

Educating *Bela Negara* as Strengthening Element in Indonesia's Strategy of Main Island Defense Implementation

Helda Risman^{1*}, Lily Andayani², F. G. Cempaka Timur¹, Aulia Akmalina¹

¹Republic of Indonesia Defense University, Indonesia

²Jenderal Achmad Yani University, Indonesia

*Correspondence Email: rismancan@gmail.com

Abstract

This study examines how Bela Negara Education improves Indonesia's main islands' asymmetric defensive strategy. Our narrative assessment identifies effective and contextually acceptable state military education programs that match the topography of these important islands. The main island's defense plan (P3B) implements the comprehensive defense strategy by designating the main islands as defensive bases from outer to inner mandala. Bela Negara Education is vital to public knowledge and active participation in the defense system. The 3CS Bela Negara Education program has promoted Bela Negara values and attitudes. Bela Negara Education should be based on five values: patriotism, sacrifice, nation-state consciousness, Pancasila as the guiding ideology, and Bela Negara capability development. This schooling should use four learning paths. This study advocates a welfare-first approach before teaching national values and developing stakeholder synergy for Bela Negara Education.

Keywords: Asymmetric Threats, Defense Strategy, Main islands, National Sovereignty, Bela Negara Education, Total Defense System

Introduction

Indonesia upholds the principle of being a peace-loving nation, however, prioritizes independence and sovereignty when confronted with threats to its territorial integrity (Indonesia Ministry of Defense, 2015). This concept emphasizes that although Indonesia seeks peaceful conflict settlement, it will not hesitate to utilize defense forces as a final recourse if diplomacy fails.

Derived from these national aspirations, Indonesia establishes more specific national objectives as defined in the fourth paragraph of the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution. These national objectives comprise four fundamental aspects: safeguarding the Indonesian nation and its territory, promoting public welfare, educating the populace, and fostering a global order grounded in independence, enduring peace, and social justice (Indonesia Minister of Defense, 2023). The primary purpose pertains to the preservation of sovereignty, indicating that all elements within Indonesia, including its populace, natural resources, culture, and state values, must be safeguarded.

To achieve these national objectives, Indonesia delineates its national interests in preserving sovereignty, categorized into permanent and urgent strategic interests. Permanent strategic interests provide a cohesive defense mechanism to preserve and

protect state sovereignty, the territorial integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI), and the nation's security against all threats. Simultaneously, pressing strategic interests address the dynamics of actual and future threats, encompassing Indonesia's responsibilities and commitments to actively engage in global and regional peace initiatives (Indonesia Ministry of Defense, 2015).

The Indonesian government enacted Presidential Regulation Number 8 of 2021 to implement these national interests, which pertains to the 2020-2024 Bela Negara General Policy. This policy advocates for the establishment of a proactive defensive state posture, incorporating the defense strategy of large islands and critical straits. The Ministry of Defense employs this policy to establish Bela Negara implementation strategies, including the 2021 state defense strategy, which reflects the vision and mission of the 2020-2024 state defense policy (Kusuma, Anwar, Risman, & Arief, 2021).

The execution of defense policy is actualized via the Total People's Defense and Security System (Sishankamrata), founded on the principles of Popularity, Universality, and Territoriality (Indonesia Ministry of Defense, 2021, p. 10). This system encompasses all individuals and national resources as a cohesive defense unit, embodying the universal nature of Indonesia's defense.

In alignment with the tenets of the 21st Century Total People's Defense and Security System (Sishankamrata), the government has launched the Main islands Defense Strategy (P3B) to implement an archipelagic defense strategy centered on significant islands and strategic island clusters (Indonesia Minister of Defense, 2023). Considering strategic elements and Indonesia's classification as an archipelagic nation, Presidential Regulation Number 8 of 2021 mandates the development of a defense concept for the principal islands, as outlined in the 2020-2024 Bela Negara General Policy (Ibid., p.2)

This strategy centralizes strength on important islands and clusters, integrating defenses. Archipelagic geography gives each big island an asymmetric advantage, allowing it to defend its territory, inhabitants, resources, and administration in the case of inter-island communication failure.

