

Establishment of a Legal Aid Post to Increase Legal Awareness of the Candijati Village Community Towards a Legally Aware Village

Nanda Bagus Putra¹, Annisa Aulia², Andriani³

Program Studi Ilmu Hukum Fakultas Hukum Universitas Jember^{1,2,3}
210710101219@mail.unej.ac.id¹, annisa@gmail.com, andriani@gmail.com

Abstract

This Community Service Program was carried out in Candijati Village, Arjasa District, Jember Regency. There are several main problems in Candijati Village, namely, the lack of knowledge about the law makes the community prone to committing crimes, and the level of violence against children and women is quite high and in the context of optimizing the Candijati Village Community towards a law-aware village based on the concept contained in the Head of BPHN Regulation Number: PHN.HN.03.05-73 of 2008 concerning the Formation and Fostering of Law-Aware Families and Villages/Kelurahan Aware of Laws and Regulations of the Minister of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia Number: M.01-PR.08.10 of 2007 concerning Amendments to Ministerial Regulations Law and Human Rights Number: M.01-PR.08.10 of 2006 concerning Patterns of Legal Counseling. This study describes comprehensively the implementation of the program for establishing legal aid posts in increasing community legal awareness towards a law-aware village which was carried out in Candijati village by the ORMAWA Asean Law Student Association Local Chapter University of Jember 2023 implementation team. The process of increasing public knowledge in the field of law This is carried out through three approaches, namely socialization, counseling, and the establishment of legal aid posts.

Keywords: Law Awareness Village, Legal Aid Post, Community Toward

INTRODUCTION

In the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, it explicitly states that Indonesia is a legal state. This is stipulated in Article 1, paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. This article implies that all orders in the life of the nation, society, and state are based on applicable law, and the law must always be upheld in the life of the nation, state, and society. This means that not only the government as a legal structure must implement the law consistently, but the society also must comply with the existing law to achieve synergy between legal rules as substance, law enforcers as a structure, and society as a conduit for legal culture in order to achieve legal goals.

Law is the entirety of rules or legal norms that regulate the relationships among people in society, and anyone who violates legal norms may be subject to sanctions or prosecuted by the authorities (Umar Said Sugiarto, 1956). Law has a noble purpose to shape a society within a legal order, regulate the order of society peacefully and justly. With this noble purpose of the law, it is only fitting that the law is made to be obeyed, not violated, due to the coercive and imperative nature of law (Paul Scholten, 1931).

Every member of society receives the law not through scientific means but through a conscious or unconscious learning process (Kusumohamidjojo, 1999, p. 168). Thus, it is clear that society must go through a learning process to accept and understand the law. To create legal awareness in society, the law must be communicated to the public, one way is through legal education, which involves disseminating legal information and understanding of legal norms and regulations, as well as improving the quality of legal education to realize and develop legal awareness in society. This, in turn, fosters a legal culture in the form of orderliness and compliance with legal norms and regulations for the establishment of the rule of law and the realization of a social reality in the form of a law-conscious and legally cultured village community.

In order to create a social reality of a law-conscious society, the government through the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights has long implemented a legal-aware village program since the 1980s aimed at fostering awareness among urban/rural communities regarding formal law, customary law, and social norms. The legal-aware village program has been running for more than 43 years. This relatively long duration is expected to have produced thousands of law-aware villages and positively impacted their residents. The aspiration of the legal-aware village program is to cultivate a culture of orderliness and discipline, so that violations of the law will be processed according to the existing rules by law enforcement agencies. With such a mindset, society can be steered away from negative habits such as vigilantism and destruction of others' property.

Legal awareness is one of the essential elements in achieving the values and goals of the law. This statement is supported by Muthaqin (2016, p. 13), who argues that "harmony can be achieved when a citizen has awareness of the law that applies and lives in his or her country; this is needed to uphold justice and truth and promote the common welfare." Thus, legal awareness is considered a foundation for realizing the values and goals of the law. If the laws within society are implemented with full awareness, the values of legal certainty, utility, justice, and the goal of the law to achieve prosperity, happiness, and order for the community practicing it will be realized.

Based on Law Number 17 of 2007 concerning the National Long-Term Development Plan (RPJPN) for 2005-2025 and the Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, the Ministry of Law and Human Rights strives to realize a national legal system that encompasses the development of legal substance, the refinement of legal structures, and the involvement of all components of society with a high level of legal awareness to support the formation of the desired national legal system as outlined in RPJPN 2005-2025.

Efforts to realize the national legal system, including the establishment/formulation of Legal-Aware Villages, are strategic steps in achieving the aspirations of RPJPN 2005-2025. In line with this, the government through the Ministry of Law and Human Rights has launched the Legal-Aware Village program, issuing Minister of Law and Human Rights Regulation Number: M.01-Pr.08.10 of 2006 concerning Legal Education Patterns. Article 2 explains that legal education is organized with the aim of achieving better legal awareness in society so that every member of the community is aware of and understands their rights and obligations as citizens. It also aims to foster a legal culture in attitudes and behaviors that are conscious, obedient, and compliant with the law, as well as respecting human rights.

