

The Vital Role of Legal Education in Societal Transformation: Fostering Legal Awareness and Social Justice

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Abstract

This article explores the crucial role of legal education in societal transformation, with a specific focus on fostering legal awareness and promoting social justice. The introduction highlights the inherent interconnectedness of individuals in communal living and emphasizes law as a dual-aspect phenomenon governing legal subjects. The research aims to analyze the multifaceted functions of law, such as social control, engineering, symbolism, politics, and integration, to contribute to shaping a balanced and just society. The paper also delves into the objectives of legal education, intending to cultivate responsible citizens with a comprehensive understanding of legal awareness. Employing a qualitative approach through an extensive literature review, the methodology focuses on studying existing scholarly works. The article advocates for integrated efforts to realize legal transformation and societal harmony through robust legal education initiatives. In conclusion, it underscores the need for a



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collective commitment to fostering legal awareness for a more just and harmonious society

KEYWORDS *Legal Awareness, Legal Education, Multifaceted Functions of Law, Social Justice and Societal Transformation.*

Introduction

Legal education occupies a critical position in the landscape of societal evolution, serving as a potent agent for nurturing legal consciousness and advancing the cause of social justice. In contemporary societies, characterized by intricate legal frameworks intersecting with diverse social dynamics, the importance of legal education transcends its conventional role as a professional training ground. Rather, it emerges as an indispensable instrument for empowering individuals, shaping collective consciousness, and propelling systemic change. This paper endeavors to delve into the pivotal role played by legal education in catalyzing societal transformation, shedding light on its capacity to engender a populace that is not only cognizant of its legal rights and responsibilities but also actively engaged in the pursuit of equity, fairness, and justice.

In the Indonesian context, the cultivation of individuals with a deep understanding of the law, aimed at fostering societal compliance, is actively pursued through comprehensive education. Central to this educational endeavor is the cultivation of citizenship competence. Mandated by Indonesia's 1945 Constitution, it is both the duty of the government and the right of every citizen to access adequate education, as outlined in Chapter XIII, Article 31, paragraph (2), which mandates: "*Every citizen is obligated to undergo basic education, with government funding required.*" Therefore, education must be diligently sought and organized. The goal of developing individuals with legal knowledge, who are conscious contributors to societal order, underscores the importance of

education. It is imperative that the government actively engages in the establishment of a robust national education system to fulfill this mandate.

Education fundamentally seeks to unlock the potential of each citizen, fostering a society with awareness of the laws within its environment. Krabbe asserts that legal awareness is essentially the consciousness or values within a person regarding existing or expected laws¹. Thus, legal education plays a crucial role in enlightening individuals who adhere to the law, contributing significantly to societal life and the creation of a civilized community.

Satjipto Rahardjo defines law as a social control agent, capable of regulating human behavior. Deviant behavior can be directed toward positive conduct through legal intervention, resulting in punishment or sanctions for law violators². Consequently, law plays a pivotal role in guiding society to behave correctly according to regulations, contributing to collective tranquility.

Legal awareness is crucial to instill from an early age, starting from the family environment, expanding to the community, until one becomes an individual obedient to the law. Legal consciousness is strongly tied to legal compliance, as high legal awareness in an individual is said to lead to high legal compliance, and conversely, low legal awareness may result in various violations and losses³. Considering that law serves as protection for human interests, the decline in legal awareness among the public is attributed to people not perceiving or realizing that the law safeguards their interests. This decline is also influenced by the lack of supervision by law enforcement officers and an education system that pays insufficient attention to instilling an understanding of legal awareness⁴.

¹ Achmad Ali, *Menguak Teori Hukum & Teori Peradilan Legal Theory & Judicialprudence* (Jakarta: Kencana, 2017).

² Wiwik Utami, "Hukum Sebagai Agen Pengendali Sosial Dalam Masyarakat Ditinjau Dari Segi Sosiologi Hukum," *MAKSIGAMA* 13, no. 2 (14 Februari 2020): 97–104.

³ Hamda Sulfinadia, *Meningkatkan Kesadaran Hukum Masyarakat Studi Atas Pelanggaran Peraturan Perundang-Undangan Tentang Perkawinan*, ed. oleh Deepublish (Yogyakarta, 2020).

