Environmental Care: Love nature	Greening activities, mutual cooperation
Patriot who is polite and chivalrous	National Spirit: Prioritizing the interests of the nation	Love of Country can be done by continuing to study, being fair, and attending ceremonies
Obedient and like to deliberate	Deliberate	Obey the rules that apply and always hold joint deliberations if determining a matter in scout activities
Willing to help and steadfast	Help each other	Attitude of being ready to help when friends need help
Diligent, skillful and joyful	Creativity in making work	This point encourages Scouts to always be active, innovative and maintain a positive spirit. Students can utilize used items that can be recycled, and turn those items into useful items with their creativity
Thrifty, careful and unpretentious	Likes to save money	Inculcate the trait of saving money, not being wasteful, simple and wise in using resources
Disciplined, brave and loyal	Disciplined	Instill personal discipline, courage to make decisions
Responsible and trustworthy	Sense of responsibility	Able to take responsibility for their obligations, trustworthy if given a mandate
Pure in thought, word and deed	Honesty, responsibility	Keeping promises within the group

National Character and Culture at School

Character education should be integrated in all school activities, including classroom learning and extracurricular activities such as Scouting and sports. A holistic approach that incorporates intellectual, spiritual, physical and emotional development is essential. The "Character based Integrated Curriculum" covers all these aspects to meet the needs of the whole student. Teachers play a role in transforming these values to students, both in the thought process, spirituality, as well as in the supervision of behavior and social interaction. With proper guidance from teachers, character education through Scout activities will reinforce the experience of values and ensure learners have the opportunity to apply and test the competencies they have learned in the real world ([Sánchez-Rojo et al., 2024](#))

Character includes norms related to God, the individual himself, others, the environment, and the nation, manifested through thinking, behavior, sensitivity, and action based on religious, legal, moral, and ethical principles ([Zuhroh et al., 2024](#)). Character education is a system of cultivating human values in schools, involving all aspects such as knowledge, skills, interests, and actions. All parties, including curriculum, learning, evaluation, as well as the entire school community and environment, must play a role in this character education. The Ministry of National Education developed a Grand Design for character education to improve the quality of education at all levels ([Karim, 2010](#)). This design divides character into four main aspects: Spiritual and emotional, intellectual, Kinesthetic (physical), and affective and creativity.

While culture is something that unites individuals with each other, culture includes all forms of behavior that are accepted and structured in human life ([Triyanto et al., 2019](#)). Culture plays an important role in character education, as it shapes the morals and ethics on which individual behavior is based. Effective character education should be aligned with the culture, so that the values are more easily accepted and practiced. Thus, character education helps strengthen culture and maintain acceptable behavior in society. Informal education in the family plays a lesser role in student development due to parents' busyness and lack of knowledge. To overcome this, character education needs to be integrated with informal activities at home and formal ones at school. Optimizing learning time at school is needed to improve learning outcomes and student character building, by linking teaching materials with daily life values. Research shows that children who receive character education in the family tend to show more positive behavior in society ([Khan, 2024](#)).

The implementation of character education is carried out through three channels: subjects, local content, and extracurricular ([Rachmah, 2013](#)). The problem of character education in schools needs to find a solution so that it can be easily implemented in learning. The goal is to improve the quality of education to achieve students' noble character and morals as a whole. Character education should shape school culture, including the values, customs, routines and symbols practiced at school. This applies to all levels of education in Indonesia. Schools that are successful in character education are used as examples to be disseminated. In shaping students' personalities, scout leaders use strategies to direct/guide, schedule routines and give advice to students ([Kristi & Suprayitno, 2020](#)). This program is expected to produce graduates who are faithful, noble, good character, and academically competent and in accordance with Indonesian cultural norms.

Educational Realities in Value Cultivation

After researching from various sources, the author found several important limiting factors in the application of national character and culture values in schools, especially in the learning process.

1. Habituation without Reward: Habituation in schools often does not come with adequate evaluation or rewards, unlike the Scout movement system which provides official rewards that motivate learners.

