

Factors Influencing and Efforts to Improve Public Legal Awareness in Preserving the Status Quo of Crime Scenes in Kupang City

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Abstract

This study aims to elucidate the factors influencing public legal awareness in maintaining the status quo at crime scenes, the relationship between knowledge, understanding, attitude, and legal behavior of the public in maintaining the status quo at crime scenes, and the measures taken to address public legal awareness in maintaining the status quo at crime scenes. This research is a juridical-empirical study that collects data directly from the public in Kupang City through questionnaires and interviews with 225 respondents and 3 police officers. The data were analyzed using inferential statistical techniques. The factors affecting public legal awareness in maintaining the status quo at crime scenes in Kupang City are past experiences, mass media, socio-cultural values, formal education, and legal counseling. The relationships between indicators of legal awareness are: legal knowledge and understanding are related to the legal attitude of the public in maintaining the status quo at crime scenes; Legal attitude is related to the legal behavior of the public in maintaining the status quo at crime scenes. Government measures include preemptive and preventive efforts. To date, no cases have been addressed through repressive measures, such as cases involving intentional acts to obscure, damage, or remove evidence at crime scenes.

Keywords: *Crime Scene, Legal Awareness, Criminal, Kupang.*

Introduction

Every society desires that perpetrators of crimes be held criminally accountable under applicable legal provisions. However, the imposition of punishment on a perpetrator is not immediate. Certain conditions must be met before a criminal can be punished, such as: Is there valid evidence according to the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP)? When a criminal incident occurs, it is then investigated. Unlike the type of truth sought in civil procedural law, the truth pursued in criminal procedural law is material truth or the actual truth. Material truth can be achieved if the conditions at the crime scene (TKP) are preserved, meaning the *status quo* is maintained as it was left by the perpetrator.

The *status quo* at crime scenes is often difficult to obtain. This issue occurs everywhere, including in Kupang. When an incident occurs, the nature of which is unknown—whether it is a crime or not—people spontaneously gather at the crime scene. They come with various intentions such as to help, to satisfy their curiosity, or other motives. Upon arriving at the crime scene, they engage in various actions driven by their instinct to assist those involved in the incident.

The disrupted *status quo* of the crime scene creates difficulties for law enforcement officers attempting to find evidence of the crime. Good intentions to help the victims unintentionally damage the *status quo* of the crime scene. The scene becomes altered, different from its original state, and any traces, tools, and evidence of the crime become obscured or destroyed. Fingerprints or footprints, and shoe prints, become blurred or erased by those who crowd the scene. Likewise, tools or weapons that may have been left at the scene can become damaged, lost, or even taken by individuals who arrived to help. It then becomes challenging to ascertain whether the tools or weapons found belong to the perpetrator. In short, the presence of the public at the crime scene creates various possibilities that result in the evidence becoming unclear, altered, damaged, or lost. Consequently, there is a high likelihood that the perpetrator cannot be held criminally accountable due to insufficient or lack of evidence.

This paper aims to address the following issues: what are the factors influencing public legal awareness in

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maintaining the status quo of crime scenes in Kupang City; what is the relationship between knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and legal behavior of the community in Kupang City; and what are the government's efforts in tackling the issue of public legal awareness in preserving the status quo of crime scenes in Kupang City?

Literature Review

A Crime Scene (TKP) is (1) The place where a criminal act is committed or occurs, or the resulting consequences. (2) Other locations where evidence or victims related to the criminal act are found. There are five aspects identified as factors influencing public legal awareness in this study: past experiences, socio-cultural values, mass media, education level, and legal counseling. According to Berl Kutschinsky, there are four indicators of legal awareness: legal knowledge, legal understanding, legal attitudes, and legal behavior (Berl Kutschinsky, in Soekanto, 1982; Achmad Ali, 2009). Low legal awareness is certainly detrimental to society, the nation, and the state. Therefore, this issue must be addressed.