⁴ John Kenedi, "Studi Analisis Terhadap Nilai-nilai Kesadaran Hukum Dalam Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan (Civic Education) Di Perguruan Tinggi Islam,"

Law holds a strategically significant role in society, encompassing interactions among community members, the relationship between the state and its citizens, as well as international relations. The existence of law as a social control, a tool of social engineering, a political instrument, and a means of social integration is essential. Law as social control implies that its presence in society plays a role in limiting human behavior and the consequences individuals will face if their actions deviate from these limitations. Law as a tool of social engineering signifies a broader role, namely creating societal changes toward planned living and leading to a better life. Law as a political instrument involves reinforcing political power and ensuring the effective implementation of state authority. While law is inherently a political tool for obtaining power (dogmatic), it should be separated from the political interests of those in power once it becomes a product (sociological). Law as a means of social integration aims to create harmony in societal interests, allowing orderly social interactions based on existing rules and regulations⁵.

Many aspects contribute to understanding legal awareness, such as obedience and compliance with the law. The term "legal awareness" linguistically originates from the word "conscious," meaning to know and understand, encompassing the overall meaning of being aware and understanding the law. According to Ewick and Silbey, legal awareness refers to how people comprehend the law and legal institutions, representing understandings that give meaning to people's experiences and actions. They add that legal awareness is formed through actions, making it a matter of practice that needs empirical examination. This implies that legal awareness is a matter of "*law as behavior*" rather than "*law as rules, norms, or principles*"⁶.

The Chief of Police (Kapolri) even states that every 2 minutes, one crime occurs in society. This is evidenced by the numerous cases handled by the police, totaling 276,507 crime cases (crime total or CT) throughout 2022. While the number of cases that have been resolved (crime clearance

MADANIA: *JJurnal Kajian Keislaman* 19, no. 2 (2015): 2015, <https://doi.org/http://dx.doi.org/10.29300/madania.v19i2.33>.

⁵ Praptining Sukowati, *Sistem Hukum Indonesia* (Malang: Merdeka University Press, 2020).

⁶ Ali, *Menguak Teori Hukum & Teori Peradilan Legal Theory & Judicialprudence*.

or CC) is 72.38 percent, equivalent to 200,147 cases. This is partly due to the low legal awareness in society. Research conducted by Belladonna & Anggraena shows that the implementation of legal counseling directly to the community has been minimal and has not had a significant impact on increasing legal awareness⁷. This is due to various issues, including limited facilities and infrastructure, insufficient budget availability, and limited human resources capabilities.

The importance of legal education is crucial in realizing a society with legal awareness and compliance as an inherent necessity that must be possessed and implemented by every individual. With the growth of legal awareness in each individual, derived from, by, and for the individual, a society with noble character, moral virtue, health, prosperity, advancement, independence, gender justice, obedience to the law, and concern for the environment can be realized. Thus, the benefits of legal awareness are not only felt by the individual but can also be experienced by the surrounding environment, including neighbors, relatives, the community, villages, nations, and the state⁸.

Legal awareness is crucial to be instilled and implemented in our daily lives. This aims to achieve prosperity, order, peace, tranquility, and justice. Additionally, with the realization of a law-aware society, the potential for advancing towards a developed nation can be achieved. This is because the level of legal awareness among citizens is also an indicator of the progress of a nation. The higher the level of legal awareness among the population of a country, the more orderly, disciplined, and organized societal and national life will be. Violations of the law, or what we can call illegal acts,

⁷ Aprillio Poppy Belladonna dan Selly Novia Anggraena, "Penguatan Pengetahuan Kewarganegaraan (Civic Knowledge) Dalam Meningkatkan Kesadaran Hukum Mahasiswa," *Jurnal Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan* 3, no. 2 (3 Desember 2019): 196, <https://doi.org/10.31571/pkn.v3i2.1442>.

⁸ Hendri Irawan, Dadang Sundawa, dan Iim Siti Masyitoh, "The Urgency Of Legal Awareness Among The Beneficiary Community of The Program Keluarga Harapan (PKH) In East OKU Regency," *Jurnal Administrasi Publik* 21, no. 2 (2023), <https://doi.org/10.30996/dia.v21i02.8171>.

are actions or deeds by individuals or groups that violate existing rules and laws⁹.

Essentially, the lack of awareness and adherence of the community to the rules or laws in place is caused by the low level of legal consciousness within the community. This means that many people still do not know and fully understand the meaning of each legal rule that exists and operates in the community. Most people are still unaware and do not fully understand the regulations regarding a particular matter. Legal awareness is an abstract concept within human beings about the harmony between the desired order and tranquility. Thus, legal awareness in this context means the awareness to act in accordance with legal provisions. Legal awareness in society serves as a kind of bridge connecting regulations with the legal behavior of community members¹⁰.

