

STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING LEGAL AWARENESS OF CRIMINAL ACTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND NARCOTICS AMONG THE COMMUNITY IN TAMBAKREJO URBAN VILLAGE SEMARANG CITY

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ABSTRACT

This community service article discusses the implementation of legal counseling on criminal acts of domestic violence and narcotics as a strategy to improve public legal awareness in Tambakrejo Urban Village, Semarang City. This activity was based on the fact that domestic violence is still often viewed as a private matter, while narcotics abuse is frequently understood merely as a criminal problem without sufficient knowledge of prevention, rehabilitation, and family protection. The objective of this community service activity was to improve public understanding of the forms, consequences, sanctions, and handling mechanisms of domestic violence, while also increasing public literacy regarding the dangers of narcotics, criminal consequences, and the importance of a rehabilitative approach for abusers. The method used was a participatory-educative approach with a socio-legal orientation through the stages of problem identification, coordination with urban village officials, preparation of materials, pre-test, interactive lecture, case discussion, legal consultation, post-test, and evaluation. The activity was held on June 25, 2026, at the Tambakrejo Urban Village Hall and involved 100 participants consisting of housewives, youth, community leaders, PKK cadres, and neighborhood officials. The results showed an increase in participants' understanding of the definition and forms of domestic violence, victims' rights, reporting procedures, and the relationship between narcotics abuse and family vulnerability. Participants also gained greater knowledge of offender classifications, the importance of rehabilitation, and the role of the family as an early detection system. Thus, integrated legal counseling on domestic violence and narcotics is effective as a preventive instrument to strengthen family resilience, build a community legal culture, and encourage citizens to seek appropriate assistance.

A. INTRODUCTION

Community service is an integral part of the tridharma of higher education, which places knowledge not only in the classroom but also transforms it into an instrument of social empowerment. In the context of legal science, community service is not merely a ceremonial social activity, but an educative process to broaden public access to legal knowledge, strengthen citizens' ability to recognize their rights and obligations, and build the courage to use legal mechanisms when facing concrete problems in everyday life.¹ Legal counseling is one of the most relevant forms of community service because it functions as a bridge between abstract legal norms and the social realities faced by society. When the law is understood by the community, it can work as a means of prevention, protection, and problem solving.

The need for legal counseling becomes increasingly urgent when society faces problems that have a criminal dimension but are often hidden, normalized, or misunderstood. Two prominent issues in this context are domestic violence and narcotics abuse. Both are not merely criminal law issues, but also social, cultural, health, and family resilience issues. Domestic violence directly affects human dignity, victim safety, child development, and household stability, while narcotics abuse has serious impacts on physical and mental health, social productivity, and environmental security.² In practice, these two problems often intersect. Households characterized by unequal power relations are vulnerable to violence, while narcotics abuse within the family can trigger conflict, neglect of responsibility, economic pressure, and further violence.

Normatively, the state has provided a legal framework to respond to domestic violence through Law Number 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence. This law defines domestic violence broadly, covering physical, psychological, sexual violence, and household neglect. Thus, domestic violence should not be narrowed only to acts of beating or assault. In many cases, degrading verbal abuse, continuous threats, forced sexual relations, economic control, and neglect of basic family needs are also forms of violence that carry legal consequences. Recent literature shows that the problem of domestic violence remains high not merely because of weak rules, but because of the strong culture of silence, victims' economic dependency, social pressure, and lack of public knowledge about available protection mechanisms.³

Domestic violence often occurs in a closed domestic space, making it difficult to detect at an early stage. Victims are often reluctant to report because of fear, shame, family pressure, or distrust that their reports will be adequately responded to. Some members of society still view marital problems as private matters that should be resolved inside the home,

1 Peter Mahmud Marzuki., *Penelitian Hukum*, Jakarta, Kencana, 2021, page. 35.

2 Muhamad Sadi Is, *Kapita Selekta Hukum Pidana Indonesia*, Jakarta, Prenadamedia Group, 2022, page. 187.

3 Yani Andriyani, Wasman, dan Didi Sukardi., Kekerasan dalam Rumah Tangga Perspektif Hukum Pidana Islam, *Jurnal Ilmiah Galuh Justisi*, Vol. 11, No. 2, 2023, page. 175–199.

whereas once violence occurs, the problem has entered the realm of law and human rights. This mistaken perception is one of the causes of low reporting, delayed handling, and recurring violence. Margie Gladies Sopacua's study emphasizes the importance of a concept of domestic violence prevention that focuses not only on enforcement after an incident has occurred, but also on forming collective awareness, strengthening women's position, and providing responsive social support.⁴

On the other hand, narcotics abuse is a serious threat that does not only target certain groups, but also reaches productive-age groups, adolescents, and even families. Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics clearly distinguishes between illicit narcotics trafficking and abuse for personal use, while regulating both criminal and rehabilitative dimensions. However, in public understanding, all narcotics issues are often generalized as criminal matters identical to imprisonment. As a result, families often delay seeking help because they fear stigma, fear criminal processing, or do not understand that certain users and addicts have access to medical and social rehabilitation mechanisms. An effective narcotics law approach is not sufficient if it only emphasizes punishment; it must also provide space for recovery, prevention, and social reintegration.⁵

