

The Relationship between Defending the State and National Character in Technological Development for the Millennial Generation During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Abstract

Background: We know that the whole world is facing the same problem, namely the COVID-19 pandemic, including Indonesia. The Indonesian government has made every effort to reduce the pace of the COVID-19 pandemic by establishing policies and regulations such as implementing health protocols, and others. Covid-19 is a non-natural disaster that affects all aspects of life including the nation's character. The younger generation or those who are known as millennials as a determinant of the nation's character have an important role during the Covid-19 pandemic. The problem at this time is that millennials live in a modern and instant era that shapes them to be free, individualistic, and active in the field of technology. This has caused the millennial generation to start forgetting their love for the Motherland and Defending the Country. Methods: The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative and the human instrument is the researcher. A descriptive qualitative method in the form of analyzing and drawing conclusions using various sources of literature. Results: In times of peace and war, young intellectuals as the national guard in non-military defense have a crucial role as potential agents of change in shaping the character and character of the nation. The serious challenges faced by the younger generation must also be addressed by maintaining a balance between intellectual intelligence and emotional intelligence as well as spiritual intelligence. It is hoped that the balance of these three factors will manifest the behavior of young people who always uphold morals and ethics of honesty and nationality. This ability is a form of defending the country on a fine spectrum that needs to be carried out by young people in times of peace. From the perspective of national defense, it is precisely this role of defending the country in the soft spectrum that will determine the quality of the nation's defense and resilience in the future. The toughness and tenacity and ability of the nation to develop the potential of national strength to become a solid state defense force need to be built on the values of nationalism and defense of the country. From the perspective of national resilience, these three basic elements are prerequisites that must be fostered early, continuously, integrated and sustainable. Intellectual intelligence which is a great potential possessed by young people must be able to be developed in a balanced way with emotional intelligence, moral intelligence, and spiritual intelligence. During the Covid-19 pandemic, it turned out that the millennial generation showed high concern and made good contributions as a form of defending the country to maintain national resilience and support the Indonesian government in preventing and handling unexpected events such as Covid-19. Conclusion: The existence of social media as a form of technological progress can be used to hold fundraising events which will later be given to underprivileged communities affected by Covid-19 and medical personnel who lack PPE (personal protective equipment). With the urgency of Indonesia's current situation, the younger generation is required to care about using technology as best as possible in an effort to defend the country which is carried out to help the government and show love for the motherland, harmonious relations between the government and its people, and awareness of the obligations of the nation and state.

Keywords: Covid-19 Pandemic, National Character, Defending the State, Technological Development, Millennials.



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INTRODUCTION

Based on data from the Committee for Handling Covid-19 and National Economic Recovery, on March 2, 2020, for the first time, a positive case of Covid-19 was detected and announced in Indonesia. Since then, positive cases of Covid-19 have continued to grow and develop, on November 15 2021 there were 4,250,855 positive cases of Covid-19 in Indonesia, of which around 4,098,178 people were declared cured, and 143,659 died. Based on this explanation, Covid-19 can be said to be a non-natural disaster that harms people's lives, and eliminates people's livelihoods, whether affected or not, besides that Covid-19 also disrupts the distribution and availability of community logistics. This is psychologically very disruptive to the condition of the community, and can even claim lives (Samudro & Madjid, 2020). Related to this, the government has also designated Covid-19 as a non-natural national disaster based on discussions on the national security of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia which is stated in the provisions of Law Number 24 of 2007 concerning National Disaster (Huljannah et al, 2020).

The Defense must be able to be studied or studied (as a science) so that it is not considered taboo and only the work of the army. Defense science as a scientific discipline must develop broadly with the support of studies from various multi-disciplines. Defense science is universal because it becomes a necessity not only for the military but also for civilians, after all, the threats posed have entered all dimensions of national and state life so that they can threaten state sovereignty and when viewed from the perspective of national defense and the National Defense System (SISHANEG) by following per under RI Law No. 3 of 2002 concerning national defense. The conception of national resilience itself is the regulation and administration of welfare and security in a balanced and harmonious manner in all aspects of the life of the Indonesian nation to maintain Indonesia's national resilience. Defending the country by citizens needs to be carried out, as per the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia Article 27 paragraph (3) and Article 30 paragraph (1) concerning defense and security. This article explains that efforts to defend the state must be carried out by all Indonesian citizens without exception. Including millennials or residents aged 15 to 34 years who currently dominate the Indonesian population (Mukhtadi & Komala, 2018).