This community service program not only delves deeper into what is known as PPK Ormawa but also comprehensively analyzes the impact and implications of the program on the general public, especially the target community of this program, namely Candijati village. As a manifestation of the implementation of the three pillars of higher education in the aspect of community service, this program is carried out over a relatively long period, divided into various agendas such as observation, stakeholder interviews, socialization, collaboration with local government, education, establishment of legal aid posts, as well as monitoring and evaluation.

RESEARCH METHODS

The approach used in this research is a qualitative approach with a descriptive method. The researcher employs these approaches and methods because they facilitate observation, data processing, and the depiction of the implementation of the legal aid post establishment program in Candijati Village. Qualitative approach is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from people and observable behaviors. This approach is directed towards the background and individuals in a holistic manner. In this context, individuals or organizations should not be isolated into variables or hypotheses but should be viewed as part of a whole (Robert Bogdan, 1992, p. 21-22).

The location of this research is Candijati Village, Arjasa District, Jember Regency. Candijati Village serves as the primary location for this research. The subjects of this research include the officials and apparatus of Candijati Village, the residents of Candijati Village, the Legal Aid Service Bureau of the Faculty of Law, University of Jember, the Management and Members of ALSA LC UJ, the Task Force Team of PPK ORMAWA University of Jember, and relevant stakeholders.

Data collection techniques used include interviews with predetermined research subjects, documentation studies, and observations by observing the research subjects related to the behavior, habits, and environmental conditions of the residents of Candijati Village. Data processing and analysis are carried out through data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions from the data collected from research sources, validated through triangulation.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Program Pengabdian Masyarakat is conducted by students and accompanying lecturers from the Faculty of Law, University of Jember, with assistance from several relevant stakeholders. This community service program is the result of national selection in the competition for the Student Organization Capacity Strengthening Program (PPK ORMAWA) 2023, which also funds the Community Service Program. This program is not only aimed at fulfilling the responsibilities of the university's tri dharma but also serves to broaden insights and enhance the skills of the community. The implementation of this program not only has a positive impact on the community but also provides various benefits to the implementing team, including leadership knowledge, teamwork skills, social awareness, creative thinking, problem-solving skills, communication skills, collaboration skills, information technology literacy, and

more. The stages of this program are as follows:

1. Observation

The Observation Stage of the Legal Assistance Post Establishment Program begins with a field visit involving mapping and direct analysis of the Candijati village community to formulate existing problems and potential solutions. Interviews with stakeholders in Candijati village were conducted to understand the facilities that support the sustainability of this program.

During the interview process, the implementing team, accompanied by the supervising lecturer, identified several problems: the community's lack of knowledge in the field of law, making them susceptible to criminal activities and violence against women and children. Additionally, the insufficient legal assistance facilities in Candijati village were also highlighted. To address these issues, the team proposed the establishment of a legal assistance post. Beyond resolving existing problems, the legal assistance post aims to be the initial step in raising legal awareness in Candijati village, moving towards becoming a legally conscious village, in line with the concepts outlined in the Head of BPHN Regulation Number: PHN.HN.03.05-73 of 2008 regarding the Formation and Development of Legal Awareness Families and Legally Aware Villages/Urban Villages, and the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia Regulation Number: M.01-PR.08.10 of 2007, which amends the Ministry of Law and Human Rights Regulation Number: M.01-PR.08.10 of 2006 on Legal Counseling Patterns.

This observation also serves as an effort to explore local wisdom in the area to understand how to resolve disputes when villagers face problems with village authorities in that region. This is a mediation step that upholds the high value of consensus deliberation mandated in the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia.



Figure 1. Village Authorities Observation

2. Socialization with Regency Government Stakeholders

After conducting observations with the guidance of the faculty, the PPK Ormawa team identified several issues in the Candijati village area. These concerns were brought to a socialization session with stakeholders from the Jember regency government to align ideas on what actions should be taken, based on the concept presented by the PPK Ormawa team, which is to establish a Legal Aid Post. The socialization took place at the regency office in Jember, where the concept introduced by the PPK Ormawa team from ALSA LC UJ was well-received by relevant departments, including the Department of Community Empowerment, the Department of Empowerment and Development of Women and Children Family Planning, and the Legal Affairs Section of Jember Regency. These related departments enthusiastically embraced the concept presented by the PPK Ormawa team, fostering synergy between students as agents of change and the government as a supportive system to realize a legally aware village, as envisioned by the Ministry of Law and Human Rights. The socialization event was also attended by the district head of Arjasa, who

welcomed the concept and program brought by the PPK Ormawa team. Furthermore, the regency head of Jember expressed full support for the program, directing the relevant departments to support and collaborate to transform Candijati village into a legally aware village and a center of learning for other villages in the Jember regency.



Figure 2. Socialization with District Government

3. Counseling

After collaboratively formulating plans with Jember Regency Government stakeholders and consolidating ideas brought by the PPK Ormawa team, the initiative in the village commenced with counseling sessions. These sessions were conducted in several waves, each presenting different topics. The primary focus of the materials covered included violence against children, sexual crimes, equitable distribution of assets, and inheritance division. The counseling sessions were attended by various community elements, including village officials, youth organizations, PKK (Family Welfare Empowerment) members, mosque youth, Griya Asih (charitable house) administrators, and the general public. The duration and content of the counseling sessions differed for the general public and Griya Asih administrators, as the latter would be appointed as the permanent administrators of the legal aid post.