There are three widely recognized types of crime prevention efforts: preemptive efforts, preventive efforts, and repressive efforts (A.S. Alam, 2010). These crime prevention efforts are also applied to improve public legal awareness in maintaining the status quo of crime scenes. The key concepts and theories from these experts are visualized in Figure 1.

Methodology

This research is an empirical juridical study that collects data directly from the community (fieldwork), conducted in and around Kupang City, East Nusa Tenggara Province (Soekanto Soerjono, 2014; Ishaq H, 2016). The data collection techniques used were questionnaires and in-depth interviews with 225 respondents and 3 police officers. The processed data were then analyzed using single distribution tables, cross tables for preliminary analysis, and Chi-square (X^2), Contingency Coefficient (C), and Maximum Contingency Coefficient (Cmax). After analyzing the data, a qualitative interpretation was conducted to gain a broader understanding and meaning from the research findings.

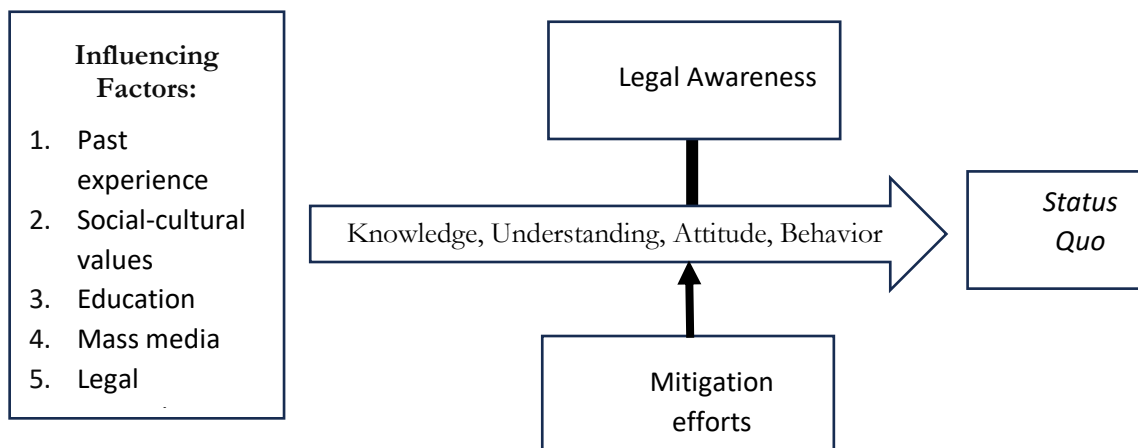


Figure 1. Variables or Aspects Related to this Research (According to the Results of the Literature Review)

Results

Factors Influencing Public Legal Awareness in Preserving the Status Quo of Crime Scenes in Kupang City

The factors influencing public legal awareness in this study encompass five aspects: past experiences, socio-cultural values, mass media, education level, and legal counseling.

The Past Experience

The experiences referred to here are limited to past incidents or events involving adverse situations, such as being victims of crimes like murder, robbery, rape, assault, and similar occurrences. This study shows that when experiencing or witnessing such adverse events, some individuals present at the crime scene (TKP) do not immediately help the victims. The research findings indicate the following: First, the majority (186 or 82.8%) of respondents spontaneously or non-spontaneously assisted the victims. A small portion (39 or 17.2%) of other respondents did not assist the victims. Second, the attitudes and actions of other people present at the crime scene revealed that the majority (186 or 82.8%) provided help to the victims. Third, according to the majority (210 or 93.3%) of respondents, past experiences like the aforementioned can influence public legal awareness.

These research findings align with the theories or explanations of previous experts, asserting that past experiences play a significant role in human life. There is a saying, "Experience is the best teacher." Alex S. Nitisemito states that individuals with extensive experience will have greater capabilities than those with little or no experience (Nitisemito, 1992). Paul Hauck adds that through experience, we learn from mistakes or engage in trial-and-error repeatedly. By making mistakes, we learn not to repeat the same errors in future stages (Hauck, 1995).