At this time, millennials live in a modern and instant era that shapes them to be free, individualistic, and active in the field of technology. This has caused the millennial generation to start forgetting their love for the Motherland and Defending the Country. The exemplary embodiment of the millennial generation is influenced by technological developments that make it easier for them to access information so that their lifestyle tends to follow what they see. This is done to raise awareness of defending the country because the millennial generation uses learning methods related to its citizens by using technology (Suabuana et al., 2018).

The use of this technology can lead to several efforts to defend the country, the use of gadgets and the internet by millennials have the potential to combat threats arising from this technology. Thus, if information technology is used wisely and innovatively concerning the integration of the Indonesian nation, the millennial generation can imitate what they see every day on the internet and social media. Furthermore, millennials can also take advantage of technological developments for efforts to defend the country through IT-based business development and the use of social media to disseminate social content that exudes Indonesian potential and culture, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. The act of developing an IT-based business during a pandemic and using social media for national content and disseminating content about the importance of protocols can be said to be an effort to defend the country because these two actions are manifestations of the value of defending the country, namely love for the country.

Examples of youth or millennials are Defense University students who are expected to be able to develop national character, namely defending the country in carrying out the function as agents of change both to defend the nation's ideology or to examine more deeply the meaning contained in defense science and provide innovations. And Influence the younger generation entirely by performing their respective roles in society, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Where the current condition is that countries around the world are facing the same problem, namely the COVID-19 pandemic, in Indonesia. The Indonesian government is making every effort to reduce the pace of the COVID-19 pandemic by establishing policies and regulations such as implementing health protocols. Currently, the government is also implementing a national vaccination program in stages. All efforts implemented are accompanied by a national economic recovery program. The condition expected at the end of the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia by the implementation of strict health protocols is to break the chain of transmission of COVID-19 and a national vaccination program to form people's immunity against the COVID-19 virus. The COVID-19 pandemic is a perfect example of change. This pandemic has filled all VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity, and Ambiguity) elements. The pandemic that has occurred since March 2020 has affected all aspects of life including the nation's character.

RESEARCH METHOD

The type of method used in this research is descriptive qualitative and the human instrument is the researcher. The descriptive qualitative method is in the form of analyzing and drawing conclusions using various sources of literature. The researcher describes the objects and phenomena that are outlined in the form of narrative writing. The writing provided in this study is in the form of facts to provide support for what is being presented (Anggito, 2018).

The author conducts research with the research method used is descriptive, which provides an overview by existing data and facts. The type of data used is secondary data obtained from the results of literature reviews and interpretations of materials contained in books or journals and freelance articles. The data analysis used is qualitative, namely, the data obtained is then analyzed for its contents to support the problem being studied. So that these problems provide an outlook for this research topic, namely the Relationship of State Defense with National Character in Technological Development for the millennial Generation during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Realization of State Defense Awareness as Agents of Change by Indonesian Young Generation

Defending the country is a form of love for the State of Indonesia. As citizens of Indonesia, defending the country is a right and obligation for all citizens as stated in the basic laws and regulations regarding defending the country. The 1945 Constitution Article 27 paragraph 3 states that "Every citizen has the right and obligation to participate in efforts to defend the state" and Article 30 paragraph 1 which states that "Every citizen has the right and obligation to participate in efforts to defend and secure the state". Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 3 of 2002 concerning National Defense Article 9 paragraphs 1 and 2 which reads "Every citizen has the right and obligation to participate in efforts to defend the country which is manifested in the implementation of national defense". Implementation is also through:

1. Citizenship Education
2. Compulsory basic military training
3. Service as an Indonesian Army voluntarily or compulsorily

4. Service according to the profession.

Youth or the younger generation is a human resource that is expected to be the backbone of the Indonesian nation's defense. Through state defense education for youth, it is hoped that young people will have the basic skills of defending the country and have a sense of love for the homeland and the Indonesian people (Sancoyo, Y., Saragih, H. J. R., & Dohamid, A. G., 2018). The younger generation is an agent of change and an agent of control to be able to change the new order of the country. In this planting, the younger generation gets character education through the world of formal education which is arranged in such an integrated way through subjects both in the scope of kindergarten to tertiary institutions. Defending the country is the attitude and actions of citizens who are based on a sense of love for the motherland, awareness of nation and state, belief in Pancasila as the ideology of the nation and state, willingness to make sacrifices to face every threat, challenge, obstacle and disturbance both coming from within and from outside which is dangerous. survival of the nation and state, territorial integrity, and the noble values of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution.

