

# Local Wisdom-Based Education as Character Development Through Social Studies Education (IPS)

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## ABSTRACT

Local wisdom is one of the systems that regulate human behavior within a society. The decline of values in the era of globalization is partly due to the abandonment of local wisdom. Education is not only about teaching and providing an understanding of learning materials but also plays a role in shaping attitudes to preserve regional culture. The preservation of local wisdom needs to be implemented so that students develop an awareness of understanding and appreciating their own culture while internalizing positive values as a result of applying local wisdom principles. Through Social Studies Education (IPS) that integrates daily life with local wisdom, it is expected that character values will be instilled as an outcome of the learning process. The method used in this study is a qualitative approach, with data collected through literature studies, including journals, books, and other relevant library sources. Data collection is based on various scientific references related to the concept of local wisdom and Social Studies Education.

**Keywords:** *Local wisdom; character; education; Social Studies (IPS).*

## INTRODUCTION

Local wisdom is a form of local culture in a particular region that is considered wise by the surrounding community. Local wisdom can take the form of ideas or activities that encompass ways of interacting with fellow humans, humans with the environment, and humans with belief systems. This means that local wisdom functions as a stabilizing factor for social order and as a control mechanism over various human activities. Local wisdom serves as a filter to maintain balance across various aspects of community life. It consists of values based on social, cultural, and religious aspects that are upheld and continuously practiced by the local community.

It is essential for students to develop and strengthen character education based on local wisdom to recognize and understand the uniqueness of their respective regions. By reinforcing local wisdom, historical and cultural values embedded within it will contribute to shaping students' character. Students who have a deep understanding of local wisdom will develop a respectful attitude towards culture and cultivate wise thinking. Through education, efforts can be made to preserve and foster the growth of local wisdom within society.

In the 2013 curriculum, local wisdom has been established as a core subject. Social Studies (IPS) is one of the subjects that can integrate local wisdom into its curriculum,

making it an essential component in shaping students' social intelligence. Learning resources in Social Studies can be derived from books, direct reflections on daily life, observations of local community behaviors, as well as local wisdom and cultural practices. Through Social Studies education, the application of local wisdom values aims to instil a sense of empathy towards others and expand knowledge about national culture (Hasanah, 2017; Mutiani, 2018).

## **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

The research method used in this article employs a qualitative approach. This means that the necessary data is collected through a literature study, including books, journals, and other relevant library sources. Data collection is derived from various scientific references related to the concepts of local wisdom, values, character education, and Social Studies (IPS) education.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Local Wisdom**

Local wisdom is a set of rules within a way of life that is continuously practiced and passed down from one generation to the next in the form of beliefs, culture, and customs within the social system of a community (Chaiphar, 2013: 17). Local wisdom can be classified as a national identity, especially in Indonesia, which is rich in diverse cultures. This diversity allows local wisdom to play a role in intercultural interactions, ultimately forming national cultural values. In Indonesia, local wisdom represents a history and worldview that shape various aspects of life, including social and economic values, health, architecture, environmental management, and more (Romadi and Ganda Febri K., 2017: 84). Another perspective defines local wisdom as the intellectual effort of humans in taking action and responding to specific objects or events within a particular context. Local wisdom also serves as a legacy of life teachings passed down by tribal leaders to future generations. This legacy is conveyed

and taught through various forms of cultural works (Koestoro in Rahayu, 2017).

### **Character Development**

According to the 2010 National Character Development Policy, character is a distinctive set of values that guide individuals toward goodness. A person with strong character understands what is good, knows how to act accordingly, leads a good life, and positively influences their surroundings. Character is coherently reflected in a person's mindset, body, heart, emotions, and will, both individually and collectively.

Character is a distinctive trait of an individual, encompassing moral values, abilities, and sincerity in facing challenges and difficulties. Various character values based on national culture include: Religious values, Tolerance, Discipline, Democracy, Hard work, Independence, Curiosity, Honesty, Creativity, Patriotism, Appreciation of achievements, National spirit, Love for peace, Love for reading, Communication skills, Social awareness, Responsibility, Environmental awareness.

