

## Identity Crisis As A Threat among Indonesian Young Generations

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### Abstract

In living life as a part of a nation and state, people sometimes feel confused about what is more important between the country and the state, and they sometimes even underestimate the two. The state is an organization of power from the fellowship of human life, while the nation refers to the harmony of human life. A country must have its own national identity that differs from other countries since the national identity of a nation shows its personality. This study aims to observe the condition of national identity among the young generation and attempts to overcome the threat of a national identity crisis. The method used in this study is descriptive analysis with data collection techniques by conducting surveys and interviews. The population in this study consist of private high school and university students. In this study, the sample used was 160 people aged 15-20 years. The results indicated that the young generation is at a critical stage of national identity. It was caused by their inabilities to wisely use technology and a lack of sense of nationalism as well as love for their homeland. This study found many, lacks as it is seen in the students who still used their respective regional languages because they were vulnerable to any trigger according to the perspectives, principles, and goals of each student. Furthermore, based on research results, teenagers tend to be more fond of foreign cultures and consider Indonesian cultural heritage outdated. For this reason, it is necessary to instill a sense of pride and love for the homeland among young people so that the culture remains sustainable. The researchers suggest the Indonesian people, especially the young generation to have more concern about the national identity of the Indonesian nation since it is essential to increase the horizon of knowledge, and it is also hoped that the young generation can apply an understanding on national identity and be able to implement the points of Pancasila in life nation, society, and state.

**Keywords:** national identity; identity crisis; nationalism

## **Introduction**

### *Identity Crisis*

An identity crisis is a phenomenon that can exist in one's life. When he comes to a new environment, such as a workplace with values and different views from those he holds, he will conform to those values or question the values he holds. That triggers a problem in him where he has difficulty combining the importance of the organization with his values (Alhorie, et al, 2021; Hanugh et al, 2021).

National identity is the essential identity of a nation, including cultural heritage, history, community structure, and others. National identity is globally owned by every country and becomes a differentiator to other nations. Every citizen is required to always maintain the nation's national identity as a way of life in achieving common goals and ideals (Akbar, 2020; Aini, 2020; Azis & Eng, 2020; Edi, 2021; Supratiknya, 2021).

The rapid and massive development of science and technology has various positive and negative impacts, depending on how they respond to them. Science and technology provide various conveniences in various aspects of human life and even help increase human work productivity and bring new problems to culture. Among those who cannot use technology wisely, it results in the loss of national identity (Istiqomah, 2020; Sudargini & Purwanto, 2020; Silva & Pandin, 2021; Sormin et al, 2021; Yolanda & Dewi, 2021).

### *Young Generation*

In a popular definition, the youthful era is a set of people aged 0 - 35 years. Sociologically and practically, contributors or people who belong to the institution have similar experiences, particularly principal occasions which are skilled concurrently with the aid of using the entire community, inclusivity

of the era of development. The young generation is closely related to globalization's impact, especially during the current rapid technological era. It becomes an interesting topic since it forms a kind of public discourse that never end. It is undeniable that many young people are complacent about the developments of the era, and thus, they begin to put behind the importance of nationalism and national identity (Fauziah & Dewi, 2021).

Nowadays, Indonesia faced the problem of national identity fading due to neglecting most of the local norms and it has been replaced by new standards that sort of contrary to national identity. The young generation cannot avoid the influence of globalization. They tend to experience new things. The current state of affairs prioritizes technology and tries to make everything easy. If we do not want to be eroded by the progress of civilization, humans are required to be able to follow it, especially the young generation (Adha et al, 2021; Firmonasari, 2021).

Based on a study conducted by Jony Eko Yulianto, he obtained data related to the understanding of Generation Z's national identity, especially in the young generation in terms of the intensity of internet use. The study, which used a sample of 155 private high school students in Tulungagung, concluded that a higher national identity belongs to the youth of Generation Z who are not addicted to the internet. That is because Generation Z's attitude towards national identity is influenced by inappropriate internet content (Yulianto, 2016).