Socio-cultural Values

Socio-cultural values are concepts regarding what is considered valuable and important by community members, serving as guiding principles in their lives. One such socio-cultural value is the norm stating, "We must or should immediately help others who are in trouble or facing problems." The findings of this research indicate the following: First, the majority (210 or 93.3%) of respondents stated that socio-cultural values can influence an individual's legal awareness. Second, the community's attitude towards this norm or value is almost uniform, with the majority (210 or 93.3%) of respondents agreeing with this social value.

These research findings are consistent with previous theories or explanations by experts that socio-cultural values play a significant role in human life. J.E. Sahetapy (1993) introduced the concept of Sobural, an acronym for "social values, cultural aspects, and structural factors" of society. First, social values. Social values are closely linked to cultural patterns in society and support the structure of societal life. According to Pepper, values pertain to what is good and bad. Further, Alvin R. Bertrand defines values as feelings about what is desirable or undesirable, or about what is permissible or impermissible (Abdulkadir Muhammad, 2005).

The Formal Education Level

Today, educational institutions offer a wide range of expertise, from general to specific (specialized), in line with the evolving needs of modern society. One aspect of community life influenced by the level of education is the legal aspect, particularly law enforcement and legal awareness. The results of this research show that the majority (211 or 93.8%) of respondents state that the level of education can influence a person's legal awareness (knowledge, understanding, attitude, and behavior).

These research findings are consistent with previous theories or explanations by experts that education is a crucial aspect of human life. Nowadays, education is even considered one of the primary needs of humans. Piet A. Sahertian cites the strong influence of rationalism from western europe, viewing humans as thinking beings (*homo sapiens*). With reason, humans generate knowledge, and with knowledge, they can act rightly in the perfect sense. M. Noor Syam states that education is the organized development and completion of all human potential to achieve predetermined life goals (Lecture Team of FIP-IKIP Malang, 1988).

The Mass Media

The results of this research show the priority of using various mass media, from the most frequently used to the least or rarely used by respondents. Currently, the mass media most widely used or prioritized by the

community are Facebook, books, WhatsApp, and magazines, followed by other mass media. The majority (211 or 93.8%) of respondents stated that mass media are very beneficial in community life, while a small portion (14 or 6.2%) of respondents were unsure about this.

The specific influence of mass media consumption or exposure on legal awareness was queried by asking respondents about media coverage regarding the community's obligation to maintain the status quo or the authenticity of crime scenes (TKP). The results of this research show that the majority (214 or 95.1%) of respondents stated that they had never received information about the community's obligation to maintain the status quo or the authenticity of crime scenes. This lack of information is regrettable and results in the community not knowing or understanding their obligation to preserve the status quo or authenticity of crime scenes. This lack of knowledge and understanding subsequently affects the community's behavior at crime scenes, potentially leading to the destruction, obscuration, or loss of evidence at the scene.

These research findings align with previous theories or explanations by experts that mass media play a significant role in community life. According to H.M. Burhan Bungin (2013), mass media are institutions that act as agents of change, pioneering transformation. This is the main paradigm of mass media. The amount of mass media consumption or frequency of media exposure will influence an individual's legal awareness.

The Legal Counseling

Legal counseling involves providing guidance, explanations, and information about legal matters to the public to enhance their legal awareness. The results of this research show that the majority (214 or 95.1%) of respondents stated that during the legal counseling sessions they attended, they never received information about the obligation of the community present at a crime scene (TKP) to maintain the status quo of the crime scene. Nevertheless, the majority (205 or 91.1%) of respondents stated that legal counseling has an impact on an individual's legal awareness.

The previous discussions indicate that there are five aspects used to enhance public legal awareness. Each of these five aspects has its own attractions, strengths, and weaknesses, influencing the priority of their use. Below is the priority order of use as an indication of the influence of these five aspects, from the most influential (frequently used) to the least influential (rarely used). See Table 1.