Legal awareness will grow if the aspects of legal awareness are fulfilled, namely: knowledge of legal regulations, understanding of the content of applicable legal regulations, attitude towards legal regulations, and the emergence of legal behavior¹¹. Thus, it can be said that individuals are not passive actors whose actions are always controlled by something external

⁹ Tsania Rifatul Munna dan Arditya Prayogi, "Strategi Peningkatan Kesadaran Hukum Masyarakat Kelurahan Bligo Kecamatan Buaran Kabupaten Pekalongan," *JURPIKAT (Jurnal Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat)* 2, no. 3 (22 Oktober 2021): 404–22, <https://doi.org/10.37339/jurpikat.v2i3.645>.

¹⁰ Faizal Amrul Muttaqin dan Wahyu Saputra, "Budaya Hukum Malu Sebagai Nilai Vital Terwujudnya Kesadaran Hukum Masyarakat," *Al-Syakhsiyyah: Journal of Law & Family Studies* 1, no. 2 (27 Desember 2019): 187–207, <https://doi.org/10.21154/syakhsiyyah.v1i2.2026>; HS Tundjung, Ida Kurnia, dan Ade Adhari, "Peningkatan Kesadaran Hukum Masyarakat Terhadap Peran Masyarakat Dalam Pencegahan Dan Penanggulangan Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga," *Jurnal Bakti Masyarakat Indonesia* 2, no. 2 (1 Februari 2020), <https://doi.org/10.24912/jbmi.v2i2.7264>; Meidita Amanda, "Implementasi Kesadaran Hukum Ditinjau dari Perspektif Masyarakat," *Jurnal Penelitian Ilmu Hukum* 3, no. 3 (2023): 92–99, <https://doi.org/10.56393/nomos.v3i3.1613>.

¹¹ Rita Angraini et al., "Meningkatkan Kesadaran Hukum melalui Pembelajaran Ilmu Hukum di Perguruan Tinggi," *Journal of Civic Education* 1, no. 3 (28 Desember 2018): 297–308, <https://doi.org/10.24036/jce.v1i3.249>; Yul Ernis, "Implikasi Penyuluhan Hukum Langsung terhadap Peningkatan Kesadaran Hukum Masyarakat," *Jurnal Penelitian Hukum De Jure* 18, no. 4 (10 Desember 2018): 477, <https://doi.org/10.30641/dejure.2018.V18.477-496>.

to them but are active and creative actors in determining ways and instruments to achieve their goals.

Through an exploration of the multifaceted dimensions of legal education, this paper aims to underscore its intrinsic connection to broader societal aspirations, including the fostering of democratic ideals, the safeguarding of human rights, and the enhancement of governance structures. Furthermore, it seeks to dissect the mechanisms through which legal education serves as a conduit for social empowerment, enabling marginalized communities to assert their rights, challenge systemic injustices, and participate meaningfully in the public sphere.

Drawing upon theoretical frameworks, empirical evidence, and case studies from diverse jurisdictions, this paper will elucidate the transformative potential of legal education across varied societal contexts. It will scrutinize how legal education not only imparts substantive legal knowledge but also instills critical thinking skills, ethical values, and a sense of civic responsibility among individuals. Moreover, it will underscore the pivotal role played by educational institutions, policymakers, and civil society organizations in shaping the contours of legal education and nurturing a culture of legal awareness and social justice.

Ultimately, this paper aims to contribute to the ongoing scholarly discourse on the role of legal education in shaping the future trajectory of societies globally. By acknowledging the pivotal significance of legal education in societal transformation, stakeholders can collectively endeavor towards the realization of more equitable, inclusive, and rights-respecting communities.

This research employs a qualitative literature review method to delve into the vital role of legal education in societal transformation, with a specific focus on fostering legal awareness and social justice. The qualitative approach is grounded in philosophy and is chosen to investigate scientific conditions where the researcher serves as the instrument. Data collection techniques and qualitative analysis emphasize the meaning derived from the data¹². This approach is selected as it provides a suitable

¹² Sugiyono, *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif, Kualitatif, dan R&D* (Bandung: Alfabeta, 2018).

framework for analyzing the concepts and theories underlying the role of legal education in the context of social transformation. Data is obtained through a comprehensive literature review, defined by Sugiyono as a theoretical study, referencing scholarly works related to culture, values, and norms in the social situation under investigation¹³. A thorough review of scholarly publications, textbooks, and relevant sources is conducted, followed by analysis to identify patterns, trends, and key concepts. Data analysis utilizes a descriptive approach to outline key concepts, theories, and findings supporting the research argument. Despite the advantage of providing in-depth insights, the limitation of this study involves the use of secondary data, requiring caution in evaluating and interpreting the reviewed literature's findings. The aim of this research is to contribute to a better understanding of the role of legal education in achieving social transformation, particularly in shaping legal awareness and promoting efforts towards social justice.

