

The Importance of State Defense Realization for the Young Generation in Building National Character

Rifan Apriantara¹ Pujowidodo² Herlina Juni Risma Saragih³ Panji Suwarno⁴ Moch Yurianto⁵ Surya Wiranto⁶

Universitas Pertahanan Republik Indonesia, Bogor Regency, West Java Province, Indonesia^{1,2,3,4,5,6}

Email: rfanbacdhim@gmail.com¹

Abstract

Defending the Country is a concept that has long been known in Indonesia as an effort to build a strong national character and integrity. However, in its development, there are challenges for the younger generation to understand the true meaning of Defending the Country. This research was conducted with the aim of examining the importance of realizing State Defense for the younger generation through related literature studies. The research method used is a literature study by collecting data from journals, books and articles related to the concept of State Defense and the importance of the realization of State Defense for the younger generation. The results of the study show that the realization of State Defense has an important role in shaping quality national character, especially in the younger generation. Through the realization of Defending the Country, the younger generation can develop an attitude of patriotism, discipline, responsibility, courage and love for the nation and country. Families, schools and the government have an important role in providing education and opportunities for the younger generation to understand and apply the concept of Defending the Country in everyday life. Therefore, there is a need for more serious efforts from all parties in providing understanding and training regarding the importance of realizing the State Defense for the younger generation, in order to form a strong national character and integrity in the future.

Keywords: State Defense, Young Generation, Realization, National Character



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INTRODUCTION

In the era of globalization and global competition, the development of human resources is very important for every country. Indonesia as a country that has a lot of potential and diversity in all fields, has quite tough challenges to be able to compete with other countries. However, to be able to take advantage of this potential, Indonesia is also faced with quite a number of challenges. One example of the challenges faced by Indonesia is the lack of investment in the education sector and quality human resources (Nagel, J. 2020). This makes it difficult for Indonesia to compete with other countries that have higher quality human resources. Another challenge is inadequate infrastructure, causing high production costs and a lack of competitiveness for Indonesian products in the global market (Lasaiba, M. A. 2023). In addition, Indonesia is also still faced with the problem of corruption and slow bureaucracy, making it difficult for investors to invest in Indonesia. All these challenges make it difficult for Indonesia to compete with other countries at the global level. Therefore, there is a need for greater attention and effort from the government and society in building quality human resources and improving infrastructure and a more effective and efficient government system. One way to deal with these challenges is to build a strong national character and integrity through the concept of Defending the Country.

The concept of Defending the Country has been known for a long time in Indonesia and has become the basis for building a strong national character. This concept focuses on efforts

to build awareness and love for the nation and state, as well as instilling national values in the younger generation. In practice, the concept of State Defense contains several elements which include dedication to the nation and state, awareness of the importance of national security and defense, and responsibility to fight for the interests of the nation and state. In a broader context, the concept of State Defense can also be interpreted as an attitude and behavior that reflects a sense of concern for others and the environment (Supriani, Y. et al, 2022). The concept of Defending the Country can be implemented through various activities such as national skills and knowledge training, character building, participation in social activities and disaster victim assistance, as well as community and state service. In an educational environment, the concept of State Defense can be applied through learning that emphasizes understanding and experience of national values and a sense of love for the nation and country (Mozaresca,R. 2022).

By strengthening the concept of State Defense and applying it in an integrated manner to various aspects of people's lives, it is hoped that a young generation will be formed who have strong character and personality, have integrity, and are ready to face global challenges. This will make a positive contribution to the development of quality human resources in Indonesia and strengthen Indonesia's position at the global level. However, today, the younger generation is faced with challenges in understanding and applying the concept of Defending the Country in their daily lives. As the nation's next generation, they must have concern and a sense of responsibility towards the nation and state. Therefore, it is important to review the concept of State Defense and how it can be applied to the younger generation, so that it can form a strong national character and integrity in the future.

In this study, the author will examine the importance of realizing State Defense for the younger generation in shaping quality national character. This research is expected to provide a better understanding of the concept of State Defense and identify the factors that influence the realization of State Defense in the younger generation. In addition, this research can also provide useful recommendations for families, schools and the government in forming a strong and integrated national character through the concept of Defending the Country.

