

Escalation of Community Legal Literacy in Resolving Land Disputes in Bumiaji Village, Batu City

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Abstract

Land disputes are a significant issue in Bumiaji Village, Batu City, East Java, due to the community's low legal literacy and limited involvement of local stakeholders. Lack of understanding of formal legal procedures, the importance of land certification, and disharmony between customary and national laws have made it difficult to resolve land conflicts. This research aims to improve community legal literacy by considering the local context and strengthening the involvement of local stakeholders in land dispute resolution. The method used was Participatory Action Research (PAR), which actively involved communities and local stakeholders in problem identification, program design, and



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evaluation. The results showed that a locally-based approach that integrates customary and national laws was successful in improving community understanding of their legal rights and obligations, as well as encouraging participation in formal dispute resolution. In addition, the involvement of village officials, traditional leaders, and the National Land Agency in the dispute resolution process was able to create a more inclusive and equitable solution. The research concludes that legal literacy and synergy between local actors are key to resolving land disputes effectively and sustainably.

KEYWORDS *Legal Literacy, Land Disputes, Community Empowerment*

Introduction

Agrarian conflict is one of the legal issues that continues to be a major concern in Indonesia, especially in rural areas that have low levels of legal literacy. In principle, the occurrence of conflict refers to a dispute or dispute that occurs between two parties related to the right of ownership, use, or control over a piece of land¹. These disputes can be triggered by several reasons, including uncertain land boundaries, overlapping land ownership claims, disputes over inheritance rights, land grabbing, or unauthorized transfer of rights². From a legal perspective, land disputes often involve debates over proof of ownership, legality of documents, and interpretation of applicable land laws³.

¹ Jesse Heber Ambuwaru, Bintan R. Saragih, and Listyowati Sumanto. "The Politics of Land Law and the Implementation of The Agrarian Reform Program In Indonesia.". *International Journal of Educational Review* (2023) 3(5) 1443-1450.

² Claudia Coral, Wolfgang Bokelmann, Michelle Bonatti, Robert Carcamo, and Stefan Sieber. "Understanding institutional change mechanisms for land use: Lessons from Ecuador's history." *Land Use Policy* 108 (2021): 105530.

³ Achmad Allang, "Pendaftaran Tanah Sebagai Sarana Pengamanan Hak Milik Atas Tanah." *Sambulu Gana: Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat* 2, no. 1 (2023): 23-30. See also Vitri Dini Artistry, and Dewi Sulistianingsih. "Analysis of Grondkaart as Land Ownership Rights in the Perspective of Land Law in Indonesia." *Journal of Private and Commercial Law* 8, no. 1 (2024); Fergi Firoso Akbar, "Judge Decision Analysis

As a complex issue, land disputes are not uncommon in many parts of Indonesia⁴. Bumiaji Village, located in Batu City, East Java, is one of the areas that often faces this problem. As a village where the majority of the population works in the agricultural sector, land is a very valuable asset, both from an economic and social perspective. However, Bumiaji villagers' ignorance of land law, including administrative procedures and dispute resolution, has created significant vulnerability to conflict. Many villagers do not have official documents such as land certificates or other proof of ownership, complicating their position in dealing with disputes.

These problems can arise due to a lack of literacy in the community regarding land law involving legal aspects such as property rights, land boundaries, transfer of rights, and administrative processes⁵. The lack of legal literacy in Bumiaji Village is reflected in several important aspects. Firstly, people often do not understand the importance of the land certification process. Many residents think that land certificates are only needed in certain situations, such as sales or credit applications, without realizing that the document is the main tool to protect their land rights. As a result, conflicts over land boundaries, land tenure, and multiple claims often occur, especially when land is inherited without clear documentation. Secondly, land dispute resolution at the village level is more often done through informal mediation led by community leaders or village officials. While this approach is considered quick and

