

IMPLEMENTATION OF STATE DEFENSE VALUES AND PATRIOTISM AMONG THE YOUNGER GENERATION IN THE MODERN ERA

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ABSTRACT

The implementation of state defense and patriotism values among the younger generation has become increasingly important in the modern era, particularly in the context of globalization and rapid digital transformation. This study aims to analyze the dynamics of value internalization and identify effective strategies for strengthening national awareness among youth. The research employs a qualitative approach with a descriptive-analytical design, utilizing a literature review method based on recent scholarly sources. The findings indicate that although globalization and digital technology provide broader access to information and innovative learning opportunities, they also contribute to the decline of national values through the spread of foreign cultural influences, misinformation, and shifting social norms. In addition, the current implementation of civic education tends to focus on cognitive aspects, resulting in a gap between conceptual understanding and practical application of state defense values. However, the study reveals that integrating character education, participatory learning approaches, and digital literacy can significantly enhance the internalization of patriotism among the younger generation. The study concludes that a comprehensive and adaptive strategy involving collaboration among educational institutions, families, communities, and government is essential to foster a resilient and nationally committed youth capable of contributing to national sustainability.



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INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary era marked by the acceleration of globalization, digital technological disruption, and the integration of transnational economic and cultural systems, the existence of national values is increasingly challenged by complex and multidimensional pressures. The rapid development of information technology, particularly social media and digital platforms, has not only transformed communication patterns but also reshaped the identity construction of younger generations into more fluid and transnational forms. This phenomenon leads to *cultural hybridization*, where local values continuously interact with global cultures, potentially weakening national identity if not accompanied by strong ideological reinforcement. Furthermore, the unfiltered flow of information increases the risks of disinformation, radicalism, and transnational ideologies that may undermine social cohesion and national solidarity. In this context, the implementation of state defense values and patriotism becomes a crucial ideological and moral foundation for maintaining national integrity amid global dynamics (Subagio et al., 2022; Syafi'i et al., 2024).

From a theoretical perspective, state defense has evolved beyond a narrow military-oriented concept into a broader framework encompassing civic participation across social, economic, cultural, and technological dimensions. It reflects a multidimensional awareness involving cognitive understanding, emotional attachment, and behavioral commitment toward the nation. This perspective aligns with the concept of *human security*, which emphasizes that threats to national stability are not only physical but also ideological, economic, and socio-cultural (Subagio et al., 2022). In addition, patriotism is understood as a socially constructed value shaped through education, historical experience, and social interaction, which contributes to strengthening national cohesion and civic responsibility.

Empirical studies indicate that individuals with strong patriotic values tend to demonstrate higher levels of social participation and collective responsibility, while weak internalization often results in apathy and individualistic behavior (Putri et al., 2023; Sutrisno & Samsuri, 2024).

The younger generation, as an *agent of change*, holds a strategic role in internalizing and transforming national values within society. Their adaptive and innovative characteristics, combined with technological literacy, position them as key actors in shaping the future direction of the nation. However, recent studies reveal that young people face significant challenges, including identity crises, digital dependency, and shifting social values influenced by globalization. The dominance of global popular culture, coupled with weak national literacy and limited exemplary leadership, contributes to the decline in the internalization of state defense values. Moreover, civic education practices often remain cognitively oriented and lack experiential dimensions, resulting in a gap between conceptual understanding and real-life implementation (Wijaya et al., 2024; Abdilah et al., 2025). This indicates the need for a more holistic and contextual approach in strengthening national awareness among youth. On the other hand, the advancement of digital technology and the emergence of Society 5.0 present both challenges and opportunities in strengthening nationalism. Digital platforms can be utilized as effective tools for civic education through interactive learning, social media campaigns, and creative content that promotes national identity and cultural values. Research shows that digital-based nationalism campaigns can significantly enhance youth awareness when delivered in engaging and relevant formats (Syafi'i et al., 2024). However, the effectiveness of these strategies depends heavily on digital literacy, as the lack of critical thinking skills may expose young individuals to misinformation, propaganda, and ideologies that contradict national values. Therefore, integrating digital literacy with civic and character education is essential to ensure that technological advancement supports, rather than undermines, national identity (Subagio et al., 2022).

Character education grounded in national ideology plays a fundamental role in strengthening the internalization of state defense values. Participatory and experiential learning approaches, such as *project-based learning* and community engagement, have been proven more effective than conventional methods in fostering deeper value internalization. These approaches not only enhance cognitive understanding but also cultivate emotional attachment and behavioral commitment toward national values. Additionally, the role of educators as role models, along with the support of family and community environments, significantly influences the success of character education (Yusnaldi et al., 2024; Abdilah et al., 2025). Nevertheless, there remains a gap in integrating digital transformation, character education, and socio-cultural dynamics into a comprehensive framework for understanding contemporary nationalism among youth.

Based on these considerations, this study aims to analyze the implementation of state defense and patriotism values among the younger generation in the modern era and to identify effective strategies for strengthening their internalization. The novelty of this research lies in its integrative approach that combines perspectives of digital transformation, character education, and socio-cultural dynamics in examining the shifting patterns of nationalism. This study is expected to contribute theoretically by enriching the discourse on civic education and nationalism, and practically by providing strategic recommendations for policymakers, educators, and stakeholders in fostering a resilient and nationally committed younger generation.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study employs a qualitative approach with a descriptive-analytical design to examine the implementation of state defense and patriotism values among the younger generation in the modern era. A qualitative approach is considered appropriate because it enables an in-depth exploration of social phenomena, particularly those related to value internalization, identity formation, and civic awareness, which cannot be adequately captured through quantitative measurement (Creswell & Creswell, 2021). This design allows the researcher to analyze complex interactions between social, cultural, and educational factors that influence the level of national awareness among youth.

