Citizenship and Its Role in Shaping National Identity

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Abstract
Citizenship is a multidimensional concept that establishes the formal and moral relationship between an individual and the state. Beyond its legal aspect, citizenship embodies a social, cultural, and political bond that shapes the identity and collective consciousness of a nation. In Indonesia, the notion of citizenship carries a profound meaning that integrates national ideology, moral values, and the principles of democracy derived from Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. This article aims to explore the concept of citizenship, its legal foundations, the role of citizenship education in nation-building, and the contemporary challenges posed by globalization. The study employs a qualitative literature review by analyzing academic writings, legal documents, and previous research. The results indicate that citizenship serves not only as a legal framework but also as a moral compass that guides national identity, civic participation, and democratic integrity. Strengthening civic literacy and education is essential to nurture responsible, critical, and participatory citizens who can sustain national unity and sovereignty in the global era.
Keywords: Citizenship, National Identity, Democracy, Civic Education, Globalization, Pancasila

INTRODUCTION

Citizenship, as a cornerstone of national and political life, defines the relationship between individuals and the state through rights, duties, and responsibilities. The classical conception of citizenship rooted in Greek city-states such as Athens viewed it as active participation in public life, where citizens contributed to decision-making and governance. Over time, the notion evolved, integrating political, legal, and cultural dimensions that reflect the complexity of modern nation-states (Marshall, 1950; Turner, 1993). In Indonesia, citizenship carries both administrative and moral significance. It is not limited to legal recognition under the state but also represents a deep moral attachment to national ideology, especially Pancasila, and the 1945 Constitution. Citizenship, in this sense, becomes a tool for social cohesion in a pluralistic society marked by ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity. Indonesia's national motto, Bhinneka Tunggal Ika (Unity in Diversity), reflects this inclusive vision, reminding citizens that national unity depends on mutual respect and tolerance among its people. However, the rapid advancement of globalization, digital media, and transnational culture poses serious challenges to maintaining civic awareness and national identity. The weakening of civic engagement among young generations, political apathy, and rising intolerance demand a revitalization of civic education and citizenship understanding. Thus, citizenship should be reinterpreted not merely as legal membership, but as an active commitment to democratic participation, social justice, and cultural integrity (Wahyudi & Kurniawan, 2023).

RESEARCH METHOD

This study adopts a qualitative approach through a literature review method. This approach allows an in-depth exploration of various written materials, such as books, academic journals, government regulations, and policy documents related to citizenship. The data were

collected and analyzed using a thematic approach — identifying recurring ideas, comparing theoretical frameworks, and contextualizing them within Indonesian society (Adlini et al., 2022). The research framework follows three main steps:

1. Identification: selecting academic sources relevant to citizenship, civic education, and nationalism.
2. Analysis: comparing scholarly perspectives to understand how citizenship is defined and practiced.
3. Interpretation: integrating theoretical findings with real-world issues in Indonesia, such as multiculturalism, digital citizenship, and globalization.

This methodology ensures that the discussion is not only theoretically grounded but also empirically relevant to Indonesia's contemporary socio-political context.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION
The Concept of Citizenship

Citizenship refers to the formal status of being recognized as a member of a political community, but its essence goes far beyond legal documentation. It includes belonging, participation, and identity. Halimah (2018) defines citizenship as a formal membership that binds individuals to their nation through mutual rights and duties. Meanwhile, T.H. Marshall (1950) emphasized three dimensions of citizenship: civil, political, and social rights, all essential to ensure equality and participation. In Indonesia, citizenship includes a moral-ideological dimension, rooted in Pancasila and national culture. It signifies loyalty, civic virtue, and active participation in maintaining democracy and unity. Winarno (2019) argues that being a citizen involves both legal recognition and moral responsibility, which together form the foundation of national character. Thus, citizenship is not static it evolves with social and political transformations. Furthermore, the concept of global citizenship is becoming increasingly relevant. Indonesian citizens today must not only understand their local rights and obligations but also be aware of global interdependence, human rights, and environmental sustainability. This perspective allows citizenship to be inclusive, adaptable, and globally conscious while maintaining national identity.

