

Student Social Philosophy: Roles and Responsibilities in Society

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the role and responsibilities of students in society from the perspective of social philosophy. Students are seen as agents of change who have a great moral and intellectual responsibility in shaping a more just and sustainable society. The literature study approach is used to explore social philosophy concepts that are relevant to student participation in society. The results of the analysis show that the use of philosophical thinking as a basis for action by students, such as the concept of social justice according to John Rawls, Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent approach, and Paulo Freire's critical thinking, allows them to become more effective agents of change. Students are also involved in various social and political activities, such as protests, advocacy campaigns, volunteer activities, as well as participation in political movements, as a concrete form of their role as agents of social change. Challenges and obstacles students face, such as unsupportive authority reactions, risks of repression, and internal conflicts, are also discussed. Strategies to increase student roles and responsibilities, such as education and critical awareness, involvement in student organizations, community service programs, collaboration with external parties, and advocacy and social campaigns through social media, are proposed as measures to help students play a more active and effective role in building a more just, democratic, and sustainable society.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Students are an inseparable element in the social dynamics of a society. Their role is not only as recipients of knowledge in college, but also as agents of change who have great moral and intellectual responsibilities. In an era of globalization and the complexity of social issues, understanding the roles and responsibilities of students

has become increasingly important. Social philosophy highlights the significance of students as shapers of public opinion, drivers of social change, and agents of change who have an important role in shaping a more just and sustainable society. Therefore, this article aims to explore the concepts of social philosophy related to the role and responsibility of students in society (Cahyono, 2019).

The role of students in society is not limited to the academic realm, but also penetrates into the social, political, and cultural realms. As agents of change, students have great potential to change paradigms and shape the direction of positive social change. However, to be able to play this role effectively, students need to have a deep understanding of social philosophy. Social philosophy provides a theoretical foundation that allows students to understand social structures, existing injustices, and transformation efforts that can be made (Istiqomaharani & Habibah, 2016).

Through a social philosophy approach, students can develop a critical awareness of existing social realities. An understanding of the principles of justice, truth, and humanity helps students formulate actions aimed at improving the quality of life of society. As subjects who have freedom of thought and action, students are faced with a moral responsibility to use their knowledge and expertise wisely for the common good (Kurniawati, Seran, & Sigit, 2021).

Thus, this article will review more about social philosophy concepts that are relevant to the role and responsibility of students in society. Through literature analysis and philosophical thought, this article seeks to provide a deeper understanding of how students can harness their intellectual and moral potential to contribute to shaping a better society. Hopefully this article can make a positive contribution in inspiring students and other stakeholders in fighting for positive and sustainable social change.

2. METHOD

The research method used in this article is a literature study. Literature study is an approach carried out by collecting, studying, and analyzing various literature, philosophical texts, and related research on the roles and responsibilities of students in society. The selection of literature study methods was chosen because it allows to gain comprehensive insights into philosophical and theoretical thoughts that support the role of students in social transformation. Through literature search, relevant data are collected from books, journal articles, conference papers, and other theoretical sources related to social philosophy and student roles. The data collection process is carried out carefully and selectively, taking into account the credibility and relevance of each source used to ensure the accuracy and diversity of the information obtained. Thus, the literature study method becomes a strong foundation for describing and analyzing the roles and responsibilities of students in the context of social philosophy.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

a. The Use of Philosophical Thought as a Basis for Action

Students have a great advantage in fighting for social change when they use philosophical thinking as a foundation for action. Philosophical thinking provides a solid and deep framework for formulating effective strategies and actions in the fight for their social goals. One concept that is often used is the concept of social justice according to John Rawls. Rawls, in his work "A Theory of Justice", developed a theory that put forward the principles of justice as the foundation for a just social structure. Students who adopt this concept can use justice as a guide in identifying injustices that exist in society and designing concrete steps to overcome them (Rawls, 1971).