Legal Education Realizing Legal Transformation through Objectives, Functions, and Benefits for Society

In the intricate web of human existence, individuals are inherently woven into the fabric of communal living, as emphasized by Hisyam, who asserts the inherent sociability of humans, often referred to as *zoon politicon*¹⁴. This inherent interconnection implies that the development and flourishing of individuals are intricately tied to communal life. Within this social tapestry, law emerges as a dual-aspect phenomenon, combining prescriptions and principles to govern the conduct of legal subjects. As elaborated by Shalihah, law serves a normative and descriptive role, delineating not only what ought to be but also reflecting what is¹⁵. This intricate relationship between humans, society, and law forms the

¹³ Sugiyono.

¹⁴ Jiek Julyati Hisyam, *Sistem Sosial Budaya Indonesia* (Jakarta: Sinar Grafika Offset, 2020).

¹⁵ Fithriatus Shalihah, *Sosiologi Hukum* (Depok: Rajawali Press, 2017).

backdrop for understanding the objectives of legal education¹⁶. Karl Marx's acknowledgment of the persistence of social rules, the multifaceted functions of law within societal dynamics, and the evolving nature of legal doctrines such as sociological jurisprudence collectively shape the narrative of law's significance in our interconnected world.

Humans, as social beings, are inherently interconnected in communal living. Hisyam asserts that as social beings (*zoon politicon*), humans are inherently communal¹⁷. This implies that individuals cannot thrive or develop fully without living alongside others. In other words, humans must live in society. Law is often described as a dual-aspect phenomenon expressible through various methods. Therefore, laws consist of prescriptions and principles that dictate how legal subjects should operate. Simultaneously, law builds a social phenomenon whose functioning is influenced by the way people think or behave. Law is both normative and descriptive, signifying what ought to be and what is¹⁸. In a social context, where individuals live together, rules govern behavior. Law, present within society, serves a purpose. Bagir Manan explains the objectives of legal education in society¹⁹:

1. Karl Marx acknowledges that some form of social rules will persist in governing relations within society. Thus, there will always be law, although no longer primarily governing power dynamics between rulers and the ruled. Marx does not openly place these social rules as a kind of natural law according to John Locke's teachings, as it would contradict the historical basis of materialism. Marx, starting from a materialist premise, cannot accept Locke's speculative foundations.
2. In reality, law as a social phenomenon (*ubi societas ibi ius*) is formed and comprises rules to meet various individual and/or societal interests without being tied to power interests. These individual or

¹⁶ Bagir Manan, "Peranan Pendidikan Hukum dalam Pembangunan dan Penegakkan Hukum untuk Masa Depan Indonesia," Hukum Online, 2004, <https://www.hukumonline.com/berita/a/peranan-pendidikan-hukum-dalam-pembangunan-dan-penegakkan-hukum-untuk-masa-depan-indonesia-hol9738>.

¹⁷ Hisyam, *Sistem Sosial Budaya Indonesia*.

¹⁸ Shalihah, *Sosiologi Hukum*.

¹⁹ Manan, "Peranan Pendidikan Hukum dalam Pembangunan dan Penegakkan Hukum untuk Masa Depan Indonesia."

social interests include things like certainty in transactions (legal relationships), societal order, order in family relationships, and others. These are individual or societal interests unrelated to power interests. Even if there is an underlying power interest, it is not aimed at extortion or oppression. Instead, law serves as an instrument providing a foundation for power to fulfill its function as a guardian of security and order. At the very least, the presence of law can be seen as an institution mutually beneficial to both society and the authorities.

3. In reality, legal development does not progress linearly following Marx's materialistic historical path. In communist countries based on Marx's teachings, the presence and role of law never diminish. The justification or excuse that true communist governance and society are not yet established, still in transition, and that the state and government are still run in a dictatorship of the proletariat with wraps like 'legal socialism,' cannot negate the fact that law remains a necessary element. Whether law is for the benefit of those in power or oppressive or not depends on the perspective used. The persistence and even growth of law in communist countries are not only due to internal needs but also as a consequence of being members of the global community of nations. To be part of the global community, communist countries must submit to, adopt, and adapt various international laws arising from bilateral or multilateral relations.
4. New legal doctrines such as sociological jurisprudence, among others, focus not only on society as the basis for finding the essence and justification of a legal rule but also on the role of law as a tool for renewal and the common welfare.

