



## Increasing Human Rights (HAM) Understanding for Triguna Utama Vocational High School Students as an Effort to Build Legal Awareness from an Early Age

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### ABSTRAK

This community service initiative, conducted by the Faculty of Law at Pamulang University, addresses growing educational challenges regarding Human Rights (HAM) among teenagers. Titled "Increasing Understanding of Human Rights (HAM) for Students of SMK Triguna Utama as an Effort to Build Legal Awareness from an Early Age," the activity aimed to instill a foundational understanding of human rights, their legal framework in Indonesia, and practical implications within school and social environments. Through interactive counseling and real-life case discussions, the program successfully fostered critical thinking, civic responsibility, and respect for others' rights among participants. Students demonstrated high engagement, particularly concerning legal limits and risks associated with technology misuse. To expand its impact and contribute to academic literature, the outcomes of this initiative will be published as a scientific article in an ISSN-registered national journal and covered by online media outlets to promote broader digital ethics. Ultimately, this program demonstrates a vital synergy between academia and social needs, serving as a replicable model for educational institutions to cultivate a legally aware, responsible, and high-integrity younger generation

## **INTRODUCTION**

Human Rights (HR) are a set of basic rights that belong to every person from birth as a gift from God Almighty. These rights are universal, cannot be taken away, and must be respected, protected, and upheld by the state, law, government, and every individual without exception. In the context of national life, the existence of human rights is one of the key indicators in assessing a country's level of civilization, justice, and democracy. Therefore, understanding and respecting human rights should be instilled from an early age in all layers of society, especially the younger generation as the nation's future.

In Indonesia, the recognition of human rights has been explicitly regulated in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, especially from Article 28A to Article 28J. In addition, further regulations regarding human rights are also outlined in Law Number 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights. This shows that the country has a strong commitment to ensuring the protection and enforcement of human rights for every citizen. However, even though it is well-regulated normatively, in practice, various forms of human rights violations are still often found in society.

Human rights violations don't just happen on a large scale, like social conflicts or other serious violations, but they also often happen in everyday life, including in educational settings. Things like bullying, discrimination, verbal or physical abuse, and unfair treatment of fellow students are real examples of human rights violations that often occur at school. This shows that there's still a low level of understanding and awareness about the importance of respecting other people's rights, especially among students.

The educational environment should be a safe, comfortable, and conducive place for students to grow, both intellectually, emotionally, and socially. However, if human rights values are not well understood and applied, the potential for violations will increase. Therefore, systematic and ongoing efforts are needed to improve students' understanding of human rights, so they can recognize their own rights and responsibilities and respect the rights of others in everyday life.

Vocational high school students (SMK) are an important part of the younger generation who play a strategic role in the nation's development. During their teenage years, students are at a stage of development that is very vulnerable to environmental influences, both positive and negative. That's why shaping character and instilling legal values, including understanding human rights, is really important at this stage. With a good understanding, students are expected to become individuals who are not only smart academically but also have integrity, empathy, and a strong sense of legal awareness.

Legal awareness is one of the important aspects in creating a well-organized, fair, and harmonious society. Legal awareness is not just about knowing the rules that apply, but also includes attitudes and behaviors that reflect compliance with the law. In this context, understanding human rights becomes an inseparable part of efforts to build legal awareness, because human rights are directly related to the rights and obligations of each individual in community life.

Legal awareness is one of the important aspects of creating a well-organized, fair, and harmonious society. Being aware of the law isn't just about knowing the rules, but also about attitudes and behaviors that show you're following them. In this sense, understanding human rights is a key part of building legal awareness, because human rights are directly connected to everyone's rights and responsibilities in everyday life.

Outreach activities are a form of community service aimed at providing education, information, and understanding to the public about a particular topic. In this context, human rights outreach for vocational high school students is very relevant as an effort to increase their knowledge and awareness of the importance of respecting human rights. Through these outreach activities, it is hoped that students will not only gain theoretical knowledge but also be able to understand how to apply human rights values in their daily lives.

