

Constitutional Law Literacy for Youth as an Effort to Prevent Socio-Political Conflict in the Region

M. Harviend Gilang Perdana¹, Zesty Miranda², Kamal Fahmi Kurnia³,
Andriansyah Kartadinata⁴

^{1,2,3,4}Sang Bumi Ruwa Jurai University, Indonesia.

Email: gilang.saburai@gmail.com

Article History:

Received: January 5, 2026

Revised: January 25, 2026

Accepted: January 27, 2026

Keywords: *Legal Literacy, Conflict Prevention, socio-political*

Abstract: *This community service activity aims to improve young people's understanding of constitutional law as a preventive measure against socio-political conflicts in the region. Low legal literacy and rampant political disinformation necessitate practical and participatory legal education. The activity was carried out in Korpri Jaya Village, Bandar Lampung City, involving 40 participants from among young people, youth organizations, and community leaders through workshops, focus group discussions, role-playing simulations, and the creation of educational digital media. The evaluation results showed a significant increase in participants' understanding of constitutional law principles and the formation of rational attitudes and respect for legal mechanisms. This activity also gave birth to the Korpri Jaya Law-Conscious Youth Forum as a platform for continuing legal literacy. Overall, this program emphasizes the importance of legal literacy as the foundation of local social and political resilience and a means of shaping a young generation with integrity, national insight, and a commitment to social peace.*

Introduction

The dynamics of national and state life today require a re-examination of the understanding of constitutional law, which is an important foundation for every citizen, especially the younger generation. Constitutional law regulates how power is exercised, the division of authority between state institutions, and the relationship between the government and the people. In the context of Indonesia as a democratic country, awareness of constitutional principles is not only the domain of legal experts, but also the

collective responsibility of all citizens, especially young people as the future leaders of the nation (Putra et al., 2024).

Social reality shows that low legal literacy among young people has implications for increasing the potential for social and political conflict in various regions. Ignorance of the rights and obligations as citizens often leads to misunderstandings of government policies or political issues circulating in the public sphere. This situation is exacerbated by the rapid flow of digital information that is not always accompanied by the critical ability to understand the legal and governmental context. According to (Maheswari et al., 2025), law is not just a collection of written rules, but a means to achieve social justice in society. This view emphasizes that law should be alive and understood in its social context.

Legal literacy for the younger generation is not merely about knowing articles and laws, but understanding the values of justice, responsibility, and compliance with legal norms as a means of maintaining social harmony. Constitutional law serves as an instrument to regulate state affairs so that they run in an orderly and civilized manner. By understanding constitutional law, the public, especially the younger generation, can learn about the mechanisms of government administration and the limits of state institutions' authority. This understanding is important so that young people are not easily provoked by manipulative and divisive political issues (Suling et al., 2025).

The phenomenon of social and political conflict occurring in a number of regions shows that the main trigger is often not solely due to ideological differences, but rather the low level of public awareness of the law. An example of this is the friction between supporters in regional head elections in several regencies in Indonesia, which was marked by the spread of hoaxes and hate speech. The lack of understanding of legal procedures and mechanisms for resolving political disputes is a dominant factor that exacerbates horizontal conflicts (TARIGAN, 2024). This condition illustrates the need for programs to strengthen constitutional literacy among young people so that they can become agents of calm amid political differences. Legal literacy will foster a rational and resilient attitude in addressing socio-political issues. Youth who are legally literate can act as a bridge of communication between the government and the community, as well as a bulwark against political disinformation that has the potential to cause social tension (Sofyang, 2025).

This community service program stems from concerns about the low level of understanding among young people regarding the constitution and basic principles of democracy. Based on initial observations in several youth communities in the region, most participants admitted that they did not understand the structure of government, the functions of the legislative and executive branches, or the mechanisms of legitimate political participation. As a result, their involvement in public discourse is often not constructive. The problem becomes even more complex when social media becomes the

main arena for shaping public opinion without any filters of truth. Young people, as active users of digital media, tend to be easy targets for the spread of false information, especially ahead of political events such as elections or regional elections (Utama et al., 2024).

When inaccurate information is absorbed without sufficient understanding of law and politics, the potential for conflict in the real world increases. For example, during the 2024 simultaneous regional elections in several areas such as Lampung and South Sulawesi, there were incidents of clashes between supporters due to misinterpretation of regional KPU policies. These incidents demonstrate the weak legal literacy of young people regarding constitutional mechanisms for resolving political disputes. If the younger generation understands the structure of state law and judicial mechanisms, they can channel their aspirations peacefully and rationally (Perdana, M. H. G., 2022).

