

# Character Education Based On Local Wisdom To Deal With The Latest Strategic Issues In The Era Of Digitalization Among Youth

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**Abstract:** An approach to character education based on local wisdom offers a significant and comprehensive solution to the problems currently being faced. In this context, character education plays an important role in forming quality individuals, especially among teenagers who are faced with various complex challenges in the digital era. This research explores the importance of local values in character education as a strategy to strengthen cultural identity, increase creativity, social and moral. As well as facing complex social challenges in the current era of digitalization. Using in-depth interview methods and document analysis, this research concludes that character education that prioritizes local wisdom requires strong support from various parties involved, including teachers, parents, schools and the local community. Collaboration between educational institutions and local communities is considered very important to ensure that local principles remain relevant to today's social and economic demands. From this research it is known that character education based on local wisdom can be an effective tool in preparing the younger generation to face the challenges of the digitalization era well.

**Keywords:** Character education, local wisdom, digital era, teenagers

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## Introduction

Character education has a role in forming individuals who are able to face today's challenges and have a positive impact on society. The development of people's thinking and behavior, especially the younger generation, is greatly influenced by the digital era which is marked by rapid technological change and progress throughout the world. In education, strategic issues such as uncontrolled use of technology, dissemination of low-quality information, and the tendency to be alone can reduce the feeling of caring for others (Syahmidi et al., 2023).

Local wisdom, which is part of the cultural heritage and values passed down from generation to generation, provides valuable perspectives and important principles in shaping one's personality and maintaining a balance between tradition and

technological progress, especially among teenagers. When facing the complexity of social and cultural life resulting from digitalization, local wisdom values are increasingly important in shaping individual personalities. This research aims to determine and analyze character education based on local wisdom as a strategy for overcoming challenges that arise in the digital era, especially among teenagers (Nurfahmi et al., 2023). This must be done considering the lack of interest among teenagers in local wisdom in their area to be developed as culture. The aim of this research is to study and analyze a character education approach based on local wisdom as a strategic effort to overcome problems that arise in the digital era, especially among teenagers. By knowing local values and global challenges, it is hoped that the results of this research can make a major contribution to the development of character

education that is flexible and responsive to changing times (Anshari et al., 2023).

This research will discuss the concept of character education, explain its relationship with local wisdom, and identify several current strategic challenges that need to be overcome through this approach (Hikmah et al., 2022). Apart from that, implementation models can support teachers in integrating character education rooted in local wisdom into formal and non-formal education contexts. And it is hoped that it can present new insights and new ideas in strengthening character values and facing complex challenges in the current digital era. Thus, it is hoped that this research can make a major contribution to the evolution of education that is sustainable and in line with current developments.

### Materials and Methods

This research uses qualitative methods to investigate and evaluate character education based on local wisdom to face strategic challenges in the era of digitalization. The research subjects were 1 teacher, 1 community figure, and 1 education expert. Carried out using observation, interview and documentation techniques. Meanwhile, data analysis techniques include data collection and drawing conclusions/verification. The data validation technique uses data source triangulation. Data source triangulation, this is done to test the validity of the data which is done by checking data obtained through several sources.

### Results and Discussion

This research shows that character education based on local wisdom has great potential for dealing with strategic problems in the digital era. Character education based on local wisdom can help students gain knowledge about their cultural identity and increase the social and moral creativity needed to face challenges in the age of digitalization. Character education based on local wisdom can increase students' awareness of traditional values and local culture around them.

Through the use of stories, legends and local wisdom practices in learning, students are more connected to their cultural heritage and social principles such as cooperation, mutual cooperation and respect for others. Character education is also based on local wisdom to help students acquire social skills to deal with complex social relationships in the era of digitalization. Students learn to cooperate, communicate, and resolve conflict through group discussions, role plays, and collaborative projects.