The elevation of legal awareness in society can be achieved through two main approaches: action and education. Warsito explains the patterns²⁰ :

1. Action, Drastic legal awareness actions in society can involve intensifying the threat of punishment or tightening supervision of

²⁰ Warsito, "Menumbuhkan Kesadaran Hukum Di Masyarakat Dan Dunia Perguruan Tinggi," *Pelita Dharma* 1, no. 9 (2016): n.pag, <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/t5fvu>.

citizens' obedience to the law. However, this approach is incidental, surprising, and not the right method for enhancing legal awareness.

2. Education, can take both formal and non-formal forms. The focus of formal/non-formal education should be on instilling qualities of good citizenship, understanding the rights and obligations of citizens, and cultivating legal consciousness. Values of culture can be achieved through education. Therefore, effective and efficient efforts to develop legal awareness in society involve education:

- 1) Formal Education, School education is a common aspect of national life. Legal awareness education in schools should span from elementary to higher education levels. It should instill knowledge about the rights and obligations of Indonesian citizens, Pancasila and the Constitution, essential articles in the Criminal Code, and how to obtain legal protection.

- 2) Non-formal Education, Non-formal education targets the broader community, encompassing all layers of society. Non-formal education can be conducted through various methods, including legal counseling, campaigns, and exhibitions.

- a) Legal Counseling

Legal counseling is an activity aimed at increasing legal awareness through the informal delivery and explanation of legal regulations to the community. This ensures that individuals understand their rights, obligations, and authorities, fostering legal attitudes and behaviors. Legal counseling can be conducted through two methods: direct legal counseling, involving face-to-face interactions with the community through activities like lectures, discussions, meetings, simulations, etc. Indirect legal counseling involves activities conducted through intermediaries or media such as radio, television, video, magazines, newspapers, films, etc.

- b) Campaign

Ongoing campaigns to increase legal awareness involve planned activities such as lectures, various competitions, the selection of exemplary citizens, and more.

c) Exhibitions

Exhibitions serve an informative and educational function, playing a positive role in enhancing and nurturing legal awareness in society. Exhibitions should provide handbooks, brochures, and leaflets, alongside visual presentations that captivate a wide audience. The success of legal awareness improvement still requires participation from officials and leaders in these efforts.

In examining the intricate relationship between law, society, and individuals, it becomes evident that legal frameworks are fundamental to the functioning of communal living. Laws, characterized by both prescriptions and principles, dictate the behavior of legal subjects within a given societal context. The dual nature of law, normative and descriptive, signifies not only what ought to be but also what is. Bagir Manan outlines the objectives of legal education in society, emphasizing the ever-present role of law in governance and societal order²¹. As a tool of social control, law establishes boundaries for deviant behavior and outlines the consequences for such actions. Its role as a social engineer aims to bring about planned changes in society, aligning with the broader goals of national development. Symbolically, law simplifies complex actions or events, facilitating communication between enforcers and the public. Politically, law functions as an instrument to strengthen political power and ensure the effective implementation of state authority. Additionally, law serves as an integrator, reducing conflicts and fostering smooth social interactions.

The multifaceted functions of law are pivotal in shaping and maintaining a balanced and just society. Law, inherently intertwined with societal norms, is deemed effective when it aligns with current community conditions—the living law that reflects prevalent values. Legal education plays a crucial role in shaping responsible citizens by fostering legal awareness through educational processes. Soekanto identifies key indicators of legal awareness, encompassing knowledge of legal regulations, understanding the content of legal norms, attitude toward

²¹ Manan, “Peranan Pendidikan Hukum dalam Pembangunan dan Penegakkan Hukum untuk Masa Depan Indonesia.”

legal principles, and adherence to legal behaviors²². This comprehensive understanding underscores the dynamic interplay between law and society, acknowledging the nuanced role of legal education in shaping individuals who contribute positively to the collective welfare and justice within their communities.

