# Understanding The Importance of Strengthening Character Education in Millennial Generations through Pancasila Education Learning

**Adinda Elmira Hafiz[1], Moses Glorino Rumambo Pandin[2]**

Lembaga Penelitian dan Pengabdian kepada Masyarakat, Universitas Semarang, Indonesia

## Info Artikel

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## Abstrak

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Pendidikan karakter di era milenial ini seringkali menjadi permasalahan yang cukup kompleks karena melibatkan peran serta guru dan orang tua sebagai pihak di lingkungan sekitar milenial. Oleh karena itu, diperlukan beberapa cara atau lebih strategi agar pendidikan karakter ini dapat hadir dan menjadi ilmu yang dapat mengendalikan sikap dan perilakunya dari segala etika yang bertentangan dengan norma-norma yang berlaku di masyarakat. Beberapa bidang ilmu juga hadir untuk mendukung terwujudnya strategi tersebut, salah satunya adalah Pendidikan Pancasila. Tujuan penulisan artikel ini adalah untuk menganalisis dan mengkaji lebih dalam tentang pentingnya penguatan pendidikan karakter yang dapat berdampak pada kemandirian anak generasi milenial dalam menyongsong kehidupan dan masa depannya. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kepustakaan atau literature review. Pemilihan metode ini dinilai tepat karena dipengaruhi oleh beberapa alasan, salah satunya yakni kemudahan pengumpulan sumber data di masa situasi pandemi Covid-19 yang sedang melanda negara kita saat ini. Terdapat tiga pokok pembahasan dalam artikel ini dan dalam tiga pokok bahasan tersebut, dapat disimpulkan bahwa perlu adanya cara-cara kreatif dan inovatif untuk menarik perhatian generasi milenial agar mereka dapat menyukai pembelajaran Pendidikan Pancasila.

### *Abstract*

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*Character education in this millennial era often becomes a reasonably complex problem because it involves the participation of teachers and parents as parties in the environment around millennials. Therefore, it takes several ways or more strategies so that this character education can arrive and become a science that can control their attitudes and behavior from all ethics contrary to the norms in society. Several fields of science are also present to support the realization of this strategy, one of which is Pancasila Education. The purpose of writing this article is to analyze and study more deeply about the importance of strengthening character education, which can impact the self-sustainability of millennial generation children in welcoming their lives and futures. This study uses a library research method or literature review. The selection of this method is considered appropriate because it is influenced by several reasons, one of which is the ease of collecting data sources during the Covid-19 pandemic situation that is currently engulfing our country. There are three main discussion on this article and inside that three main points of the discussion, it was concluded that there is a need for creative and innovative ways to attract the millennial generation's attention so that they can like learning Pancasila Education.*

✉ Alamat Korespondensi: moses.glorino@fib.unair.ac.id
E-mail: adinda.elmira.hafiz-2020@feb.unair.ac.id

## INTRODUCTION

Today, our nation is often faced with social challenges stemming from globalization and the modernization of the world. The influx of influence from foreign nations has caused quite an impact, especially for the millennial generation in Indonesia. This impact is because they live in a modern era where technology and modernization are overgrowing. Since childhood, young people born in the millennial era are accustomed to living with the sophistication of technology around them. Technology for them is like a basic need that cannot be separated from their lives. Like eating and drinking, their daily life is full of technological needs. The emergence of the internet as a product of this technology makes it easy to carry out every aspect of life. Past, if we want to know the latest news or important phenomena in society, we need newspapers or television as a medium of information. However, nowadays, with just a finger, we can access more than thousands of news, articles, and journals that are spread on the internet through the grip of a smartphone in our hands. The use of technology in this millennial era Becomes a center of attention for the community because several reviews are interesting inside it, especially in the field of education and technology that Becomes a target topic major in global competition. If technology can develop rapidly, then Thing similar too could occur in the education World. If the education system in natural a country does not follow the path of modernization that exists, then it's left behind growth and development. Some countries proves that technology holding significant influence in quality education at the time millennial this (12).

