Iin Maliah¹, Moses Glorino Rumambo Pandin²

¹ Faculty of Nursing, ² Faculty of Cultural Studies

Airlangga University Surabaya, Indonesia

Dr. Ir. Soekarno Street, Mulyorejo, Mulyorejo District, Surabaya City iin.maliah-2020@fkip.unair.ac.id and moses.glorino@fib.unair.ac.id

Book Review

Strengthening Integrative-Based Character Education in Higher Education

Book Title: Strengthening Integrative-Based Character Education in Higher Education; Author: Suardi, S.Pd., M.Pd.; Dr. Nursalam, M.Si. ; Hasnah K, S.Pd., M.Pd.; Publisher CV.AA.RIZKY; Edition: First Print, October 2020; Pages: 166 pages + xvii; ISBN: 978-623-6506-68-4

Suardi was born on May 5, 1986 in Bantaeng. He is one of three authors who wrote a book entitled "Strengthening Integrative Moral-Based Character Education in Higher Education". The book written to be able to provide benefits for lecturers, students, teachers, and students, as well as the government in building character education in Indonesia is a book development from the evaluation of a book on "Integration Models of Student Character Education Development at the University of Muhammadiyah Makassar." The basis of moral learning on campus is carried out through the tridharma of moral-based higher education, including the university strategic plan, national policy, and character revolution. With this basis, it is expected to give birth to students who have a character spirit. There are five integration models of character education based on moral knowledges, moral feelings, *nonverbal* morals, moral *habits*, and moral *culture*. The most important values in strengthening moral learning include religious values, nationality, mutual help and unity. Students as objects of strengthening character education are expected to be able to maintain the identity of the Indonesian nation and preserve the culture in it. In addition, students are also expected to contribute to the development of *theplatform* main for providing education.

The book is the work of Suardi, Nursalam, and Hasnah that contain the result of the development of a research evaluation on the integration of student character education development at the University of Muhammadiyah Makassar. The provision of character education in Indonesia is now considered alarming and its development is urgently needed, considering that the increasing cases of fighting between students, and various other juvenile delinquency, especially in the capital, such as bullying, sexual harassment, the majority of which apply to seniority, drug addiction, and so on. In education, there is little responsibility to deal with the dynamics of the millennial era and the arrival of destructive behavior, violence and westernized behaviour. Seeing this, all education stakeholders must pay attention to the provision of extra attention and assistance to students to make thoughts and behavior without violating the rules and laws. The two main things that have been written down have been able to become the reason for the mandatory direction of educators towards their students. Moral learning requires that it be carried out up to higher education so that the millennial generation has noble values who will become state leaders in the hope of being an example of their nation.

Looking at the direction of the Ministry of National Education (2010), based on psychological and cultural aspects, character can be formed through: heart (*religion and emotion*), sports and kinesthetic (*physical and kinesthetic*), thought (*intellectual related*), taste and intention (*affective and emotional*). *creativity*). In essence, moral formation has the aim of forming strong citizens, competing, kind and instinctive, having morals, tolerance, family, patriotism, leading to dynamism, innovating insights and experiences that are entirely based on faith and piety to God Almighty. One based on Pancasila. Through character education, students are asked to not bother others in order to increase and use their knowledge, intervene and internalize the essence of character so that it can be embedded in daily behavior. As the book was written in the hope that it would be useful to the teachers and students, as well as the government in building character education in Indonesia.

Students are a generation that has the potential to become youth with character. In making students as human beings with character is certainly not easy, because there will be such a thing as a character crisis. Where the character crisis is a condition that is owned by a group of nations or

students themselves with low character or even lack of character like humans in general. Included in the character crisis are premarital sex behavior, hedonistic lifestyle, student conflicts which are usually triggered by brawls between students, anarchic demonstrations mostly occur because students' voices are felt less heard by the government or universities. For example, smoking on campus, cheating during exams, it has become a tradition especially during high school or junior high school. They are used to doing this, getting pregnant out of wedlock, stealing (both stealing small and heavy items), littering, drug trafficking and abuse, and not praying. For a Muslim, prayer is an obligation as the basis of religion, especially for the age of a student who has automatically passed the age of puberty. Carrying out prayers or other worship also includes the implementation of the value of God Almighty. Whatever the religion, all students are obliged to carry out worship based on the beliefs they profess. A continuous character crisis will damage future generations, so that a strengthening of character education is born which includes academic, co-academic, extra-academic, and also non-academic aspects.