This strategy, a national development priority, focuses defense resources on Papua, Kalimantan, Sumatra, Java-Bali-Nusa Tenggara, and Sulawesi-Maluku to unite Indonesia's geographical boundaries. Protection is enhanced by concentric layers of strategic island clusters from outer to inner mandala. Protecting national sovereignty and territorial jurisdiction is the main goal.

Urban warfare capabilities are crucial to a state defense that can combat asymmetric threats as urbanization continues. Domestic and foreign threats to national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and public safety are considered dangers in national defense. These threats arise from strategic shifts. Any change in the global, regional, or national order may create new threats or change their nature, escalation, and patterns (Ibid., p.15). Asymmetric threats include urban warfare.

Urban warfare includes combat within metropolitan regions that function as hubs of governance, authority, and other essential assets. To actualize this notion, the defense system on each principal island must be fortified with strength, capabilities, and comprehensive deployment across all dimensions, including troops, logistics, technology systems, and social systems.

Given Indonesia's geographical and geopolitical characteristics as an archipelagic nation, the main islands defense concept enables Indonesia to leverage its geographical advantages to establish a layered and comprehensive defensive system. It is important to note that this philosophy is employed solely to confront particular threats.

Military operations, including urban combat, are the state's defense against military threats. This technique considers defending capabilities in favourable and unfavourable situations, offensive or defensive. Restructuring and increasing combat division strength on each major island to support regular forces is the state's military strategy to maximize deterrence. This model also creates production units with various capabilities at each territorial command tier (Ibid., p.27).

The Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) lead military reaction to threats. The Ministry of Defense, along with many Ministries, Institutions, and Regional Governments, develops non-military defenses that can be mobilized into military defenses. This mobilization aims to strengthen the primary component and prepare auxiliary components to strengthen the primary and reserve components.

Indonesia's defense policy prioritizes government institutions beyond the defense sector to address non-military threats, tailored to the threats and strengthened by other national strengths. As the main military defense component, the TNI may support the major elements through non-war military activity. To confront hybrid threats, state defense elements are integrated according to the nature of the threat, combining military and non-military components as dangers escalate.

A universal approach to state military capability upgrading relies on human resources (HR). This methodology uses technology and social weapon systems to construct a responsive, robust, and agile comprehensive defense and security framework with five Bela Negara capabilities. Human resources are crucial to building strong and sustained defense capabilities (Indonesia Ministry of Defense, 2021, p. 49; 2023, p. 89)

Thus, citizen participation in government defense programs is crucial to the entire defense system. The Indonesian Constitution states that every person has the right and duty to participate in Bela Negara activities, including national defense structures. Bela Negara involves people's love for the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution, to ensure the nation's and state's continuity.

Asymmetric dangers facing Indonesia as an archipelago have increased the need for Bela Negara Education to improve military strategy. Bela Negara Education builds patriotic awareness and national resilience, especially for the key islands defense plan.

By implementing systematic and contextual Bela Negara Education, significant island populations can become effective defense support elements, vigilant against varied asymmetric threats, and active participants in the comprehensive defense system. This study asks: "How does Bela Negara Education improve major island defense strategy against asymmetric threats?"

This study examines how Bela Negara Education strengthens Indonesia's main islands' defenses against asymmetric threats. This study seeks to identify effective and contextually relevant models of Bela Negara Education that match the geographical characteristics of main islands, investigate ways to incorporate Bela Negara values into formal and non-formal education systems on these islands, analyze stakeholder

collaboration in executing Bela Negara Education for major island defense, and develop responsive strategies for enhancing Bela Negara Education. This study uses a complete narrative evaluation to make policy suggestions for the Ministry of Defense, Education and Culture, and related agencies. The goal is to optimize Bela Negara Education to strengthen main islands' defense strategies and strengthen Indonesia's resilience against current challenges.

