

Strengthening Civic Engagement of Generation Z Through Pancasila and Citizenship Education

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Abstract: Civic engagement is an essential aspect of fostering active, critical, and responsible citizens within a democratic society. As a generation that has grown up amidst rapid digital advancement, Generation Z possesses distinctive characteristics in expressing civic participation through the use of the internet, social media, and various digital platforms. However, technological development has also introduced several challenges, including the spread of hoaxes, misinformation, opinion polarization, and low levels of formal civic participation. In this context, Pancasila and Civic Education (PPKn) plays a strategic role in strengthening civic engagement through the development of students' civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions. This study aims to systematically examine the existing literature on strengthening Generation Z's civic engagement through PPKn. The research employed a qualitative approach using the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method on articles obtained from Google Scholar, Scopus, ERIC, and ScienceDirect published between 2020 and 2025. The collected data were selected based on inclusion and exclusion criteria and subsequently analyzed using thematic analysis. The findings reveal three main areas of focus: the concept and characteristics of Generation Z's civic engagement, the role of PPKn in strengthening civic engagement, and PPKn learning strategies and models. The study indicates that the implementation of participatory learning models can enhance students' critical thinking, collaboration, digital literacy, and social, political, and digital participation in a sustainable manner.

Keywords: Civic Engagement; Generation Z; Civic Education; Digital Literacy

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A. INTRODUCTION

Civic engagement is the active participation of citizens in social, political, and community life to support a healthy democracy (Nuruddin, 2021). In a democratic country, civic engagement allows citizens to channel their aspirations to participate in public decision-making and help solve community problems. High community involvement improves the quality of democracy and encourages responsive and transparent governance. Civic engagement forms the character of an active and responsible citizen. However, many countries face the challenge of low public participation due to apathy, lack of trust in public institutions, and changes in social interaction due to technology (Nurhaliza, 2025). In Indonesia, strengthening civic engagement is very important to maintain unity and build a democratic culture. Generation Z is a group that was born and grew up in the era of rapid information and communication technology, making them highly digitally literate (Gumay et al., 2025). They have an affinity with the internet, social media, and gadgets, which changes the way they interact and seek information. Different from the previous generation, Generation Z

communicates more online Marsandra et al., 2025). They have great potential as agents of social change, but they also face challenges such as disinformation and low digital literacy skills. Technological advances provide opportunities to be more involved in social and political life. Therefore, understanding the characteristics of Generation Z is essential to design an appropriate citizenship participation strategy.

In the midst of advances in digital technology, Generation Z faces various obstacles that affect their participation as citizens (Aulia et al., 2025). Despite having extensive access to information, their interest in formal citizenship activities is still low (Lase & Lase, 2025). Involvement in community, volunteerism, and traditional politics tends to decrease compared to participation through digital platforms (Ayuni & Sari, 2025). This situation triggers political apathy, as seen from the low attention to public issues and participation in democracy (Aurellia & Katimin, 2025). Pancasila and Citizenship Education (PPKn) is an important educational tool to form active and responsible individuals in accordance with Pancasila values and democratic principles (Anugrah & Rahmat, 2024). The purpose of PPKn is to increase students' understanding of rights and obligations as citizens and apply national values in daily life. PPKn also instills values such as cooperation, tolerance, and justice, which are essential for a harmonious social life (Istianah et al., 2025). The PPKn learning process encourages students to care and be committed to public issues (Rahmelia et al., 2026). Schools and universities play a role in the development of civic character and competence (Hubi et al., 2023). PPKn teaching needs to innovate to suit the needs of students in the digital era, so that the younger generation is ready to actively participate in democracy (Armianti et al., 2024).

Pancasila and Citizenship Education (PPKn) plays an important role in increasing civic engagement of Generation Z (Setiawan et al., 2025). Through this education, students learn the knowledge, attitudes, and skills to become responsible citizens. Studies show that good civic education can increase the social and political participation of the younger generation (Pratiwi et al., 2024). Learning methods such as projects, discussions, case studies, and problem-solving help students understand societal issues (Wulandari et al., 2025). In addition, the integration of digital literacy in PPKn is important so that students can use technology intelligently. This learning not only teaches rights and obligations, but also encourages involvement in social and political activities. PPKn also builds a critical attitude towards social and national issues, improving students' communication and collaboration skills.

