

Optimizing the Role of Pancasila Education in Building National Character at SMK Negeri 8 Medan

Agita Simarmata^{1*}, Fadli Ansyah Siregar¹, Kaila Judita Simanjuntak¹, Martha Sisma Naomi Sidabutar¹

¹Tax Administration Study Program, Faculty of Vocational Studies, Universitas Sumatera Utara

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ABSTRACT

Pancasila, as the foundation of Indonesia, has an important role in building the nation's character. This article discusses the Pancasila values socialization activity conducted on 1 November 2022 at SMK Negeri 8 Medan, to improve students' understanding of the importance of Pancasila in the school environment. The activity involved lectures and discussions designed to increase interaction between resource persons and students so that Pancasila values can be more easily internalized and applied in daily life. The lecture method was used to provide basic information about Pancasila, while the group discussion allowed students to discuss the application of the values in a real context. The results of the activity showed that the 11th-grade students majoring in Fashion had a better understanding of the importance of Pancasila and were enthusiastic about applying its values. The active participation of students during the activity also showed that the method used was effective in delivering the material. The success of this activity shows the importance of Pancasila education in shaping student character and facing the challenges of globalization. It is hoped that similar activities can be carried out regularly to strengthen students' understanding and awareness of Pancasila so that these values can continue to be the moral and ethical foundation for Indonesia's young generation.

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*Corresponding Author: Agita Simarmata
Email: agitasimarmata42@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

Pancasila, as the foundation of the Indonesian state, has a very important role in building the character of the nation. Pancasila is not only used as the basis of the state but also as a way of life and ideology for the people of Indonesia. The function of Pancasila as the foundation of the state provides direction and foundation in the governance of state life, by placing it as the source of all sources of legal order. As an ideology, Pancasila provides a framework and foundation for development and describes the life of the aspired community. In addition, Pancasila also functions as a way of life that provides direction and a foundation for the development of national character (Meilani et al., 2021).

The values contained in Pancasila are closely related to the character of the nation because they reflect the identity of the Indonesian people who have the characteristics and personality of the nation. The noble values of Pancasila need to be preserved by passing them on to the younger generation as a guide to life. Education in Indonesia must be inseparable from the teachings of Pancasila, to develop the potential of the community to become people who are faithful and devoted to God Almighty, noble, healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and democratic and responsible citizens. Therefore, it is important to instil the values of Pancasila in every citizen from an early age through formal and informal education (Christoper et al., 2024).

The importance of Pancasila in social life is also recognized by education experts. According to Fitriasaki et al (2020), education based on Pancasila can form a strong character and integrity, which is needed in facing the challenges of globalization. Pancasila acts as a filter in the development of science and technology, ensuring that these advances do not conflict with Indonesian cultural values. In addition, Pancasila also serves as a filter for outside cultures that enter the nation's culture, preventing the misuse of Pancasila values, especially in the educational environment. This is very important to maintain the integrity and cultural identity of the nation in the midst of globalization (Eka et al., 2021).

The socialization activities carried out at SMK Negeri 8 Medan aim to instil an understanding of the importance of Pancasila in the school environment. This activity involves lectures and discussions to increase interaction between speakers and participants so that students can better understand and apply the values of Pancasila in everyday life. The lecture method is used to raise students' awareness of the importance of Pancasila in the school environment, while the discussion method is applied so that students can understand the material that has been delivered through a question-and-answer process. Thus, it is expected that students can internalize the values of Pancasila and apply them in everyday life.

METHODOLOGY

This activity was carried out on 01 November 2022, at SMK NEGERI 8 Medan, Jalan Dr Mansyur No.79 Medan, Padang Bulan Selayang I, Medan Selayang District, Medan City. The objectives of this socialization activity include: First, explain the importance of Pancasila in the school environment. Second, provide an understanding of the norms of Pancasila. Third, provide awareness to keep the values of Pancasila in life, especially in the school environment. The methods of socialization activities are carried out with lectures and discussions, among others (Siregar et al., 2024):

1. The lecture method is carried out to increase the awareness of vocational students about the importance of Pancasila in the school environment.
2. The discussion method is applied so that vocational students can understand the material that has been delivered and the question and answer process to increase understanding of Pancasila.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The socialization activity on the importance of Pancasila in the school environment held on November 1, 2022, at SMK Negeri 8 Medan was successfully implemented and received a positive response from students of class XI majoring in Fashion Management. The activity involved lectures and discussions designed to enhance students' understanding of the values of Pancasila and its application in daily life.