Method

This research utilizes a narrative review technique to examine and integrate literature concerning the significance of state military education in fortifying the defense strategy of large islands against asymmetric threats. A narrative review was selected since it enables researchers to delineate and critically analyze numerous literatures pertinent to the research issue, while also offering novel insights into a complicated and multifaceted subject (Sukhera, 2022).

A narrative review was chosen since it facilitates the synthesis of knowledge from diverse sources with critical interpretation (Sukhera, 2022). This study's narrative review process has several stages: (1) identification of research questions, (2) literature search, (3) assessment of literature quality and relevance, (4) thematic analysis and synthesis, and (5) interpretation and conclusion formulation. The literature review was performed using electronic databases, physical libraries, and authoritative internet sources.

In this work, data validation was conducted using source and technique triangulation. Source triangulation was conducted by comparing and validating material from several literature sources, including academic publications, government policy documents, and gray literature.

This study does not intend to encompass all existing literature on the subject but concentrates on pivotal works that offer significant insights into the function of Bela Negara Education within the framework of main islands defense. Thematic saturation was attained when no other themes were identified. This study is confined to Indonesian and English literature, hence viewpoints from literature in other languages may be excluded. This study is centered on the Indonesian setting, hence the applicability of its findings to other countries may be restricted.

Result and Discussion

Indonesia, the largest archipelagic nation globally, possesses a marine expanse of 5.8 million km² and a coastline measuring 81,900 km, confronting numerous asymmetric threats including terrorism, smuggling, illicit narcotics trafficking, and illegal fishing (Simangunsong & Hutasoit, 2018). The constraints in monitoring this extensive maritime region constitute a significant vulnerability. The westernmost islands of Indonesia, particularly in the Natuna region, encounter significant threats to territorial sovereignty.

In October 2024, Indonesian patrol vessels compelled Chinese Coast Guard ships to withdraw from Natuna waters, where they were obstructing seismic surveys (Costa, 2025). This scenario illustrates the persistent intensity of territorial disputes in Indonesia's maritime border areas.

Unresolved asymmetric threats could become complex concerns that threaten government legitimacy and national life (Indonesia Ministry of Defense, 2015). National stability issues hinder growth and threaten the state's long-term sustainability.

Indonesia has roughly 17,000 islands from eastern to western and southern to northern latitudes. If asymmetric risks are not managed, Indonesia's strategic role as a global maritime axis, with the marine sector's economic potential estimated at USD 27 billion (Irmadhiany, 2023), becomes increasingly precarious. Marine security issues will impact the economy and public health. An effective and efficient defense strategy is needed to protect Indonesia's sovereignty, therefore this Main islands Defense Strategy.

Significant islands and vital island clusters defense in Indonesia protects national sovereignty and jurisdictional boundaries through archipelagic defense. This plan uses main islands as defense bases, reinforced by clusters of smaller islands and neighboring oceans in a tiered mandala from outer to inner.

Lykke defines military strategy as "the art and science of utilizing a nation's armed forces to achieve national policy objectives through the application or threat of force" (1997). Goals, tactics, and resources make up the "three-legged stool" of strategy, according to this idea. Lykke summarizes: Strategy = Objectives + Methods + Resources.

This theory posits that strategy is a cohesive articulation of a process that delineates objectives (ends), methods, and resources (means). Within the framework of the Main islands Defense Strategy, these elements are delineated as follows.

Lykke's thesis posits that aims (ends) are a crucial element in defense strategy. The military plan for Indonesia's principal islands must comply with the mandates of the 1945 Constitution and the principles of Pancasila. In alignment with the provisions of the 1945 Constitution and Pancasila, the aims of the defense plan for the principal islands encompass:

Protection of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI)'s sovereignty and territorial integrity, including all Indonesian territory. Bela Negara is defined by Law No. 3/2002 as all efforts to protect state sovereignty, the territorial integrity of the NKRI, and national and state security against threats and disruptions. The 1945 Constitution's preamble states that the defense policy must protect all Indonesians and territory.