Although there is a lot of research on citizen involvement and Pancasila and Citizenship Education (PPKn), there are still few studies that link these two themes in the context of Generation Z. Research more often focuses on citizen involvement in social and political participation and PPKn as a separate study (Santoso & Baihaqi, 2025). The results of the study show variations in the effectiveness of civic education in encouraging youth participation. Factors such as the research context and the characteristics of the participants led to unclear conclusions about the role of PPKn (Bhughe, 2022). There is no structured mapping for effective educational strategies and methods. This research is important with the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method to analyze the results of previous studies, so that it can help develop more effective Pancasila Education policies and practices for Generation Z.

This study aims to examine the literature on strengthening Generation Z's civic involvement through Pancasila and Citizenship Education (PPKn). The focus is on identifying learning concepts, strategies, and models, as well as the factors that influence Generation Z's civic engagement. The research also analyzes the contribution of Pancasila and Citizenship Education in increasing the social, political, and digital participation of the younger generation. With a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) approach, this study assesses recent research trends to understand the development of studies on civic engagement and civic education. In addition, the research identifies challenges and opportunities in the implementation of PPKn in the digital era and aims to find research gaps that need more attention, as well as provide recommendations for policy and curriculum development.

B. METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method to identify, analyze, and synthesize various studies related to strengthening Generation Z's civic engagement through Pancasila and Citizenship Education (PPKn). The SLR method was chosen because it allows researchers to conduct a systematic literature review in a systematic, transparent, and structured manner so as to produce a comprehensive understanding of research developments, key findings, and research gaps that still require further study.

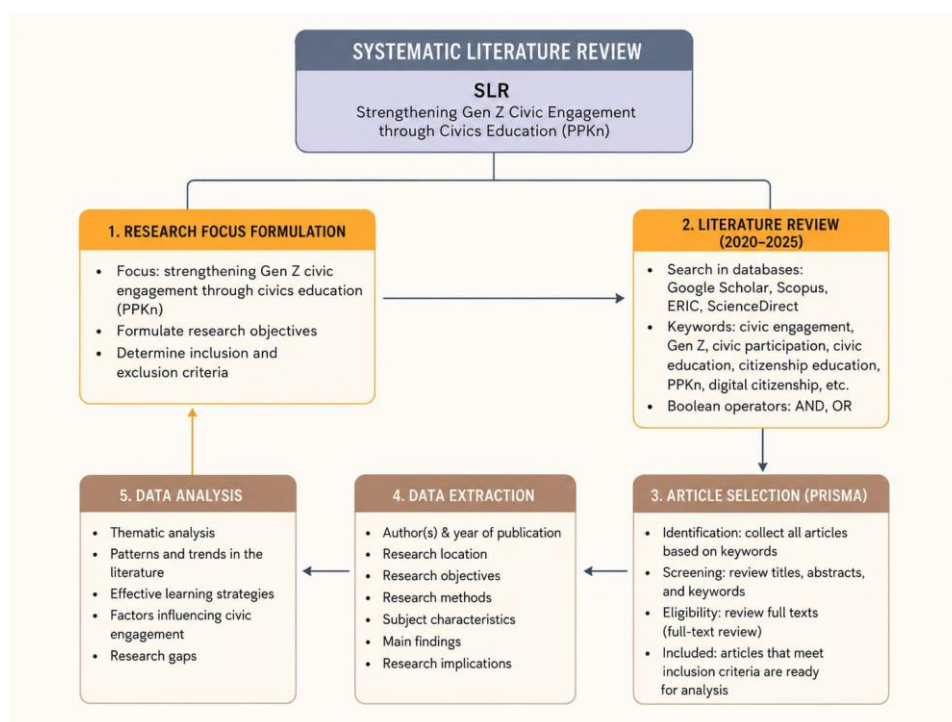


Figure 1. Systematic Literature Review research flow

This research is directed to conduct a systematic review of various literature that focuses on strengthening Generation Z's civic engagement through Pancasila and Citizenship Education. In more detail, this study aims to: (1) identify the concept and characteristics of civic engagement of Generation Z as the foundation for understanding the pattern of civic

participation in the digital era; (2) analyze the strategies and learning models of Pancasila and Citizenship Education applied in increasing the civic involvement of the younger generation; (3) evaluate the contribution of Pancasila and Citizenship Education in strengthening the participation of Generation Z in social, political, and digital aspects; and (4) identify existing research opportunities, challenges, and gaps as the basis for the development of further studies and the improvement of civic education practices in the future.