Narcotics abuse has broad implications for family life. Substance dependence can reduce a person's ability to control emotions, trigger aggressive behavior, drain household finances, cause neglect of responsibilities, and increase the risk of domestic conflict. In certain situations, narcotics abuse even becomes one of the triggers of domestic violence. This means that the handling of domestic violence and narcotics cannot be placed in two entirely separate discussion spaces. Both need to be explained in an integrated manner so that society understands that family protection is not enough by knowing criminal threats alone, but also by building a prevention system based on families, neighborhoods, and easily accessible social services. An outreach approach that combines these two themes is relevant because the household is the meeting point of issues of violence, health, economy, and social moral development.⁶

From the perspective of strengthening legal culture, community legal counseling on domestic violence and narcotics is important because law will be effective when legal norms are known, understood, and trusted by society. Low legal knowledge causes citizens to be unable to identify when an act has fulfilled the elements of a crime, whom they should report to, what forms of protection can be obtained, and how the handling process is carried out. In domestic violence cases, lack of knowledge can cause victims to remain in dangerous situations. In narcotics cases, lack of understanding can cause families to fail to conduct early detection, take the wrong steps,

4 Margie Gladies Sopacua., Konsep Ideal Pencegahan Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga Terhadap Perempuan, *Jurnal Pembangunan Hukum Indonesia*, Vol. 4, No. 2, 2022, page. 213–226.

5 Taufik M. Makarao., *Tindak Pidana Narkotika*, Jakarta, Ghalia Indonesia, 2023, page. 54.

6 Muhamad Sadi Is., *Kapita Selekta Hukum Pidana Indonesia*, Jakarta, Prenadamedia Group, 2022, page. 201.

or even conceal the problem until it becomes more serious. Thus, legal education for society has both preventive and initial curative functions.

A number of recent studies and community service articles show that community-based legal socialization models have proven capable of improving citizens' knowledge of family and criminal issues. Zaini Munawir S., Ridho Mubarak, and Amrin Mulia Utama Nasution show that strengthening legal knowledge combined with strengthening family capacity can support the prevention of domestic violence more effectively.⁷ Dwi U. Pati, A. U. H. Pari, and M. Y. S. Boling also show that the socialization of legal protection for domestic violence victims encourages increased courage among citizens to recognize forms of violence and seek appropriate assistance.⁸ In the narcotics context, Iskandar and colleagues prove that the socialization of the dangers of drug abuse to young people effectively increases awareness of health, social, and legal impacts.⁹ These findings confirm that community-based educational intervention remains relevant and strategic.

Substantive legal studies also show that understanding domestic violence and narcotics cannot stop at memorizing statutory provisions. In domestic violence issues, society needs to understand the dimensions of victim protection, power relations, reporting barriers, and post-violence victim recovery. Yani Andriyani, Wasman, and Didi Sukardi emphasize that domestic violence handling must contain a perspective of justice, protection for vulnerable parties, and rejection of all forms of violence wrapped in cultural legitimacy or power relations within the household.¹⁰ In narcotics issues, Anna Ramdlonaning and Eva Achjani Zulfa emphasize the need for more effective and proportional rehabilitation policies for abusers, so that the legal response is not merely repressive, but also oriented toward recovery.¹¹ In other words, good legal counseling must simplify legal aspects without eliminating the substance of protection and justice.

Urban communities such as Tambakrejo Urban Village have complex social dynamics. On the one hand, social bonds remain relatively strong through RT, RW, PKK, youth organizations, and citizen forums. On the other hand, high mobility, economic pressure, diverse backgrounds, and changes in patterns of social interaction can create their own vulnerabilities. In such

7 Zaini Munawir S., Ridho Mubarak, dan Amrin Mulia Utama Nasution., Penguatan Pengetahuan Hukum dan Peningkatan Ekonomi Keluarga Guna Pencegahan KDRT, *ABDIRA: Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat*, Vol. 6, No. 1, 2026, page. 10–18.

8 Dwi U. Pati, A. U. H. Pari, dan M. Y. S. Boling., Sosialisasi tentang Perlindungan Hukum bagi Korban Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga (KDRT) di Desa Wee Patola Kecamatan Tana Righu, *Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat Bangsa*, Vol. 4, No. 4, 2026, page. 1548–1554.

9 Iskandar, M. Faisal Danil, Suriati, dkk., Sosialisasi Bahaya Penyalahgunaan Narkoba Bagi Generasi Muda Oleh Mahasiswa KKN UMMAT di Desa Nata, *Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat Bangsa*, Vol. 2, No. 8, 2024, page. 3292–3297.

10 Yani Andriyani, Wasman, dan Didi Sukardi., Kekerasan dalam Rumah Tangga Perspektif Hukum Pidana Islam, *Jurnal Ilmiah Galuh Justisi*, Vol. 11, No. 2, 2023, page. 175–199.