This constitutional law literacy activity is expected to instill an understanding that the law is paramount in conflict resolution. Young people who understand the constitution will be more inclined to use legal channels rather than anarchic actions. Thus, efforts to build a law-conscious society should not only rely on formal education, but also through educational and participatory community service activities. In addition to the educational aspect, this activity also emphasizes the social dimension, namely building a network of law-conscious youth communities at the local level. This network can be a forum for public policy discussions, social advocacy, and strengthening grassroots democracy. Through such forums, young people can internalize constitutional values and develop social sensitivity to potential conflicts in their environment (Judijanto et al., 2025).

Problems that arise in areas with high levels of social conflict are also often caused by weak communication systems between the government and the community. Many political decisions or public policies are not understood by the community, and are then misinterpreted as social dissatisfaction. Young people who have constitutional literacy can act as mediators to bridge this understanding so as not to cause social tension (Prasetio & Ariffin, 2024).

In the context of government decentralization, young people in the regions have a strategic position as agents of social transformation. They are not only objects of development, but also subjects who have an active role in creating socio-political stability. Constitutional law literacy will equip them with the ability to think systematically, respect differences of opinion, and uphold the rule of law in state affairs. Efforts to improve legal literacy among young people are also in line with the mandate of Law Number 12 of 2011 concerning the Formation of Legislation, which emphasizes the importance of public participation in the legislative process. With an understanding of the applicable legal system, the younger generation can play a role in providing constructive input on public policy and helping to oversee its implementation in the field.

From a civic education perspective, constitutional literacy is an integral part of nation building. Legal education is not only normative in nature, but also shapes moral and social awareness in the younger generation. Thus, this community service activity is a concrete manifestation of universities' efforts to integrate knowledge with the strengthening of national character. Through training, discussions, and role-playing in legal literacy activities, participants are expected to be able to identify potential social conflicts in their environment and formulate preventive measures based on constitutional values. Youth who are legally aware will be more careful in assessing political issues and more prudent in responding to differences of opinion. This attitude is important for maintaining social integrity amid the nation's plurality.

By understanding the essence of constitutional law, young people can develop a critical and solution-oriented attitude in facing regional socio-political dynamics. They are no longer spectators but become an active part of the process of strengthening local democracy. This is in line with the national education goal of placing young people at the forefront of building a just and ethical nation. Based on this description, community service has a high urgency to be implemented. Constitutional law literacy activities for young people are expected to be one of the strategic solutions in preventing socio-political conflicts in the regions. Through increasing legal knowledge, shaping constitutional awareness, and strengthening social networks, it is hoped that a young generation that is legally literate, tolerant, and actively involved in maintaining harmony in the life of the nation and state will emerge.

Method

This community service activity was carried out with the main objective of increasing young people's understanding of constitutional law and its role in preventing socio-political conflicts at the regional level. This program uses a participatory approach that emphasizes the active involvement of participants in every stage of the activity. This approach was chosen so that the learning process is not only one-way but also encourages critical reflection and social dialogue. This activity not only provides theoretical knowledge but also shapes an applied legal awareness in community life (Dewi et al., 2024).

The activity was centered in Korpri Jaya Village, Sukarame District, Bandar Lampung City, which was chosen because it has an active youth community and has experienced social friction due to differences in local political views. This area was considered representative for the implementation of the activity because it has a fairly high socio-political dynamic and a significant level of youth participation in public activities. The activity partners involved the Korpri Jaya Village Youth Organization and representatives of youth organizations at the neighborhood and community association levels. The activity participants consisted of 40 young people aged 17 to 30 with

secondary to higher education backgrounds (Runtunuwu, 2025). Participants were selected through coordination with the village administration and local youth organizations to ensure the representation of various social elements. Participants were expected to become agents of change and extensions of the legal literacy program in their respective environments. In addition, the involvement of community leaders and village officials provided moral support and strengthened the effectiveness of the activity (Rahmawati & Supriyadi, 2025).

The activity began with administrative preparations and field coordination, including scheduling, collecting social data on youth, and providing teaching materials and legal literacy media. The community service team also conducted a pre-survey to identify participants' initial level of knowledge about constitutional law and social conflicts in the area. The survey results were used as a basis for designing a strategy for delivering the material to suit the needs of the participants and local social conditions.