2. **Time and Evaluation Limitations:** Limited time and focus on curriculum targets hinder the integration of national values and character in learning. Ineffective evaluation systems lead to a lack of knowledge about national values, such as 12th grade high school students who still do not memorize the national anthem.
3. **Cognitive Assessment is Dominant:** Formal education prioritizes cognitive assessment, neglecting emotional and spiritual aspects. Scouting, with its games and outdoor activities, is more effective in instilling character and cultural values.
4. **Lack of National Pride:** Students often lack pride in national symbols such as the flag, which is in contrast to scouts who respect and pay attention to national symbols.
5. **Inadequate facilities and infrastructure hamper optimal achievement in the cultivation of national character and culture values at school.**

Shortcomings or Gaps in Scouting Implementation

Apart from some of the advantages of this scouting method, of course there are also various kinds of problems faced such as ([Wijayanti, 2017](#)):

1. **Limited Land for Practice.** Scouting activities require a fairly large area for training, the lack of land can affect. So that with makeshift facilities, activities that need a lot of space are forced to be eliminated and of course this reduces the development of students so that they can absorb all knowledge with full freedom.
2. **Insufficient Number of Scouters.** Not all scout leaders receive adequate training. This causes their knowledge and ability to apply character values to be less than optimal. When scouts do not have good skills, the integration of character values such as leadership, cooperation, discipline and responsibility can be hampered.
3. **Inadequate Facilities and Infrastructure.** Many schools or institutions do not have adequate facilities and equipment to carry out scouting activities. In fact, scouting activities require supporting tools for simulations, games, and field activities that are often not available properly.

Scouting in the Modern Era

Technology can play a significant supporting role in enriching the scouting experience. For example, activities that were once based solely on physical activities in the outdoors can now be complemented by educational applications or the use of digital devices that support the understanding of certain skills. Scouters and learners can follow scouting training through online platforms such as video tutorials, webinars, and online courses. There are many apps designed specifically for scouts, such as troop management apps, progress tracking, rope bonding guides, as well as apps that help with GPS navigation when camping or hiking. The use of technology helps in disseminating information related to scout activities, schedules, and announcements more efficiently through social media or instant messaging apps. While technology can support scouting, there are some barriers or challenges that arise. For example, decreased Physical Activity and Dependence on Technology, Focus Disorder that occurs due to overuse of gadgets and Technology Access Gap, meaning that not all scouts have adequate technology especially in rural areas.



Figure 1



Figure 2

(Personal Documentation of Scout Activity Implementation)

The [figure 1](#) and [figure 2](#) shows Scouts marching and forming a formation while holding a flagpole. This activity teaches them about discipline, cooperation, and responsibility in holding their respective roles. This activity also trains leadership skills and self-confidence as each member has an important role in forming an orderly formation. In the second picture, we see a group of Scouts taking a group photo in an open area, such as a forest or a field. This outdoor activity demonstrates the practice of intimacy, cohesiveness, and recognition of nature. Scout members learn to appreciate nature, have a caring attitude towards the environment, and strengthen solidarity between members. Both activities are closely related to character education, where students are trained to have values such as discipline, responsibility, leadership, love of nature, and solidarity. Character education in Scout activities helps them to grow into individuals who are not only academically smart, but also have integrity and empathy for others and the environment.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of character values and national culture in formal education should continue to be studied and improved. Scouting education is considered an ideal strategy because it integrates character values through the *Dasa Darma* of Scouting and is measured by the General Proficiency Requirements and Special Proficiency Requirements. The rewards that learners receive for their achievements in Scouting also motivate them to internalize and apply the values. If teachers have sufficient potential, and are able to guide scouting activities well, then it is likely that the process of instilling character education and culture through Scouting will run smoothly. The *Dasa Darma* of Scouting plays an important role in strengthening the character of Pancasila in students in the digital era, especially in the tenth point of the *dasa darma* which reads "holy in thought, word and deed". At this point, the character of positive thinking, polite and courteous, and responsible can develop in the development of digitalization.

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