The literature search in this study was carried out systematically through various credible scientific databases, namely Google Scholar, Scopus, ERIC, and ScienceDirect, to obtain academic sources relevant to the focus of the study. The search process was carried out using a number of keywords such as civic engagement, Gen Z, Generation Z, civic participation, civic education, citizenship education, Pancasila and Citizenship Education, PPKn, and digital citizenship. Furthermore, these keywords are combined with Boolean operators AND and OR to expand and focus the search results to match the research objectives. In addition, the literature search is also limited to scientific publications published in the period 2020–2025, so that more up-to-date and representative references are obtained in describing the development of studies on strengthening Generation Z's civic engagement in the context of Pancasila and Citizenship Education in the digital era.

The selection and data extraction process in this study was carried out with reference to the guidelines (PRISMA). (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) to ensure that the process of searching, filtering, and selecting literature is carried out in a systematic, transparent, and scientifically accountable manner. The selection stage begins with the identification process, which is the collection of all articles obtained from various academic databases based on a predetermined search strategy. At this stage, an examination of the found articles is carried out to eliminate duplicate data. The next stage is screening, which is carried out through the study of titles, abstracts, and keywords to assess the suitability of the article with the focus of the research as well as the inclusion and exclusion criteria that have been determined. Articles that pass the screening stage then enter the eligibility stage through full-text review to ensure their relevance, quality, and suitability for the purpose of the research. Articles that meet all the requirements are then determined at the inclusion stage as the source of the data to be analyzed. Furthermore, the data extraction process is carried out systematically by collecting various important information from each article, including the identity of the author, year of publication, research location, research objectives, methods used, characteristics of the research subject, main findings, and research implications related to strengthening Generation Z civic engagement through Pancasila Education and Citizenship (PPKn).

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the literature synthesis in this study show that the study on strengthening Generation Z's civic engagement through Pancasila and Citizenship Education (PPKn) can be grouped into three main focuses. The first focus is related to the concept and characteristics of Generation Z civic engagement which highlights the form, pattern, and character of the younger generation's civic engagement in the digital era. The second focus discusses the role

of Pancasila and Citizenship Education as a means of developing knowledge, skills, and civic character that supports the growth of active participation in the life of society, nation, and state. Meanwhile, the third focus examines various strategies and learning models of PPKn that are effective in encouraging student civic engagement, both through participatory approaches, project-based learning, and the use of digital technology in the learning process. The three focuses are interrelated and form a comprehensive framework of understanding of efforts to strengthen Generation Z's civic engagement in facing the dynamics of democratic life in the digital era.

Table 1. Synthesis of Research Results

No	Field or Focus	Author's Names The Same Field	Insights or Research Variables
1	Concepts and Characteristics of Civic Engagement of the Z Aiman Generation	(Erfain, 2025), (Izzudin et al., 2026) & (JOUR et al., 2025)	Generation Z's civic engagement is influenced by their characteristics as digital natives. The variables that were widely studied included digital skills, digital political participation, social media use, social awareness, digital activism, social justice, civic participation, and challenges in the form of hoaxes, disinformation, and political apathy.
2	The Role of Pancasila and Citizenship Education in Strengthening Civic Engagement-mentMusthafa	(Alfiansyah & Wangid, 2018) , (TY - JOUR et al., 2025)) & (Putri & Suyahman, 2026)	PPKn plays a role in building civic knowledge, civic skills, and civic disposition. The variables studied include civic awareness, social responsibility, Pancasila values, democratic participation, digital literacy, digital citizenship, and the formation of active and responsible citizen character.
3	PPKn Learning Strategies and Models to Increase Civic Engagement	(Gumilar et al., 2025) , (Ridhoh et al., 2025) & (A. Wulandari, 2025)	The focus of the research leads to the effectiveness of learning strategies in increasing civic engagement. Variables that often appear include Project-Based Learning (PjBL), Problem-Based Learning (PBL), group discussions, case studies, democracy simulations, critical thinking, collaboration, communication, social participation, and digital citizenship engagement.