Table 1. Priority Order of The Use of Five Independent Aspects as The First/Primary (N=225)

Priority Order	Independent Aspects	Total	
		F	%
1	Past Experiences	132	58,7
2	Mass Media	40	17,8
3	Socio-Cultural Values	25	11,1
4	Formal Education	15	6,7
5	Legal Counseling	13	5,8
	Total	225	100,0

Source: Result of Primary Data Processing, 2022

The findings of this research are consistent with the theories or explanations of previous experts as discussed in the Literature Review chapter of this research report, emphasizing the significant role of legal counseling in community life. According to Jimmy Pello (1991), discussions about community behavior and law also include the influence of legal messages communicated to the public. This communication is known as legal counseling. The purpose of legal counseling is to change community behavior to align with the desired legal behavior. Padmo Wahjono (1983:23) states that legal counseling aims to foster legal awareness and behavior (1983).

The Relationship Between Knowledge, Understanding, Attitude, and Legal Behavior of the Community in Maintaining the Status Quo in Kupang City

Legal awareness is viewed from four indicators: legal knowledge, legal understanding, legal attitude, and legal behavior (B. Kutschinsky in Soekanto, 1982:159). In discussing the research results, the first three indicators are combined as they all represent abstract aspects that have not yet been manifested concretely and remain in a person's heart or mind. The legal behavior indicator is separated as it represents a tangible aspect that has already been realized in a person's actions or deeds.

*The Description of Legal Awareness Indicators**Knowledge, Understanding, and Legal Attitude of the Respondent*

The operational definition or understanding of the variables from these indicators of legal awareness in the community are as follows: First, legal knowledge is the community's understanding or recognition of the importance or benefits of maintaining the status quo of a crime scene (TKP) under applicable law. Second, legal understanding is the deeper comprehension or recognition by the community of the importance or benefits of maintaining the status quo of a crime scene. Third, legal attitude is the community's reaction or assessment of the aspects of legal knowledge and understanding regarding the importance or benefits of maintaining the status quo of a crime scene.

Several important aspects must be considered and undertaken to ensure the status quo of a crime scene is maintained. The research findings regarding these important aspects are summarized in Table 2 and pertain to situations such as witnessing or discovering events like finding a hanging corpse, a drowning person, a fire incident, traffic accident victims, or crime victims in cases of murder, robbery, rape, assault, and so on.

Table 2. Knowledge, Understanding, and Legal Attitudes of Respondents in Maintaining the Status Quo of Crime Scenes (N=225)

No	Aspects Considered	Legal Knowledge/Understanding			Legal Attitude		
		Know/Understand	Uncertain	Do Not Know	Know/Understand	Uncertain	Do Not Know
1.	Prohibition against directly entering the Crime Scene (CS) to assist victims in adverse events or incidents (whether criminal or non-criminal).	64 (28,4%)	26 (11,6%)	135 (60,0%)	45 (20,0%)	26 (11,6%)	154 (68,4%)
2.	Requirement to wait for the police, doctor, or other authorized personnel to handle the case and not directly enter the Crime Scene (CS) to assist victims in adverse events or incidents (whether criminal or non-criminal).	55 (24,4%)	36 (16,0%)	134 (59,6%)	45 (20,0%)	26 (11,6%)	154 (68,4%)
3.	Requirement to wait for the police, doctor, or other authorized personnel to ascertain whether the event or incident is criminal or non-criminal.	64 (28,4%)	26 (11,6%)	135 (60,0%)	45 (20,0%)	26 (11,6%)	154 (68,4%)

