

## **Strategies to Increase National Integration in the Era of Globalization**

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### **Abstract**

The era of globalization brings challenges to Indonesia's national integration, especially with the rapid development of technology and the rapid flow of information. Cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences are increasingly complex and have the potential to cause conflicts that can hinder the unity of the nation. This research aims to analyze strategies in strengthening national integration in the midst of these challenges. The method used is a literature study by collecting and analyzing various reliable sources related to national integration. The results show that the main challenges in national integration include digital access gaps, cybersecurity threats, as well as global cultural influences that can erode local values. To overcome these challenges, strategies such as equitable digital access, increasing technological literacy, and strengthening national values through education and social media are needed. In addition, collaboration between the government, educational institutions, and the community is needed to build a collective awareness of the importance of unity in diversity. By utilizing technology positively and instilling the spirit of tolerance and togetherness, national integration can be strengthened to build a more harmonious, stable, and competitive nation in the era of globalization.

### **Keywords:**

National integration, globalization, technology, tolerance, education, unity.

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### **Abstrak**

Era globalisasi membawa tantangan bagi integrasi nasional Indonesia, terutama dengan pesatnya perkembangan teknologi dan arus informasi yang deras. Perbedaan budaya, agama, serta sosial ekonomi semakin kompleks dan berpotensi menimbulkan konflik yang dapat menghambat persatuan bangsa. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis strategi dalam memperkuat integrasi nasional di tengah berbagai tantangan tersebut. Metode yang digunakan adalah studi literatur dengan mengumpulkan dan menganalisis berbagai sumber terpercaya terkait integrasi nasional. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa tantangan utama dalam integrasi nasional mencakup kesenjangan akses digital, ancaman keamanan siber, serta pengaruh budaya global yang dapat mengikis nilai-nilai lokal. Untuk mengatasi tantangan ini, diperlukan strategi seperti pemerataan akses digital, peningkatan literasi teknologi, serta penguatan nilai kebangsaan melalui pendidikan dan media sosial. Selain itu, kolaborasi antara pemerintah, lembaga pendidikan, dan masyarakat sangat diperlukan untuk membangun kesadaran kolektif akan pentingnya persatuan dalam keberagaman. Dengan memanfaatkan teknologi secara positif dan menanamkan semangat toleransi serta kebersamaan,

integrasi nasional dapat diperkuat guna membangun bangsa yang lebih harmonis, stabil, dan berdaya saing di era globalisasi.

**Kata kunci** Integrasi nasional, globalisasi, teknologi, toleransi, pendidikan, persatuan

## **Introduction**

Life in the era of globalization has an impact on human life (Ali & Hidayah, 2021). The era of globalization presents the challenge of national integration (Aluna & Edema, 2023). Because of the challenges of this global era, conflict resolution has become more complex. In the midst of technological advances and dependence on social media. People are faced with various differences in technology, culture, and views that can lead to effective conflict resolution in the digital era to realize good citizens.

In this global era where information reaches the public is very fast, both hoax news, issues related to religion, political issues can all cause divisions in social life. Trihastuti (2020) emphasized that unity in rapid information in the community is important. The Indonesian nation is rooted in various cultures, customs, various regional languages and religions that we call *bhineka tunggal ika*, so in order to achieve unity in the life of the nation and state, national integration is needed.

In the era of globalization, conflict resolution must adapt to changes in technology and communication tools (Hidayah, Suyitno & Sari, 2019). Therefore, national integration in the era of globalization in society forms a society that is technologically literate and contributes greatly to daily life (Ulfa, Hidayah, & Safudin, 2023). In the global era, national integration is important in the context of Indonesian society. National integration in the global era becomes a strong unit through digital technology and social media. Indonesian society, with its rich cultural, ethnic, religious, and linguistic diversity, can face challenges in building strong national integration in the digital era. However, digital technology also opens up great opportunities to strengthen national integration through easier communication and exchange of information between groups and regions.

## **Method**

This article aims to analyze efforts to strengthen strategies to increase national integration in the era of globalization. The method used is literature by collecting and analyzing reliable sources related to national integration. The results of the analysis are expected to provide a comprehensive understanding of the importance of strengthening national integration in Indonesia.

## **Discussion**

National integration is becoming an increasingly important issue in the era of globalization. Although Indonesia consists of thousands of islands and diverse ethnicities and religions, the country still strives to strengthen the unity and unity of the nation. However, the challenges faced in achieving national integration are still quite complex,

especially with various differences that are still polemics in society. One of the challenges in achieving national integration is cultural and religious differences. To achieve national integration in the era of globalization, it is important that we respect differences.