11 Anna Ramdlonaning dan Eva Achjani Zulfa., Analisis Kebijakan Rehabilitasi Bagi Penyalahguna Narkotika di Indonesia, *Jurnal Ius Constituendum*, Vol. 8, No. 1, 2023, page. 50–68.

conditions, family problems are often not revealed openly until they produce more serious consequences. Urban village officials and community leaders are often at the forefront when residents face domestic conflict, but the community's capacity to distinguish ordinary conflict from domestic violence, or to distinguish users, addicts, and narcotics dealers, is not always adequate. This situation demonstrates the need for legal counseling activities that are contextual, non-patronizing, and open to two-way consultation.

The choice of domestic violence and narcotics as themes was also based on the consideration that both issues touch the core of family resilience. A safe, healthy, and violence-free household is the foundation for the formation of a law-abiding society. Conversely, households marked by violence, narcotics dependence, inequality, and neglect of responsibilities will generate broader social problems, including children dropping out of school, poverty, psychological trauma, health disturbances, and derivative criminality. Therefore, community service is not sufficient if it only conveys criminal threats; it must also construct a new understanding that prevention begins in the family, that courage to report is a form of protection, and that rehabilitation for abusers is an effort to save the future of individuals and families.

From the perspective of criminal policy, domestic violence and narcotics offenses both show the importance of balancing law enforcement and protection for vulnerable parties. In domestic violence cases, victims need safety, assistance, access to health services, psychological support, and guarantees that the legal process will not worsen their position. In narcotics cases, the approach to dealers must be firm, but for certain abusers the state must also consider the obligation of rehabilitation as a form of protection and recovery. The problem that arises in society is a lack of knowledge about this boundary. Many families do not know when to report, where to complain, and how to distinguish the handling of victims from offenders. This knowledge gap is filled through community service activities.

Sociologically, legal counseling is also important to change the mindset that seeking help is not a disgrace. In domestic violence issues, the courage to report is often blocked by social questions that blame victims, such as the assumption that the victim is disobedient, exposes family problems too openly, or shames the husband. In narcotics issues, families often conceal family members who experience dependence because they fear being stigmatized by the neighborhood. Such stigma makes problems persist longer and narrows the available options for resolution. Through an empathetic, participatory, and dialogue-based educational approach, legal counseling can encourage a change in perspective that victim protection, rehabilitation, and prevention are part of the shared responsibility of society.

The urgency of this activity is strengthened by the fact that good law requires the support of a sensitive and responsive social structure. The urban village, RT/RW, PKK cadres, religious leaders, youth leaders, health workers, and local law enforcement officers have interrelated roles in

preventing and handling domestic violence and narcotics. However, such coordination will run more effectively if the community as service recipients understands the basic rights and procedures that apply. Legal counseling in the context of community service functions to build a meeting point between citizens and the existing service system. Thus, the expected result does not stop at increasing individual knowledge, but also includes the growth of social and institutional networks that are more responsive to family problems.

In the literature on law and community empowerment, legal counseling is understood not only as an activity of conveying information, but also as a process of transforming awareness. This means that society is not merely informed about the contents of regulations, but is also assisted in understanding why an act is prohibited, who must be protected, what the consequences of omission are, and how to use legal institutions properly. At this stage, legal counseling functions to build legal culture. Legal culture is not merely formal compliance, but the inner attitude of society that views law as a means of mutual protection. In a society where legal culture is not yet strong, domestic violence is easily hidden as a disgrace, while narcotics abuse is easily viewed as a private moral matter sufficiently resolved by family reprimand. Therefore, strengthening legal awareness must be directed at changing that perspective.

From the aspect of social protection, domestic violence and narcotics both affect vulnerable groups. In domestic violence cases, women and children often bear the greatest burden, physically, psychologically, and socially. Victims may lose their sense of safety, self-esteem, economic independence, and trust in their surrounding environment. In narcotics cases, adolescents and youth are groups that are often targeted by trafficking and peer influence. However, the impact does not stop with the user. Parents, spouses, siblings, and children who live in the same house also bear emotional, social, and economic burdens. Thus, both issues require family-based intervention, not merely individual-based intervention. Legal counseling directed at the family as a social unit is very important so that citizens understand that legal protection and social prevention go hand in hand.

In addition, contemporary social developments show that household challenges are increasingly complex. Economic pressure, changes in communication patterns due to gadget use, increasing work mobility, and reduced space for dialogue within the family often heighten vulnerability to conflict and deviant behavior. In such conditions, families need normative and practical guidance to face problems. Without adequate legal knowledge, domestic conflict can develop into violence, while adolescent curiosity or peer pressure can develop into narcotics abuse. Therefore, community service must position itself as a shared learning space that brings together legal knowledge, social values, and realistic prevention strategies.