RESEARCH METHODS

The method used in this study is a qualitative method with a literature review or literature review approach. Qualitative research is a type of scientific research that focuses on disclosing and in-depth understanding of observed social phenomena through descriptive and interpretive approaches. In this method, researchers attempt to describe and understand these social symptoms in detail and depth (Hardani et al., 2020). Literature study research techniques are a series of scientific activities that aim to collect information relevant to the topic or problem that is being or will be studied, using reference sources from various literature or literature. In this technique, researchers collect data by reading, studying, and evaluating literature that is relevant to the research topic. Thus, literature study research techniques allow researchers to gain an in-depth understanding of research topics through existing reference sources, and can be used as a basis or reference in preparing a research conceptual framework (Indra and Cahyaningrum, 2019). Data is collected from sources related to the concept of State Defense and the importance of realizing State Defense for the younger generation, such as journals, books, articles and other related documents. The data were then analyzed using a qualitative descriptive approach, with the aim of obtaining a comprehensive picture of the importance of realizing State Defense for the younger generation in building quality national character.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

State Defense

State Defense is a concept that has been known since ancient times in Indonesia. This concept has a very important meaning in building a national character that is strong, tough, and has a sense of love for the motherland. Defending the State has various meanings and interpretations that have developed in line with changing times and socio-political conditions in Indonesia. Initially, State Defense was a concept related to national defense and the military. However, along with the times, this concept has expanded and developed into a broader concept that includes all aspects of social, national and state life (Juliannisa, I. A, et al, 2022). Currently, State Defense is not only related to national defense and the military, but also related to education, culture and the environment. In the Indonesian context, Defending the Country also includes the concept of citizen obligations in maintaining the integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, respecting Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, and carrying out state tasks in whatever form according to their respective capabilities and expertise.

The development of the concept of State Defense in Indonesia is influenced by various factors, such as socio-political conditions, technological developments, and influences from outside culture. One of the important moments in the history of the development of the concept of State Defense in Indonesia was when the National Revolution occurred in 1945, where this concept was used to unite the Indonesian people in fighting for independence. Currently, the concept of State Defense is becoming increasingly important in efforts to build a strong and quality national character. The Indonesian government has issued various policies and programs to encourage the realization of the concept of State Defense among the public, especially the younger generation. Some of them are mandatory state defense programs in schools, state defense youth programs, and state defense training for the general public.

The legal conception of State Defense in Indonesia is based on the 1945 Constitution, especially Article 27 paragraph (3) which states that every citizen has the right and obligation to participate in State Defense efforts, and Article 30 paragraph (1) which confirms that every Citizens have the right and obligation to participate in the defense and security of the state. From these two provisions, it can be concluded that State Defense is a constitutional right and obligation for Indonesian citizens. This conception of Defending the Country contains five essential values, namely love for the motherland, awareness of the nation and state, belief in Pancasila as the state ideology, readiness to sacrifice for the sake of the nation and state, and having initial capabilities in Defending the State (Wiranto, I. el al. 2017).

Law Number 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights and Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning National Defense elaborate further on these constitutional rights and obligations. Article 68 in the Law on Human Rights emphasizes that every citizen has an obligation to participate in efforts to defend the state in accordance with applicable regulations. Meanwhile, Article 9 paragraph (1) in the Law on State Defense states that every citizen has the right and obligation to be involved in efforts to defend the country which is manifested in the implementation of national defense.

Article 9 paragraph (2) then explains that the participation of citizens in efforts to defend the country can be carried out in various ways, such as civic education, basic military training, voluntary or compulsory service as TNI soldiers, and service according to their respective professions. The concept of Defending the Country in the context of nationality and national interests refers to the understanding that every citizen has the responsibility and obligation to maintain the unity, sovereignty and integrity of the country. Defending the Country is an effort to build a national spirit, national and state awareness, and create readiness in facing threats both from within and from outside. The concept of Defending the Country in the context of

national interests also implies that citizens have a responsibility to protect national interests, both in the political, economic, social, and defense and security fields.