SMK Triguna Utama, as one of the educational institutions, plays an important role in shaping students' character not only to be skilled in vocational fields but also to have good legal awareness. Therefore, carrying out community service activities in the form of human rights counseling at SMK Triguna Utama becomes a strategic step to support the creation of an educational environment based on humanitarian values, justice, and respect for human rights.

This activity is designed with a communicative, interactive, and participatory approach so that students can more easily understand the material being presented. The counseling material includes the definition of human rights, the legal basis of human rights in Indonesia, types of human rights, examples of human rights violations in the surrounding environment, as well as the importance of maintaining a balance between rights and responsibilities. In addition, students are also invited to discuss and analyze simple cases related to human rights, so that they can develop critical and reflective thinking skills.

With this outreach activity, it is hoped that students will have a better understanding of human rights, which can lead to changes in their attitudes and behaviors to be more respectful of others' rights. Students are expected to be able to avoid actions that violate human rights and actively contribute to creating a safe, fair, and harmonious environment, both at school and in the community.

Furthermore, this activity is also expected to make a positive contribution in fostering a culture of legal awareness from an early age. Legal awareness is an important foundation for creating an orderly and just society. By instilling human rights understanding in students early on, it is hoped that they will grow into individuals with a strong sense of the law and be able to become agents of change in their communities.

Besides that, this community service activity also serves as a way for universities or organizers to directly contribute to improving the quality of education and legal awareness in society. Through the synergy between the educational world and the community, it is hoped that a supportive environment for the sustainable enforcement of human rights will be created.

Based on this explanation, this Community Service activity is carried out with the theme "Outreach to the Community on Increasing Understanding of Human Rights (HAM) for Triguna Utama Vocational High School Students as an

Effort to Build Legal Awareness from an Early Age." This activity is expected to be one concrete effort to improve students' understanding and awareness of the importance of human rights, as well as to encourage the creation of a young generation with character, integrity, and law-abiding behavior.

In the end, the success of this activity is not only measured by the increase in students' knowledge, but also by changes in attitudes and behaviors that reflect respect for human rights in everyday life. In this way, it is hoped that human rights values can become deeply rooted in students and become part of a growing culture both in schools and in the wider community.

Based on this issue, we intend to provide outreach to the community about increasing understanding of human rights (HAM) for Triguna Utama Vocational High School students as an effort to build legal awareness from an early age.

## **IMPLEMENTATION AND METHOD**

The research method used in this legal counseling activity is the empirical legal research method (socio-legal research) with a qualitative approach. This method was chosen because the research not only examines legal provisions normatively but also looks at how the law is understood, responded to, and implemented in the social life of teenagers at SMK Triguna. Empirical legal research is used to see the law as social behavior (law in action), especially in the context of students' understanding of regulations regarding the legal age of marriage and the impact of early marriage on their future. This approach allows researchers to identify gaps between the law as written (law in the books) and the reality of understanding and practice in the field (law in society).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **The Concept of Community Empowerment**

The concept of community empowerment is about giving people the ability to improve their skills and independence so they can solve problems or find solutions within their community. Empowerment isn't just about providing aid or facilities; it focuses more on developing awareness, capacity, and skills so that people no longer rely on outside help. According to participatory development theory, empowerment should be carried out with the principle of active participation, where the community is directly involved in every stage, from planning and implementation to program evaluation. Empowerment also emphasizes principles of equality, fairness, and sustainability, so the results achieved aren't just temporary but bring about long-term change.

With empowerment, communities are encouraged to be more critical, have social control, and be capable in economic, social, legal, and cultural areas. Therefore, the concept of community empowerment can be understood as a strategy that prioritizes strengthening the capacities of individuals and groups to create an independent, prosperous society that is aware of its rights and obligations in community and national life. Empowerment can also be seen as a positive effort to change weak or powerless conditions into strong and independent ones. According to Sumodiningrat and Wulandari, empowerment means giving encouragement or energy so that a person or group can move and

act independently. Additionally, empowerment is a strategic step to increase active community participation in the development process.

