

## **Pancasila in the Digital Era: Strengthening the Character and Political Participation of Village Communities**

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### **Abstract**

Indonesia needs to re-actualize the values of Pancasila, which have proven to be an effective solution in dealing with various national problems, including the issue of intolerance. As the foundation of the state, Pancasila plays an essential role in shaping the attitudes and behavior of society. However, these values are increasingly being eroded, as seen from the weakening of Pancasila's knowledge and practice in everyday life, which triggers disputes and divisions. Pancasila has gone through various political dynamics, from parliamentary democracy to the reform era, and remains relevant as an ideology that unites Indonesia's diversity. With a foundation in ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity, Pancasila reflects harmonious national wealth and is a shared cultural heritage.

**Keywords:** Values of Pancasila, Village, Democracy Reform, Cultural Diversity



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### **INTRODUCTION**

Indonesia, in recent years, has faced significant challenges in the form of increasing intolerance and social conflict, especially concerning issues of religion, ethnicity, and minority groups. This condition can potentially worsen the political situation and threaten the integrity of the nation, significantly ahead of the 2024 simultaneous General Election and Regional Election, where the emergence of an intolerant democratic syndrome cycle is a real threat (Achmad, 2018). To deal with this problem, Indonesia must actualize Pancasila's values as a proven national solution. Unfortunately, the values of Pancasila are increasingly being eroded in everyday practice, which is reflected in the weakening of knowledge, attitudes, and behavior that prioritize unity, thus triggering destructive social conflicts (Achmad, 2018). In addition to strengthening Pancasila, independent village development is an essential priority in maintaining social and economic stability. Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages was presented as an effort to realize independent villages. Still, there are many challenges, ranging from high poverty to low citizen participation in government and development (Sjaf, 2022; Purbaningrum, 2019). Some critics argue that village funds are allocated more for infrastructure development than economic empowerment programs that directly target poverty alleviation (Pujarama, Indef).

With the growing digital transformation, villages now have the opportunity to improve economic welfare through innovation and adaptive leadership in the digital era. Examples of villages that have gone viral through social media show the potential of technology to increase

visitors and the local economy. However, this potential is difficult to fully utilize without effective and responsive leadership. Leadership in the digital era requires village heads to not only manage villages traditionally but also maximize the potential of technology to create effective and humane services in accordance with the spirit of Pancasila. This paper aims to explore the importance of strengthening digital-based leadership in villages. Its goal is to encourage independence, innovation, and the application of Pancasila values in village communities. The hope is that villages will be able to transform into independent, resilient, and innovative entities.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE METHODS**

The methods used in this community service activity include a systematic pattern or system of actions, in the form of stages needed to achieve program objectives effectively (Sugiyono, 2019). The initial stage is the analysis of the community situation, which is an important step and should not be missed. This analysis ensures that community service is based on actual needs felt by the community. The situation analysis includes two sub-stages: first, determining the target of the activity which in this case is a particular group in the community, such as youth, youth organizations, village officials, and local community leaders—second, determining the problem area, which in this activity focuses on the social aspect, primarily related to social interaction and togetherness in Pesanggrahan Village, with a target of 50 to 100 participants (Riyanto, 2020). The next stage is problem identification, which is carried out based on the situation analysis results. This identification aims to formulate the main problems faced by the target group, namely low social interaction and togetherness in village development and the lack of active tolerance practices in the community. After the problem is identified, the objectives of the PKM activity are then specifically determined, namely to strengthen the values of Pancasila, diversity, tolerance, and increase political awareness in the community of Pesanggrahan Village, Kutorejo District, Mojokerto Regency. Determining clear objectives is very important so that activities can focus on the most relevant aspects (Soekanto, 2018). To achieve these goals, a problem-solving plan is prepared based on the problems that have been identified. The steps taken include socializing the program to the community, coordinating to determine specific activities to be carried out, mentoring, and training. This structured plan is designed so that each step in the PKM activity can run effectively and sustainably. The social approach is essential to the program's success, especially in rural communities where the role of key figures is very dominant. Figures such as the Village Head, religious leaders, and community leaders have a significant influence as motivators and role models. Through an approach to these key figures, it is hoped that the PKM program can run smoothly and its ultimate goal can be achieved (Mustafa, 2021).

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Revitalization of Pancasila in Facing the Challenges of Intolerance and Social Polarization in Indonesia**

In recent years, Indonesia has been faced with increasing issues of intolerance and social conflict, especially related to negative sentiments towards religious, ethnic, and minority groups. This issue not only damages social cohesion but also threatens national political stability. This phenomenon is intensifying ahead of the 2024 simultaneous regional elections, where social and political polarization often gives rise to a cycle of "intolerant democratic syndrome." This cycle describes the tension and fragmentation that arise in society due to the inability to accept differences in political views, identities, or beliefs. To face this challenge, Indonesia needs to revitalize Pancasila as the foundation of the state and a guideline for

national life. Since its inauguration in 1945, Pancasila has played a role as a solution in overcoming various national challenges, such as social disintegration, threats from extreme ideologies, and political crises. The values of Pancasila have proven effective in uniting Indonesia's diversity, which is rich in culture, religion, and ethnicity. However, currently, the implementation of Pancasila values is fading in everyday life. Signs of this erosion are seen in the decline in people's knowledge, attitudes, and behavior based on these values. To revive the values of Pancasila, an approach that focuses on strengthening the understanding of ideology needs to be carried out, especially among young people and rural communities who may be marginalized from major discussions related to national insight. This effort can begin by linking Pancasila values in formal and informal education, prioritizing interfaith dialogue, and building social activities that reflect mutual cooperation and solidarity. Pancasila, as a moral guide, can be a bulwark against intolerance, encourage people to understand differences, and refrain from actions that damage unity. Thus, the revitalization of Pancasila is crucial not only for maintaining stability but also for re-instilling national values that strengthen social cohesion in the context of Indonesia's diversity.

