



## The Role of Citizenship Education in Raising Awareness of Citizens' Rights and Obligations among UNIMED Students

Aynen Kresensia Br Sembiring<sup>1</sup>, Mernawati Pardosi<sup>2</sup>, Miranda La'ia<sup>3</sup>, Qiara Wantoya<sup>4</sup>, Rani Eviolina Purba<sup>5</sup>, Yulia Citra Pratiwi<sup>6</sup>, Sri Yunita<sup>7\*</sup>  
Universitas Negeri Medan

**Corresponding Author:** Sri Yunita, [sr.yunita@unimed.ac.id](mailto:sr.yunita@unimed.ac.id)

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### ABSTRACT

A student must have an awareness of his rights and obligations as a citizen, to carry them out with full responsibility. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to find out how much the role of citizenship education in increasing awareness of the rights and obligations of citizens according to the views of UNIMED students. The research method used from this research is Qualitative research method, which collects information from journals as well as data and findings from questionnaires distributed to UNIMED students. From the research that has been conducted, it is found that UNIMED students think that citizenship education plays an active role in increasing awareness of rights and obligations as citizens at the student level.

## **INTRODUCTION**

In the current era, an understanding of rights and obligations is very important, especially at the student level. Citizenship education plays an important role in increasing awareness of rights and obligations among students. With a high awareness of rights and obligations, a student will be more aware and responsible. Through citizenship education, students not only understand their rights, but also realize their responsibilities towards the country and others, which in turn encourages them to become active, responsible citizens who are aware of their role in maintaining unity and improving the quality of democracy in the country. Therefore, citizenship education is very important for students.

Citizenship Education is a learning process that aims to shape citizens' awareness and understanding of their rights, obligations and roles in the life of society, nation and state. This education emphasizes the importance of democratic values, human rights, social responsibility, and respect for the law, as well as providing knowledge about the political, economic, and cultural systems that exist in the country. Through citizenship education, it is expected that each individual can become an active, responsible citizen, and contribute positively to the development of the nation and state. Citizenship education has a function in life, one of which is socializing, and building the character of the nation, because in it there are rules, norms, or rules used in the life of society, nation and state (Hamdani, A. D., & Dewi, D. A., 2021). Citizenship education teaches the rights and obligations that must be implemented and obtained by an individual. Someone who has carried out his obligations with full responsibility will get his rights.

An obligation is something that must be done or fulfilled by someone based on applicable rules, laws, norms or regulations. Obligations include moral or legal responsibilities that require one to do something, whether to oneself, others, or society. In the context of citizenship, obligations may include the obligation to obey the law, pay taxes, participate in elections, and maintain security and public order. Obligations are absolute and must be fulfilled to create order and shared prosperity. Obligation is a person's attitude or action that must be taken or achieved in accordance with their capacity (Maharani, A., Wirayudha, A. S., & Firdausi, A. P. R., 2023). Obligations and rights are inseparable, one must carry out his obligations responsibly and get what he is entitled to, someone who gets his rights must also carry out his obligations.

Human rights, are basic rights that are inherent in every human being from the moment they are born (Nuraini, I., 2024). Human rights are basic rights possessed by every individual as part of his or her dignity and humanity that is inherent from birth. These rights are universal, meaning that they apply to all people regardless of race, religion, nationality, gender, or other social status. Human rights include various rights, such as the right to life, liberty, justice, education, and protection from inhumane treatment. Human rights are to protect the dignity of every individual, guarantee freedom, and ensure justice for all. With human rights, everyone has the right to live, to be free from discrimination, and to receive proper education and employment. In addition, human rights also play a role in preventing oppression and abuse of power, and creating a

harmonious and peaceful society, where everyone is respected and treated equally.

