

Exploring Legal Understanding for Adolescents: Counseling on Adolescent Issues and Rights

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Abstract

Adolescence is a sensitive phase in the course of life, where individuals are in the process of self-discovery and vulnerable to various external influences. This PKM is carried out in the form of legal counseling using an interactive method, which allows participants to actively participate in discussions and ask questions related to the material presented by the resource persons. The purpose of implementing this PKM is as a means of legal education and a means of providing a better understanding of the law, so that adolescents can avoid legal problems that can damage the future. Based on the PKM that has been implemented, it can be concluded that, *first*, participants' interest in legal counseling that was carried out showed a positive trend. *Second*, participants' understanding of adolescent problems and rights has increased. As for the advice given, both to participants (in this case adolescents and parents as the closest family) must have awareness and vigilance of adolescent conditions and behaviors in order to avoid external negative influences.

Keywords: Legal Understanding, Counseling, Adolescent Issues, Rights.

A. Introduction

In a state of law, the law serves as the foundation that determines the ordinance applies to everyone. The importance of legal understanding and awareness is vital because it has an impact on various aspects of people's lives. understanding of the law enables society to lead a more orderly and just life (Lesmana & Latif, 2024a). By knowing their rights and obligations in accordance with the law, individuals can protect themselves and avoid violations. Legal awareness also helps in maintaining social stability. When people have a good knowledge of the law, they tend to be more obedient and obedient to the applicable rules.

In addition, legal awareness plays an important role in the protection of human rights. The law provides a clear framework for recognizing and protecting individual rights. By understanding the law, individuals can more easily recognize when their rights are being violated and take steps to protect themselves. Legal understanding and awareness play a key role in creating a just, safe, and democratic society. Thus, legal education and awareness of the law must be emphasized in the social development of a country.

The law must always be connected to society wherever it applies (Lesmana & Latif, 2023). The field of legal knowledge generally focuses on regulations that are recognized by the government and society as valid rules and must be obeyed. On the other hand, knowledge sociology focuses on the actual actions taken by members of society in their interactions with each other. Therefore, in order to develop law and legal knowledge in people's lives, it is important not to separate the law from the existing reality of society.

Adolescence is an important transitional phase in life, where individuals begin to explore identity, build social relationships, and deal with various physical and emotional changes (Lesmana & Latif, 2024b). In this journey, teenagers are also often faced with various problems related to the law. One of the problems often experienced by adolescents is the problem of crime or juvenile delinquency (Alam et al., 2023). Some teens may engage in criminal behavior, such as theft, drug use, or acts of violence. This can be caused by environmental factors, peer influence, or family problems.

In addition, adolescent can also experience problems related to cyberbullying or online harassment. In this digital age, social media and technology provide a platform for this kind of negative behavior. Another issue related to the law is the problem of pregnancy in adolescence. Adolescents who engage in sexual relationships are often unaware of the legal consequences that may arise, especially related to the age of consent and responsibility towards the child being born. This can lead to legal issues related to early marriage, custody, and financial support (Alviola et al., 2023).

In addition to the juvenile delinquency problems already mentioned, several juvenile delinquency phenomena such as brawls (Tim Redaksi, 2023) and mobbing (Janati & Sari, 2023; Jarkasih, 2023) also often occurs in the Paku Jaya area, North Serpong. This is of course a matter of concern. Where adolescence should be an age where children enjoy the company of peers, explore interests and talents, and prepare themselves for a better future (Anjarwati et al., 2023). However, the reality on the ground often shows that adolescents in this region engage in activities that harm themselves and the surrounding environment.

The community in Paku Jaya Village is a heterogeneous community that has a variety of livelihoods. Among the livelihoods in question are farmers, laborers, traders, and carpentry. The economic condition of the people in this region can be said to be relatively good because it is close to the buffer city of the capital. However, the legal literacy of the surrounding community still needs to be improved and given further understanding so that in their daily activities and social interactions there are not many legal problems due to lack of adequate knowledge. Especially so that the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency does not spread further.

Based on the problems that have been raised, the Community Service Team, Faculty of Law, Syekh Yusuf Islamic University (PKM Team of Faculty of Law UNIS Tangerang) took the initiative to conduct legal counseling. Legal counseling is an effort to increase public understanding of the law and its significance in complying with applicable regulations. By conducting legal counseling, we can educate the public about the urgency of understanding their rights and responsibilities in the legal realm. It involves conveying clear and easy-to-understand information on various aspects of the law relevant to everyday life.