This can be done by building awareness that differences are not something to be feared or opposed. Building tolerance and openness is also the key in strengthening national integration in the era of globalization, tolerance can help Indonesian people to respect each other's differences, while openness can open up thinking and strengthen togetherness. By building tolerance and openness, it is hoped that the Indonesian people can more easily interact and understand. Building a common strength in the midst of differences, national integration in the era of globalization is not easy, but this is still an important goal for the Indonesian nation.

Cultural, religious, and economic differences are challenges that must be overcome by respecting differences, building tolerance and openness, improving multicultural education, and developing a creativity-based economy. By building common strength in the midst of differences, the Indonesian people can strengthen national integration and build a more advanced nation. Maintaining and maintaining Indonesia's national integration is the responsibility of all citizens, especially in the current era of globalization. The challenges of strategies to increase national integration in the era of globalization are:

1. Access Gap

Although technology has offered many new possibilities, there is still a gap in access to digital technology, as not all communities have equal access, especially between urban and rural areas and between different socioeconomic groups, which can reinforce social and economic inequalities that can ultimately hinder national integration.

2. Cybersecurity Threats

Increasing cybercrime activities such as data breaches, spreading hoaxes, and cyberattacks can threaten national integration, cybersecurity is an important factor in ensuring stable and secure national integration.

3. The erosion of cultural values

The entry of global culture through digital media can erode local and national cultural values. Along with the smoother flow of digitalization, it will be easier for foreign cultures to enter Indonesia, so that it becomes a trend and is followed by most Indonesians. Finding a balance between globalization and cultural preservation is also a challenge of national integration.

The strategy to build national integration is to provide equitable digital access, ensuring that all regions in Indonesia have equal access to digital infrastructure, such as a fast and stable internet network, available evenly in all regions in Indonesia. Build digital education that ensures that all citizens have the access and skills necessary to pick up goods in a digital society. This includes providing affordable internet access, incorporating a curriculum on digital literacy and technology skills in the education system.

The digital era is a period of faster technological development than the previous era. In modern life, technology is the main need for humans, especially smartphones that are widely used by teenagers today. Digital technologies, such as social media and online platforms, can serve as tools that facilitate discussion and collaboration in the world of education. However, on the other hand, its use is also risky, such as the spread of invalid information, increased polarization, and the spread of hatred on social media.

Indonesia, which is known as a plural and peaceful country, continues to face inter-religious conflicts. As stated by Jarir (2019) in the quote of Hyangsewu, et al. (2022:41), social media as a platform for unlimited interaction is often a forum for disseminating religious content that creates ambiguity. The role of social media in the presentation of religious content has two sides: on the one hand it can function as a medium of religious education, but on the other hand it can trigger religious conflicts. In addition, the digital era also brings various challenges for adolescents, such as (1) internet addiction, (2) online games, (3) the spread of hoax and SARA news, (4) attitude changes, and (5) the psychological impact of social media use (Siregar & Tafonao, 2021:2).

Globalization that encourages digitalization has also contributed to the emergence of various conflicts in Indonesia. The challenges in conflict resolution in the digital era are increasingly complex due to technological changes and the development of social media that present new dynamics in resolving conflicts (S. Martínez, Valentim, & Dinas, 2023). Therefore, conflict resolution in the digital era requires an innovative and adaptive approach to be more effective. Technology can be an important tool in conflict resolution, for example through online communication platforms that facilitate dialogue between groups, encourage mutual understanding, and build collaborative networks to find solutions. In addition, data analysis and artificial intelligence can also be used to identify conflict trends and design more effective resolution strategies.

The Golden Generation stands for Energetic, Multitalented, Active, and Spiritual Generation. This generation is a generation that is able to compete at the global level, especially in the modern world which is heavily influenced by technology. The period from 2012 to 2035 is considered the period of the formation of Indonesia's Golden Generation. Therefore, during this period, the government and the community continue to encourage various educational programs to prepare a superior generation. The great hope for the nation's generation in the 21st century is further strengthened by the potential of human resources (HR) in Indonesia.

Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2010, Indonesia began to enter a demographic bonus period that lasted until 2035, where the number of productive age population was much higher than the age of children and the elderly. In 2010, the number of children aged 0-9 years was recorded at 45.93 million people, while the age group of 10-19 years amounted to 43.55 million people. It is projected that by 2045, the 0-9 age group will be in the range of 35-45 years, while those aged 10-19 will enter the age of 45-54. Therefore, during the period 2010-2035, a massive investment in human resource development is needed to prepare a competent generation in 2045, when Indonesia enters 100 years of independence. To ensure that this generation has global

competitiveness, education, mastery of technology, and character strengthening based on noble morals must be the top priority.