Strengthening character education in Indonesian society, especially students who are in college can be seen from the psychological and socio-cultural aspects which can be classified into four dimensions of character, including: (1) heart and spiritual cultivation, which includes honest, responsible, religious attitudes, and also tolerance; (2) thinking, where some of his attitudes include critical thinking, creative thinking and not closed, have a sense of ambition to know the latest things, and show that he is oriented towards the development of science and technology; (3) sports and kinesthetics, which it includes physical conditions that are clean, fresh, have good endurance, always cheerful, have a disciplined and friendly attitude; (4) practice taste and initiative, these characters involve various attitudes such as nationalism, mutual respect, tolerance, fondness for helping and also the spirit of mutual cooperation is very high. With the strengthening of character education, there is such a thing as an assessment after the education is carried out. So the most important thing from strengthening character education in students in higher education includes religious, nationalist, independent, mutual cooperation, and also unity. It's because being a student, it is not only academic values that are pursued, but good character is the most important. Thus, it is hoped that the goal of strengthening character education can be realized, such as forming Indonesia's golden age in 2045 in the face of ever-changing changes in the future with all preparations for the 21st century. In addition, another goal is to maintain and develop values, culture and become an identity for the Indonesian state as a form of support for the National Mental Revolution Movement.

There are six important things to be taught to the younger generation of Indonesia, especially college students in the aspect of *moral knowledge*, which include: a) moral awareness, b) knowing moral values, c) perspective discussion, d) moral thought, e) decision making, and f) self-knowledge. As students, it is proper for them to become human beings who act with moral principles and become a source of energy for positive feelings or moral feelings that have six important things such as conscience, high self-esteem, empathy for all people, loving good things so as to avoid bad actions, self-control as well as being able to distinguish between *self-care* or being lazy, and the last is humility towards something that can make students feel arrogant.

A good feeling, the knowledge that is qualified, will not succeed in making a good student character if it is not accompanied by *action* or moral actions that can be viewed from three aspects which are competence, desires, and habits. When students already have habits that result from moral feelings, moral knowledge and also moral actions, then as students they should contribute in spreading moral goodness. For this reason, as a moral student, you must accept everything related to morals, whether it is from moral knowledge, moral feelings, words and the use of moral symbols and make it a habit in daily behavior.

The integration of strengthening religious character education with moral *knowing, feeling, nonverbal, habitus*, and *culture* is a series of relationships that are carried out to get their respective benefits. The relationship here is coherent and unified or will not be balanced if it stands alone. Because it is a relationship that is always related and sustainable for a long period of time. One of the integration of religious character with *moral feeling* which is included in heart and spiritual cultivation is loving kindness. Students must have the ability to like good things, and are expected to hate bad things. As a Muslim student, it is imperative to stay away from bad things so that a harmonious life will be achieved. In addition, upholding a tolerant attitude towards different religions is no less important because it includes an attitude that respects differences. Thus, self-

control in students is very necessary, considering that their behavior does not deviate from ethics, morals, and rules related to religious matters. This is because it relates to different belief systems and beliefs. Once students understand moral knowledge, moral feelings, the student must act in accordance with good morals through three stages with the first stage being preceded by competence(*competence*), the second phase of desire(*will*), and the third phase of the habit(*habit*).

The integration of strengthening nationalist character education with moral *knowing, feeling, nonverbal, habitus*, and *culture* shows loyalty, high respect for language, concern for others, as well as prioritizing important things in the Indonesian state over important things in themselves and their groups. Because the strengthening of moral education is related to nationalist morals, all its moral aspects will refer to the state of the nation and state which is intended for the community to remain safe and peaceful as well as prosperous. In taking a point of view with a nationalist character, students must have a high desire to fulfill the expectations of the Indonesian people (one of which is the intellectual life of the nation) to become a smart nation, the country will get a better life, with insight and technology oriented. Apart from this, people with quality capacities will also be born. So that the economic stability of the nation will be maintained, and the welfare of the people will be achieved.

