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Enhancing Legal Awareness Among Rural Communities Through "Law Consult": An Innovative Digital Legal Consultation Service in Kampung Beru Village, Takalar Regency

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ABSTRACT
Low levels of legal literacy and limited access to legal consultation services remain challenges in Kampung Beru Village, Galesong District, Takalar Regency. The Student Organization Capacity Building Program (PPK Ormawa), through the Law Consult innovation, was implemented from July to August 2026 by integrating legal education, paralegal training, the establishment of a Literacy Corner and a Legal Aid Post (Posbankum), and digital legal consultation services. Implementation data were obtained from activity logbooks, observations, documentation, focus group discussions, and monitoring and evaluation records. In July 2026, the activities included the program inauguration, legal education on rights and obligations, educational sessions for adolescents and pregnant women, domestic violence prevention counseling, paralegal training, coordination with the Regional Office of the Ministry of Law of South Sulawesi, and the establishment of the Literacy Corner. In August 2026, the activities continued with the completion of the Posbankum, testing and training on the use of the application, pre-launching and launching events, and the handover of Law Consult to the village government. The program resulted in the establishment of village-based legal service facilities, trained paralegal cadres, a Literacy Corner, and the Law Consult application, which was tested and formally handed over to the village government. However, the activity logbooks did not include quantitative pre-test and post-test results; therefore, changes in legal literacy could not be quantitatively measured or conclusively determined.

Keywords: Legal Awareness, Law-Aware Village, Law Consult, Literacy Corner, Village Paralegals.

I. Introduction

Legal awareness among the general public remains relatively low, particularly in communities where customary traditions are deeply rooted. Communities tend to comply more strongly with customary rules than with the formal laws of the state. This situation can create difficulties when disputes arise that require reference to positive law, particularly in matters involving land, inheritance, or agreements. The gap in understanding between customary law and state law often leads community members to seek informal

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solutions without considering the potential legal implications (Fikri et al., 2025). Limited access to legal information is one of the main factors contributing to low levels of legal awareness. Legal training and public legal education are rarely conducted systematically at the village level, resulting in limited knowledge of citizens' rights and obligations under formal law. Instead, much of the knowledge circulating within communities is derived from oral accounts and customary practices passed down from generation to generation (Zakka et al., 2025). Communities in which customary culture remains dominant often face dilemmas when addressing legal issues. Family disputes, for example, are more frequently resolved through customary mechanisms without taking civil law provisions into consideration. Similarly, minor criminal matters are sometimes settled through customary fines rather than through formal legal procedures (Pane & Siregar, 2023). The need to strengthen legal awareness has become increasingly important in the context of rural communities. Villages constitute social spaces where people interact, develop shared values, address everyday problems, and access basic public services. A village is not merely an administrative unit. In the administration of village governance, village development, community development, and community empowerment, compliance with Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, Pancasila, the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, and Bhinneka Tunggal Ika is required (Azizah et al., 2025).

Legal awareness is one of the primary prerequisites for achieving social order and protecting citizens' rights. However, disparities in legal literacy between urban and rural communities remain a significant challenge, particularly in villages with limited access to public services. Kampung Beru Village, Galesong District, Takalar Regency, South Sulawesi Province, is a village established through the division of Pa'lalakkang Village and consists of three hamlets: Kampung Beru, Maccini Ayo, and Lambu Toa. The main sources of livelihood among residents are farming, fishing, and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), while educational attainment is predominantly at the elementary and junior secondary school levels. A survey conducted by the team in collaboration with the village government indicated that 72% of residents did not understand the procedures for resolving legal disputes, 65% were unaware of the availability of free legal aid institutions, only 18% had previously received legal education, and 80% reported needing easily accessible legal consultation services. Qualitatively, the village had no legal aid institution, limited legal outreach and education activities, and various potential sources of conflict, including land disputes, family conflicts, and unresolved debt-related issues. At the same time, the widespread use of smartphones and support for village digitalization provide a significant opportunity to develop a technology-based solution. This condition is consistent with government policies aimed at establishing Law-Aware Villages/Subdistricts (Desa/Kelurahan Sadar Hukum), as stipulated in Regulation of the Head of the National Legal Development Agency (BPHN) Number PHN.HN.03.05-73 of 2008 concerning the Establishment and Development of Law-Aware Villages/Subdistricts, as well as Circular Letter of the Head of BPHN Number PHN.HN.04.04-01 of 2022, which establishes four main dimensions of a law-aware village: access to legal information, implementation of the law, access to justice, and democracy and regulation. Based on this background, the Student Legislative Body (BLM) of the Faculty of Law, Universitas Muslim Indonesia, implemented the Student Organization Capacity Building Program (PPK Ormawa) by introducing the Law Consult innovation, a digital-based legal consultation service complemented by direct assistance from village paralegal cadres. This initiative aims to improve legal literacy and strengthen the legal self-reliance of the residents of Kampung Beru Village.

