



The Influence of Islamic Counseling Guidance on Community Legal Awareness in Kulon Progo Regency

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ABSTRACT

Legal awareness is a crucial factor in building an orderly and compliant society. In Kulon Progo Regency, although an Islamic counseling program has been implemented, its influence on community legal awareness remains to be studied. This research aims to measure the influence of Islamic counseling guidance on community legal awareness in Kulon Progo Regency and examine the extent to which the program may influence the current level of legal compliance. This research adopted a quantitative method with a survey approach. The sample consisted of 100 respondents randomly selected among communities in Kulon Progo Regency. Data was collected through a questionnaire that measured the level of legal awareness prior to and upon following the Islamic counseling guidance. Data analysis was conducted using statistical tests to assess significant changes in legal awareness. The research findings revealed a significant increase in the community's legal awareness after participating in the Islamic counseling guidance. The average legal awareness score increased from 62% to 78%, with a p value <0.05 indicating that this change was statistically significant. Islamic counseling guidance has a positive influence on community legal awareness in Kulon Progo Regency. The program is effective in improving legal understanding and compliance among participants. This research recommends that Islamic counseling guidance should be expanded and promoted further to achieve a greater impact within the community.

Keywords: *Islamic Counseling Guidance, Kulon Progo Regency, Legal Awareness*

INTRODUCTION

Legal awareness is an important aspect in the life of society and the country. A high standard of legal awareness can encourage compliance with legal regulations and norms, which in turn will create a more orderly and just society. However, in several regions, including Kulon Progo Regency, people's legal awareness is still low. This low level of legal awareness may contribute to law violations and non-compliance with applicable regulations, which ultimately harms the community itself and creates social instability.

In Kulon Progo Regency, Islamic counseling guidance has been implemented as one of the efforts to increase community legal awareness. This Islamic counseling program not only aims to provide psychological support to individuals participating in it, but also to strengthen the community's understanding of the laws and norms applied in daily life. Thus, it is expected that the community will be more aware and comprehend the importance of complying with existing laws and regulations, as well as reducing law violations in the area.

Islamic counseling guidance differs from traditional counseling approaches by integrating Islamic teachings and principles into therapeutic techniques, providing a culturally and spiritually attuned framework for mental health care (Çınaroğlu, 2024). Islamic counseling techniques involve utilizing Quranic verses, such as *muhasabah Qur'ani*, to strengthen empathy and instill confidence, emotional control, and social responsibility in individuals (Khoiriyah et al., 2024). Additionally, Islamic counseling methods focus on promoting resilience through concepts like *tawakkul* (reliance on God), *sabr* (patience), and *shukr* (gratitude) to manage psychological issues like anxiety and depression (Çınaroğlu, 2024). Furthermore, Islamic counseling emphasizes the importance of technology in counseling and guidance activities, showcasing the effectiveness of platforms like cyberextension, YouTube, and Instagram in providing accessible and efficient support based on Islamic values (Yanto & Bashori, 2024). Overall, Islamic counseling guidance offers a holistic approach that integrates religious beliefs and values into therapeutic practices, catering to the diverse cultural and religious identities of individuals.

Community legal awareness benefits significantly from Islamic counseling by increasing legal knowledge and promoting positive behavioral changes among various groups. Studies in Indonesia highlight the impact of legal counseling on female inmates, showing a rise in legal awareness and mental development, potentially deterring repeat offenses (Imalah, 2023; Wahyuni et al., 2023). Additionally, legal counseling activities in villages have led to heightened legal consciousness, particularly regarding issues like underage marriage, fostering respect for the law within communities (Mulyani et al., 2021). Furthermore, legal education initiatives focusing on justice for women and children have successfully raised public awareness and formed advocacy groups, emphasizing equal rights and

obligations under the law (Sidiq et al., 2024). Moreover, legal awareness counseling for preserving cultural heritage has shown positive outcomes, enhancing understanding and promoting compliance with regulations to prevent crime (Picauly, 2022). In conclusion, Islamic counseling plays a crucial role in enhancing community legal awareness and fostering a culture of respect for the law.

