

Empowering Communities: Legal Enlightenment through Traffic Education in Sofifi

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ABSTRACT

This community service initiative is centered on enhancing legal awareness and promoting compliance with traffic regulations in Sofifi Village, Tidore Kepulauan, in accordance with the Republic of Indonesia Law Number 22 of 2009 concerning Traffic and Road Transportation. Recognizing the pivotal role of motor vehicles in daily activities and their impact on economic and governmental affairs, the initiative employs legal education through community service to elevate public understanding. The involvement of faculty members, students, and local community members underscores the significance of Law No. 2 of 2009 in instilling discipline and traffic safety. The community service activities delve into factors contributing to traffic accidents, driver responsibilities, and legal consequences of violations. Participants gain a better understanding of traffic regulations and cultural norms associated with traffic order. The outcomes are positive, indicating an improvement in knowledge among participants and a heightened sense of responsibility toward traffic safety. The initiative successfully encourages community involvement in maintaining a safer and more organized traffic environment. By focusing on prevention and education, this initiative contributes to the reduction of traffic violations.

Keywords: legal awareness, traffic education, community involvement, traffic regulations.

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INTRODUCTION

The Traffic and Road Transportation Law Number 22 of 2009 explicitly defines traffic as the movement of vehicles and individuals within the road traffic space. The road traffic space is construed as infrastructure designated for the movement of vehicles, individuals, and/or goods in the form of roads and supporting facilities. The primary objective of this law is to create a safe, secure, fast, smooth, orderly, well-regulated, comfortable, and efficient traffic and road transportation system through traffic management and engineering (Ahdi, 2019). Traffic control activities encompass providing guidance, instructions, guidance, and education to the public. Motorized vehicles play a crucial role in supporting various aspects of human life, with almost all daily activities involving the use of motorized vehicles as a means of support. To ensure the smooth functioning of the economy and government, it is essential to have good transportation and traffic facilities. The use of motorized vehicles brings practical and economic benefits, shortening travel time and increasing productivity (Azis, 2018; Istianto et al., 2019; Karim et al., 2023; Nss et al., 2015).

One of the indicators of the success of traffic management is the level of violations that occur. Traffic violations are regulated by Law Number 22 of 2009. Traffic violations essentially involve actions that violate traffic regulations (Junef, 2014; Krisna et al., 2021; Nurfauziah & Krisnani, 2021; Rifki, 2014). The success of traffic control can be measured

by the level of compliance of the public with applicable traffic regulations. In this regard, Soekanto (1977) categorizes the compliance level of road users into four groups. First, those who comply with the regulations correctly and understand the benefits of legal norms. Second, a group with the potential to violate, depending on supervision. Third, a group that clearly violates the law and is subject to sanctions. Fourth, former violators who have previously been sanctioned or punished.

Traffic violations are fundamentally influenced by the level of legal awareness of the community regarding traffic regulations. Legal awareness reflects an individual's understanding of the law, the role of the law in society, and compliance with legal norms. The legal awareness of the community regarding a legal provision includes knowledge, understanding, compliance, and respect for legal norms (Angraini et al., 2018; Lestari & Wijaya, 2021; Muttaqin & Saputra, 2019; Rosana, 2014; Sirait, 2020; Usman, 2014). In order to create a legal culture of a compliant, obedient, and legally conscious society, legal counseling becomes an effective means. Legal counseling aims to disseminate information and understanding of legal norms to create legal awareness (Ernis, 2018; Sumartini, 2021). Traffic education plays a critical role in shaping community behavior related to safety and traffic discipline. Sofifi Village, as the center of economic and social activities in Tidore Kepulauan, is the main focus. High population mobility, traffic density, and a lack of legal awareness regarding traffic regulations can increase the risk of violations and accidents. Therefore, a legal education program on traffic education is a proactive step to improve community understanding.

The provision of education in the form of legal counseling in Sofifi Village aims not only to create an understanding of traffic rules but also to empower the community. It is hoped that the community can internalize the values of safety and discipline in traffic activities. Through counseling, it is expected to form a collective awareness of the importance of compliance with traffic rules. This program is also expected to enhance the Sofifi community's understanding of rights and responsibilities in traffic. Thus, a safer, more orderly, and civilized traffic environment is anticipated. High legal awareness is expected to make the community more proactive in adhering to rules, reducing violations, and shaping a better traffic culture in Sofifi Village, Tidore Kepulauan.

METHOD

Community service through legal counseling methods is an effort undertaken by enlightening or providing explanations related to the importance of adhering to traffic regulations stipulated by Law Number 2 of 2009. This counseling activity is carried out in Sofifi Village, Tidore Kepulauan, involving lecturers, students undergoing Field Work Practice (PKL), and actively engaging the local community. Legal counseling proves to be an effective method for enhancing public awareness of the importance of compliance with prevailing traffic regulations. In this context, the focus of counseling is on understanding and implementing Law Number 2 of 2009 concerning Traffic and Road Transportation. This regulation serves as the main foundation for fostering discipline and traffic safety within the community.

