

Initial Model of the SAHABAT Web-Based Application as an Innovation in Digital Legal Counselling for Promoting Legal Awareness

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Abstract

The limitations of conventional legal counselling, due to access, cost, and time constraints, create a need for more effective digital media to increase public legal awareness. The main issues examined are the need for local governments and the Regional Offices of the Ministry of Law to develop effective digital legal counseling media, and how the initial design of the SAHABAT application can be proposed as a website-based innovation to realize legal awareness. The purpose of this study is to describe institutional needs and design a preliminary model for the SAHABAT application. The method used is empirical legal research with a sociological jurisprudence approach, employing interviews and questionnaires with legal educators and village heads, and using descriptive-qualitative analysis. The results show that the SAHABAT application can provide interactive, participatory, and easily accessible legal education. The novelty of this research lies in the concrete design of the SAHABAT application as a



digital legal counseling medium that reflects the theories of legal effectiveness, responsive law, and progressive law.

Keywords

Digital Law Application, Interactive Website, Legal Awareness, Legal Counseling, Legal Innovation.

Introduction

Indonesia is a country governed by the rule of law, as stated in Article 1, paragraph (3), of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. Based on the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, all aspects of social, national, and state life are carried out in accordance with established laws to realize the philosophy of Pancasila for all Indonesian people.¹ Furthermore, in implementing the rule of law, it is not only limited to existing and legalized norms, but also to the way of life with the law, which must be interpreted and touch the core of every individual in Indonesia.²

For the law to be enforced, upheld, and consistently respond to and protect the community's needs, the community must first understand and comprehend it. To raise awareness among the entire community of the importance of the law, the Indonesian government, through the National Law Development Agency, which is an agency directly under the Ministry of Law of the Republic of Indonesia, implemented a systematic legal education program in 1983. Based on Regulation of the Minister of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia Number: M.01-

¹ JM. Muslimin et al., "Sharia, Deradicalization and National Consensus: A Review of Pancasila-Inspired Philosophy as a Socio-Legal Nexus for Indonesia and Afghanistan," *International Journal of Law and Society (IJLS)* 3, no. 2 (August 2024): 131–55, <https://doi.org/10.59683/ijls.v3i2.93>; Chusnul Qotimah Nita Permata et al., "Strengthening Character and Legal Education with Pancasila Values in The School Environment," *The Indonesian Journal of International Clinical Legal Education* 4, no. 3 (2022), <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.15294/ijicle.v4i3.60127>.

² Martin Roestamy, Abraham Yazdi Martin, and Radif Khotamir Rusli, "The Philosophy of Pancasila as The Grand Theory of Legal Research Based on Bibliometric Analysis," *Indonesian Journal of Social Research (IJSR)* 4, no. 3 (December 2022): 187–95, <https://doi.org/10.30997/ijsr.v4i3.247>.

PR.08.10 of 2006 concerning Legal Education Patterns, the purpose of legal education is to foster legal awareness in the community so that they can understand their rights and obligations as citizens, while also forming a legal culture that is orderly, compliant, and respects human rights values.³

In implementing legal counseling programs, the National Law Development Agency is assisted by functional legal counselors and parties with expertise and capabilities in the field of law. Functional legal educators include Ministry of Law employees, such as those from the Regional Offices of the Ministry of Law in each province. Meanwhile, non-civil servant legal educators include academics, paralegals, village heads, and community members who have received special training from the Regional Offices of the Ministry of Law, legal aid organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

The implementation of legal counseling by legal counselors still faces several obstacles in reality. The first obstacle is limited access to areas that are difficult to reach by land transportation. The second obstacle concerns the physical burden and time efficiency of legal counselors in reaching remote areas. Even with good access to land transportation, travel time can reach dozens of hours. The third obstacle is the considerable cost of obtaining legal counsel directly.

Given several obstacles related to direct or conventional legal counseling, in light of the increasingly widespread use of technology, changes in legal counseling methods are needed. In this century, the use of technology, especially in digital spaces, has reached a level surpassing previous times, with the emergence of augmented reality, virtual reality, and artificial intelligence. All of these technologies have been used in several fields such as education, health, and law.