4.	Requirement to wait for the police, doctor, or other authorized personnel to handle the case and not directly assist victims of rape, assault, or other crimes who are still alive, not in a life-threatening condition, and not in severe pain.	64 (28,4%)	26 (11,6%)	135 (60,0%)	44 (19,6%)	27 (12,0%)	154 (68,4%)
5.	The public is allowed to directly assist victims at the CS if the victim is in a life-threatening condition, in severe pain, but appears to be still alive.	53 (23,6%)	27 (12,0%)	145 (64,4%)	44 (19,6%)	18 (8,0%)	163 (72,4%)
6.	In certain circumstances, respondents may directly assist victims at the CS if the victim appears to require immediate assistance to prevent delays in help.	38 (16,9%)	46 (20,4%)	141 (62,7%)	47 (20,9%)	36 (16,0%)	142 (63,1%)
7.	The public is allowed to directly assist victims at the CS if the victim is involved in a fire incident, such as a burning house, building, car, or other burning objects.	38 (16,9%)	27 (12,0%)	160 (71,1%)	44 (19,6%)	28 (12,4%)	153 (68,0%)
8.	When the public is allowed to directly assist victims at the CS, they are required to sketch or draw the position of the victim, and it is even better if the public can take photos of the victim to assist the authorities.	37 (16,4%)	36 (16,0%)	152 (67,6%)	34 (15,1%)	46 (20,4%)	145 (64,4%)

Source: Result of Primary Data Processing, 2022

The respondents' legal knowledge and understanding regarding various aspects of their obligation to maintain the status quo of a crime scene (TKP), as previously described, will be analyzed by calculating the average frequency of their legal knowledge and understanding: First, the average frequency of respondents who did not know and did not understand was 142 (61.3%). Second, the average frequency of respondents who knew and understood was 52 (23.1%). Third, the average frequency of uncertain respondents was 31 (13.8%).

Similarly, the respondents' legal attitudes towards various aspects of their obligation to maintain the status quo of a crime scene were categorized as follows: First, the average frequency of respondents who disagreed was 152 (67.6%). Second, the average frequency of respondents who agreed was 44 (19.6%). Third, the average frequency of uncertain respondents was 29 (12.9%).

Legal Behavior of the Respondent

Legal behavior refers to the actions or conduct of individuals at the crime scene (TKP) when an incident or event occurs, whether as a result of a crime or not, as viewed under applicable law. Respondents were instructed to complete one questionnaire for each case; if they encountered two cases, they would complete two questionnaires, and so on. The legal behavior of the community at the TKP consists of ten types, ranked from the most desired (ideal) to the least desired, as presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Legal Behavior of the Community at Crime Scenes (Crime and Non-Crime) (N=225)

No	Types of Behavior	Total	
		F	%
1.	Respondents do not immediately enter the crime scene (TKP) or help the victim but wait and first ensure whether the incident or bad event is a result of a crime or not. Respondents are the first to help the victim.	42	18,7
2.	Respondents immediately enter the crime scene but wait to ensure whether the incident or bad event is a result of a crime or not. Respondents immediately help the victim without waiting for others to react or help first.	4	1,8
3.	Respondents immediately enter the crime scene and help the victim without waiting to ensure whether the incident or bad event is a result of a crime or not.	5	2,2
4.	Respondents help the victim after seeing others at the crime scene provide assistance first.	5	2,2
5.	Respondents do not help the victim directly but encourage others at the crime scene to help the victim.	7	3,1
6.	Respondents do not help the victim directly but inform the authorities or relevant agencies about the incident at the crime scene.	9	4,0
7.	Respondents do not help directly and only observe others at the crime scene helping the victim.	55	24,4
8.	Respondents leave the crime scene after observing for a considerable amount of time without helping the victim.	42	18,7
9.	Respondents leave the crime scene after a brief observation without helping the victim.		8,9
10.	Respondents are indifferent to the incident at the crime scene, only glancing briefly and then leaving the crime scene.	36	16,0
	Total	225	100,0

Source: Result of Primary Data Processing, 2022

The average legal behavior of respondents in maintaining the status quo of the crime scene (TKP) is presented in Table 4. Respondents are categorized based on their behavior as follows: First, good behavior, which includes actions listed under number: 1. Second, fairly good behavior, which includes actions listed under numbers: 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Third, poor or bad behavior, which includes actions listed under numbers: 7, 8, 9, and 10. Table 4 shows that the average legal behavior of respondents is as follows: The majority of respondents exhibited poor or bad behavior, with an average frequency of 153 (68.0%) respondents, followed by the group with good behavior, with an average frequency of 42 (18.7%) respondents, and finally, the group that was uncertain, with an average frequency of 30 (13.3%) respondents.