This involves a shift from a society that lacks knowledge, skills, or attitudes that support development, to a society that is more aware, skilled, and has a productive mindset. Community empowerment can be realized through active participation by the community, facilitated by empowerment actors. The main target of community empowerment is those who are weak and lack the power, strength, or ability to access productive resources, or communities that are marginalized in development. Community empowerment means that the community has the power, strength, or ability to identify potential and problems and can determine alternative solutions independently. Community empowerment is measured through three aspects: (a) decision-making ability, (b) independence, and (c) the ability to utilize efforts for the future.

### **Counseling**

Counseling is an effort to spread information and knowledge so that communities behave in accordance with everyday life. Counseling is a process of educating, communicating, influencing, and motivating so that people can solve their own problems by finding their own solutions through positive behavior. Counseling is not just about giving information or knowledge but also guiding the community to lead a quality life and bring new ideas to life. Counseling comes from the word 'extension,' which is used widely and commonly in Indonesian. Extension comes from the root word 'suluh,' which means someone who gives light in the middle of darkness. In Dutch, extension is called 'Voorlichting,' which means providing illumination to help someone find their way. In English and German, extension is referred to as giving advice or 'Beratung,' which means someone can provide guidance to another person, but that person has the right to make their own choice. For example, legal counseling is organized with the aim of creating better legal awareness in society so that every member of the community understands and internalizes their rights and obligations as citizens and fosters a legal culture in attitudes and behaviors that are conscious, compliant, and obedient to the law.

### **Education**

Education is a process carried out by someone to discover their true self, done by observing and learning, which then leads to actions and behavior. Education is actually not much different from learning, as developed by the behaviorism approach in psychology. It's just that this term is often understood and interpreted differently from learning, which simply means to learn. And this term is often used in educational approaches, which of course means more than just learning.

Education is a learning process aimed at developing an individual's potential in terms of knowledge, skills, attitudes, and habits. Education doesn't only happen formally at school or educational institutions, but it can also take place non-formally or informally in everyday life. This process involves guidance that is done consciously so that a person can experience positive changes in the way they think, feel, and act. Education also plays an important role in shaping

a person's character and morals, so that they are not only smart academically but also have good and responsible behavior. Through education, individuals are expected to become independent, broad-minded, and able to make a positive contribution to society.

### **Human Rights**

Human Rights (HR) are the basic rights that belong to every person from birth as a gift from God Almighty. HR is universal, cannot be taken away, and must be respected, protected, and fulfilled by the state, society, and every individual. Understanding HR is really important to instill in students because it can help shape character that respects human dignity, upholds justice, and creates a harmonious social life.

In the context of education, understanding human rights isn't just about theoretical knowledge, but also a way to build awareness of the law and democratic culture. Therefore, human rights education needs to be given systematically so that students can understand the basic concepts, types, and principles of human rights in everyday life.

In general, Human Rights are a set of rights inherent to the nature and existence of humans as creatures of God Almighty, which must be respected, upheld, and protected by the state, law, government, and every individual. According to Article 1, point 1 of Law Number 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights, human rights are a set of rights inherent to the nature and existence of humans as creatures of God Almighty and are His gift that must be respected, upheld, and protected by the state, law, government, and every individual for the honor and protection of human dignity.

From that understanding, it can be seen that human rights are not rights given by the state, but rights that every person has had since birth. Human rights can be classified into several types, namely:

### **Civil and Political Rights**

Rights related to individual freedom and participation in national life, such as: Hak hidup.

- The right to get legal protection
- The right to freedom of opinion.
- The right to vote and be elected in elections.
- The right to freedom of religion.

