

## The Effectiveness of Heroes' Day Commemoration Activities in Fostering Multicultural Attitudes Among Students at SMA Negeri 3 Mataram

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### Abstract

*This study aims to identify the extent to which the commemoration of Heroes Day fosters multicultural attitudes among students at SMA Negeri 3 Mataram. This research used a qualitative approach through observation interviews and documentation. The findings indicate that the activities conducted on November eight and ten two thousand twenty five including a fashion show competition an extracurricular bazaar art performances and a ceremonial assembly succeeded in creating an inclusive social atmosphere. Students showed greater respect for diversity more openness toward differences and better collaboration with peers from varied backgrounds. Therefore the Heroes Day commemoration activities were effective in promoting students multicultural attitudes.*

**Keywords:** Heroes' Day, multicultural, school, students

### INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is known as a country with a very wide cultural diversity. This diversity is a strength of the nation, but it can also lead to problems if each group is unable to understand the existing differences. Cultural variation influences the perspectives, behaviors, and traditions of a community, so without mutual respect and tolerance, these differences can cause social tension. Mufidah (Sari & Sukmawati, 2025) emphasizes that tolerance is an important aspect in developing understanding and appreciation of diversity, allowing for the creation of harmonious interaction spaces. On that basis, multicultural education needs to be integrated into the national education system, not only through classroom learning but also through school activities that strengthen inclusive social interaction. This view is in line with the thinking of James A. Banks (2008), who explained that the goal of multicultural education is to build awareness that society consists of diverse ethnic, religious, cultural, and social background groups, yet they have equal standing and deserve respect.

West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) is one of the regions that reflects this diversity through the presence of various ethnic groups such as *Sasak*, *Samawa*, and *Mbojo*, as well as the diversity of religions and local cultures. Although the NTB community is known for upholding the value of tolerance, the evolving social dynamics require the strengthening of multicultural values, especially in educational settings. Parekh (Shinta & Albina, 2024) states that multiculturalism aims to foster appreciation of differences while simultaneously strengthening the sense of togetherness amidst diversity. Through education, students can be trained to understand the importance of tolerance as a foundation for creating a harmonious social life. Therefore, multicultural education needs to be instilled from an early age as a form of habituation so that students get used to appreciating differences, whether in terms of ethnic culture or religion.

SMA Negeri 3 Mataram, as one of the schools in Mataram City, is also situated in a diverse social environment because its students come from different backgrounds. This situation requires the cultivation of a tolerant attitude so that all members of the school can live together peacefully. This aligns with the view of Hakim & Darajat (2023), who emphasize that education plays an important role

in improving human quality, shaping moral character, and fostering a sense of unity, harmony, and togetherness. One of SMA Negeri 3 Mataram's efforts to strengthen multicultural attitudes is through the commemoration of Heroes' Day, held on November 8 and 10, 2025, through fashion show competitions, extracurricular bazaars, art performances, and joint ceremonies. These activities not only serve as a form of respect for history but also as a means of social interaction that allows students to learn to appreciate, cooperate, and accept diversity. Therefore, a study needs to be conducted to see the extent to which the series of activities on Heroes' Day plays a role in developing multicultural attitudes among students at SMA Negeri 3 Mataram.