The results of the synthesis of various studies show that Generation Z's civic engagement has undergone significant development in line with the advancement of digital technology that affects the patterns, forms, and spaces of civic participation. Generation Z uses the internet and social media as a means to obtain information, build awareness of public issues, convey aspirations, and engage in various social and political activities. This condition shows that digital characteristics are one of the main factors that distinguish the form of civic engagement of Generation Z from previous generations, where participation no longer only takes place in conventional public spaces, but also develops through a wider and more dynamic digital space. In this context, Pancasila and Citizenship Education (PPKn) has a strategic role in directing this potential through strengthening knowledge, attitudes, and civic skills. PPKn not only functions as a learning medium about the rights and obligations of citizens, but also as a means of instilling democratic values, social responsibility, concern for the community's environment, and digital literacy skills that support positive civic engagement. In addition, the success of PPKn in increasing civic engagement is greatly influenced by the implementation of learning strategies and models that are relevant to the characteristics of students. Participatory learning approaches such as Project-Based Learning (PjBL), Problem-Based Learning (PBL), discussions, case studies, and democracy simulations have been proven to be able to develop critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and social problem-solving skills. Thus, strengthening Generation Z's civic engagement requires synergy between understanding the characteristics of the digital generation, optimizing the role of PPKn, and implementing innovative and contextual learning models in order to be able to form active, critical, and responsible young citizens in democratic life.

1. Concept and Characteristics of Civic Engagement Generation Z

Civic engagement is a concept that describes the active involvement of citizens in various social, political, and societal activities that aim to realize common interests and strengthen democratic life (Pradana et al., 2025). This involvement can be realized through participation in community organizations, voluntary activities, public discussions, social actions, and involvement in the decision-making process related to the interests of the community (Fajrilla, 2025). In the study of civic education, civic engagement is seen as one of the important indicators in the formation of citizens who not only understand their rights and obligations, but also have concern and responsibility for various problems that occur in the surrounding environment. Civic engagement has a strategic role in building a culture of democracy, increasing public participation, and strengthening the relationship between citizens and social and political life (Dewi & Buldani, 2024).

Generation Z has different characteristics compared to previous generations in expressing civic engagement (Safitri, 2025). As a generation born and raised in the digital era, Generation Z is very familiar with information technology, the internet, and social media that are part of their daily lives (Zahira & Nasution, 2025). Various studies show that Generation Z's civic engagement is more realized through digital platforms, such as social campaigns on social media, online petitions, virtual discussions, and various forms of advocacy that utilize digital technology. This characteristic shows a shift in participation patterns from conventional

activities to digital participation that is more flexible, fast, and able to reach a wider audience. However, the high use of digital media also presents various challenges, such as the spread of hoaxes, disinformation, polarization of opinions, and the tendency for participation that is only symbolic without being followed by real actions in people's lives. Based on the results of the literature review, it can be concluded that civic engagement is an important element in the formation of active and responsible citizens, while Generation Z has a pattern of civic involvement that is strongly influenced by the development of digital technology. The digital characteristics of Generation Z provide a great opportunity to increase social and political participation through various online platforms, but at the same time also present challenges that can affect the quality of such participation. Therefore, strengthening civic engagement in Generation Z needs to consider the characteristics and needs of the digital generation by encouraging the use of technology wisely, critically, and responsibly so that the involvement carried out does not only occur in the virtual space, but also is manifested in real actions that provide benefits to society and democratic life.

