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The Role of Youth in the Implementation of Nationalism Attitudes

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Abstract

Youth in Indonesia face significant challenges, especially in the context of rapid urbanization and population growth. However, social sciences have yet to fully understand the social typology of youth, and literature providing in-depth analysis of their social phenomena is limited. Nationalism, as a crucial element for the survival of the nation, is threatened by the influence of globalization and technology that destroy traditional values. The young generation of Indonesia, as the successors of the nation, has a major role in implementing nationalism. Education, especially through flag ceremonies, is recognized as an effective tool for fostering the spirit of nationalism. However, concrete efforts are needed, such as introducing the values of Pancasila and positive practices, to foster a sense of love for the nation. Youth must also understand the history of the nation and appreciate the role of heroes. In the context of globalization, sustainable development requires youth to play an active role in social, political, and economic life. Economic empowerment, use of technology, and preservation of local culture are important focuses. In conclusion, youth have an important role in building and maintaining the spirit of nationalism. Revitalizing the values of nationalism, especially through formal and informal education, is the key to creating a generation that loves the homeland and is able to face global challenges. Cross-sector collaboration is needed to create an environment that supports positive youth development and national sustainability.

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Introduction

The problems faced by young people in Indonesia are not only significant because of their large numbers, but also because the question of where these challenges occur requires special attention. In Indonesia, rapid population growth followed by high levels of urbanization leads to population pressure that is increasingly focused on large cities. Therefore, these cities must prepare educational facilities, employment, housing, transportation facilities, and various other life necessities ^[1].

Social sciences in Indonesia have not paid enough serious and focused attention to social phenomena and problems related to youth. The social typology of Indonesian youth is still poorly understood, while national events often arise from youth, student, and college student movements. Unfortunately, conceptual materials or books that provide adequate sociological analysis, historical review, educational psychology, or political science analysis are still rare.

¹ Agam Randi Wisno Tumangger, Badaruddin Badaruddin, and Rujiman Rujiman, "Analysis of the role of youth in poverty reduction in dairi district," Niagawan 11, no. 2 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.24114/niaga.v11i2.33056>.

Nationalism plays a crucial role in the survival of a country with the hope of creating a sense of unity. However, in the era of globalization and technological advancement like today, the sense of nationalism, especially among students, tends to decline. Foreign culture and technology begin to influence students' habits, and habits that conflict with local culture can cause problems that impact the level of nationalism.

The young generation of Indonesia as the successors of the nation has an important role in the progress of the country. However, the increasingly advanced development of the era can actually reduce the sense of nationalism because of the western influence that penetrates the young generation of Indonesia. Nevertheless, nationalism remains essential for the life of the nation and state, containing the values of love and honor for one's own nation ^[2].

Real efforts are needed to increase the spirit of nationalism in the younger generation, especially students. Approaches through Pancasila and Citizenship education, introduction of the national song, respect for the red and white flag, use of good Indonesian, and other positive practices can be steps in raising a sense of nationalism. The importance of involving a continuing education system to familiarize and strengthen the values of nationalism in students so that they can develop sustainably. Thus, this study aims to analyze the role of youth, especially in the context of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, in the implementation of nationalism.

Discussion

Before discussing the role of youth in the implementation of nationalism, it is necessary to first understand what nationalism is. Nationalism comes from the word nation. Nationalism is a psychological symptom in the form of a sense of equality from a group of people that gives rise to awareness as a nation. A nation is a group of people who live in a certain area and have a sense of unity that arises because of shared historical experiences, and have common ideals that they want to implement in a country in the form of a national state ^[3].

Etymologically, the word nationalism comes from the English word nationalism and nation, which in semantic studies the word nation comes from the Latin word *natio* which is rooted in the word *nascor* which means 'I was born', or from the word *natus sum*, which means 'I was born'. In its development the word nation refers to a nation or group of people who are the official residents of a country.

The definition of nationalism according to Ernest Gellner is a political principle that assumes that national and political units should be balanced. To be precise, Gellner emphasizes nationalism more in the political aspect. Furthermore, according to Gellner, if nationalism is a form of the emergence of sentiment and movement, then we can understand it well if we define what movement and sentiment are. What is meant as a sentiment is psychologically a form of antipathy or expression of anger, hatred, and so on (Kartodirdjo 1999:69). From Gellner's offer regarding the

concept of sentiment and movement, it seems to have become Anderson's emphasis in viewing nationalism ^[4].

