

## **Defend The Country: Generation Z Perspective**

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**Abstract :** Implementing the concept of state defense is now increasingly broad, not only facing threats militarily but also non-military with various variations. Currently, 28% of Indonesia's population is Generation Z, namely those born between 1997 - 2012. As the nation's next-generation, Generation Z must increasingly understand that the various challenges and opportunities that will be faced are different from the previous generation. Based on the study results, respondents stated that Generation Z needed insight and understanding of relevant state defense as a form of a contribution to love for the country. Respondents stated that so far, the concept of state defense is more perceived as attitudes and actions related to "physical" or "war" in the true sense. Therefore, this paper hopes to provide insight into the importance of continuous understanding from all stakeholders by inviting and involving Generation Z to contribute and work for hand in hand for the Indonesian nation's progress. The Covid-19 pandemic is a momentum to strengthen cooperation, collaboration, and tolerance so that they can rise together for the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia.

**Keywords:** State Defense, Generation Z, the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia

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### **1. Introduction**

In the current era of globalization, the development of IT and the strategic environment can positively and negatively impact the emergence of potential threats to a country. If this is not appropriately addressed, what will emerge is a shift in military threats to non-military threats due to the inability to seize the opportunities that occur. As the largest archipelagic country with an area of sea waters reaching 5.9 million km<sup>2</sup> and a coastline of ± 81.00 km<sup>2</sup> in the tropics, it makes Indonesia one of the countries with Mega's Biodiversity capability. With a very strategic position and with all its rich potential resources, Indonesia has made various countries want to become Indonesia's partners. Partners who are interested in Indonesia can also be a threat to our country. For this, it is the right of every citizen to defend Indonesia.

For Indonesian citizens, efforts to defend the state are based on love for homeland and awareness of Indonesia's nation and state with belief in Pancasila as the basis of the state and based on the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia foundation of the state constitution. The realization of the state defense effort in the context of the nation's struggle is readiness and willingness of every citizen to sacrifice for the sake of maintaining independence, state sovereignty, the unity and integrity of the Indonesian nation, the integrity of the archipelago, and national jurisdiction, as well as Pancasila values and the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. in 1945. Students, as part of citizens, of course, have rights and obligations in defending the country. State defense efforts carried out by citizens/students are not always in the form of carrying weapons (fighting), but efforts to defend the state can be made in various ways, including developing an attitude of love for the nation and state. (Suriata, 2019) in his study identified three main problems faced in the current state of State Defense. First, the awareness of State Defense by the younger generation is weakening. Second, there is no optimism regarding State Defense, which has not become a culture in national life. Third, about optimizing the implementation of state defense policies' actualization, and finally, the National Education curriculum contains very little State Defense. At present, the concept of State Defense is facing threats militarily and non-military, which has a variety of different forms and complexities. The community is faced with revolution 4.0, society, the unpredictable Covid-19 pandemic, the risk of an economic recession, and various other things. On the other hand, State Defense is the responsibility of the older generation and the younger generation, one of which is Generation Z (from now on abbreviated as GenZ).

GenZ is born between 1997-2012 or is currently between the ages of 8 - 23 years and dominates the population of Indonesia today ± 28%. This generation is the next generation of the Indonesian nation who must understand that the various challenges and opportunities now and in the future are different from those faced by previous generations. This generation is a transitional generation of Generation Y with increasingly developing technology. GenZ can also be called iGeneration, net generation, or internet generation. This generation has similarities with Generation Y, but with higher abilities, they can apply all technology-based activities at one

time. The majority of students currently fall into the GenZ category and are part of the spearhead to defend the country.

The Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Culture (Menko PMK), Muhadjir Effendy, emphasized the importance of instilling the state's attitude in the younger generation to prevent radicalism. With an attitude of defending the country, a person has an attitude of love for the country, awareness of the nation and state, believes in Pancasila as the state ideology, is willing to sacrifice for the nation and state, and can defend the country. Based on these various things, GenZ must open again with an open mind how GenZ can take a role. State Defense for GenZ is essential to be given so that they can understand that they can play a role in maintaining the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia in various forms. Generation Z must be given awareness and refreshment regarding the current State Defense concept and how generation Z can do it so that their hopes will have the awareness to defend the nation and state according to their abilities. This goal is vital because an increasingly borderless world requires young people who continue to fight for the nation and state.