Each law inherently contains provisions regarding the rights and obligations of legal subjects within the regulatory framework. Fundamental legal ethics naturally encompass the core principles of rights and fundamental obligations. Consequently, from an academic standpoint, issues concerning human rights and obligations essentially involve a conception inherent in the balance between legal and justice concepts, for the law to function within society. The functions of law, as per Achmad Ali, are as follows²³:

1. Law as a Tool of Social Control

Law serves as social control, aiming to set boundaries for deviant behavior within society and determine the consequences of such deviations. It establishes prohibitions, claims for compensation, and more. Using law as a means of social control implies regulating the behavior of the community, meaning that the law functions by limiting the actions of community members deemed deviant from legal norms.

2. Law as a Tool of Engineering

This function involves using law as a social engineer to transform society by creating planned changes that align with the nation's development goals. It aims to reorganize community life systematically to achieve societal progress, adapting to the rapid changes and dynamics observed in societies worldwide.

3. Law as a Symbol

Law functions symbolically to simplify a series of actions or events, making it easy to understand general meanings. The symbolic nature

²² S Soekanto, *Kesadaran Hukum dan Kepatuhan Hukum* (Jakarta: Rajawali Press, 1982).

²³ Tuti Haryanti, "Hukum dan Masyarakat," *Jurnal Tabkim* 10, no. 2 (2014): 160–68.

of law facilitates communication between law enforcers and the public, aiding in the socialization process of legal norms.

4. Law as a Political Instrument

The political function of law is to strengthen political power or effectively implement state authority. The written procedural nature of law and its role in politics cannot be separated. Although legal norms convey political messages, once enacted, their interpretation must be juridical rather than politically motivated.

5. Law as an Integrator

This function aims to reduce conflicts and facilitate the smooth interaction of social relationships, creating harmony among various societal interests for an orderly and fluid societal process.

The multifaceted functions of law, dependent on its effective application in societal environments, play a pivotal role in shaping and maintaining a balanced and just society. Law, an inherent value inseparable from societal norms, deems good when it aligns with current community conditions or "the living law," reflecting prevalent values²⁴. Legal education is a concrete step in shaping responsible citizens, strengthening legal awareness through educational processes²⁵. Soekanto further defines legal awareness as abstract concepts within individuals concerning the harmony between desired order and tranquility²⁶. Referring to B. Kutschinsky, indicates indicators of legal awareness²⁷:

1. Knowledge of legal regulations (*law awareness*)
2. Knowledge of the content of legal regulations (*law acquaintance*)
3. Attitude toward legal regulations (*legal attitude*)
4. Patterns of legal behavior (*legal behavior*)

Legal knowledge refers to understanding laws governing human behavior in society (written or unwritten), knowing prohibited and allowed behaviors, and understanding sanctions for law violations. Legal

²⁴ Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, *Konsep-Konsep Hukum dalam Pembangunan* (Bandung: Alumni, 2006).

²⁵ Susan Fitriasisari, "Pentingnya Pendidikan Hukum bagi Warga Negara Indonesia," *Jurnal Civicus* 10, no. 2 (2010): 1–9, <https://doi.org/10.17509/civicus.v10i2.26112>.

²⁶ Soekanto, *Kesadaran Hukum dan Kepatuhan Hukum*.

²⁷ Soekanto.

understanding entails acknowledgment and respect for known laws. Legal attitude involves an individual's assessment of applicable laws. Legal behavior refers to acting in accordance with prevailing legal provisions in society because the individual deems the law good and consistent with community values.

Harmony in Society: The Interplay of Law, Family, Education, and Mass Media

Family, as the basic unit of society, plays a pivotal role in shaping human interactions, cultural norms, and overall development. The family unit, consisting of a husband, wife, and unmarried children, serves as the smallest framework for social interaction and life processes²⁸. It is within the family that individuals learn to adapt and interact, aiming to create and maintain cultural norms and facilitate the physical, mental, and emotional development of each member. The family stands as the primary human environment, preceding other societal structures such as friendship circles, social groups, work communities, and broader society.

Law, as a set of norms, is present to regulate the behavior of these societal groups, aiming to ensure legal certainty within the community. Legal compliance with these norms is essential to achieve their intended purpose and align with the expectations of all community and state members. Legal awareness among individuals enables them to distinguish between lawful (*correct behavior*) and unlawful actions. Law, functioning as a control mechanism in societal life, determines which behaviors are considered deviations from legal norms and outlines the sanctions or actions that will be taken in response to such deviations²⁹.

Law also serves as a form of social engineering, adapting to societal changes and innovations to fulfill its role as a social engineer³⁰. However, nurturing and developing children effectively require individuals capable

²⁸ Soerjono Soekanto, *Sosiologi Keluarga: Tentang Ikhwal Keluarga Remaja dan Anak* (Bandung: Rineka Cipta, 2009).