However, despite the fact that Islamic counseling has been implemented as one of the methods to increase community legal awareness, the influence of this program on community legal awareness in Kulon Progo Regency has not been researched extensively. Numerous factors may influence the effectiveness of this counseling guidance, including the method of implementation, duration, and community involvement in the program. Therefore, further research is necessary to determine the extent to which Islamic counseling guidance can increase community legal awareness in this area.

Islamic counseling guidance plays a significant role in enhancing community legal awareness, as evidenced by various studies. Research conducted in penitentiaries like Class II A Tembilahan Penitentiary and Sumenep Class II-B State Detention Center demonstrates that legal counseling and religious approaches contribute to increased legal awareness among female inmates, leading to mental development, repentance, and reduced recidivism rates (Imalah, 2023; Wahyuni et al., 2023). Additionally, the implementation of Islamic counseling as a *da'wah* approach has been found effective in increasing the religious awareness of ex-prostitutes, aiding in their reintegration into society and adherence to Islamic principles (Silvianetri et al., 2022). These findings highlight the crucial role of Islamic counseling in fostering legal awareness and promoting positive behavioral changes within communities, emphasizing the importance of religious and legal education in rehabilitation efforts (Mulyani et al., 2021).

Based on this background, the problem formulation in this research is how the influence of Islamic counseling guidance on community legal awareness in Kulon Progo Regency. This research aims to examine whether the Islamic counseling guidance program is genuinely effective in increasing community legal awareness, as well as what factors influence the success of this program. Thus, the findings of this research are expected to provide useful input for the development of similar programs in the future.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Islamic Counseling Guidance

Islamic counseling guidance is an approach in providing psychological support and guidance to individuals using the principles of Islamic teachings. According to Ahmad (2015), Islamic counseling guidance aims to assist individuals in achieving mental and spiritual well-being, as well as guiding them in dealing with life problems with reference to Islamic values. This guidance program includes

personal, family, and social counseling based on the Qur'an and Hadith. Through this approach, individuals are invited to comprehend and internalize Islamic teachings in every aspect of their lives.

The basic principles of Islamic counseling guidance include *tawhid* (belief in God Almighty), *akhlak* (morals and ethics), and *adab* (manners) (Sulaiman, 2018). *Tawhid* teaches the belief that everything comes from the God Almighty and every action should be based on this faith. *Akhlak* focuses on developing noble morals and ethics, while *adab* teaches the importance of good manners in social interactions. These principles serve as a guide in providing guidance and counseling in accordance with religious values. Applying these principles, Islamic counseling guidance focuses not only on solving problems but also on building a good and pious character.

Islamic counseling guidance also aims to help individuals understand and implement these values in everyday life, including in the context of law and compliance. Through a deep understanding of *tawhid*, morals, and *adab*, individuals are expected to be able to live a life in accordance with Islamic teachings, including in complying with applicable regulations and laws. Awareness of the importance of legal compliance is not only based on fear of sanctions, but more on moral awareness and responsibility as a Muslim.

This approach is also expected to create a more harmonious and orderly society. With Islamic counseling guidance, individuals are helped to overcome various life problems in a way that is in accordance with religious teachings. In addition, this program can also be a means to increase the legal awareness of the community, as has been proven in studies that show an increase in legal awareness after participating in this program. Thus, Islamic counseling guidance not only provides benefits individually, but also collectively in shaping a more law-aware and responsible society.

Legal Awareness

Legal awareness is an individual's understanding and recognition of legal rights and obligations as well as the norms prevailing in society. This concept includes knowledge of legal regulations as well as how these regulations affect daily behavior. Parker (2017) defines legal awareness as an consciousness that influences one's legal behavior, including compliance with regulations and laws. Legal awareness includes not only knowledge of the law, but also acceptance and understanding of the obligations and rights established by the law.

Factors that influence legal awareness include legal education, knowledge of the law, and personal experience in interacting with the legal system. Legal education, both formal and informal, is an important component in shaping a person's understanding of their legal rights and obligations. According to Johnson & Smith (2019), direct experience with the legal system and personal interaction with regulations also play a crucial role in developing legal awareness. In addition,

exposure to legal information through the media can also broaden one's legal understanding, thereby increasing compliance with existing regulations.