Protecting the national defense and security framework. The Archipelago Insight principle views the archipelago and its national government as a single entity for state defense and security. The 1945 Constitution's Article 30, paragraph (2) requires a comprehensive people's defense and security system for state defense and security.

Indonesia's main islands defense strategy requires military resources. Methods help achieve strategic goals, according to Lykke. Large island defense involves all national resources, military and non-military (Manurung, Maarif, Toruan, & Swastanto, 2023). A credible marine defense force with technological superiority, offensive capabilities, and mobility is the main resource in this approach. C4ISR provides the foundation for integrating all military components (Margono, 2023).

Robust logistical support from bases and ongoing replenishment capabilities are essential components of the military strategy for the larger islands. This is facilitated by a comprehensive command and control system with extensive capabilities, with air defense radar and early mobile warning systems from naval vessels and terrestrial mobile

radar (Ibid.). The establishment of supporting infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, and other public institutions, is essential for a comprehensive military strategy.

The execution of strategies in Indonesia encompasses the application of a layered and comprehensive defense framework grounded in the Mandala or concentric circle idea. The closest circle encompasses Indonesian land and territorial waters; the inner circle spans from territorial waters to the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ); and the outermost circle pertains to the region beyond the EEZ (Manurung, Maarif, Toruan, & Swastanto, 2023). This plan enables Indonesia to leverage the geographical features of the archipelago in executing the A2/AD concept within its national security framework.

Moreover, cooperation between the TNI and civilians is a crucial element in actualizing the National Defense Strategy. Inter-island communication is essential for maintaining and enhancing these initiatives, facilitated by the primary assets of the Indonesian Navy and Air Force defense systems as protective and logistical components. Military vessels and planes facilitate the deployment of the Indonesian Army's primary forces to specified operational zones, supported by reserve and auxiliary elements, including the national civil aviation and maritime fleets.

The resolution of conflicts in various regions by military operations, followed by security operations conducted by police anti-terrorism units, frequently entails the deployment of troops from central commands in Java or other areas. This inclination unwittingly undermines the primary island defense theory due to the emergence of a contradiction. The foundation of the primary island defense consists of autonomously concentrated forces on each island, establishing it as an independent defense center. Nonetheless, military and security activities rely on the deployment of external forces from beyond the island or region (Risman, Ma'arif, Octavian, & Mahroza, 2023).

This contradiction arises from multiple factors. Inadequate defensive facilities and infrastructure, which differ across each principal island, impede the islands' capacity to operate autonomously in response to threats. Threats frequently arise swiftly, necessitating prompt intervention to avert escalation. Certain threats, including separatist movements in Aceh and Papua, are enduring and persistent. Consequently, the mobilization of forces from central commands or alternative locations serves as a remedy to mitigate or manage risks. These elements illustrate the significance of establishing autonomous military capabilities on each primary island and overseeing regional development to sustain a balance of overall operational results (Ibid.).

The execution of a national defense strategy that incorporates all elements of the nation into a comprehensive people's defense system poses intricate coordination and synchronization issues. Formulated strategies are not invariably executed flawlessly. The execution of this defense strategy necessitates ongoing modifications to foresee the challenges faced, as detailed below.

The geographical attributes of Indonesia as an archipelagic nation pose considerable obstacles in executing the security strategy for its main islands. Inter-island connectivity is essential for maintaining and enhancing defensive initiatives. This connectivity is achieved through the primary apparatus of the Indonesian Navy and Air Force defensive systems, which serve as protective and transportational components. The

primary difficulty lies in establishing an effective and efficient strategy to direct these diverse forces to specific problem areas (Margono, 2023).

The compartmentalization of the joint defense region of Commands I and II, which separates the islands of Kalimantan and Java, affects the dualism of command and control in the execution of major island defense. This presents a basic issue in practice (empirical gap), as the idea of unity of command is used in the utilization of the TNI, encompassing both Military Operations for War and Military Operations Other Than War (Risman, Ma'arif, Octavian, Mahroza, & Timur, 2023).