## **2. Theoretical review**

State Defense is a concept that shows the determination, attitude, and behavior of citizens imbued with love for the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. This concept is based on the passion of citizens' love for the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. Every citizen has the same obligation in matters of state defense which is the manifestation of a citizen's love for the homeland that has given life. Based on information from (<https://www.wantannas.go.id>), even though it is not a National holiday, every 19 December is celebrated as National Defense Day. Therefore, an understanding of the concept of State Defense and its contextual implementation is needed. Defending the country is a spirit of courage to sacrifice for the sake of the country, whether property or even life, is brave enough to be sacrificed for the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia's unitary State. Defending the State is the determination, attitude, and actions of citizens who are orderly, comprehensive, integrated, and sustainable, which is based on love for the homeland and the awareness of the nation and State's life (Kaelan & Zubaidi, 2007).

Furthermore, Mahifal (2016) states that defending the State for Indonesian citizens is an effort to defend the State based on love for the homeland (the archipelago) and the awareness of the Indonesian nation and State with belief in Pancasila as the basis of the State and based on the 1945 Constitution as the State constitution. The concept of state defense can be interpreted physically and non-physically. Physically by taking up arms against enemy attacks or aggression, non-physically can be defined as all efforts to defend the State by increasing a sense of nationalism awareness of the nation and State, instilling a love for the homeland. Moreover, play an active role in advancing the nation and State. A sense of nationalism is a sense of pride in the nation itself for society's diverse socio-cultural wealth (Prasetyo, 2020). State defense is carried out continuously through education and training (Diklat) and socialization to become a solid foundation for the availability of defense resources. The educational environment is an environment where citizens follow formal education ranging from early childhood education to tertiary education through curricular and extra-curricular, and non-formal education.

The following are some of the legal bases for implementing state defense in force in the Republic of Indonesia:

1. The 1945 Constitution
  - Clause 27 paragraph (3) mandates that "Every citizen has the right and obligation to participate in efforts to defend the State"
  - Clause 30 paragraph (1) mandates that "Every citizen has the right and obligation to participate in the affairs of state defense and security"
2. Law of the Republic of Indonesia, Number 3 of 2002 concerning State Defense
  - Clause 9 paragraph (1), mandates that "Every citizen has the right and obligation to participate in efforts to defend the state which are manifested in the implementation of state defense"
  - Clause 9 paragraph (2) that "the participation of citizens in efforts to defend the State, as referred to in paragraph (1), is carried out through civic education, compulsory basic military training, voluntary or compulsory service as soldiers of the Indonesian National Army, and service following the profession."

Along with the various changes that have occurred in the world, each country's threats and challenges are changing. The threats faced are no longer physical things such as war, for example. However, many things are visible. Therefore, for the next generation, who will become the majority generation in the next five years, it is necessary to understand how the current form of state defense is.

## **3. STATE DEFENSE AND GENERATION Z**

Defending the State is a right and obligation for all Indonesian citizens. This concept shows that as a citizen, he must have attitudes and behaviors based on love for the Republic of Indonesia's Unitary State under Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution as stated in the 1945 Constitution, Article 27 paragraph 3 concerning Citizens and Residents that: Citizens have the right and obligation to participate in efforts to defend the State. Article 27 emphasizes participation in dealing with threats in all aspects of life, often referred to as non-military threats. The study (Rahayu et al., 2019) provides an example of the implementation of State Defense awareness in students, which can appear in different forms. For example, the love of the motherland is manifested in throwing garbage in the space provided. Awareness of the nation and State is manifested in protection and security for the community and the belief in the supernatural powers of Pancasila, which is manifested in carrying out worship and maintaining harmony in life among fellow religious communities and the belief in one God.