on Civil Cases Against Counterfeiting Land Deed Decision Number 350 K/Pdt/2017 Mataram District Court." *Indonesian Journal of Environmental Law and Sustainable Development* 1, no. 1 (2022): 69-92; Rizki Rioluta, "Analisis Yuridis Mediasi Penal Dalam Penyelesaian Sengketa Tanah Terhadap Sertifikat Ganda di Kantor Pertanahan Kota Semarang." *Indonesian Journal of Criminal Law Studies* 1, no. 1 (2016): 55-71; Fairus Augustina Rachmawati, Shafa Amalia Choirinnisa, and Latif Latif. "Integrated Land Registration System: Between Legal Certainty and Challenges (Case of Semarang City)." *Indonesian Journal of Advocacy and Legal Services* 3, no. 2 (2021): 217-232.

⁴ Guillaume Rocheteau, Tai-Wei Hu, Lucie Lebeau, and Younghwan In. "Gradual bargaining in decentralized asset markets." *Review of Economic Dynamics* 42 (2021): 72-109.

⁵ Saul Ngarava, "Implications of land restitution as a transformative social policy for water-energy-food (WEF) insecurity in Magareng local municipality, South Africa." *Land Use Policy* 133 (2023): 106878.

inexpensive, the resulting solutions are often not legally binding, leaving the potential for the same conflicts to resurface in the future.

The community's limited access to legal information is also an important factor in this problem. Bumiaji Village does not have adequate legal aid services, and access to formal legal institutions such as courts is often constrained by distance, cost, and a lack of understanding of legal procedures. This condition is exacerbated by the low involvement of the government and other stakeholders in providing legal education to the community. As a result, many citizens feel they have no choice but to accept informal decisions, even if they are unfair or not by the law. Therefore, improving people's legal literacy is a strategic step to overcome this problem. Legal literacy not only includes people's understanding of their rights and obligations under land law but also includes the ability to utilize legitimate and effective dispute-resolution mechanisms.

This community service program aims to identify and address the legal literacy gap in Bumiaji Village with a holistic approach based on local needs. The selection of the Bumiaji Village community as a target partner is due to consideration of the aspect of the lack of community literacy towards land legality management and the many land law problems that arise due to the large amount of uncertified land, unclear ownership status, uncertain land boundaries resulting in overlapping ownership claims between residents.

The program also seeks to involve various stakeholders, such as local government, legal practitioners, and civil society, who are expected to be able to create a comprehensive framework for resolving land disputes. Overall, this legal literacy escalation is expected to contribute to creating a society that is more aware of the law and able to actively participate in law enforcement in its neighborhood.

Previous research has shown that legal literacy plays an important role in preventing and resolving land disputes. Among them, Suherman's research (2020) shows the importance of the ownership status of land rights for owners who can be used as residential land and productive land

for community welfare⁶. Purwaningdyah's research (2022) also emphasizes the importance of land property rights and the land registration system through counseling and direct assistance to the community for land certification⁷. However, much of this research has focused on urban areas, while rural contexts with different social and cultural characteristics have often been ignored, resulting in a lack of harmonization between customary law and national law.

While these previous studies provide important insights, they do not deeply explore the implementation of legal literacy enhancement strategies at the village level, such as Bumiaji, and tend not to involve local communities in a participatory manner. This research intends to overcome these limitations with a more inclusive and contextualized approach while focusing on legal literacy escalation based on the needs and factual conditions experienced by the people of Bumiaji Village.

Based on this gap analysis, the research aims to answer several important questions, namely (1) How to improve the legal literacy of the Bumiaji Village community by considering the local context and (2) How local stakeholder engagement can be strengthened to support effective land dispute resolution. By answering these questions, the research is expected to make a significant contribution to creating a more legally aware society while strengthening legal justice at the village community level.