Specifically regarding domestic violence, one issue often not realized by society is the cycle of violence. Violence does not always appear in the form of severe acts from the beginning, but is often preceded by excessive

control, threats, humiliation, social restriction, or repeated psychological pressure. Victims sometimes consider such behavior normal or hope that the perpetrator will change, so the violence continues and escalates. Legal counseling must break this cycle by helping society recognize early symptoms of violence and understand that prevention must be carried out as early as possible. This perspective is important so that citizens do not wait until serious injuries or fatal consequences occur before realizing that legal intervention is necessary.¹²

In narcotics issues, a similar challenge appears in the form of normalization of risky behavior. Some adolescents or young adults begin to know illegal substances through peer environments, curiosity, or the desire to fit into a group. This early process is often not monitored by the family because it does not appear as an obvious violation. Gradually, behavioral changes emerge, such as repeated lying, declining achievement, withdrawal from the family, unusual need for money, or closed social circles. If families are not equipped with basic knowledge, these symptoms are easily ignored. Legal counseling integrated with family education becomes important so that society is sensitive to early signs, knows consultation steps, and does not delay intervention.

Institutional aspects also need attention. The law on domestic violence and narcotics has actually provided sufficient instruments, but public access to these instruments is not always easy. Many citizens do not yet know the role of the urban village office, women and children service units, public health centers, community police officers, rehabilitation services, or socio-religious institutions that can help. As a result, when problems arise, citizens tend to be confused or take inappropriate resolution paths. In this context, community service becomes an important instrument for introducing the service ecosystem so that society does not feel alone when facing problems. Strengthening this service network also adds a practical dimension to legal counseling.

Based on this line of thought, the community service activity in Tambakrejo Urban Village was designed not only as a forum for presenting materials, but also as an arena for dialogue and problem mapping. This approach was chosen so that residents could connect legal explanations with the social experiences they encounter. Such a strategy also enables the implementation team to capture specific issues at the local level, such as low courage to report, misunderstanding about rehabilitation, or strong stigma toward victims and families. Thus, this article does not only discuss the general importance of legal counseling, but also shows how legal counseling can be operationalized as a strategy to strengthen society on domestic violence and narcotics issues.

Based on the above description, it can be understood that community service with the theme of domestic violence and narcotics crimes has strong

12 Margie Gladies Sopacua., Konsep Ideal Pencegahan Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga Terhadap Perempuan, *Jurnal Pembangunan Hukum Indonesia*, Vol. 4, No. 2, 2022, page. 213–226.

academic, social, and juridical foundations. Domestic violence requires firm handling with a victim-protection perspective, while narcotics requires a combination of preventive, penal, and rehabilitative approaches. Both demand the presence of higher education institutions through substantive and sustainable legal counseling activities. This article is therefore prepared to describe the implementation of community service in the form of legal counseling on domestic violence and narcotics crimes in Tambakrejo Urban Village, while also analyzing its results and implications for improving community legal awareness.

Specifically, this article has two objectives. First, to describe the process of implementing legal counseling activities on domestic violence and narcotics, from problem identification, material preparation, implementation, to evaluation. Second, to analyze the improvement of public understanding and the relevance of legal counseling as a strategy for preventing domestic violence and narcotics abuse based on family and community. With these objectives, this article is expected not only to serve as documentation of community service activities, but also to become a practical model for implementing similar activities in other regions.

B. RESEARCH METHODS

This article was prepared based on community service activities using a participatory-educative approach and a socio-legal orientation. The use of a socio-legal orientation is based on the understanding that legal problems in society cannot be analyzed only from the normative side, but must also be viewed in the context of social behavior, legal culture, family relationship patterns, and public access to information and legal services.¹³ In the context of community service, this orientation enables the implementation team to connect the provisions of the Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence and the Narcotics Law with the real needs of citizens. This activity was basically not experimental research, but legal counseling-based community service evaluated descriptively and qualitatively with simple quantitative support from pre-test and post-test data.

The location of the activity was the Tambakrejo Urban Village Hall, Gayamsari District, Semarang City. The activity was held on Friday, June 25, 2026, with 100 participants consisting of housewives, PKK members, community leaders, heads of RT/RW, youth organization members, urban village officials, and several residents who have been active in citizen forums. The selection of participants was carried out purposively by the urban village, considering the representation of community elements that could become agents for disseminating legal information in their respective environments. The diverse composition of participants was intended so that the material would be received not only by potential victims, but also by parties who could act as supporters, companions, and early detection systems at the neighborhood level.

13 Peter Mahmud Marzuki, *Penelitian Hukum*, Kencana, Jakarta, 2021, page. 87.

The stages of the activity began with problem identification through preliminary communication with urban village officials and community leaders. At this stage, the team gathered information about issues considered most urgent by the community. The initial communication showed that residents needed practical explanations regarding the forms of domestic violence, legal steps that could be taken by victims, and information about narcotics abuse that was increasingly feared to target the younger generation. Based on these initial findings, the team then prepared counseling materials emphasizing three main points: understanding legal norms, prevention steps, and access to services. The materials were designed in simple but legally accurate language so that they would be easy to understand by participants with diverse educational backgrounds.