II. Research Method

The program was implemented in Kampung Beru Village, Galesong District, Takalar Regency, South Sulawesi, from July to August 2026. The target groups included the general community, adolescents, pregnant women, children, village officials, youth organizations (Karang Taruna), and prospective village paralegals. The implementation involved the PPK Ormawa team from the Student Legislative Body (BLM) of the Faculty of Law, Universitas Muslim Indonesia (UMI), student organizations, and a supervising lecturer as internal partners. External partners included the Kampung Beru Village Government, community members, Karang

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Taruna, the Takalar Regency Government, and the Regional Office of the Ministry of Law of South Sulawesi. Process data were collected from daily logbooks maintained throughout July and August 2026, documentation, observations, FGD minutes, and monitoring and evaluation records.

2.1. Needs Identification



Figure 1. FGD with the Village Head

This stage was conducted to identify the community's potential, problems, and needs through field surveys, observations, focus group discussions (FGDs), and interviews with formal leaders, informal leaders, and community members. The use of multiple methods provided a more comprehensive understanding of community needs and served as a basis for determining program priorities (Henrikson & Bishop, 2024; Thompson et al., 2025). A similar approach has been applied in community needs assessments to identify community needs as a basis for program development (Castillo et al., 2024).

2.2. Development of the Law Consult Application

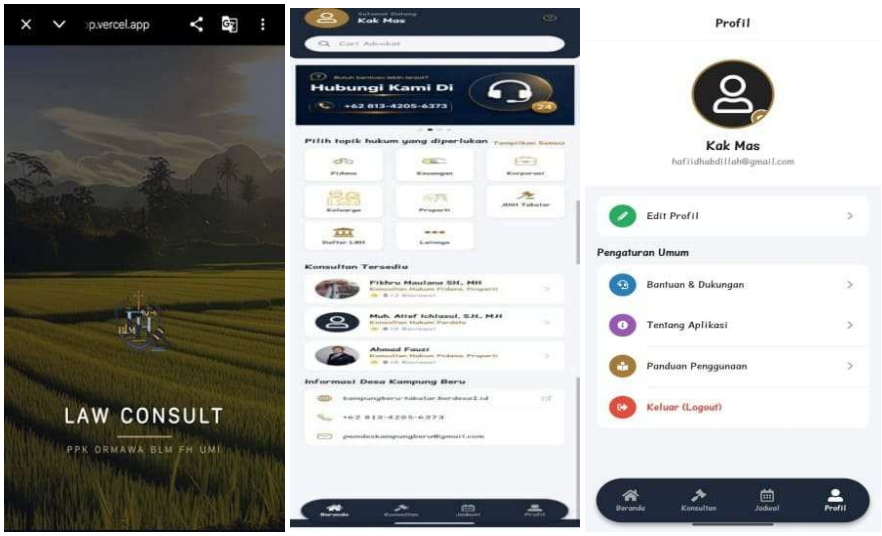


Figure 2. Law Consult Application Interface

Law Consult was developed as a digital platform that provides legal consultation, accessible legal education, frequently asked questions (FAQs), and initial complaint submission. The platform was developed to facilitate community access to legal information and services through digital media. The use of websites as a means of providing legal consultation can also expand public access to legal services (Satria & Ardiani, 2024).

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In addition, digital platforms can serve as more accessible and interactive media for delivering legal education to the community (Serah et al., 2025).

2.3. Socialization and Training



Figure 3. Paralegal Training

The socialization activities were conducted one week before the core program began and targeted formal leaders, including the village head, neighborhood and community unit leaders (RT/RW), and village officials; informal leaders and village youth; as well as the targeted community groups. The activities were delivered through presentations, interactive discussions, application demonstrations, and the distribution of educational materials. Subsequently, training was provided to paralegals and law-aware community cadres, who served as facilitators of legal education, service liaisons, and community assistants in the use of Law Consult.

2.4. Implementation of Legal Consultation Services



Figure 4. Literacy Corner Meeting

Legal consultation services were provided through two channels: online consultation using the Law Consult application and offline consultation through a village legal consultation post assisted by community cadres. The integration of these two channels was intended to expand community access to legal information and consultation services, particularly for residents who were not yet accustomed to using digital services.