In the field of law, there are several technologies used to help the public understand the law and to help them deal with legal issues, such as

³ Baginda Khalid Hidayat Jati et al., "Legal Culture, Environmental Non-Compliance, and the Persistence of Illegal Mining in Paningkaban," *Indonesian Journal of Criminal Law Studies* 10, no. 1 (2025), <https://doi.org/10.15294/ijcls.v10i1.24008>.

the DoNotPay application or robot lawyer, vLex (Vincent AI), or legal case research and analysis applications, and Allex or AI created by the Hukum Online website to conduct research and studies on law. Some technological advances that have been translated into these applications indirectly show the potential to develop knowledge about the law,⁴ not only limited to the physical realm, but also through the internet by digitizing things that were previously conventional into online platforms.⁵

Based on existing legal applications and to raise legal awareness through more effective and efficient legal education programs, an initial model of a website-based application was designed, named “SAHABAT” or Sobat Hukum Kalimantan Barat (West Kalimantan Legal Friends).⁶ The SAHABAT application features to assist legal educators in helping the community understand the law. This is because the initial model of this application includes features such as infographics, a question-and-answer feature, a video feature, a live-streaming legal education feature, and many more. Based on this, the SAHABAT application can address all obstacles that arise, especially in conventional legal counseling. Furthermore, the SAHABAT application can adapt to the needs of legal counseling across regions in Indonesia, where obstacles vary by region.

To deepen the theoretical framework and differentiate this study from prior work, the literature review examined relevant prior studies. In 2023, a study titled “The Urgency of Digital Services in Realizing Law Conscious Villages” was conducted, focusing on digital services to realize the law-conscious villages concept.⁷ The difference with the current study is that the SAHABAT application is more of a concrete implementation, a website-based application for legal counseling.

⁴ Ikhtiyor Djuraev et al., “The Impact of Digitization on Legal Systems in Developing Countries,” *Qubahan Academic Journal* 5, no. 1 (January 2025): 81–117, <https://doi.org/10.48161/qaj.v5n1a1246>.

⁵ Rodiyah Rodiyah et al., “The Future Impact of Technological Advancement in the Legal Drafting Process: A Human and Technology Analysis,” 2022, 030019, <https://doi.org/10.1063/5.0104135>.

⁶ Yenny Aman Serah et al., “Building Legal Awareness Through Digital Platforms: Conceptualizing Web Applications in Responsive Legal Counseling,” *Indonesian Journal of Advocacy and Legal Services* 7, no. 2 (September 2025): 431–66, <https://doi.org/10.15294/ijals.v7i2.29611>.

⁷ Yenny Aman Serah et al., “The Urgency of Digital Services in Realizing Law Conscious Villages,” 2023, 16–21, https://doi.org/10.2991/978-2-38476-024-4_3.

Furthermore, in 2024, a study entitled “*Contextualization of Progressive Law in Designing Hybrid Legal Counseling Methods as an Effort to Build Public Legal Awareness*” was conducted, focusing on integrating conventional legal counseling methods with progressive legal theory into digital, or hybrid legal counseling.⁸ Meanwhile, the current research focuses on the initial model of the SAHABAT application, which is more specific and operational in addressing the community's needs. And a study entitled “*Learning Law from Customary Village: Implementation of the Value of Consensus Deliberation in the Election of Customary Village in Bali*”,⁹ examined the implementation of consensus deliberation values in the election of Customary Village leaders in Bali as a manifestation of the autonomy of customary law communities in line with the values of Pancasila. The study employed a normative legal research method using statutory, legal analysis, and legal concept approaches. The findings revealed that the process of determining Customary Village leaders in Bali is guided not only by regional regulations concerning Customary Villages but also by the customary laws applicable in each respective Customary Village. The study primarily focused on customary law practices and deliberative values within indigenous communities, whereas the present research emphasizes the development of the SAHABAT application as a website-based digital legal counseling medium aimed at enhancing public legal awareness.

Finally, in 2025, a study titled “*Raising Public Legal Awareness in the Digital Age: Global Practices and Indonesia's Path Forward*” was conducted, focusing on the use of legal applications, such as e-learning and chatbots, and on national policy recommendations to promote legal

⁸ Yenny Aman Serah et al., “Contextualization of Progressive Law in Designing Hybrid Legal Counseling Methods as an Effort to Build Public Legal Awareness,” *International Journal of Law Reconstruction* 8, no. 2 (2024): 270–83, <https://doi.org/http://dx.doi.org/10.26532/ijlr.v8i2.40062>.