This project used the PAR (Participatory Action Research) method, which is a research approach that involves the active participation of the community or community that is the subject of the research⁸. In the context of a study on improving the legal literacy of the Bumiaji Village

⁶ Suherman, Suherman, and Ali Imran. "Pentingnya Status Kepemilikan Hak Atas Tanah Dalam Rangka Menuju Kesejahteraan Masyarakat Desa." *Indonesian Journal of Society Engagement* 1, no. 1 (2020): 99-116.

⁷ Wahyuni, Purwaningdyah Murti, A. Rachmat Wirawan, Madiha Dzakiyyah Chairunnisa, Nadia Nurani Isfarin, and Megafury Apriandhini. "Pendampingan Dan Bantuan Hukum Pendaftaran Tanah Dan Penyelesaian Sengketa Pertanahan." In *Prosiding Seminar Nasional Pengabdian kepada Masyarakat Universitas Terbuka*, vol. 2 (2022): 293-301.

⁸ Fajrin, Yaris Adhial, and Radhityas Kharisma Nuryasinta. "Optimizing Foundation Asset Status Through Assistance with Land Registration for the "M" Mosque in Malang City." *Jurnal Dedikasi Hukum* 3, no. 2 (2023): 157-170.

community to resolve land disputes, the PAR method is very relevant because it allows the community to not only be the object of research but also to act as an active partner in every stage of the research. This method emphasizes collaboration, reflection, and action, where researchers and communities jointly identify problems, design interventions, and evaluate the results on an ongoing basis⁹.

In this research, the application of the PAR method will begin by inviting the people of Bumiaji Village to discuss the problems they face related to land disputes, including the obstacles they experience due to the lack of legal literacy. This process not only provides researchers with in-depth insight into the local social, cultural, and legal context but also empowers the community to voice their needs and aspirations¹⁰. Furthermore, communities will be involved in the design of legal literacy improvement programs, such as workshops, dispute resolution simulations, or training on formal legal procedures. This ensures that the proposed solutions are truly relevant to local needs.

The benefits of the PAR method in this research are significant. Firstly, it creates a sense of ownership among the community of the research results, thus increasing the chances of sustainability of the designed program. Secondly, it provides a local needs-based approach, ensuring that the legal literacy taught is appropriate to the social and cultural context of the Bumiaji Village community, including the integration between customary law and national law. Thirdly, PAR can encourage community empowerment, where the community not only gains knowledge but also the ability to take concrete steps in resolving land disputes independently. Finally, PAR allows for a process of continuous

⁹ Iskarimah, Ima Hazimah, and Zahida I'tisoma Billah. "Upaya Pemanfaatan Lahan Untuk Penghijauan Masjid Raudlatul Jannah di Desa Wangkal Probolinggo." *BAHTSUNA: Jurnal Penelitian Pendidikan Islam* 5, no. 1 (2023): 1-7.

¹⁰ Isrok, Mohammad, and Radhityas Kharisma Nuryasinta. "Typology of Strengthening Foundations as Successor to Old Foundations Post Regime Law on Foundations." *Indonesia Law Reform Journal* 3, no. 1 (2023): 26-41.

reflection so that the designed program can be evaluated and adjusted dynamically to achieve optimal results¹¹.

By using the PAR method, this research serves not only to understand and solve land disputes in Bumiaji Village but also to empower the community to be more legally aware and active in safeguarding their rights. This method also creates opportunities to strengthen synergies between local knowledge, traditional leaders, and formal legal instruments, resulting in a more holistic and equitable approach to dispute resolution.

Legal Literacy of Bumiaji Village Community by Considering the Local Context

Land certification is an important instrument that plays a role in resolving land disputes¹². Land certification is the process of legalizing land rights through the issuance of certificates by the National Land Agency (BPN), which provides legal certainty regarding ownership or rights to a piece of land¹³. With a land certificate, the legal status of the land becomes clear and officially recognized, thereby reducing the potential for future disputes¹⁴.