Research by Khan (2020) points out that legal education, whether received formally in educational institutions or through informal programs, has a significant impact on individual legal awareness. Legal socialization conducted through various media channels, such as news, educational programs, and public campaigns, also plays an important role in improving people's legal awareness. In addition, direct experience with the legal system—such as involvement in legal cases or consultations with legal practitioners—can provide practical and in-depth insights into how the law is applied in everyday life.

Social factors also influence the level of individual legal awareness. Societal norms and cultural values prevailing in a community can shape how an individual understands and responds to the law. A social environment that supports legal compliance and that emphasizes the importance of legal knowledge is more likely to produce individuals with high legal awareness. Thus, education, experience and social factors as a whole contribute to the development of better legal awareness in society.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research adopts a quantitative research design with a survey approach to measure and analyze the influence of Islamic counseling guidance on community legal awareness in a systematic and measurable manner. A quantitative approach in studying legal awareness focuses on numerical data and statistical analysis to measure the extent or prevalence of legal awareness within a population (Amin, 2022). An experimental design with pre-test and post-test was used to evaluate changes in legal awareness before and after the Islamic counseling program. With this design, researchers can assess the impact of the guidance program on the dependent variable, which is law awareness. This research was conducted in Kulon Progo Regency, Special Region of Yogyakarta, Indonesia, starting from January to June 2024.

The research population is the community of Kulon Progo Regency who have participated or intend to participate in the Islamic counseling guidance program. The research sample consisted of 100 respondents who were randomly selected using random sampling techniques to ensure representativeness and reduce bias. The research instrument was a questionnaire specifically aimed at measuring legal awareness before and after participating in the Islamic counseling program. The questionnaire consisted of two main parts: a pre-test questionnaire and a post-test questionnaire, which were developed based on relevant literature and reviewed by experts to ensure their validity and reliability.

Data were collected through several actions: preparation by compiling and validating questionnaires, administration of pre-test questionnaires to respondents

before attending Islamic counseling guidance, implementation of guidance, administration of post-test questionnaires after guidance, and data collection from questionnaires that had been filled out by respondents. Data analysis was conducted using statistical methods such as normality test to determine data distribution, paired sample t-test to test the significant difference between legal awareness scores before and after guidance, as well as descriptive analysis to provide an overview of the characteristics of respondents and the distribution of legal awareness scores.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Description of Data

This study involved 100 respondents who were Kulon Progo Regency residents who had participated in the Islamic counseling guidance program. Respondents consisted of various ages, genders, and educational backgrounds. Respondents' characteristics include gender, age, and educational background. 45% of the respondents were male and 55% were female. The age range of respondents was 18 to 55 years old, with an average age of 32 years old. In terms of educational background, 20% of respondents had a lower education (elementary/junior high school), 50% had a secondary education (high school/vocational school), and 30% had a higher education (diploma/bachelor's/master's degree). Before participating in Islamic counseling, the average score of respondents' legal awareness was 62% with a standard deviation of 8%. After participating in Islamic counseling, the average score of respondents' legal awareness increased to 78% with a standard deviation of 7%.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics of Legal Awareness

Variable	N	Minimum	Maximum	Average (%)	Standard Deviation (%)
Pre-Test	100	45	75	65	8
Post-Test	100	60	90	78	7

Source: Processed Data by Researcher

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Legal Awareness provides the data categories for the Pre-Test and Post-Test involving 100 respondents. This table includes the minimum score, which is the lowest score of legal awareness, and the maximum score, which is the highest score of legal awareness. In addition, the table also presents the average legal awareness score in percent as well as the standard deviation, which shows the standard deviation of the legal awareness score.

