

The Transformation of Local Culture-Based Character Education in the Society 5.0 Era in Strengthening the Nationalism of the Young Generation

Teuku Muhammad Husni^{1*}, Sanusi^{2*}, Saiful^{3*}, Rizal Fahmi^{4*}

Fine Arts Study Program, Department of Fine Arts and Design, Institut Seni Budaya
Indonesia Aceh, Banda Aceh, Indonesia¹

Pancasila and Civic Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training
and Education, Universitas Syiah Kuala, Banda Aceh, Indonesia^{2,3,4}

Email: teukuhusni@isbiaceh.ac.id; sanusi_ppkn@usk.ac.id; saiful_usman@usk.ac.id;
rizalfahmi@usk.ac.id

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ABSTRACT

The Society 5.0 era has brought significant transformations in social life through the integration of digital technology and human-centric innovation, affecting the mindset, behavior, and identity of the younger generation. Amid globalization and digitalization, challenges such as moral degradation, erosion of local cultural values, and weakening of nationalism have become critical educational issues. This study aims to analyze the transformation of local culture-based character education in the Society 5.0 era to strengthen youth nationalism. Using a mixed method approach, this study combines quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews to examine various scientific sources, educational policies, and socio-cultural phenomena in the digital era. The findings reveal that local culture-based character education plays a strategic role in building national identity, strengthening national values, and shaping an adaptive generation without losing cultural roots. The integration of local cultural values through digital media, innovative learning, and digital literacy instills patriotism, tolerance, and social responsibility. A humanistic and local wisdom-based approach is highly relevant in addressing technological disruption challenges. This study concludes that transforming local culture-based character education is a vital strategy to strengthen youth nationalism. Synergy between educational institutions, government, society, and digital technology is essential to create a sustainable character education ecosystem oriented toward strengthening national identity.

INTRODUCTION

The development of digital technology in the Society 5.0 era has encouraged multidimensional transformation in people's lives, including in the education sector. The concept of Society 5.0 places humans at the center of technology development by utilizing artificial intelligence, the internet of things, big data, and digitalization to improve the quality of human

life in a sustainable manner. In the context of education, this transformation presents opportunities as well as challenges to the formation of the character of the younger generation. On the one hand, digital technology is able to increase access to information, learning innovation, and the effectiveness of educational communication. However, on the other hand, technological developments also give rise to social and cultural problems such as moral degradation, cultural identity crises, increasing individualism, and weakening of the nationalism of the younger generation due to the penetration of global culture through digital media.

Nationalism is an important foundation in maintaining the integrity of the nation in the midst of globalization and digital disruption. However, the development of the digital era shows a change in the behavior patterns of the younger generation which tend to be closer to global culture than local culture. This phenomenon can be seen from the low use of regional languages, the decrease in appreciation for local traditions, to the increase in consumptive and individualistic culture influenced by social media. This condition shows that technological progress has not been fully balanced with the strengthening of character and national awareness. Therefore, education has a strategic role in building a young generation that is not only digitally capable, but also has a strong character, cultural identity, and a high spirit of nationalism.

Character education based on local culture is a relevant approach in answering the challenges of the Society 5.0 era. Character education is not only oriented to the mastery of knowledge, but also to the formation of morals, ethics, social responsibility, and national values of students. Local culture as part of the nation's identity contains noble values such as mutual cooperation, tolerance, religiosity, social solidarity, and love for the homeland that can be internalized through the educational process. From a pedagogical perspective, the integration of local culture in character education is an important strategy to strengthen the national identity of the younger generation in the midst of the rapid flow of digital globalization.

A number of previous studies have shown that character education has a significant contribution to the formation of national identity and social behavior of students. Thomas Lickona's research emphasizes that character education is a systematic process in shaping students' moral knowing, moral feelings, and moral actions. Another study conducted by Suyitno (2020) found that the integration of local cultural values in learning is able to increase national awareness and strengthen students' cultural identity. Furthermore, Rohman's research (2021) explains that the use of digital media in character education can increase the effectiveness of internalizing the value of nationalism in the younger generation. Nasution's research (2022) also shows that the main challenge for education in the digital era is the weakening of the existence of local culture due to the dominance of global culture that develops through social media and the internet.

However, previous research has generally still focused on character education, local culture, or partial digitalization. Studies that specifically integrate the transformation of local culture-based character education in the context of Society 5.0 to strengthen the nationalism of the younger generation are still relatively limited. In addition, most previous research has focused

more on the implementation aspect of learning without examining in depth the relationship between digital transformation, local cultural preservation, and strengthening nationalism within the framework of character education. Thus, this research has novelty in integrating the dimensions of character education, local culture, digital technology, and nationalism holistically in the era of Society 5.0.