2. The Role of Pancasila and Citizenship Education in Strengthening Civic Engagement

Pancasila and Citizenship Education (PPKn) has an important function in creating individuals who are active, responsible, and aware of democratic life (Kurniati et al., 2021). Based on various sources that have been researched, PPKn acts as a tool to improve citizenship skills that include citizenship knowledge, skills, and attitudes. Through the PPKn learning process, students gain insight into the values of Pancasila, rights and obligations as citizens, the concept of democracy, the constitution, and the importance of participating in society, nation, and state (Nurhalisyah et al., 2024). This knowledge is the basis for the younger generation to understand their roles and responsibilities as citizens who care about various social problems around them. PPKn does not only focus on mastery of materials, but also on the development of civic awareness which is the foundation for social involvement. PPKn also plays a role in developing attitudes and skills that support the active involvement of the younger generation in public life (Amanda et al., 2024). Various studies have shown that the application of participatory learning models, such as group discussions, case studies, project-based learning, and problem-based learning, is able to improve students' ability to think critically, communicate, collaborate, and solve social problems constructively (Sholeh et al., 2024). In the context of Generation Z who live in the digital era, PPKn also has an important role in developing digital literacy and digital citizenship so that students are able to use digital media wisely, critically, and responsibly (Nurhasanah et al., 2024). Through this learning process, the younger generation is encouraged to not only become observers of various social and political issues, but also to become individuals who are able to actively participate in providing solutions and real contributions to society.

Based on a literature review, it can be concluded that Pancasila and Citizenship Education is a very important tool to increase the civic involvement of Generation Z. PPKn not only provides knowledge about citizenship to students, but also develops the attitudes, values, and skills necessary to play an active role in society, politics, and community. With learning methods that are creative, relevant, and in accordance with the characteristics of the digital generation, PPKn can encourage the birth of a young generation who are critical, actively

participate, care about the interests of the community, and are responsible in facing various challenges in today's democratic world.

3. PPKn Learning Strategies and Models to Increase Civic Engagement

The educational strategies and models used in Pancasila and Citizenship Education (PPKn) have a significant role in strengthening the civic involvement of Generation Z (Sholeh et al., 2024). Various studies show that student-centered learning approaches are more successful in increasing civic participation than traditional teaching methods that prioritize memorization. With an approach that involves participation Students get the opportunity to actively contribute to the learning process, share opinions, discuss, and study various social and national issues that exist around them. This learning method not only deepens the understanding of citizenship, but also stimulates students to build a sense of social responsibility as well as concern for public issues. PPKn can be an effective tool in forming civic awareness and participation among the younger generation (Waskita, 2025). Various creative learning methods have proven effective in increasing citizen engagement among students. For example, the Project-Based Learning Model (PjBL) provides students with the opportunity to directly recognize and solve problems in the community through planned projects (Maimunah & Jannah, 2025). Methods such as discussion, debate, democracy simulation, and case studies are also often used to improve communication, argumentation, cooperation, and responsible decision-making. In today's digital era, the use of technology and social media as learning tools also opens up opportunities for students to engage in digital civic activities, such as social campaigns, online discussions, and the dissemination of information that is beneficial to the community (Karomaha, 2025). The application of innovative and contextual learning methods is a very important factor in building Generation Z citizenship involvement (Soraya & Musyahid, 2025).

Based on studies from various sources, it can be said that the application of participatory, contextual, and experiential PPKn learning strategies and models has an important role in increasing civic engagement among Generation Z. Learning methods that encourage active participation of students are able to develop the knowledge, skills, and civic attitudes that are indispensable in a democratic society. In addition, the use of innovative learning models supported by digital technology can help students understand various social issues and encourage them to contribute in finding solutions. Thus, the development of PPKn learning strategies and models that are in line with the characteristics of Generation Z is very important to create an active, critical, participatory, and responsible young generation in social, national, and state life.