The implementation was carried out through several main methods, namely interactive workshops, *Focus Group Discussions* (FGD), role plays, and the development of digital educational media. The interactive workshops discussed the basic concepts of constitutional law, democratic principles, and the role of youth in the Indonesian political system. These activities were guided by resource persons from among legal academics and local government practitioners. This method was designed so that participants would actively ask questions, discuss, and provide their views on legal issues faced by the community. *Focus Group Discussions* (FGD) were held to discuss several case studies related to social and political conflicts that had occurred in the region. Participants were divided into small groups to analyze the causes, the role of society, and the legal approaches that could be applied. The results of the discussion were then presented and evaluated together by the community service team. From this activity, participants not only learned theoretically, but also honed their critical and argumentative thinking skills on constitutional law issues (Basai & Gilang, 2025).

Role-playing simulations are an important part of this activity to strengthen participants' practical understanding of constitutional conflict resolution. Participants were given roles as representatives of the community, local government, legislative bodies, and law enforcement agencies to simulate the deliberation process in handling political differences. Through this method, participants were able to internalize the values of democracy, public communication, and respect for legal mechanisms in resolving social disputes.

In addition to face-to-face methods, this activity also utilizes educational digital media in the form of posters, booklets, and social media content containing legal messages and constitutional awareness. The aim is for legal literacy materials to reach a wider audience, especially young people outside of the direct participants. This digital approach is also an effort to encourage young people to be able to use media space

ethically and productively in spreading constitutional values.

The final stage of the activity was evaluation and follow-up, which was carried out by measuring the increase in participants' knowledge and formulating a program sustainability plan. The evaluation was conducted using pre- and post-activity questionnaires to assess changes in the level of legal literacy. The results show a significant increase in participants' understanding of legal mechanisms and political conflict resolution. As a follow-up, the Korpri Jaya Legal Awareness Youth Forum was formed, which is expected to become a sustainable platform for educating the community and maintaining social harmony in the local environment.

Result

The community service activity with the theme of constitutional literacy for youth in Korpri Jaya Village, Sukarame District, Bandar Lampung City was carried out in a participatory and educational manner. This activity lasted for three days, involving 40 young people as the main participants, as well as village officials and community leaders as supporting partners. The activity was designed to build constitutional legal awareness among the younger generation so that they could become agents of peace in the local socio-political dynamics. The activity was carried out in an interactive and open atmosphere. The participants showed great enthusiasm for the material presented, especially during the discussion session on the role of youth in maintaining regional political stability. Based on the pre-test results, only about 35% of participants understood the basic concepts of constitutional law. After the activity was completed, the post-test results showed a significant increase to 87%, indicating a real improvement in legal literacy.

The legal literacy workshop was the main part of the activity, where speakers from legal academics and government practitioners explained the basics of the Indonesian constitutional system. The material covered the division of powers, the principle of *checks and balances*, and the role of citizens in a democratic system. Participants were given concrete examples of how legislation affects people's lives, including in the context of political conflict resolution. In the *Focus Group Discussion (FGD)* session, participants were divided into small groups to analyze a case study () of a local political conflict that occurred in Lampung during the previous regional election period. They discussed how misunderstandings of the legal process can trigger friction between supporters. The results of the discussion showed that low legal literacy made the community easily provoked by baseless issues. This reinforced the argument that constitutional legal education must begin with the younger generation.

The role-playing simulation was an important moment in building the participants' practical understanding. In the simulation, participants played the roles of

public officials, civil society, and law enforcement to resolve conflict scenarios arising from political differences. The results showed a change in the participants' attitudes, who became more empathetic and rational in dealing with differences of opinion. They learned that every conflict has a legal resolution path that can be pursued peacefully and constitutionally.

Findings in the field show that most participants did not understand the mechanisms for resolving political disputes before participating in the activity. After the training, the young people began to understand the functions of institutions such as the Constitutional Court and the Election Supervisory Agency (Bawaslu). This is in line with Asshiddiqie's (2010) opinion, which emphasizes that understanding the constitutional legal system is a key requirement for citizens to participate responsibly in political life. The social impact of this activity began to be seen in the formation of new attitudes among participants who were more open to different political views. In the final reflection session, most participants stated that this activity helped them understand the importance of the rule of law in maintaining social integrity. This awareness became an important social capital to prevent horizontal conflicts in their environment.