Analytically, nationalism has three distinguishable aspects, first the cognitive aspect, which shows the existence of knowledge or 3 understandings of a situation or phenomenon, in this case knowledge of the colonial situation in all its portions; goal/value orientation aspect, which shows a condition that is considered valuable by the perpetrator; in this case what is considered a goal or something valuable is, obtaining a life free from colonialism; the affective aspect of group action shows a situation with its pleasant or troublesome influence on the perpetrator. For example, various kinds of discrimination in colonial society gave birth to the affective aspect. Nationalism as a historical phenomenon, arises as a response to certain historical, political, economic and social conditions. The conditions in question are the emergence of colonialism from one country to another. This happens because nationalism itself arises as a reaction to colonialism, a reaction that comes from a system of exploitation that always gives rise to continuous conflicts of interest. And this is not only in the political field, but also in the economic, social and cultural fields. Meanwhile, in political conception, the terminology of nationalism is an ideology that includes the principles of freedom, unity, equality, and personality as the orientation of the values of a group's collective life in its efforts to realize political goals, namely the formation and preservation of a national state.

Nationalism is a concept that creates and maintains the sovereignty of a country by realizing a concept of shared identity for a group of people. Nationalism in a nation shows that a nation has an identity and self-identity that is not possessed by other nations. Nationalism gives birth to an awareness through the nation's children to become a truly independent nation. This hope forms the awareness of society against all forms of colonization, oppression, exploitation and domination ^[5].

Nationalism in general is a high devotion by a nation to its country which is shown through the attitudes and behavior of individuals or society. The integrity and strength of a country, of course, is influenced by the nationalistic nature of its people, besides nationalism, a nation must also have a patriotic attitude. The value of nationalism is the soul of the Indonesian nation that will continue to be attached as long as the Indonesian nation still stands.

Nationalism as one of the ideologies to remind the younger generation of the tenacity of the efforts of Indonesian fighters in winning independence. The services of the heroes must be remembered, but just remembering them is not enough. The fallen heroes of the nation will certainly be proud if their struggle is continued by the current generation because their struggle is not over. The political meaning of nationalism is a manifestation of national awareness that contains ideals and motivation for a nation, both to win independence or eliminate colonialism and as a motivation to build themselves and their community, nation and country. As citizens of Indonesia, of course, they feel proud and love the Indonesian

² Nita Imroatul Naviah, "THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN THE INDONESIAN MOVEMENT IN 1928-1940," *Estoria: Journal of Social Science and Humanities* 2, no. 2 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.30998/je.v2i2.833>.

³ English: The History of Islam in Indonesia 10, no.

⁴ Novia Eka Widiastuti, "The Fading Attitude of Nationalism of the Millennial Generation Towards Pancasila and Citizenship Education,"

Indonesian Journal of Sociology, Education, and Development 3, no. 2 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.52483/ijted.v3i2.44>.

⁵ Elisa Puspita Ratri and Fatma Ulfatun Najicha, "THE URGENCY OF PANCASILA IN INSTALLING THE SPIRIT OF NATIONALISM IN THE YOUNG GENERATION IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION," *Global Citizen Journal: Scientific Journal of Civic Education Studies* 11, no. 1 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.33061/jgz.v11i1.7455>.

nation and state ^[6].

Pancasila Nationalism is basically a view or understanding of the love of the Indonesian people for the nation and homeland which is based on 2 Pancasila values. The principle of Pancasila nationalism is based on the values of Pancasila which are directed so that the Indonesian people always place the unity, interests and safety of the nation and state above personal interests. A high sense of nationalism can be a binding bond between the nation and its citizens. The discourse of nationalism in the life of the nation and state in this era of globalization has an appeal because now the blaze of nationalism of the younger generation is starting to fade. The fading of national nationalism can be a criticism of the erosion of patriotic values which are the basis of love for the motherland ^[7].

A sense of nationalism is the most important part that must be implemented in everyday life. Schools are one of the institutions that can be used to foster a spirit of nationalism in the younger generation. One of the activities at school that can foster a sense of 3 nationalism is through the Monday flag ceremony, as stated in the Regulation of the Minister of Education and Culture No. 23 of 2015 concerning the Development of Character, explaining that the implementation of the flag ceremony every Monday by wearing a uniform or clothing in accordance with school regulations is very important.

After learning about the basic concept of nationalism, then we will discuss what youth is. The definition of youth itself is not very clear. Youth includes sons and daughters aged 12 to 25 years according to the stipulation of the Inter Regional Seminar on the Training of Professional Voluntary Youth Leaders in Denmark in 1969 organized by UNESCO. While in another concept it is stated that Youth or the younger generation are concepts that are often burdened by values. This is mainly because both are not merely scientific terms but more often ideological or cultural understandings. The terms "Youth is the hope of the nation", "youth is the owner of the future" or "Youth must be fostered" show how loaded the values that have been attached to the word youth are. This has been generally recognized. Therefore, the objective aspect of these things is formulated based on real benchmarks that can be calculated, such as age similarity and based on subjective aspects such as formulations that are based on the meaning given by society must be taken into account.