The Community Service (PKM) activity carried out in Pesanggrahan Village, Mojokerto Regency, by Surabaya State University, is a real example of this effort. The activity themed "Strengthening Pancasila Values, Political Education, and Democracy Through Digital Leadership" provides an opportunity for the community to deepen their understanding of national values and Pancasila. The activity, attended by the Village Head, village officials, youth, and community leaders, is an essential means of spreading the spirit of Pancasila through political education combined with digital literacy. Through collaboration between academics and the community, this PKM activity shows that Pancasila can be taught with a relevant approach, such as integrating the use of technology in disseminating information that strengthens togetherness and national unity. In addition, developing the proper method to understand Pancasila can strengthen the foundation of democracy in Indonesia. The material presented in the PKM activity also touches on aspects of tolerance and respect for diversity, which are the core of Pancasila (Huda, 2023). By educating the community about the importance of accepting differences and building harmonious cooperation, it is hoped that the values of Pancasila can be a guide in facing the challenges of intolerance that arise. This approach is crucial, especially for rural communities at the forefront of national development and maintaining social stability amidst intolerance and conflict.

### **Village Empowerment Through Political Education and Digital Literacy to Support Healthy Democracy**

Political education and digital literacy are two essential pillars in supporting healthy democracy, especially in rural communities that potentially experience limited access to information. Villages in Indonesia have a vital role in national development because they are the most essential elements in the structure of society. However, low political awareness and lack of digital literacy are still challenges in optimizing villages' role as development actors. This becomes even more crucial with the 2024 simultaneous regional elections approaching, where rural communities need to have the skills to respond to information and participate actively and critically in the democratic process. The PKM activity by Surabaya State University in Pesanggrahan Village emphasized the importance of political education in improving the village communities' understanding of the democratic process, the rights and obligations of citizens, and how to vote wisely. In this program, the material on national communication delivered by Jauhar Wahyuni, M.I.Kom., is a strategic step to introduce the four pillars of digital literacy: access, analysis, evaluation, and content production. These pillars are designed to equip village

communities to sort and choose information wisely in the digital era so that they are not easily fooled by hoaxes and propaganda that can damage the democratic process. Village communities are often exposed to massive information through social media, which sometimes contains information that is not always accurate. Therefore, the ability to analyze and evaluate the credibility of information sources is essential. By understanding digital literacy, people can become intelligent voters and strong guardians of democracy. In addition, this material also emphasizes that a healthy democracy requires active participation from the community that understands the importance of accurate and reliable information. Digital literacy-based political education, such as that carried out in this PKM activity, helps the community to have broader insights in dealing with various political and social issues.

As the spearhead of national development, villages in Indonesia also have great potential in terms of agriculture, culture, and the creative economy. By strengthening political awareness and digital literacy, villages can play a more significant role in national development. Activities such as PKM also open up opportunities for village communities to transform into communities that are more active in development, not only as beneficiaries but as the main actors in development. Ultimately, increasing political awareness and digital literacy in village communities is expected to encourage the creation of a more independent, innovative, and competitive society. This PKM also presents material on the history and struggle of Indonesia and its relevance in today's life. This material is designed to invite village communities to reflect on the meaning of being part of the Indonesian nation by understanding the journey of the nation's history, which is full of sacrifice and dynamics. Learning this history is an essential reflection in strengthening the sense of nationality, considering that history is not only a collection of events, but also lessons that teach the values of solidarity, mutual cooperation, and love for the homeland. From this perspective, historical literacy reminds people of the importance of their role in maintaining the nation's integrity and inspires the younger generation to build a better future.

The emphasis on applying Pancasila values in everyday life is also central to this activity. As the foundation of the state, Pancasila not only functions as a legal document but also as a moral and ethical guide relevant to building a just, prosperous, and harmonious society. Values such as divinity, humanity, unity, democracy, and social justice provide a strong foundation for building an economically advanced village society with strong social cohesion. Ultimately, efforts to strengthen digital literacy and political education in rural communities are part of building the nation's character. When rural communities have good insight into democracy and digital literacy, they can become critical voters and strong guardians of national values. Empowering rural communities through political education and digital literacy will help Indonesia maintain national unity and stability, especially amidst increasingly complex global dynamics. Through activities such as PKM, villages in Indonesia are expected to play a more active role in development, not only as objects of development but as subjects who hold control over their future and the future of the nation.

## **CONCLUSION**

The PKM activity in Pesanggrahan Village shows that community service can be an effective means of strengthening national values and preparing the community to face the challenges of democracy, especially in the digital era. Unisa is committed to continuing to support village development through similar programs in the future. Overall, the PKM activity in Pesanggrahan Village is about providing knowledge and building a solid foundation for the village and the nation's future. With a spirit of nationalism, digital literacy, and high political awareness, villages like Pesanggrahan can become pillars.

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