In the lecture session, the resource person explained the meaning and history of Pancasila, as well as the values contained in each of its principles. This explanation included the importance of Pancasila as the foundation of the state and a way of life, which serves as the moral and ethical foundation for Indonesian society. The speakers used various visual aids such as presentation slides and educational videos to facilitate students' understanding. From the observations made, students showed high attention and many of them took notes on the key points of the lecture. This shows that the lecture method is effective in conveying basic information about Pancasila to students.



Figure 1. Pancasila Lecture and Discussion at SMK Negeri 8 Medan

A discussion session was held after the lecture, where students were divided into small groups. Each group was asked to discuss concrete examples of the application of Pancasila values in the school and community environment. The discussion was very interactive, with students sharing their experiences and opinions on how they can apply the values of Pancasila in their daily lives. Resource persons and facilitators went around to facilitate the discussion and answer questions that arose. Observations showed that this group discussion was very effective in increasing student participation and deepening their understanding of the material presented.

During the question and answer session, many students enthusiastically asked questions to the resource person. The questions asked included why Pancasila is very important to be applied in the school environment, how to apply the values of Pancasila in campus and community life, and what should be done so that the values of Pancasila are maintained in the community. The speakers provided clear answers and concrete examples so that students could better understand the importance of applying Pancasila values in everyday life. This question-and-answer session lasted for 10 minutes and showed a high level of student participation, which indicates the success of this socialization activity.

The results of this socialization activity showed that the 11th-grade students majoring in Fashion Management at SMK Negeri 8 Medan had a better understanding of the importance of Pancasila and how to apply it in the school and community environment. The enthusiasm of the students in participating in each session of the activity showed that the methods used, namely lectures and discussions, were effective in delivering the material and improving students' understanding. This activity also succeeded in raising students' awareness about the importance of maintaining and practising the values of Pancasila in everyday life.

The success of this activity can be seen from several indicators, including student attention during lecture sessions, active participation in group discussions, and enthusiasm in question-and-answer sessions. In addition, students also showed the ability to identify and apply the values of Pancasila in various contexts, both in the school and community environment. This shows that this socialization activity successfully achieved its goal, which is to increase students' understanding and awareness of the importance of Pancasila. In the future, socialization activities like this are expected to continue to be carried out regularly and involve more students from various departments. Schools are also expected to strengthen students' understanding of Pancasila values by adding special learning or extracurricular activities that focus on the application of Pancasila values. Thus, students can continue to practice the values of Pancasila in their daily lives, so that Pancasila can remain a moral and ethical foundation for Indonesian society.

CONCLUSIONS

The socialization activity on the importance of Pancasila in the school environment carried out at SMK Negeri 8 Medan on November 1, 2022, was successfully implemented and received a very positive response from students of class XI majoring in Fashion Management. Through lecture and discussion methods, this activity succeeded in improving students' understanding of the values of Pancasila and the importance of applying these values in daily life. Students showed high enthusiasm during the lecture, group discussion, and question and answer sessions, which showed that the material presented succeeded in attracting their attention and motivating them to go deeper into Pancasila. From the results of the activity, it can be concluded that the lecture method was effective in conveying basic information about Pancasila, while group discussions helped students to better understand and apply the values in a more tangible context. Q&A sessions were also an important platform to clarify students' understanding and provide answers to their questions regarding the application of Pancasila values in daily life.

The enthusiasm and active participation of students in this activity show that they have a better awareness of the importance of maintaining and practising the values of Pancasila. In addition, this activity also proved that socialization involving lectures and discussions can be an effective way to increase students' understanding and awareness of Pancasila. In the future, it is expected that the school can continue to hold similar socialization activities regularly to strengthen students' understanding of Pancasila. Schools are also expected to add special learning or extracurricular activities that focus on the application of Pancasila values so that students can continue to practice these values in their daily lives. Thus, Pancasila can remain a strong moral and ethical foundation for Indonesia's young generation.

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