Viewed from the perspective of population as seen in statistics and economics, the definition of youth is more emphasized on the age division (15-25 years) while sociology and history emphasize more on its subjective value where 4 youth are formulated based on community responses and similarities in historical experience. In this case, these sciences are also assisted by psychology which estimates the period of personality growth which is very closely related to cultural background. However, basically these understandings complement and complement each other.

The young generation is the determinant of the nation's journey in the future. Students as the core of the young generation, have advantages in scientific thinking, in addition to their youthful spirit, critical nature, logical maturity and 'cleanliness' from the stains of the order of their time. History shows that students are the main driving force of change, as

shown by the national period (1908-1945). And in the transition from the Old Order to the New Order (1966). Students are recognized for their role as a force that breaks through the stiffness and stagnation of society. Along with the development of global life and demands as a result of progress in all fields, young people must be able to see that national independence must be translated into the format of establishing economic sovereignty, democratization, and freedom of all Indonesian people from all forms of poverty, ignorance, and backwardness. These economic and social indicators determine the meaning and level of achievement of independence, as well as to mark the progress of the nation in the history of state administration.

In the current era of globalization, the meaning of independence is a fact of interdependence in which nations, groups, and individuals in society depend on each other to jointly advance civilization and the development of humanity. It is not uncommon for such interdependence processes to cause clashes of interests or conflicts of civilization that will indirectly lead society to fall into the trap of narrow, communal identity politics. The negative excesses of globalization and liberalization, if not responded to wisely, especially by our political elites, will actually threaten the meaning of independence at the individual level in society. Therefore, strengthening the basic values of nationalism that have been formed since independence, namely love for national pluralism, solidarity and unity, is an essential matter to be developed as an effort to fill the meaning of our independence.

In this regard, young people should realize that the "new style of colonialism" that is currently sweeping across various developing countries, including our country, is no less destructive than armed colonialism in ancient times. Therefore, the life of the nation should be returned by referring to the noble values of the nation based on religious teachings, morals, and ethics. Young people can form their own culture that is rooted in the personality and customs of our own society that have developed over hundreds of years, characterized by religion, brotherhood, friendship, and harmony with nature and society. Our culture has advantages and superiority compared to imported cultures from developed countries that are filled with hedonism, individualism, and liberalism. For this reason, young people should hold tightly to the nation's culture and develop it continuously so that it is in accordance with the development of the times as long as it does not lose its original characteristics and substance.

The reaffirmation of the spiritual bond and the renewal of the collective determination by the youth greatly require awareness of the history of the nation's growth and the nation's journey in the past filled with ups and downs and joys and sorrows. In relation to this, it is important for the youth to study the history of our nation in a complete, objective, and critical manner. Various pages of Indonesian history provide important lessons and experiences on how the youth should play a role and make history today and in the future.

In this regard, young people should have high respect for the heroes, fighters, and figures in the past who have carved and made history. They have given devotion far above the standard of reasonableness, even sacrificing their souls and

⁶ Daniar Asyari and Dini Anggraeni Dewi, "The Role of Civic Education for the Millennial Generation in Instilling a Spirit of Nationalism in the Era of

Globalization," *Journal of Education and Counseling (JPDK)* 3, no. 2 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.31004/jpdk.v3i2.1628>.

⁷ Asyari and Dewi.

bodies to seize and maintain independence. It is very important for young people to place them in an honorable place while still realizing that young people are also human beings who are not free from mistakes and shortcomings. The principle of young people in this case is that whatever is good from them should be continued, and whatever is not good should be abandoned.

Changes in the way young people view nationalism occur because of changes in life, especially in social life. Changes that occur from year to year are so rapid that they affect the mindset and attitudes of the society that experiences the changes. In a very broad sense, social change is defined as an important change in social structure and what is meant by social structure is patterns of behavior and social interaction (Moore, 1967:3). Wilbert Moore includes in the definition of social change various expressions regarding structures such as norms, values and cultural phenomena.

If we compare the nationalism that was born during the national movement era with the nationalism that emerged in recent years, there are quite fundamental differences, although there are similarities. The similarities that we can see are that nationalism during the national movement era was more global in nature and nationalism today is more local in nature, born and emerged as a form of response to awareness of injustice, feeling colonized, left behind and love for the homeland. While the difference is, the emergence of awareness and sentiment of nationalism during the national movement era was more caused by feelings of being left behind, stupidity, oppression, and poverty as a result of the ideology of Dutch colonialism, while nationalism today is more caused by the emergence of feelings of inequality between regional and central development, unbalanced allocation of funds, and feelings of being exploited by the central government in Jakarta. There are even those who dichotomize between development that is more oriented towards Java compared to outside Java, injustice and imbalance of bureaucracy 13 governments between Java and outside Java. Even the most fundamental difference is that nationalism that was born during the national movement era was more of a glue to maintain the integrity of the nation (integrative in nature), whereas nationalism today is more of a threat to the integrity and unity of the nation (more disintegrative in nature).