In the implementation of counseling activities, involving lecturers and students undergoing Field Work Practice (PKL) brings dual benefits. Besides providing advantages

to the community, this activity also offers practical experience to students in applying the theories learned in the classroom. Lecturers, as facilitators, provide guidance and supervision to students to enable them to communicate information clearly and effectively to the community. The counseling target is not limited to the academic community but also includes the general public residing in Sofifi Village. By involving the community, it is hoped that messages regarding traffic regulations can be more easily understood and applied in daily life. The direct interaction between students and the community creates a more open and inclusive atmosphere, allowing for more effective two-way dialogue.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Implementation of Activities

During the execution of this community service initiative, participants in the outreach program were provided with the opportunity to comprehend the primary objectives, involving an understanding of traffic regulations. The main focus of these activities encompasses crucial aspects such as enforcement of compliance, safety, and traffic order, governed by Legislative Regulation No. 22 of 2009 concerning Traffic and Road Transportation. The discussions in this outreach program are designed to enhance awareness of safety, security, order, and smooth traffic flow, especially in the Sofifi Village environment. The aspects of enforcing compliance, safety, and traffic order, in accordance with the regulations stated in Legislative Regulation No. 22 of 2009 concerning Traffic and Road Transportation, constitute the primary focus of this outreach.

Furthermore, the anticipated achievements of this legal outreach are to elevate participants' awareness regarding the importance of maintaining safety, security, order, and smooth traffic flow in their surroundings. This aligns with efforts to create a legally conscious community that takes responsibility for traffic safety. After presenting the objectives and focus of the outreach, the activities proceed with a question-and-answer session conducted openly between participants and the outreach team. In this session, participants are given the opportunity to pose questions, particularly related to aspects of traffic order analyzed based on Legislative Regulation No. 22 of 2009 concerning Traffic and Road Transportation.

The question-and-answer session is conducted alternately, providing participants with the chance to actively participate in the discussion. The questions asked aim to gain a deeper understanding of traffic regulations, the implementation of compliance enforcement, and efforts to enhance awareness and community participation in creating traffic order. Through this open dialogue, it is expected that a valuable exchange of information occurs between the outreach team and participants. The goal is to provide a more profound understanding of traffic regulations and encourage participants to play an active role in creating a safer, more orderly, and efficient traffic environment in Sofifi Village. Thus, this community service initiative is expected to have a positive impact on behavioral changes and enhance the legal awareness of the community regarding traffic in their environment.

Results of the Activity

This community service initiative has successfully contributed to the enhancement of knowledge and understanding regarding the cultural norms of traffic discipline on the roads among the participants of legal counseling. The primary target of this counseling is the community of Sofifi Village, Tidore Kepulauan, with the aim of raising their legal awareness. The main objective of this counseling is to prevent traffic violations in the area, referring to Law No. 22 of 2009 concerning Traffic and Road Transportation. This law encompasses the aspects of Ethics and Driving Regulations, involving the behavior of road users in complying with legal provisions, traffic regulations, and etiquette among fellow road users. Factors causing traffic accidents, such as driver conditions, road conditions, and weather, are also emphasized in this counseling.

For instance, the primary responsibility of drivers, as stated in Article 106 of Law No. 22/2009 on Traffic and Road Transportation, is to operate their vehicles reasonably and with full concentration. This includes compliance with traffic signs, road markings, traffic signal devices, traffic movements, stopping and parking, as well as adhering to maximum or minimum speed limits. Article 134 of Law No. 22/2009 grants priority to certain road users, such as fire trucks, ambulances, and others. The counseling also includes information about criminal sanctions imposed in accordance with Articles 280 to 291 and Article 297 of Law No. 22/2009, which provide penalties for violations such as not displaying vehicle registration numbers, not having a driving license, and traffic rule violations.

Moreover, rules related to prohibited parking locations, as regulated in Article 118 paragraph (2) of Law No. 22/2009, are also explained. This prohibition includes areas around pedestrian crossings, pedestrian lanes, turns, above bridges, approaching crossings/intersections, in front of yard gates, places that can obstruct traffic signs or signal devices, and near fire hydrants. Emphasis is also given to the importance of understanding and following traffic signs as regulated in Minister of Transportation Regulation No. 13 of 2014. There are four types of traffic signs: warning signs, prohibition signs, command signs, and directional signs. Understanding these traffic signs is expected to help create better traffic discipline in Sofifi Village, Tidore Kepulauan.

Prohibition Signs

Prohibition signs serve the primary function of conveying rules or actions prohibited for road users. Commonly regulated prohibitions include entry restrictions, parking restrictions, and activities related to embarking or disembarking passengers. Prohibition signs are characterized by a white background, red border lines, symbols/letters/numbers in black, and red-colored prohibition words. The choice of these colors aims to ensure that the prohibition message is clear and easily understood by road users. The white background provides sharp contrast with the red border lines, making the prohibition signs more visible. Symbols, letters, or numbers indicating the type of prohibition are printed in black to clarify the conveyed message. Additionally, the use of red for prohibition words enhances alertness and highlights the prohibition information.