This means that every citizen must have awareness not to take actions that are detrimental to national interests, and participate in state development and strengthen national defense (Emillia, S. H. 2022). In the concept of State Defense, national interests are prioritized over individual or group interests. Therefore, every citizen must have a high sense of nationalism, so as to maintain the integrity of the state and nation. Apart from that, the concept of Defending the State also requires unity in maintaining public order and security and preventing conflicts that harm national interests.

The Importance of State Defense Realization for the Young Generation

The younger generation refers to the age group that is in the transition period from childhood to adulthood, generally in the age range of 15-30 years. (Tuhuteru, L. 2022). The younger generation is considered the future of the nation because they will become leaders and decision makers in the future. The younger generation has great potential to change and advance a country because they have great ability and energy, and still have a long time to develop and learn. However, the younger generation is also faced with various challenges and problems, such as problems with education, unemployment, mental health, and the negative impacts of technological advances. Therefore, it is important for the government and society to provide sufficient attention and support to the younger generation so that they can develop properly and become leaders with character and contribute positively to the nation and state. For this reason, the younger generation must be equipped with state defense education so that Indonesia's young generation becomes a golden generation that has a strong national character.

The role of State Defense is very important in shaping the nation's character because through the implementation of State Defense, a person will learn to love their homeland and nation, be aware of the importance of togetherness, and understand the values contained in Pancasila as the state ideology (Kristiani, R. N. 2022). In its implementation, State Defense covers various aspects such as national defense, security, meeting emergency needs, and strengthening national character. In this case, the strengthening of the nation's character is mainly carried out through the State Defense coaching and training program that targets the younger generation. Through this program, the younger generation can be given understanding and knowledge about the importance of having initial skills in Defending the Country. In its implementation, the Bela Negara program can foster a sense of responsibility, social care, discipline, and a strong sense of leadership in the younger generation. Thus, the role of Defending the State is very important in forming a strong national character and integrity, which will ultimately strengthen the nation and national interests.

The younger generation in Indonesia faces several challenges in understanding and applying the concept of Defending the Country. One of the main challenges is the lack of understanding of the true meaning of State Defense. Many young people do not yet understand in depth the meaning and importance of State Defense in the life of society, nation and state (Armaida, K.A., and Jatningsih, O. 2023). In addition, in this digital and globalization era, many young people are exposed to foreign cultural influences and are too focused on consuming modern products. This causes a lack of awareness of the importance of maintaining national identity and character and neglects the importance of Defending the Country. Most of the younger generation also do not have experience in dealing with crisis or emergency situations, which is required in the concept of Defending the Country. Crisis or emergency situations, such as natural disasters, armed conflicts, or attacks from the enemy, require a willingness to act appropriately and quickly. In addition, Indonesia has a rich and unique cultural diversity, but

many young people do not appreciate and maintain this cultural wealth (Ratri, E. P., and Najicha, F. U. 2022). This can lead to the loss of the nation's noble values which are one of the foundations of the concept of Defending the Country.

To overcome this challenge, the government requires character, moral and State Defense education as compulsory subjects in schools. The role of parents, teachers, friends and the community environment is also important in providing education to children so that they are able to apply the values of Defending the Country in their daily lives. It is important to create social harmony by developing good relationships and interactions with other ethnic groups and developing tolerance (Abubakar, H. M., et al, 2018). That way, the younger generation of Indonesia can understand and apply the concept of Defending the Country properly and become a generation that contributes positively to the nation and state. For this reason, the Realization of State Defense is needed, especially for the younger generation.

The realization of State Defense can assist in the formation of a strong and resilient national character. Through understanding and practicing the concept of Defending the Country, the younger generation can develop an attitude of nationalism, awareness of the nation and state, a sense of responsibility towards the country, and love for the homeland and the Indonesian nation (Widodo, S. 2011). This will form a national character that is strong and has noble character, and is ready to contribute in building and maintaining the integrity of the country.

In addition, through experience and training in crisis or emergency situations related to Defending the Country, the younger generation can develop leadership skills, teamwork, courage, mental resilience, and the ability to face challenges and difficulties. This will also form a strong and resilient national character, capable of facing increasingly complex and diverse global challenges. The relationship between the realization of State Defense and the formation of national character has a close relationship. The concept of Defending the Country has the aim of forming citizens who have awareness and responsibility towards the state and nation, and are ready to protect the sovereignty of the state and the territorial integrity of the state (Manurung, Y. S. et al, 2022). In this process, a strong and independent national character becomes a very important requirement.

