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The Urgency and Strategic Role of Students as Agents of National Identity Transformation in the Society 5.0 Era: The Concept of Patriotic Digital Collaboration

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Abstract

The era of Society 5.0, which integrates the physical and digital worlds, has given rise to new challenges to Indonesia's national identity. The rise of hoaxes, social polarization, and the erosion of Pancasila values among the younger generation are indications of an identity crisis that requires a swift and strategic response. This scientific article aims to analyze the urgency of the role of students and to propose a model for patriotic digital collaboration in maintaining national identity. Using a literature study method and a thematic synthesis analysis approach, this scientific article was compiled by reviewing various relevant primary and secondary sources. Data analysis was carried out using reduction, presentation, and conclusion drawing techniques. The results of the study in this scientific article indicate that students have a strategic position as a link between the digital world and national values. The results of the research through this scientific article are a proposed idea in the form of "Digital-Patriotic Collaboration" which consists of five main pillars, namely: Critical Digital Literacy, Creators of Cultural Content and Values, Digital Social Activists, Guardians of Digital Ethics and Morals; and Public Policy Innovators. These five pillars demonstrate that students are not only required to be technologically proficient but also to become " Cultural Digital Intermediaries " who actively translate Pancasila values into relevant and contemporary digital forms. Thus, students' role is not merely defensive (fighting hoaxes) but also proactive (building a digital national identity).

Keywords: Students, National Identity, Society 5.0, Patriotic Digital Collaboration

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INTRODUCTION

The rapid digital transformation has given birth to a new era that experts call *Society 5.0*. This concept was first introduced by the Japanese government in 2016 as a correction to the technocentric approach of the Industrial Revolution 4.0. Society 5.0 defines a human-centered society, where digital technologies such as *the Internet of Things* (IoT), artificial intelligence (*AI)*, and *Big Data* are optimally utilized to solve social problems (Novitasari & Fauziddin, 2022). In its development in Indonesia, *Society 5.0* has opened up opportunities for unlimited access to information, education, and the creative economy, but on the other hand, *Society 5.0* also has the potential to present a serious threat to the existence of Indonesia's national identity (Heryani et al., 2022).

National identity, in this case the National Identity of the Indonesian Nation is the Concept of Indonesian National Identity which is based on several things that are used as markers of the Indonesian nation, namely: Pancasila, Indonesian Language, the Red and White Flag, the National Anthem Indonesia Raya, Garuda Pancasila, and the noble values of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika (Ebyatiswara Putra et al., 2023). However, the massive flow of digital globalization has triggered an identity crisis among the younger generation (Megasari et al. 2025).

Based on data from observations and studies by the Ministry of Communication and Informatics (Firman et al., 2024), more than 2,000 pieces of hoax content circulate in the digital space each month. This hoax content is not only informative but also a catalyst for social polarization, hate speech, and digital radicalization. Furthermore, a survey by the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN, 2022) even showed that public trust in national narratives declined drastically along with increased social media usage (Subarjo 2018).

This phenomenon is exacerbated by the massive influx of foreign culture through platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube (Nasionalita & Nugroho, 2020) . The hedonistic, individualistic, and consumerist lifestyles promoted by social media algorithms are slowly displacing local values such as mutual cooperation, good manners, and deliberation. Ironically, amidst this identity emergency, students, historically known as agents of social change, are often trapped in passive digital activities, such as *online shopping, gaming,* and unfiltered consumption of entertainment content (Suherman et al. 2023). This creates a gap between students' historical potential and their contemporary reality (Hastini et al., 2020). Based on the background that has been described in the previous introductory section, the problems proposed to be answered in this Scientific Article (Research) are: How urgent is the role of students in maintaining and preserving national identity in *the Society 5.0 Era*?. What is the concrete role of students as agents of national identity transformation based on the idea of patriotic digital collaboration?

RESEARCH METHODS

This scientific article was compiled using a qualitative approach with a library research method *(*Yusuf et al., 2022) . This approach was chosen because the research objective was to explore, analyze, and synthesize various theoretical concepts and empirical data from relevant literature in depth and systematically (Ummah, 2019)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Basic Concepts of the Society 5.0 Era: Challenges and Opportunities

The Society 5.0 era is an evolution of the Industrial Revolution 4.0. While the Industrial Revolution 4.0 emphasized efficiency and automation, the Society 5.0 era places greater emphasis on the balance between economic development and social welfare. Key technologies used in this era include *IoT, AI,* and *Big Data,* which are integrated into everyday life (Amin & Iskandar, 2024).

The main characteristics of *the Society 5.0 era* include: first: Data -*Driven Society* : that every activity is recorded and can be analyzed (Boonlab and Pasitpakakul 2023); Second, Digital Physical Convergence: namely the real world and the virtual world

are connected in *real time*(Pratiwi and Wuryandani 2020) ; Third: Oriented towards Solving Social Problems, namely the focus is not only on economic efficiency issues; Fourth: Active Community Participation, namely in the fields of education, health, and governance (Sugiarto & Farid, 2023).

Several studies have shown that *the Society 5.0 era* has positive impacts on students, including unlimited access to information, ease of learning, and opportunities for digital entrepreneurship. However, *the Society 5.0 era* also has potential negative impacts, including gadget addiction, social isolation, and exposure to digital radicalization (Aveny et al., 2023) .

The Concept and Dynamics of Indonesian National Identity

National identity is defined as a collection of characteristics, values, and culture that distinguishes a nation from other nations (Supriyadi et al., 2025) . In the context of the Indonesian State and Nation, national identity is multifaceted and dimensional, encompassing ideological (Pancasila), cultural (language, customs), and symbolic (flag, national symbol) dimensions. Kaelan (Buchori, 2018) emphasized that Pancasila is the essence of national identity because it serves as a guideline in organizing national and state life (Parker et al. 2019).

