

Increasing Traffic Law Awareness Among Junior High School Students Through Community Service Activities Based on Legal Education

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Abstract

Traffic violations involving students, particularly those still in junior high school (SMP), are still frequently encountered in the field. Low legal awareness and a lack of understanding of the importance of traffic discipline are the main factors triggering this condition. This community service activity aims to provide a real contribution from law intern students in developing a character of orderly traffic from an early age through an educational and preventive approach. The strategies used include legal counseling on traffic regulations, as well as fostering awareness of traffic discipline tailored to the characteristics of junior high school students. The community service method used is lectures and discussions that actively involve students in discussions and questions and answers regarding traffic rules and ethics. The activity was carried out directly in Tempak Village, Candimulyo District, Magelang Regency, with the support of local residents and parents of junior high school students. The results of the activity showed an increase in students' understanding of traffic regulations, awareness of the importance of road safety, and changes in attitudes towards being more disciplined and responsible. In conclusion, the role of law intern students has been proven to make a positive contribution in instilling the values of orderly traffic from an early age as part of the character formation of a law- conscious young generation.

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Keyword

Traffic Discipline, Legal Awareness, Junior High School Students

Abstrak

Permasalahan pelanggaran lalu lintas yang melibatkan usia pelajar, khususnya anak-anak yang masih duduk di bangku Sekolah Menengah Pertama (SMP), masih sering dijumpai di lapangan. Rendahnya kesadaran hukum serta kurangnya pemahaman mengenai pentingnya tertib berlalu lintas menjadi faktor utama yang memicu kondisi tersebut. Kegiatan pengabdian ini bertujuan untuk memberikan kontribusi nyata mahasiswa magang hukum dalam pembentukan karakter tertib berlalu lintas sejak usia dini melalui pendekatan edukatif dan preventif. Strategi yang digunakan meliputi penyuluhan hukum tentang peraturan lalu lintas, serta pembentukan kesadaran disiplin berlalu lintas yang disesuaikan dengan karakteristik siswa SMP. Metode pengabdian yang digunakan adalah ceramah dan diskusi yang melibatkan siswa secara aktif dalam diskusi dan tanya jawab terkait aturan dan etika berlalu lintas. Pelaksanaan kegiatan dilakukan secara langsung di desa Tempak kecamatan Candimulyo kabupaten Magelang dengan dukungan warga sekitar dan orang tua para murid SMP. Hasil kegiatan menunjukkan adanya peningkatan pemahaman siswa terhadap aturan lalu lintas, kesadaran akan pentingnya keselamatan di jalan, serta perubahan sikap yang lebih disiplin dan bertanggung jawab. Kesimpulannya, peran mahasiswa magang hukum terbukti memberikan kontribusi positif dalam menanamkan nilai-nilai tertib berlalu lintas sejak dini sebagai bagian dari pembentukan karakter generasi muda yang sadar hukum.

Kata Kunci

Disiplin Lalu Lintas, Kesadaran Hukum, Siswa SMP

Introduction

Traffic order issues in Indonesia remain a serious problem, especially those involving students. Children who are still in junior high school are often seen riding motorcycles on the road even though they do not legally meet the age requirements to have a driver's license. This phenomenon is also found in Magelang Regency, where junior high school students are accustomed to using motorized vehicles for their daily activities, especially for

commuting to and from school. This situation shows that there is still a low level of legal awareness and a weak understanding of traffic rules and safety from an early age.¹

Traffic violations by students are influenced by several contributing factors, including lack of parental supervision, high mobility needs, relatively long distances to school, and a lack of adequate public transportation. In addition, social environmental factors also encourage children to ride motorcycles as a form of habit that is considered normal. However, based on traffic safety studies, underage drivers have a higher risk of accidents due to psychological immaturity, low vehicle control skills, and a lack of understanding of traffic signs and etiquette.²

The problem faced by partners, in this case the community and parents of junior high school students in Tempak Village, Candimulyo District, Magelang Regency, is the low level of legal awareness among children and families regarding the prohibition of driving for minors and the dangers it poses. Therefore, continuous educational efforts are needed to instill the values of traffic order from an early age. This community service activity aims to contribute to the character building of traffic discipline among students through legal counseling and socialization based on the results of previous research, so that it is hoped that it will increase legal awareness, reduce the potential for violations, and prevent the risk of traffic accidents among students.

¹ Fidia Rubiati et al., "Edukasi Safety Riding Sebagai Upaya Meningkatkan Kesadaran Perilaku Aman Berkendara Pada Pelajar SMP," *Pro Health Jurnal Ilmiah Kesehatan* 7, no. 1 (2025): 27–33; Ruly Fuji Astuti and I Made Suwanda, "Disiplin Berlalu Lintas Di Jalan Raya Pada Remaja Di Desa Petak, Pacet, Mojokerto," *Kajian Moral Dan Kewarganegaraan* 3, no. 2 (2015): 831–45; Fadli Rozaq et al., "Sosialisasi Keselamatan Perkeretaapian Untuk Meningkatkan Peran Masyarakat Tertib Berlalu Lintas Di Perlintasan Sebidang," *Madiun Spoor: Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat* 1, no. 1 (2021).

