

# Character Education In An Effort to Build Ethics and Morals on Campus

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## Abstract

The campus environment is one of the facilities and media that is quite strategic in building and also developing character education for students, so that students will have ethical values, academic morals and also compliance with applicable rules or norms. With such conditions of the campus community, it is not impossible to achieve comfort, order and peace in the social order of society. The role of the campus is needed in terms of the application of character education combined with academic education in order to produce graduates who meet the quality and meet expectations. Regarding things that can be developed in character education is by applying character education in one course or each course, and by internalizing character values in lectures. This research was conducted to determine the role of character education in an effort to build ethical and academic moral students in the campus environment. And the purpose of this research is to provide concepts and strategies about the development of character education in higher education institutions and is expected to provide benefits to academic implementers in designing character education for students.

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## 1. Introduction

The Indonesian state is currently experiencing a character crisis as a result of the rampant information of the outside world that enters the inside without getting a filter first. This condition causes people to forget the original character of the Indonesian nation which is friendly, honest, tolerant and polite. The number of clashes that have occurred recently in the community shows the tension and absence of mutual tolerance among the community. Minority communities often experience acts of violence from the majority group. It does not stop there, the diversity of this nation is no longer a unifier and even a reason for a group of people to attack other parties. (Iwan Irawan: 2013)

Conditions like this ask for awareness from the community to return to the character of this nation which is summarized in Bhinneka Tunggal Ika and Pancasila. Today's society has forgotten the foundation of our country so much that it has lost its direction and in the end acts in violation of existing rules. This situation should not be allowed to drag on causing a lot of chaos.

Campus as one part of the community group in the country because in it there are various kinds of people's characters, both good and bad characters. This unkind character often causes disputes among community members. So it should be a means for students to build character. Because with character, humans will be able to do good and provide the best for the surrounding community. Although it is not easy, building character is very important and is expected to succeed in the future. After all, our young generation is a reflection of the character of the Indonesian nation. (Iwan Irawan: 2013).

Lecturers have an important role in growing student character. The process of character development occurs throughout human life. Lecturers with character will be role models for students so that they have good morals. The most important thing that lecturers must have before educating students is personal character that is in accordance with their main duties as lecturers. Behind this, we find many graduates from universities do not necessarily have superior character and morals. With intellectual intelligence, students are expected to be able to develop logical thinking and have emotional skills that include self-control, enthusiasm and the ability to motivate themselves (Hany Pratiwi ; 2021)

We are quite concerned to see the moral condition of students and students today when compared to a few years ago. In the past, we really respected teachers and lecturers, for small examples, we saw that teachers or lecturers already felt reluctant, we bowed our bodies when walking in front of lecturers, but today's children just pass by without the slightest ado.

According to Law No. 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System in Article 3, states that national education functions to develop abilities and shape the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to educate the nation's life. These abilities include aspects of hard skills and soft skills. Research conducted at Harvard University in the United States (Muslich, 2011: 84) the research shows that a person's level of success is not determined solely by knowledge and technical abilities (hard skills) alone, but more by the ability to manage themselves and others (soft skills). The research revealed that success is only determined by about 20

percent by hard skills and the remaining 80 percent by soft skills. (Eko Rubiyanto, 2019)

Therefore character education must be built and planned systematically and sustainably through various strategies. One strategy to build the nation's character is through education and higher education institutions, through planning educational systems and mechanisms that have accountability in accordance with current human civilization and future needs.

Strategies that universities can use in forming students who have academic character through education that integrates education in learning inside and outside the classroom balanced by creating a conducive academic atmosphere. Based on the background above, the problem in this study is to know how the role of character education in efforts to build ethical and academic moral students in the Malang State Polytechnic campus environment.

## 2. Literature Review

Understanding education in general can be interpreted as a conscious effort made by individuals, groups, institutions in order to instill knowledge (cognitive), instill values or attitudes (affective), and train skills (psychomotor) to students to prepare for a better / advanced future. Character as quoted from Gede Raka, Professor from ITB is 'distinctive trait, distinctive quality, moral strength, the pattern of behavior found in an individual or group' (Ana Irhandayaningtyas;2013)

Education is one of the efforts aimed at human resource development. As an effort to build human resources, education needs to achieve a goal. The achievement of a goal is marked by the success of education in shaping human intellectual intelligence and social intelligence. Education has a function that has been contained in Law No. 20 of 2003 concerning the national education system. (Diyan Meilina;2021)

Education as a vehicle to humanize humans is bound by two important missions, namely homonization and humanization. As a homonization process, education has an interest in positioning humans as creatures that have compatibility with their ecological habitat. Humans are directed to be able to meet their biological needs such as eating, drinking, clothing, and housing. In this process, education is required to be able to direct humans to the ways of selecting and sorting values in accordance with human biological nature. (Hany Pratiwi ; 2021)

The task or mission of education can be directed at the human being who is educated or to the community of the nation where he lives. For himself, education serves to prepare him to become a whole person, so that he can fulfill his life duties well and can live reasonably as a human being.