### **Economic Rights**

Rights related to economic activities and individual welfare, such as:

- The right to get a job.
- The right to receive fair pay.
- The right to own property.
- The right to run a business.

### **Social and Cultural Rights**

Rights that support the social and cultural development of the community, such as:

- The right to get an education.
- The right to receive healthcare services.
- The right to enjoy culture.
- The right to social security.

### **Collective Rights and Solidarity Rights**

Rights that are collectively held by a group or community, such as:

- The right to a good and healthy environment.
- The right to development.
- The right to self-determination.
- The right to peace.

### **Forms of Legal Counseling on Understanding Human Rights (HAM) for SMK Triguna Utama Students as an Effort to Build Legal Awareness Early On**

Legal counseling is a form of legal education for the community aimed at increasing knowledge, understanding, and legal awareness. In an educational setting, legal counseling becomes a strategic means to instill legal values in students from an early age. One important topic to teach students is understanding Human Rights, because human rights are directly related to everyday life and the formation of democratic and responsible citizens.

Vocational high school (SMK) students are at a stage of development that makes them vulnerable to various social influences, both at school and in the community. Because of that, understanding human rights needs to be provided through legal education activities so that students can recognize their rights and responsibilities, respect the rights of others, and avoid behaviors that could potentially break the law.

#### **a. Legal Counseling on Understanding Human Rights and Human Rights Regulations**

The legal counseling on Understanding Human Rights (HAM) for students at SMK Triguna Utama is an important step in building legal awareness from an early age. By understanding the concept of human rights and the regulations that govern them, students can grasp their rights and obligations as individuals and citizens. The main regulations forming the basis of this human rights counseling include the 1945 Constitution of Indonesia, Law No. 39 of 1999 on Human Rights, the Child Protection Law, the National Education System Law, and the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In this way, legal counseling is expected to help shape a young generation that is legally aware, respects the rights of others, and actively contributes to creating a just and dignified life.

## **b. Legal Education on the Consequences of Human Rights Violations at Triguna Utama Vocational High School**

Legal education on human rights in the school environment plays a crucial role in enhancing students' legal understanding and awareness. In addition to providing an understanding of rights and obligations, such education must also link the material to various forms of human rights violations that may occur within the school environment. In this way, students can understand the consequences of human rights violations—for victims, perpetrators, and the school community as a whole. At SMK Triguna Utama, legal education on human rights can serve as a preventive measure to stop actions that violate students' rights, such as bullying, discrimination, physical or verbal violence, and violations of the right to a safe and comfortable education.

### **Potential Forms of Human Rights Violations in the School Environment**

Some forms of human rights violations that can occur in schools include:

#### **1. Bullying**

Bullying is the repeated act of intimidating, humiliating, excluding, or using violence against someone. These actions violate students' right to feel safe and to be treated with dignity.

#### **2. Discrimination**

Discrimination occurs when students are treated differently because of their ethnicity, religion, race, gender, economic status, or other background. These actions contradict the principles of equality and non-discrimination in human rights.

#### **3. Physical and Verbal Violence**

Hitting, kicking, threatening, insulting, or belittling others constitutes a violation of the right to safety and personal protection.

#### **4. Violations of the Right to Education**

Preventing students from receiving an education, engaging in intimidation that discourages students from learning, or creating a learning environment that is not conducive to learning can be categorized as violations of the right to education.

### **Participatory Education as a Strategy for Prevention and Strengthening Legal Awareness Among Adolescents**

The legal education program at SMK Triguna is also designed to be participatory, encouraging students' active involvement in the learning process and the prevention of early marriage. The methods used include group discussions, real-life case studies relevant to adolescents' lives, decision-making simulations, and interactive Q&A sessions that allow students to share their perspectives and experiences. Through this approach, students are not merely the recipients of education but active participants encouraged to think critically about social norms and environmental pressures that drive early marriage. Additionally, the program emphasizes the development of legal awareness—the ability of

adolescents to recognize legal and social risks, understand their rights and obligations, and make responsible decisions regarding their educational and career futures. Thus, legal education does not stop at the transfer of knowledge but serves as a means of empowerment that fosters awareness, self-resilience, and a commitment among Triguna Vocational High School students to avoid human rights violations and build legal awareness.