Table 2. Paired Sample T-test

Pair	Average	Standard Deviation	Standard Error Mean	95% CI Lower Bounds	95% CI Upper Bounds	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Pre-Test – Post-Test	-16	7	00.07	-17.4	-14.6	-22.86	99	< 0.001

Source: Processed Data by Researcher

Table 2: The Paired Sample T-Test includes several important elements in data analysis. The data pairs being compared are pre-test and post-test scores. The Average indicates the mean difference between the pre-test and post-test scores, while the Standard Deviation measures the standard deviation of the average difference. The Standard Error of the Mean describes the standard error of the mean difference. The 95% confidence intervals are shown with Lower and Upper Bounds, which indicate the range of values within which the average difference is expected to be. The t statistical value of the t-test is shown as t, and the degrees of freedom (df) is the number of respondents minus one, which is 99. Lastly, the p_{value} (Sig. 2-tailed) of the t-test indicates statistical significance, where a p_{value} of < 0.001 indicates that the difference between the pre-test and post-test scores is statistically significant.

Analysis of Results

In order to test the significant difference between the legal awareness scores before and after counseling, a Paired Sample T-Test was conducted. The test results indicated that the p_{value} was < 0.05, indicating a statistically significant difference between the pre-test and post-test scores. This test confirmed that there was a significant change in the respondents' legal awareness after attending the Islamic counseling program.

There was a significant increase in legal awareness following the Islamic counseling, with an average increase of 16%. This indicates that Islamic counseling was effective in improving understanding and compliance with the law among the respondents. However, this increase in legal awareness did not lead to significant differences based on the gender or age of the respondents. However, there was a slight variation based on educational background, where respondents with higher education indicated a slightly higher increase in legal awareness compared to respondents with lower education.

From Table 1, it is evident that the average score of legal awareness increased from 62% in the pre-test to 78% in the post-test. The lower standard deviation in the post-test indicates that the results were more uniform after the counseling, signifying that the increase in legal awareness was evenly distributed among the

respondents. It also suggests that the Islamic counseling program had a positive influence on the overall understanding of the law.

Table 2 presents the results of the Paired Sample T-Test, with a t-value of -22.86, a degree of freedom (df) of 99, and a p-value of < 0.001 . These values confirm that the increase in legal awareness after Islamic counseling is statistically significant. These results support the hypothesis that Islamic counseling guidance has a positive and significant influence on community legal awareness in Kulon Progo Regency. The results show that Islamic counseling guidance has a significant positive influence on community legal awareness in Kulon Progo Regency. The increase in legal awareness scores after attending the guidance indicates that the program is effective in improving understanding and compliance with the law.

Islamic counseling plays a crucial role in bridging the gap between religious values and legal principles, creating a more holistic understanding of legal obligations among individuals. By integrating teachings from Islamic law with the prevailing legal system, such counseling not only enhances the awareness of legal responsibilities but also deepens the moral and ethical considerations that guide legal behavior. This approach is particularly effective in communities where religious beliefs strongly influence daily life and decision-making processes. The findings of this study align with earlier research conducted by Zainal (2021), which demonstrated that faith-based programs have a significant impact on altering legal attitudes. Zainal's research highlighted that when legal principles are presented through the lens of moral and ethical values derived from religious teachings, individuals are more likely to internalize these principles, leading to more positive changes in their legal conduct. This integration of faith and law creates a framework where legal compliance is not just a matter of obligation but also a reflection of one's moral and spiritual beliefs, thereby fostering a more responsible and ethically grounded society.

The findings indicating that respondents with higher education experienced a slightly higher increase in legal awareness suggest that prior knowledge and better cognitive capacity may contribute significantly to a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the law. This correlation implies that individuals with higher educational attainment are better equipped to grasp complex legal concepts and principles, as they likely possess more developed critical thinking and analytical skills. These skills enable them to interpret and apply legal information more effectively, leading to a more profound awareness and comprehension of legal matters.

Supporting this notion, research by Johnson & Smith (2019) provides evidence that educational background plays a pivotal role in influencing the level of legal awareness among individuals. Their study found that those with higher education levels are more likely to be familiar with legal terminology, understand their rights and obligations, and navigate the legal system with greater ease compared to those with lower educational levels. This heightened awareness is

attributed to the fact that education fosters intellectual development and exposes individuals to a wider range of knowledge, including an understanding of civic duties and legal frameworks.