This type of character education based on local wisdom which can be taken from various traditions and cultures that have long been used in Indonesia can be applied to the millennial generation, such as:

1. Character education is related to local traditional values of the Batak tribe. There is a social and moral principle in Batak culture called *Dalihan na Tolu*, which literally means "pot with three legs". Batak society is likened to a cooking pot, and *Dalihan na Tolu* is considered a "community furnace". According to this local wisdom, harmony between the three legs of the stove is very important: *hula-hula* (sons of the ancestors), *boru* (daughters), and *dongan sabutuha* (all men of one group). In this way, the Batak tribe's cauldron will remain balanced, harmonious, and maintain the fire of solidarity with this stove. Apart from that, Batak people are known as *Pangkulin do situan na denggan*, which means politeness is very important in social life. Therefore, family relationships that respect each other can be formed through the use of language and behavior that always reflects these values in every interaction. This will facilitate the harmonious development of society.
2. Character education related to Sundanese traditions and culture emphasizes certain values. The concept of "*Silih Asih*" in Sundanese society is a form of communication and social interaction that prioritizes love for the Creator and practices it through compassion for fellow humans. *Silih Asih* is a basic principle in the ethical relationship between humans, God and fellow humans in Sundanese culture. *Silih Asih* also symbolizes cooperation to increase

knowledge, skills and wisdom in living together. To achieve mutual control, protection and education, attention to collective and individual interests must be balanced, which is known as "mutual care". Apart from that, the custom of repentance in Sundanese culture strengthens the emotional bonds formed through the process of repentance and mutual love. Local wisdom, traditional traditions and Sundanese culture depend on these values. On the other hand, the characteristic that a leader must have is "Teu adigung kamagungan", a teaching that emphasizes the humble attitude of Sundanese people who are wise and full of wisdom, where parents are in front and children are behind them.

3. Character education related to Javanese culture refers to certain customs. Ki Tyasno Sudarto conveyed the philosophical basis of character called Tri Rahayu, which means three welfare, which are values passed down from generation to generation and become a guide in people's lives, including in terms of Mamayu hayuning salira (a way of life to improve one's quality), Mamayu hayuning nation (how to contribute to the state and nation), and Mamayu hayuning Bawana (how to interact well in international relations to improve mutual prosperity). Javanese society often uses implied metaphors, such as "Ngonon ya ngonon, ning aja ngonon" (That's how it is, but don't overdo it), as a warning to individuals not to cheat, talk, or act excessively because the consequences of their actions may not be as good as they think expect.
4. Character education related to Madurese traditions highlights the values reflected in regional songs. One example is the concept of "caca aghuna", which is an advice to always be careful in words and actions. This concept emphasizes that a person can be respected or insulted based on his behavior and speech. As expressed in the saying, the result of what we do is what we will reap.
5. Character education related to the local wisdom of the Bugis community is based on cultural traditions that are rich in knowledge regarding character values, which are passed down through advice from ancestors recorded in

written and oral form. For example, there is the saying "Ade'e temmakke anak, temmakke appo" which emphasizes that tradition does not differentiate between children and grandchildren. In carrying out applicable social norms, a person is not allowed to choose based on love or nepotism; if they violate, they will be punished. The success of the Bugis people in the environment where they live is reflected in their ability to interact and position themselves, which is demonstrated through the ability to communicate with principles such as sipakatau (mutual respect), sipammesei (loving), sias-seajingeng (kinship), lempu' (honesty) , got (fortitude), warani (courage), and sipakatau (mutual respect). The personality of the Bugis people is shaped by this principle of communication, which is always in accordance with their actions and words, so it is known as the saying "Taro ada taro gau" (what is said, is done).

However, this study also identified several problems that arise in implementing character education that is rooted in local wisdom. Aligning traditional values with the demands of modernization and globalization is a challenge faced. There is the potential that certain local values may conflict with universal principles held by modern society. Therefore, the learning approach must be carried out carefully and in an integrated manner. As previously explained, the importance of gaining support from various stakeholders to advance character education based on local wisdom has been highlighted, along with collaboration between educational institutions and local communities.

In the scope of formal and non-formal education, local wisdom must be applied by generations or students. This is done so that generations can identify their respective local wisdom, social status and self-concept. Thus, if character education based on local wisdom is applied to formal and non-formal education, it will be difficult for the younger generation to keep up with developments in globalization. Apart from that, implementation must be carried out by interacting with the community and informing the community that character education based on local wisdom is very important to produce a superior,

independent, capable, creative and innovative generation. By understanding character education based on local wisdom, the younger generation can take advantage of Indonesian culture to preserve it by using technology so that Indonesian culture is maintained and the younger generation upholds a sense of nationalism. According to Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 20 of 2003, education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning environment and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have spiritual, social and religious strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, morals, noble, and skills that are very necessary for society, nation and state.