Departing from the sophistication of technology that can help us complete each task in our lives, it does not always have a positive impact on the sustainability of the traits and morals that grow from the millennial generation. The presence of the internet, as mentioned earlier, does not always have a good impact on the lives of these children. The influence of globalization that is present causes the millennial generation to have free access to information from various cultures and important phenomena from countries in the world. Of course, the culture and rules that apply in other countries may not necessarily apply and be realized in our country. Many negative cultures from foreign countries have entered our country without being filtered for good and bad first and then used as a "modern" lifestyle. We need to know that trends that often come from foreign countries are not always following the culture that our nation has embraced. Some of the foreign cultures referred to are materialism, hedonism, and consumerism (3). Materialism is a view of life that bases everything on material or material things. The measure of success for people who adhere to this understanding is someone successful when viewed from the point of view of his wealth. People who adhere to this understanding will appreciate everything related to money and even stay away from things that smell spiritual. Of course, when viewed from the point of view of our nation's values is a wrong and contradictory attitude. This materialistic attitude can easily threaten the existence of human moral values, such as the values of faith, honesty, order, self-control, sacrifice, responsibility, and togetherness. This phenomenon of materialistic behavior will later be able to undermine other values , such as the value of punctuality, the value of politeness, the value of empathy, the value of respect for others, the value of trust, and respect for differences of respect opinion. Next up is Hedonism. Namely a lifestyle that pursues worldly pleasures intended to satisfy the needs of life such as liking to enjoy expensive or classy food, free sex, smoking, drugs, drinking alcohol, and other actions that

are not based on the primary needs in human life in general. This understanding of Hedonism then gave rise to a new understanding, namely Consumerism, a lifestyle that is excessively consumptive. His behavior is shown by buying, owning, and collecting items that are not needed, but merely fulfill personal satisfaction (3). This understanding of Hedonism then gave rise to a new understanding, namely Consumerism, an excessively consumptive lifestyle. His behavior is shown by buying, owning, and collecting items that are not needed, but merely fulfill personal satisfaction (3). This understanding of Hedonism then gave rise to a new understanding, namely Consumerism, an excessively consumptive lifestyle. His behavior is shown by buying, owning, and collecting items that are not needed, but merely fulfill personal satisfaction (3).

This lifestyle is a challenge for our nation and country because attitudes and behaviors such as hedonism and consumerism have caused the erosion of Indonesia's original culture, which is rich in positive values. The positive values in question are the values of cooperation, tolerance, equality of rights in the eyes of the law, religion, society, love for the homeland, patriotism, courtesy, and other values , which are the values in Pancasila. (3). [2]

**METHOD**

This study uses a literature review research method where the author will collect and review several articles from trusted journals published through Google Scholar with a time span from 2019 to 2021. This type of method aims to analyze and examine the topics covered. related to the importance of strengthening character education in the millennial generation through learning from Pancasila Education. This research aims to understand the importance of character education built through Pancasila Education

learning, while the subject is the young generation of Indonesia. Many students often underestimate Pancasila education due to the boring way of learning. However, if you take it deeper,

Table 1. Keyword Search Literature Review

| Millennial Generation | Character building | Pancasila |
|---|---|---|
| Indonesian Young Generation | The Existence of Character Education in Indonesia | Pancasila Education Learning |
| OR | OR | OR |
| Young man | Ethics and Moral Values | Pancasila dan Character |