Good character can be acquired and developed through education, as education is one of the main factors in shaping a person's character. In character development, the role of education is crucial. As stated by the Ministry of National Education in 2010, within the framework of developing cultural and national character education, education is expected to enhance the quality and capacity of younger generations in various fields. It also serves as a means to minimize factors contributing to national and cultural character issues.

### ***Local Wisdom-Based Education as Character Development Through Social Studies Education***

Education based on local wisdom is necessary to provide students with the knowledge needed to face various problems with appropriate solutions. Suwito, in

Wagiran (2012), argues that the foundation of local wisdom education includes:

- 1) Education must be based on truth and noble character while avoiding erroneous ways of thinking.
- 2) Building educated individuals must be founded on recognizing human existence from the womb.
- 3) In addition to developing cognitive and psychomotor domains, education must also develop the affective domain, including moral and spiritual aspects.
- 4) Education should effectively cultivate cultural and tourism-related strengths within character-based education.

Culture-based education can serve as an intermediary tool for preserving the potential of each region. Therefore, local wisdom must be developed based on the available regional potential (Wagiran, 2012: 333-334). Local wisdom-based education aims to shape students who can apply local wisdom values in their daily lives (Sriartha, 2017; Uge, 2019).

With the ongoing development of globalization and modernization, the decline in appreciation for local culture is inevitable. This results in the marginalization of local culture—an essential part of ancestral heritage—by foreign cultures. Currently, many people are unfamiliar with their own regional culture. Society tends to favor foreign cultural products and lifestyles derived from Westernization over their local traditions. The widespread use of foreign languages, both in print and digital media, is also a factor contributing to the decline of appreciation for local cultural values. Language is a crucial cultural tool used to deliver character education. Modernization has gradually replaced local culture with Western influences, causing local traditions to fade.

In reality, local culture should be preserved to strengthen character as long as it does not contradict moral norms. If properly managed, local culture can compete with foreign influences; however, a lack of awareness about cultural diversity has led to

its decline. Therefore, students must be taught and instilled with nationalistic values to foster appreciation for local culture. Efforts to nurture and enhance students' awareness and love for local wisdom must be made. One way to achieve this in schools is by integrating local wisdom values into the learning process.

Local wisdom-based social studies education demonstrates the following socio-cultural phenomena:

Social studies education should incorporate local wisdom's socio-cultural values contextually in the curriculum. This is essential because the original and logical perspectives on various societal phenomena are deteriorating. Examples include declining morality, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, and the misuse of authority and power. Additionally, weak solidarity and increasing individualistic attitudes contribute to social issues such as student brawls, corruption, poverty, and other social deviations. Thus, local wisdom-based social studies education will be effective when it focuses on character development aligned with Pancasila values.

The lack of education on moral values in social studies learning must be addressed immediately through local wisdom-based social studies education. This effort aims to build character and integrity, enabling students to overcome socio-cultural problems leading to criminal behavior often seen in schools, such as student fights.

The learning process in social studies education and its curriculum should continuously develop and incorporate local wisdom values to enhance educational quality. Such development aims to achieve progress in society through social studies education. Expanding local wisdom values and adapting to socio-cultural changes are fundamental sources for social studies education. The curriculum and learning process based on local wisdom will be effective if they successfully strengthen and improve learning quality in social studies education.

Social studies education can contribute to students' knowledge and skills, allowing them to uphold the existence of local wisdom through the learning materials. Social studies play a role in shaping citizens with good character, strong mental attitudes, and exemplary morals.

Through social studies learning, applying local wisdom values is an effort to instill care for others and broaden students' understanding of local and national culture (Hasanah, 2017; Mutiani, 2018).

## CONCLUSION

Local wisdom is an idea or activity that is believed and practiced wisely and passed down through generations. The importance of character education based on local wisdom through social studies education is to create future generations with exemplary moral values. In the current era of globalization, the urgency of character education is essential, as moral values are experiencing a decline, leading to various social issues. It is hoped that local wisdom-based education will not only help recognize and preserve local culture but also improve moral deterioration.

### *Declaration by Authors*

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