Table 4. Average Frequency of Respondents' Behavior in Maintaining the Status Quo of the Crime Scene (N=225)

No	Average Frequency	F	%
1.	Good	42	18,7
2.	Fairly good	30	13,3
3.	Poor/Not good	153	68,0
	Total	225	100

Source: Result of Primary Data Processing, 2022

The Relationship Between Indicators of Legal Awareness in Maintaining the Status Quo of Crime Scenes

The Relationship Between Legal Knowledge and Understanding with Legal Attitudes of Respondents in Maintaining the Status Quo of Crime Scenes

The relationship between legal knowledge and understanding with the legal attitudes of respondents in maintaining the status quo of crime scenes is determined by processing the data from Table 2 into a cross-tabulation, presented in Table 5. Given that legal knowledge and understanding are closely related and have the same frequency distribution, these two aspects are combined to be related to the aspect of legal attitudes. Table 5 can be analyzed both horizontally and vertically. Here, only horizontal analysis is presented.

Horizontal analysis of the frequency distribution tendencies in Table 5 shows that respondents who have legal knowledge and understanding are more likely to agree with the laws regarding the prohibitions and obligations of the public at a crime scene. Conversely, respondents who lack legal knowledge and understanding are more likely to disagree.

Table 5. The Relationship between Knowledge and Understanding with Respondents' Legal Attitudes in Maintaining the Status Quo at Crime Scenes (N=225)

No	Legal Knowledge and Understanding	Legal Attitude						Total	
		1. Agree		2. Doubtful		3. Disagree		F	%
		F	%	F	%	F	%		
1	Know and understand	29	12,9 55,8 65,9	2	0,9 3,8 6,9	21	9,3 40,4 13,8	52	23,1 *) 100,0 **) ***)
2	Doubtful	5	2,2 20,0 25,0	8	3,6 32,0 27,6	12	5,3 48,0 7,9	25	11,1 100,0
3	Do not know and do not understand	10	4,4 6,8 22,7	19	8,4 12,8 65,5	119	52,9 80,4 78,3	148	65,8 100,0
	Total	44	22,7 100,0	29	12,9 100,0	152	67,5 100,0	225	100,0

Source: Result of Primary Data Processing, 2022

Note: *)=general analysis, **)=row analysis, ***)=column analysis.

This conclusion is supported by statistical test results using Chi Square (X^2), which show that the calculated X^2 value is greater than the critical X^2 value ($X^2_o > X^2_t$), specifically $86.3 > 7.8$ with 4 degrees of freedom at a 90% confidence level. This indicates a significant relationship between legal knowledge and understanding and the legal attitudes of respondents in maintaining the status quo of crime scenes. The strength of the relationship between the two variables is determined by comparing the closeness or distance

between the C value and the Cmaks value. The closeness or distance between the C value and the Cmaks value is 71.4%.

Referring to the percentage value interpretation table proposed by Nabisi Lapono (Table 3, not included in this Research Report), it is concluded that the C value is "close" to the Cmaks value. In other words, the coefficient of the relationship between legal knowledge and understanding and legal attitudes is "strong" or "high." The relationship between the two variables is positive. This means that the higher or better the legal knowledge and understanding, the higher or better the legal attitudes of the community in maintaining the status quo of crime scenes in Kupang City. Conversely, the lower or poorer the legal knowledge and understanding, the lower or poorer the legal attitudes of the community in maintaining the status quo of crime scenes in Kupang City. These research findings are consistent with theories or explanations of previous experts as stated in the Literature Review chapter of this research report.

