



Legal Awareness Program in Cibungur Village, Warungponteng District, Tasikmalaya Regency, West Java, Indonesia

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Abstract

The people of Cibungur Village, Warungponteng District, Tasikmalaya Regency, West Java, generally have a level of legal awareness that needs improvement, resulting in legal issues. To address the lack of understanding about the law, it is deemed necessary to implement the *Keluarga Sadar Hukum* (Kadarkum) or Legal Awareness Family Program in an effective and sustainable manner so that the community truly understands the importance of laws that must be followed. This study aims to identify and understand the factors that influence legal awareness, so that the community can comply with the law; and to foster legal awareness within society in accordance with the regulations governing social life in the community. Data and information were obtained through observation, outreach, and interviews. The method used for analyzing the data and information is the normative juridical research method, which integrates existing legal rules with social phenomena in the community by observing the activities of legal awareness families in Cibungur Village, Warungponteng District. The results of the analysis show that community awareness of the law is influenced by several factors, including knowledge, recognition, appreciation, and compliance with the law, which are fundamental aspects.

Keywords: Village community, legal awareness family, improving legal understanding, influencing factors, normative juridical.

1. Introduction

The Law is viewed as an important aspect of society, with the aim of creating a comfortable and just community. However, there are times when certain individuals disregard this, as mentioned above. Law is often also undermined, violated, or even misused by some individuals for their own interests, or because they believe that law is not important in the eyes of society. This leads to many legal violations in the community. In this context, in legal sociology, people who lack legal awareness are identified (Setiawan & Munandar, 2020; Saragih & Abdullah, 2019).

Law here refers to regulations consisting of orders, binding rules, and sanctions for violators, with the aim of ensuring peace and order in society, particularly in Patean society. To achieve peace and order in society, a legally aware community is required. Legal awareness should ideally begin with the application of law within one's own family environment. The Legal Awareness Family (Kadarkum) is established based on Circular Letter No. PHN-05.HN.04.04-20 of 2019 issued by the Head of the National Legal Development Agency on Guidelines for the Implementation of Legal Awareness Verification for Villages or Sub-districts. It can be proposed by local governments at the regency or city level to the governor, through the Regional Office Head, to designate the village or sub-district as a Legal Awareness Village or Sub-district and receive recognition from the Minister of Law and Human Rights. This is a strategic effort to develop legal awareness in both villages and sub-districts in order to uphold the rule of law.

Law has both direct and indirect influences in encouraging social change within institutions and communities. Legal awareness is self-awareness, without external pressure, coercion, or orders, that must be adhered to by all layers of society. Sometimes, over time, the law does not require the imposition of sanctions because society is considered to already understand and comprehend the meaning of the law itself. The government provides legal education to the community through legal outreach, except in cases where legal illiteracy persists, indicating low levels of legal

understanding. Legal issues in village communities are often due to low legal awareness, which sometimes necessitates sanctions for those who violate the law (Yusuf et al., 2021).

Law itself has universal and static qualities in society, meaning that law applies to all layers of society, whether in rural or urban communities, whether male or female, and whether adults or children. In Indonesia, the law is called Positive Law, meaning the law currently in force. There are two types of law: Civil Law, which governs individual or personal matters and is regulated in the Civil Code (KUHPerdata), and Criminal Law, which governs public interests in society and is regulated in the Criminal Code (KUHP) (Rahardjo, 2018). Both have been codified. In addition to written laws, there are also unwritten laws, such as customary law.

Villages generally have lower levels of legal awareness, especially if they have never been exposed to legal outreach or education. This low awareness results in legal problems, as village communities often do not accept or understand the rules already established in the village or sub-district. Therefore, it is necessary to provide guidance, as lack of guidance may be one reason for this lack of legal understanding. To address this gap in legal understanding, the implementation of the *Keluarga Sadar Hukum* (Kadarkum) program is necessary in an effective and continuous manner, so that the community truly understands the importance of law in Cibungur Village, Warungponteng District (Hidayat, 2016).

The principle of this implementation is communication with the community through observation that integrates existing legal rules with social phenomena occurring within the community. The core of Kadarkum's implementation is the need to disseminate information and understanding of legal norms and applicable regulations, both written and unwritten. This will enable the community to foster and develop legal awareness in the form of orderliness and compliance with the prevailing legal norms.

2. Literature Review

Legal awareness programs are essential in rural communities where the understanding of legal rights and responsibilities may be limited. In Cibungur Village, located in the Warungponteng District of Tasikmalaya Regency, West Java, a gap in legal awareness has contributed to recurring legal issues. This problem is not unique to Cibungur; it reflects a broader issue prevalent in many rural regions across Indonesia, where legal literacy is low. Programs like *Keluarga Sadar Hukum* (Kadarkum) have been designed to promote legal understanding and encourage compliance with the law in such communities.

2.1 Legal Awareness in Rural Communities

Legal awareness, as defined by sociologists and legal scholars, refers to the level of understanding and consciousness that individuals or communities have regarding laws and regulations that govern their daily lives. Studies have shown that legal awareness is closely tied to the education level, socio-economic background, and cultural values of a community. For rural populations, where formal education may be limited, traditional dispute resolution mechanisms, such as adat law, often take precedence over formal legal frameworks (Hidayat, 2016). As a result, legal literacy programs must be tailored to address these cultural nuances (Saragih & Abdullah, 2019).