In addition to having a preventive function in terms of preventing land disputes, land certification can also be a dispute resolution tool when integrated with legal processes such as mediation or in-depth adjudication,

¹¹ Krisanto, Yakub Adi. "A Penyelesaian Sengketa Tanah melalui Mediasi di Kantor Pertanahan Kota Salatiga." *Magistrorum et Scholarium: Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat* 4, no. 1 (2023): 16-26.

¹² Putri, Natasya Aulia, Sarmilah Sarmilah, Jennifer Velda, and Wulan Mirdayanti Zschock. "Bridging the Gap by Exploring Inequalities in Access to Land and Disparities in Agrarian Law in Indonesia." *Jurnal Ilmu Kenotariatan* 5, no. 1 (2024): 1-16.

¹³ Hebinck, Paul, Lothar Smith, and Michael Aliber. "Beyond technocracy: The role of the state in rural development in the Eastern Cape, South Africa." *Land Use Policy* 126 (2023): 106527.

¹⁴ Harahap, Handra. "A Brief History of Undrop and Challenges To Its Implementation In Indonesia." *Journal of Peasants' Rights* 1, no. 1 (2022): 1-6.

especially when there are overlapping claims or unclear land boundaries¹⁵. Land certification promotes the principle of legality and legal certainty, which is expected to minimize land disputes that are often caused by invalid documents and land parcel disputes¹⁶.

The initial observation and identification process carried out in this service program found that there were several obstacles experienced by villagers in carrying out land certification, and this could certainly have an impact on legal uncertainty and potential land conflicts¹⁷. The first barrier is limited knowledge and understanding of the legal procedures and benefits of land certification. Many of the villagers do not understand the importance of having a land certificate as proof of legal ownership.

The second obstacle is related to high costs. Although the government has free certification programs such as *Prona* or PTSL, additional costs such as measurement, administration, and other document processing are still charged back to the village community¹⁸. The third barrier is accessibility to the land office. This is especially true for remote villages, where distance and transport are major obstacles. Moreover, the complicated and often time-consuming bureaucratic process is an obstacle in the certification process¹⁹. Finally, an obstacle is

¹⁵ Yagus Suyadi, *Menuntaskan Pendaftaran Tanah Sistematis Lengkap (PTSL)*. Jakarta: Sinar Grafika, 2024. See also Fida Nabilah Taufiq, Mohammad Hamidi Masykur, and Supriyadi Supriyadi. "Challenges Arising from Article 22 (2) of Ministerial Regulation ATR/BPN No. 6/2018 on Complete Systematic Land Registration (PTSL) Pertaining to Insufficient or Missing Evidence of Community Land Ownership." *Unnes Law Journal* 9, no. 2 (2023): 419-440.

¹⁶ Tetama, Androvaga Renandra. "Politik hukum pendaftaran tanah elektronik pasca undang-undang cipta kerja." *Tunas Agraria* 6, no. 1 (2023): 30-40.

¹⁷ Izka, Zahrotul, Suci Hartati, and Kanti Rahayu. "Konflik Agraria Dalam Proyek Investasi Rempang Eco City." *Social, Educational, Learning and Language (SELL)* 2, no. 1 (2024): 53-70.

¹⁸ Astuti, Rini, Michelle Ann Miller, Andrew McGregor, M. Dedy Pratama Sukmara, Wiko Saputra, and David Taylor. "Making illegality visible: The governance dilemmas created by visualising illegal palm oil plantations in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia." *Land Use Policy* 114 (2022): 105942.

¹⁹ Fuzain, N.A., 2023. Konflik sengketa lahan antara masyarakat adat rempang dengan bp batam terhadap pembangunan Rempang Eco City. *Jurnal Hukum dan HAM Wara Sains*, 2(11), pp.1081-1088.

the lack of clarity over land boundaries, which raises concerns about triggering disputes with neighbors or other parties, making people hesitant and afraid to start the certification process²⁰.