However, national identity is not static. Anderson (2016) explains that national identity is socially constructed and continuously renewed through shared and collective narratives, symbols, and practices. Based on Anderson's explanation, it can be argued that Indonesia's national identity must be continuously maintained and adapted to the ever-evolving context of the times, including the digital era, which is rife with disruption and challenges.

Challenges of National Identity in the Digital Age

According to numerous studies on Civic Education, the main challenge to national identity in the current digital era is the disruption of values. Digital technology, particularly social media algorithms, tends to promote sensational, provocative, and emotional content (Nurjanah, Pebianti, and Handaru 2020). This reinforces narrow group identities (*echo chambers)* and weakens an inclusive national identity (Oktria et al., 2024) .

Furthermore, research by Haryanto (Setiani & Barokah, 2021) shows a negative correlation between the intensity of social media use and the level of nationalism among the younger generation. The higher the intensity of social media use, the lower their understanding and commitment to the values of Pancasila. This underpins the urgent role of students as agents of transformation in the digital era, particularly *Society 5.0* (Kasim, 2024) .

RESULTS

The Urgency of Students' Role in Maintaining and Nurturing National Identity in the Era *of Society 5.0* : From Agents of Change to *Cultural-Digital Intermediaries*

Based on analysis and studies in various literature, the urgency of the role of students in maintaining national identity in *the Society 5.0 Era* is based on three main factors: First Factor, The Strategic Position of Students as *Digital Natives* (Mardhotillah et al., 2022). Students are the age group with the highest level of digital technology

penetration. They grew up with the internet and social media, so they understand how algorithms, digital language, and content platforms work (Sarkadi and al. 2022). This position makes them the most vulnerable group to disinformation and the most potential to spread positive content (Yanuarto et al., 2021).

The second factor is students' intellectual and historical capacity. Students are not only academically intelligent but also have a long tradition of being agents of social change. Since 1908, students have been the driving force behind every significant moment in the nation's history, including the Youth Pledge in 1928, the Proclamation of Indonesian Independence in 1945, and the Reformation Movement in 1998. This capacity needs to be redirected to the digital realm to build strong *digital citizenship* (Darmaji et al., 2019). Third factor, namely involvement in *Social Construction of Technology (SCOT).* Digital technology is not neutral entity. He shaped by values, interests, and practices social users (Pinch & Bijker, 1987). Students as actor social own ability For Reinterpret and use return digital technology for more goals noble, like strengthening identity national (Sugiono, 2020) . In other words, they can become connector between the digital world and values sublime, or what is called as a " *Cultural Digital Intermediary*" (Alenezi and Alfaleh 2024).

Concrete Role Student As an Agent of Transformation National Identity Based on Idea Patriotic Digital Collaboration

Next, in capacity as generation young, role real that can carried student as agent transformation identity national based on idea patriotic digital collaboration, namely can play a role in a way active convert values nationality to in a communicative, interactive, and viral digital format (Tuhuteru 2023). conceptual, idea Patriotic Digital Collaboration This formulated to in 5 (five) main pillars role concrete that can carried out by students, namely (Sugiarto & Farid, 2023) :

Pillar	Role Description	Example Implementation	Indicator Success
Critical Digital Literacy	Student be at the forefront in filter, verify, and criticize information.	Do check facts (*fact-checking) through channel official, for example through the Site, Website* from the Ministry of Communication and Information, and make content anti-hoax education.	Amount hoaxes spread in the environment campus decrease drastic.
Content Creator Culture	Student produce digital content (videos, infographics,	Make *vlog* about tradition area, aesthetic Pancasila *quotes,* or digital	Content the reach audience widespread (viral) and

Pillar	Role Description	Example Implementation	Indicator Success
and Values	memes) that promotes wisdom local and Pancasila values.	mutual cooperation *challenge*.	changing perception public.
Activist Digital Social	Student using digital platforms to raise funds action social and solidarity nationality.	Raising donation for disaster victims through online *fundraising*, campaign tolerance.	Mobilization source Power fast, waking up virtual solidarity.
Guardian of Digital Ethics and Morals	Student become example in interacting on social media, avoiding speech hatred, and put forward polite polite.	Share content positive, giving constructive comments, reporting speech hatred.	The formation of culture polite *digital citizenship* in the environment campus.
Innovator Policy Public	Student give input and innovation in policy public related digital literacy and strengthening identity.	Stage *policy brief* For government region, proposed the "Digital Pancasila" program to Independent Campus.	The resulting policies responsive, adaptive, and data -driven.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of the analysis and discussion that has been carried out, the following conclusions can be obtained: The urgency of students' role in maintaining national identity in *the Society 5.0 era* is extremely high. Their position as *digital natives*, intellectual capacity, and historical factors make them the most potential actors to become *Cultural Digital Intermediaries*, connecting noble values with digital practices. Without their active involvement, Indonesia's national identity will continue to be eroded by the uncontrolled flow of digital globalization. The concrete role of students is realized through the Digital-Patriotic Collaboration initiative, which consists of five pillars: Critical Digital Literacy; Creator of Cultural Content and

Values; Digital Social Activist; Guardian of Digital Ethics and Morals; and Public Policy Innovator. This initiative offers a more integrated, proactive, and evaluative approach compared to conventional approaches that focus on only one aspect (for example, only digital literacy or only character development). This model strengthens the role of students as builders of national identity in the digital realm

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