

UKM Harmoni Nusantara as a Catalyst for National Integrity: A Qualitative Study of the Internalization of Civic Values among UNP Kediri Students

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Abstract : National integrity is essential for maintaining social cohesion and strengthening national identity in a multicultural society. Student organizations play an important role in fostering civic values and character development among university students. This study aims to analyze the role of UKM Harmoni Nusantara at Universitas Nusantara PGRI Kediri as a catalyst for strengthening national integrity, identify the internalization of civic values through organizational activities, and examine the supporting and inhibiting factors influencing this process. This study employed a qualitative descriptive approach. Data were collected through participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and documentation involving four purposively selected informants. The data were analyzed using the interactive model of Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña. The findings reveal that UKM Harmoni Nusantara contributes to strengthening national integrity through cultural preservation activities, collaboration, and social interaction. Organizational participation promotes the internalization of tolerance, nationalism, social solidarity, responsibility, and empathy among students. However, challenges such as varying levels of participation, limited facilities, social media influence, and globalization remain significant obstacles. The study concludes that culture-based student organizations serve as effective platforms for strengthening civic values and national integrity among university students.

Keywords : national integrity ; student organization; civic values; nationalism; cultural organization

INTRODUCTION

National integrity is one of the main foundations in maintaining unity, social stability, and the sustainability of national development. In the context of Indonesia which has a diversity of tribes, cultures, languages, and religions, national integrity is not only interpreted as individual honesty, but also as a collective commitment to uphold the values of unity, responsibility, tolerance, mutual cooperation, and respect for diversity (Ramadhan et al., 2020; Ramadhan & Eiranda, 2025). Strengthening national integrity is becoming increasingly important amidst the development of globalization which brings various social, cultural, and technological changes. The increasingly open flow of information provides opportunities for the younger generation to develop, but at the same time also presents challenges to strengthening national identity and national character (Rudiyanto & Kasanova, 2023).

Students, as intellectuals and agents of change, play a strategic role in maintaining national values amidst the dynamics of modern society. In addition to being required to possess strong academic competencies, students are also expected to possess strong character, social awareness, the ability to collaborate, and civic responsibility. Therefore, the process of building national integrity within the university environment is a crucial aspect in creating a generation capable of contributing to national development. Strengthening integrity is not only carried out through formal learning processes, but also through various non-formal activities that provide students with direct social experiences.

One of the tools that plays a crucial role in this process is student organizations. Student organizations are a social learning platform that allows students to develop leadership, communication, collaboration, problem-solving, and responsibility skills. Fauziah & Dewi (2021) explain that organizations are consciously coordinated social entities to achieve common goals. In the context of higher education, student organizations serve not only as a means of developing interests and talents but also as a medium for character formation through ongoing social interactions. Through

organizational experiences, students learn to appreciate differences, build shared commitments, and develop a sense of responsibility toward their groups and social environment.

Various studies have shown that student involvement in organizations positively contributes to character formation and the strengthening of national values. Suranto & Rusdianti (2018) found that organizational experience plays a role in the development of students' soft skills, including collaboration and leadership skills. Rahmadhani (2025) emphasized that civic education and student activities play a crucial role in shaping national character based on national values. Saudah (2018) also emphasized that character education, conducted through both formal and informal environments, significantly contributes to the formation of a generation with integrity and responsibility.

In the context of strengthening national integrity, culture-based student organizations have great potential because they can connect character education with real-life experiences. Activities oriented towards cultural preservation, recognition of diversity, and strengthening national identity can be an effective means of internalizing the values of tolerance, cooperation, empathy, and nationalism. Through intensive interaction between members from various backgrounds, students have the opportunity to directly practice the values that support the formation of national integrity.

UKM Harmoni Nusantara Universitas Nusantara PGRI Kediri is a student organization that focuses on preserving culture while strengthening national values. Various activities carried out by this organization provide space for students to interact, collaborate, and develop awareness of the importance of unity in diversity. Observations show that organizational activities encourage the development of attitudes of tolerance, responsibility, cooperation, and national awareness which are reflected in harmonious and respectful social relations between members. These findings indicate that culture-based student organizations have the potential to be a means of character building and strengthening national integrity in the university environment.