The implementation of the community service activity used several methods, namely interactive lectures, group discussions, case studies, question and answer sessions, short legal consultations, and pre-test and post-test evaluations. Interactive lectures were used to provide a conceptual basis regarding domestic violence and narcotics crimes, including elements of acts, types of crimes, victims' rights, sanctions, and handling mechanisms. Group discussions were used to open space for active participation by participants so that they could share experiences, views, or problems developing in their respective environments. Case studies were used so that participants could distinguish ordinary household conflict from domestic violence, and distinguish narcotics abusers for personal use from dealers or parties who profit from illicit trafficking. Short legal consultations were provided after the material sessions so that participants with sensitive questions could consult more privately.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Strengthening Community Legal Understanding of Domestic Violence Crimes

The implementation of legal counseling on domestic violence crimes showed that before the activity began, participants' understanding of domestic violence still tended to be narrow. Most participants considered domestic violence identical to physical violence in the form of beating or acts causing bodily injury. However, when the facilitator asked preliminary questions, it appeared that many behaviors that actually fulfilled the elements of psychological, sexual violence, and neglect were not yet recognized as crimes. For example, continuous humiliation in front of children, total restriction of economic access, forced sexual relations within marriage, and neglect of the basic needs of the family were often considered ordinary household problems. This condition reinforces the view that one of the main problems in addressing domestic violence at the community level is not only the weak courage of victims to report, but also the inability of citizens to recognize that the events occurring have in fact entered the legal realm.

The material delivered in the domestic violence session focused on four points. First, the definition and scope of domestic violence under Law

Number 23 of 2004. Second, the forms of domestic violence and concrete examples in everyday life. Third, victims' rights and the obligations of the state and society to provide protection. Fourth, reporting mechanisms and initial handling when domestic violence occurs. The material was delivered using a communicative approach so that participants would not feel as though they were being lectured, but rather invited to understand events that are very close to everyday life. In this section, the facilitator emphasized that law exists to protect vulnerable family members and to affirm that the domestic sphere is not a law-free area.

The participants' responses during the domestic violence session were very active. Many participants, especially housewives and PKK cadres, asked questions about the boundary between ordinary quarrels and violence that can be criminally punished. Other questions concerned whether victims must immediately report to the police, the position of the extended family in mediation, and whether children who witness violence can also be considered affected parties. These questions show that the community's needs do not stop at knowing statutory provisions, but concern certainty about practical steps that can be taken when facing real cases. This is consistent with the character of community service, namely presenting law as a guide for action, not merely normative knowledge.

One important finding from this activity was the persistence of a strong culture of silence. In open discussion, several participants acknowledged that in their neighborhood there were events suspected to constitute domestic violence, but residents often chose not to get involved because it was considered a family matter. Other reasons included concern about worsening the conflict, fear of offending the perpetrator, or worry that the victim herself was not ready to take further steps. This shows that obstacles to handling domestic violence lie not only with victims, but also in the social environment, which does not yet have an appropriate response pattern. Therefore, legal counseling should not target only women as potential victims, but all elements of society as supporters of the protection system. This approach is in line with the idea that domestic violence prevention must be community-based and not rely solely on law enforcement officers.¹⁴

In the case study session, the facilitator presented several simple illustrations. The first case described a husband who regularly beat his wife when angry. The second case described a husband who never hit his wife, but prohibited her from working, took all of her income, and threatened to expel her if she objected. The third case described a husband who refused to provide support without a valid reason and allowed his wife and children to be deprived of their basic needs. When participants were asked to identify which cases constituted domestic violence, it appeared that their understanding developed after the

14 Margie Gladies Sopacua, "Konsep Ideal Pencegahan Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga Terhadap Perempuan," *Jurnal Pembangunan Hukum Indonesia*, Vol. 4, No. 2, 2022, page. 220.

discussion. Although at first the second and third cases were still considered family problems, after discussion participants understood that the elements of neglect and psychological violence are also forms of domestic violence.

From the perspective of legal substance, the delivery of domestic violence material in this activity showed the importance of a victim-protection perspective. So far, some members of society have viewed domestic violence law enforcement as a threat to family unity. This view needs to be corrected. Family unity built on fear, coercion, and violence cannot be justified. Instead, handling domestic violence through legal mechanisms and social support aims to prevent greater harm to victims and children. Safitri Wikan Nawang Sari and Nurul Husna emphasize that legal protection for women victims of domestic violence must be placed as part of efforts to guarantee victims' dignity, safety, and recovery.¹⁵ This approach is in line with the main message conveyed to participants, namely that law is not an instrument for breaking families apart, but an instrument of protection for family members who experience violence.

Interestingly, several male participants in the forum also stated that counseling of this kind is important not only for women, but for all family members. They considered that understanding the limits of behavior that cannot be justified legally actually helps husbands, fathers, and other family members build healthier communication patterns. This statement is important because it shows that domestic violence counseling should not be perceived as a forum that corners one gender, but as family legal education that emphasizes mutual respect, equality of dignity, and responsibility. In the context of prevention, involving men as educational subjects is an important step to reduce resistance and build collective awareness.

Another aspect that emerged during the discussion was the impact of domestic violence on children. Many participants had previously viewed that as long as children were not directly beaten, they were not victims. After receiving explanations, participants understood that children who live in an atmosphere of violence still suffer serious impacts, such as trauma, fear, decreased learning concentration, emotional development disturbances, and the possibility of imitating violent patterns in adulthood. This understanding is important because the reason 'for the sake of the children' is often used to silence reports of domestic violence, whereas the tolerance of violence can actually damage children's future.