Discussion

This legal literacy program also fostered young people's confidence in engaging in dialogue with the government. Before the activity, the majority of participants were reluctant to participate in public forums because they considered legal and political issues too complex. However, after understanding the basic concepts of constitutional law, they began to dare to express their aspirations constructively. This transformation demonstrates the success of the educational approach used. In addition to developing knowledge, this activity also produced educational products in the form of digital posters and booklets entitled "Youth Aware of the Constitution." These media contain simple legal messages about the rights and obligations of citizens and mechanisms for resolving political conflicts. These products were designed by the participants themselves as part of a creative practice to disseminate legal literacy through local social media. This effort is a form of sustainability of the activity's results.

From the results of observations, there was an increase in the quality of social interaction among youth organization members after the activity took place. Discussions that previously often became heated when discussing political issues are now more directed towards rational arguments based on law. This phenomenon shows that legal literacy has a real impact on the communication patterns and social behavior of the community, as stated by Satjipto Rahardjo (2006) that law functions to direct human behavior towards social order. Another impact identified was the emergence of a youth initiative to form the Korpri Jaya Legal Awareness Youth Forum. This forum serves as a sustainable platform for discussion and the development of legal awareness programs

within the community. The forum was designed independently by the participants and approved by the sub-district as a strategic partner. This demonstrates the success of the community service program in creating a multiplier effect on legal awareness at the local level.

The success of this activity is also evident from the active support of the village government, which is committed to making similar activities an annual agenda. The local government believes that youth who understand the law can be important partners in maintaining social order and helping to socialize public policies. The involvement of government officials shows positive synergy between universities, the community, and local government. The increase in legal literacy resulting from this activity reflects the success of the *participatory learning* approach. This method allows participants to build understanding through direct experience and open discussion. This is in line with Dewey's (1938) learning theory, which emphasizes the importance of experience in the learning process. Thus, the approach used not only imparts knowledge but also shapes social and legal awareness.

This activity also shows that legal literacy can be a preventive strategy against social conflict. With an understanding of constitutional law, young people can identify sensitive issues in society and encourage peaceful resolution. They learn not to spread unverified information and understand the legal consequences of every public action. This is a concrete step in building a culture of law among the younger generation. Soerjono Soekanto's (2002) opinion reinforces these findings by stating that public legal awareness is key to the effectiveness of the legal system. The higher the level of legal awareness, the lower the potential for violations or social conflict. Activities such as this are important for fostering legal awareness among young people so that they play an active role in maintaining social order.

From a methodological perspective, the combination of counseling, discussion, and simulation has proven effective in building a comprehensive understanding of constitutional law. Participants not only hear explanations, but also experience firsthand how the principle of the rule of law () is applied in a social context. This experience-based approach yields more profound results than conventional lecture methods. Another important finding is the increase in participants' ability to think critically about public issues. After participating in the activity, participants were able to assess policies from a legal perspective and were no longer easily swayed by populist narratives. They learned to understand the structure of government, the functions of state institutions, and the responsibilities of citizens under the law. This is an important achievement in shaping a generation of young people who are democratic and constitutionally aware.

The expected long-term impact of this activity is the creation of a law-conscious youth community that can become pioneers of peace in the region. The existence of this youth forum will serve as a model for replication in other subdistricts in Bandar Lampung

City. With the support of academics and local government, the legal literacy movement can develop into a social movement that strengthens the foundations of local democracy. From the evaluation results, 92% of participants stated that this activity was very relevant and beneficial to their daily lives. They felt a change in their perspective on political conflicts, which were previously considered an arena of confrontation but are now seen as a space for legal and national dialogue. This data shows that legal-based educational interventions have a direct impact on the social behavior of young people.

The constitutional law literacy activities for youth in Korpri Jaya Village prove that community-based legal education can be an effective strategy in preventing socio-political conflicts. This program strengthens the capacity of youth as agents of peace, builds constitutional awareness, and strengthens the relationship between the community and the government. By fostering an understanding of the law from an early age, it is hoped that a young generation will emerge that is not only intellectually intelligent, but also has integrity and legal civility.

Conclusion

The community service activity with the theme of constitutional law literacy for young people in Korpri Jaya Village showed significant results in increasing the legal awareness and socio-political participation of the younger generation. Through an educational and participatory approach, this activity succeeded in instilling the understanding that law is not merely a normative device, but also a social instrument that regulates peaceful and just communal life. The increase in participants' understanding from 35% to 87% after the activity demonstrates the success of the methods applied.