⁹ I Putu Sastra Wibawa, Ida Bagus Alit Yoga Maheswara, and Komang Indra Apsaridewi, “Learning Law from Customary Village: Implementation of the Value of Consensus Deliberation in the Election of Customary Village in Bali,” *Indonesian Journal of International Clinical Legal Education* 6, no. 2 (2024), <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.15294/iccle.v6i2.15752>.

awareness in line with the times.¹⁰ The difference with the current study is that the initial model of the SAHABAT application was specifically designed to be implemented by all legal counselors in West Kalimantan Province.

Based on the introduction and literature review described above, this study is titled, “*Initial Model of the SAHABAT Web-Based Application as an Innovation in Digital Legal Counseling for Promoting Legal Awareness.*” The problems addressed in this study are (1) What are the needs of the Regional Government and the Regional Office of the Ministry of Law of West Kalimantan Province in developing effective digital legal counseling media, and (2) How can the initial model design of the SAHABAT web-based application be proposed as an innovation in digital legal counseling to promote legal awareness? The objectives of this study are (1) to analyze and describe the needs of the Regional Government and the Regional Office of the Ministry of Law of West Kalimantan Province in developing effective digital legal counseling media, and (2) to analyze and describe the initial model design of the SAHABAT web-based application that can be proposed as an innovation in digital legal counseling to promote legal awareness.

Method

The research method used in this study is empirical legal research.¹¹ The research approach used is sociological jurisprudence.¹² The types of data used in this study are primary and secondary data. Primary data is data obtained from primary sources, such as informants and respondents.

¹⁰ Yenny Aman Serah et al., “Raising Public Legal Awareness in the Digital Age: Global Practices and Indonesia’s Path Forward,” *Journal of Law and Legal Reform* 6, no. 1 (March 2025): 209–38, <https://doi.org/10.15294/jllr.v6i1.19654>.

¹¹ Aikaterini Argyrou, “Making the Case for Case Studies in Empirical Legal Research,” *Utrecht Law Review* 13, no. 3 (December 2017): 95, <https://doi.org/10.18352/ulr.409>.

¹² Frans L. Leeuw, “Empirical Legal Research: The Gap between Facts and Values and Legal Academic Training,” *Utrecht Law Review* 11, no. 2 (July 2015): 19, <https://doi.org/10.18352/ulr.315>.

Meanwhile, secondary data in this study is data obtained from literature studies relevant to the research being conducted. The sources in this study are legal advisors from the West Kalimantan Provincial Office of the Ministry of Law. In contrast, the respondents in this study are village heads from the Sambas Regency Government and village heads from the Singkawang Municipal Government. Data were collected through interviews and questionnaires. Data analysis was conducted using descriptive-qualitative methods. Conclusions were drawn using deductive reasoning, drawing on general issues faced to arrive at concrete conclusions.

Result and Discussion

A. The Needs of the Regency Government and the Regional Office of the Ministry of Law in Developing Digital Legal Education Media in West Kalimantan

In today's modern era, digitization is a necessary alternative in assisting daily human activities.¹³ Digitization helps make human life more effective and efficient; for example, in the field of natural disasters, such as in Japan, it enables the detection of tsunamis and earthquakes before they occur.¹⁴ This is also proof that digitizing disaster-detection tools for smart devices can save many human lives.¹⁵ Beyond natural disasters, digitalization can also reduce inequality and provide equal opportunities for training and education, even in the most remote and isolated areas.¹⁶ Finally, digitalization in the legal field can make it easier for rural communities to

¹³ Moez Krichen et al., "Managing Natural Disasters: An Analysis of Technological Advancements, Opportunities, and Challenges," *Internet of Things and Cyber-Physical Systems* 4 (2024): 99–109, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.iotcps.2023.09.002>.

¹⁴ Diana Fischer-Pfeßler, Dario Bonaretti, and Deborah Bunker, "Digital Transformation in Disaster Management: A Literature Review," *The Journal of Strategic Information Systems* 33, no. 4 (December 2024): 101865, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsis.2024.101865>.

¹⁵ Leela Damodaran, "Human Factors in the Digital World Enhancing Life Style—the Challenge for Emerging Technologies," *International Journal of Human-Computer Studies* 55, no. 4 (October 2001): 377–403, <https://doi.org/10.1006/ijhc.2001.0490>.