According to Sunarso (2008), what must be defended in state defense is that it contains 4 things, namely, independence and sovereignty of the state, national unity and integrity, territorial integrity and national jurisdiction, and the values of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. So from both understandings of defending the country, it can be concluded that defending the country is the behavior of citizens who are based on their love for the Indonesian State and can protect the country from various threats and problems. The purpose of defending the country itself is:

1. Maintaining the continuity of the life of the nation and state,
2. Maintaining the identity of the nation and state,
3. Carry out the values of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution,
4. Preserving culture,
5. Doing good deeds for the nation and the State.

Paying attention, observing, and researching. Furthermore, if it is focused on its relation to youth as agents of change, especially for students of the Defense University of the Republic of Indonesia, according to the author, it is the nature of students as human beings and as Indonesian people who are cultured with their multicultural nature. Defending the State can be carried out and realized in the following ways:

1. Conduct research and development activities related to state and defense issues to provide solutions and views on the government as a policy maker.
2. Creating or establishing student organizations to exert influence or influence, especially on state defense activities in a positive and non-anarchic context.
3. Provide criticism through seminars and scientific activities both domestically and abroad for the implementation of mandates-laws and government policies to provide new perspectives and innovations to the national defense and security system.
4. Furthermore, this State Defense activity requires support from professionals, academics, and practitioners to provide views and mentoring on all youth activities. Because the young nation cannot walk alone without guidance and direction from experience and theories and practices in the field of state defense and security to carry out the awareness function of defending the country.

The Effect of Covid-19 on the Character of the Young Generation

During the Covid-19 pandemic, based on many studies, it was seen that the morals and morals of society, especially the younger generation, were declining. Not only related to morals,

but in implementing Pancasila values it is very minimal, one example is the practice of the second precept, which reads "Fair and Civilized Humanity", in this precept it can be seen that many people are looking for opportunities during a pandemic Covid-19, instead of making us more prosperous, they make us more miserable, and they also prioritize more affluent societies, compared to less affluent ones.

As we know, the Indonesian nation has made Pancasila the basis of the state and a way of life in governing the life of the nation and state and has become the character of the nation. This was emphasized in the opening of the 1945 Law in the 4th paragraph that the Indonesian nation has a basis and guideline for the nation and state, namely Pancasila itself. The application of the second Pancasila precept to our current education is a discipline in participating in the learning process from home, which is a simple form and a form of obedience to Pancasila values. Students are expected to be able to independently manage their study time according to the schedule set by the school. This means that the positive impact is to make students have an independent attitude but also the negative impact is to become a person.

The Covid-19 pandemic that is currently befalling us has had many effects that we can currently feel. The existence of the PSBB makes us as human beings tend to be someone who socializes less often, becomes someone indifferent, and can even make us an individualist person. Which, is very fatal for our lives. As for one of the negative effects that we can feel during the Covid-19 pandemic. Today's underage children, especially during this pandemic, many of them are trying to take part in brawls and demonstrations that have recently taken place in our country.

Thus, education and practice of character values in childhood still need to be taught and optimized. As we know, during the Covid-19 pandemic, all schools and even universities are required to carry out the learning process online (in the network), where which can blind and even have a bad effect on them. For the younger generation who can control themselves and even do their studies well and have the facilities and infrastructure, Online is a good figure for them. And vice versa, for the younger generation who cannot control themselves and do not even have adequate facilities and infrastructure. Online is a boomerang figure for them. They prefer to skip classes/try to do activities that are enough to damage their character, namely trying things that smell of crime, such as stealing, violence against minors, and so on.

Implementation of Health Protocols as a Form of Defending the Country

The Covid-19 outbreak has been designated as a non-natural national disaster that could threaten Indonesia's national resilience based on the provisions of Law Number 24 of 2007 concerning National Disasters. The concept of state defense follows the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 3 of 2002 concerning State Defense Article 6 paragraph (1), "State defense is carried out through efforts to build and develop capabilities, state, and nation strength, and to overcome any threats." In line with that, Article 9 paragraph (1) states that "Every citizen has the right and obligation to participate in state defense efforts which are realized in the implementation of state defense" which is further strengthened by paragraph (2), namely participation in state defense efforts in question is an effort to defend the country which can be realized through civic education, basic military training, compulsory military service or volunteering as the Indonesian National Armed Forces, and service according to their profession. Based on research conducted by Huljannah et al (2020), implementing health protocols to reduce the chain of transmission of the Covid-19 virus can be said to be an effort to defend the country in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. Where the government makes regulations and the community implements them to create a sense of defending the country and national resilience.