Based on the results of these observations, the service team considered that a strategic step needs to be taken with a comprehensive and inclusive approach involving academics, practitioners, government, and the community itself to raise awareness and education regarding land certification²¹. Through socialization and mentoring programs, it is necessary to provide an in-depth understanding to village communities about the importance of land certification and the procedures that must be followed²². An understanding of land dispute resolution outside the court (non-litigation) is also an important material substance to be included in the implementation of socialization²³. Resolving land boundary disputes through mediation before the certification process begins and ensuring that any certification issued is clear and agreed upon by all relevant parties can help avoid conflicts that may arise in the future²⁴.

These findings demonstrate the close relationship between improving legal literacy and the need to design educational programs that

²⁰ Fajar, Habib Ferian, Julfahmi Syahputra, and Mareta Puri Nur Ayu Ningsih. "Agrarian Reform Policy Strategy In Realizing The Welfare Of A Social Justice Community Based On The Constitution." *Jurnal Hukum Lex Generalis* 3, no. 9 (2022): 758-775

²¹ Waspiah, Waspiah, Rodiyah Rodiyah, Asmarani Ramli, Ridwan Arifin, Muhammad Iqbal Baiquni, Ahsana Nadiyya, and Ajib Mukadirin Absor. "Optimizing the Role of Village Community Institutions in Resolving Brand Disputes in Kenteng Village, Bandungan Subdistrict, Semarang Regency." *Jurnal Pengabdian Hukum Indonesia (Indonesian Journal of Legal Community Engagement) JPHI* 6, no. 2 (2023): 252-267.

²² Djuna, Kartika, Novrilianty A. Manuhutu, Masriawati Yuliana, Meske Patalatu, Arifin Rappe, and Jabar Yahya. "Pendampingan Dalam Penyelesaian Sengketa Tanah." *AIWADTHU: Jurnal Pengabdian Hukum* 2, no. 1 (2022): 1-8.

²³ Hardianto, Hardianto, Lisa Aditya Dwiwansyah Musa, and Imran Lewa. "Pendampingan Masyarakat Miskin Untuk Mendapatkan Bantuan Hukum Di Kota Palopo." *To Maega: Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat* 5, no. 3 (2022): 374-384.

²⁴ Patricia, Yosephine, Rida Wahyuni, Yuliana Yuli, and Dion Azriel. "Penyelesaian Sengketa Tanah, Lahan Melalui Jalur Non Litigasi Atau Di Luar Ranah Pengadilan Di Wilayah Kelurahan Pangkalan Jati Baru Kota Depok." *Madani: Jurnal Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat* 10, no. 1 (2024): 1-11.

are based on local contexts, which also supports the original research objective of providing an approach that is relevant to the social and cultural situation of the people of Bumiaji Village. Low legal literacy has previously resulted in communities relying more on informal channels to resolve disputes, which often do not result in legal certainty²⁵. With locally-based programs such as focus group discussions and simulations, communities began to understand formal legal procedures and the importance of legal documentation in protecting their land rights. This indicates that the contextualized approach addresses the key question of how legal literacy can be effectively improved in rural areas.

This is in line with the legal provisions in Article 19 of Law No. 5/1960 on Basic Agrarian Principles (UUPA), which regulates the government's obligation to conduct land registration as an effort to provide legal certainty to the community. Community legal literacy on the importance of land certification is central to the implementation of this article, as without sufficient understanding, communities tend to ignore the certification process that protects their rights to land. In this context, a locally-based approach involving customary law also strengthens the implementation of Article 18B Paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution, which recognizes and respects customary law communities as long as they are still alive and by the principles of the rule of law.

From a legal theory perspective, these findings corroborate Nonet and Selznick's Responsive Law Theory, which emphasizes that law must be able to adapt to the needs and social context of society. By integrating national and customary law, the legal literacy program designed in Bumiaji Village not only improves people's understanding of the rule of law but also creates contextualized justice. This differentiates this research from a purely legalistic approach that is often irrelevant in rural areas. As such, this research provides empirical evidence that synergies between customary and positive law can support the implementation of responsive and inclusive laws.