The function of education for society has at least two major parts, namely the preserverative function and the directive function. The preserverative function is carried out by preserving the existing social order and values in society, while the directive function is carried out by education as an agent of social renewal, so as to anticipate the future. In addition, education has the function of (1) preparing as human beings, (2) preparing the workforce and (3) preparing good citizens. (Dwi Siswoyo : 2013)

The development and development of character education is a necessity to ensure the future of a dignified and self-identified nation. The future of the nation is still haunted by uncertain and challenging situations and conditions, but future conditions are the result of internalization of the past and present.

Therefore, character education must be built and planned systematically and sustainably through various strategies in order to prepare this nation to face a challenging future from globalization. One strategy to build the nation's character is through education, and higher education institutions as one of the educational institutions have a very important role in the development of character education through planning educational systems and mechanisms that have accountability in accordance with current human civilization and future needs. (Ahmad Izul: 2016)

The college is one of the scientific institutions that organizes academic educational programs in a number of disciplines, diverse study programs. The teaching process is not only carried out through the transfer of knowledge, but also prepares students to become members of society who have academic and professional abilities in their fields, besides that teaching is also carried out to form moral and virtuous humans. The hope is that as students not only master science but with good morals, students will also have good character. (Hany Pratiwi; 2021)

The word character comes from the Greek "to mark" which means to mark and focus on how to apply the value of kindness in the form of actions or behaviors. The word education comes from the Latin "Pedagogy", which is from the word "paid" means child and "agogos" means to guide. So, the term pedagogy can be interpreted as "the science and art of teaching children. Therefore, someone who has fraud, dishonest or greedy behavior is said to be a person of bad character and vice versa. So the term character is closely related to a person's personality. A person will be said to have character if his behavior is in accordance with moral rules. (Zubaidi;2012)

According to Tadkiroatun Musfiroh, character refers to a series of attitudes, behaviors, motivations, and skills. Based on the discussion above, it can be affirmed that character education is efforts designed and implemented systematically to help students understand the values of human behavior related to God Almighty,

oneself, fellow humans, the environment, and nationality which are manifested in thoughts, attitudes, feelings, words, and deeds based on religious norms, laws, manners, culture, and customs. (Ana Irhandyaningtyas;2013) Character refers to a set of attitudes, behaviors, motivations and skills. Student character can be developed and grow slowly through the educational process (Berkowitz, 2002).

Educational institutions are places where the educational process is carried out, have a complex and dynamic system. The implementation of its activities is not just a gathering place for educators with students, but in a complex and interrelated system. Therefore, educational institutions are seen as an organization that requires mature, professional and comprehensive management. Graduates of educational institutions with character are expected to contribute to the development of the nation and society. Educational institutions are expected to improve the quality of human resources with character, social status, competitiveness, quality and character. The formation of graduates with character is not an easy and fast effort so it requires concision, hard work, intelligence, evaluation and reflection of various elements of education. (Eko Rubiyanto)

The word "ethics" comes from the word "ethos", which in Greek means the appearance of a habit. In this case, the perspective of the object is human actions, attitudes, or actions. (<https://www.gramedia>). Understanding ethics is distinguished:

- a. In particular, it is the science of the attitudes and decency of an individual in his social environment which is thick with rules and principles related to behavior that is considered right.
- b. In general, it is a rule, norm, rule, or ordinance that is commonly used as a guideline or principle for an individual in carrying out actions and behavior.

Meanwhile, according to Aristotle, a Greek philosopher and student of Plato, he argued by dividing ethics into 2 understandings, namely terminus technicus is ethics as a science that studies behavioral problems or individual (human) actions, while manner custom is the study of ethics related to procedures and customs inherent in individuals, and related to good and bad behavior, the act, or behavior of the individual. While the benefits of ethics are the self-control of individuals, which can facilitate the fulfillment of the interests of social groups.