¹⁶ Olga Zaborovskaia, Olga Nadezhina, and Ekaterina Avduevskaya, "The Impact of Digitalization on the Formation of Human Capital at the Regional Level," *Journal of Open Innovation: Technology, Market, and Complexity* 6, no. 4 (December 2020): 184, <https://doi.org/10.3390/joitmc6040184>.

access legal information, legal consultations, legal learning materials, live-streamed legal counseling sessions, and more.¹⁷

Activities to build public legal awareness are expected to align with the public's understanding of the law, especially among those who live far from urban areas. In other words, to realize public legal awareness, effective instruments are needed so that the law can be implemented in accordance with the different conditions of society.¹⁸ According to Soerjono Soekanto, the effectiveness of law depends on several factors, including legislation, law enforcement, facilities and infrastructure, society, and culture.¹⁹

Based on Soerjono Soekanto's previous opinion regarding the theory of legal effectiveness,²⁰ for the SAHABAT application to be effective in increasing public legal awareness, the initial model of the SAHABAT application attempted to fulfill several factors, including the first factor of legislation, which is stipulated in Articles 7 and 8 of the Regulation of the Minister of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia Number: M.01-PR.08.10 of 2006 concerning Legal Counseling Patterns, which indicates that legal counseling can be carried out through online methods, so that the SAHABAT application is not illegal or contrary to legislation, thereby adding to the legal clarity of this application.²¹ Second, the law enforcement factor: the SAHABAT application is planned to be managed by the West Kalimantan Provincial Office of the Ministry of Law, so that the application will run effectively with the involvement of village heads or paralegals, as well as assistance from academics, ensuring that the SAHABAT application remains in use while maintaining the quality and

¹⁷ Vladyslav Teremetskyi et al., "Application of Artificial Intelligence as a Way of Digitalizing the System of Justice: Legal, Economic and Social Issues," *Via Inveniendi Et Iudicandi* 20, no. 1 (July 2025): 122–32, <https://doi.org/10.15332/19090528.11118>.

¹⁸ Lawrence M. Friedman, "Legal Culture and Social Development," *Law & Society Review* 4, no. 1 (August 1969): 29–44, <https://doi.org/10.2307/3052760>.

¹⁹ Derita Prapti Rahayu et al., "Law Enforcement in the Context of Legal Culture in Society," *LAW REFORM* 16, no. 2 (September 2020): 276–89, <https://doi.org/10.14710/lr.v16i2.33780>.

²⁰ Galih Orlando, "Efektivitas Hukum Dan Fungsi Hukum Di Indonesia," *Tarbiyah Bil Qalam : Jurnal Pendidikan Agama Dan Sains* 6, no. 1 (December 2022), <https://doi.org/10.58822/tbq.v6i1.77>.

²¹ Firdaus Arifin, "An Assessment of the Productivity and Effectiveness of Law Making from the Legal Perspective of the Indonesian State," *International Journal of Law and Public Policy (IJLAPP)* 6, no. 1 (March 2024): 29–37, <https://doi.org/10.36079/lamintang.ijlapp-0601.653>.

credibility of conventional legal counseling methods. Third, in terms of facilities, the SAHABAT application bridges the limitations of conventional legal counseling by offering website-based legal counseling that is more accessible, adaptive, and low-cost to operate. Fourth, for the community, the SAHABAT application is designed to be easier to use, more interactive, and more efficient so that it can be widely accepted and used. Finally, the cultural factor: the SAHABAT application is designed in accordance with local community values. In this case, there is some legal education material related to the “living law” embraced by the local community.²² Based on this, the SAHABAT application is expected to be a fun tool for the community to use to understand national and customary law in the region.

The SAHABAT application is an innovation designed to improve the effectiveness of legal services, particularly in conventional legal counseling methods considered suboptimal. This assessment is reinforced by the results of interviews conducted on August 4, 2025, at the Regional Office of the Ministry of Law, West Kalimantan Province, with 10 legal counseling respondents who stated that conventional methods are ineffective, as shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1. Conventional Legal Education is Ineffective

Answer	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Strongly agree	4	40%
Agree	4	40%
Neutral	2	20%
Disagree	0	0%

²² Agustinus Astono et al., “Customary Law of Nyampokng Padi As A Practice of Mystical Justice,” *Lex Localis - Journal of Local Self-Government* 23, no. 10 (July 2025): 65–75.