²⁵ Bélair, Joanny, Gemma Van der Haar, Chantal Wieckardt, James Wangu, Fridah Githuku, Judith Atukunda, Junior Alves Sebbanja et al. "COVID-19 in Sub-Saharan Africa: Impacts on land, governance, and livelihoods." *Land Use Policy* 134 (2023): 106877.

Improving the legal literacy of the Bumiaji Village community must be done through a local needs-based approach that integrates national legal knowledge with local norms and customs. One of the key findings was that most of the Bumiaji villagers have limited access to formal legal information, so legal education must be delivered in a simple and easy-to-understand manner. The legal literacy program involves the use of local media, such as focus group discussions guided by community leaders, interactive workshops, and real case-based dispute resolution simulations in the village.

This approach has improved the community's understanding of legal procedures, such as the importance of land titling and the mechanism for submitting disputes to authorized agencies. In addition, the integration of customary law into educational materials helped communities understand how custom can be harmonized with national laws to create more inclusive solutions. Researchers also noted that communities' active participation in the learning process increased their awareness of legal rights and obligations and reduced reliance on informal mechanisms that often do not provide legal certainty.

Village governments, together with traditional leaders, village officials, and local education institutions, need to organize legal literacy programs on an ongoing basis. This program should include education on land legal procedures by Law No. 5/1960 and the importance of land certification under Government Regulation No. 24/1997. In addition, a simulation-based approach based on real cases in the village could improve the community's understanding of the concrete steps to be taken when facing a land dispute.

Scientifically, the success of the locally-based approach can be interpreted through community empowerment theory, where the direct involvement of individuals in the learning process increases their sense of belonging and acceptance of the applicable legal rules. This success is also consistent with Parlina's research (2023), which showed that legal literacy programs in rural areas in Central Java were able to significantly reduce land disputes. However, the approach in Bumiaji Village is unique in incorporating elements of customary law into formal legal education, which has not been widely adopted in other studies.

This research shows that ignoring local contexts, such as customs, can reduce the effectiveness of legal literacy programs. In contrast, the incorporation of customary and national laws in Bumiaji Village creates harmony and increases the level of community acceptance of the material taught. This difference shows that this research not only adds to the literature but also makes a new contribution to the importance of locally-based approaches in addressing legal issues in rural areas.

As such, this finding is not only relevant to the original research question but also provides additional insight into how legal literacy programs can be tailored to the needs of specific communities. This finding confirms that the success of a program is not only determined by the content of the material but also by its suitability to the social and cultural characteristics of the target community.

Local Stakeholder Engagement in Land Dispute Resolution

Bumiaji Village is located in Bumiaji Sub-district, Batu City, East Java, and has a geographical condition dominated by agricultural land and mountains. The region is known for its fertile soil and is an agricultural area with the main commodities being fruits, vegetables, and other horticultural crops. However, the increasing demand for land in Bumiaji Village has made the area a frequent source of land conflicts between residents.

Field facts show that land disputes in Bumiaji Village are often triggered by several factors. Firstly, many lands have not been certified or have unclear ownership status, resulting in overlapping ownership claims between residents²⁶. Secondly, unclear land boundaries, especially when they are not properly recorded and not recognized by all parties involved, can certainly be a source of dispute. Thirdly, there is a difference in perception between customary law and positive law in determining land

²⁶ Trisna, Nila, and Ilka Sandela. "Eksistensi Bank Tanah dalam Hukum Agraria Di Indonesia." *Ius Civile: Refleksi Penegakan Hukum dan Keadilan* 5, no. 1 (2021).

rights that are managed for generations without being accompanied by official documents²⁷.

Other problems are also caused by the increase in population migration from cities to villages in search of agricultural and residential land, one of which is Bumiaji. The purchase of land from unauthorized parties is a factor that triggers disputes²⁸. These problems are exacerbated by a lack of legal knowledge and community access to land services, which prevent villagers from obtaining land certificates or legally resolving land disputes.