Although extensive research has been conducted on student organizations and character education, most studies have focused on student organizations in general and have not specifically examined culture-based organizations as a means of strengthening national integrity. Furthermore, previous research has focused more on aspects of nationalism or character education separately, while studies on the process of internalizing national integrity through cultural organizational activities are still relatively limited, particularly in regional universities. This gap indicates the need for research that can explain how culture-based student organizations contribute to building national integrity through the organizational experiences experienced by students directly.

Based on this background, this study aims to: (1) analyze the role of the Harmoni Nusantara UKM, Nusantara University, PGRI Kediri as a catalyst for national integrity among students; (2) identify the process of internalizing citizenship values including tolerance, nationalism, social solidarity, responsibility, and empathy through organizational activities; and (3) analyze the supporting and inhibiting factors of organizations in building national integrity in the university environment.

The novelty of this research lies in its use of the perspective of culture-based student organizations as catalysts for national integrity. Unlike previous research, which focused more on character education or nationalism separately, this study examines how cultural organization activities directly serve as a medium for internalizing civic values that support the formation of national integrity in students.

METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive research type. The qualitative approach was chosen to understand in depth the role of UKM Harmoni Nusantara Universitas Nusantara PGRI Kediri in building national integrity among students. This approach allows researchers to gain a comprehensive understanding of social phenomena that occur naturally in the organizational environment without manipulating the conditions studied by Winarno (2019). Meanwhile, descriptive research is used to systematically describe various organizational activities and the integrity values that develop among UKM Harmoni Nusantara members Kalidjernih & Winarno (2019).

Data collection was conducted in April 2026 at Hall Campus 2, Universitas Nusantara PGRI Kediri. The focus of the research was directed at the organizational system of UKM Harmoni Nusantara, its role

in building national integrity, as well as factors that support and hinder the implementation of organizational activities in internalizing national values to its members.

The data sources in this study consist of primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained directly through participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and documentation of organizational activities. Secondary data were obtained from various relevant literature sources, such as books, scientific journals, academic articles, and documents related to student organizations, character education, civic education, nationalism, and national integrity. This literature was used as a theoretical basis and comparison in the data analysis process (Sugiyono, 2023).

Interviews were conducted purposively with four informants who were considered to have relevant information regarding the organization's activities. The purposive sampling technique was used because the informants were selected based on their involvement and understanding of the Harmoni Nusantara UKM activities, thus being able to provide in-depth information according to the research needs. Sugiyono (2023) characteristics of the research informants are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Characteristics of research informants

Informant Code	Position in Organization	Role in Research
1.	Chairman of UKM Harmoni	Key informant
2.	Active Member of UKM Harmoni	Main informant
3.	Active Member of UKM Harmoni	Main informant
4.	Active Member of UKM Harmoni	Supporting informant

Collection was conducted through three complementary techniques. First, participant observation, which allowed researchers to be directly involved in organizational activities, thus understanding group dynamics, interaction patterns, and the process of internalization of values that occur among members (Winarno, 2019). Second, semi-structured interviews were used to explore informants' experiences, perceptions, and views regarding the organization's role in shaping national integrity. Third, documentation in the form of activity photos, field notes, and organizational archives served as supporting data to strengthen the results of observations and interviews (Bachri, 2010). To ensure that the data collection process remained aligned with the research objectives, the study established several research focuses and indicators that guided the observation, interview, and documentation activities. These research focuses and indicators are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Research Focus and Indicators

Research Focus	Indicators
Organizational System of UKM Harmoni Nusantara	Organizational structure, activity coordination, task distribution, organizational communication
Students' National Integrity	Responsibility, discipline, commitment, social awareness
Tolerance	Respect for cultural differences, acceptance of diverse opinions, inclusive attitudes
Social Solidarity	Mutual cooperation, teamwork, empathy, concern for fellow members
Nationalism	Appreciation of Indonesian culture, national pride, cultural preservation
Supporting and Inhibiting Factors	Organizational support, member participation, social media influence, organizational facilities

The collected data was analyzed using an interactive analysis model consisting of three stages: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. Data reduction was carried out by selecting, focusing, and simplifying data relevant to the research objectives. Next, the data was presented in descriptive narrative form and tables to facilitate interpretation. The final stage was carried out by drawing conclusions based on patterns and themes that emerged from the research results. Data analysis took place interactively and continuously from the data collection process until the final stage of the research (Miles et al., 2014).