²⁹ Soekanto.

³⁰ Khaidir Saleh, Mario Agusta, dan Weni Weni, "Hukum dan Masyarakat Dalam Perspektif Sosiologi Hukum," *DATIN LAW JURNAL* 1, no. 2 (16 Desember 2020), <https://doi.org/10.36355/dlj.v1i2.454>.

of educating and providing protection. Attention to children aligns with the progress of human civilization, emphasizing the need for guidance to ensure their physical, mental, and spiritual growth. Legal awareness can be cultivated through family education, where parents and other family members play a crucial role in fostering legal awareness within the family, starting with adherence to administrative matters. Through this compliance, legal education becomes deeply rooted in everyday life, ensuring that legal awareness is not merely theoretical but is integrated into the fabric of society.

In the realm of social institutions, entities operate within a set of interconnected norms that depend on, influence, and modify each other. Social institutions, including the Judiciary, act as law enforcement authorities that must communicate effectively and gain understanding from the target group (society) while performing roles acceptable to them³¹. These institutions must leverage certain traditional patterns to stimulate participation from the target group or the broader community. Social institutions, according to Harsoja, share common characteristics such as functioning as a unit within the cultural system, having clear objectives, utilizing the results of material culture, serving as symbols, and having oral or written traditions³².

In addition, Suhandi emphasizes that an institution is considered social if it has rules or norms, a system of relationships based on specific norms, goals to fulfill specific needs, and necessary equipment and tools³³. Therefore, the Judiciary, as a social institution, is a law enforcement authority that must possess specific capabilities aligned with societal aspirations. Education, as a crucial factor in social change, is facilitated by educational institutions, which enable the learning process through structured and traditional methods³⁴. *Pesantren*, as a type of education focused on religious aspects, plays a unique role in overseeing Islamic

³¹ Soerjono Soekanto, *Faktor-Faktor yang Mempengaruhi Penegakan Hukum* (Jakarta: PT Raja Grafindo Persada, 2011).

³² Bagja Waluya, *Sosiologi: Menyelami Fenomena Sosial di Masyarakat* (Bandung: PT Setia Purna Inves, 2009).

³³ Waluya.

³⁴ Moh. Roqib, *Ilmu Pendidikan Islam Pengembangan Pendidikan Integratif di Sekolah, Keluarga, dan Masyarakat* (Yogyakarta: LKiS, 2009).

religious education³⁵. Integrating legal education into daily life through Civic Education ensures that individuals receive a holistic education that addresses religious, general, and technological knowledge. The younger generation, constituting the lowest stratum of society, holds significant importance as the nation's future. Civic Education becomes a crucial program to instill legal awareness, shaping individuals who understand their rights and obligations, think critically, and contribute positively to society³⁶.

Mass media, defined as communication directed at a widespread, heterogeneous, and anonymous audience, serves various functions such as information dissemination, education, entertainment, and social control³⁷. McQuail outlines six perspectives on the role of mass media in modern society, including its function as a window on events, a mirror reflecting events, a filter or gatekeeper, a guide, a forum for information exchange, and an interlocutor³⁸.

Mass media educates by contributing to enlightenment, education, and broadening the insights of the audience. In the legal context, the press raises awareness of citizens' rights and obligations, providing enlightenment and guidance in understanding legal regulations. Legal awareness, in this context, becomes intertwined with the role of mass media in society, ensuring that individuals are informed and educated about their legal rights and responsibilities. Building legal awareness in society is a challenging task, given that not everyone possesses such awareness. Law, as a social phenomenon, serves as a tool to control society. Various issues arise in society as people strive to meet their needs, leading to violations, disputes, conflicts, or "conflicts of human interest."

³⁵ Imam Syafe'i, "Pondok Pesantren: Lembaga Pendidikan Pembentukan Karakter," *Al-Tadzkiyyah: Jurnal Pendidikan Islam* 8, no. 1 (16 Mei 2017): 61, <https://doi.org/10.24042/atjpi.v8i1.2097>.

³⁶ Salsa Berliana Putri dan Dini Anggraeni Dewi, "Reaktualisasi Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan bagi Generasi Milenial," *Jurnal Pendidikan dan Konseling (JPDK)* 3, no. 2 (23 Juni 2021): 42–49, <https://doi.org/10.31004/jpdk.v3i2.1629>.