Legal Foundations of Citizenship in Indonesia

Indonesia's citizenship is primarily governed by Law No. 12 of 2006 concerning Citizenship of the Republic of Indonesia. This law adopts both ius sanguinis (citizenship by descent) and limited ius soli (citizenship by birthplace) principles. It replaced the outdated Law No. 62 of 1958, reflecting more progressive and inclusive perspectives, especially for children of mixed marriages and stateless individuals (Suryani, 2020). Constitutionally, the 1945 Constitution under:

1. Article 27(1) guarantees equality before the law and government.
2. Article 28D(4) affirms every person's right to citizenship.

Lubis and Harefa (2022) highlighted that the government's responsibility toward citizens extends beyond national borders, as demonstrated by diplomatic protections for Indonesian citizens abroad. These frameworks affirm that citizenship in Indonesia serves legal, protective, and humanitarian purposes, ensuring both equality and state responsibility.

The Role of Citizenship Education

Citizenship education (Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan, PKn) is a strategic medium to foster civic knowledge, skills, and character among learners. It aims to produce citizens who are

intelligent, democratic, and socially responsible. Kusumawati and Santoso (2022) emphasized that teachers play a crucial role in instilling tolerance, respect for diversity, and national values through character-based pedagogy and critical discussions. Banks (2017) expands the idea of citizenship education to global contexts, describing it as a "pillar of democracy" that helps students understand their rights, responsibilities, and global interconnections. In Indonesia, PKn contributes not only to cognitive development (knowledge) but also to affective (attitude) and behavioral (actions) dimensions. Students learn to internalize democratic values, respect human rights, and practice civic virtues in daily life. Effective civic education encourages:

1. Critical thinking about social and political issues.
2. Empathy and tolerance toward diversity.
3. Active participation in democratic life.

Therefore, education serves as the engine of citizenship transformation, shaping not only legal citizens but also moral and participatory citizens who embody Indonesia's national philosophy.

Citizenship Challenges in the Era of Globalization

Globalization has transformed citizenship into a complex phenomenon. While it opens opportunities for global engagement, it also introduces challenges such as cultural homogenization, weakened nationalism, and digital misinformation. As Nurul et al. (2024) observe, exposure to global media and ideological influences can lead to identity fragmentation, particularly among younger generations. In Indonesia, these challenges manifest through:

1. Cultural dilution caused by mass consumerism and Westernization.
2. Political disengagement and apathy among youth.
3. Digital polarization that fuels intolerance and misinformation.

To counter these issues, strengthening civic literacy the ability to analyze, evaluate, and act on civic matters is essential. Digital citizenship education must also be incorporated into curricula to help students navigate online spaces responsibly and uphold national values amidst global interconnectedness.

The Urgency of Citizenship for National Identity

Citizenship plays a critical role in sustaining national identity and unity. A strong sense of citizenship creates a shared sense of belonging, motivating citizens to contribute to nation-building and defend sovereignty. Rahmawati (2021) found that heightened civic awareness among youth positively correlates with political participation and social responsibility. National identity in Indonesia is built upon three pillars:

1. Pancasila as the foundation of ideology and morality
2. The 1945 Constitution as the legal and political framework
3. Bhinneka Tunggal Ika as the cultural principle of unity amid diversity.

Citizenship reinforces these pillars by fostering awareness, tolerance, and national pride. Without strong citizenship, the nation risks losing cohesion and direction in the face of global challenges. Thus, nurturing citizenship is not only a governmental duty but a shared national mission.

CONSCLUSION

Citizenship in Indonesia embodies a comprehensive and dynamic relationship between the individual and the state legal, moral, and ideological. It acts as both a right and a

responsibility, uniting citizens under the values of Pancasila, democracy, and cultural diversity. Citizenship education remains a key mechanism to cultivate civic competence and moral integrity, ensuring that every citizen contributes meaningfully to the nation. However, in the era of globalization and digital transformation, the meaning of citizenship must be continuously strengthened. Citizens must be equipped with civic literacy, digital responsibility, and global awareness to safeguard national identity and uphold democracy. Therefore, citizenship should not be reduced to legal status alone it must evolve into a living practice of values, guiding behavior, decision-making, and collective responsibility in everyday life.

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