The Relationship Between Legal Attitudes and Legal Behavior of Respondents in Maintaining the Status Quo of Crime Scenes

The relationship between legal attitudes and legal behavior of respondents is determined by combining two tables, namely Table 2 and Table 4, into one cross-table, Table 6. Table 6 can be analyzed both horizontally and vertically. Here, only the horizontal analysis is presented. The horizontal analysis of the frequency distribution trends shows that the group of respondents who agree with the legal prohibitions and obligations of society at a crime scene are more likely to behave well or in accordance with the law. Conversely, the group that disagrees with the legal prohibitions and obligations of society at a crime scene is more likely to behave contrary to the prevailing law.

This conclusion is supported by the results of a statistical test using Chi-Square (X^2), which shows that the calculated X^2 value is greater than the table X^2 value, or $X^2_o > X^2_t$, specifically $78.2 > 7.8$ with 4 degrees of freedom at a 90% confidence level. This indicates a significant relationship between legal attitudes and legal behavior of respondents in maintaining the status quo of crime scenes.

The level of the correlation coefficient between the two variables is calculated by comparing the closeness or distance between C and Cmaks. The closeness or distance between C and Cmaks is 71.4%. Referring to the interpretation table of percentage values presented by Nabisi Lapono (Table 3, not shown in this Research Report), it is concluded that the C value is "close" to the Cmaks value. In other words, the correlation coefficient between legal attitudes and legal behavior is "strong" or "high." The relationship between the two variables is positive. This means that the higher or better the legal attitudes, the higher or better the legal behavior of society in maintaining the status quo of crime scenes in the City of Kupang. Conversely, the lower or worse the legal attitudes, the lower or worse the legal behavior of society in maintaining the status quo of crime scenes in the City of Kupang. The findings of this research are consistent with the theories or explanations of previous experts as outlined in the Literature Review chapter of this research report.

Table 6. The Relationship between Legal Attitudes and Legal Behavior of Respondents in Maintaining the Status Quo at Crime Scenes (N=225)

No	Legal Attitude	Legal Behavior						Total	
		1. Good		2. Fair		3. Poor			
		F	%	F	%	f	%	f	%
1.	Agree	27	12,0 61,4 64,3	5	2,2 11,4 16,7	12	5,3 27,3 7,8	44	19,6 *) 100,0 **) ***)
2.	Doubtful	6	2,7 20,7 14,3	8	3,6 27,6 26,7	15	6,7 51,7 9,8	29	12,9 100,0
3.	Do not Agree/Do Not	9	4,0	17	7,6	126	56,0	152	67,6

	Know		5,9 21,4		11,2 56,7		82,9 82,4		100,0
	Total	42	18,7 100,0	30	13,3 100,0	153	68,0 100,0	225	100,0

Source: Result of Primary Data Processing, 2022

Note: *)=general analysis, **)=row analysis, ***)=column analysis.

The Efforts to Address Public Legal Awareness in Maintaining the Status Quo of Crime Scenes

When collecting data for this research, the Research Team interviewed officials at the Kupang City Resort Police. The material inquired by the Research Team was regarding "Criminal Law Enforcement," which is related to the main research issue, namely efforts to address public legal awareness in maintaining the status quo of crime scenes. According to officials in the Directorate of General Criminal Investigation (Dir. Reskrim) of the East Nusa Tenggara Regional Police, Briptu. Frendy Mite, S.H., M.H., first, the legal education program is routinely conducted by the Community Guidance Directorate (Binmas) once every few days or weeks, with varying times depending on the needs and priorities of police activities. This activity is carried out by empowering Babinkamtibmas officers assigned to villages or neighborhoods. Every time they carry out this task, the officers document and report it to their immediate superiors at the NTT Regional Police Headquarters. Such legal education aims to prevent (preventive) crime and security and public order disturbances. Secondly, the police also serve requests from the public or agencies for legal education. Likewise, the theme requested by the requesting party, the police can provide legal education on that theme (Interview result on Saturday, December 10, 2022, in Kupang City).