Figure 1. Prohibition Sign Illustration

For a concrete example, refer to the accompanying image in this explanation. The illustration vividly depicts the visual appearance of the discussed prohibition sign, showcasing the use of white, red, and black colors in accordance with traffic sign standards. With a clear understanding of these characteristics, it is expected that road users can easily recognize and adhere to the rules stipulated by prohibition signs, thereby ensuring the safety and orderliness of traffic.

Traffic Command Signs

Traffic command signs play a crucial role in regulating road traffic. These signs are designed to provide instructions to road users, ensuring safe and orderly passage. The mandatory commands conveyed by traffic command signs include minimum speed limits, directives for left turns, and guidance on the use of lanes designated for motor vehicles. Traffic command signs can be identified by specific visual characteristics. Generally, these signs have a blue base color with contrasting border lines. Symbols, letters, numbers, or words featured on these signs are displayed in white to facilitate comprehension. This visual arrangement aims to ensure that the information conveyed by the commands is clearly understood by road users.



Figure 2. illustrates Traffic Command Signs

For instance, a depiction of command signs with a blue background and white characters can be found in Figure 2, indicating various instructions commonly encountered on the road. By comprehending and adhering to the instructions displayed on these command signs, road users can contribute to overall traffic safety and smooth flow. Therefore, a solid understanding of traffic command signs is crucial for every driver engaging in road activities.

Signposts

Signposts play a crucial role in providing guidance to road users and furnishing additional necessary information. These types of signs encompass information about the location of public utilities, toll road boundaries, and directional indicators for dead-end streets ahead. Identification of these signposts can be discerned through a base color of green or blue, as well as the color of the edges, symbols, letters, or numbers displayed in white or black, as illustrated in Figure 3.



Figure 3. illustrates directional signs.

Signs with a green background generally provide information related to road conditions and public facilities in the vicinity. Meanwhile, signs with a blue background often convey specific information related to expressways. The use of symbols, letters, or numbers in white or black enhances readability and ensures that the conveyed information can be clearly understood by road users. Through the emphasis on specific colors and symbol combinations, directional signs serve as an effective means of visual communication on the road. Therefore, drivers and other road users are expected to comprehend and adhere to the provided directions to achieve their travel goals safely and efficiently.

Warning Signs

Warning signs play a crucial role in alerting road users to potential dangers in the vicinity of roads or locations deemed potentially hazardous. These signs are specifically designed with a yellow background, black border lines, and black symbols/letters/numbers, as illustrated in Figure 4. The yellow color on warning signs serves not only as an identifier but also as a conspicuous visual signal to capture the attention of drivers or pedestrians. Thus, warning signs act as early warning devices, aiding in the prevention of possible accidents or incidents on the road.



Figure 4. illustrates Warning Signs.

It is essential to note that the graphic design of warning signs, including the combination of colors and symbols, plays a crucial role in ensuring a clear and easily understandable message for all road users. The readability and clarity of warning signs are paramount to enhancing awareness and safety in the road environment. As shown in Figure 4, a visual example of a warning sign is presented, explaining the layout of the yellow color, black border lines, and the use of black color for symbols, letters, or numbers. Through a thorough understanding of these warning signs, it is expected to assist all parties involved in road usage to be more vigilant and reduce the potential risk of accidents.

CONCLUSIONS

In the implementation of this community service project, participants engaged in a comprehensive legal awareness outreach aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of traffic regulations and norms, particularly focusing on compliance enforcement, safety, and maintaining traffic order in Sofifi Village. The discussions centered around the provisions outlined in Regulation No. 22 of 2009 concerning Traffic and Road Transportation Laws. The primary goal was to heighten awareness regarding safety, security, order, and smooth traffic flow within the community. Emphasis was placed on the significance of adhering to compliance, safety measures, and traffic regulations as stipulated by the aforementioned law.

To achieve this, the legal outreach initiative sought to instill a sense of responsibility and consciousness among participants toward traffic safety. The interactive question-and-answer session facilitated active engagement, encouraging a fruitful exchange of information between the outreach team and participants. The overarching aim was to deepen comprehension of traffic regulations, promote community involvement, and contribute to the establishment of a safer, more organized traffic environment in Sofifi Village. This community service endeavor effectively increased participants' knowledge of traffic regulations and cultural norms related to traffic order. Targeting the Sofifi

Village community in Tidore Kepulauan, the initiative aimed to enhance legal awareness and deter traffic violations, aligning with the provisions set forth in the Traffic and Road Transportation Laws of 2009. Topics covered included drivers' responsibilities, factors leading to traffic accidents, and the legal consequences of violations.

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