The role of teachers is very significant in forming students and helping them understand and implement local wisdom values. By using an innovative and inclusive approach, teachers can help students better understand and internalize local wisdom principles. Apart from that, the role of parents also has a big meaning in cultivating character that is rooted in local wisdom. By involving parents in school activities such as family seminars or thematic discussions, schools can expand their influence on students' families because parents have an important role as the main socialization agents for their children.

In addition, the school's task is to create an environment that supports the formation of student character. This can be done by implementing school policies that focus on character education, providing relevant resources, and providing training to teachers. These schools can be an effective platform for raising public awareness and integrating these values into learning activities. Finally, it is important for local communities and educational institutions to work together to ensure that local values meet current social and economic needs. If these steps are carried out well, students will become a generation of people who are committed to preserving their local cultural heritage.

Educational institutions can ensure that the educational programs they offer are appropriate to local culture and play a role in promoting local community and economic growth through collaboration with non-governmental

organizations, community leaders and local industry representatives. Collaboration between educational institutions and local communities can also facilitate the development of innovative and sustainable character education programs. Students can engage in practical activities through joint projects between the school and the local community, allowing them to apply local values in contexts relevant to the needs of the local area.

Therefore, education that focuses on local character requires collaboration between educational institutions and local communities, as well as support from various parties involved. Character education can be a strong foundation in preparing the younger generation to face future challenges and build progress for society and the country through close collaboration and steadfast commitment from all parties involved. This can provide a better understanding of the importance of collaboration between educational institutions and local communities.

By integrating character education rooted in local wisdom among teenagers, the goals and aspirations of the Indonesian nation can be realized. The younger generation must respect and follow local Indonesian wisdom as a guide for their future. By strengthening local cultural values and character, the younger generation can become individuals who have a global outlook but still reflect Indonesia's cultural identity. For example, Aysa Aurealya and Anggina Rafitri from SMAN 2 Palangkaraya are examples of the young generation who have succeeded in spreading local Indonesian wisdom at the international level by winning world championships in discovering cancer drugs using natural ingredients from the forests of Central Kalimantan called Bajakah. They received the "Pancasila Appreciation" award from the Pancasila Ideology Development Agency. The two female students wore traditional Dayak clothing at the event to display the culture and identity of the Dayak tribe, which also reflects Indonesian identity. Their success has inspired Indonesia's young generation to realize that achievement knows no age limits. Therefore, the millennial generation must continue to enrich their knowledge about the values and characteristics of Indonesian culture and realize that character

education rooted in local wisdom is very important to face the challenges of globalization.

Thus, the findings from this research show that character education based on local wisdom has a great opportunity to overcome strategic challenges in the era of digitalization by instilling local wisdom values from school education, especially among teenagers. However, to carry out and realize this program, strong commitment and cooperation is needed from all parties involved.

### Conclusions

This research provides an understanding of the importance of character education based on local wisdom as a strategic solution to the challenges faced in the current technological era. A character education approach that combines traditional values and local culture allows students to gain deeper knowledge about their identity and improve the social and moral skills needed to face the complexities of changing times. Research findings also show that character education based on local wisdom can increase students' awareness of their cultural heritage, strengthen their identity, and enrich their learning experience. This research found several challenges in implementing character education that is rooted in local wisdom. One of them is looking for ways to integrate tradition with the demands of modernization and globalization. However, with strong commitment and collaboration from all parties involved, these challenges can be overcome, and character education based on local wisdom can become a solid foundation in preparing the next generation. With character education based on local wisdom, Indonesian people can utilize it both in formal and non-formal education contexts.

Thus, character education rooted in local wisdom has great potential to form quality individuals, who are able to have a positive impact on society and overcome the challenges of the modern digital era. This can be achieved through sustainable implementation and strong collaboration between local communities and educational institutions. This approach can be an effective strategy for building a better future for all.

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