

# Enhancing Community Resources of the Muhammadiyah Branch in Sidoarjo through Paralegal Training to Establish a Legal-Cadre Village

Lidya Shery Muis\*, Sri Budi Purwaningsih, Rifqi Ridlo Phahlevy, Filia Amanda, and Fridayani Restya Purlianasari

Universitas Muhammadiyah Sidoarjo, Sidoarjo, Indonesia

\*Corresponding author email: [lidyasherymuis@umsida.ac.id](mailto:lidyasherymuis@umsida.ac.id)

## Abstract

The village, as the smallest unit of governance within Indonesia's governmental system, nonetheless holds a strategic role in realising justice for the community. The involvement of the Muhammadiyah Branch Association, as a community-based organisation at the village level, serves as a frontline force in addressing social issues within society, particularly legal problems faced by underprivileged citizens. The presence of legal cadres within the Muhammadiyah Branch Association is expected to provide legal assistance in resolving legal issues and offering solutions that can be addressed at the village level. One of the challenges faced is the limited number of human resources at the branch level with legal expertise. A viable solution to this problem is to enhance legal knowledge through Paralegal Training for Muhammadiyah branch cadres. Before engaging with the community, paralegals are equipped with both theoretical and practical legal knowledge to handle and resolve legal issues encountered by the public. Strengthening the competence of Muhammadiyah branch cadres as paralegals is expected to optimally support village governments in addressing and solving legal challenges at the village level. In the future, paralegals are envisioned to become agents of change in the realisation of legally empowered villages.

**Submitted:**

October 18, 2025

**Accepted:**

November 20, 2025

**Published:**

December 31, 2025

This work is licensed  
under a Creative  
Commons Attribution-  
NonCommercial 4.0  
International License

## Keywords

Paralegal, Muhammadiyah Association, Agent of Change

## Abstrak

*Desa sebagai lembaga pemerintahan terkecil dalam system pemerintahan di Indonesia. Namun demikian, peran desa dalam mewujudkan keadilan bagi masyarakat memegang peran yang strategis. Pelibatan Persyarikatan Ranting Muhammadiyah sebagai organisasi masyarakat di lingkup desa, menjadi garda terdepan dalam menangani problem-problem sosial di masyarakat, khususnya problem hukum bagi masyarakat yang kurang mampu. Hadirnya kader hukum di Persyarikatan Ranting Muhammadiyah diharapkan dapat memberikan bantuan hukum guna memecahkan permasalahan-permasalahan hukum dan memberikan solusi serta dapat diselesaikan sampai di tingkat desa. Kendala yang dihadapi terkait terbatasnya sumberdaya manusia di tingkat ranting yang memiliki kemampuan di bidang hukum. Solusi yang dapat ditawarkan yaitu menambah pengetahuan di bidang hukum melalui Pelatihan Paralegal bagi kader ranting Muhammadiyah. Sebelum terjun ke masyarakat paralegal dibekali pengetahuan hukum dari aspek teori maupun praktis dalam menangani atau menyelesaikan permasalahan hukum yang ada di masyarakat. Peningkatan kompetensi kader ranting Muhammadiyah sebagai paralegal diharapkan secara optimal dapat membantu pemerintah desa dalam menangani dan memecahkan problematika hukum di tingkat desa. Kedepannya paralegal menjadi salah satu agent of change dalam mewujudkan desa kader hukum.*

## Kata Kunci

Paralegal, Persyarikatan Muhammadiyah, Agen Perubahan

## Introduction

In its implementation as a state based on the rule of law, as mandated by the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Indonesia is obliged to realize justice for its people. This is carried out as a manifestation of the purpose and objectives of the law itself,

namely as an effort to achieve justice.<sup>1</sup> In this case, justice is not defined as equality in the sense of being the same, but rather in accordance with each person's portion without harming one another, so that everyone can obtain equal and balanced benefits.

Legal problems in Indonesia are still quite high, often creating injustice due to the lack of information provided to the public. In Sidoarjo itself, legal issues remain a common unresolved task.<sup>2</sup> It should be noted that in Sidoarjo, up until now, the number of cases submitted to the Sidoarjo District Court remains very high; in 2024 alone, there were more than 500 cases submitted to the Sidoarjo District Court and more than 4,600 cases submitted to the Sidoarjo Religious Court.