From the perspective of community service, these results show that effective legal education must be able to translate norms into experiences that are easily understood by society. When participants are only given information about statutory provisions, the understanding

15 Safitri Wikan Nawang Sari dan Nurul Husna., Perlindungan Hukum terhadap Perempuan sebagai Korban Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga Akibat Pernikahan Dini di Kota Banjarmasin, *SULTAN ADAM: Jurnal Hukum dan Sosial*, Vol. 3, No. 1, 2025, page. 59–69.

formed tends to be shallow. Conversely, when participants are invited to examine case examples, identify elements of the act, and map handling steps, they more easily internalize the meaning of law. This is in line with previous community service findings showing that a combination of counseling, discussion, and family economic empowerment can increase the effectiveness of domestic violence prevention.¹⁶

One achievement worth noting was the emergence of an informal commitment from neighborhood officials to build faster communication channels when suspected domestic violence occurs. In the final reflection session, several RT heads and PKK cadres stated the need for a simple mechanism at the neighborhood level, such as easily accessible contact numbers, strengthening the function of initial consultation, and coordination with the urban village if a case is found. Although not a final solution, this commitment shows that legal counseling can trigger the formation of institutional awareness at the local level. In other words, the impact of the activity does not stop with participants as individuals, but begins to touch social governance in the community environment.

From the discussion that developed, it can be concluded that legal counseling on domestic violence is effective if it fulfills several conditions. First, the material must explain forms of domestic violence concretely. Second, the forum must be safe and dialogic so that participants dare to ask questions. Third, the narrative built must have a victim-protection perspective and not blame victims. Fourth, citizens need to be given practical information about service networks. Fifth, the involvement of neighborhood elements such as RT, RW, PKK, and community leaders is very important so that prevention is not placed entirely on victims. With these conditions, legal counseling functions as a means of strengthening legal awareness as well as mobilizing social solidarity.

If observed further, the success of the domestic violence subtheme in this community service was also influenced by the communication method used. Instead of placing participants merely as recipients of information, the facilitator opened space for exchanging experiences. This method made participants feel that the problems they face in their surroundings are not trivial or shameful to discuss. When residents hear that similar experiences are also encountered by others, an awareness emerges that domestic violence is a social problem that requires shared courage to address. This is the important value of community service: building collective safety to speak about problems that have long been silenced.

The domestic violence subtheme also shows that an effective prevention strategy must include education on rights and obligations within the family. In the discussion, participants agreed that many household conflicts grow because of poor communication, unequal

16 Zaini Munawir S., Ridho Mubarak, dan Amrin Mulia Utama Nasution., Penguatan Pengetahuan Hukum dan Peningkatan Ekonomi Keluarga Guna Pencegahan KDRT, *ABDIRA: Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat*, Vol. 6, No. 1, 2026, page. 10–18.

decision-making, and economic dependency that makes one party unable to voice his or her will. Although not all household conflicts can or should be brought into the criminal realm, this forum successfully instilled a clear boundary that there is no reason whatsoever that justifies violence. This normative boundary is very important so that society has a firm standard regarding behavior that can be tolerated and behavior that must be stopped with the help of others.

Overall, the implementation of the domestic violence subtheme shows that the community actually has a high level of concern, but does not always have sufficient knowledge and courage to act. This community service activity successfully opened a new space of understanding that domestic violence is not merely a private matter, but a crime that requires vigilance, courage, and social support. This understanding is an important foundation for the formation of a community environment that is more sensitive to family protection.

2. Strengthening Community Legal Understanding of Narcotics and a Family-Community-Based Prevention Model

The second session of the community service activity focused on legal counseling on narcotics. Unlike the domestic violence theme, which relates to household relations, the narcotics theme raised more concerns among participants about the younger generation, peer influence, and threats to the future. However, during the discussion it emerged that participants' understanding of narcotics also still contained many misconceptions. The most prominent misconception was the assumption that everyone involved with narcotics would be treated the same before the law, without distinguishing users, addicts, victims of abuse, or dealers. In addition, some participants did not yet understand that rehabilitation is one of the mechanisms recognized by law for certain abusers or addicts. As a result, families tend to conceal the problem until the condition becomes more serious.

The material delivered in this session included an introduction to narcotics and their impacts, classification of prohibited conduct under Law Number 35 of 2009, legal consequences, health and social dangers, early signs of abuse, and the role of families and society in prevention. The facilitator also emphasized the basic difference between illicit trafficking oriented toward profit and abuse for personal use, which under certain conditions requires rehabilitative handling. This explanation is important to correct the perception that all narcotics issues must be understood solely through a punitive paradigm. Recent literature emphasizes that rehabilitation policy has a very important place in the system for handling narcotics abuse in Indonesia.¹⁷

The discussion on narcotics became very lively when participants were invited to discuss the factors that cause someone to fall into abuse. Some participants mentioned peer pressure, weak parental supervision,

17 Taufik M. Makarao., *Tindak Pidana Narkotika*, Jakarta, Ghalia Indonesia, 2023, page. 101.

adolescent curiosity, economic pressure, and a permissive social environment. From this point, the facilitator directed the discussion to the understanding that narcotics abuse cannot be prevented solely through the threat of punishment. Prevention also requires strengthening family relations, communication between parents and children, positive activities for youth, role modeling, and early detection of behavioral changes. This approach is very important because narcotics problems often begin with experimental use that is not immediately recognized by the family.