Being a good student with good characters cannot be separated from the attitude of cooperation, which is the behavior of mutual aid to attempt to solve problems among others, giving help to help people who need it. As we know that as social creatures, we cannot do anything without the help of others, considering humans as social and also the Indonesian country attached to the country's basis of the Pancasila, which is one of the second implementations of these values to have a high-cooperation among humans. Besides being social and demanding as a citizen, religion also contains the same cooperation. With the mutual cooperation attitude, strengthening character education for students in higher education is considered very important because students as the golden generation will be guided and trained to appreciate the spirit of cooperation, whether in carrying out tasks, organizational activities, or community service. In addition, students are also expected to be able to establish communication and friendly relations with other students. It is intended that students do not feel lonely, especially for students who wander. Moreover, by working together, students will develop a caring attitude because they work together and not feel how difficult it is when everything is done alone. The moral values of "gotong royong" that should exist in universities are mutual respect, respect, cooperation, commitment, solidarity, empathy, anti-discrimination and violence, and an attitude of self-sacrifice.

The advantages that exist are in the relatively new year of publication. With the recent publications, the knowledge developed is automatically new and more relevant in today's life. In addition, to create the wisdom in it, the author also pours it very beautifully. Where the writing is not ambiguous, there are no typos, not complicated, clear and detailed. The author is able to immerse the reader in every sentence. Who can also include the selection of the correct language and simple explanations in the advantages? Another advantage is on the cover of the book. It is undeniable that everyone will judge the cover first before reading into the contents. Cover with *design* is very attractive and the layout of the title is proportional, so it can invite many people to attract their attention. Behind the existing advantages, there are several disadvantages where there is no conclusion, so the reader must conclude the reading results. In fact, if there is a conclusion, then the reader will be more excited to understand, considering that many benefits of this book. In addition, with many benefits, also contains several sentences that use English, where this language is sometimes not liked by readers, especially students who are less proficient in this language.

Character education based on its understanding generally refers to the change and formation of patterns of thought, behavior, character, and individual habits that are similar to the standards that have been set. Alike with the notion of character education based on essence, it is an effort as a form to provide help to the growth of young people from the outside and from the inside, of the proper attitude formed to be good. Character education is carried out to fulfill the goal of increasing levels such as quality in a process and education that are directed at strengthening morals and noble character in students in a complete, integrated, and balanced manner.

Patterns and perspectives on life that are pragmatic, transactionalism, hedonistic, materialistic and secular, make citizens, especially students, have hearts that are not gentle, do not like religious values and more prominent style to follow, life with lust, and in order to achieve life like that can

manipulate all forms of planning like lowering self-esteem. This kind of condition will cause people's lives to be restless, cause worries, and fear, which will increase worry about the future of the nation. So, it needs to strengthen character education, especially for students by building characters that are linked to the heart, sports and kinesthetic, taste and intent, as well as thought. Because basically, strengthening character education is carried out to change the nation that used to have a traditional culture to become a nation with critical thinking, especially aimed at students and also having skills in the field of science and technology based on and instilling religious values, faith, piety to God Almighty, and the noble values of the Indonesian people.

The author reviewed the book when viewed from the whole, who can say that it is feasible and able to meet the reader's needs. It's said so because able to explain in detail about the content and intent of the topics raised, namely character education for the millennial generation. Besides being explained in detail, seeing from the benefits, it is also suitable if read by all circles, especially educators and parents. Who can justify it because it is equipped with examples described in absolute terms and are around them so that readers feel what is happening in the millennial generation.

Overall, the information submitted is the latest. This can be seen based on the year of publication which is relatively young. It can say that the information contained in the information category is a character education and the millennial generation. In addition to the concept also provides information on how to make the millennial generation have a noble character, especially for students. Other information presented is the implementation of character education, the classification of character education, and the urgency of character education.