The golden generation must be able to apply science and technology in daily life without forgetting moral and national values. As students and the younger generation, we can contribute to fostering a sense of togetherness through digital media. For example, by using social media as an educational tool, such as disseminating content that teaches an attitude of respecting differences, creating learning materials for children about diversity, and ensuring that the content created does not contain SARA elements.

Indonesia has productive human resources who excel in various fields, both in activities and thoughts. In the digital era, the younger generation can use technology to strengthen the unity and unity of the nation. One way is to establish communication across regions, such as talking to friends in Papua through social media, asking how things are going, and understanding the conditions in various regions of Indonesia. Thus, we can cultivate a sense of empathy and concern for others. As students and part of the golden generation, we have a responsibility to maintain the unity and unity of the nation. If a national identity crisis occurs, students and youth must be at the forefront of overcoming it. The role of digital media as a communication tool can be used to build collective awareness of the importance of unity.

In addition, students must be active in social literacy, both on campus and in the community, in order to remain sensitive to various issues that develop. Pancasila and the motto "Bhinneka Tunggal Ika" must be a guideline in the life of the nation and state. Therefore, a generation that has a strong spirit and determination to serve the nation, and is able to unite diversity in order to create harmony in social life. By defending national values, we can face various external threats that have the potential to shake the country's ideology.

Globalization brings various challenges, both in terms of culture, economy, and politics. Therefore, the golden generation must have national vigilance against various threats, such as radicalism, terrorism, and the disintegration of the nation. This threat can have a bad impact on society, both psychologically and physically. Many victims of terrorism have experienced deep trauma as a result of the events they experienced, which had a long-lasting impact on their lives. Therefore, the young generation has an important role in creating a safe and harmonious environment, both through social interaction and positive use of technology.

Lack of concern for national issues is a challenge in building the nation's character. Currently, more and more individuals have an attitude of individualism, which is contrary to the values contained in Pancasila and Bhinneka Tunggal Ika. The process of building the nation's character takes a long time and must be carried out consistently. Loss of character and moral values is at the root of various negative actions in society. Therefore, instilling a strong character and a spirit of unity is a fundamental step so that the community can coexist in national unity and unity.

We must not forget the struggle of the nation's heroes who have fought for Indonesia's independence. As successors, we must maintain what they have fought for,

by maintaining the integrity of the nation, strengthening the sense of nationalism, and adhering to the values of Pancasila. Only with unity, togetherness, and the spirit of nationalism can we face global challenges and lead Indonesia to a brighter future.

According to Myron Weiner, integration is the process of uniting all components of a nation's life, which includes social, political, economic, and cultural aspects. To strengthen national integration in society, we need to apply principles such as mutual cooperation, in which each individual plays an active role in helping others. In addition, participation in social activities can also foster a sense of empathy and concern for fellow humans as creatures created by God Almighty. The national anthem of Indonesia Raya also has an important role in strengthening the sense of nationalism and unity. As a symbol of the state, this song depicts the spirit of national struggle that has become an inseparable part of the culture and identity of the Indonesian nation. Therefore, discussing Greater Indonesia is the same as talking about unity and unity as a common goal. National integration is not only related to social and cultural aspects, but also includes psychological aspects, such as the sense of satisfaction of a group in a country. The views and positions of ethnic groups towards national integration are very influential in creating social stability.

National integration is a fundamental concept in building and maintaining the sustainability of a nation. Therefore, a strong commitment is needed to implement the values of solidarity, mutual cooperation, and national identity to strengthen the unity of the nation. As Indonesian citizens, we have a responsibility to build national integration by upholding the motto *Bhineka Tunggal Ika*, which means "different but still one". It affirms the importance of respecting differences in religion, language, race, and ethnicity as part of the cultural richness that must be maintained and maintained. Therefore, instilling a sense of unity and unity in the young generation from an early age is a must.

#### *The Golden Generation and Future Challenges*

The Golden Generation is a young generation that has high energy, is multitalented, active, and has strong spiritual values. They must also be able to adapt to modern technological developments in order to compete at the global level. The period 2012 to 2035 is considered a crucial period in the formation of the character of the Golden Generation in Indonesia. Therefore, the government and the community need to focus on improving the quality of education in order to produce a superior generation in the future. Indonesia is currently experiencing a demographic bonus, where the number of productive age population is more dominant than the non-productive age. The period 2010 to 2035 is an important moment to maximize this potential for the progress of the nation.