In implementing the health protocol, the government is promoting campaigns related to the use of the hashtags #stay at home and #stay on masks. The participation of the younger generation in using these two hashtags and several other hashtags that support campaigns to maintain health by following health protocols can be said to have quite a positive impact. There is even cooperation between people as evidenced by the existence of education related to the urgency to stay at home during a pandemic. In several cases when there were influencers who were negligent in maintaining health protocols, the millennial generation dared to speak up. Whether through social media Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, or TikTok. This case was when Raffi Ahmad attended a party but did not use a mask after the first vaccine in Indonesia. In addition, a TikTok community by the account @botaktiktok2 does not use health protocols while on vacation in Bali. This is what eventually raises vigilance between people to look after and educate each other.

The manifestation of a sense of nationalism is to protect the country from non-natural disasters that have hit Indonesia for the past 2 years. Technology through social media is used as wisely as possible by young people in increasing awareness of the character of defending the country. The Millennial Generation has a great influence in maintaining national sovereignty against the Covid-19 virus. Cooperation between the government and also the millennial generation will certainly have a good effect on the nation's rise from adversity after being hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. The spirit of the character of defending the country in technological developments for the millennial generation during the COVID-19 Pandemic is certainly increasing.

Millennial Generation's Awareness of the Sense of Defending the Country During the Pandemic

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the millennial generation's awareness of the sense of defending the country has increased. This is evidenced by a study by Pingky Anggelia, et al of 65 millennial-generation children. Based on research involving 65 millennials, it is known that 98.5% of them are aware of the obligation to defend the country amid the Covid-19 pandemic that has hit Indonesia. The table below shows the level of concern for the millennial generation as illustrated in the figure in the very indifferent to very concerned sections. The very concerned section shows a high level of concern and 50.8% of respondents show this result. This means that the majority of respondents are concerned about the current crisis conditions that Indonesia is currently experiencing (Wicahyanti et al., 2021).

Table 1. Research from by Pingky Anggelia, et al

Level of Concern	Percentage
Very Don't Care	0 %
Don't Care	0 %
Moderate	5 %
Care	44 %
Really Care	51 %

If you look at the percentages of each of the components above, it can be seen that it is true that there has been a strengthening of a sense of concern for defending the country during the Covid-19 pandemic. The jargon brought by Mr President Joko Widodo, namely Indonesia Gotong Royong, of course, must be followed by the support of the whole community and all levels of Indonesian citizens. In this case, the millennial generation as the generation that dominates Indonesia has an important role, especially in how to respond to concern for Covid-19 and increase the sense of the spirit of defending the country to protect the sovereignty of Mother Earth.

Contribution of the Millennial Generation in Handling Covid-19 as a Form of Defending the Country

After discussing the role of the millennial generation in building the spirit of defending the country in the pandemic era, this time the author will explain what contribution the millennial generation can make in efforts to deal with Covid-19. Some of the contributions that can be made by the millennial generation are related to government policies regarding the Covid-19 health protocol as follows:

1. Stay at home
2. Activate the use of health protocol hashtags on social media.
3. Cooperation in caring for fellow citizens
4. Utilizing technology as an effort to increase public awareness
5. Building an online business to support MSMEs affected by Covid-19

It is known that the implementation of the health protocol during a pandemic can be categorized as a form of state defense that can be carried out by the Indonesian people during this pandemic, this is also supported by the words of the Governor of DKI Jakarta Anies Baswedan in an interview regarding PSBB on March 19, 2020 (tirto.id). Various forms of contribution by the millennial generation include participating in online fundraising events, material contributions in the form of money and necessities (given to small communities affected by Covid), and medical devices (given to medical personnel who are experiencing a PPE crisis), there are also volunteers in activities of spraying disinfectants in their living areas, and wearing masks when outside the home. The increasing demand for masks has been utilized by tailors to produce masks for sale to the public. However, several respondents showed their contribution by providing masks to people who have economic limitations, especially to stay healthy and meet the needs of masks for everyone.

Based on the results of analysis of library data and survey data by Pingky Anggelia, et al's research on 65 millennial generation children, it was stated that the results of the survey also proved that most of the millennial generation have realized the importance of defending the country amid during in a pandemic, although there are still a few who feel normal. Then the results of the study also showed that 81.1% of respondents had implemented social distancing in carrying out their activities (Wicahyanti et al., 2021). Positive results were also shown by the research of Saputro et al (2020) which showed that most people had implemented social distancing. In addition to implementing social distancing, people's attitudes are also positive in implementing other health protocols such as providing cleaning tools and carrying out activities from home (Saputro et al., 2020).