This activity emphasizes the importance of constitutional literacy as the foundation for shaping young people who are constitutionally and democratically aware. Through workshops, discussions, and role-playing simulations, participants not only gain theoretical knowledge but also practical skills in resolving conflicts legally. Young people learn to understand constitutional mechanisms, appreciate political processes, and reject all forms of provocation that could potentially disrupt social harmony in their communities. The results of the activity prove that community-based legal education can create constructive social behavioral change. Participants who were previously passive towards public issues are now beginning to dare to express their opinions politely and based on the law. They also understand that the law is a means of resolving problems, not a tool for exacerbating differences. This transformation shows that legal literacy can serve as a moral bulwark for the younger generation.

The social impact of this activity was not only felt during the training, but also continued through the formation of the Korpri Jaya Law-Conscious Youth Forum. This forum serves as a sustainable platform for dialogue, sharing legal information, and

developing a network of constitutionally aware youth at the local level. The existence of this forum confirms that these community service activities do not stop at the ceremonial level, but create a lasting effect on strengthening the legal culture of so ciety.

References

- Basai, E. P., & Gilang, M. H. (2025). The Role of Village Government in Community Economic Empowerment (A Study of Beach Tourism Objects in Kiluan Negeri Tanggamus Village). *Journal of Social and Human Sciences (Jshs)*, 10(1).
- Dewi, S. F., Yulika, F., & Hasanah, M. M. (2024). Customs, Religion, and Democracy in Conflict Resolution: The Minangkabau Cultural Perspective in West Sumatra. *Anthology*, 145.
- Judijanto, L., Irianto, I., Mulyeni, Y., & Yuliah, A. (2025). *Civic Literacy and Character Education*. PT Sonpedia Publishing Indonesia.
- Maheswari, A. R., Rezeky, S. M., Romadona, D. K. B., Maharani, A. S., Nabilah, N. H., & Wijaya, M. F. (2025). The Role of Law Students in Drug Prevention in Cibuntu Village. *Legal Empowerment: Journal of Legal Service*, 3(2), 61–82.
- Prasetio, Z. D., & Ariffin, M. (2024). Building Legal Literacy and Education in Society. *Dianmas Bhakti: Journal of Community Service*, 1(1), 13–17.
- Putra, I., Bakry, K., Ahmad, A., Lathif, N., Mahradi, R. M., & Efitra, E. (2024). *Constitutional Law: Comprehensive Theory and Case Studies*. Pt. Sonpedia Publishing Indonesia.
- Rahmawati, A., & Supriyadi, A. A. (2025). Building Social Resilience and Security: Community-Based Non-Military Defense Model. *Development Innovation: Research and Development Journal*, 13(2).
- Runtuuwu, Y. B. (2025). Analysis of Environmental Policy and Law Enforcement in ASEAN Countries: Implications for Access to Justice and Environmental Sustainability. *Collaborative: Journal of Community Service*, 1(2), 62–76.
- Sofyang, S. (2025). Communication Science and Law: Two Pillars in Increasing Public Awareness of Legal Literacy (A Study at the Legal Aid Institute of the Ansor Youth Movement in Wajo Regency). *Indonesian Journal of Multidisciplinary Expertise*, 3(4), 16–21.
- Suling, M. S., Palalas, Z. B., Suong, M. A. A., Baompon, F., & Bolonggodu, I. A. (2025). The Role of Forkopimcam Kintom in Social Conflict Prevention. *Jurnal Media Hukum*, 13(2), 331–342.
- Tarigan, R. S. (2024). *Constitutional Law and Transformation: Implications and Social Prospects*. Collaborative Workspace.

Utama, M. S. B., Alisia, S. A., Lafipah, N. A., Tulis, M. E. H., & Saripudin, A. (2024). The Influence of Legal Science on the Character Formation of Young Leaders in Indonesia. *Iuris Studia: Journal of Legal Studies*, 5(3), 852–860.

Perdana, M. H. G. (2022). MAINTAINING PEACE THROUGH TRANSPARENT PERFORMANCE POLICIES AMONG ASEAN MEMBERS IN THE ADMM-PLUS FORUM. *Journal of Social and Human Sciences (JSHS)*, 7(1), 29-42.