In the forum, repeated questions arose regarding what should be done if a family member is known to use narcotics. Some participants admitted confusion because on one hand they wanted to save their family member, but on the other hand they feared facing the legal process. This concern is highly relevant to the social conditions of society. Therefore, the facilitator explained that handling must be distinguished based on the person's role and involvement. If a person is part of an illicit trafficking network, repressive legal proceedings must be carried out firmly. However, if a person is an abuser or addict who needs help, the family needs to understand assessment and rehabilitation mechanisms. This explanation made participants understand that legal responses to narcotics are tiered and not uniform.

One of the most important parts of this session was the explanation of medical and social rehabilitation. The facilitator explained that rehabilitation is not a form of indulgence toward offenders, but a legally recognized recovery effort to save individuals from dependence and prevent broader social impacts. Anna Ramdlonaning and Eva Achjani Zulfa emphasize that proportional rehabilitation policy is an important need in the handling of narcotics abusers in Indonesia.¹⁸ This understanding is important because many families still view rehabilitation as difficult to access or lacking a strong legal basis. After receiving the explanation, participants became more open to the idea that saving family members through rehabilitation is actually a responsible action.

This activity also revealed a strong relationship between the narcotics theme and family resilience. When the facilitator discussed the impacts of narcotics abuse, participants mentioned several consequences very close to everyday life, such as repeated lying, selling household goods, loss of responsibility, aggressive behavior, theft within the family, and conflict that leads to violence. The participants' descriptions strengthened the reason why the narcotics theme needs to be discussed together with domestic violence. In many cases, narcotics abuse not only destroys the individual user, but also creates an unsafe and tense household situation. Therefore, narcotics prevention substantively also represents a step to prevent damage to the family.

18 Anna Ramdlonaning dan Eva Achjani Zulfa., Analisis Kebijakan Rehabilitasi Bagi Penyalahguna Narkotika di Indonesia, *Jurnal Ius Constituendum*, Vol. 8, No. 1, 2023, page. 56–62.

From the perspective of community service, narcotics counseling will be more effective if it does not stop at the slogan 'stay away from drugs'. Such a message is indeed important, but too general if it is not accompanied by explanations of modes, risk factors, early signs, help channels, and the role of the family. A number of recent community service articles show that education on the dangers of drugs packaged contextually can increase the vigilance of young people and society.¹⁹ Iskandar and colleagues emphasize that community-based socialization has a positive impact on young people's knowledge of the dangers of drugs.²⁰ Meanwhile, Tanzil Indrajaya and colleagues show that community service activities on the dangers of drug abuse for young people are effective in building preventive awareness at the community level.²¹ These findings are consistent with the results of the community service activity in Tambakrejo Urban Village.

During the question and answer session, participants also highlighted the influence of social media, peer relationships, and changing patterns of entertainment consumption on adolescent vulnerability. The facilitator responded by emphasizing the importance of family digital literacy. Parents need to understand that narcotics prevention can no longer be carried out through physical supervision alone. Open communication, recognition of children's social environment, and strengthening family values are important instruments. In addition, positive activities in the community, such as sports, religious study groups, youth organizations, and youth creativity forums, need to be strengthened so that adolescents have healthy spaces for self-actualization. Thus, legal counseling does not stop at pure legal knowledge, but connects it with concrete social strategies.

Another interesting point was the change in participants' attitudes toward families experiencing narcotics problems. At the beginning of the discussion, several participants tended to use very punitive and stigmatizing language. After receiving explanations about the addictive nature of narcotics and the importance of rehabilitation, this attitude began to shift toward a more proportional view. Participants still agreed that illicit trafficking must be dealt with firmly, but they also began to accept that families need space for consultation and recovery when facing abuse. This change in attitude is important because social stigma often becomes a major obstacle to early handling efforts.

19 Tanzil Indrajaya, Mulyadi, Ronaldo, dan Irsyadi., Sosialisasi Bahaya Penyalahgunaan Narkoba Bagi Generasi Muda Desa Sungai Rengit Kecamatan Talang Kelapa Kabupaten Banyu Asin, *Suluh Abdi: Jurnal Ilmiah Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat*, Vol. 3, No. 1, 2021, page. 5–11.

20 Iskandar, M. Faisal Danil, Suriati, dkk., Sosialisasi Bahaya Penyalahgunaan Narkoba Bagi Generasi Muda Oleh Mahasiswa KKN UMMAT di Desa Nata, *Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat Bangsa*, Vol. 2, No. 8, 2024, page. 3292–3297.

21 Tanzil Indrajaya, Mulyadi, Ronaldo, dan Irsyadi., Sosialisasi Bahaya Penyalahgunaan Narkoba Bagi Generasi Muda Desa Sungai Rengit Kecamatan Talang Kelapa Kabupaten Banyu Asin, *Suluh Abdi: Jurnal Ilmiah Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat*, Vol. 3, No. 1, 2021, page. 5–11.

