

# THE YOUNG GENERATION CHARACTERS ENHANCEMENT FROM HISTORICAL EVENTS OF VIETNAM VILLAGE IN GALANG ISLAND

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## ABSTRACT

This study aimed to trace the historical events of Kampung Vietnam related to character education of the young generation on the island of Batam and what values can be taken from the historical events of the Vietnamese Village of Galang Island in developing character education for the millennial generation. Using the concept of ethnocentrism, researchers try to trace historical events and patterns of ethnicity in the Galang community in accepting refugees from Vietnam. The existence of Kampung Vietnam on Galang Island should not only be preserved physically, but also the history of the event itself. The aim is that not only tourism (economic) benefits can be taken, but more important than that are values that are useful for character education for the younger generation. . With the historical events of Kampung Vietnam on the island of Galang, it can help improve the quality of the character education formation process for today's young generation. The values that can be taken from the historical events of the Vietnam Village of Galang Island in building the character of the younger generation include the attitude of nationalism, help, tolerance, and empathy for others.

**Keywords:** ethnocentrism, characters enhancement, Kampung Vietnam on Galang Island

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this modern era, technological developments are increasing rapidly. Technology has touched various aspects of life, such as communication media, information, transportation, including in

the field of education. This development is a success of technological advances from time to time. Rais (2018) in his article on advances in information technology has an impact on the

generalization of socio-cultural elements including the millennial generation. He said that the characteristics of the current millennial generation are synonymous with creative and innovative mindsets but on the other hand they are materialistic, consumptive, forgetting about their own culture, and are more glorifying the cultures of other countries as a trend. Adib (2011) emphasized that the development of technology is very rapid and of course significantly affects the rate of cultural adoption which sometimes cannot be filtered. According to him, the rate of cultural influence also causes knowledge degradation for the generation of culture for its own culture.

Technological advances could have both positive and negative impacts. Many of the positive impacts of technological advances are experienced in everyday life. Increasingly sophisticated and extensive technology helps us get a variety of information quickly and make life more practical. In the field of education, technological advances can support teaching and learning activities, where actors in the world of education can access various sources of knowledge through technology. However, on the negative side, the younger generation prefers to take advantage of technological advances for things that are not useful, even just for recreational and existential purposes. As a result, instead of getting information and additional knowledge, some of the younger generation misuses it.

This is because the mindset of those who think that science is boring. Likewise with the historical events that took place around them, so that

awareness of the importance of history has decreased. The condition of the young generation today is very apprehensive where they only focus on gadgets and technology. Many do not understand history and do not consider their own history or culture important.

This condition is also experienced by the young generation of Batam city. Batam as an industrial city is currently developing into a city of tourism and a shopping center which is quite famous in the Southeast Asia region. Its location is close to Singapore and Malaysia, causing the city of Batam to be visited by many people. Unfortunately most people who visit Batam are only for recreational purposes.

Even though the city of Batam has important historical events like other cities in Indonesia, one of which is the Vietnamese Village of Galang Island. Not many people know the name of the Vietnamese village, Galang Island. What are highlighted in the mystical side and its tourism aspects? Even though it is related to the younger generation, the incident in the Vietnamese village of Galang Island has many values that can be learned and applied in shaping the character of the younger generation of Batam city. Therefore, although the historical events of the Vietnam Village of Galang Island have been written, the author is still interested in seeing and writing Vietnam village because it is quite related to character education for the younger generation or students, especially in Batam City.

Based on the description in the background section, several questions are formulated in this paper, namely:

1. Why are the historical events of Vietnam village related to

character education for the younger generation on the island of Batam?

2. What values can be taken from the historical events of Vietnam village on Galang Island in developing character education for the millennial generation?

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Talking about character education, historical events play an important role in shaping the character of the millennial generation. What is meant by character education according to Siantani (2011) is the education given, either in the form of moral education or theory that is useful for developing character. Character is defined as a "moral excellence. Or morals built on virtues, which in turn only have meaning when they are based on the values prevailing in the culture (nation). The character possessed by the Indonesian nation is based on actions that are considered as a virtue according to the values prevailing in Indonesian society.

Then in the writing "Character Education Curriculum 2013" by Haryati (2017) explained that character education is something important to form a quality generation. Character education is one of the tools to guide someone to become a good person, so that they are able to filter out bad influences. Many facts prove that developed nations are not because they have abundant natural resources, but because they have superior characters such as honesty, hard work, and responsibility.