Therefore, citizenship education is needed at the student level to be more aware of their obligations and rights as citizens and the future of the country. Citizenship education provides UNIMED students with an understanding of their obligations and rights as citizens. Citizenship Education has great benefits in increasing UNIMED students' awareness of their rights and obligations as citizens. Through this learning, students can understand the basic principles of the state, the rule of law, and human rights that must be respected and protected. In addition, this education also teaches the importance of active participation in social, political and economic life, so that students can participate responsibly in nation building, maintaining peace and upholding justice. With a good understanding of rights and obligations, students can become more aware, caring citizens who contribute positively to society. From the views of UNIMED students, how important citizenship education is in increasing awareness of the rights and obligations of citizens. In line with this, the purpose of this study is to determine how important the role of citizenship education is in increasing the understanding of the rights and obligations of citizens according to UNIMED students among students.

## **THEORETICAL REVIEW**

### ***Citizenship Education***

Education is a basic human need and one of the main joints needed for the development of human life and the nation (Dewirahmadanirwati, 2018). Education is a learning process that aims to develop potential, skills, knowledge and values in individuals. Through education, a person can gain information, insight, and the ability to think critically, creatively, and adapt to the social environment. Citizenship is a legal status that indicates the relationship between an individual and the state, which grants a person certain rights and obligations. As a citizen, one is entitled to legal protection, political rights such as voting and being elected, as well as social and economic rights. On the other hand, citizenship also requires individuals to fulfill obligations towards the state, such as obeying the law, paying taxes, and participating in the country's development. Citizenship Education is an education that aims to equip individuals, especially citizens, with an understanding of their rights and obligations in the life of society, nation and state. Through this education, individuals are taught the values of democracy, social responsibility, and the importance of active participation in the political process and state development. Citizenship Education also teaches the importance of respecting human rights, strengthening patriotism, and building discipline, tolerance and solidarity among citizens.

The benefits of Citizenship Education are to form individuals who are aware of their rights and obligations as citizens, and encourage active participation in the life of society, nation and state. Through this education, a person is taught to understand democratic values, respect human rights, and have a sense of responsibility for the development of the country. In addition, citizenship education also helps to form a disciplined, tolerant and caring

character for the common good, so as to create a harmonious, fair and responsible society. in Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System in article 3 with the content: "National education functions to develop and shape the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to educate the nation's life, aims to develop the potential of students to become human beings who are faithful and devoted to God Almighty, have noble character, are healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and become democratic and responsible citizens" (Alfiyana, F. M. & Dewi, D. A., 2021)

### ***Obligations as a Citizen***

An obligation is something that must be done or fulfilled by someone based on applicable rules, laws, norms or regulations. Obligations are mandatory and cannot be ignored, because if they are not fulfilled, they can lead to certain consequences or sanctions. In various contexts, obligations can vary, for example in a legal context, obligations refer to something that must be done in accordance with applicable laws. In a social context, an obligation can refer to an action that is expected by society, such as an obligation to help others or participate in communal activities. Obligations can also be defined as responsibilities that must be fulfilled in personal or work relationships. Obligation is everything that must and must be done by every individual with full responsibility in carrying out their obligations (Izzati, F. A. & Novitasari, 2023). citizenship duty refers to the responsibility that every individual who is part of a country has to fulfill various duties and roles determined by the laws, norms and regulations that apply in that country. This obligation covers various aspects of the life of the nation and state, both in the form of rights that must be maintained, as well as obligations that must be carried out. Citizen obligations are actions that citizens must perform in order to fulfill their responsibilities to the state (Hadji, K., Sulistiowati, Arianti, A. S., Khoirunisa, A., Kusmawati, N. A., & Putri, M. H., 2024).

Citizen obligations are very important as they are the basis for maintaining order, stability and progress of the country. By fulfilling obligations such as obeying the law, paying taxes, participating in education and taking part in the democratic process, each individual contributes to the country's economic, social and political development. These obligations also strengthen solidarity among citizens, create social justice and improve the quality of life. Without well-executed obligations, the country would struggle to develop and maintain collective prosperity.