## METHOD

This research was conducted at SMA Negeri 3 Mataram, located at Jalan Pemuda Number 63, Mataram City, West Nusa Tenggara. The study used a qualitative approach with a case study design. According to Sugiyono (2019), qualitative research aims to describe phenomena in depth, factually, and systematically according to the actual conditions in the field. The research subjects consisted of the vice principal, teachers, and students. Data collection was carried out through observation, interviews, and documentation. Observation was conducted by directly observing the implementation of Hero's Day commemoration activities. Interviews involved eight informants, namely the vice principal in charge of curriculum, one teacher, and six students, to obtain detailed information regarding the implementation of the activities and their impact on students' multicultural attitudes. Documentation was used as supporting data in the form of activity photos, schedules, and other school archives. Data analysis was conducted using the Miles and Huberman (1994) model, which includes the stages of data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusions. This approach was chosen because it helps researchers manage, examine, and interpret qualitative data comprehensively, resulting in findings that are relevant to strengthening students' multicultural attitudes in schools.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on observations and interviews conducted during the commemoration of Heroes' Day at SMA Negeri 3 Mataram, it was found that the school organized two series of activities. The first activity took place on Saturday, November 8, 2025, on the school's front field. On that day, the school held a fashion show competition involving representatives from 10th and 11th grade students. The atmosphere of the event was lively, as many students attended both as participants and spectators. In addition to the competition, the event was also supported by a bazaar from various extracurricular activities offering a variety of food options, which attracted students' enthusiasm. The series of activities began with morning exercise attended by students and teachers, followed by a speech from the Principal and a prayer reading. After that, the main event took place, including the fashion show competition, poetry readings, and a performance by A Six from the Seirama Harmoni Smanti Extracurricular. Several sponsors such as Telkomsel and Pop Ice also provided support. The event concluded with a musical performance by the Smanti Extracurricular Band. The second event was held on Monday, November 10, 2025, in the form of a Heroes' Day commemoration ceremony attended by the entire school community. Students wore white and gray uniforms while teachers and staff wore Korpri uniforms. The ceremony proceeded solemnly and orderly. After the ceremony, the school awarded outstanding students and announced the winners of the fashion show competition. The school also handed out certificates for first, second, and third place for the 2024-2025 academic year, and the series of activities concluded with a group photo session.

The results of these series of activities show that the commemoration of Heroes' Day is not only a ceremonial event but also contributes to strengthening students' multicultural attitudes. Multicultural attitudes are related to the ability to accept, respect, and cooperate within diversity. (Sipuan et al., 2022) explain that multiculturalism is a system of values and behaviors that recognizes the existence of all diverse groups within an organization and encourages their contributions in an inclusive and empowering cultural environment. In the school context, diversity is reflected through differences in cultural interests, creativity, ways of thinking, and students' social backgrounds.

Activities on November 8, 2025, such as group exercise, fashion show competitions, poetry readings, A Six performances, extracurricular bazaars, and music performances, provided a wide opportunity for students to interact, get to know each other, and learn to appreciate creativity as well

as the differences among them. The interactions that occurred during the activities showed that students could accept differences in clothing styles, food preferences, and artistic expression without creating boundaries between classes or groups. This condition aligns with Banks' concept of content integration, which views learning activities as a process of introducing diversity through direct experience. Interview results also showed that students felt closer to friends from other groups after participating in the activities, indicating an increase in mutual respect and readiness to collaborate in diversity. Aly (Harahap, 2023) explains that a pluralistic society requires positive social attitudes such as tolerance, sympathy, and the ability to accept the presence of other groups. In this activity, students are encouraged to be more open and understand the diversity present in the school environment. Thus, this activity not only celebrates Heroes' Day but also plays a significant role in fostering multicultural attitudes through a sense of togetherness and inclusive interaction.

The ceremony on November 10, 2025, also played an important role in uniting the shared identity of all school members. Wearing uniforms uniformly created an equal atmosphere without distinguishing any particular background. The awarding of achievements to high-performing students demonstrated that the school appreciated students' abilities fairly without considering social differences. This aligns with Banks (2019) view that multicultural practices are built not only through the curriculum but also through respectful social interactions.

Overall, the activities commemorating Heroes' Day at SMA Negeri 3 Mataram demonstrated effectiveness in fostering students' multicultural attitudes. Student interactions increased, mutual respect became more evident, and the unification of identity through the ceremony strengthened the sense of togetherness. Recognition of student achievements showed a commitment to fairness and equal opportunity. Based on these findings, activities such as fashion show competitions, bazaars, and national ceremonies made a tangible contribution to building multicultural attitudes through shared experiences and broad spaces for interaction among all students.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the findings from observations and interviews, it can be concluded that the series of activities commemorating Heroes' Day at SMA Negeri 3 Mataram was able to provide a positive impact in shaping students' multicultural attitudes. Activities held on November 8 and 10, 2025, such as morning exercise, fashion show competitions, extracurricular bazaars, various art performances, and joint ceremonies, were able to create an inclusive space for interaction and encourage cooperation among students from different backgrounds. During the activities, it was observed that students became more appreciative of differences, more open to diversity, and more capable of collaborating in a spirit of togetherness. Thus, the Heroes' Day commemoration was not only a ceremonial event but also played an important role in strengthening multicultural character within the school environment.

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