One of the efforts made by the government is by enacting Law Number 16 of 2011 concerning Legal Aid, in which all underprivileged people have the right to obtain legal aid. However, there are still many accompanying problems, such as the fact that many people are not yet aware of the existence of such legal aid, how to obtain it, and so on.<sup>3</sup> It is also related to funding, which cannot cover the large number of existing legal problems.<sup>4</sup> In addition, the Sidoarjo Government, which has not yet established a regional regulation regarding access to legal aid, makes this problem even more complex. The effort that can be made is the need for the involvement of community organizations in addressing this issue.

Muhammadiyah, as an Islamic movement of da'wah for enjoining good and forbidding wrong (*amar ma'ruf nahi munkar*) and renewal (*tajdid*), which is based on the Qur'an and the Sunnah, aims to realize a truly Islamic society. Muhammadiyah plays a significant role in various national, religious, and humanitarian issues, particularly in relation to its role in strengthening legal justice. Muhammadiyah's seriousness in addressing legal issues in the

---

<sup>1</sup> Purwanto Purwanto, "Perwujudan Keadilan Dan Keadilan Sosial Dalam Negara Hukum Indonesia: Perjuangan Yang Tidak Mudah Dioperasionalkan," *Jurnal Hukum Media Bhakti* 1, no. 1 (2017).

<sup>2</sup> Diva Sabrina et al., "Tantangan Struktural Dan Sosial Dalam Implementasi Bantuan Hukum Bagi Masyarakat," *Jurnal Multidisiplin Ilmu Akademik* 2, no. 2 (2025): 243–56.

<sup>3</sup> Sari Wahyuni and Bambang Sasmita Adi Putra, "Analisis Pelaksanaan Bantuan Hukum Gratis Bagi Masyarakat Yang Tidak Mampu Di Indonesia," *Jurnal Mahasiswa Hukum* 1, no. 2 (2024): 65–72.

<sup>4</sup> Elisa Elisa and Febri Handayani, "Efektifitas Bantuan Hukum Dalam Menjamin Akses Keadilan Bagi Masyarakat Miskin," *Jurnal Cahaya Hukum Nusantara* 1, no. 1 (2025): 38–45.

country was evident in the 48th Congress in Surakarta, where one of the issues discussed was related to the role of Muhammadiyah in strengthening legal justice. Muhammadiyah's seriousness in addressing legal issues can also be seen in the National Coordination Meeting of Muhammadiyah Legal Aid Institutes (*Rapat Koordinasi Nasional Lembaga Bantuan Hukum*) throughout Indonesia, in the Organizational Consolidation for Building the Direction of Muhammadiyah's Advocacy Movement.

Muhammadiyah, as an organization that has a structured hierarchy from the branch level, sub-branch, regional, provincial, up to the central level spread from Sabang to Merauke, and also has special branches abroad, becomes one of Muhammadiyah's strengths in achieving the goals of the organization, one of which is related to legal justice. In the regional context, particularly in Sidoarjo, the role of Muhammadiyah carried out by the Regional Leadership of Muhammadiyah (*Pimpinan Daerah Muhammadiyah/PDM*) plays an important role in realizing Muhammadiyah's great objectives as determined in the 48th Congress in Surakarta. In this regard, PDM, represented by the Council of Law and Human Rights, has the duty to realize and implement Equality Before the Law. This can be achieved by providing education related to legal understanding through legal education (Paralegal Training) for Muhammadiyah cadres under the auspices of PDM Sidoarjo Regency, which are spread across 18 sub-districts in Sidoarjo. These Muhammadiyah cadres will become the extension of PDM Sidoarjo as Paralegals. The existence of paralegals as one of the professions in the field of law is the realization of Law Number 16 of 2011 concerning Legal Aid (hereinafter referred to as the Legal Aid Law). Paralegals are also recognized as a profession in the field of law in accordance with the provisions contained in Articles 9 and 10 of the Legal Aid Law.