The study (Gredinand, 2017) states that state defense education can influence the components of behavioral beliefs, normative beliefs, and control beliefs in a healthy and balanced manner. It means that it can contribute to the formation of attitude toward behavior, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control of a student who, furthermore, the dynamics of the three will determine the level of strength of one's intention in the State Defense consciousness. As stated (Gredinand, 2017), the young generation faces the threat of erosion of national identity, one of which is the result of the intensive influence of globalization due to the development of media and communication technology. Also, (Gredinand 2017) gives an example of some young people as if they have lost their attitude of spirituality, courtesy, hospitality, patience, concern in fighting, *tepo saliro*, help (cooperation), and sincerity in action (*rame ing gawe*), *sepi ing pamrih*) which has been practiced by our ancestors for centuries. On the other hand, the dominating attitudes are greed, greed, arbitrariness, arrogance, individualism, materialism, and freedom without moral norms. These two things are some examples of threats that can arise in Generation Z today.

#### **4. RESEARCH METHODS**

This research uses a qualitative approach. Sugiyono (2019) states that "qualitative research is a study that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observed behavior." At the same time, the method used in this research is the descriptive method. Nuryaman and Veronika (2015) state that the descriptive method is a method in researching the status of human groups or objects, a system of thought or class of events in the present. This descriptive study aims to make descriptions of descriptions or measures systematically and the relationships between the phenomena under study. The data collection process was carried out through observation, interviews, and documentation study.

#### **5. DISCUSSION**

Generation Z faces an environmental situation unlike previous generations such as Generation Y and the Baby Boomers Generation. A study conducted by (Incorporated 2019) stated that those in the Gen Z category expressed optimism about their future. However, this generation is experiencing anxiety about their ability to become successful workers. This generation is tech-savvy, hardworking, and hopeful without stopping. However, this generation prefers a private and interactive work environment, craves schedule autonomy and flexibility that supports a balanced work-life, and feels anxiety is the most significant barrier to becoming a successful professional.

Similar research was found by (Broadbent & Simons, 2017) that GenZ has a desire to contribute to a better world, and one source of this is the hope they have, but they are pessimistic about the future and overall seem unhappy with the State of the world. They inherited. GenZ faces revolution 4.0, society, the unpredictable Covid-19 pandemic, the risk of an economic recession, and other challenges that are very dynamic and full of turbulence. When this research was compiled, we have a Covid-19 pandemic that was not predicted to occur full of uncertainty. These various situations encourage the importance of thinking about how to continue to manage GenZ effectively. Hence, they consistently have positive attitudes and behaviors that contribute to themselves and a broader scope. The following is a discussion of the studies conducted. First, based on observations, it is known that many GenZs have a mindset that defending the country is more related to physicality, militarism.

The current situation requires all parties to collaborate and fight together, including GenZ. The main thing to do now is to increase the knowledge of GenZs about the concept of defending the country, especially during

the current Covid-19 pandemic. GenZ needs to have optimism and hope to face uncertainty for their future as the Nation's next generation. During the Covid-19 pandemic, there were various State Defense attitudes and behavior that GenZ should carry out, such as complying with Health Protocols, using local products (MSMEs), sharing, including not spreading hoaxes, or well for the progress of society. (Mahendra & Kartika, 2020) stated that efforts to defend the country besides being a fundamental obligation are also an honor for citizens who are carried out with full responsibility and are willing to sacrifice in service to the State and Nation. The study exemplifies that State Defense awareness can be carried out by always maintaining cleanliness, keeping the body's immunity stable, constantly washing hands after activities, and eating healthy food.