Strongly disagree	0	0%
Total	10	100%

Based on the results of the interviews, the majority of legal advisors at the West Kalimantan Provincial Office of the Ministry of Law agreed that conventional legal counseling methods were no longer effective. Furthermore, according to the results of subsequent interviews, the factors contributing to the ineffectiveness of conventional legal counseling are travel time to the location where the legal counseling will be conducted and high travel costs. The data can be seen in Table 2 below:

Table 2. Time and Cost are the Main Obstacles to Conventional Legal Education

Answer	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Strongly agree	4	40%
Agree	6	60%
Neutral	0	0%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly disagree	0	0%
Total	10	100%

Based on data related to the main obstacles to conventional legal counseling from legal counselors at the West Kalimantan Provincial Office of the Ministry of Law, in accordance with data obtained on August 13 and 19, 2025, from 23 village heads from the Sambas Regency Government as well as from several village heads in the Singkawang

Municipality, totaling 22 people, who stated that the communities of several villages in Sambas and Singkawang complained that not all community members could participate in conventional legal counseling, especially since the distance between residents' homes and the village office was far, causing obstacles in conventional legal counseling, as can be seen in Table 3 below:

Table 3. Conventional Legal Education is Difficult for the Community to Access

Answer	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Strongly agree	12	26,7%
Agree	26	57,8%
Neutral	5	11,1%
Disagree	2	4,4%
Strongly disagree	0	0%
Total	45	100%

Based on Table 3, the majority of respondents (84.5%) and village heads in Sambas and Singkawang reported limited access to, or difficulty accessing, conventional legal counseling in their respective areas. Based on the responses from legal advisors at the West Kalimantan Provincial Office of the Ministry of Law and village heads in Sambas and Singkawang Municipality, there is a common perception of the need for a more efficient, effective, and accessible method of legal counseling for the entire community. Based on this, an initial model for the SAHABAT application was formulated as a website-based legal counseling model.

Furthermore, based on the results of interviews with legal advisors at the West Kalimantan Provincial Office of the Ministry of Law regarding

the need for website-based legal counseling methods, the data is presented in Table 4 below:

Table 4. The Need for Website-Based Media to Facilitate Legal Education

Answer	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Strongly agree	5	50%
Agree	4	40%
Neutral	1	10%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly disagree	0	0%
Total	10	100%

Based on Table 4, 90% of respondents agreed that website-based applications, such as SAHABAT, are necessary to facilitate legal education activities in the digital age. The results of the interviews based on Table 4 are in line with the results of interviews with village heads in Sambas and Singkawang regarding the potential for legal counseling conducted through digital applications to increase public legal awareness, as shown in Table 5 below:

Table 5. Respondents' Belief in the Effectiveness of Digital Legal Education

Answer	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Strongly agree	24	53,3%
Agree	21	46,7%
Neutral	0	0%

Disagree	0	0%
Strongly disagree	0	0%
Total	45	100%

Based on Table 5, the majority of respondents (100%) are optimistic and believe that digital legal education applications have the potential to increase public legal awareness significantly. The respondents' optimism aligns with the interview findings, which show that conventional methods are considered ineffective, so the SAHABAT application is presented as the solution to the need for more efficient, adaptive, and accessible website-based legal education.

Based on interviews with respondents, it can be confirmed that the Government of Sambas Regency, Singkawang City, and the Regional Office of the Ministry of Law of West Kalimantan Province require digital legal education media to overcome the limitations of conventional methods. The SAHABAT application is presented as an initial model that offers greater effectiveness, efficiency, and accessibility. It thus has the potential to become a strategic instrument for increasing public legal awareness in the digital era.

B. Preliminary Design of the SAHABAT Application as an Innovation in Digital Legal Education

Technological developments, particularly in the field of the internet, have had a significant impact in Indonesia. According to data from the Indonesian Internet Service Providers Association, 229.4 million people, or around 80.66% of the Indonesian population, have accessed the internet.²³ Furthermore, according to data from the Indonesian Internet Service Providers Association in early 2025, one of the most accessed content types, accounting for around 14.90%, was news and educational

²³ Rita Puspita Sari, "Pengguna Internet RI 2025 Tembus 229,4 Juta, Gen Z Mendominasi," August 2025.

content on topics such as politics, law, and human rights. Based on this, most internet users in Indonesia read legal news and learn about existing laws online.