The existing condition related to realizing legal justice carried out by Muhammadiyah cadres in the Sidoarjo region as paralegals is the lack of ability of the cadres in terms of legal understanding and resolving existing legal problems, therefore it is necessary to provide legal preparation by conducting legal education for the cadres.

The Legal Education activity aimed at cadres under the auspices of PDM Sidoarjo is intended to implement the value of Equality Before the Law in equalizing access to law in

order to achieve justice in Sidoarjo and to realize the Legal-Cadre Village, considering the high level of legal problems in Sidoarjo. In addition, this program is also a form of the Independent Learning–Independent Campus (*Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka*) for students, especially law students of FBHIS UMSIDA in the Village Development Program through the Legal-Awareness Village program. The Key Performance Indicators (IKU) obtained are related to IKU 2, 3, and 5, in which lecturers, students, and Muhammadiyah cadres are involved in this activity.

## Method

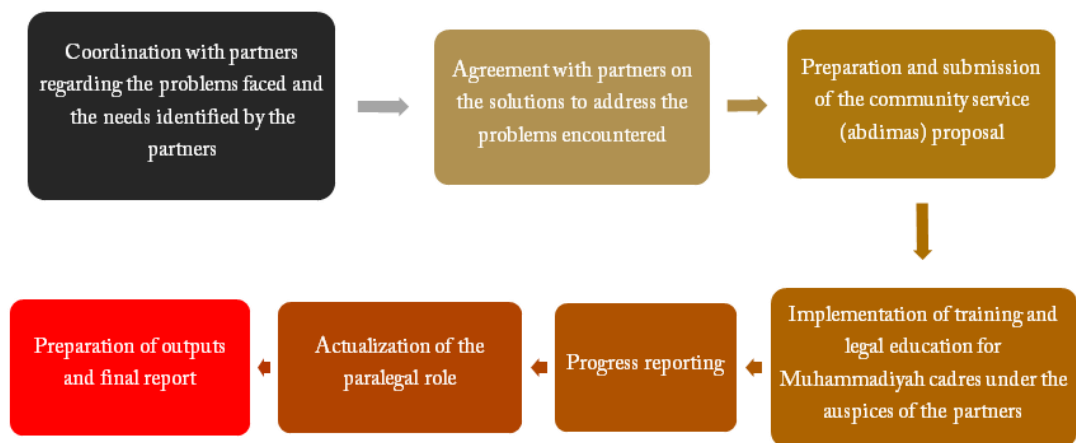


Figure 1. Flow chart

In Figure 1, it is explained that in relation to this community service, the initial step taken is coordination with the partner regarding the problems faced by the partner and the partner's needs. After that, an agreement is made with the partner concerning the solutions to the problems being faced. Then, the preparation and submission of the community service proposal to *risetmu.or.id* is carried out, and once it is approved, training and legal/paralegal education will be provided for Muhammadiyah cadres under the auspices of the partner. This is followed by progress reports, the actualization of the paralegal's role as a form of implementing the knowledge that has been obtained, outputs, and the final report

## Result and Discussion

As part of the efforts to improve human resource capacity within the Muhammadiyah Association in Sidoarjo, a Paralegal Training activity was held with the theme “*Paralegal*

*Enlightenment Da'wah: Manifestation of Justice and Community Prosperity.*" This activity was a collaboration with the Law and Human Rights Council of PDM Sidoarjo, the Legal Consultation and Aid Institute of Universitas Muhammadiyah Sidoarjo (LKBH UMSIDA), the Regional Office of the Ministry of Law in East Java, and the National Legal Development Agency (BPHN), with the aim of realizing a Legal-Cadre Village.

The training was held over 4 days, namely on May 17, 18, 24, and 25, 2025. The sessions on May 17 and 18, 2025 took place in classroom 701, GKB 3, 7th floor, Campus I, Universitas Muhammadiyah Sidoarjo, while the sessions on May 24 and 25, 2025 were conducted online via Zoom. This activity was attended by 26 participants consisting of representatives from Muhammadiyah and Aisyiyah Branch Leaders from 18 sub-districts in Sidoarjo Regency, representatives from villages, as well as students. The enthusiasm of the participants was quite high, as reflected in their active participation in each training session. To measure the achievement of participants' understanding of the prepared curriculum materials, participants filled out a questionnaire provided. The results of the questionnaire are as follows:

**Table 1.** Curriculum Achievement

No.	Material	Achievements		Achievement based on curriculum	
		Pre-Test	Post-Test	Yes	No
1	Introduction to Law and Democracy	Overall, it shows that the participants have already known the basic concepts of law and democracy	Overall, it shows that the participants understand law and democracy more deeply, as indicated by their ability to identify legal principles and democratic principles	V	
2	Human Rights	Overall, it shows that the participants already have an initial and sufficient understanding of the concept of human rights, although conceptual and contextual strengthening of the material is still needed	Overall, it shows that the participants are able to identify the types of human rights and understand the types of human rights violations	V	

No.	Material	Achievements		Achievement based on curriculum	
		Pre-Test	Post-Test	Yes	No
3	Social Structure	Overall, it shows that the participants understand the structure of society and the general relationships among the components that make up society	Overall, it shows that the participants are able to identify the relationships among the components of society based on several aspects, as well as able to conduct a simple identification of the problems that arise within them	V	
4	Legal Aid and Advocacy	Overall, it shows that the participants have not yet understood the provision of assistance and advocacy efforts	Overall, it shows that the participants know the types of legal aid efforts and conduct a simple identification of legal problems	V	
5	Legal Procedures in the Indonesian Judicial System	Overall, it shows that the participants have not yet understood the legal procedures within the judicial system in Indonesia	Overall, it shows that the participants understand the types of courts as well as understand their relative and absolute authorities. They also understand the legal procedures and the process of dispute resolution in the judiciary	V	
6	Gender, Minorities, and Vulnerable Groups	Overall, it shows that the participants have understood the concept of vulnerable groups but have not yet fulfilled the concept of gender justice	Overall, it shows that the participants have understood the concept of gender justice and understood issues of gender discrimination	V	
7	Paralegalism	Overall, it shows that the participants have understood the concept of paralegals but have not yet understood their roles and functions in society	Overall, it shows that the participants understand their role in society and their function as assistants to advocates in a law office	V	



No.	Material	Achievements		Achievement based on curriculum	
		Pre-Test	Post-Test	Yes	No
8	Communication Techniques for Paralegals	Overall, it shows that the participants have not yet understood how to communicate with clients effectively and efficiently to obtain the information provided	Overall, it shows that the participants are able to determine methods of communication with clients according to the conditions and information needed in handling cases	V	

Based on Table 1 above, it shows that the understanding of paralegal training participants before and after receiving the material experienced an improvement, from previously only knowing to then understanding. This is in accordance with Bloom's taxonomy theory of thinking ability, from the most basic level of knowing (C1) to the next level of understanding (C2), which must be mastered by the paralegal training participants. Bloom's taxonomy theory includes three aspects, namely cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (skills), and affective (attitude).

The paralegal curriculum refers to the Guidelines for the Implementation of Paralegal Education and Training Number: PHN-53.HN.04.03 of 2021. In delivering the material, the resource persons, in addition to using the lecture method, also applied group discussion and assignments. This learning model encourages training participants to be directly and interactively involved in learning, sharpen their ability to express ideas/opinions in discussions, and train participants' sensitivity to current legal issues. As feedback, at the end of the session the speakers asked the participants to provide learning reflections as evaluation material for the speakers.

After the material delivery stage was completed, before the training participants received their paralegal certificates, they had to complete the stage of paralegal role actualization. The actualization of the paralegal role was carried out in the form of project-based learning, namely:

- a. Carrying out the role of a Paralegal in litigation activities accompanied by an Advocate in providing legal aid for at least one series of procedural law processes;



- b. Carrying out the role of a Paralegal in non-litigation activities;
- c. Carrying out the role of a Paralegal in other legal service activities.

The paralegal role actualization lasts approximately 3 months. In this stage, participants are directly involved at the grassroots branch of the association according to their domicile. It is expected that participants can identify legal problems that arise and solve them by providing appropriate solutions. Paralegals as legal cadres are expected to become the front line in handling legal problems and providing solutions so that they can be resolved at the branch/village level.