The method used in this study is a literature review (*library research*), which relies on secondary data obtained from scholarly sources such as peer-reviewed journal articles, academic books, conference proceedings, and relevant policy documents published within the last ten years. The selection of sources was conducted systematically by considering relevance, credibility, and contribution to the research topic to ensure the validity and reliability of the data (Zed, 2020; Adlini et

al., 2022). This approach enables the researcher to synthesize theoretical perspectives and empirical findings from previous studies, identify research trends, and uncover gaps (*research gap*) that form the basis for further analysis.

Data collection was carried out through several stages, including identification, selection, classification, and documentation of relevant literature. Subsequently, the data were analyzed using content analysis techniques, which involve systematically examining the content of selected sources to identify key themes, concepts, and relationships among variables (Moleong, 2021). The analysis process follows three main steps: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing, allowing for an inductive interpretation of the findings. To ensure the credibility and trustworthiness of the results, this study applies source triangulation by comparing multiple references and conducting critical evaluations of each source (Sugiyono, 2022). Through this method, the study is expected to produce comprehensive, objective, and evidence-based insights into the implementation of state defense values among the younger generation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the literature review indicate that the implementation of state defense and patriotism values among the younger generation in the modern era is dynamic and tends to experience a shift in meaning. On the one hand, increased access to information and education has enabled young people to understand nationalism in a broader and more critical manner. On the other hand, the rapid development of globalization and digitalization has created significant challenges, particularly in the declining intensity of value internalization. This condition is reflected in the growing tendencies of individualism, pragmatism, and low social concern among youth. Such phenomena suggest that social transformation is not always accompanied by the strengthening of ideological values, resulting in a gap between conceptual understanding and actual practice in everyday life (Subagio et al., 2022; Wijaya et al., 2024).

Furthermore, the findings reveal that the low level of implementation of state defense values is not solely influenced by external factors such as globalization, but also by internal factors, particularly within the education system and social environment. Civic education, which is expected to serve as a primary instrument for instilling national values, often remains focused on cognitive aspects and lacks emphasis on affective and behavioral dimensions. As a result, young individuals tend to perceive state defense merely as a normative concept without translating it into concrete actions. In addition, the lack of exemplary leadership, the limited role of family in character formation, and the absence of meaningful social participation opportunities further contribute to the weakening of national awareness (Abdilah et al., 2025; Sutrisno & Samsuri, 2024). This indicates that value internalization requires a more holistic and integrated approach involving multiple social institutions.

On the other hand, the digital era offers strategic opportunities to revitalize state defense values through more adaptive and contextual approaches. Social media, digital platforms, and creative content can function as effective tools for civic education, particularly in promoting national identity and cultural values among youth. Studies show that digital-based campaigns related to nationalism can significantly increase awareness when delivered in engaging and relevant formats (Syafi'i et al., 2024). However, the effectiveness of these strategies is highly dependent on digital literacy. Without critical thinking skills, young individuals are more vulnerable to misinformation, propaganda, and content that contradicts national values. Therefore, integrating digital literacy into civic and character education is essential to ensure that technological advancements contribute positively to national identity (Subagio et al., 2022).

In addition, the study highlights that character education plays a crucial role in strengthening the implementation of state defense values. Participatory learning approaches, such as *project-based learning* and *experiential learning*, have been proven to be more effective than conventional methods in fostering deeper value internalization. Through direct involvement in social activities, youth are able to translate theoretical knowledge into real-life practices, thereby strengthening their sense of responsibility, solidarity, and civic engagement. Extracurricular activities, youth organizations, and community service programs also contribute significantly to shaping national character and social awareness (Yusnaldi et al., 2024; Abdilah et al., 2025).

From a broader perspective, the implementation of state defense values is also influenced by structural factors, including government policies and socio-economic conditions. Programs aimed at

strengthening nationalism must be adapted to the characteristics of the younger generation, who are highly influenced by technology and contemporary cultural trends. Formal and ceremonial approaches tend to be less effective in engaging youth, whereas innovative, inclusive, and community-based approaches are more capable of fostering active participation and a sense of belonging toward national values. Therefore, collaboration among government institutions, educational sectors, communities, and the private sector is essential to create a supportive ecosystem for sustainable value internalization (Wijaya et al., 2024).

Overall, the findings demonstrate that the implementation of state defense and patriotism values among the younger generation is a complex and multidimensional process. Its success is determined not only by educational factors but also by the interaction between technological developments, social environments, and policy frameworks. Consequently, a comprehensive and adaptive strategy that integrates educational, digital, and social approaches is required. Such an approach will enable the younger generation not only to understand the concept of state defense but also to actively practice it in their daily lives as a form of contribution to national sustainability.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that the implementation of state defense and patriotism values among the younger generation in the modern era is a complex and dynamic process influenced by multiple factors. Globalization and digital technological advancement present both opportunities and challenges, as they facilitate access to information and innovative civic education methods while simultaneously contributing to the erosion of national identity through cultural shifts and misinformation. The study also reveals that the limited effectiveness of current civic education, which tends to emphasize cognitive aspects over affective and behavioral dimensions, has resulted in a gap between conceptual understanding and practical implementation of national values. Furthermore, internal factors such as weak family support, lack of role models, and limited social engagement opportunities exacerbate this condition. However, the integration of digital literacy, character education, and participatory learning approaches has shown significant potential in strengthening the internalization of state defense values. Therefore, a comprehensive and adaptive strategy involving collaboration among government, educational institutions, families, and communities is essential to foster a resilient, responsible, and nationally committed younger generation capable of contributing actively to the sustainability of the nation.

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