Establishing a defense posture, encompassing both military and non-military dimensions, necessitates substantial expenditure. The budgetary limitation is significant; thus, it must be allocated judiciously, considering the requirements for infrastructure, personnel, equipment, and maintenance (Sianipar, 2023). Enhanced budgets are essential to fortify the nation's military capabilities for the safeguarding of its national interests (Margono, 2023).

These difficulties necessitate a holistic strategy that encompasses not only military capabilities but also integrates all facets of the nation, including non-military elements, in alignment with the Total People's Defense and Security System (Sishankamrata) concept. Within this framework, Bela Negara Education serves as a crucial mechanism to enhance non-military defense and cultivate substantial national resilience.

The socialization of non-military defense is essential for incorporating defense functions into the development of policies and strategies for enhancing non-military defense capabilities across relevant sectors. Socialization enhances defense insights, facilitating the improvement of security elements in regional national development plans. This socialization aids in the design and execution of policies by Ministries/Institutions outside the defense sector and Regional Governments, contributing to national vigilance and Bela Negara awareness.

Bela Negara Education transcends military training or conscription; it is a systematic initiative aimed at cultivating patriotic values and national consciousness among all citizens. According to Law No. 23 of 2019 about the Management of National Resources for State Defense, Bela Negara Education seeks to fortify the nation's character by instilling five fundamental ideals of state defense. Furthermore, governmental defense initiatives seek to uphold the nationalism of citizens in executing their rights and responsibilities towards national defense (Indonesia Ministry of Defense, 2021). This is accomplished by the deliberate and ongoing promotion of Bela Negara awareness to attain national objectives and interests.

The execution of Bela Negara relies on citizen understanding and confidence in self-reliance, cultivated through diverse Bela Negara initiatives. These programs are designed to preserve state sovereignty, ensure the territorial integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI), and safeguard the security of the entire nation. Bela Negara initiatives are executed through several avenues, including civic education, compulsory basic military training, voluntary or forced duty as TNI troops, and professional service aligned with different occupations.

Bela Negara awareness can be quantified through five essential values: affection for the homeland in safeguarding the NKRI, recognition of national and state unity

amidst diversity, adherence to Pancasila as the ideological foundation and the 1945 Constitution as the legal framework, readiness to make sacrifices for the nation and state, and foundational Bela Negara competencies encompassing both mental and physical dimensions. These values are critical metrics for assessing the efficacy of promoting Bela Negara awareness across the community.

Bela Negara awareness can be measured by five fundamental values: patriotism towards the NKRI, acknowledgment of national and state unity in diversity, commitment to Pancasila as an ideological basis and the 1945 Constitution as a legal framework, willingness to sacrifice for the nation and state, and essential Bela Negara competencies that include both mental and physical aspects. These qualities are essential measures for evaluating the effectiveness of fostering Bela Negara awareness throughout the community.

According to Lykke's thesis, Bela Negara awareness has a distinctive role in the defense strategy of the main islands, since it integrates all three components of Lykke's strategy (goals, ways, and means). Bela Negara awareness constitutes an objective within the defense strategy. The objective of promoting Bela Negara awareness is to implant Bela Negara ideals, enabling every citizen to recognize and embody them in social life (Islamy, Jamal, & Alaydrus, 2019).

Bela Negara awareness serves as a mechanism, functioning as a strategic concept to attain defense objectives. The implementation occurs via Fostering Bela Negara awareness (PKBN), aimed at establishing Bela Negara cadres and integrating Bela Negara Education programs into the national education system.

Bela Negara awareness serves as a resource for executing the defensive strategy. Citizens possessing heightened Bela Negara awareness serve as valuable resources that can be synergistically utilized in national defense initiatives (Setiono, 2017).