Based on this background, the research questions of this study are: (1) how to transform character education based on local culture in the era of Society 5.0; (2) how the role of local culture in strengthening the nationalism of the younger generation. This research departs from the hypothesis that the transformation of character education based on local culture integrated with digital technology is able to effectively strengthen the nationalism of the younger generation in the midst of the challenges of globalization and digital disruption.

The purpose of this study is to analyze the transformation of local culture-based character education in the era of Society 5.0 in strengthening the nationalism of the younger generation. In addition, this study aims to identify the role of local culture in building the national identity of the young generation and analyze the integration of digital technology in supporting adaptive, humanist, and character-oriented education that is oriented towards strengthening national values. This research is expected to make a theoretical contribution to the development of character education studies based on local culture and become a practical reference for educational institutions in designing learning models that are relevant to the challenges of the Society 5.0 era.

METHODS

This study uses a mixed method approach, which is a research method that combines quantitative and qualitative approaches in one study to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the transformation of local culture-based character education in the era of Society 5.0 in strengthening the nationalism of the younger generation. This approach was chosen because it is able to integrate numerical data and descriptive data to produce a more in-depth, objective, and systematic analysis.

The mixed method design used in this study is a sequential explanatory design, which is the collection and analysis of quantitative data are carried out at the initial stage, then continued with the collection and analysis of qualitative data to strengthen the interpretation of the research results. A quantitative approach is used to measure the level of influence of local culture-based character education on the nationalism of the younger generation in the digital era, a qualitative approach is used to understand the phenomenon, perception, and experience of the research subject in more depth.

The population in this study is the younger generation, especially "senior high school and university students who are involved in digital-based learning. The sample determination technique uses purposive sampling by considering certain criteria, such as respondents'

involvement in technology-based educational activities and understanding of local culture. Quantitative data was obtained through the distribution of questionnaires using the Likert scale, while qualitative data was obtained through in-depth interviews, observations, and documentation.

The data collection process is carried out through two stages. The first stage is quantitative data collection by distributing questionnaires in person or online to research respondents. The second stage is the collection of qualitative data through in-depth interviews with informants who are considered to have an understanding of character education, local culture, and nationalism in the digital era. In addition, this research also utilizes documentation studies from various scientific sources, journals, and relevant educational documents.

Quantitative data analysis was carried out using descriptive and inferential statistics to determine the relationship and influence between research variables. Descriptive statistics were used to describe the research data through the percentage and distribution of respondents' answers, while inferential statistics were used to examine the relationship between local culture-based character education and the nationalism of the younger generation in the Society 5.0 era. According to Sugiyono (2022), statistical analysis in quantitative research aims to produce objective and systematic data so that it is able to provide scientifically valid conclusions. The qualitative data analysis was carried out using the interactive analysis model of Matthew B. Miles, A. Michael Huberman, and Johnny Saldaña (2020) which included data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawn.

The results of quantitative and qualitative analysis were integrated to obtain a more comprehensive interpretation of the transformation of local culture-based character education in strengthening the nationalism of the younger generation in the era of Society 5.0. The validity of research data is carried out through validity and reliability tests on quantitative data as well as source triangulation and technical triangulation on qualitative data. This mixed method approach is in line with the theory of John W. Creswell and J. David Creswell (2023) who state that the combination of quantitative and qualitative methods is able to produce a more in-depth, objective, and holistic understanding of research. Thus, this research is expected to be able to explain the relationship between character education, local culture, digital transformation, and nationalism of the younger generation more comprehensively in the Society 5.0 era.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. The Role of Local Culture in Strengthening Nationalism

Strengthening nationalism through local culture is a strategic approach in building national identity in the midst of the challenges of globalization and the rapid development of digital technology. In the context of modern society, local culture is not only understood as a traditional heritage that is symbolic, but also as a source of national values, identity, and character that is able to strengthen the love of the homeland in the younger generation. According to

Koentjaraningrat (2021), culture is a whole system of ideas, actions, and human works that are used as guidelines in people's lives. Therefore, the integration of local culture in the education process is an important step in forming a national awareness that is adaptive to the changing times without losing the nation's cultural roots.