National character itself can be interpreted as a whole pattern of behavior, attitudes and noble values that are owned by a group of citizens in carrying out life in society, nation and state (Meilani, E., et al, 2021). National character is a solid foundation in building a sovereign, independent and advanced country. Therefore, the realization of good State Defense can form a strong and quality national character. Through the realization of Defending the Country, one is taught to have awareness and a sense of responsibility towards the state and its people, and to understand the importance of maintaining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. The concept of Defending the Country also trains a person to be disciplined, tough and have a high spirit of patriotism. This can form a national character that is tough, strong, and has a high national spirit. In addition, the realization of Defending the Country also teaches important moral values in shaping the nation's character, such as honesty, togetherness, and mutual respect. This can form a national character that has good ethics and morals in the life of society, nation and state.

In the context of forming national character, the realization of State Defense can also form a critical and independent attitude in a person. A citizen who defends the state will have a critical attitude towards government policies that are considered detrimental to the state and nation, and is ready to take the necessary actions to defend the interests of the state and nation. Thus, the realization of State Defense can form a national character that is independent, critical, and ready to act for the good of the state and nation. Overall, the relationship between the

realization of State Defense and the formation of national character is very close. The concept of Defending the Country has an important role in shaping the character of a nation that is strong, resilient and has a high national spirit. Therefore, the realization of good State Defense needs to be applied consistently and continuously to create quality citizens who have the ability to build a better country.

Factors Influencing the Realization of State Defense

The realization of State Defense is important in forming awareness of the nation and state among the people. However, in the process there are several factors that influence the realization of the State Defense. Some of these factors need to be understood and considered in order to increase awareness and practice of State Defense among the public. These factors include, the role of family factors, the role of schools and the role of government.

The Role of the Family in Forming the Understanding and Values of Defending the Country

Family is the first and closest environment for every individual. In the family, a person first learns about social norms and values that apply in society. Therefore, the role of the family is very important in shaping the understanding and values of Defending the Country among family members. One of the important roles of the family in shaping the understanding and values of Defending the Country is to set examples and concrete examples in everyday life. Families can provide real examples by practicing good social values such as mutual respect, tolerance, and helping each other in everyday life (Taubah, M. 2015). In addition, families can also teach children about the importance of loving the motherland, pride in the nation's culture and history, and the importance of maintaining the sovereignty and integrity of the country. In addition to providing real examples, families can also shape the understanding and values of Defending the Country by providing direct education and teaching. Families can teach children about the history of the nation's struggle, such as important events in the struggle for Indonesian independence and national heroes who have fought to defend the independence and integrity of the country. Thus, children can understand and appreciate the nation's struggle and feel they have a responsibility to defend the Indonesian state. In addition, families can also shape the understanding and values of State Defense by introducing activities that can increase children's sense of social care and responsibility, such as social activities or social service activities. By teaching children to care for others, they will get used to behaving positively and helping others in need.

In forming the understanding and values of Defending the Country, families must also teach children to respect the diversity of cultures, ethnicities and religions that exist in Indonesia. In conditions that are increasingly complex and heterogeneous as they are today, it is important for children to understand that Indonesia is a multicultural country and cultural, ethnic and religious diversity is a wealth that must be maintained and preserved. Therefore, families can teach children about the importance of tolerance, mutual respect, and respect for differences in family life. Families play a very important role in shaping the understanding and values of State Defense in children. By providing real examples, providing education and teaching, and introducing activities that can increase children's sense of care and social responsibility, families can help shape the understanding and values of State Defense in children by means of:

1. Set a good example and role model. Families can set good examples and role models in everyday life, such as respecting others, upholding the values of honesty, justice and equality, and respecting differences. By setting a good example, it will be easier for children to imitate and practice it in their lives.