Based on Singh & Dangmei's findings, the characteristic of Generation Z are the most ethnically diverse and technologically sophisticated generation; an informal, individual, and straightway of communicating, and social networking; they are known as a "Do-It-Yourself" generation; more entrepreneurial, trustworthy, tolerant and less motivated by money; they are more realistic about their work expectation

and optimistic about the future; they tend to be impatient, instant minded, lacking the ambitions of previous generations, have acquired attention deficit disorder with a high dependency on the technology and a low attention span, individualistic, self-directed, most demanding, acquisitive, materialistic and entitled generation; they are very concerned with environmental issues and have a high sense of responsibility towards the natural resources, and they want to be heard irrespective of their young age. Generations Z tends to have different requirements and driving factors (Kirchmayer & Fratricova, 2018).

Based on the description above, the researchers formulate several research questions: *First*, what is the current condition of the Indonesian national identity? *Second*, why do young people need to protect their national identity? *Third*, how do the young generation preserve their national identity? *Fourth*, what is the solution to overcoming the threat of an identity crisis?

After revealing the answers to the questions above, it is expected that this study will provide novelties in the world of education and benefits to ensure that the young generation is not complacent with the times and results in the fading of national identity. An understanding on national identity in its implementation helps prepare future provisions for the nation's youth, especially in the life of the country, society, and state.

Thus, this study explores how the condition of the Indonesian national identity is now, the importance of national identity for the young generation, how the young generation behaves in protecting national identity, and the solutions that must be done in overcoming the threat of a national identity crisis.

## **Methods**

A mixed method was used in this study, which focuses on a literature review in

searching for journals related to the identity crisis that threatens the young generation, online surveys through google forms, and interviews. A descriptive analysis method is an approach applied in this study. Participants described their understanding through a qualitative approach by investigating the national identity crisis issues (Sarasati, 2021).

Quantitative primary data were obtained from 160 participants on the internet through online surveys using google form. The data were then collected through several processes. *First*, determining the questions. *Second*, determining the minimum target participants. *Third*, creating a google form. *Fourth*, distributing the google form survey to social media. *Fifth*, analyzing the data obtained from the surveys. *Sixth*, presenting data in the form of articles.

Data collection techniques were carried out through surveys and interviews. *First*, a survey through the Google Form platform contains questions with optional answers. The respondents were asked to fill in their identities and answer the questions honestly. The survey was conducted privately using the respondents' email access. They were expected to find it easy to provide answers by tapping the appropriate answers. *Second*, the surveys were conducted through online interviews via Zoom meeting application, which presented questions and provided opinions from the sources.

The primary technique in this research is a questionnaire. The questionnaire in this study was used to measure numerical data in score scores to obtain the primary data and analyze it. Each test has three alternative answers, and each has a different weight or score. Interview techniques are used to obtain respondents' direct data and complete incomplete data or answered questionnaires. Interviews were conducted by asking questions about the meaning of state symbols and attitudes toward nationalism.

Resource individuals offer sincere reasons for part or through people, particularly the questioner and helpful resource individuals from students—respondents who offer reviews with incredible enthusiasm with numerous tales or experiences. The validity of the information changed examined by correlating the survey information's consequences through forms and interviews. Data is dependable if someone's solutions to questions are steady, and after repeated measurements, the identical consequences are obtained.

The tool is said to be legitimate if it could take degree what is desired if it could monitor the information of the variables studied appropriately. To decide the extent of validity of a tool, the correlation coefficient may be used using the Pearson Product Moment formulation. In contrast, the tool reliability takes a look at the makes use of the Alpha formulation, due to the fact tool on this takes a look at is withinside the shape of a questionnaire. The rating is withinside the shape of a variety from one to four.

The researchers take several steps in data analysis techniques. *First*, making a presentation of the data using a table by showing the total participants and their answers according to the order in which the questions are given. The data were sorted according to the related aspects. *Second*, reducing the data to become more detailed data so that it is easy to learn. The data must be objective, valid, and reliable, therefore, a detailed and thorough recording process is needed because of many participants.