To ensure the validity of the data, this study uses source triangulation techniques. Triangulation is carried out by comparing information obtained from various informants, observation results, and activity

documentation. This technique is used to increase the credibility of research findings and ensure the consistency of data obtained from the field (Bachri, 2010). In addition, the study also pays attention to the aspects of credibility, dependability, transferability, and confirmability as standards of validity in qualitative research (Yvonna et al., 1985). Thus, the results of the study are expected to be able to provide a valid and comprehensive picture of the role of UKM Harmoni Nusantara as a catalyst for national integrity among students.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

UKM Harmoni Nusantara as a Catalyst for National Integrity Development

The research results show that the Harmoni Nusantara Student Activity Unit (UKM) plays a strategic role in building students' national integrity through organizational activities based on culture, togetherness, and civic values. This organization not only serves as a means of developing students' interests and talents but also serves as a social learning space that allows students to internalize the values of responsibility, discipline, cooperation, and leadership.

Based on observations during the dress rehearsal at the UNP Kediri Campus 2 Hall, members of the organization were actively involved in dividing tasks, coordinating activities, and collectively resolving various problems. These activities encouraged students to prioritize common interests over personal interests. This finding aligns with Astin's Student Involvement Theory, which explains that active student involvement in organizations significantly contributes to the development of character, social skills, and civic responsibility.

Furthermore, the organization serves as a platform for students to develop communication, leadership, decision-making, and conflict resolution skills. Through these experiences, students gain the opportunity to directly apply the values of integrity in organizational life. Thus, the Harmoni Nusantara Student Activity Unit (UKM) can be viewed as a citizenship laboratory that supports the development of students with integrity.

Internalization of Civic Values Through Organizational Activities

Tolerance and respect for diversity

Interview results indicate that Harmoni Nusantara UKM members come from diverse cultural backgrounds, regions, and social experiences. This diversity creates a space for interaction that allows students to learn to appreciate differences and build tolerance in organizational life.

Key informants and active members stated that the discussion, deliberation, and collaboration processes in cultural activities taught them to listen to others' opinions and respect existing diversity. However, some new members admitted they still needed time to adapt to the dynamics of organizational diversity. These findings indicate that internalization of tolerance values occurs gradually through ongoing social experiences. These results support Fadli's (2021) research, which states that an inclusive organizational culture is formed through consistent social interaction and habits.

Nationalism and Cultural Awareness

Nationalism within the Harmoni Nusantara student activity unit (UKM) is demonstrated through various activities to preserve regional culture, such as traditional dance training, art performances, and participation in campus cultural events. These activities provide students with hands-on experience in recognizing, understanding, and preserving Indonesia's cultural heritage.

All informants stated that involvement in organizations increased pride in national identity and broadened their understanding of Indonesia's cultural diversity. Students not only learned about their native cultures but also learned to understand cultures from other regions through interactions between members. This finding supports research by Dahliyana et al. (2020), which explains that culture-based student organizations can be an effective means of fostering nationalism through meaningful collective experiences.

Social Solidarity and Empathy

The values of social solidarity and empathy are prominent characteristics of the Harmoni Nusantara SME. Observations indicate a strong culture of mutual cooperation in all organizational activities.

Members help each other prepare equipment, complete organizational tasks, and provide support to other members experiencing difficulties.

This practice demonstrates that organizations not only foster functional cooperation but also foster a strong sense of social responsibility. This finding aligns with Winarno's (2019) view that national values are more effectively internalized through direct social experience than through purely theoretical learning.