2. Provide education about history and national values. Families can also provide education about history and national values to children, such as introducing the national anthem, red and white flags, and stories about the struggles of heroes. By knowing history and national values, it will be easier for children to understand the importance of Defending the Country and feel related to their nation.
3. Encouraging participation in social and national activities. Families can also encourage children's participation in social and national activities, such as environmental cleaning activities, visits to historical sites, or religious activities. By involving children in these activities, children will feel more involved and have a sense of social responsibility.
4. Provide direct experience of State Defense activities. Families can provide children with direct experience of State Defense activities, such as inviting children to participate in humanitarian activities or helping victims of natural disasters. By directly experiencing the activities of Defending the Country, children will understand more about the importance of Defending the Country and feel compelled to help others.
5. Teaching religious values related to State Defense. Families can also teach religious values related to State Defense, such as the values of sincerity, cooperation, and helping each other. By teaching religious values related to State Defense, children will understand more about the importance of helping others and feel they have social responsibility as good citizens.

The family plays a very important role in shaping the understanding and values of State Defense in children. By setting good examples and role models, providing education about history and national values, encouraging participation in social and national activities, providing direct experience of State Defense activities, and teaching religious values related to State Defense, the family can help form the understanding and values of State Defense in children.

The Role of Schools in Developing an Attitude of Patriotism and a Sense of Responsibility towards the Nation and State

Schools have an important role in developing an attitude of patriotism and a sense of responsibility towards the nation and state in students (Sastradipura, R. A., et al, 2021). Through the study programs provided, students can be given real understanding and experience about the existence and interests of the state. Here are some things that schools can do to develop an attitude of patriotism and a sense of responsibility towards the nation and state in students:

1. History and Nationality Education. Schools can develop an attitude of patriotism and a sense of responsibility towards the nation and state through history and nationality education programs. In this program, students will study the history of the country, from the pre-independence period to the present, as well as the national values that form the basis of the country. With a good understanding of history and nationality, students will better understand and appreciate the existence and importance of the country.
2. Citizenship Education. Citizenship education is a program intended for students to learn the rights and obligations as citizens. This program will provide a clear understanding of the values that must be upheld by every citizen, such as justice, equality, freedom, and unity. Students will also learn how to actively participate in the life of the nation and state, and how to carry out their responsibilities as citizens.
3. Character Education. Character education is a program that aims to develop good character and students with integrity, such as honesty, discipline, responsibility, and social care. In this program, students will be trained to practice these values in everyday life. Students will also be given an understanding of the importance of contributing to society and the country.

4. Extracurriculars. Schools can provide various types of extracurriculars that are oriented towards forming an attitude of patriotism and a sense of responsibility towards the nation and state. For example, scout activities, marching bands, and social clubs. In these activities, students will be trained to have a spirit of togetherness, caring, and responsibility for the tasks given.
5. Field Experience. Schools can also provide field experiences for students to gain a first-hand understanding of the existence and importance of the state. For example, visits to national monuments and museums, observation of military activities, and participation in community activities aimed at improving the quality of life of society and the country.

So that schools have a very important role in developing an attitude of patriotism and a sense of responsibility towards the nation and state. This happens because the school is one of the formal institutions that have an important role in forming the character and self-identity of students. Specifically, several things that can be concluded regarding the role of schools in developing an attitude of patriotism and a sense of responsibility towards the nation and state are as follows:

1. Schools must provide education about the nation's history and culture that is true and in accordance with facts. This can help students to understand and appreciate the values contained in the nation's history and culture, and avoid misunderstanding.
2. Schools must create an environment that is conducive to developing an attitude of patriotism and a sense of responsibility towards the nation and state. This environment can be formed through activities that promote these values, such as flag ceremonies, social activities, and activities that encourage student participation in national activities.
3. Schools must also help students to understand their rights and obligations as citizens, as well as provide knowledge about the rules and laws that apply in Indonesia. This can help students to develop a sense of responsibility towards the state and nation, and avoid behavior that is detrimental to themselves and their surroundings.
4. Schools can also help students to understand their roles and responsibilities as the younger generation in building and advancing the nation. This can be done through education about self-development and the skills needed to become a strong and competent young generation.

Thus, the role of schools in developing an attitude of patriotism and a sense of responsibility towards the nation and state is very important. This will help students to understand and appreciate the values contained in the nation's history and culture, as well as build a sense of love and responsibility for the country and nation.