### **The Impact of Human Rights Violations on Students**

Human rights violations in the school environment can have a significant impact on students' development. Forms of violations such as bullying, discrimination, physical and verbal violence, and social exclusion not only harm individual victims but can also disrupt the creation of a safe and conducive educational environment. Therefore, students need to be educated about the impact of human rights violations as part of efforts to build legal awareness from an early age.

#### **1. Psychological Impact**

Human rights violations can cause various psychological disorders in victims. Students who are victims of bullying or discrimination often experience stress, anxiety, fear, loss of self-confidence, and even depression. In more serious cases, victims may suffer from prolonged trauma that affects their emotional development and mental health. These conditions can hinder students' ability to interact and adapt to the school environment.

#### **2. Academic Impact**

In addition to affecting psychological well-being, human rights violations also impact students' academic performance. Victims often struggle to concentrate during learning activities due to the mental pressure they face. Consequently, their motivation to learn decreases, school attendance drops, and academic performance suffers. In some cases, students may even lose interest in continuing their education due to an unsupportive learning environment.

#### **3. Social Impact**

Human rights violations can damage social relationships among the school community. Acts of discrimination and bullying have the potential to create exclusive cliques that trigger conflict and division among students. These conditions erode the sense of solidarity, togetherness, and tolerance that should form the core values of an educational environment. Consequently, a school atmosphere emerges that is less harmonious and not conducive to students' development.

#### **4. Legal Consequences**

Certain human rights violations may result in legal consequences for the perpetrators. Acts of physical violence, severe bullying, harassment, or discrimination may be subject to sanctions in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, such as Law No. 39 of 1999 on Human Rights, Law No. 35 of 2014 on Child Protection, and regulations regarding the prevention and handling of

violence in educational institutions. Understanding these legal consequences is crucial so that students realize that any action violating another person's rights can result in legal liability.

### **5. Impact on the School Environment**

Human rights violations affect not only the individuals involved but also the school environment as a whole. A school where cases of bullying, discrimination, or violence frequently occur loses its function as a safe and comfortable learning environment. This can diminish the quality of the educational process, erode parents' trust in the school, and hinder the development of students' character based on humanistic and legal values.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The legal education program on Understanding Human Rights (HR) for students at Triguna Utama Vocational High School is a strategic initiative aimed at fostering legal awareness from an early age. Through this program, students gain an understanding of the basic concepts of human rights, the various types of human rights, the principles of human rights, as well as the rights and obligations they possess as citizens and students. This understanding is crucial for shaping students' character to respect human dignity, uphold the value of justice, and live harmoniously in a diverse environment.

The implementation of this legal education program is grounded in a strong legal foundation, namely Articles 28A through 28J of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Law No. 39 of 1999 on Human Rights, Law No. 35 of 2014 on Child Protection, and Law No. 20 of 2003 on the National Education System. These regulations affirm that every student has the right to protection, education, a sense of security, and fair treatment without discrimination.

The results of the outreach program indicate that an understanding of human rights can increase students' awareness of the importance of respecting others' rights and avoiding actions that could potentially violate human rights, such as bullying, discrimination, physical or verbal violence, and social exclusion. Furthermore, an understanding of human rights also contributes to creating a safe, conducive, and law-abiding school environment.

Conversely, human rights violations in the school environment can have various negative impacts, whether psychological, academic, social, or legal. Therefore, human rights education and outreach must be conducted continuously to foster a culture of mutual respect, tolerance, and legal awareness among students at SMK Triguna Utama.

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