In addition, the non-violent approach introduced by Mahatma Gandhi is also a source of inspiration for students who want to fight for social change. The concept of ahimsa or nonviolence, applied in the Indian independence movement, emphasizes the importance of rejecting physical as well as verbal violence in the pursuit of political and social goals. Students who adopt this approach can build a more inclusive and peaceful movement, which is more likely to gain broad support from society and result in more sustainable change (Salim, 2016).

Furthermore, the critical thinking developed by Paulo Freire also made a major contribution in guiding student action in social change. In his work "Pedagogy of the Oppressed", Freire emphasized the importance of a critical understanding of social reality and the forces that generate injustice. Students who use this approach will be more likely to rally collective consciousness and assist communities in identifying and challenging unjust power structures. By building a critical understanding of social reality, students can formulate more targeted and sustainable solutions to the social problems they face (Freire, 2020).

In practice, the use of philosophical thought as a basis for action by students not only provides moral guidance, but also strengthens their arguments in influencing public policy and public opinion. By drawing on the ideas of philosophical figures such as Rawls, Gandhi, and Freire, students can gain the intellectual legitimacy necessary to support their actions. This allows them to become more effective and influential agents of change in fighting for greater social change. Thus, the use of philosophical thinking as a basis for action not only enriches student action, but also produces more meaningful and sustainable social change (Kurniawati, Seran, & Sigit, 2021).

b. The role of students as agents of social change

Students, in the social dynamics of a society, play a very important role as agents of social change. They are not only considered as individuals who only act as

recipients of knowledge in lectures, but also as the main movers who are able to spur significant changes in the structure of society. In the perspective of social philosophy, students are considered as catalysts of change that are able to move society towards better change. This concept is reinforced by philosophical thoughts that emphasize the importance of the role of students in fighting for the values of justice, truth, and humanity in the social context. As agents of change, students have great potential to influence public opinion and mobilize society in order to fight for human rights and fight social injustice (Istiqomaharani & Habibah, 2016).

Students have intellectual and moral capacities that are able to fight for the interests of society critically and sustainably. A deep understanding of the values of justice is the foundation for students in fighting for more equitable social change. They can advocate for neglected human rights, give voice to marginalized groups, and criticize unjust power structures. In addition, students are also able to fight for truth in the context of public policy, voice people's aspirations, and fight for more equal access to resources and opportunities for all members of society (Cahyono, 2019).

The role of students as agents of social change is also reflected in their participation in various social movements and advocacy. They are often involved in various social and political activities aimed at improving the quality of life of the community. Activities such as protests, advocacy campaigns, and volunteering activities are concrete manifestations of the role of students in bringing positive changes in society. With their courage and determination, students become a voice for the unheard, and a hope for those who are marginalized (Cahyono, 2019).

However, the challenges faced by students as agents of social change also cannot be ignored. Opposition from the authorities, the risk of repression or exclusion, as well as internal conflicts within the student movement itself are some of the obstacles that are often faced. Despite this, students continue to struggle to voice their aspirations and actions, and bring about positive change in society. The existence of students as agents of social change gives hope for the possibility of positive change and renewal in society.

In this context, the importance of student participation and responsibility in society cannot be underestimated. Students have an important role in initiating, striving for, and realizing the expected social changes. Therefore, a deep understanding of the role and responsibility of students in the context of social philosophy becomes very relevant in understanding the social dynamics of society and in directing more sustainable and equitable change efforts.

c. Real Action for Student Involvement in Social and Political Activities

Students are often the driving force in various social and political activities aimed at improving the quality of life of the community. They are not only passive spectators of various social problems that occur around them, but also actively

involved in concrete efforts to bring positive change. One of the most visible forms of student involvement is through organizing protest actions. Protests are often used by students as a tool to voice their aspirations and express their dissatisfaction with policies or actions that are considered unfair or detrimental to society. In these actions, students take the role of leaders, organizers, and active participants who dare to face risks and challenges in order to fight for truth and justice (Istiqomaharani & Habibah, 2016).