In fact, complete nationalism is an idea and ideal about a future: how the character of a free nation is strong in the midst of globalization. Therefore, old nationalism must be deconstructed into a new nationalism that is based on increasingly complex national challenges. The new nationalism of young people is an original nationalism that is not built from above and then slides down, which historian Charles Tilly calls state-led nationalism (in the book *States and Nationalism in Europe 1492-1992*, 1994). Because, young people's nationalism is a nationalism that is not formed by the regime, but something that emerges naturally.

Maintaining the integrity of a nation state requires national awareness, aka nationalism. The integrity of a nation cannot be maintained by violence or through military means, even if there is such a thing, the integrity that is formed is very fragile. So what is important is to form national awareness. There are many ways that can be done to realize national awareness. In this discussion, the researcher will emphasize the importance of the element of education in the process of growing national awareness, aka nationalism. For this reason, an effort is needed to revitalize the sense of nationalism in the

younger generation in particular, as the future successors of the nation. One way that is considered appropriate is the educational path because the young generation is a learning period. It should be noted that education that will often appear in this discussion is education in the formal sense.

Based on the above, in fact The role of youth in the implementation of nationalism has a significant impact on the sustainability and integrity of the nation. Here are some of the roles of youth in the implementation of nationalism:

1. Formation of National Identity

Youth play a key role in shaping national identity. By understanding and internalizing the values of nationalism, youth can become pioneers in maintaining national integrity, preserving cultural diversity, and fostering a sense of unity.

2. Preservation of Culture and Tradition

Youth play a role in preserving local culture and traditions. By understanding traditional values and passing them on to the next generation, youth can maintain the nation's cultural diversity and strengthen national identity.

3. Education and Counseling

Youth have a role in spreading understanding of history, national values, and the meaning of independence to the community. Through educational and outreach activities, youth can make a positive contribution to increasing national awareness among the younger generation and the wider community.

4. Active Participation in Social and Political Life

Youth can play an active role in social and political life, take part in the democratic process, and voice the aspirations of the community. Thus, they become agents of change that contribute to national development and the formation of policies that are in line with national interests.

5. Use of Technology and Social Media

In the digital era, young people have an important role in using technology and social media to spread nationalist messages. Through online campaigns, young people can raise the spirit of nationalism, introduce national values, and overcome potential disinformation.

6. Sustainability of Development

Youth have a responsibility to maintain and continue the economic, social, and cultural development of the nation. With the spirit of nationalism, youth can play a role in creating innovation, developing regional potential, and improving community welfare.

7. Addressing Global Challenges

Youth need to understand Indonesia's role in the global order. By having international insight, youth can contribute to overcoming global challenges such as climate change, sustainability, and humanitarian issues.

8. Economic Empowerment

Youth can play a role in driving the national economy by becoming creative economic actors, young entrepreneurs, and innovators. Youth economic empowerment can support sustainable national economic growth.

Through these roles, youth can become a positive force in building and maintaining the spirit of nationalism, preserving

diversity, and strengthening the foundations of the nation to face future challenges.

Conclusion

In the context of implementing nationalism in Indonesia, youth have a very important role. The challenges faced by youth are not only quantitative, but also related to the rapidly developing geographical and urban context. Social sciences in Indonesia have not fully paid serious attention to social phenomena and youth problems, so their social typology is still poorly understood. Nationalism is considered crucial for the survival of the country, but in the era of globalization and technological progress, the sense of nationalism, especially among students, tends to decline. The influence of foreign culture and technology can affect student habits and cause value conflicts with local culture. The young generation of Indonesia as the successors of the nation has an important role in the progress of the country, but increasingly advanced changes in the era can reduce the sense of nationalism due to western influences that penetrate the younger generation. Therefore, real efforts are needed to increase the spirit of nationalism, especially through education, introduction of Pancasila values, and other positive practices. Education in schools, especially through flag ceremonies, can be an effective tool in fostering a sense of nationalism. In the context of social change and globalization, youth need to understand the history of the nation and appreciate the services of the heroes. Complete nationalism must be rooted in the noble values of the nation, based on religious teachings, morals, and ethics. The importance of revitalizing nationalist values in formal and informal education is the key to creating a young generation that loves its homeland and can maintain the integrity of the nation. In their role, young people can be agents of change that lead Indonesia in a better direction, maintain the nation's identity, and encourage sustainable development. Thus, this study provides a deep understanding of the role of young people in the implementation of nationalism, and the need for cross-sector cooperation to create a generation that loves and maintains the integrity of the nation.

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