³⁷ Budiyo Budiyo, "Pemanfaatan Media Massa Oleh Penegak Hukum Dalam Penanggulangan Tindak Pidana Korupsi," *Perspektif* 18, no. 1 (1 Januari 2013): 1, <https://doi.org/10.30742/perspektif.v18i1.28>.

³⁸ Denis McQuail, *Mass Communication Theory* (London: SAGE Publications, 2010).

Consequently, questions arise about what the law dictates, who has the right, who is correct, and so forth, highlighting the need for legal awareness³⁹.

Legal awareness in society is synonymous with the obedience of the community to the law, and this obedience tends to be enforced. According to H. C. Kelman and L. Pospisil, there are three types of obedience: Compliance, where a person adheres to a rule merely out of fear of sanctions; Identification, where a person adheres to a rule out of fear that their good relationship with others will be damaged; and Internalization, where a person adheres to a rule genuinely because they feel that the rule aligns with the intrinsic values they adhere to⁴⁰. "*Patriotism*" is an attitude and action of citizens based on love for the homeland, national consciousness, belief in Pancasila as the ideology of the nation and state, and willingness to sacrifice to face any threats, challenges, obstacles, and disruptions (ATHG) that endanger the nation and state's survival, territorial integrity, national jurisdiction, and the noble values of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. Constitutionally, defending the state is both a right and an obligation of citizens, as stipulated in Article 27, paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution. The values encompassed in defending the country include love for the homeland, awareness of nationhood and statehood, belief in Pancasila as the state ideology, willingness to sacrifice for the nation and state, and physical and psychological readiness⁴¹.

National legal development policies and strategies aim to realize a legal system that supports national interests. Law, with its elements, plays a crucial role in strengthening national resilience. Building a democratic and just legal system cannot be separated from efforts to restore public trust in the law and legal institutions. These efforts must be made collectively by all elements of the nation, including state administrators, legislative bodies, law enforcement agencies, legal practitioners, and the entire community, based on a planned, integrated, and systematic

³⁹ Kenedi, "Studi Analisis Terhadap Nilai-nilai Kesadaran Hukum Dalam Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan (Civic Education) Di Perguruan Tinggi Islam."

⁴⁰ Kenedi.

⁴¹ Suwarno Widodo, "Implementasi Bela Negara Untuk Mewujudkan Nasionalisme," *CIVIS: Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Sosial dan Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan* 1, no. 1 (2011): 18–31, <https://doi.org/10.26877/civis.v1i1/Januari.572>.

development planning pattern. Additionally, it should be grounded in the legal goals of the state, namely to create a just and prosperous society, both materially and spiritually⁴². The interplay of family, education, mass media, and legal institutions within society creates a complex yet interconnected network that shapes the legal awareness of individuals. The legal framework within a society is dynamic, adapting to changes and innovations to fulfill its role effectively. Cultivating legal awareness is not only the responsibility of legal institutions but requires the active participation of families, educational institutions, and the media. The younger generation, as the nation's future, must be equipped with legal awareness through comprehensive educational programs, ensuring they become responsible and informed citizens.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the intricate relationship between law, society, and individuals underscores the pivotal role of legal education in realizing legal transformation. Humans, inherently social beings, are intricately connected in communal living, necessitating the development and flourishing of individuals within the context of society. Law, functioning as both a normative and descriptive force, plays a dual-aspect role in governing legal subjects. In essence, the interwoven fabric of law, society, and individuals highlights the crucial role of legal education in achieving transformative objectives. The inherent sociability of humans underscores the necessity for communal living, where law serves a dual role as both a normative and descriptive force in governing legal subjects. Bagir Manan's elucidation of legal education objectives emphasizes the multifaceted functions of law, from social control to symbolic representation, contributing to the establishment of a balanced and just society. Legal awareness, encompassing knowledge, understanding, attitude, and behavior, emerges as a vital component in shaping responsible citizens. The dynamic interplay of law, family, education, and media further emphasizes the collective responsibility in building legal awareness,

⁴² Danang Risdiarto, "Kebijakan Dan Strategi Pembangunan Hukum Dalam Memperkuat Ketahanan Nasional," *Jurnal Penelitian Hukum De Jure* 17, no. 2 (15 Juni 2017): 177, <https://doi.org/10.30641/dejure.2017.V17.177-193>.

especially among the younger generation, through comprehensive educational programs and civic initiatives. Ultimately, the realization of legal transformation and societal harmony relies on the integrated efforts of these elements.

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