Furthermore, the research results were interpreted and linked to theories related to national identity. The interpretation was carried out as an effort to review the results of observations. The interpretation results could later be used as a benchmark in determining the next stage.

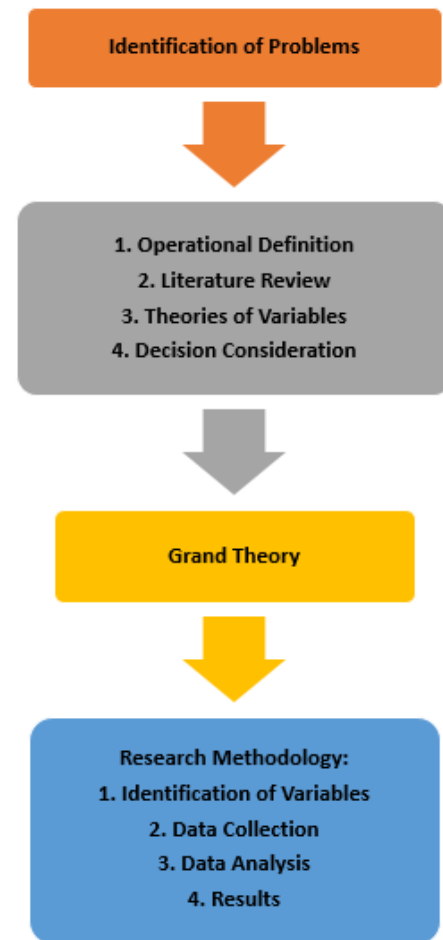


Figure 1. Process Flow of Study

## Results

In this study, data collection through surveys and interviews. Surveys with questionnaires were given to participants via the google form platform. Total respondents are 160 people with an age range of 15-20 years. The questions include love for domestic products, regional culture, regional languages, customs, national anthems, and regional anthems, racial diversity, the national motto, state philosophy, national identity, and insight into the archipelago.

**Table 1. Survey Results**

Items	Optional	Frequency	Percentage	Percentage Validity	Percentage Cumulative
Having an interest in domestic products over foreign products	Yes	66	41.2	41.2	41.2
	No	94	58.8	58.8	100
	Total	160	100	100	
Getting to know the local culture	Do not know	0	0	0	0
	Little knowing	72	45	45	45
	Very acquainted	88	55	55	100
	Total	160	100	100	
Understanding and can speak the local language	Yes	26	16.2	16.2	16.2
	No	134	83.8	83.8	100
	Total	160	100	100	
Still practicing the customs	Yes	131	81.9	81.9	81,9
	No	29	18,1	18,1	100
	Total	160	100	100	
Knowing the national anthem and folk anthem	Little	47	29.3	29.3	29.3
	Currently	99	61.9	61.9	91.2
	Lots	14	8.8	8.8	100
	Total	160	100	100	
Showing an attitude towards ethnic, religious, racial diversity	Racist	10	6.3	6.3	6.3
	Tolerance	148	92.5	92.5	98.8
	Not important	2	1.2	1.2	100
	Total	160	100	100	

Understanding the meaning of Bhineka Tunggal Ika and being able to apply it	Yes	1	0.6	0.6	0.6
	No	159	99.4	99.4	100
	Total	160	100	100	
Understanding the meaning of Pancasila values as the basis of state philosophy	Not at all	81	50.6	50.6	50.6
	Little knowing	1	0.6	0.6	51.2
	Very acquainted	78	48.8	48.8	100
	Total	160	100	100	
The development of national identity among today's young generation	Safe	24	15	15	15
	Crisis	135	84.4	84.4	99.4
	Not important	1	0.6	0.6	100
	Total	160	100	100	
Archipelago insight is needed	Yes	160	100	100	100
	No	0	0	0	100
	Total	160	100	100	

Based on the Table 1, showed young people love foreign-made products more than domestically-made products (41.2%); it revealed that many young people do not know their own local culture (45%); they do not understand and cannot speak their local language (16.2%); those who are still carrying out the customs (81.9%); several of them do not remember the national anthem and folk anthem (28.3%); most of them have tolerance toward ethnic, religious, and racial diversity (98.8%); few of young people do understand the meaning of Bhineka Tunggal Ika and can apply it (0.6%); young people did know the meaning of Pancasila values as the basis of state philosophy (50.6%); they

felt that the development of national identity is at a crisis stage (84,4%); and almost of the respondents felt such insight into the Indonesian archipelago is indispensable.