The term moral, which we have heard quite often in our lives, has the meaning of teaching about good life practices based on a certain view of life or religion. Morals as the conduct of human life, which is based on the awareness, that he is bound by the necessity to achieve good, in accordance with the values and norms prevailing in its environment.

If we look at the origin of the word "moral" which is Latin, namely Morality has the meaning of the term human refers to humans or other people in actions that have positive values. A human being who has no morals is called immoral, meaning that he is immoral and has no positive value in the eyes of other humans. So that morals are absolute things that must be owned by humans. (<https://an-nur.ac.id/>)

Explicitly, morals are things related to the socialization process of individuals without morals humans cannot carry out the socialization process. In the present

has implicit value because many people have morals or immoral attitudes from a narrow point of view. Morals are basic traits taught in education and man must have morals if he wants to be respected by others. Morals are the actions / behaviors / words of a person in interacting with humans. If what a person does is in accordance with the taste values prevailing in the community and is acceptable and pleasing to the community, then that person is considered to have good morals, and vice versa. (<https://an-nur.ac.id/>)

The level of civilization in a society usually has no direct relationship with morality, because morals are something very religious and individual, although they cannot be separated from social, cultural, economic, and political backgrounds.

The statement that we may have heard that "our academics are immoral", we must disagree, because there are also our academics who are moral. However, if it is said more specifically that "fake diplomas, theses, theses, dissertations, and fake degrees are immoral", then people generally agree very much. Except for unscrupulous people, they will agree that it is the one who gets all the "falseness". Actually, moral issues are very biased, but if they are placed in a religious perspective, then everything becomes very clear. There is a saying, "the water of the roof falls into the sewage too". In fact, there are no unemployed scholars, unless taught by lecturers who are "unemployed" aka not creative, unintelligent, or part-time professions. Therefore, the problem of upholding academic morals is very crucial and dilemmatic, and cannot be seen from the campus scope only, but also outside the campus scope.

For example, moral issues in the academic sphere include how educational institutions are managed; How the academic community participates in upholding moral integrity, and how related stakeholders such as society and government (rulers) participate in it. (<http://sastra-indonesia.com/2013/07/>)

Regarding some of the goals and functions of morals including:

- a. To ensure the realization of one's personal dignity and dignity and humanity.
- b. To motivate people to behave and act with kindness and virtue based on moral awareness of duty.
- c. To maintain the harmony of social relations between people, because morals are the basis of trust in others.
- d. Morals can provide insight into the future to humans, both social sanctions and consequences in life so that

- humans will be full of consideration before acting.
- e. Morals in humans can also provide a foundation for patience in persevering in every instinctive impulse and desire / lust that threatens personal dignity and dignity.

### 3. Discussion

The meaning of education according to the Law on Higher Education is as a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process in which there are cognitive, affective and psychomotor aspects, so that students actively develop their potential to have religious spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and skills needed for themselves, society, nation and state.

To achieve national goals, not only cognitive aspects are necessary but there must also be balance and conformity with affective aspects and psychomotor aspects. Which will later produce human resources who are smart, intelligent and have behavior in accordance with religious norms, Pancasila values and social values of the Indonesian nation.

The achievement of three domains of education in higher education, starting with the planning and formulation of a curriculum that integrates character education through courses, which is balanced with the creation of a conducive academic atmosphere in the classroom and outside.

Law of The Republic of Indonesia number 20 of 2023 concerning the National Education System, it is specifically stated that character education has three main functions, namely:

- a. Formation and development of potential

Character education has a function to shape and develop the potential of humans or Indonesian citizens to think well, have a good heart, and behave well in accordance with the Pancasila philosophy of life. As we know in higher education institutions, this is implemented by various student activities that are accommodated in the Student Activity Unit. And each field is supported by teachers who have competencies according to the existing fields.

- b. Improvement and Reinforcement

To improve the character of Indonesian citizens to be better and strengthen the role of family, community, and government to always actively participate and also take responsibility in developing the potential of their citizens towards a nation with character, progress, independence and also prosperity. On campus is only an improvement and strengthening of the character of individuals who have been formed from the family.

- c. Filter

To select and sort out the cultural values of the Indonesian people themselves and also filter foreign cultural values that enter Indonesia. It means that with character education, students will be able to understand what things can and cannot be done. With this understanding, students will be able to decide the best path or step that will be taken in connection with assignments or associations on campus, both with friends or lecturers and all members of the surrounding community.