Adequate legal education for adolescents is essential to help them understand their rights and obligations as citizens. Teens need to be informed about the rule of law regarding the issues they face, such as how to deal with peer pressure that drives criminal behavior, how to manage online privacy to avoid cyberbullying, and an understanding of the legal ramifications of drug and alcohol

use. In addition, social and family support also plays an important role in helping adolescents overcome legal problems.

The purpose of this legal counseling is as legal education and a means of providing a better understanding of the law, so that adolescents can avoid legal problems that can damage their future. They can also take wiser steps, understand the consequences of their actions, and plan a more positive and purposeful life. The provision of adequate legal education is important for adolescents so that they can grow into responsible and law-conscious citizens.

B. Method

The target audience of this PKM is residents of Paku Jaya Village, North Serpong District, South Tangerang City. This PKM is carried out by the PKM team in several stages as follows:

1. Field Observation

Field observations were carried out by visiting directly the PKM location, namely Paku Jaya Village, North Serpong District, South Tangerang City to observe and review the problems faced by the local community.

2. Coordination

- a. Coordination is carried out with the Lurah and related village officials who represent related permits for carrying out activities as well as coordinating related to equipment, equipment, and places of PKM activities;
- b. Coordination is carried out with the Faculty of Law, Syekh Yusuf Islamic University (FH UNIS Tangerang) regarding the implementation and permitting of PKM resource persons in the form of legal counseling in Paku Jaya Village;
- c. Coordination with the PKM team to formulate themes, preparation of equipment and equipment related to activities, and focus on activity objectives to be more focused in their implementation.

3. Implementation of Activities

- a. The pre-counseling stage starts from the registration of participants, resource persons, and PKM teams so that all parties who attend and participate can be recorded properly;
- b. Implementation in the form of legal counseling on youth and employment issues. The counseling method is carried out interactively which allows the delivery of material from resource persons to be well received by participants.

4. Activity Evaluation

Evaluation of activities is carried out on the entire series of PKM activities. Evaluation not only focuses on shortcomings and obstacles to the implementation of activities, but the achievement of service results is also an evaluation material.

5. Reporting

The last but no less important stage to do is reporting service activities. This report is intended as a form of accountability for the service activities carried out. The form of this report is the final report and scientific articles published in nationally accredited journals.



Figure 1. Flow of Legal Counseling Activities

C. Results and Discussion

Community Activity Program (PKM) refers to the efforts of individuals or groups to provide benefits to society at large, with the main objective of improving welfare and social conditions and making a positive contribution to community development (Latif et al., 2023). This is a social responsibility carried by individuals or institutions, especially academics, to the surrounding community. Through active community participation in decision-making and implementation of development programs, PKM can create a positive and sustainable impact on social, economic, and environmental development in an area or community.

One form of PKM carried out is legal counseling by the Faculty of Law UNIS Tangerang. This legal counseling has become a routine agenda every semester. This activity was initiated by one of the lecturers of the Faculty of Law, namely Mr. H. Sri Jaya Lesmana, S.H., M.H., who was also a supervisor in the implementation of the PKM event. This year's legal counseling was carried out in several places, one of which was in Paku Jaya Village, North Serpong District, South Tangerang City. On this agenda, the PKM team presented five topics of discussion presented by resource persons from the FH UNIS Tangerang lecturer team. These topics include youth and employment issues. The speakers involved include: Dr. H. Sukhebi Mofea, S.H., M.H., Dr. Putri Hafidati, S.H., M.H., Achmad Thorik, S.H., M.H., Dr. Siti Humulhaer, S.H., M.H., and Dr. Hj. Annie Myranika, S.H., M.H.

The counseling event was attended by village officials, including Paku Jaya Sub-District, Astari, S.Pd., Babinsa Serka Aon, Bhabinkamtibmas Arif Winarko, and other community leaders. Every semester, FH UNIS Tangerang sends at least twenty lecturers to provide legal counseling to the community assigned in several places. At least five lecturers are involved in each extension activity, taking turns providing material presentations relevant to everyday legal issues. Lecturers from various specialties in the field of law also opened a question and answer session to the public who attended the counseling event.