Moral Development Analysis Based on Kohlberg's Theory

Analysis using Lawrence Kohlberg's theory of moral development shows that most members of the Harmoni Nusantara UKM are at the conventional stage, namely behavior based on adherence to group norms and the desire to maintain harmonious social relationships. This is evident in the members' motivation to carry out organizational tasks for the sake of mutual success.

On the other hand, organizational administrators showed a tendency to enter the early post-conventional stage because they began to consider aspects of justice, member rights, and the broader interests of the organization when making decisions. These findings suggest that organizational experience contributes to students' moral development while strengthening their personal integrity.

Based on the results of observations, interviews, and theoretical analysis, this study found that the Harmoni Nusantara UKM contributed to strengthening various dimensions of students' national integrity. A synthesis of the research findings is presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Synthesis of research findings

Civic Values	Empirical Findings	Supporting Theory/Research
Tolerance	Members respect cultural differences and diverse opinions during organizational activities	Fadli (2021)
Nationalism	Participation in cultural preservation strengthens national identity and patriotism	Dahliana et al. (2020)
Social Solidarity	Strong culture of mutual cooperation and empathy among members	Winarno (2019)
Responsibility	Members complete organizational duties according to their assigned roles	Astin (1948)
Moral Development	Organizational experiences contribute to higher stages of moral reasoning	Kohlberg (1981)

Source: processed primary data (2026)

Challenges in Strengthening National Integrity among Students

Despite its significant contribution to the formation of national integrity, UKM Harmoni Nusantara still faces various obstacles in its implementation. The results of the study indicate that low participation of some members, limited organizational facilities, the influence of social media, and differences in levels of commitment are factors that influence the effectiveness of the organization's programs.

Furthermore, technological developments and globalization present new challenges for the younger generation in upholding the values of integrity and national identity. Intense exposure to digital culture has caused some students to experience value confusion between local and global cultures. This situation has the potential to impact attitudes of responsibility, social awareness, and commitment to national values if not balanced with adequate character education.

From an educational perspective, Harmoni Nusantara student organizations (UKM) serve as civic laboratories that complement formal classroom learning. Through experiences in leadership, collaboration, communication, and problem-solving, students gain the opportunity to develop soft skills while internalizing the values of integrity necessary for social and national life. Therefore, support from higher education institutions is essential for student organizations to optimally fulfill their role in shaping a young generation with integrity and national character.

CONCLUSION

This study shows that the Harmoni Nusantara Student Activity Unit (UKM) of UNP Kediri plays a role as a catalyst in the formation of students' national integrity through various organizational activities based on culture, nationality, and social cooperation. Student involvement in organizational activities not only improves social and leadership skills, but also encourages the internalization of civic values, such as tolerance, nationalism, responsibility, social solidarity, and concern for others. The results of the study indicate that the value of tolerance develops through the interaction of students from diverse cultural backgrounds, while nationalism is strengthened through cultural preservation activities and participation in various national activities. In addition, the culture of mutual cooperation reflected in organizational activities helps shape social solidarity and empathy among members. Analysis based on Kohlberg's theory of moral development also shows that organizational experience contributes to the moral development of students, especially in building awareness of responsibility and shared interests.

However, the process of strengthening national integrity still faces several challenges, such as low participation among some members, the influence of social media, limited organizational facilities, and the dynamics of globalization that have the potential to influence students' national values. Therefore, ongoing support from universities is needed through strengthening character development programs, empowering student organizations, and providing a campus environment conducive to the development of integrity values. Overall, this study confirms that culture-based student organizations serve not only as a platform for developing interests and talents, but also as a strategic tool in building the character and integrity of the younger generation. These findings provide a conceptual contribution regarding the role of student organizations as catalysts for national integrity and can serve as a reference for the development of student policies in Indonesian universities. These findings imply that culture-based student organizations can serve as effective platforms for strengthening civic values and national integrity among university students. Therefore, universities should support the sustainability of cultural student organizations as part of character and citizenship education programs.

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