The internet is a flexible medium for accessing information, especially legal information.²⁴ While it is useful for learning, it can also be a medium that causes bias or misinterpretation in understanding the law.²⁵ Based on this, legal information in digital media, especially in learning contexts, to increase public legal awareness, needs to be balanced with guidance and coaching from parties with knowledge and credibility in the legal field.²⁶ Therefore, a digital media design is needed that is independent, credible, and high-quality, and that focuses on increasing public knowledge of the law.²⁷

The emergence of the initial model of the SAHABAT application as an innovative digital legal education model is a first step toward providing credible, independent, and high-quality legal learning media for the public. The idea behind the SAHABAT application aligns with responsive law theory, which emphasizes that law is essentially a recipient of social change, aimed at achieving justice and public emancipation.²⁸ In this sense, the SAHABAT application is a response to public aspirations and the times, aimed at achieving legal awareness, manifested through an efficient and effective legal learning website tailored to the needs of the community.

²⁴ Namho Chung and Chulmo Koo, "The Use of Social Media in Travel Information Search," *Telematics and Informatics* 32, no. 2 (May 2015): 215–29, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tele.2014.08.005>.

²⁵ Emi Puasa Handayana, Zainal Arifin, and Zico Junius Fernando, "Criminal Penalties in Cyberspace: Between the Development of Digital Democracy and Authoritarianism," *Indonesian Journal of Criminal Law Studies* 10, no. 1 (2025), <https://doi.org/10.15294/ijcls.v10i1.19652>.

²⁶ Yufen Chen et al., "How Does Digital Transformation Empower Knowledge Creation? Evidence from Chinese Manufacturing Enterprises," *Journal of Innovation & Knowledge* 9, no. 2 (April 2024): 100481, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jik.2024.100481>.

²⁷ Christian Matt et al., "Towards a Multicentric Quality Framework for Legal Information Portals: An Application to the DACH Region," *Government Information Quarterly* 40, no. 4 (October 2023): 101840, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.giq.2023.101840>.

²⁸ Wawan Andriawan, "Pancasila Perspective on the Development of Legal Philosophy: Relation of Justice and Progressive Law," *Volksgeist: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum Dan Konstitusi* 5, no. 1 (June 2022): 1–11, <https://doi.org/10.24090/volksgeist.v5i1.6361>.

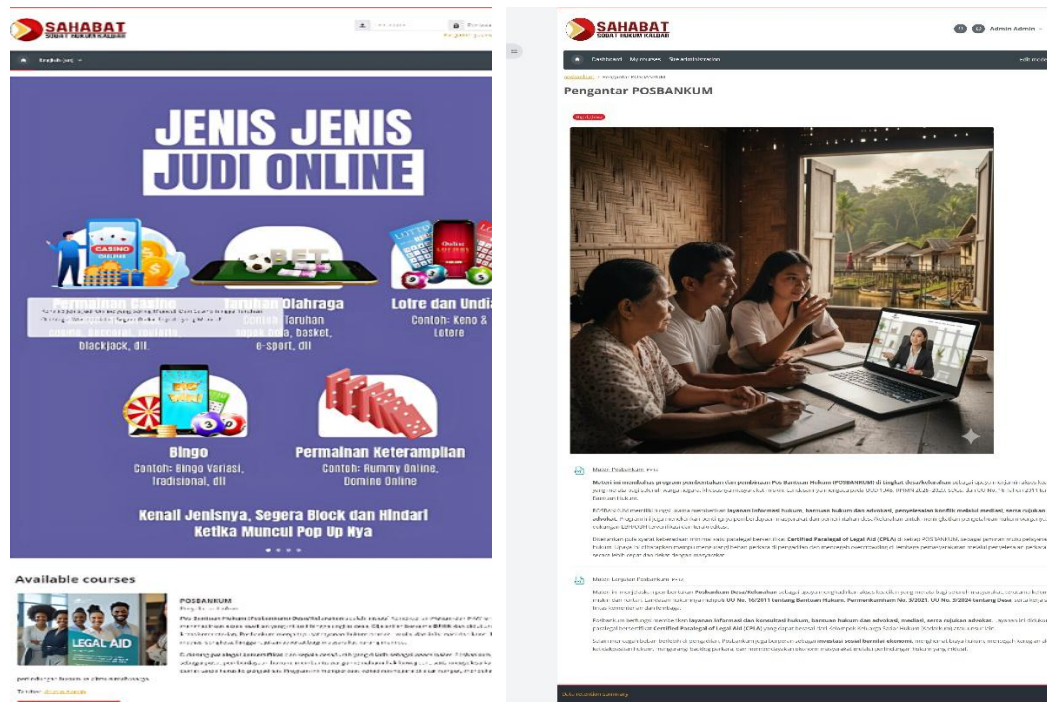
According to Nonet and Selznick, responsive law places law not merely as an instrument of control, but as a means that is sensitive to social conditions and public aspirations.²⁹ The open nature of responsive law allows for the accommodation of dynamic social change, so that the main objectives of law, namely the achievement of substantive justice and public emancipation, can be realized. Based on Nonet and Selznick's view, the SAHABAT application can be understood as an embodiment of responsive law because it not only stops at the rigid delivery of legal norms but also provides a functional, pragmatic, purposeful, and rational medium for learning about law.³⁰ Furthermore, responsive law emphasizes that the legitimacy of law rests on substantive justice, so that regulations are subordinate only to principles and policies. Based on this understanding, the legal content presented through the SAHABAT application is expected not only to be limited to the text of regulations but also to provide explanations, analyses of objectives, and their social implications for society. This is in line with the responsive law school of thought, which demands that legal considerations be oriented towards the objectives and consequences for the public interest by fostering cooperation among legal educators, academics, and the community.