Cultural influence is highly significant in the examination of social issues, particularly in matters of national security. The efficacy of Bela Negara activities is influenced not only by laws and regulations but also by the absorption of Bela Negara values within societal routines. In light of Indonesia's diverse society, the goals of many community groups are significant. To ensure the efficacy of Bela Negara initiatives, it is imperative to cultivate: knowledge of the significance of state defense, involvement in the execution of state defense, dedication to the application of Bela Negara principles, and tangible integration into national and state affairs. Bela Negara measures implemented within Indonesian national unity will foster optimal conditions for the nation's social resilience (Delima, 2017).

Research findings demonstrate that the implementation model of Bela Negara Education policy at the tertiary level is founded on the 3CS principles (Competent, Compact, Coordination, and Sustainable), resulting in graduates who comprehend, internalize, and embody Bela Negara values and attitudes (Hutabarat, Suryono, Wijaya, & Muluk, 2025) The implementation of state military education at all tiers of higher education can cultivate a commendable national character. Effective outcomes necessitate thorough preparation, particularly in identifying the executors of state defense policy.

Comprehending Bela Negara awareness within the society cultivates attitudes and behaviors that promote alertness among the younger generation in discerning foreign

cultural influences infiltrating Indonesia, particularly those that are incongruent with Indonesian national culture. The existing National Education Curriculum has minimal content on *Bela Negara* (Ibid.). The cultivation of national character should commence early, even in kindergarten, as fostering nationalism, national awareness, and Pancasila principles from a young age can nurture a robust sense of patriotism. The younger generation, as the future backbone of the nation, must be instructed, inspired, and educated about national security to maintain vigilance and awareness.

The implementation model of *Bela Negara* Education policy at the tertiary education level indicates that this policy transcends the mere translation of public decisions into standard procedures via bureaucratic mechanisms. The ambiguity of opinions within the broader population appears to hinder the effective implementation of *Bela Negara* Education policy on a large scale.

Matondang (2015) previously examined *Bela Negara* strategies enacted by the Indonesian Ministry of Defense in the establishment of non-military defensive forces. She examined the existing *Bela Negara* Education curriculum, which comprises four key components: citizenship training, compulsory military training, vocational training, and TNI-style training (Matondang, 2015). This article examines Indonesian demographic data, specifically noting that the number of students in higher education exceeds 6 million, being 2.6% of the entire population. Matondang contends that students provide a prospective demographic for cultivating *Bela Negara* attitudes, as they are in a phase of self-discovery and are preparing to enter the job.

Consistent with Matondang, additional research has demonstrated that defense training effectively enhances student nationalism at a State University in East Java (Chusniyah, et al., 2021). Researchers advocate for the continued implementation of *Bela Negara* training from primary to tertiary education to reinforce nationalism among the youth, particularly in the context of globalization, which may undermine national identity and self-conception.

Bela Negara Education is a developmental process founded on the notion of 'universality,' facilitating the discovery and advancement of new concepts to establish the optimal model for *Bela Negara* Education. Consequently, it is imperative to implement *Bela Negara* Education among students, executed promptly, concurrently, rigorously, purposefully, and systematically across all sectors through community-engaging activities (Gredinand, 2017).

A comprehensive *Bela Negara* Education model must be developed to enhance the defense requirements of key islands, considering multiple facets. This model, grounded in the *Astagatra* concept, must encompass eight facets of national existence, comprising *Trigatra* (geography, natural resources, and population capabilities) and *Pancagatra* (ideology, politics, economy, socio-culture, and defense security) (Afifah, 2021).

The national military education paradigm must account for Indonesia's unique characteristics as an archipelagic nation, encompassing extensive maritime, terrestrial, and aerial domains (Republika, 2016). The strategy of placing Indonesian Army forces according to the defense of main islands, enabling access to minor islands, securing remote islands, and safeguarding national borders, serves as a crucial foundation for the development of this educational model (Indonesia National Army, 2020). By

comprehending distinct geographical conditions, Bela Negara Education can be customized to the requirements of each significant island.

From a geographical perspective, Bela Negara Education must be tailored to Indonesia's identity as an archipelagic nation with extensive maritime, terrestrial, and aerial domains (Republika, 2016) and take into account the strategy of deploying Indonesian Army forces capable of accessing remote islands and borders (Indonesia National Army, 2020).