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The use of digital technology can increase the reach and accessibility of legal services; however, it should be accompanied by appropriate assistance to ensure that individuals with limited digital literacy are not left behind (Sukardi et al., 2025; Lumbantobing & Wijaya, 2025). Direct assistance through the consultation post also served as an alternative for community members who required face-to-face explanations or consultations. An integrated service model combining legal education, consultation, and assistance can help communities better understand their rights and access to legal aid (Hinta et al., 2025; Purwadi et al., 2024).

2.5. Monitoring and Evaluation



Figure 5. Evaluation Session with the Supervising Lecturer

Monitoring and evaluation were conducted with the supervising lecturer on July 12 and 21, 2026, and through coaching sessions, activity minutes, performance reports, observations of participant engagement, and internal team evaluations. Pre-test and post-test instruments were planned to measure changes in legal knowledge and attitudes. However, the July–August 2026 logbooks did not include the scores or statistical results of these two instruments. Therefore, the evaluation presented in this article was limited to the implementation of activities, stakeholder participation, and documented program outputs.

III. Results and Discussion

3.1. Legal Conditions and Needs of the Community

The logbooks indicate that the legal needs of the community were addressed through several target groups. The legal education session on July 4, 2026, addressed legal rights and obligations; the activity on July 8 targeted adolescents; the July 9 session addressed workers' rights for pregnant women and women; the July 15 session focused on domestic violence prevention; and the July 24 educational activity targeted children and their accompanying adults during the kindergarten and Qur'anic learning center (TK/TPA) camp. This series of activities demonstrates that the village's legal needs are diverse and require materials tailored to specific target groups.

3.2. Law Consult Innovation as a Digital Solution

The implementation of Law Consult was carried out in several stages. The FGD conducted on July 28, 2026, discussed the application's features, operating procedures, advantages, and potential partnership opportunities with the Legal Documentation and Information Network (JDIH). On August 8, the application was tested with the village head, followed by user training on August 10, pre-launching and launching preparations, the official launch, and the handover of the application. The August records also indicate that

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the village head tested and formally accepted the application. Thus, the application was not merely at the design stage but had undergone user testing, training, and formal handover.

3.3. Capacity Strengthening through Cadre Development

Capacity strengthening was carried out through a briefing on July 16, an FGD on July 22, and the Baji Erang Paralegal Training conducted on July 24 and 29, 2026. These activities involved the Regional Office of the Ministry of Law of South Sulawesi, legal aid organizations, academics from Universitas Muslim Indonesia (UMI), the village government, and prospective paralegals. On July 27, the paralegals received training on procedures for reporting legal aid services, accompanied by a video tutorial. In August, the cadres participated in additional socialization activities and training on the use of Law Consult. The documented outputs included paralegal cadres equipped with administrative support and basic skills to connect community members with village-level legal services.

3.4. Institutional Support and Partnerships

Institutional support was demonstrated through repeated coordination among the program team, supervising lecturers, the Kampung Beru Village Government, the Takalar Regency Government, the Regional Office of the Ministry of Law of South Sulawesi, and Karang Taruna. The meeting held on July 29, 2026, discussed the establishment of paralegals and the Legal Aid Post (Posbankum) in collaboration with the Ministry of Law and the Takalar Regency Government. In August, the village government provided legal authorization and a location for the facilities, while community members and youth worked together to construct the Posbankum and Literacy Corner. Meanwhile, Karang Taruna integrated the program team into village activities.

3.5. Program Sustainability

The sustainability of the program was supported by four operational components documented in the logbooks: the Law Consult application, which had been tested and formally handed over; trained paralegal cadres; the Posbankum as an offline service point; and the Literacy Corner as a legal education facility. Challenges documented in August included limited understanding of the Indonesian language, difficulties in adapting to technology, and conflicts between program schedules and residents' work activities. Therefore, program sustainability requires regular assistance, simpler educational materials, the provision of both online and offline services, and service schedules that accommodate the daily activities of community members.

3.6. Program Implementation Timeline

The synchronization of the logbooks demonstrates continuity between the stages of legal education, capacity building, development of service facilities, and technology implementation. A summary of the main activities is presented in Tables 1 and 2. Routine activities, internal coordination, community mutual assistance (gotong royong), and supporting social participation are consolidated into the relevant activity groups.

Table 1. Summary of Main Activities in July 2026

Date	Main Activities	Outputs/Implementation Indicators
July 3–5	Program inauguration; legal education on rights and obligations; initial construction of the Literacy Corner	The program was officially launched, residents received initial legal education, and the literacy facility began to be constructed.