The development of character education is carried out continuously from elementary school to tertiary level, both formal, non-formal and informal types of education. Higher education is one of the right vehicles and media to foster, build and develop in order to be able to integrate positive and noble character values in the learning process through the creation of a conducive academic atmosphere.

The formation of student character that is ethical and academic, as an act of understanding, prevention and awareness building to reduce violence, fights, disciplinary actions, plagiarism of scientific papers or plagiarism, expecting and even demanding high learning outcomes but not accompanied by diligent learning behavior is still widely encountered in student life in universities.

Higher education is a learning agent that produces cadres and successors of the nation, required to be able to grow and develop the values adopted by the Indonesian nation that uphold religious values, Pancasila and social values that apply in the lives of Indonesian people. (Achmad Izzul Ito; 2016)

Higher education has a big role to produce a generation of the nation that upholds positive values accepted by the general public and does not conflict with the norms, rules and laws that apply in Indonesia. Character values that are urgent to be developed in students are self-confidence, creativity and critical thinking, social ethics that uphold ethics and morals as well as disciplined attitudes and behaviors in carrying out complete routine obligations and tasks as students. The cultivation and habituation of good character values is expected to be able to form an ethical and moral student identity according to the values contained in the ideology of Pancasila, religious norms and academic values developed in campus life.

Extra-curricular activities from students, which are usually carried out outside the classroom using an open mixed system between lectures and off-campus education, are one of the integration processes of character education. For example, student activity units by bringing experts from outside the campus or it could also be by visiting other state institutions.

Regarding the reference in measuring student success is the fulfillment of achievements in learning in each

course or cluster of courses that integrate character education. With the evaluation of student learning success, it will help lecturers or lecturers in determining the level of achievement of student learning outcomes. The key to the success of character education is in the education unit in the form of examples from educators and education personnel (Character Education Development Policy: 2010). Exemplary nature is not only by providing examples in behavior, but also must be used as motivation and encouragement for students to have academic character. So that role models in campus life and a conducive atmosphere determine the success

In the context of students where they have become mature individuals, character is like self-identity. Berkowitz (2002: 53) argues : identity is the individual's self-constructed sense of self. Recent interest has turned to the concept of moral identity, the centrality of being good to one's self-concept, because of its appearance in studies of living and hypothetical moral exemplars. Adolescence is a critical time for the formation of a sense of self, an identity. Therefore, it is likely that the formation of a sense of oneself as a moral agent develops at the same time.

The role of lecturers is to educate, teach, train, guide and evaluate educational activities. The role of academic supervisors in building student character is an effort to build and change the paradigm of student thinking to become more mature humans (Partawibawa, 2014). Seeing the immoral phenomenon that occurs a lot among adolescents also raises concerns in the world of education. Although not the only driving factor in shaping student character, lecturers have a significant role in shaping student character and supervising student behavior patterns in daily life in the campus environment. The role of lecturers in cultivating student character needs to get support from the campus environment, community and government. The successful implementation of character education in higher education is influenced by several aspects including campus culture and interpersonal practices that ensure that students are treated with attention and respect, lecturers and staff in the campus environment become good character models for students, live values in daily interactions with students,

Provide opportunities for students to have autonomy and influence in higher education management, such as providing a forum to accommodate student aspirations, providing opportunities for students to reflect, debate or collaborate to find solutions to moral issues, Sharing vision and sense of collectivity and responsibility; Social skill training which means the campus provides training for students to be able to make long-term adjustments by strengthening interpersonal problem solving skills (Berkowitz, 2002).

Referring to the theory of moral development from Jean Piaget (Muchson and Samsuri, 2013) students who have been categorized as adults already have critical abilities and have awareness of the rules made by the community environment. Students are considered able to distinguish good and bad deeds and always develop positive behavior. Students who have good character and morals are able to face global challenges and solve problems personally.

#### 4. Conclusion

Higher education institutions are one of the places where the learning system takes place in Indonesia which has an important role in efforts to build the character of students who have good ethics and morals. The moral and character identification of students can be seen from academic and non-academic aspects. Non-academic attitudes are seen from how students' daily behavior patterns and national insights. While academic attitude can be seen from scientific attitude and academic honesty. The role of lecturers and the academic community is needed in efforts to build the nation's character.

Lecturers as educators are required to be able to set an example in behaving and also acting in an academic atmosphere, so that it will be a motivation for students in the formation of personal students who have ethics and morals in a planned manner. Exemplary nature is not only by providing examples in behavior, but also must be used as motivation and encouragement for students to have academic character. So that role models in campus life and a conducive atmosphere determine the success of character education.

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