Based on our understanding of the SAHABAT application, which was initially designed to respond to the needs of the community, the features presented in the SAHABAT application include a login feature for legal advisors, a login feature for members of the community who want to learn about the law, classes tailored to learning needs, and a question and answer feature for discussions between legal advisors and the community. Additional features in the SAHABAT application include legal infographics, trending news, and a simple chat feature for legal counseling services. The features in the SAHABAT application can be seen as shown in Figure 1 below:

²⁹ John W. Murphy, "Social Ontology and Responsive Law," in *Practical Reasoning in Human Affairs* (Dordrecht: Springer Netherlands, 1986), 341–55, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-009-4674-3_18.

³⁰ Philippe Nonet and Philip Selznick, *Law and Society in Transition: Toward Responsive Law*, *Law and Society in Transition: Toward Responsive Law*, 2017, <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203787540>.

Figure 1. SAHABAT Application Features



In line with the features presented in the SAHABAT application, based on respondent data collected from village heads in Sambas Regency and Singkawang Municipality, the legal content needed for learning that is in line with community preferences can be seen in Table 6 below:

Table 6. Interactive Content Preferences

Answer	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Strongly agree	23	51,1%
Agree	22	48,9%
Neutral	0	0%
Disagree	0	0%

Strongly disagree	0	0%
Total	45	100%

Based on the respondent data, 100% of respondents prefer interesting, interactive content when learning or understanding the law. This aligns with the SAHABAT application, which provides interactive content, such as infographics, to encourage people to learn about the law. In addition, respondents indicated that the public not only wants interactive legal content but also hopes to be directly involved in developing it. These preferences can be seen in Table 7 below:

Table 7. Community Participation in Digital Content Development

Answer	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Strongly agree	23	51,1%
Agree	21	46,7%
Neutral	1	2,2%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly disagree	0	0%
Total	45	100%

Based on Table 7, the majority of respondents (97.8%) wanted to be involved in determining the direction of legal content needed in the legal education process. This is in line with the SAHABAT application, which provides features to open learning classes according to needs, ensuring the content studied is appropriate and suitable for the community's needs. To further ensure that the community's needs to understand the law are met,

the initial design of the SAHABAT application involved legal educators and village heads in Sambas and Singkawang. In the focus group discussion that was conducted, the need for the SAHABAT application was stated as shown in Table 8 below:

Table 8. Willingness to Use the SAHABAT Application in Sambas and Singkawang

Answer	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Strongly agree	24	53,3%
Agree	21	46,7%
Neutral	0	0%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly disagree	0	0%
Total	45	100%