Second, this study conducted a simple survey and involved 142 students who live in the Municipality and Regency of Bandung. All respondents were participants in Community Service activities carried out by a group of lecturers from the Management Study Program, Faculty of Economics and Business, Widyatama University. The activity was in the form of seminar and took the theme "Defending the Country Ala Generation Z," held in January 2021. The nature of this activity is voluntary without coercion. The majority of respondents were women (62%) with ages ranging from 18-20 years (75%). The recapitulation of respondents is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Profile of Respondents

Profile of Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
I. Gender		
Male	54	38%
Female	88	62%
II. Age		
18 – 20	107	75,35%
> 21	35	24,65%
III. Universities		
Public	134	94,4%
Private	8	5,6%
IV. Major		
Management	78	54,9%
Accounting	21	14,8%
Engineering	11	7,7%
Public Administration	24	16,9%
Others	8	6%

In the survey, respondents were given open-ended questions as an initial step to finding out their understanding of State Defense and its implementation, especially for Generation Z. 6 variations of answers were given to the question of what reasons made participants want to participate in the Webinar activity (Table 2). Based on these results, it can be seen that the majority of respondents need an understanding of the concept of State Defense so that they can find out what form of State Defense is so that they can be involved and contribute. Respondents stated that so far, State Defense's concept was more perceived as attitudes and actions related to "physical" or "war" in the true sense.

The majority of respondents (82%) have the perception that they have never done or applied the concept of State Defense. The rest stated that defending the country that had been carried out was participating in scientific competition activities representing Indonesia, using domestically made products, maintaining Indonesia's good name on social media, including carrying out humanitarian activities in the surrounding environment. However, this result cannot be a fair measure because there is a possibility of bias due to respondents having the opinion that defending the country is related to physical/literal taking up arms on the battlefield. Therefore, these results become an essential note for the research team and implementers of Community Service activities.

Table 2. Respondents' Reasons for Participating in the "Defend the Nation Ala Generation Z" Webinar

No	Description	Percentage (%)
1.	Want to add insight into the concept of State Defense for GenZ	48,4
2.	Want to know the relevant forms of state defense carried out by GenZ today	22,7
3.	Want to know the relevance of the concept of State Defense to	12,1

	the current situation	
4.	Want to be a student who contributes to the country	8, 8
5.	Want to become a cadre of State Defense	6, 2
6.	Want to be involved in State Defense activities	1, 8

Finally, students were asked what their perceptions were right after they participated in extension activities to see the extent of the seminar's positive potential. Table 3 shows the tabulation of the responses obtained. Based on the respondents' answers, it can be concluded that the seminar carried out has a relatively positive potential impact. As soon as the seminar is carried out, students have an understanding, a change in mindset, are more aware of the importance of defending the country, and broadening their horizons that defending the state does not only mean fighting. Students can carry out state defense according to their position and knowledge. Also, respondents felt that seminar or other forms of activity needed to be carried out in the future consistently in ways that suited their current preferences.

Table 3. State Defense Awareness after the seminar

No	Description	Percentage (%)
1	Students become more understanding of the importance of defending the country during the current situation	37.7
2	Students are ready to defend the country according to their profession and knowledge	27.2
3	Students know that anyone can do state defense	16.4
4	Students want to contribute to the advancement of the nation	9.2
5	Students become more aware of the condition of the country after attending seminar	5.8
6	Extension or other forms of activities related to state defense need to be continuously carried out	4.6

## 6. Conclusion

This paper raises the issue that there are potential problems that GenZ can face to increase awareness of attitudes and behavior as an implementation of the concept of state defense. GenZ needs to be given a campaign with a role model that consistently invites people to show their attitudes and behavior to defend the country. This effort is essential to raise Generation Z's optimism as the nation's next-generation, which currently has the most significant proportion of Indonesia's population. Generation Z is expected to have several competencies. They were first having an awareness of State Defense's concept, which is needed to face the Covid-19 pandemic situation jointly. Second, have skills in identifying various examples of contextual implementation of State Defense. Finally, have the will, attitude, and behavior of State Defense that Generation Z can do for the sake of the Nation and Country. The Covid-19 pandemic situation is momentum for all parties, including Generation Z, so that it is sparked to share optimism, endurance, and fighting power to achieve the hope of a better future life. Generation Z must understand that this pandemic cannot be dealt with alone. All parties build collaboration supported by enthusiasm, determination, attitude, and behavior of self-sacrifice for the sake of the Nation.

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