In addition to protests, students are also active in organizing advocacy campaigns to support social issues that are considered important. These advocacy campaigns may cover a variety of themes, such as human rights, environmental protection, gender equality, or community empowerment. Through these campaigns, students strive to increase public awareness of various social problems and encourage the creation of policy changes that are more inclusive and pro-people's interests. They use a variety of communication and social media strategies to reach a wider audience and gain support from different walks of life.

In addition to protests and advocacy campaigns, students are also active in various volunteer activities that aim to contribute directly to society. They are involved in community service programs, such as free instruction for poor children, distribution of food for the *homeless*, or environmental rehabilitation activities. Through these activities, students not only provide material assistance to those in need, but also strengthen social bonds between individuals and build strong solidarity among community members. Student involvement in volunteering activities is also a tangible manifestation of their social responsibility as caring and responsible members of society.

In the context of politics, students are often actively involved in various political movements that aim to bring about social change (Nastiti, 2023). One vivid example of the student movement in politics is when they are involved in political campaigns during elections (Amatahir, 2023). For example, in some countries, students participate in political campaigns to support candidates who have visions and programs that align with the aspirations and interests of society. They not only become active voters, but also become campaigners who help in disseminating information, organizing campaign events, and garnering support from the wider public (Hikmat, 2021).

In addition, students are also involved in various other political activities as a form of their contribution to the democratic process. They often hold political discussions, seminars, or public debates to discuss relevant political and social issues. For example, students can organize discussion forums on political reform, human rights, or environmental issues to raise political and social awareness among students and the general public. In addition, students also often take an active role in student

organizations engaged in politics, such as student organizations that focus on policy advocacy or political student movements.

Student political participation is not limited to the national level, but can also occur at the local or regional level. A clear example of student movements in politics at the local level is when they are involved in discussions and decision-making related to campus policies or local regulations that have a direct impact on the lives of students and the surrounding community. Students can organize protests, petitions, or campaigns to fight for policy changes that are considered unfair or detrimental. Thus, students' political participation not only contributes to political decision-making nationally, but also has a significant impact on social change at the local level.

By being actively involved in political activities, students seek to influence the direction of public policy and ensure the representation of public interests in political decision making. In some cases, the role of students in political movements has brought about significant changes in the political structure and public policy of a country. Thus, through concrete actions of involvement in political activities, students show their commitment and responsibility in fighting for better social change for society.

d. Challenges and Obstacles Students Face

Despite having an important role in social change, students are also faced with various challenges and obstacles that can hinder their struggle. One of the challenges often faced by students is the unsupportive reaction of authorities to their activism. The government or authorities often responded to student protests or advocacy with repression or repression, such as arrest, detention, or censorship of information. A concrete example is when students who organize protests are considered to disturb public order and are then faced with violent actions from security forces. Despite this, students often remain persistent and maintain their commitment to social change, even amid pressure and intimidation from authorities.

In addition, students are also at risk of repression or exclusion from various parties, including the general public, certain interest groups, or even fellow students. In some cases, students who are active in social or political movements may be targets of intimidation or verbal or physical abuse from individuals or groups who disagree with their views or actions. A vivid example is when students involved in human rights or environmental advocacy are subjected to accusations or threats from interested parties in related policies or industries. Although this may threaten their security and well-being, militant students still choose to persevere and continue their fight for truth and justice.

In addition to external challenges, students are also faced with internal conflicts within the student movement itself. Ideological divergences, strategic differences, or conflicts of interest between individuals or groups often arise in the context of social

or political movements. This can hinder the unity of the movement and divide solidarity among students, thereby reducing their effectiveness in achieving common goals. A concrete example is when the student movement is divided due to differences of opinion in determining the tactics or strategies of struggle, thus weakening their power in suppressing the government or other institutions of power. Nevertheless, mature and responsible students will strive to resolve internal conflicts in constructive ways and seek mutual understanding to achieve common goals.