However, the results obtained still show that there is still a small proportion of people who do full-time work activities outside the home. As a fisherman, he is still active outside the home as usual. Furthermore, the survey also shows that the form of contribution of millennials as an effort to defend the country when a pandemic occurs is carried out in several ways, from the easiest way, namely staying at home, then becoming volunteers, and holding fundraising for communities affected by the pandemic, and so on. other. These results demonstrate positive behavior and awareness of defending the country for millennials in Indonesia during the pandemic. However, it is hoped that more in-depth research with a wider target population and respondents from other regions in Indonesia will show the accuracy of the results of this study.

CONCLUSION

Efforts to Improve the Basic Capabilities of Defending the Country, especially youth as agents of change, require: Realization of the awareness of defending the State is focused on the nation's generation who are expected to become agents of change. Realization of awareness of

defending the State by the nation's young generation requires cooperation from the academic community or practitioners in related fields to study and explore and provide a greater impact in the future. In times of peace and war, young intellectuals as the national guard in non-military defense, have a vital crucial role as potential agents of change in shaping the character and character of the nation. Amid new rules of conduct and values, educated young people must be able to equip and fortify themselves with national insights and a strong sense of defending the country.

The younger generation, especially young intellectuals, must be able to choose and sort out new values that are inconsistent with national identity and identity which are characterized by a spirit of cooperation. The serious challenges faced by the younger generation must also be addressed by maintaining a balance between intellectual intelligence and emotional intelligence as well as spiritual intelligence. It is hoped that the balance of these three factors will manifest the behavior of young people who always uphold morals and ethics; Honesty and Nationality. Without a balance of these three factors, the intelligence possessed by the younger generation undermines the joints of the nation's life. This ability is a form of defending the country on a fine spectrum that needs to be carried out by young people in times of peace. Accompanied by a strong national character, knowledge, intelligence and competence is the main capital for young intellectuals to carry out their obligations to defend their country in strengthening national defense in various fields of national life.

From the perspective of National Defense, it is precisely this role of defending the country in the soft spectrum that will determine the quality of the nation's defense and resilience in the future. Therefore, young people must position themselves intelligently and take an active role in various processes of national development, especially in the development of national character and character. This needs to be done considering that profession, knowledge, and expertise, as well as intelligence imbued with the spirit of nationalism, are potentials that can be utilized to effectively manage various natural resource potentials in building the national economy. Armed with the same potential, young people in their role of defending their country as one of the supporting component forces can participate in building the capability and independence of strategic industries needed in national defense.

The toughness and tenacity and ability of the nation to develop the potential of national strength to become a solid state defense force needs to be built on the values of nationalism and defending the country. From the perspective of National Resilience, these three basic elements are prerequisites that must be fostered early, continuously, integrated and sustainable. Related to this, nationalism, and defending the country are not rhetoric in the life of the nation and state, but must be able to be realized and implemented in real terms by all components of the nation, especially young intellectuals. Intellectual intelligence which is a great potential possessed by young people must be able to be developed in a balanced way with emotional intelligence, moral intelligence, and spiritual intelligence. This balance is needed as a series of processes to build individual awareness regarding state defense. That is what young intellectuals have to realize to understand and do in fulfilling the rights and obligations of defending the country from the perspective of National Resilience.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the millennial generation showed high concern and made good contributions as a form of defending the country to maintain national resilience and support the Indonesian government in preventing and handling unexpected events such as Covid-19. Their contribution to defending the country is not only physical and labor but also material. With the characteristics of an online lifestyle, millennials have made good and wise use of technology even though they have to stay at home. Through social media, they are holding a fundraising event which will later be given to underprivileged communities affected

by Covid-19 and medical personnel who lack PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). With the urgency of Indonesia's current situation, people are required to care about their nation and country. Therefore, it is very important to defend the country to help the government and show love for the motherland, a harmonious relationship between the government and the people.

Suggestion: During the current Covid-19 pandemic, the millennial generation can show high concern and make a good contribution as a form of defending the country to maintain national resilience and support the Indonesian government in preventing and handling unexpected events such as Covid-19. Their contribution to defending the country is not only physical and labor but also material. With the characteristics of an online lifestyle, millennials make good and wise use of technology because they have to stay at home. We can use social media as one of the latest technological advancements to hold fundraising events which will later be given to underprivileged communities affected by Covid-19 and medical personnel who lack PPE (personal protective equipment). With the urgency of Indonesia's current situation, the younger generation is required to care about their nation and country. Therefore, efforts to defend the country are very important to be carried out to help the government and show love for the motherland, harmonious relations between the government and its people, and awareness of the obligations of the nation and state to every citizen.

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