### ***Rights as a Citizen***

Human rights are basic rights inherent in a person, human rights cannot be ignored and violated in any situation (Kahfi, M. & Subroto, M., 2023). Human rights are basic rights that every individual is born with, which are universal and cannot be revoked or contested by anyone, including the state. Human rights include rights related to freedom, equality and human dignity, which are internationally recognized and protected by various laws, both at the national and international levels. Some examples of human rights include the right to life, freedom of speech, the right to decent work, the right to education, and the right not to be tortured or treated inhumanely. Human rights aim to ensure the

protection and well-being of every individual without discrimination. Citizenship rights refer to the rights that individuals have as part of a country, granted and protected by the laws of that country. These rights relate to freedoms, protections and opportunities to participate in social, political and economic life. Citizen rights include the right to vote and be elected in elections, the right to education, the right to legal protection, the right to work, the right to freedom of speech, and the right to public services and welfare. These rights are regulated in the country's constitution and laws and regulations, and aim to ensure the dignity and quality of life of citizens in a fair and equitable manner.

Rights and obligations are mutually exclusive and inseparable (Ruhyanti, N., Alparesa, N., Fakhira, Z. N., Abdulah, D. F., & Hibatullah, R. A., 2023). Citizens' human rights are important because they ensure that every individual is protected and respected for their basic rights, which are part of human dignity. With the protection of human rights, citizens can live freely, safely and prosperously, without fear of discrimination or unfair treatment. Human rights also enable citizens to participate in political, economic and social life equally, ensuring justice and equality in society. Without the protection of human rights, people may be denied their rights, which can lead to injustice, social tension, and destabilize the country.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The research method used in this research is a qualitative research method which collects data from previous research and questionnaires, which are given to UNIMED students. According to Saryono, Qualitative Research is research used to investigate, discover, describe, and explain the quality or specialty of social influences that cannot be explained, measured or described through a quantitative approach (Saryono, in Sari, G. I., Nurtiani, A. T., & Salmina, M., 2021). The following are the steps:

1. Determination of Problem Focus: Determine the topic or phenomenon to be studied, namely the role of civic education in increasing awareness of rights and obligations among students.
2. Data Collection: Data collected from previous research and questionnaires in the form of questions distributed to UNIMED students.
3. Data Analysis: After collecting data from various sources, the next step is to analyze the data that has been collected.
4. Report Preparation: After going through all the processes, the last stage is to compile a report in the form of a journal.

## **RESULT & DISCUSSION**

From the results of the questionnaire survey that has been carried out, the results show that citizenship education helps UNIMED students in increasing awareness of their rights and obligations.

### ***First Question***

How important do you think citizenship Education is in students' lives?

Results:

No	Options	Results (%)
1	Very Important	83,3%
2	Important	16,7%
3	Important Enough	-
4	Not Important	-

The survey results show that UNIMED students agree that citizenship education helps in increasing awareness of the rights and obligations of citizens, citizenship education teaches that as students have the rights and obligations of citizens that must be carried out.

### *Second Question*

Do you understand your rights as a citizen through the citizenship Education course?

Results:

No	Options	Results (%)
1	Yes	100%
2	No	-

From the results of the survey that has been conducted, it is found that citizenship education has a big impact on UNIMED students in understanding their rights as citizens. Citizenship education provides knowledge about the rights of citizens.

### *Third Question*

Do you feel more aware of your citizenship duty after studying citizenship Education?

No	Options	Results (%)
1	Yes	100%
2	No	-

From the results of the survey, it was found that citizenship education provides knowledge and awareness to UNIMED students about their obligations as citizens that students must carry out with full responsibility.

### *Fourth Question*

Do the citizenship Education materials on campus help you understand current issues related to citizens' rights and obligations?

Results:

No	Options	Results (%)
1	Very Helpful	33,3%
2	Helpful	63,3%
3	Less Helpful	3,3%

4	Not Helpful	-
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From the survey results that have been found, it can be seen that UNIMED students are helped in understanding issues about the rights and obligations of citizens, state citizenship education provides knowledge and awareness of issues of rights and obligations.

***Fifth Question***

How often do you apply the values learned from citizenship Education in your daily life?

Results:

No	Options	Results (%)
1	Always	20%
2	Often	53,3%
3	Sometimes	26,7%
4	never	-

From the surveys that have been conducted, it is found that UNIMED students on average have implemented the value of citizenship in daily life learned in civic education, although there are some who carry it out sometimes. but citizenship education plays an important role in providing knowledge about this value.