The Bela Negara Education curriculum is founded on five fundamental values: love for the homeland, readiness to sacrifice, awareness of nation and state, Pancasila as the state ideology, and Bela Negara capabilities. It is executed through four educational pathways: citizenship education, compulsory basic military training, TNI-style training, and vocational training (Matondang, 2015; Supriyono, Yudho, & Sianturi, 2022). This method facilitates the development of Bela Negara personnel possessing a thorough comprehension of national security, capable of contributing in accordance with the geographical attributes of significant islands as principal defense hubs.

Gredinand advocates for the reconfiguration of Bela Negara Education methodologies for students, transitioning from a unilateral approach to a multidirectional one. Transitioning from a predominantly technological perspective to a more humanistic approach (Ibid.). Gredinand's research corroborates Matondang's findings, which assert that a Bela Negara curriculum incorporating militaristic aspects can induce disparities between military and non-military defense (Matondang, 2015).

Defense education aimed at enhancing the security of large islands should prioritize higher education institutions, considering the intellectual development, identity formation, and potential of the youth. The Indonesian Defense University, as a Bela Negara institution, is the sole higher education establishment in Indonesia dedicated to the study of Defense Science and state defense, aimed at preparing the nation's leadership to serve as the primary guardians of national defense (Widjayanto, 2018). Comparable models can be modified for higher education institutions on significant islands with adaptations to local attributes.

The promotion of Bela Negara awareness among communities on big islands must also consider welfare considerations. A welfare strategy for the community must be prioritized prior to instilling national values, as the effectiveness of teaching national values is enhanced when the community possesses a robust feeling of defense (Supriyono, Yudho, & Sianturi, 2022). This aligns with the notion of national resilience, which depends not solely on military power but also on communal well-being.

Ongoing endeavors to enhance the efficacy of Bela Negara training can be achieved by optimizing Pancasila Education and Citizenship Education courses in academic lectures (Chusniyah, et al., 2021). Consequently, the curriculum must be enhanced and tailored to the framework of a comprehensive defense system that promotes active citizen engagement in national defense across many professional domains. The integration of contemporary technology, exceptional human capital, and robust national consciousness in the military-higher education interaction is regarded as a synergistic approach to addressing threats.

Conclusion

The research findings indicate that Bela Negara Education has a key role in enhancing Indonesia's defense strategy for its main islands against asymmetric threats. The large Islands Defense Strategy (P3B) embodies the overall defense concept, designating large islands as the principal basis of defense capability, employing a layered approach from the outer to the inner mandala. Bela Negara Education is crucial for fostering public awareness and enhancing the capacity for active participation in the comprehensive defense system, particularly on the principal islands that function as primary defense bases.

A robust Bela Negara Education model aimed at enhancing the defense strategy of large islands must take into account the geographical and socio-cultural attributes, as well as the potential asymmetric threats encountered by each island. The execution of Bela Negara Education in higher education, adhering to the 3CS principles (Competent, Compact, Coordination, and Sustainable), has demonstrated efficacy in cultivating Bela Negara values and attitudes among students. Collaboration among stakeholders, particularly between the Ministry of military, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the TNI, and educational institutions, is essential for the effective execution of state military education to enhance the defense strategy of the main islands.

A welfare strategy must be prioritized prior to teaching national values, since the incorporation of Bela Negara values will be more effective if the population have a robust feeling of defense. The Bela Negara Education curriculum must be formulated around five fundamental values (patriotism, readiness to sacrifice, national and state consciousness, Pancasila as the state ideology, and defense competencies) and executed through four educational pathways (citizenship education, compulsory basic military training, TNI-style training, and vocational training). This research confirms that Bela Negara Education transcends military training, representing a deliberate endeavor to cultivate patriotic values and national consciousness among all residents. Within the framework of the main islands defense plan, Bela Negara Education serves as a crucial tool for fostering comprehensive national resilience, engaging all elements of the nation in alignment with the Sishankamrata idea.

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