Given the existing geographical conditions and social dynamics, land dispute resolution requires an exploratory approach involving re-measurement, legal counseling, and mediation involving all parties²⁹. This is important to create legal certainty, prevent further conflict, and support sustainable development in Bumiaji Village.

Based on the results of observations and initial identification of problems carried out by the Service Team in Bumiaji Village related to community legal knowledge about land legality and land dispute problems that often occur, it shows that many residents do not understand the importance of land registration and disputes often occur due to unclear land boundaries or ownership that is not officially registered. The planning stage for the implementation of the service program in the form of legal counseling focused on education about land registration procedures, ownership rights, and dispute resolution mechanisms by applicable legal provisions.

The implementation of community service activities was followed by legal counseling activities in the form of seminars attended by village

²⁷ Albaladejo-García, José A., Francisco Alcon, Federico Martínez-Carrasco, and José M. Martínez-Paz. "Understanding socio-spatial perceptions and Badlands ecosystem services valuation. Is there any welfare in soil erosion?." *Land Use Policy* 128 (2023): 106607.

²⁸ Krisanto, Yakub Adi. "A Penyelesaian Sengketa Tanah melalui Mediasi di Kantor Pertanahan Kota Salatiga." *Magistrorum et Scholarium: Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat* 4, no. 1 (2023): 16-26.

²⁹ Parlina, Siti, and Devi Siti Hamzah. "Alternatif Penyelesaian Sengketa Batas Bidang Tanah Dan Upaya Penyelesaiannya." *Jurnal Ilmiah Living Law* 15, no. 1 (2023): 77-85.

officials, legal practitioners, and villagers. The materials presented included the importance of land registration to prevent disputes, steps in the registration process, and ways to resolve land disputes legally. The counselling also used local case studies to clarify the positive impact of legal land registration. Villagers were also allowed to ask questions and discuss the problems they faced, making the counseling more interactive and relevant to their needs.

Before the extension activities were carried out, many residents did not realize the importance of land registration and tended to think that land ownership without an official certificate was sufficient, even though the name listed was the name of the old owner³⁰. However, after attending the counseling, there was an increase in knowledge about land registration procedures, the benefits of land certificates as proof of legal ownership, and the legal consequences of not registering land. Villagers became more aware of the legal risks they face if they do not register their land, such as the possibility of losing their land rights or being involved in protracted disputes. The legal counseling also succeeded in changing the attitude of the community from being apathetic towards land registration to being proactive.

The findings showed that local stakeholder engagement plays a central role in effectively resolving land disputes in Bumiaji Village. This result directly correlates with the research objective to strengthen the active role of village officials, traditional leaders, and formal legal institutions in supporting land conflict resolution efforts. The findings highlight that village officials and traditional leaders are not only facilitators in dispute resolution but also liaisons between the community and formal legal institutions such as the National Land Agency (BPN). This suggests that synergy between various parties is key to creating an inclusive and equitable resolution process.

The successful resolution of land disputes in Bumiaji Village relies heavily on the active role of local stakeholders, including village officials,

³⁰ Hapsari, Dwi Ratna Indri, Muhammad Luthfi, and Yaris Adhial Fajrin. "Assistance for the Registration of Waqf Land Managed by the Leaders of The Muhammadiyah Branch, Kecamatan Dau-Malang." *Jurnal Dedikasi Hukum* 3, no. 2 (2023): 116-132.

traditional leaders, and formal legal institutions. This research found that the involvement of village officials as facilitators is crucial in ensuring that dispute resolution is conducted transparently and by applicable laws. In addition, customary figures play a strategic role in bridging the gap between customary law and national law, particularly in providing social legitimacy to decisions taken by village officials.