In relation to program sustainability, the narcotics session encouraged the idea of forming a family-community-based prevention pattern. Conceptually, this model can be understood through several layers. The first layer is the family as the main fortress, with functions of communication, supervision, and emotional support. The second layer is the neighborhood community, including RT, RW, religious leaders, youth leaders, and social cadres, who play a role in detecting early signs and building a culture of mutual care. The third layer consists of service institutions such as the urban village office, public health centers, schools, police, and related institutions that can become referrals when problems require further handling. The fourth layer is higher education institutions and community organizations that can continue contributing through periodic education. This model shows that narcotics prevention is collective work that requires cross-sector coordination.

When connected with the domestic violence theme, this community service shows that the family is the main arena that determines the success of preventing both problems. A communicative, egalitarian, and socially healthy family is better able to suppress the potential for violence and substance abuse. Conversely, a closed family, one that is extremely hierarchical, full of pressure, or lacking social support, is more vulnerable to both problems. Therefore, a legal counseling strategy that combines domestic violence and narcotics themes has added value compared with counseling conducted separately. Participants do not only receive two separate materials, but understand the relationship between issues within a single framework of family resilience.

From the perspective of social policy, the results of the narcotics session show that a prevention approach placing the family at the forefront is highly relevant. Many participants acknowledged that so far they more often emphasized prohibition without building sufficient communication with children or other family members. Through counseling, participants understood that effective supervision must be accompanied by emotional closeness, openness, and adequate knowledge about behavioral changes. Thus, the family functions not only as a supervisor, but also as a safe space for family members to seek help before problems develop further.

In addition, this forum showed that society needs more detailed knowledge regarding referral procedures. Several participants asked whether schools could play a role in early detection, what role public health centers could play when suspected abuse is found, and whether religious leaders could be involved in the stage of social recovery. These questions show that citizens view narcotics handling as a cross-sectoral issue. Therefore, the results of this community service support the idea that legal counseling should ideally be followed by strengthening coordination among local actors so that prevention messages do not disappear after the activity ends.

Participants' reflections at the end of the activity showed a fairly profound change in perspective. If at first some participants viewed narcotics issues mainly from the perspective of punishment, by the end of the session they better understood the importance of balancing legal firmness and human rescue. This shift in perspective has strategic value because it can reduce the tendency of families to close themselves off. When society understands that seeking help does not mean worsening the situation, the opportunity for early intervention becomes greater. This is one of the most important qualitative results of the community service activity.

Analytically, the success of this activity can be explained by several factors. First, the themes raised were very close to the needs of the community. Second, the material was presented practically and participatively. Third, the forum provided a safe space for participants to ask questions. Fourth, evaluation through pre-test and post-test helped participants realize the development of their own understanding. Fifth, the delivery of material was carried out by connecting legal norms with everyday life experiences. These factors made the counseling not stop at the transfer of information, but transform into a social learning process.

Nevertheless, this activity also showed several challenges. First, time limitations meant that not all concrete cases could be discussed in depth. Second, some participants still needed follow-up assistance, especially for sensitive issues. Third, changes in social behavior cannot be achieved through a single activity, so educational continuity is very important. Fourth, stronger institutional support is needed so that the results of counseling can be followed up through service networks and citizen activities. These challenges are important notes for developing future community service programs.

Even so, in general the results of the activity show that integrated legal counseling on domestic violence and narcotics is effective in improving community legal awareness. Participants not only obtained new knowledge, but also understood practical steps that could be taken when facing problems. They understood that domestic violence victims need protection and support, that narcotics abuse requires early detection and a proportional approach, and that families and communities have a strategic role in prevention. In other words, this community service successfully affirmed the function of law as an instrument of social empowerment.

More broadly, these findings show that a legal counseling model with an integrated approach deserves to be developed as one strategy for strengthening society. The integration of domestic violence and narcotics themes makes the forum more relevant to household and community needs. This approach also opens space for discussion about rights, obligations, protection, rehabilitation, and collective responsibility. Therefore, similar activities should be continued in more sustainable programs, such as periodic consultation clinics, neighborhood cadre

training, preparation of brief citizen guides, or ongoing cooperation between higher education institutions and the urban village government.

D. CONCLUSION

The implementation of community service through legal counseling on domestic violence and narcotics crimes in Tambakrejo Urban Village, Semarang City, shows that community-based educational activities are effective in increasing public legal awareness, both in terms of substantive knowledge and courage to act when facing concrete problems. Regarding domestic violence, participants gained a better understanding that violence is not only physical, but also includes psychological and sexual violence as well as household neglect, and they understood the importance of victim protection and reporting mechanisms. Regarding narcotics, participants gained a more proportional understanding of the dangers of abuse, the difference between users and dealers, the importance of rehabilitation, and the role of the family as an early detection system. The integration of the two themes in one forum proved relevant because both are rooted in issues of family resilience and community legal culture. Therefore, integrated legal counseling on domestic violence and narcotics deserves to be viewed as a strategic community service model for strengthening family resilience, encouraging citizens' courage to seek help, and building a social environment that is more sensitive, responsive, and oriented toward protection.

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