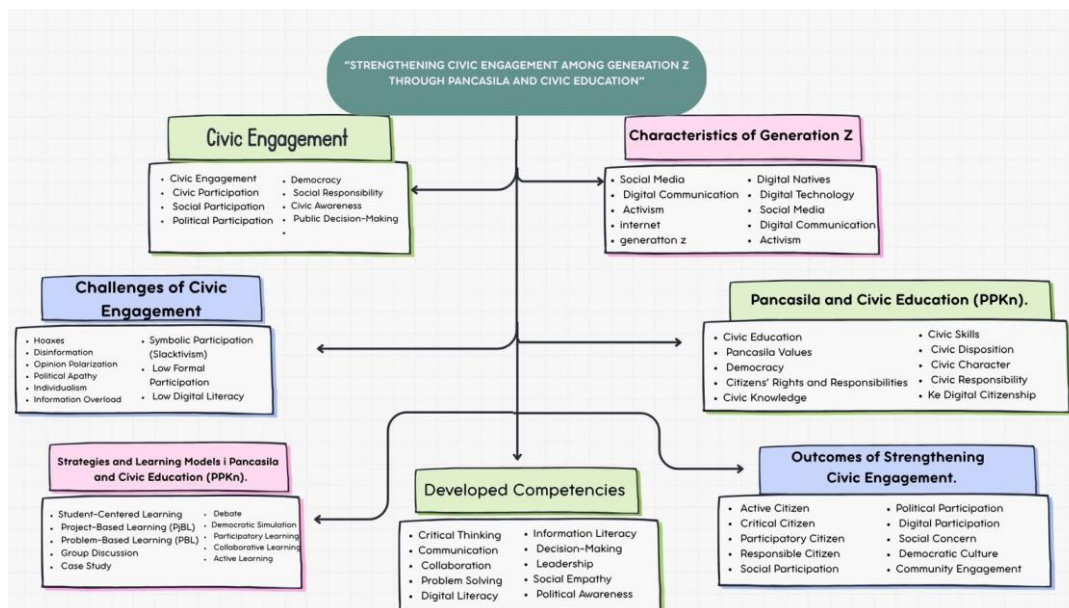


Figure 2. Mindmap of the Framework for Strengthening Civic Engagement for Generation Z through PPKn in the Era Digital

Based on the results of the literature synthesis, strengthening Generation Z's civic engagement is a process influenced by various interrelated factors, ranging from the characteristics of the younger generation, the development of digital technology, to the role of civic education. As a generation that grew up in the digital era, Generation Z has extensive access to the internet and social media that allows them to obtain information, express their aspirations, and participate in various social and political issues through various digital platforms. This condition makes Generation Z a group that has great potential in encouraging social change and strengthening democratic life. However, technological developments also present challenges in the form of the spread of hoaxes, disinformation, polarization of opinions, information overload, low formal participation, and the tendency of symbolic participation that can affect the quality of civic engagement. To answer these challenges, Pancasila and Citizenship Education (PPKn) has an important role in developing citizenship knowledge, skills, and character through the cultivation of Pancasila values, democracy, citizens' rights and obligations, and digital citizenship. The effectiveness of strengthening civic engagement is increasing through the implementation of student-centered learning strategies, such as Project-Based Learning (PjBL), Problem-Based Learning (PBL), discussions, case studies, debates, and democratic simulations that are able to create an active and contextual learning experience. Through this process, students can develop the skills of critical thinking, communication, collaboration, digital literacy, problem-solving, leadership, and political awareness necessary in democratic life. Thus, strengthening civic engagement through PPKn is not only oriented towards increasing social, political, and digital participation, but also on the formation of young citizens who are active, critical, participatory, responsible, and able to make a real contribution to strengthening the culture of democracy and community life in the digital era.

D. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the systematic literature review, strengthening community involvement among Generation Z is influenced by the characteristics of the digital generation, the role of Pancasila and Citizenship Education (PPKn), and the implementation of participatory learning methods. Generation Z has significant opportunities to participate in social, political, and civic life through digital technology and social media, but also faces challenges such as fake news, misinformation, polarization, low formal participation, and symbolic engagement. PPKn plays an important role in developing civic knowledge, skills, and attitudes, while participatory models such as Project-Based Learning (PjBL), Problem-Based Learning (PBL), discussions, case studies, and democratic simulations can enhance youth engagement. However, research examining the relationship between PPKn implementation and increased Generation Z civic involvement remains limited, particularly in digital contexts. Future research should focus on developing technology- and artificial intelligence-based PPKn learning models, evaluating PjBL and PBL for sustainable civic participation, strengthening digital literacy to address fake news and misinformation, and developing a digital citizenship framework that responds to the needs of Generation Z in the context of social and technological change.

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