Figure 2. Resource persons, supervisors, village officials, and PKM chief executives

1. Time and Place of Implementation

The implementation of this PKM activity takes place within one day, namely on Monday, May 6, 2024. Before the implementation stage, licensing and coordination have been completed with related parties, in order to ensure the smooth implementation of the event. The implementation of this PKM activity was held at the Paku Jaya Village Office which is located at Jalan Bhayangkara 1 No. 78, Paku Jaya, North Serpong District, South Tangerang City 15220. The details of legal counseling activities are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Legal Counseling Agenda in Paku Jaya Village, North Serpong District, South Tangerang City

| Activities | Time Schedule | Guide/ Speaker |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---|
| Participant Registration | 09.30-10.00 | PKM Team |
| Event Opening | 10.00-10.05 | Host |
| Greetings | | |
| 1. Chief Executor | 10.05-10.10 | M. Farhan Namara |
| 2. Lurah Paku Jaya | 10.10-10.15 | Mr. Astari, S.Pd. |
| 3. Supervisor | 10.15-10.20 | Mr. Sri Jaya Lesmana, S.H., M.H. |
| Material | | |
| 1. Employment | 10.20-10.30 | Mr. Dr. H. Sukhebi Mofea, S.H., M.H. |
| 2. Anti-Bullying | 10.30-10.40 | Mrs. Dr. Putri Hafidati, S.H., M.H. |
| 3. Domestic Violence | 10.40-10.50 | Mr. Achmad Thorik, S.H., M.H. |
| 4. Narkoba | 10.50-11.00 | Mrs. Dr. Siti Humulhaer, S.H., M.H. |
| 5. Impact of Early Marriage | 11.00-11.10 | Mrs. Dr. Hj. Annie Myranika, S.H., M.H. |
| Q&A Session | 11.10-11.40 | Participants and Resource Persons |
| Prayer and Concluding | 11.40-11.45 | Host and Sdr. Rapi Hidayat |

The number of participants who attended the legal counseling event amounted to 41 people, consisting of: 20 participants represented from residents of Paku Jaya Village; 15 committee members from students who are also a service team in PKM FH UNIS Tangerang activities; 6 speakers or resource persons, namely the FH UNIS lecturer team.

2. Implementation of Activities

PKM activities in the form of legal counseling are carried out in several stages, namely:

a. Material Submission



Figure 3. Presentation of Material by Resource Persons

The material presented during legal counseling was about adolescent problems (bullying, domestic violence, drugs, early marriage) and employment. Adolescence is a sensitive phase in the course of life in which individuals are in the process of self-discovery and are vulnerable to various external influences. Awareness of the condition and self-care both from oneself and the closest person will greatly affect the growth and development of adolescents. Therefore, some of these topics are conveyed, with the following summary.

a. Employment

Employment for adolescents includes rights and obligations that need to be known when entering the workforce (Dalimunthe & Bintang, 2024). Adolescents must understand about workers' rights, namely the right to get a decent wage, reasonable working hours, and work protection. Then regarding legal protection, it is also important to know that the Manpower Law protects young workers from exploitation and dangerous work (Sinaga & Zaluchu, 2017). Finally, regarding job opportunities, there are many opportunities to be able to work, such as through internship programs, skills training, and part-time jobs that are appropriate for age and education.

b. Anti-Bullying

Anti-bullying is important to create a safe environment for teens in schools and communities. In this context, there are things that need to be known, such as the type of bullying, its protection, and the role of schools and the closest environment (Malihah & Alfiasari, 2018). Bullying can consist of physical, verbal, social, and cyberbullying (Lusiana & Arifin, 2022). Protection from bullying and harassment, as well as the right to report bullying cases are mandatory for adolescents to avoid bullying. Anti-bullying

policies in schools and mechanisms for reporting and handling cases should also support a healthy friendship and learning climate (Darmayanti et al., 2019).

c. Domestic Violence

Acts of domestic violence not only affect couples but also children (Lengkong et al., 2021). Children or adolescents as victims need to understand the protection and support services available if they are in the environment or even experiencing domestic violence. In this case, access to assistance such as emergency services, social institutions, or authorities if experiencing or witnessing domestic violence is mandatory (Vibiola & Afdal, 2022).

d. Drug

Drugs have a serious negative impact on the health and social life of adolescents (Amelia et al., 2022). The dangers of drugs can include health risks, dependence, and legal consequences (Hadiyanto & Nugroho, 2023). Legal counseling is provided regarding legal rules governing the prohibition of drug use and distribution, as well as legal sanctions (Purbanto & Hidayat, 2023). This includes drug use prevention programs and rehabilitation services for addicts.