The PPK Ormawa team collaborated with the Legal Aid Bureau of the Faculty of Law, University of Jember. The head of this bureau, who also served as the faculty advisor for the PPK Ormawa ALSA LC UJ team, Mr. Fiska Maulidian Nugroho, S.H., M.H., CLA, played a vital role in delivering the materials. The content delivered to the general public lasted for 45 minutes, focusing on definitions, preventive measures, coping strategies, and proper reporting procedures, presented in a way understandable to the general public. Contrary to the general public's content, the material delivered to the Griya Asih administrators, who would later become the administrators of the legal aid post, revolved around technical aspects of operating the post, reporting procedures, handling victims to maintain their privacy, and how to be effective consultants. The duration of this specific material delivery was one hour, conducted through multiple sessions to ensure that Griya Asih administrators comprehended and could implement the acquired knowledge within the Candijati community specifically.

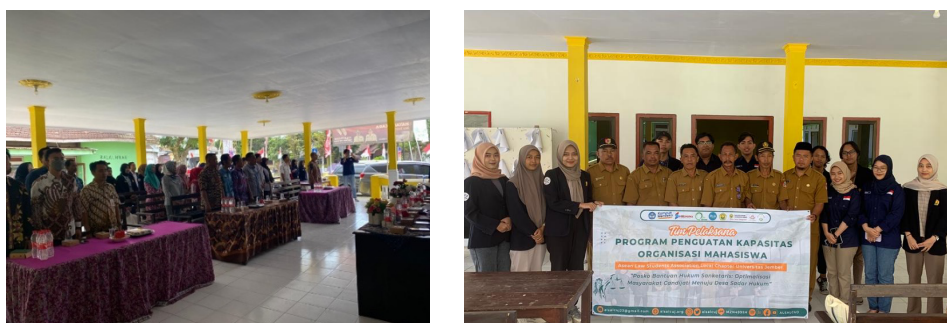


Figure 3. Counseling to the general public and care home administrators

4. Establishment of Legal Aid Post

After conducting counseling sessions for the general public and Griya Asih administrators, the next step was to launch the Legal Aid Post officially. Various stakeholders attended this event, including the dean of the Faculty of Law, the PPK Ormawa Task Force team from the University of Jember, faculty advisors, the non-academic achievement acceleration team from the Faculty of Law, DP3AKB (Empowerment and Population Control Agency), the Legal Affairs Department of the Jember Regency Government, the Arjasa Sub-district head, and the general public of Candijati village. The establishment of the legal aid post involved a series of events that essentially endorsed the Legal Aid Post and the signing of integrity pacts with relevant departments to ensure synergy in the success of the PPK Ormawa program. Every aspect related to the Legal Aid Post was supervised by relevant stakeholders to ensure its compliance with prevailing laws. During this occasion, the PPK Ormawa team introduced the Legal Aid Post administrators, comprised of Griya Asih administrators ready to implement legal assistance and provide free legal consultations for the village residents.

As a legal aid post that literally means providing legal assistance free of charge, this post prioritizes credibility and the effectiveness of dispute resolution or problem-solving while considering existing local wisdom and mediation to make Candijati village a community that upholds deliberation as mandated in the constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. The establishment of this legal aid post also aimed to make Candijati village a legally aware village and a center of learning for legal awareness villages in the Jember region. This is a strategic step in achieving the goals of the National Long-Term Development Plan (RPJPN) 2005-2025. In line with this, the government through the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, in promoting the legally aware village program, issued Regulation of the Minister of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia Number: M.01-Pr.08.10 Year 2006 concerning Legal Education Patterns. Article 2 of this regulation explains that legal education is organized with the aim of realizing better legal awareness in the community so that every member of the community is aware of and understands their rights and obligations as citizens and embodies a legal culture in attitudes and behaviors that are conscious, obedient, and compliant with the law while respecting human rights.



Figure 4. Grand Launching of the Legal Aid Post

CONCLUSIONS

The community service program conducted in Candijati village can be concluded as effective, marking the initial milestone towards making the Candijati community legally aware. The enthusiasm shown by the community in various activities indicates the effectiveness of the program, with the hope that the residents will be informed about various preventive measures

to reduce the crime rate in the Candijati village area, aligning with the government's concept of creating legally aware villages.

The mindset of the Candijati community, as reflected in the monitoring conducted by the PPK Ormawa ALSA LC UJ team, demonstrates that the community understands and can implement the knowledge acquired throughout the program activities. The awareness of the community regarding the law is gradually increasing with the establishment of the legal assistance post in the area. This is evident when the PPK Ormawa team conducted monitoring, and based on the data provided by the village officials, the Candijati community has passed the stage of legal knowledge. Even though most residents may not know the details of existing legal rules/products, they are aware of actions that violate the law and have a consciousness to abide by the law by avoiding such actions.

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