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July 8–15	Legal education for adolescents, pregnant women/women, and TK/TPA participants; domestic violence prevention education	Legal education materials were delivered to different target groups according to their specific needs.
July 12 & 21	Monitoring and evaluation with the supervising lecturer	Performance records, feedback, and follow-up plans were documented.
July 16–29	Briefing, FGD, paralegal training, training on legal aid service reporting procedures, and coordination concerning the Posbankum	Paralegal capacity was strengthened, institutional support was established, and preparations for village-level legal aid services were advanced.
July 21–31	Continued construction of the Literacy Corner, institutional meetings, official correspondence, and strengthening of social networks	Physical facilities and partnership networks were strengthened.

Table 2. Summary of Main Activities in August 2026

Date	Main Activities	Outputs/Implementation Indicators
August 1–9	Construction of the Literacy Corner and Posbankum; preparations for Independence Day celebrations	Physical facilities were further developed through mutual assistance involving the program team, youth, and community members.
August 8	Testing of the Law Consult application with the village head	The application's functions were tested by an institutional prospective user.
August 10	Training on the use of Law Consult	Users and cadres received orientation on how to use the application.
Date not recorded	Pre-launching, launching, and handover of Law Consult; paralegal socialization; legal education at an elementary school	The application was formally handed over, and the service was introduced to the community.
Throughout August	Empowerment through the Posbankum, Coaching II, sharing sessions, and village social activities	Coordination, academic supervision, and community acceptance of the program were strengthened.

3.7. Evaluation Limitations

The logbooks provide evidence of the implementation process and documented outputs; however, they do not provide the number of participants for each activity, the level of application usage, the number of consultations handled, pre-test and post-test scores, or the outcomes of case follow-up. Therefore, this article does not claim the magnitude of the improvement in legal literacy or the quantitative effectiveness of the application.

IV. Conclusion

The implementation of Law Consult in Kampung Beru Village from July to August 2026 established an integrated village-level legal service ecosystem that combines legal education, paralegal cadres, a Literacy Corner, a Legal Aid Post (Posbankum), and a digital legal consultation application. The logbooks document that the application underwent several stages, including development through FGDs, testing with the village head, user training, the official launch, and formal handover to the village government. The program also strengthened networks and collaboration among the village government, the Takalar Regency Government, the Regional Office of the Ministry of Law of South Sulawesi, academics, Karang Taruna, and community members. Although the program outputs have been documented, its effectiveness in improving legal literacy

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cannot yet be quantitatively determined because the pre-test and post-test results are not available. Further evaluation should assess service utilization, the resolution of legal consultations, changes in legal knowledge, and the sustainability of operations following the handover.

AI Disclosure

The authors used ChatGPT (OpenAI) to assist with the preparation of this manuscript, particularly in language editing, grammar correction, academic phrasing, and organizing the manuscript structure. The use of this tool was limited to supporting the clarity and presentation of the manuscript. All AI-assisted content was critically reviewed, verified, and revised by the authors to ensure its accuracy and consistency with the documented research activities. The authors take full responsibility for the accuracy, originality, integrity, and validity of the manuscript, including its arguments, interpretations, references, and conclusions. ChatGPT was not listed as an author, and its use was in accordance with the principles of responsible AI use and scholarly publication ethics.

Authorship Contribution

Conceptualization: Jibran Achmad Zaidan Rahman and Andi Fathanah Putra Uswah; Methodology: Jibran Achmad Zaidan Rahman and Nurul Qalbi; Investigation: Andi Fathanah Putra Uswah, Muhammad Teguh Perkasa, Aznawir Azis, and Muhamad Hafiidh Abdillah; Data Collection: Muh. Ansar Azhari, Elang Mulia Lesmana, Muh. Rizal, and Reza Pahlevi; Formal Analysis: Jibran Achmad Zaidan Rahman and Muhammad Ya'rif Arifin; Validation: Fadel Muhammad Samudra and Andi Nadyne Salsabila; Resources: Andi Syifa Khalisha Taufan and Adly Adriansyah Rezky; Writing – Original Draft Preparation: Jibran Achmad Zaidan Rahman, Andi Fathanah Putra Uswah, and Nurul Qalbi; Writing – Review and Editing: Muhammad Ya'rif Arifin and Jibran Achmad Zaidan Rahman; Supervision: Muhammad Ya'rif Arifin; Project Administration: Andi Fathanah Putra Uswah and Muhammad Teguh Perkasa

Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare that they have no competing interests related to the research, authorship, or publication of this article.

Data Availability Statement

The data supporting the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request, subject to applicable ethical, legal, and privacy restrictions. The data include program logbooks, activity documentation, observation records, focus group discussion (FGD) minutes, and monitoring and evaluation records related to the implementation of the Law Consult program in Kampung Beru Village, Takalar Regency.

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participated in the development of the Literacy Corner, Legal Aid Post (Posbankum), and implementation of the Law Consult application.

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