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

**Millennial Generation**

The millennial generation is a generation that cannot be separated from the influence of technology in their daily lives (1). In this case, the existence of internet has become one of the necessities of life that is inherent in every joint of their activities. With this technology and the participation of the internet, the younger generation runs their lives. For example, doing schoolwork, reading news or educational journals, watching movies using entertainment applications such as Netflix and others, shopping for basic needs through e-commerce applications Shoppee, Tokopedia, etc. The existence of this technology has become a very important matter for their lives. One character named McAlister revealed several characteristics of the millennial generation, namely Millennials are Sheltered, Millennials are Team Oriented, Millennials are Confident, Achievement Oriented and Pressured, Millennials are Multitaskers, and Millennials are Millennials Techno-Savvy. Millennials are Team Oriented which means that the millennial generation tends to have a social and cooperative nature when faced with tasks or group discussions. Millennials are Confident. It means that the millennial generation tends to have a reasonably high self-confidence caused by providing positive support or encouragement

by those closest to them. Millennials are Achievement Oriented and Pressured means that students from the millennial generation have a strong desire for success due to the demands and intense competition between students.

The motivation to achieve the best position is very high. With such demands, millennials often feel pressured because they are faced with a life full of competition. Millennials are Multitaskersinterpreted as a condition where the younger generation feels accustomed to carrying out more than one job at the same time, for example, in doing two tasks at once while listening to songs from a smartphone with a mouth engrossed in chewing snacks. The last characteristic is Millennials are Techno-Savvy which is defined as a condition of very rapid technological development that often causes culture shock for previous generations. Unlike the millennial generation, who considers this fast-paced change as a gap or a way to carry out an exciting innovation, generations before millennials often find it difficult to keep up with technological capabilities. In this case, millennials are superior (3).

However, in contrast Monaco, Michele & Martin (2007) explain the important characteristics that interpret this millennial generatio caused by socialization. They need direct feedback, a sense of entitlement, lack of critical thinking skills, unrealistic expectations, high parental involvement, and "how to" guidelines for successfully entering and leaving class. The millennial generation tends to spend less time on tasks and efforts, but wants success, which is obtained instantly (3). The differences between these two figures conclude that sophisticated technology does not necessarily cause the entire millennial generation to produce good character formation. This of course applies depending on how the child thinks, behaves, and acts. Each child has different traits and characteristics that their parents pass down. So that efforts to implement character education learning can be relied upon through teachers or lecturers who teach and help from parents and awareness of the child himself.[5]

The existence of social media can support this assistance as a product of technological developments which is then used as a forum to educate Pancasila values to children or the next generation through a wide and fast public space. The younger generation is a generation that is very familiar with technology and the next generation, so that instilling Pancasila values is also effectively done through social media (8).

**The Existence of Character Education and Pancasila in Indonesia**

Character education is an educational system to instill character values in students. It consists of components of knowledge, awareness, or willingness, and actions to carry out these values. [6] Character education aims to give birth to faithful, pious individuals and be responsible for all their behavior. Theoretically, there are three main objectives of character education: the formation and development of the profession, improving and strengthening the person, and filtering and sorting out the culture and civilization that continues to develop (11).

In Indonesia, the millennial generation occupies the largest population today (1). This population is spread across every social stratum of a society dominated by social media users and news and entertainment content workers. As previously mentioned, this millennial generation is rich in innovation and creative ideas. This causes their plunge in social media to have a considerable impact. They have high creativity skills and good timing so that with this multitasking, they can complete tasks quickly. This multitasking is also influenced by his dependence on technology that helps him be more effective in carrying out each of his tasks and obligations.

The existence or existence of character education in Indonesia cannot be separated from the influence of Pancasila learning. In this case, Pancasila exists as one of the philosophical foundations of the state whose task is to shape the nation's moral values, especially for the younger generation. The existence of Pancasila Education as the basis for character education needs to be initiated, and the strategy rearranged so that it can continue to function in line with the times. As we know, the majority of students in Indonesia think that Pancasila Education is a boring subject. The causes are the dense content of learning