In the implementation of the paralegal training activities, several obstacles were encountered. One of them was related to the number of participants. According to the requirements set by BPHN, paralegal training can be organized with a minimum of 15 participants, while the participants from Muhammadiyah were fewer than 10. Therefore, collaboration with other partners, namely Aisyiyah, was needed, so that 25 participants were finally gathered. Another obstacle was related to the resource persons/instructors. Since this paralegal training was certified by BPHN, the instructors had to include elements from the government, namely the Ministry of Law of the Republic of Indonesia and the Regional Office of the Ministry of Law in East Java, which required adjusting to their schedules, resulting in the training schedule being delayed from the initial plan.

## Conclusion

The paralegal training program serves as a foundation for the establishment of legal service posts (*Pos Pelayanan Hukum/Posyankum*), whereby the success of the training constitutes its primary capital. The establishment of Posyankum at the branch or village level will provide a forum for the community to report and resolve legal problems, as well as assist the government in producing certified legal cadres in the form of paralegals, in accordance with the mandate of Law No. 16 of 2011 on Legal Aid.

## References

- Ahmad, Ibrahim, and Roy Marthen Moonti. "Penguatan Peran Dan Fungsi Paralegal Dalam Meningkatkan Akses Keadilan Di Desa Deme Dua Dan Desa Bubalango." *Transformasi Masyarakat: Jurnal Inovasi Sosial Dan Pengabdian* 2, no. 1 (2025): 176–89.
- Elisa, Elisa, and Febri Handayani. "Efektifitas Bantuan Hukum Dalam Menjamin Akses Keadilan Bagi Masyarakat Miskin." *Jurnal Cahaya Hukum Nusantara* 1, no. 1 (2025): 38–45.
- Heniyatun, Puji Sulistyaningsih, and Yulia Kurniaty. "Pelatihan Paralegal Bagi Nasyiatul Aisyiah Kabupaten Magelang." In *Proceeding of the 12th University Research Colloquium 2020: Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat*, 1–11. Surakarta: Universitas Aisyiyah Surakarta, 2020.
- Nurrosyifa, Mulyani Zulaeha Lies Ariany Nabilla, and Rahmat Halim Sapetra Azzahra. "Peningkatan Kapasitas Masyarakat Sebagai Paralegal Desa Dalam Penyelesaian Sengketa." In *PRO SEJAHTERA (Prosiding Seminar Nasional Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat)*, Vol. 6, 2024.
- Purwanto, Purwanto. "Perwujudan Keadilan dan Keadilan Sosial dalam Negara Hukum Indonesia: Perjuangan Yang Tidak Mudah Dioperasionalkan." *Jurnal Hukum Media Bhakti* 1, no. 1 (2017).
- Sabrina, Diva, Kurnia Fitri Rahma Dani, Daffa Ariefiano Satria, Rizky Yoga Satriya, and Rayhan Kevin Rifaldy. "Tantangan Struktural dan Sosial dalam Implementasi Bantuan Hukum Bagi Masyarakat." *Jurnal Multidisiplin Ilmu Akademik* 2, no. 2 (2025): 243–56.
- Wahyuni, Sari, and Bambang Sasmita Adi Putra. "Analisis Pelaksanaan Bantuan Hukum Gratis Bagi Masyarakat yang Tidak Mampu di Indonesia." *Jurnal Mahasiswa Hukum* 1, no. 2 (2024): 65–72.
- Warjiyati, Sri. "Pemberdayaan Paralegal Aisyiyah Ranting Sukodono Dalam Pendampingan Korban Kekerasan Perempuan Dan Anak." *Dimas: Jurnal Pemikiran Agama Untuk Pemberdayaan* 17, no. 2 (2017): 175–92.  
<https://doi.org/10.21580/dms.2017.172.2425>.
- Wijaya, Endra, Cipta Indralestari Rachman, Diani Kesuma, Febri Meutia, Lisda

Syamsumardian, and Yunan Prasetyo Kurniawan. “Pelatihan Paralegal Bagi Masyarakat Dan Perangkat Pemerintah Desa Karang Suraga Serta Desa Bulakan.” *E-Dimas: Jurnal Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat* 15, no. 3 (2024): 504–10.



This work is licensed under [a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)