

STRENGTHENING STUDENTS' CONSTITUTIONAL AWARENESS THROUGH CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE INDONESIAN LEGAL STATE

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Abstract

Constitutional awareness is an important aspect of national and state life. Students, as the intellectual generation, have a strategic role in maintaining the values of democracy, law, and the constitution in Indonesia. However, the development of globalization, the flow of digital information, and the declining participation of the younger generation in state life pose challenges in developing constitutional awareness. Civics Education is presented as an educational tool aimed at developing intelligent, democratic, and responsible citizens in accordance with the values of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. This article discusses the importance of strengthening students' constitutional awareness through Civics Education from the perspective of the Indonesian rule of law. The method used is normative juridical research with a descriptive-analytical approach through literature

study. The results of the discussion indicate that Civics Education plays a significant role in improving students' understanding of constitutional rights and obligations, developing democratic attitudes, and instilling legal awareness in social, national, and state life. Therefore, strengthening constitutional awareness is crucial for realizing a democratic, law-abiding society that upholds the constitution.

Keywords: Constitutional Awareness, Students, Civic Education, Legal State, Constitution.

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a state based on law as stated in Article 1 paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, which states that "Indonesia is a state based on law." The consequence of the concept of a state based on law is that all aspects of social, national, and state life must be based on law and the constitution. Therefore, constitutional awareness is very important for every citizen, especially students as the nation's next generation and agents of change.

Constitutional awareness is the understanding, appreciation, and implementation of constitutional values in everyday life. Students, as intellectuals, have a moral and social responsibility to safeguard democracy, the rule of law, and national unity. However, the rapid development of information technology, the spread of hoaxes, low legal literacy, and increasing apathy toward politics and the law present challenges in fostering constitutional awareness among the younger generation.

Civics Education plays a strategic role in shaping the character of democratic, critical, and responsible citizens. Through Civics Education, students not only gain a theoretical understanding of law and the constitution, but also instill the values of nationality, democracy, human rights, nationalism, and social responsibility.

Based on these conditions, strengthening students' constitutional awareness through Civic Education is important in realizing a society that is legally orderly and in accordance with the principles of the Indonesian rule of law.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a normative juridical research method with a descriptive-analytical approach. The research focuses on examining legal concepts, constitutional theory, and the role of Civics Education in strengthening students' constitutional awareness.

The data used is secondary data obtained through library research, such as books, scientific journals, laws and regulations, and other scientific sources relevant to the discussion. Data analysis techniques were conducted qualitatively by outlining and interpreting concepts related to constitutional awareness and Civic Education from the perspective of the Indonesian rule of law.

DISCUSSION

A. Understanding Constitutional Awareness

Constitutional awareness is citizens' awareness of the importance of the constitution as the supreme legal basis for state governance. This awareness encompasses an understanding of citizens' rights and obligations, respect for the law, and compliance with applicable regulations.

The constitution serves as a basic guideline for national life, governing the relationship between the state and its citizens. In the Indonesian context, the applicable constitution is the 1945 Constitution of the

Republic of Indonesia. Constitutional awareness means not only knowing the contents of the constitution but also being able to implement its values in everyday life.

Students are required to have a high level of constitutional awareness because they have a strategic role in maintaining democracy, overseeing government policies, and being pioneers of social change based on law and the constitution.

Indicators of students' constitutional awareness include:

1. Understand the rights and obligations as a citizen.
2. Respect laws and regulations.
3. Have a democratic and tolerant attitude.
4. Active in social and national activities.
5. Maintain national unity and unity.

B. Civic Education as a Means of Strengthening Constitutional Awareness

Civics Education is a course aimed at developing citizens with a sense of nationalism, love for their country, and awareness of their rights and obligations. Law No. 12 of 2012 concerning Higher Education lists Civics as a compulsory general course in higher education.

The role of Civic Education in strengthening students' constitutional awareness includes:

1. Instilling the Values of Pancasila and the Constitution

Civics Education provides an understanding of Pancasila as the foundation of the state and the constitution as the foundation of national and state life. Students are encouraged to understand the

importance of unity, social justice, democracy, and respect for human rights.

2. Forming a Democratic Attitude

Through the learning process, students are trained to think critically, respect differences of opinion, and resolve problems through deliberation. A democratic attitude is crucial in supporting a state based on the rule of law that upholds public participation.

3. Increasing Legal Awareness

Civics education helps students understand the importance of law in social life. Students are expected to obey the rules, respect the rights of others, and avoid unlawful actions.

4. Encourage Active Participation in National Life

Students are encouraged to be active in organizations, public discussions, community service, and other democratic activities. This active participation demonstrates the real-life application of constitutional awareness.

5. Cultivating Nationalism and Love for the Homeland

Civics Education also strengthens the sense of love for the homeland, national identity, and the spirit of maintaining the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.

C. Constitutional Awareness from the Perspective of the Indonesian Legal State

A state based on the rule of law is a state whose governance is based on law, not mere power. In a state based on the rule of law, all citizens have equal standing before the law (equality before the law).

Indonesia's concept of a state based on law emphasizes not only legality but also the values of Pancasila. Therefore, Indonesia prioritizes justice, democracy, and respect for human rights.

Strengthening students' constitutional awareness from the perspective of the Indonesian legal state can be done through the following efforts:

1. Strengthening Character Education

Character education is essential for developing honest, disciplined, responsible, and high-integrity students. Good character will foster adherence to the law and the constitution.

2. Improving Legal and Constitutional Literacy

Students need to be given a deeper understanding of the Indonesian legal system, democracy, human rights, and laws and regulations so that they can become legally aware citizens.

3. Positive Utilization of Information Technology

In the digital age, students must be able to use social media and information technology wisely. Disseminating educational and accurate information can help raise public constitutional awareness.

4. Exemplary behavior from the government and educational institutions

Constitutional awareness will not develop optimally without the example of leaders, lecturers, and educational institutions. Fair and transparent law enforcement will increase public trust in the law and the constitution.

5. Building a Culture of Democracy in the Campus Environment

The campus environment must be a place for healthy democratic learning through scientific discussions, student organizations, and respect for freedom of expression.

D. Challenges in Strengthening Students' Constitutional Awareness

Although Civic Education has an important role, there are several challenges in strengthening students' constitutional awareness, including:

1. Low student interest in legal and political issues.
2. The influence of globalization and foreign culture.
3. Spread of hoaxes and disinformation through social media.
4. Lack of implementation of constitutional values in daily life.
5. Weak law enforcement in several areas.

Therefore, synergy is needed between the government, universities, lecturers, families, and the community to create an educational environment that supports the formation of constitutional awareness in students.

CLOSING

Conclusion

Constitutional awareness is an essential attitude that every citizen, especially students, must possess as the nation's future generation. This awareness encompasses understanding, respecting, and implementing constitutional values in daily life.

Civics Education has a strategic role in strengthening students' constitutional awareness through instilling Pancasila values, forming democratic attitudes, increasing legal awareness, and developing active participation in national life.

From the perspective of Indonesia's rule of law, strengthening constitutional awareness is crucial to realizing a democratic, law-abiding, and just society. Therefore, collaboration between the government, universities, and the community is necessary to improve the quality of Civics Education and the implementation of constitutional values in national and state life.

Suggestion

1. Universities need to improve the quality of Civic Education learning to make it more interesting and relevant to current developments.
2. Students are expected to be more active in studying law and the constitution and applying them in everyday life.
3. The government needs to strengthen law enforcement and set an example in implementing the constitution.
4. Society must work together to create a culture of legal awareness and democracy in order to realize a strong state based on law.

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