From a scientific perspective, the involvement of local stakeholders can be interpreted as an effort to apply local governance theory, where collaboration between local actors strengthens the legitimacy and efficiency of conflict resolution. This research is also consistent with Parlina's study (2023), which emphasizes the important role of village officials in de-escalating rural land conflicts. However, the findings further underscore the importance of providing training to local stakeholders, especially village officials, to understand formal laws and be able to play the role of effective mediators. This provides a new dimension that has not been explored in previous research.

Local stakeholders, such as village officials and traditional leaders, should receive specialized training on formal legal mechanisms and conflict mediation. This training can be conducted in collaboration with legal aid institutions, universities, or civil society organizations. The focus of the training should include harmonizing customary law with national law so that the role of local leaders becomes more effective in bridging the two legal systems.

On the other hand, formal approaches alone prove less effective without the involvement of local officials who understand the social and cultural dynamics of the community. This research confirms that the role of traditional leaders is significant, especially in providing social legitimacy to legal decisions, which is often overlooked in urban-based research. As such, the results of this study not only support the argument that the involvement of local stakeholders is crucial but also enrich the scientific discourse on how synergies between local actors and formal institutions can create more effective dispute-resolution processes. The research offers a collaborative approach that demonstrates that land dispute resolution requires an in-depth understanding of the social context, the role of local actors, and the need to strengthen their capacity to fulfill their legal role.

This analysis is also rooted in the legal basis set out in Article 33 of Law No. 2/2012 on Land Acquisition for the Public Interest, which mentions the importance of deliberation in land conflict resolution. The involvement of village officials and traditional leaders as mediators in this study shows the real implementation of the principle of deliberation, which is one of the main elements in the Indonesian legal system. In addition, the involvement of the National Land Agency (BPN) in providing technical support by Government Regulation No. 24/1997 on Land Registration strengthens legal legitimacy and provides certainty to the community in the dispute resolution process.

From a theoretical perspective, this finding is in line with John Griffiths' Legal Pluralism Theory, which recognizes the existence of various legal systems, such as customary law and national law, which can complement each other in resolving disputes. The role of traditional leaders in bridging customary and national laws reflects legal pluralism in practice. However, this research also emphasizes that strengthening the capacity of local stakeholders, especially village officials, is an important step to creating harmony between the two legal systems. With a combination of legal pluralism theory and the practice of deliberation as a resolution mechanism, this research provides a holistic approach that is relevant and practical to apply in rural areas.

Programs designed through PAR methods encourage closer collaboration between local stakeholders. For example, village officials are trained to be mediators who understand both formal legal procedures and community social dynamics. Researchers also noted the need for the involvement of the National Land Agency (BPN) in providing technical support, such as assistance in land measurement and certification. On the other hand, the role of local legal aid organizations is significant to provide advocacy to communities in need. These results show that synergy between various local stakeholders can accelerate the process of resolving land disputes and increase community trust in the legal system.

After the counseling activities are carried out, a follow-up plan aims to ensure that villagers are informed and can take immediate steps to register their land. This service program is also equipped with a monitoring and evaluation mechanism to assess the impact and effectiveness of the counseling. The evaluation is conducted through a

post-program survey to measure the increased awareness and concrete actions of the villagers in taking care of their land legality.

Locally-based dispute resolution institutions involving traditional leaders, village officials, and community representatives serve as the first mediators in land conflicts in accordance with the principle of deliberation as stipulated in Article 33 of Law No. 2/2012. Technical support from the BPN should be provided to ensure that the resulting decision complies with formal legal rules.

Overall, the implementation of the community service program organized by the team went well and received a positive response from Bumiaji villagers. The program not only improved the legal knowledge of the villagers but also encouraged them to take concrete actions to register their land, which in turn will help prevent and resolve land disputes in the future.

Conclusion

Both discussions emphasize that improved legal literacy and active engagement of local stakeholders are key to effectively resolving land disputes in Bumiaji Village. An approach based on local context and multi-stakeholder collaboration can create solutions that are not only fair but also sustainable for the village community. The positive impact of this service program is that the community has a bargaining position in access to justice so that they get legal protection for their land status.

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