### Discussion

Based on observations, the young generation is quite obvious how their concerned for the national identity of their nation. Many young people did not recognize their national motto, thus triggering an identity crisis. In self-exploration, 58.8% of the young generation are not interested in domestic products, and 50.6% of them do not understand the meaning of Pancasila values as the nation's

principle of the state philosophy. Some show confusing behavior in recognizing their own national identity. The indicators are that they do not love their own country, do not have insight into the archipelago, and enter foreign cultures without a filtration process (Yulianto, 2016; Kirchmayer & Fratricova, 2018).

According to the analysis of the data presented in the table, many young people do not understand the meaning of the national motto, *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, and are unable to apply it in their everyday life. Besides, there are only 50% of the young generation know their own culture. The results obtained from the observations are quite apprehensive. However, it is expected that in the future, the young generation can grow their sense of love for the homeland and can fortify themselves from the existence of western cultures that are not worthy of emulation. The young generation must protect their identity because it is a distinctive national identity that must be protected in the sense that national identity is now a severe problem in Indonesia. The development of the times and the influence of foreign culture or western culture have made the identity of the Indonesian nation increasingly eroded. It seems like the Indonesian people do not love their nation (Adha et al, 2021; Al-Hoorie et al, 2021).

The primary key to maintaining national identity is applying self-discipline. 84% of the respondents stated that the development of national identity among the young generation is currently in crisis. To overcome the identity crisis, we must understand that every nation is born with its uniqueness and characteristics. The uniqueness of the Indonesian nation indeed will not be owned by other nations and vice versa. Citizenship education courses continue to be instilled from an early age, hoping that future generations will not be easily influenced by inappropriate foreign cultures and become more aware of their own national identity. Also, students are expected

to have existing knowledge or theories by learning civic education and apply it in their lives as part of the nation, society, and state (Aziz & Eng, 2020; Edi, 2021; Fauziah & Dewi, 2021; Hanugh et al, 2021; Setyadi & Ruslan, 2021).

The results of the interview with five people who argued that they answered "accept and adjust to differences" confirm the community's behavior in dealing with different cultures. Everybody knows the differences because of social media, which is currently spreading news quickly without the fact. The five people showed various kinds of attitudes, such as acceptance, respect, and adapting to the environment when they acquired cultural differences. There are on average 70 to 100 percent of the Indonesian people who have a love for their homeland and some cannot be calculated in nominal terms.

The importance of instilling a sense of nationalism can be implemented by participating in activities that lead to positive things or participating in events that support fostering a sense of nationalism. Moreover, when the resource persons were allowed to become famous people respected by the community, the informants instilled attitudes and personalities that prevent an identity crisis from occurring and then publish them to imitate or participate in positive things for the culture and the country. Such case often exists today, such as when people are dancing, we can make content from what the people are doing.

## **Conclusion**

Most of Generation Z in Indonesia have a national identity in a low category. It indicates that the young generation's national identity is very worrying. They have not determined their attitudes according to their social groups. Teenagers tend to be more fond of foreign cultures and consider Indonesian cultural heritage outdated than that of the

Indonesian cultures. For this reason, it is necessary to instill a sense of pride and love for the homeland among young people so that the culture remains sustainable. Social comparison is in a low category, which can happen due to the current globalization. Generation Z tends to adopt western culture and begins to leave their nation's culture.

Future researchers who conduct similar research are expected to employ other research methods to increase the variety and accuracy of the authors' research results. The author realizes the need for a more in-depth study of the nation's identity crisis. This scientific article certainly has shortcomings. Therefore, suggestions from various parties are needed to make this scientific article better.

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