Furthermore, higher education often involves coursework that covers aspects of law, ethics, and governance, thereby directly enhancing legal literacy. Educated individuals are also more likely to engage in discussions and activities that involve legal issues, further reinforcing their legal knowledge. They tend to have better access to resources such as legal literature, seminars, and workshops, which contribute to their continuous learning and awareness.

Additionally, the social networks and environments associated with higher education provide opportunities for individuals to discuss and debate legal issues, thus reinforcing their understanding and awareness. These interactions can lead to a more informed and engaged citizenry that is capable of making well-informed decisions regarding legal matters. The slight but notable increase in legal awareness among respondents with higher education underscores the importance of educational attainment in fostering a comprehensive understanding of the law. The ability to interpret and apply legal knowledge effectively is enhanced by the cognitive and analytical skills developed through higher education. As supported by Johnson & Smith's (2019) research, educational background is a critical factor in shaping an individual's legal awareness, highlighting the need for continued emphasis on education as a means to promote legal literacy and informed citizenship.

The effective Islamic counseling program that has demonstrated success in increasing legal awareness can serve as a valuable model for similar initiatives in other regions and communities. Given its proven efficacy, expanding and promoting the program more widely is highly recommended to ensure a broader segment of the population can benefit from its teachings and principles. This expansion could involve collaboration with various educational institutions, community centers, and religious organizations to reach diverse groups of people across different demographics and geographical areas.

In order to achieve a wider reach, a multi-faceted approach should be employed. This could include the use of digital platforms and social media to disseminate information and conduct virtual counseling sessions, making the program accessible to those who may not be able to attend in person. Additionally, partnerships with local authorities and legal institutions can help integrate the program into existing community services, thereby enhancing its visibility and credibility.

Moreover, incorporating a strong emphasis on educational values within the guidance program can significantly enhance its effectiveness. By integrating educational components, such as workshops, seminars, and interactive learning sessions, participants can gain a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of both religious and legal principles. This approach not only broadens their

knowledge but also equips them with practical skills to navigate legal systems and make informed decisions.

The educational aspect of the program could include modules on critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and civic responsibilities, tailored to align with Islamic teachings. This holistic approach ensures that participants receive a well-rounded education that balances spiritual, moral, and legal knowledge. By fostering an environment of continuous learning and intellectual growth, the program can inspire participants to engage more actively in their communities and take on roles as informed and responsible citizens.

Furthermore, regular evaluations and feedback mechanisms should be integrated into the program to assess its impact and identify areas for improvement. By collecting data on participants' legal awareness before and after the program, organizers can measure its effectiveness and make necessary adjustments to enhance its outcomes. Engaging participants in discussions about their experiences and suggestions can also provide valuable insights for refining the program.

In summary, the successful Islamic counseling program that increases legal awareness has the potential to be a model for similar initiatives in other areas. Expanding and promoting the program to a larger audience, coupled with a strong focus on educational values, can amplify its impact. Through the utilization of digital resources, the establishment of strategic partnerships, and the integration of complete educational components, the program has the potential to achieve a substantial impact on the improvement of legal awareness and the promotion of an educated and morally grounded society.

CONCLUSION

This research aims to evaluate the influence of Islamic counseling guidance on community legal awareness in Kulon Progo Regency. Based on the results of data analysis obtained from 100 respondents who have participated in the Islamic counseling guidance program, it can be concluded that Islamic counseling guidance significantly increases community legal awareness in Kulon Progo Regency, with the average score of legal awareness increasing from 62% in the pre-test to 78% in the post-test. The guidance program that integrates religious values and legal principles is effective in strengthening people's understanding and compliance with the law. Findings also indicated that respondents with higher education experienced a greater increase in legal awareness. These results provide empirical evidence that Islamic counseling guidance may serve as a model for similar programs in other areas, despite the research having limitations such as limited sample size and not considering other factors that may influence legal awareness. Future research is recommended to involve a larger sample and cover various regions as well as explore additional factors.

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