The research related to the Vietnam Village has been studied by several authors. Some of them are an

article entitled "Galang Memory of a Past Tragedy" by Lampito (2011). This paper reveals the tragedy of the Vietnamese refugees on the island of Galang, from their arrival to their lives during settled on Galang Island. In addition to written sources, several online media also discussed Vietnam Village on Galang Island.

Several online media that contain articles about Vietnam Village on Galang Island include "Dark Tourism Camp Vietnam" regarding tourist perceptions, motivation to visit, and satisfaction which affect the interest in returning to Galang Island. This paper can be used as a consideration for the Galang Tourism Area Manager, namely the Batam Concession Agency (BP). Another online media that discusses Galang Island is an article entitled "The Development of Humanitarian Monuments (Vietnam Village) and Its Role in the World of Tourism 1979-1996", discussing the development of tourism at the Humanity Monument (Vietnam village) and tips carried out by Monument managers in promoting tourism, since its inception until the impact of the existence of the Monument on the economy of the people around the Monument. Then another scientific paper that discusses Kampung Vietnam is an article entitled "Vietnam Village Tourism" regarding the attractiveness of Vietnamese villages as a place of tourism.

Some of the writings on Vietnamese villages above generally discuss the historical events of Kampung Vietnam from the aspect of tourism. Meanwhile, the problem that the author wants to raise in this paper is the relationship between the historical

events of the Vietnamese village and the character education of the millennial generation, especially in the city of Batam.

### 3. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is used qualitative method. Qualitative is an analysis of data that has to get in literary works through the words, sentences, paragraphs on the texts. In this study, the researcher found information about the problem of data analysis through interpretation based on facts, theories and experts. Creswell (2014) said that qualitative research is a type of research in which the researcher is very dependent on information from objects or participants on a broad scope, general questions, and data collection consisting mainly of words or texts in explaining and analyzing words and conduct research subjectively. From the explanation above, it can be concluded that qualitative research is the data analysis that explained events using words, sentences, and paragraphs in the text that can be understood and interpreted to get

insights about certain interesting phenomena.

### 4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

War always gives suffering to humans, like the war that took place between South Vietnam and North Vietnam. The two countries have made a peace agreement. In fact, this peace did not last long until the government of Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, took over the archipelago owned by North Vietnam on April 30, 1975 (Octo et al., -: 1)

This incident led to the people of North Vietnam being expelled and forced to leave their homeland. After the incident there was no news from the residents of South Vietnam or North Vietnam, until on May 22, 1975 the Vietnamese refugees arrived in Indonesia. They first landed on Laut Island with a total of 24 people. In a short time the refugees increased to 45,000 thousand inhabitants. As a result they had to be divided into several groups which were then sent to several islands, namely Tanjung Unggat, Raja Island and Bintan Timur (Octo et al)



**Figure 4.1.** one of the paintings in the information center of the museum depicting conditions when Vietnamese refugees arrived on Galang Island. Source: Vietnam Village museum collection

Geographically, the island of Indonesia is quite close to Vietnam so they have to accept Vietnamese refugees. In mid-March and July 1980, it was recorded that there were approximately 45,000 Vietnamese residents who fled and lived in the Riau Islands. This suddenly made the population of Indonesia increase rapidly. However, this did not make the Indonesian people angry and expelled them because the Indonesian people felt sorry for them so that they accepted the arrival of the refugees.

This sense of brotherhood in the name of humanity has moved the hearts of the Indonesian people to participate in providing space for Vietnamese refugees to be able to occupy Galang Island as a fairly safe place. The Malay people, who at that time were more dominant living around the Galang Island, even accepted their arrival. The community even works hand in hand to help facilitate and work together to provide the facilities needed by the refugees.



**Figure 4.2.** photos of Vietnamese refugees from Galang Island at the Information Center of the Museum. (Source: Vietnam Village museum collection)

After the news of the refugees carried out by the Vietnamese population was heard by the United Nations then they received a lot of assistance from various countries. In 1980 Vietnamese refugees received assistance from the United States, Canada and Australia to be able to evacuate to their countries. The refugees would like to thank the Indonesian people for the kindness and

glory of their hearts who accepted their presence during their stay on Galang Island, Batam City. Now they have lived a better life with their new place to live. In 1996 the refugees were allowed to return to their home countries but they refused and chose to stay on Galang Island. This is because they experienced severe trauma from the wars that had occurred in the past.