Local culture-based learning can be carried out through the introduction of various cultural elements, such as traditional arts, regional languages, local history, customs, and local wisdom values that develop in people's lives. Traditional art has a philosophical value that reflects the identity and character of the local community. Regional dances, traditional music, and performing arts not only function as entertainment, but also contain moral messages, a spirit of togetherness, and respect for ancestral heritage. According to Thomas Lickona (2020), character education is a process of moral formation that includes moral knowing, moral feeling, and moral action so that cultural values can be internalized in the lives of students.



Figure 1: Traditional Art

Traditional arts are an important part of local culture that plays a role in character education and strengthening the nationalism of the younger generation. Regional dances, traditional music, and performing arts not only function as entertainment, but also contain moral values, togetherness, discipline, mutual cooperation, and respect for cultural heritage. Through traditional art learning, students can understand cultural identity while fostering a sense of love for the homeland.



Figure 2: Regional Languages

Regional languages have an important role as an instrument of cultural preservation as well as a medium for the inheritance of social values. Regional languages contain people's perspectives on life, social norms, and ethical values that are inherited from generation to generation. Strengthening the use of regional languages in the educational environment can help students understand the diversity of national cultures while fostering an attitude of tolerance and appreciation for Indonesia's cultural plurality. In this context, nationalism is not understood as a form of cultural uniformity, but rather an appreciation for diversity as the strength of the nation. This is in line with the opinion of Benedict Anderson (2020) who states that nationalism is formed through the collective consciousness of people who have an identity and sense of togetherness as a nation.



Figure 3: Local History

Learning local history is also an important component in strengthening nationalism. Local history provides the younger generation with an understanding of the struggle of local communities in maintaining their identity, culture, and contribution to the development of the nation. Understanding local history is able to build students' emotional attachment to their social and cultural environment. Thus, a sense of belonging to the nation will grow through the understanding that national identity is formed from the contribution of various local cultures in Indonesia.



Figure 4: Customs

Customs also have an important role in strengthening nationalism because they are part of cultural identity that is inherited from generation to generation in people's lives. Customs reflect norms, values, life systems, and social rules that serve as guidelines in maintaining community harmony. Traditions such as traditional ceremonies, village deliberations, welcoming traditions, and regional cultural rituals contain the value of togetherness, social solidarity, respect for ancestors, and love for the homeland. Through the introduction of customs in the educational process, the younger generation can understand the importance of preserving cultural heritage as part of national identity. According to Koentjaraningrat (2021), customs are a cultural system that functions to regulate people's behavior patterns and strengthen social integration in the life of the nation and state. Therefore, the preservation of customs in the Society 5.0 era is a strategic step in strengthening the character of the younger generation so that they still have cultural awareness and nationalism amid the influence of digital globalization.



Figure 5: Local Wisdom

The values of local wisdom have strong relevance in building the character of the younger generation in the Society 5.0 era. Values such as mutual cooperation, social solidarity, deliberation, tolerance, and respect for nature are part of local culture that can be the foundation for strengthening national character. In a modern society that tends to be individualistic due to the influence of globalization and technological developments, the internalization of local values is important to maintain social cohesion and strengthen national integration. According to Ki Hajar Dewantara (2021), education must be rooted in national culture in order to be able to shape the character and personality of the nation as a whole.

2. Transformation of Character Education in the Society Era 5.0

The results of the study show that the development of Society 5.0 has brought significant changes to the education system, especially in the formation of the character of the younger generation. The Society 5.0 era places digital technology as an integral part of human life so that education is no longer only oriented to the transfer of knowledge, but also to strengthening the values of character, culture, and nationalism. In this context, local culture-based character education is an important strategy in maintaining the nation's identity in the midst of globalization and digital transformation.

Table 1. Results of Analysis of Character Education Transformation in the Society Era 5.0

No	Research Indicators	Percentage(%)	Category
1	The use of digital media in character learning	87%	Very High
2	The interest of the younger generation in digital learning	82%	Heigh
3	Understanding local culture through digital media	85%	Very High
4	The influence of foreign cultures through social media	74%	Heigh
5	Decrease in the use of regional languages	68%	Medium
6	Decline in traditional cultural participation	71%	Heigh
7	Increased love for the homeland	83%	Very High
8	Strengthening the value of mutual cooperation and tolerance	80%	Heigh

Based on the results of data analysis and literature review, the transformation of character education in the digital era shows an increase in the use of technology-based learning media, such as e-learning platforms, educational social media, interactive videos, and virtual learning. As many as 87% of respondents stated that the use of digital media makes the character learning process more interesting and easy to understand. In addition, 82% of respondents admitted that they were more active in participating in technology-based learning than conventional learning methods. The use of technology has a positive impact on the effectiveness of learning because the younger generation tends to be more responsive to digital media than traditional methods.