materials, media and learning systems that seem monotonous, and the skills of teachers as teaching staff who do not provide motivation for their students (2). So it takes the right strategy so that this teaching and learning process can be effective not only for students but also practical for teachers who teach. With the right strategy, this teaching and learning process will not be a wasted activity. One way that has been tried is with the techniqueRole Playing. This technique is done by collecting a number of students who will be used as research samples and then put together in one room with one of the teachers or teaching staff. The learning process that takes place will be carried out with practice in accordance with the theme or material presented. In this case, the researcher uses material on the national legal and judicial system in Indonesia. The teacher here serves as the party who provides the material, while the students will practice it through quasi-judicial practice. After completing the presentation and practice of the material, it will be followed by a written test session to test how deep the students' understanding of the material provided by using the Role Playing Technique is.this. After being carried out for approximately 2 days of research practice, several conclusions were found, namely on the first day each student still did not show signs of increasing learning motivation and activity in the classroom, but on the second day where all learning activities were carried out and fully held by the students. students with practical learning, of course, found a significant difference. The difference is that students tend to be more active in the activities of the learning process. The students also tend to understand more about the course of the material through the Role Playing Technique compared to having to listen to lectures or presentations from the teacher on duty. In addition, students' interest in this matter tends to be higher due to curiosity about the related material. Although it has quite a positive impact on the continuity of student activity and understanding in the classroom, this learning activity tends to take a long time. In addition, this type of learning technique cannot be applied to all subjects (2).

However, if we conclude this learning technique, if it is tested into the learning technique of character education and Pancasila, it might be successful. Why? Because the learning of character education and Pancasila is related to the moral education of the nation's young generation, of course the impact will be directly visible, namely in the form of real practice. Materials such as any values in Pancasila that can shape an individual's personality towards a better direction are mere theories. The most important task is how to get these theories into the younger generation's mindset so that they can be directly applied in real life. So that learning strategies like this must be changed from being focused on just pursuing grades to being a learning that can actually have a real impact in the lives of each of these students. Indeed, it seems difficult because from the beginning the benchmark of an individual's success has been continuously seen from how much value can be achieved, from how superior the ranking is achieved, and from how much understanding he has of the theory in question. However, in this modern era, understanding is not enough. Other skills are needed that can support these young people to be able to survive in this competitive world. It seems difficult because from the beginning the benchmark of an individual's success has been continuously seen from how much value can be achieved, from how superior the ranking is achieved, and from how much he understands the theory in question. However, in this modern era, understanding is not enough. Other skills are needed that can support these young people to be able to survive in this competitive world. it seems difficult because from the beginning, the benchmark of an individual's success has been continuously seen from how much value can be achieved, from how superior the ranking is achieved, and from how much understanding he has of the theory in question. However, in this modern era, understanding is not enough. Other skills are needed that can support these young people to be able to survive in this competitive world.

Character education should take the values contained in Pancasila. This is intended so that the birth of a young generation of Indonesians who are intelligent, can behave well, can live individually and in a social environment, can fulfill their rights and obligations as good citizens and do not forget to have faith and fear of God Almighty. All of the things mentioned above have been contained in the philosophy of Pancasila education. An educator should understand that character education is very important. One way to practice this character

education is to apply and uphold the values of Pancasila from within the consciousness of each of them (6).

## The Important Role of Character Education and Pancasila as a Driving Factor for the Formation of Moral and Personal Character of the Millennial Generation

The people's mindset about Pancasila, which is often underestimated, must be changed and straightened out as much as possible. This is due to how important and valuable these values should be easily realized because they are always around us. However, due to the influence of a foreign culture that dominates this, the social awareness of the millennial generation decreases. In fact, the existence of this technology gives their overall focus, which should be more devoted to the social environment. Instead, all of them are aimed at gadgets, social media, and other technology products. For example, in terms of playing, we can see that very few children who live in this millennial era have played in the field that required physical game tools such as kites, playing ball, marbles, and other children's games be a close activity. with the daily activities of children their age. Now the media of these games has been replaced into a digital device that can cause negative impacts such as indifference to the surrounding environment, addiction to excessive play, and can damage the eyes because they are always faced with each gadget's screen. Not only that, the existence of these gadgets had seemed to monopolize their lives, so it can affect their views on the surrounding problem that are currently discussed, for example, in the case of the general election several years ago, when conflicts often occurred between the supporters of a pair and one presidential candidate with another. Children who should not be encouraged to understand such political situations and conditions become involved and even lead to prolonged conflicts both within the family and the surrounding community. Coupled with the factor of rampant hoax information providing potential that can lead to something radical for the formation of the character of this millennial generation (4). Children who should not be encouraged to understand such political situations and conditions become involved and even lead to