For readers who understand the contents, will greatly affect their lives in the future. The impact caused is an influence with a positive impact, because the information presented is able to provide inspiration to instill character education in the community and the millennial generation. Because of the good influence, it is hoped that every reader will apply a noble character in living his life. In addition to being applied, it can also be used as an example for the millennial generation, so that character there does not fade from the existing Pancasila values. All of this affects each other because the millennial generation is the generation that will later lead the nation and must have a noble character.

This good influence can be proven when the reader understands the book's contents because it is apparent in the book that there are several ways to instill character education in the millennial generation. By applying this method, who can prove that who can obtain the noble character possessed by the millennial generation because educators read, understand, and use all the contents and benefits.

Judging from the content and impact, it can be assured that this book is indeed worthy of reading and applying its contents. This is relevant to the condition of the character possessed by the millennial generation, which is the generation that will lead the Indonesian nation in the future. Nevertheless, this generation is also a generation born in the technological era with the hope of being able to provide inspiration and innovation to the wider community in Indonesia.

Chapter five describes six essential things that are taught to the Indonesian millennial generation, especially students in universities, in moral knowledge. The six things included are character awareness, knowledge of character values, point of view talks, character thinking, decision making, and personality knowledge. The information is described on pages 67 to 81.

Books that have such a design, with a book style that is suitable for the readers, and the size of the book that supports them are also very well targeted for the readers. Readers prefer books that tend to be easy to carry everywhere, just like books reviewed. For this reason, the style, organization and size of the book are in accordance with the expectations that the author wants to achieve, namely improving and instilling character education for the millennial generation.

In a book that is reviewed related to studies, ideas, and facts, nothing else is ignored by the author. It is because the contents of the book are very clearly explained about the concept, urgency and how to instill character education, especially in the millennial generation. Considering the author is a lecturer, the book's contents are equipped with real examples that exist around the lives of the millennial generation, especially students in college.

The advantages that exist in this book are in the relatively new year of publication. With new publications, the knowledge developed is automatically new and more relevant in today's life. In addition, in developing the knowledge contained in it, the author also pours it very beautifully. The

writing is not ambiguous, there are no typos, not complicated, and also clear and detailed. The author is able to immerse the reader in every sentence. It can also include a selection of the correct language and simple explanations in terms of advantages. Another advantage is on the cover of the book. Another advantage of this book is the cover of the book. It is undeniable that everyone will judge the cover first before reading into the contents. The cover with a very attractive design and the layout of the title is proportional, so it can invite many people to attract their attention.

Overall is very good, but it is recommended for the author to add a conclusion at the end of the book so that the reader can better understand the information that the author wants to convey even though it is not in too many sentences.

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Authors:

One of the authors of the book "Strengthening Integrative Moral-Based Character Education in Higher Education" is Suardi. He was born in Bantaeng on May 5, 1986. Completed his education at SD 34 Bungung Katammu in 1999. He continued his education at Mts Muhammadiyah Panaikang in that year and finished in 2002. In 2005 he completed his education at MA Muhammadiyah Panaikang and continued his undergraduate education at the University Muhammadiyah Makassar with a Sociology Education study program. Then in 2012 he continued at UNM and completed his education in 2014. From 2017 to 2020 he carried out the Doctoral-S3 Education Program at the same university. In his activities, the author focuses on education, conducting research, and community service. He has written two books¹.

Nursalam was born in Enrekang in 1960 is also one of the authors of the book who completed his basic education at SDN 2 Enrekang in 1972, in 1974 at PGAN, Enrekang Regency, and high school at PGAN 6 in 1979. Then he studied at the University of Ujung Pandang General Education study program in 1986, and was appointed as an educator at a university and placed at the Muhammadiyah University of Makassar. He focuses on studying, carrying out research, and community service and writes a book entitled: (1) Aisyiyah's Organizational Sociology, ¹.

The last writer is Hasnah, who was born in Panggalungan on July 10, 1987. She started her education in 1995 at SD Inpres Lappatammu, Junior High School in 2001 at SMP Tanete Riaja, and SMA 1 Tanete Riaja in 2007. Then took higher education at the University of Muhammadiyah Makassar by majoring in Elementary School Teacher Education (PGSD) until 2012. In 2016 he studied at the (S2) level and majored in Basic Education in the Postgraduate Program at the same university and graduated in 2019. Written is the sum of one¹.