***Sixth Question***

Do you feel encouraged enough to discuss or actively participate during citizenship Education lessons?

Results:

No	Options	Results (%)
1	Yes	93,3%
2	No	6,7%

From the survey it was found that on average UNIMED students participated in the learning that was carried out, although there were some who were not active, but more were active in citizenship education teaching.

***Seventh question***

Do you think the teaching methods of citizenship Education on campus are interesting and interactive enough?

Results:

No	Options	Results (%)
1	Very interesting	20%
2	Interesting	53,3%

3	Less Interesting	26,7%
4	Not Interesting	-

From the surveys that have been conducted, it is found that the citizenship education teaching methods used are quite good and interesting, the average UNIMED student is easy to understand, but there are also those who say it is less interesting, but more students feel that this learning method is interesting.

***Eighth Question***

Do you feel that citizenship Education helps you understand the importance of active participation in society, such as participating in elections or social activities?

Results:

No	Options	Results (%)
1	Very Helpful	30%
2	Helpful	66,7%
3	Less Helpful	3,3%
4	Not helpful	-

From the survey that has been conducted, it is found that citizenship education helps UNIMED students in understanding the importance of active participation in society in participating in social activities, UNIMED students feel helped, although some feel less helped, but more UNIMED students feel helped.

***Ninth Question***

In your opinion, have the lecturers or teachers of citizenship Education provided concrete examples of the application of citizens' rights and obligations?

Results:

No	Options	Results (%)
1	Always	16,7%
2	Often	53,3%
3	Sometimes	30%
3	Never	-

From the survey that has been carried out, it is found that UNIMED students on average feel that citizenship education teachers have often and always provided good and real examples of the rights and obligations of citizens, but there are some students who think that they are still inadequate.

***Tenth Question***

What are your hopes or suggestions for improving the role of citizenship Education at UNIMED?

Results:

From the surveys that have been conducted, the average UNIMED student provides constructive suggestions and for the common good to make it more interesting and increase understanding of the rights and obligations of citizens. Citizenship education is important at the student level to increase understanding of rights and obligations.

From the overall questions given to students, it was found that civic education is very important at the student level. not just learning but increasing understanding and awareness of rights and obligations as citizens. Citizenship Education at the student level has great benefits in increasing students' awareness of their rights and obligations as citizens. UNIMED students are fully aware that citizenship education is very important at the student level. Through this course, students are taught to understand their basic rights, such as freedom of speech and the right to education, as well as their obligations in actively participating in social and political life, such as paying taxes and maintaining order. Citizenship education also strengthens the sense of patriotism, fosters good character, and increases social awareness, so that students are better equipped to contribute to maintaining peace, harmony, and nation-building. Thus, citizenship education plays an important role in shaping responsible, ethical citizens who actively participate in the democratic process.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

From the survey that has been conducted, it was found that UNIMED students think that citizenship education is very important in increasing awareness of rights and obligations as citizens. Citizenship education plays a full role in making students aware of their rights and obligations. Citizenship Education at the student level has an important role in increasing students' awareness of their rights and obligations as citizens. Through this course, students are given an understanding of the basic rights they have, such as the right to education, freedom of speech, and legal protection, as well as their obligations to actively participate in social, political, and economic life, such as paying taxes, maintaining order, and contributing to nation building. In addition, this education also fosters a sense of patriotism, forms a character that cares for others, and increases participation in the democratic process, so that students can exercise their rights and obligations in a balanced and responsible manner for the progress of the country.

## **FURTHER STUDY**

To gain a deeper understanding of this topic, readers are encouraged to explore additional resources such as academic journals, books, and reputable online publications. Participating in webinars, online courses, or workshops can provide practical insights and hands-on knowledge. Engaging with professional communities, forums, or discussion groups can also offer diverse perspectives and networking opportunities. Additionally, following updates from industry experts, attending conferences, or reviewing related case studies and reports may help expand your knowledge and stay informed about recent developments.

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