However, without a large investment in human resource (HR) development, this demographic bonus can be wasted. Therefore, the Golden Generation must be given broad access to quality education, mastery of technology, and the cultivation of moral and ethical values in order to be able to contribute positively to the nation and state. As part of the Golden Generation, students have a central role in instilling the values of unity and

unity, especially through digital media. By utilizing technology, they can provide education about the importance of respecting differences and creating learning media that supports diversity. In the current digital era, creativity and innovation are the key to strengthening the unity of the nation.

Students must also be agents of change in maintaining the values of nationalism, especially in the midst of the rapid influence of globalization that can erode the love of the homeland. Technology also plays an important role in maintaining communication and strengthening social relations between citizens, both domestically and abroad. Through social media, we can share information, discuss, and collaborate to create solutions to various national challenges. By adhering to the motto of *Bhineka Tunggal Ika* and the principles of Pancasila, the younger generation can build unity in diversity and maintain national integrity.

#### *Threats and Challenges to National Integration*

In the midst of global dynamics, the Golden Generation is expected to be able to maintain the country's ideological resilience and not be easily influenced by negative influences from outside. One of the biggest challenges is threats to national integration, such as terrorism and radicalism, which can disrupt the country's social stability and security. Therefore, national vigilance must be instilled from an early age. The impact of this threat is not only physical, but also psychological. Victims of terrorism, for example, often experience deep trauma that can permanently affect their lives.

Therefore, the younger generation must play an active role in creating a safe and harmonious environment for the entire community. Awareness of the importance of maintaining unity must be instilled so that we can jointly fight against all forms of threats that have the potential to damage the social and national order. The importance of understanding the values of Pancasila cannot be ignored. The younger generation must be able to distinguish between ideologies that are in line with Pancasila and those that are contrary to it. With a deep understanding of the state's ideology, they can become true guardians and defenders of Pancasila.

However, another challenge facing the current generation is the increasing attitude of individualism in society. The change in lifestyle due to globalization has made many people more focused on personal interests rather than common interests. If this continues to develop, the sense of unity and solidarity of the nation will be further eroded. Therefore, the values of togetherness and mutual cooperation must continue to be emphasized as part of the identity of the Indonesian nation.

#### *Technology as a Tool to Unite the Nation*

Technology has brought about major changes in the way humans interact and communicate. On the one hand, technological advances have made human life easier, but on the other hand, if not used wisely, technology can also be a threat to the values of togetherness. Therefore, technology must be utilized as a tool to strengthen social relations and build collective awareness of the importance of national unity and unity.

Through technology, we can create various educational media that instill the values of tolerance, diversity, and nationalism.

Technology can also help defuse conflict by providing a more open and inclusive space for dialogue. Thus, the younger generation can learn to understand differences and find fair solutions in dealing with various social problems. As the next generation of the nation, we have a great responsibility in maintaining national integration and continuing the struggle of our predecessors. The values that have been fought for by the nation's heroes must be maintained and preserved.

With a spirit of unity and strong determination, we can build a more advanced, harmonious, and competitive Indonesia at the global level. In the face of an increasingly complex future, the active participation of the younger generation is indispensable. The spirit of nationalism must not fade in the midst of the times. By utilizing technology positively and adhering to the noble values of the nation, we can ensure that Indonesia remains a strong, united, and sovereign country.

## **Conclusion**

National Integration as a Pillar of National Life and national integration is a key factor in maintaining the unity of Indonesia consisting of various ethnicities, religions, and cultures. Globalization brings a new dynamic that requires Indonesian people to be more adaptive in dealing with differences without losing their national identity. In addition to globalization, digital technology and social media play a major role in strengthening communication and interaction between community groups in various regions. Digital platforms can be used as a tool to build collective awareness of the importance of national unity and values. However, if not used wisely, technology can also be a trigger for division, such as the spread of hoaxes, hate speech, and radicalism.

Therefore, digital literacy is an important factor in strengthening national integration. In addition, the role of the young generation in building national integration is very important because the young generation is part of the Golden Generation, the young generation also has a role in the key to maintaining national integration by utilizing technology positively, building collective awareness, and instilling national values in daily life, thus Indonesia can face the challenges of globalization without losing its national identity. And remain a strong, united and harmonious nation. And the younger generation also has a great responsibility in maintaining the unity of the nation.

The role of the young generation in building national integration is to become an active agent of change in disseminating positive information and instilling national values through digital media. Participate in social activities that strengthen cross-cultural and regional interactions to enhance a sense of unity. Increasing awareness of global challenges, such as the threat of radicalism and national disintegration, while upholding the values of Pancasila and Bhineka Tunggal Ika. And in the era of globalization, national integration is becoming increasingly important to maintain the unity of a diverse Indonesia. Digital technology can be an effective tool in strengthening unity, but it can also be a threat if not managed properly.

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