e. Impact of Early Marriage

The phenomenon of early marriage seems to still occur frequently in some regions (Suryani & Kudus, 2022). What needs to be realized is about the consequences and/or impacts of early marriage itself (Munib & Huda, 2023). Considering there are several things that of course can be said to have a negative impact, especially on the lives of teenagers who are indeed mentally and emotionally, especially financially immature. Points that become important to understand, for example in terms of health risks. Complications of pregnancy and childbirth at a young age are not impossible if we do not understand. In terms of education and economics, early marriage can lead to school dropouts and long-term impacts on careers and economic prosperity (Apriani, 2022). As a rule, the law also prohibits marriage under the age of 18 and protects children's rights to proper education and development.

3. Discussion

Discussions in legal counseling activities took place interactively between participants and resource persons. After the material was delivered by the resource persons, participants were given the opportunity to ask questions related to the material that had been presented. The session proceeded in an orderly manner and participants showed enthusiasm in asking various things they wanted to know more deeply. Through this discussion, resource persons and PKM teams were able to assess the extent of participants' understanding. Participants also expressed their gratitude for organizing this legal counseling, which helped increase their knowledge and awareness of the law and the importance of law in public life.

4. Activity Evaluation

This PKM activity involved fifteen students who were also PKM committees who were helping the smooth implementation of activities. The student is a student of FH UNIS who in this case is accompanied or supervised by a lecturer, namely Mr. H. Sri Jaya Lesmana, S.H., M.H. There are several stages carried out in preparation to the implementation of service, namely: Problem analysis to determine the location of PKM; Coordination and preparation of equipment and equipment used during PKM activities; Furthermore, the resource persons and the PKM team conducted legal counseling in Paku Jaya Village, North Serpong District, South Tangerang City.

5. Results Achieved

Based on the results of the pre-test and post-test in the implementation of legal counseling, there are differences in results. Pre-test is conducted before training and posttest is carried out after

training is completed. The results were different from each indicator asked of the legal counseling participants. The following are the results of the evaluation carried out through pre-test and post-test.

Table 2. Comparison of Pre-test and Post-test

| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 | Q6 | Q7 | Q8 | Q9 | Q10 | |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| Pre-test | 84 | 60 | 40 | 88 | 70 | 84 | 80 | 68 | 72 | 68 | 714 |
| Post-test | 88 | 72 | 60 | 84 | 80 | 84 | 82 | 76 | 74 | 82 | 782 |

From Table 2, we can conclude that overall there is a significant increase in the number of post-test results. This indicates an increase in understanding possessed by participants after being given legal counseling. The results of this activity show that the interactive approach is effective in improving participants' legal understanding. Teenagers are not only informed about their rights, but also ways to protect themselves and others from legal problems.

The enthusiasm of the participants in participating in the question and answer session reflects the success of this counseling in attracting interest and increasing legal awareness among teenagers. This counseling is expected to equip adolescents with adequate legal knowledge, so that they are better prepared to face life's challenges and able to contribute to creating a just and orderly society. Overall, the program has had a positive impact in empowering adolescents and strengthening their understanding of the importance of the law in everyday life.

6. Devotion Outcomes

The outputs of PKM activities carried out in Paku Jaya Village are: final report on PKM activities; articles published in accredited PKM journals; and increased legal awareness and legal understanding from participants who participated in legal counseling activities, especially regarding the material presented by the resource persons.



Figure 4. All parties involved in PKM legal counseling activities in Paku Jaya Village

D. Conclusion

Based on the PKM that has been implemented, it can be concluded that, *first*, participants' interest in legal counseling shows a positive trend. *Second*, participants' understanding of adolescent problems and rights has increased significantly. From the post-test data, it can be seen

that this legal counseling is effective in increasing participants' knowledge. The advice given, both to participants (adolescents and parents as the closest family), is to increase awareness and awareness of the condition and behavior of adolescents. Parents and adolescents need to continue to deepen legal knowledge and understand the risks that may be faced in daily life. This awareness is important so that they can avoid external negative influences, such as bad associations, drug use, and acts of violence. In addition, solid family support and open communication between parents and adolescents are indispensable to create a safe environment and support the positive development of adolescents.

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