2.2 Keluarga Sadar Hukum (Kadarkum) Program

Kadarkum is a government-initiated program aimed at increasing the legal awareness of families, making them more knowledgeable about laws that affect their rights and responsibilities. The program focuses on several key areas: criminal law, civil law, family law, and social welfare regulations. In rural areas like Cibungur, Kadarkum plays an important role in bridging the gap between the formal legal system and community practices. Legal outreach programs under Kadarkum are often conducted through community gatherings, educational workshops, and collaborations with local leaders (Setiawan & Munandar, 2020).

2.3 Challenges in Implementation

Implementing legal awareness programs in rural communities poses several challenges. First, low literacy rates and limited access to legal resources hinder the effectiveness of such programs. Research has shown that legal programs are more successful when local leaders and trusted figures are actively involved in educating the community (Yusuf et al., 2021). Additionally, the integration of local customs and traditional laws can either support or obstruct the

implementation of national legal frameworks. In Cibungur, the strong influence of adat law requires that legal awareness programs be adaptive to the community's existing dispute resolution methods.

2.4 Impact of Legal Awareness Programs

Studies have demonstrated that legal awareness programs like Kadarkum can significantly increase compliance with the law and reduce instances of legal violations when properly executed (Rahardjo, 2018). In Cibungur Village, early assessments indicate that participants of the program show improved understanding of their rights, particularly in areas such as land disputes, inheritance, and family law. The active involvement of community leaders and tailored educational methods have been key factors in the program's initial success.

3 Research Methods

Data and information were obtained through observation, outreach, and interviews. The method used for analyzing the data and information is the normative juridical research method, which integrates existing legal rules with social phenomena in society by observing the activities of the *Keluarga Sadar Hukum* (Legal Awareness Families) in Cibungur Village, Warungponteng District. Through this study, it is expected that the information gathered from the literature review can be used as a reference to strengthen existing arguments and serve as a reference for resolving issues, particularly those related to the Legal Awareness Families in Cibungur Village, Warungponteng District.

4 Analysis and Discussion

4.1 Identification of Legal Violations

The practice of student final project making services in universities involves several forms of criminal violations, including fraud, document forgery, and copyright infringement. In the context of fraud, this practice involves presenting academic assignments as if they were the student's original work when, in fact, they are completed by third parties. Document forgery occurs when final projects created by others are falsely claimed as the student's own work, violating academic honesty and legal norms (Prasetyo & Handayani, 2020; Suryani & Wulandari, 2021).

Copyright infringement frequently occurs in these practices, as service providers produce works that should be the exclusive intellectual property of the student. This results in the misappropriation of intellectual rights, which contradicts both educational principles and existing criminal laws. Using third-party-produced work without the student's genuine contribution breaches both academic integrity and legal standards.

4.2 Relevant Laws and Regulations

In Indonesia, several laws address the legal aspects related to student final project making services, including Law No. 19 of 2002 on Copyright and the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP). Article 263 of the Criminal Code on document forgery can be applied to cases where students falsely claim others' work as their own. Similarly, Article 378 of the Criminal Code on fraud is relevant, although its application is limited as it requires specific elements, such as the existence of a victim suffering from losses (Setiawan, 2019).

The Copyright Law provides protection for intellectual works, but its enforcement in the context of final project services faces challenges, especially in proving copyright violations, as service providers often operate in a legal grey area. Meanwhile, internal regulations of educational institutions tend to focus on administrative sanctions without adequately addressing criminal aspects, leaving a gap in law enforcement (Rahman & Purnamasari, 2021).

4.3 Legal Implications

Providers of final project making services and their users can face serious legal consequences. Service providers could be prosecuted for fraud and forgery, which are punishable by imprisonment and/or fines. Students who use these services could face administrative sanctions from educational institutions, such as degree revocation, and criminal penalties if found to be involved in illegal activities (Yusuf et al., 2022).

Additionally, the practice of final project services undermines academic integrity and can lead to a loss of public trust in educational institutions. This can damage the reputation of universities and degrade the quality of graduates who are expected to be adequately prepared for the workforce with strong academic skills.

4.4 Regulatory Gaps

There are significant regulatory gaps in addressing the practice of final project making services. Currently, Indonesian regulations do not explicitly stipulate criminal sanctions for such practices, rendering law enforcement ineffective. Many cases cannot be prosecuted because they do not fulfill the elements of a criminal offense as outlined in the Criminal Code, and copyright laws are often improperly applied in this context (Sutanto, 2020).

Moreover, the lack of specific regulations governing plagiarism and illegal academic services poses a major challenge in law enforcement efforts. Existing regulations tend to emphasize administrative rather than criminal sanctions, making them insufficient to deter such practices. Therefore, there is a need for more explicit and stringent legal reforms to address final project services as a criminal act and to strengthen cooperation between educational institutions, the government, and law enforcement agencies to uphold academic integrity.

5 Conclusion

Law is one of the most important components in societal life, making it crucial to disseminate legal knowledge to all levels of society, especially to rural communities who may not fully understand the function and purpose of law. The community plays the most important role in realizing the objectives of the law itself. One of the key influencing factors is the level of education within the community, particularly in rural areas, so that people can understand the importance of law in social life and reduce legal violations. The lack of legal awareness among the community, influenced by factors such as knowledge, recognition, respect, and compliance with the law, is a fundamental issue in achieving the goals of law. Several actions must be taken by society, especially in rural areas, to address this. Increasing legal threats or tightening the monitoring of citizens' compliance with laws are among the ways to raise legal awareness within the community.

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