prolonged conflicts both within the family and the surrounding community. Coupled with the factor of rampant hoax information providing potential that can lead to something radical for the formation of the character of this millennial generation (4). Children who should not be encouraged to understand such political situations and conditions become involved and even lead to prolonged conflicts both within the family and the surrounding community. Coupled with the factor of rampant hoax information providing potential that can lead to something radical for the formation of the character of this millennial generation (4).

In addition, the loss of exemplary values as one of the values contained in character education and Pancasila can significantly impact the moral continuity and character of these young generations. In character education, exemplary is needed by the entire educational environment, namely the school environment, family environment, and community environment. In the family environment, the example of parents is needed in instilling character education. The example of parents reflects the child's ability to acquire the value of character knowledge, feelings about character, and actions that can be a reflection of a character. Parents who do not understand manners will have an influence on the sustainability of these attitudes and traits to their children. This will create the nature of a child who does not understand manners as well. Parents who do not have the desire or intention to behave politely have a tendency to be indifferent to every behavior of their children. So they often let the child behave impolitely and the child does not have good intentions to continue to be aware of the importance of such manners (9).

Not only parents must reflect the value of this example, but teachers too. This is certainly part of the implementation of character education carried out in the school environment. As we know, the teachers in the schools where we gain knowledge play a role not only as teachers, but they also act as educators. Like the task of educators in general, namely directing, building, and developing good character and character so that later the students they educate can have a good feeling. Teachers as the party responsible for the continuity of the personality of their

students must have a deep concern for the formation of the character of their students, as has been applied in the national education goals. So in this case, Teachers can give birth to smart students in the academic sphere and in terms of faith, piety, and noble character (10). This description is one of the many problems or conflicts that arise based on moral degradation that are increasingly attacking the individual character and personality of the millennial generation in our country.

Strengthening character education for students is difficult to separate from teaching and learning activities. The material for strengthening student character is also included in the subject matter that must be given to students to be further taught and realized (Directorate of Elementary School Development, 2011). The problem of strengthening students' character so far is still at the level of introducing norms to students that are not optimal enough, namely at the level of internalization, real action, and appreciation of students in their lives, so that the learning carried out needs to be made so that students can apply to learn with an understanding by doing system. (7).

Pancasila, which has long been created as the basis of a state, namely Indonesia, and has existed since the time of our ancestors, should continue to be a way of life for the Indonesian people in the life of the state, nation, and society. Likewise, for the younger generation, Pancasila has gradually lost its existence among the younger generation. It can be hoped that it will come back so that the children of the younger generation can immediately realize how important the function of Pancasila is in every activity of their lives. (5). The importance of awareness in dealing with current problems, both those that bring pressure in daily life. Facing anxiety and worry need to be held through awareness and resilience (13-16).

## CONCLUSION

From the three core points of the explanation of this article, we can see that the existence of character education through Pancasila Education learning is an important thing because it has a big impact on the sustainability of the attitudes and characters

that exist in each young generation. In this millennial era, the younger generation is in full control of the future of the Indonesian nation. Again, we need a way to respond to all kinds of challenges that may come before us later. There is no guarantee that these challenges will be easy, so it takes mental resilience to fight through them. In this case, it is the values in character education that will help the younger generation to be able to survive in the continuity of this fast-paced era. If it is not anticipated from now on, the values of character education will be lost in the flow of globalization from outside cultural influences. Therefore, we must continue to uphold the nation's moral values to pass them on to future generations through the learning of Pancasila Education.

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