² Sadat N S Sidabutar and Annisa Zulfa Safira, "Sosialisasi Penanggulangan Kenakalan Remaja: Disiplin Berlalu Lintas," *Jurnal Abdimas Pariwisata* 5, no. 2 (2024): 58–60; Sonya Sidjabat, Sri Handayani, and Abdullah Ade Suryobuwono, "Sosialisasi Sadar Keselamatan Berlalu Lintas Pada Siswa SMA Negeri 8 Jakarta," *Jurnal Abdimas Transportasi & Logistik (JATL)* 2, no. 1 (2022): 30–36.

Method

The methods used in this community service activity were lectures and discussions, which were chosen as an educational approach to address the issue of low traffic safety awareness among junior high school students. This community service activity targeted junior high school students in Tempak Village, Candimulyo District, Magelang Regency, which was determined based on the results of initial observations in the field regarding the habit of some students using motorcycles even though they did not meet the requirements for a driver's license (SIM).

The activity was carried out directly in the village environment through structured stages, starting with initial observations to identify factual conditions and problems, followed by the delivery of material through lectures on traffic laws, driving requirements, and the risks and legal consequences of underage driving. Next, the discussion method was applied in the form of interactive questions and answers between the presenters and participants, in order to deepen understanding, clarify the material that had been presented, and encourage active participation from participants in discussing the traffic issues they face on a daily basis.

Through the application of these lecture and discussion methods, participants gained a more comprehensive understanding of the importance of traffic safety, compliance with laws and regulations, and social responsibility as road users. The activity was evaluated qualitatively by observing the level of participation, enthusiasm, and response of participants during the lecture and discussion, which showed that the methods used were effective in instilling the values of orderly traffic from an early age.

Results and Discussion

This community service activity produced various empirical findings obtained through direct observation and the implementation of traffic order socialization to junior high school students in Tempak Village, Candimulyo District, Magelang Regency. Initial observations conducted by a team of interns from the Dhian Yudgho & Partners Law Office showed that traffic violations by students are still a common phenomenon in the village. It was found that most junior high school students were riding motorcycles independently even though

they did not meet the age requirements and did not have a driver's license (SIM). In fact, in some cases, the use of motor vehicles by minors had been permitted or tolerated by parents and the surrounding community, citing the need for mobility and the distance to school.

The findings indicate a discrepancy between applicable legal norms and social reality in society. Law No. 22 of 2009 on Road Traffic and Transportation explicitly stipulates that every motor vehicle driver must have a driver's license as proof of competence and legality in driving. The phenomenon of many underage motorcyclists has had many negative effects, one of which is the occurrence of accidents on the roads and frequent violations. In addition to not having a driver's license (SIM), most teenagers engage in reckless behavior on the road with their vehicles, and without realizing that their actions can endanger themselves and others.

Low legal awareness and minimal understanding of safety risks have led to the inadequate implementation of these regulations, particularly among students. This situation reinforces the urgency of conducting traffic law awareness campaigns as a preventive measure to reduce traffic violations and accidents from an early age.



Figure 1. Traffic Order Socialization

The traffic safety awareness campaign was conducted systematically in several sessions by law interns (Figure 1). The first session was presented by Andini, who focused on the

prologue and introduction to the activities. This session explained the background of the community service activity, the objectives of the socialization, and the role of law interns in providing legal education to the community. A communicative approach was used to create a conducive atmosphere and build participant engagement from the start of the activity. This session played an important role in instilling an initial understanding that traffic order is part of the legal obligations and moral responsibilities of every citizen.

The second session was continued by Rasti with the presentation of core material on traffic order. The material was presented in a structured manner, covering the basic understanding of traffic order, the legal basis governing traffic and road transportation, and driving ethics in public spaces. The explanation of Law No. 22 of 2009 was given in simple terms so that it was easy for participants to understand, including a discussion of the minimum age for obtaining a driver's license, the obligation to use safety equipment, and legal sanctions for traffic violations. In addition, participants were also given an understanding of good driving behavior, such as obeying traffic signs, not driving recklessly, and the importance of respecting other road users. Emphasis was placed on safety, both for the driver and the surrounding community.

The final session consisted of a question and answer session facilitated by Tyas, which served as a means of evaluation and further exploration of the material. In this session, participants were given the opportunity to ask questions about material they did not understand, as well as share their personal experiences with traffic. The results of the question and answer session showed an increase in participants' understanding of traffic rules and the dangers of underage driving. Participants began to realize that possessing a driver's license is not merely an administrative formality, but a form of assurance of competence and safety in driving. In addition, there was an awareness that orderly traffic has a direct impact on the safety of oneself, one's family, and other road users.

Overall, the results of this community service activity showed that the observational and participatory socialization approaches were effective in addressing the problems identified in the introduction, namely low legal awareness and high potential for traffic violations by junior high school students. This activity not only increased participants' cognitive

understanding of traffic rules but also contributed to the formation of attitudes and character of traffic discipline from an early age. Thus, the role of law interns has proven to make a real contribution in supporting efforts to prevent traffic violations and shape a law-abiding younger generation at the community level.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the activities that have been carried out, it is recommended that traffic safety awareness activities be carried out continuously and involve schools, parents, and relevant authorities so that legal awareness can be optimally developed. In addition, it is necessary to develop follow-up programs in the form of school-based legal education and family environments to strengthen understanding and supervision of school-age children. Law students are expected to continue to play an active role in similar community service activities using more varied and measurable methods, so that the resulting impact can be more widespread and sustainable in building a culture of traffic order in society.

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