The integration of technology in character education is also able to expand access to learning local culture and nationalism in a more innovative and contextual way. As many as 85% of respondents stated that digital media helps them understand the local culture through visual and interactive content. The use of educational social media, cultural videos, and virtual learning platforms is considered effective in increasing the interest of the younger generation in cultural and national values. This condition shows that the transformation of education in the Society 5.0 era provides a great opportunity in strengthening character education based on local culture.

The development of digital technology also poses challenges to the existence of local culture. The flow of global information through social media causes the younger generation to be more easily influenced by foreign cultures than local cultures. Based on the results of the study, as many as 74% of respondents stated that the global culture that develops through digital media influences the mindsets and lifestyle of the younger generation. In addition, 68% of respondents admitted that they rarely use regional languages in daily life, while 71% of respondents stated that the interest of the younger generation in traditional cultural activities has decreased. This condition has an impact on the weakening of the cultural identity and nationalism of the younger generation in the digital era.

Local culture-based character education needs to be developed adaptively by utilizing digital technology as a medium for internalizing cultural and national values. The results of the study show that character education based on local culture has an important contribution in shaping the national identity of the younger generation. As many as 83% of respondents stated that the integration of local culture in learning was able to increase the sense of love for the homeland and national awareness. In addition, 80% of respondents admitted that cultural values such as mutual cooperation, tolerance, social solidarity, and religiosity help form a better character in social life.

The findings of this study show that the transformation of character education in the Society 5.0 era not only requires mastery of digital technology, but also the strengthening of local cultural values and nationalism as the foundation for the formation of the character of the younger generation. Thus, local culture-based character education is an important strategy in creating a generation that is adaptive to technological developments without losing cultural identity and national values.

CONCLUSION

The transformation of character education based on local culture in the era of Society 5.0 has a strategic role in strengthening the nationalism of the younger generation in the midst of the development of digital technology and globalization flows. Technological developments not only bring changes to the education system, but also affect the mindset, behavior, and cultural identity of the younger generation. Therefore, character education is not enough to focus only on mastering technology and academic knowledge, but must be able to integrate local cultural values as the foundation for the formation of character and national identity.

The results of the study show that the use of digital media in character learning has a positive impact on the effectiveness of the learning process. The younger generation is more interested in technology-based learning through interactive media, digital platforms, and educational social media. The integration of digital technology has also been proven to be able to increase students' understanding of local culture and nationalism values in a more interesting and contextual way. This condition shows that digital technology can be an effective means of supporting the transformation of character education in the era of Society 5.0.

On the other hand, technological developments and globalization also present serious challenges to the existence of local culture. The influence of foreign cultures through social media has led to a decline in the use of regional languages, low participation of the younger generation in traditional culture, and a weakening of national cultural identity. This phenomenon shows that modernization without strengthening local character and culture has the potential to cause an identity crisis in the younger generation.

Local culture has an important role in building the nation's character because it contains noble values such as mutual cooperation, tolerance, social solidarity, religiosity, and love for the homeland. The integration of traditional arts, regional languages, local history, customs, and local wisdom values in the educational process is able to strengthen the sense of nationalism and form a young generation that has a strong cultural identity. Local culture-based character education not only functions as an effort to preserve culture, but also as a strategy to build social and national resilience in the midst of digital disruption.

Thus, the transformation of character education based on local culture in the era of Society 5.0 needs to be carried out in an adaptive, innovative, and sustainable manner through synergy between educational institutions, government, society, and digital technology. This collaboration is important to create an education system that is humanistic, based on cultural values, and able to produce young generations who are digitally intelligent, have character, and have a strong spirit of nationalism in facing the challenges of globalization.

SUGGESTIONS

Based on the conclusions, it is recommended that educational institutions integrate local cultural values into technology-based learning through innovative approaches such as digital storytelling and project-based learning, while equipping teachers with the skills to combine

digital literacy with cultural appreciation. The government should formulate policies that support the synergy between technology development and cultural preservation, including digitizing local cultural content and encouraging the use of regional languages in education. Communities and parents play a vital role in introducing traditional values and customs to the younger generation from an early age, while the younger generation themselves are encouraged to actively engage with digital content that promotes local culture and national values. Future researchers are advised to conduct empirical and comparative studies on the effectiveness of technology-based character education models across various regions to further strengthen the integration of local culture, digital technology, and national identity in the Society 5.0 era.

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