The Government's Role in Providing Opportunities and Supporting State Defense Development Efforts

The government's role is very important in providing opportunities and supporting efforts to develop State Defense (Aiba, K., et al, 2019). As an independent country, Indonesia has an obligation to defend its sovereignty and protect its people from various threats both from within and outside the country. Therefore, the government needs to establish programs that can help increase public awareness and understanding of the importance of State Defense. One of the ways in which the government provides opportunities and supports the development of State Defense is by mandating basic State Defense training for all citizens. This training aims to improve readiness and skills in dealing with various threats that may occur. In addition, the government can also form State Defense organizations such as the Student Regiment or community security organizations (linmas) which can assist in maintaining public order and security.

The government also has an important role in creating conducive conditions for the development of State Defense. This can be done through the formation of policies and regulations that strengthen state and community institutions and maintain security and public order. The government can also promote national values and patriotism through programs that can strengthen a sense of patriotism and national identity. In addition, the government can also provide financial and technical support for State Defense development programs carried out by the community or non-governmental organizations. The government can also provide awards or incentives for those who have contributed to increasing public awareness and understanding of the importance of Defending the Country. Overall, the government has a very important role in providing opportunities and supporting efforts to develop State Defense. With good support and programs from the government, it is hoped that the public can better understand the importance of Defending the Country and be better prepared in dealing with various threats that may occur.

CONCLUSION

In order to build a strong national character, it is important for the younger generation to have a high understanding and realization of the concept of Defending the Country. The realization of Defending the Country can form an attitude of patriotism, a sense of love and responsibility for the nation and state, as well as increasing social awareness and the ability to contribute to society. The role of family, school and government is very important in shaping the understanding and values of Defending the Country in the younger generation. The family can provide a strong initial influence through example, teaching, and habituation in everyday life. Schools can provide formal education and practical training related to State Defense, as well as create an environment that supports the development of patriotism and social responsibility. The government can provide support, opportunities and facilities to develop the skills and potential of the younger generation in order to realize the realization of Defending the Country.

With a strong understanding and realization of the concept of Defending the Country, the younger generation can become agents of change who have a sense of love and responsibility for the nation and state. In the long term, this will help build a strong, independent and highly competitive national character at the global level. Therefore, the role of all parties in supporting the realization of State Defense in the younger generation is very important to build a better future for the nation and state.

Based on the results of the previous research and discussion, there are several recommendations for the development of the State Defense program for the younger generation, among others:

1. The State Defense Program must be integrated systematically and structured into the education curriculum at all levels of education, both formal and non-formal, and implemented continuously.
2. The Bela Negara program must be designed in such a way that it can reach all groups, not only in big cities but also in rural and remote areas.
3. The government must increase community participation in the State Defense program by cooperating with community institutions such as youth organizations, social organizations, and religious organizations.
4. The government must provide incentives and awards to individuals or groups who have made a real contribution to efforts to build national character through the State Defense program.
5. The government must provide training and debriefing for teachers and educational staff regarding appropriate and effective State Defense teaching materials and methods.

6. The government must optimize social media and information technology as a means of disseminating information and education about Defending the Country.
7. The State Defense Program must be adapted to the social, cultural and religious conditions of the Indonesian people, so that it is easily accepted and can be implemented properly.
8. The State Defense Program must pay attention to the factors that influence the realization of State Defense, such as social, cultural and environmental factors.
9. The government must continue to strengthen coordination between institutions and sectors in the implementation of the State Defense program, so that this program can run effectively and efficiently.
10. The government must provide clear understanding and information to the public regarding the importance of State Defense as an effort to build a strong national character and create state security and sovereignty.

For further research, there are several suggestions that can be taken: Using a qualitative approach: This study has used a quantitative approach with survey methods as a data collection tool. However, qualitative research can provide a deeper understanding of the factors that influence the realization of State Defense. Involving a wider sample: This study only involved respondents from one city. Future research can expand the sample of respondents from several different cities or regions in Indonesia. Comparing with other countries: Future research can compare the realization of State Defense in the younger generation in Indonesia with other countries to see the differences and similarities in the factors that influence it.

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