**Figure 4.3.** The gate to commemorate UN assistance in the Vietnamese village of Galang Island which is located in front of the pagoda. Source: Vietnam Village, Galang Island

While starting a new life on Galang Island, the Vietnamese refugees experienced several problems. This was because they still clung to past life activities related to social and religious fields so as to produce several works and historical places.

One example of historical works of art created by the refugees is a humanitarian sculpture monument that has many historical stories inside. The refugees stated that the statue was created to commemorate the services of a woman named Tinh Nhan, who was one of the victims of rape by several other refugees. Actually the perpetrators could be convicted and jailed, but the victim of the rape finally committed suicide in January 1985.

Not far from the location of the humanitarian statue there is a grave which is divided into two, namely a grave for Vietnamese refugees and a grave for Cambodian refugees. Then about 240 meters away there is a Protestant church which looks attractive

but not with the surrounding environment which looks poorly maintained. In addition, there are several other buildings that have been built by the UNHCR organization such as a hospital with complete facilities, houses for refugees, buildings for youth associations, and there are also shops that work together with refugees to make works of art or creative work.

Tourists can see and understand the lives of the refugees of different religions but can still maintain solidarity and cooperation among other refugees. The Quam Am To Pagoda is the largest and most beautiful of the seven pagodas designed by Vietnamese female refugees. And not far from the Chua Ky Vien monastery there is a Catholic Christian church which has a beautiful garden with several miniature boats. Even though living with various disadvantages does not mean that the refugees are not well educated. There are places for refugee English and French education.



**Figure 4.4.** one of the pagodas in the Vietnamese Village of Galang Island which is still in use today. Source: Vietnam Village, Galang Island

During their stay there the refugees lived a good life. They married other retirees and had children. If a baby born their parents will get permission to receive food stamps. Toddlers under one year of age will get free milk needs sponsored by Puskodal. After that the Indonesian government also made a program in the form of donations to save and support the nutritional needs of children of Vietnam's refugees.

After several years, the Vietnamese returnees who lived on Galang Island

were finally repatriated to their home countries for several reasons, among them the number of them who continued. Then the Indonesian people convinced the Vietnamese retirees to always maintain their spirit of nationalism even though there had been conflicts that caused misery. Therefore, after conditions in Vietnam were stable, the Indonesian people convinced them to return to their home countries. Vietnam wants and agrees to be returned to its home country.



From the description above, it can be seen that the event of displacement of the Vietnam population on the island of Galang is an important historical record, both for Indonesia and Vietnam itself. When examined more deeply, this event contains important values that can be applied in order to build character education for the younger generation. now.

The values that can be applied from the historical events of Vietnam Village in order to build the character of the younger generation include:

1. It teaches us to be grateful and to love the Indonesian state. The independence and peace achieved by the Indonesian people are important for future life. Imagine that without independence and peace, the Indonesian nation could be in the position of the Vietnamese retirees who experienced so much suffering and sadness that they had to leave their homeland for the safety of themselves, their families and their own people.
2. Teach us to help other people or nations regardless of differences in ethnicity, race, and religion. Having an attitude of wanting to help will prevent us from having negative attitudes, such as ethnocentrism and primordialism. This historical event from the Vietnam Village of Galang Island makes us open mentally and physically so that we are moved to help others.
3. Teaching us to have a high tolerance attitude and not to take risky actions such as 'vigilant against ourselves'. Imagine if at that time the original inhabitants of

Galang Island expelled and committed acts of violence against the refugees, what would the fate of the Vietnamese refugees be like now? Or maybe we can ruin the future of Vietnamese people who only need temporary shelters? With an attitude of tolerance makes us able to think long before making a decision.

4. In still a high empathy to help each other, remain grateful, and have a spirit of tolerance. With empathy, it can make the younger generation more open and less apathetic to their surroundings. In addition, the empathy instilled in the younger generation can be used to counter the negative impact of the mass media which is triggered as a major influence on the growth of apathy.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The existence of Kampung Vietnam on Galang Island should not only be preserved physically, but also the history of the event itself. The aim is that not only tourism (economic) benefits can be taken, but more important than that are values that are useful for character education for the younger generation. With the historical events of Kampung Vietnam on the island of Galang, it can help improve the quality in the process of building character education for today's young generation. The values that can be taken from the historical events of the Vietnam Village of Galang Island in building the character of the younger generation include the attitude of nationalism, help, tolerance, and empathy for others.



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