Based on Table 8, the majority of respondents in Sambas and Singkawang expressed their willingness to use the SAHABAT application as a learning medium to raise public awareness of the law. In line with this, based on data obtained from respondents from the West Kalimantan Provincial Office of the Ministry of Law, support for the introduction of the SAHABAT application as a digital legal education medium can be seen in Table 9 below:

Table 9. Government Support in the Development of the SAHABAT Application

Answer	Number of Respondents	Percentage
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Strongly agree	4	40%
Agree	6	60%
Neutral	0	0%
Disagree	0	0%
Strongly disagree	0	0%
Total	10	100%

Based on Table 9 below, all respondents from the West Kalimantan Provincial Office of the Ministry of Law supported the use of the SAHABAT application as a website-based legal education medium. This support from the government is proof that the SAHABAT application is needed, especially for legal education activities in West Kalimantan Province. In addition, respondents from Sambas Regency and Singkawang Municipality, as well as the Regional Office of the Ministry of Law of West Kalimantan Province, emphasized the need for the SAHABAT application, which is expected to have strong potential to improve public legal awareness.

The design of the initial SAHABAT application model can be viewed as part of a progressive line of legal products. According to Satjipto Rahardjo, progressive law stems from the philosophy that law is for people, not people for law.³¹ With this understanding, the law must serve the interests of society and public welfare. The quality of law is determined by its courage to side with justice and democracy.³² Therefore, government support for the development of the SAHABAT application is in line with the spirit of progressive law, which is to present laws that are pro-justice,

³¹ Candra Perbawati et al., "Progressive Law and Legal Discourse on the Determination of Customary Forests," *Fiat Justisia: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum* 17, no. 1 (March 2023): 17–30, <https://doi.org/10.25041/fiatjustisia.v17no1.2815>.

³² Rahmad Satria et al., "Progresifitas Hukum Adat Dayak Kanayat'n Dalam Menjaga Ekosistem Lingkungan Hidup," *Jurnal Adat Dan Budaya Indonesia* 6, no. 2 (2024), <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.23887/jabi.v6i2.66723>.

pro-people, and adaptive to social change. Based on the progressive legal view, the SAHABAT application is not only a digital instrument but also a reflection of efforts to transform the law into a more humanistic, responsive, and open framework that better meets society's needs.

Furthermore, the progressive legal paradigm also emphasizes the importance of the roles of legal actors and state institutions in making breakthroughs for the benefit of the people.³³ In this context, the SAHABAT application can be seen as a form of courage and innovation in presenting legal education methods that are oriented towards the needs of the times. The SAHABAT application does not merely convey the text of regulations, but also processes them in an interactive, easy-to-understand, and participatory format. Based on this approach, legal education is no longer presented as a rigid, bureaucratic, and conventional entity, but rather as a virtual educational tool that liberates and empowers the community from conventional, old-fashioned methods.

Conclusion

To raise public awareness of the law, digital legal education media is needed that can overcome the limitations of conventional methods, which have been hampered by factors such as access, cost, and time. This is in line with the theory of legal effectiveness, which emphasizes the importance of regulations, law enforcement, facilities, society, and culture for the law to function optimally. To address these needs, the initial model of the SAHABAT website-based application was designed with interactive features, including infographics, videos, learning classes, and question-and-answer forums, all of which are easily accessible and participatory. The initial model of the SAHABAT application reflects the application of responsive law theory, which presents law as an open, adaptive, and responsive means to public aspirations with a focus on substantive justice. Furthermore, the SAHABAT application also reflects the spirit of the

³³ Erlyn Indarti, "Progressive Law Revealed: A Legal Philosophical Overview," *Diponegoro Law Review* 3, no. 1 (August 2018): 28, <https://doi.org/10.14710/dilrev.3.1.2018.28-42>.

progressive legal paradigm, which places the law as a means to serve the interests of the community, so that the courage to innovate digitally through the initial model of the SAHABAT application can be seen as a tangible manifestation of pro-people, pro-justice, and pro-common welfare law.

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During the preparation of this manuscript, the author utilized generative artificial intelligence as a supportive tool to assist in translation and to improve the quality of English writing. Following its use, the author conducted a thorough critical review, editing, and validation to ensure accuracy and scientific integrity. Full responsibility for the final content remains with the author. The use of artificial intelligence was limited to a supportive role and is not recognized as constituting authorship. No data analysis or substantive interpretation was carried out by artificial intelligence without human oversight.

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