In the face of these challenges and obstacles, students show remarkable determination and courage in maintaining their commitment to better social change. Despite risks and pressures, students continue to struggle to voice their aspirations and actions for truth, justice and humanity. With a firm spirit and strong solidarity, students continue to be a force that cannot be ignored in the social and political dynamics of a society.

e. Strategies to Increase Student Roles and Responsibilities in the Community

To improve the role and responsibility of students in society, a comprehensive and targeted strategy is needed. This strategy must integrate the concepts of social philosophy with real practices that students can do in everyday life. Here are some strategies that can be implemented to increase students' contribution to building a more just and sustainable society:

1. Education and Critical Awareness

Education and critical awareness are the main foundations for increasing the role and responsibility of students in society. Through informal education programs, seminars, and workshops, students can learn about a variety of relevant social issues, such as economic injustice, gender inequality, and climate change. These materials not only educate students about social reality, but also help them understand the root causes and their impact on society. With a deeper understanding, students can develop a critical awareness that enables them to assess these issues objectively and formulate appropriate action strategies (Wahyuni & Chariri, 2016).

2. Involvement in Student Organizations

Active involvement in student organizations is a concrete step for students to practice the values of social philosophy in everyday life. Student organizations are not only a place to expand social networks, but also as a place to develop leadership, teamwork, and social advocacy skills. By joining organizations that focus on social issues, students can practice the values of justice, solidarity, and social responsibility. They can work together to plan and implement activities that have a positive impact on society, such as social

campaigns, social programs, or fundraising activities for charity (Junaedi, Kusumaperdana, Ramadhani, Kamilah, & Abellia, 2023).

3. Community Service Program

The community service program is a concrete means for students to be directly involved in activities aimed at improving community welfare. Through this program, students can carry out their role as agents of change that have a positive impact on society. For example, students can teach in rural schools, provide skills training to disadvantaged communities, or conduct public health programs in remote areas. In addition to providing direct benefits to the community, community service programs also broaden students' horizons about diverse social realities and foster empathy and a deeper sense of social responsibility (Muna, 2022).

4. Collaboration with External Parties

Cooperation between universities and external parties, such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local governments, is also an important strategy in increasing student contributions in society. This collaboration allows students to utilize resources and experience possessed by external parties to improve the effectiveness of the activities carried out. Students can get involved in joint projects with external parties, such as joint research, community development programs, or public policy advocacy. By working together, students and external parties can create a greater impact in fighting for positive social change (Istiqomaharani & Habibah, 2016).

5. Advocacy and Social Campaigns

Advocacy and social campaigns through social media and student networks are effective strategies to fight for social issues that are considered important. Students can use their social media platforms to voice their opinions, share information, and rally public support for social issues they are fighting for. By building awareness and mobilizing public support, students can influence policies related to these issues and drive change for the better in society. Advocacy and social campaigns also allow students to be a voice for the unheard and provide support to those in need (Nadiyya, Anshoril, & Nadiyya, 2023).

By implementing these strategies in an integrated and sustainable manner, it is hoped that students can play a more active and effective role in building a more just, democratic, and sustainable society. With an awareness of their moral and intellectual

responsibilities, students have great potential to become agents of change who bring positive impact to society and the world at large.

4. CONCLUSION

In an era of globalization and the complexity of social issues, understanding the role of students as agents of change with great moral and intellectual responsibilities is becoming increasingly important. In this article, it is shown that the use of philosophical thinking as a foundation of action by students, such as the concept of social justice according to John Rawls, Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent approach, and Paulo Freire's critical thinking, allows them to become more effective and influential agents of change in the fight for greater social change.

Students are also involved in various social and political activities, such as protests, advocacy campaigns, volunteer activities, as well as participation in political movements, as a concrete form of their role as agents of social change. Despite facing challenges and obstacles, such as unsupportive authority reactions, risks of repression, and internal conflicts, students remain persistent in maintaining their commitment to better social change. To increase the role and responsibility of students in society, comprehensive strategies are needed, such as education and critical awareness, involvement in student organizations, community service programs, collaboration with external parties, and advocacy and social campaigns through social media. By implementing these strategies, it is hoped that students can play a more active and effective role in building a more just, democratic, and sustainable society.

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