The legal education materials disseminated by the police to the public consist of many or various themes. According to observations and explanations from Briptu. Frendy Mite, S.H., M.H., the legal education materials referred to are mostly or almost all general themes about various legal issues. Specific or specialized themes, such as the main research issue of efforts to address public legal awareness in maintaining the status quo of crime scenes, are rarely or infrequently disseminated. Most legal education themes are general legal issues. Specific or specialized themes are usually inserted or become part of general themes. Until now, this is how the police conduct legal education programs.

The police did not explain further the reasons why specific themes are not disseminated and only general themes are taught. Yet, specific themes like the main research issue are very important for law enforcement against criminal cases occurring in society. As mentioned in previous sections, criminals can only be held criminally responsible if at least two initial sufficient pieces of evidence are found as per Article 182 of the Criminal Procedure Code. These pieces of evidence are of course present at the crime scene, including the body of the crime victim left by the perpetrator. Legal experts, especially in criminal law, believe that "There is no perfect crime," meaning every crime leaves traces at the crime scene that can be traced by police officers or investigators to find the perpetrator. The crime scene holds evidence or traces of the crime. Therefore, the crime scene must not be altered, not the same as the original state, or even damaged by people present at the crime scene. Public knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and behavior (legal awareness) in maintaining the status quo of the crime scene are crucial and necessary to uncover the material truth of the crime that has occurred. Conversely, if this legal awareness is not disseminated to the public, then the public will certainly not know and understand it, resulting in difficulty or obstacles for officers (police, doctors, civil servants investigators, and others) in finding the evidence at the crime scene. Furthermore, the lack or absence of necessary evidence to uncover the crime can lead to the perpetrator being lightly punished or acquitted of all legal charges. Yet, the crime has occurred, and the evidence is present at the crime scene and on the victim's body, but it is not found because it becomes blurred, damaged, or lost due to the presence of people at the crime scene.

Evidence at the crime scene becomes blurred, damaged, or lost due to two factors, namely deliberate factors (*dolus*) and inadvertent factors (*culpa*) from those present at the crime scene. These two factors are the basis for the criminal liability of the perpetrator. Therefore, the police and other competent parties must

strive to enhance public legal awareness in maintaining the status quo of the crime scene.

Efforts to enhance public legal awareness are known as "countermeasures." There are three countermeasures known in law, including criminal law, namely preemptive measures, preventive measures, and repressive measures (A.S. Alam, 2010). These three countermeasures will be explained below.

Preemptive Efforts

Preemptive efforts are the initial measures taken by the police to prevent criminal acts. The efforts in preemptive crime prevention involve instilling good values/norms so that these norms become internalized within an individual. Even if there is an opportunity to commit a violation/crime, but there is no intention to do so, the crime will not occur. Therefore, in preemptive efforts, the intention factor is eliminated despite the presence of opportunity. This prevention method is derived from the NKK Theory, which states that Intention + Opportunity = Crime.

The police have already implemented preemptive efforts in criminal law enforcement through routine legal education, but the materials provided are still general in nature. Specific or specialized education materials, such as the benefits of public legal awareness in maintaining the status quo of crime scenes, are rarely or have not yet been conducted.

Preventive Efforts

Preventive measures are a continuation of preemptive efforts, still within the realm of crime prevention before a crime occurs. Preventive measures emphasize eliminating the opportunity to commit crimes. These measures are intended to bring about positive changes that reduce the likelihood of security and order disturbances in society, thereby creating stability in community life. In preventive efforts, the possibility of having the opportunity to commit a crime is closed. This has already been implemented by the police in Kupang City.

Preventive measures are also considered better than actions taken after a crime has occurred. Preventing crime is a more effective approach than trying to rehabilitate criminals. It is easier and more cost-effective to achieve the desired common goals. In criminology, there is a principle that it is better to focus on efforts to rehabilitate and educate criminals to prevent recidivism. Nevertheless, the methods of rehabilitating or educating criminals should be carefully considered and directed to ensure that repeated crimes do not occur. Crimes will not occur even if there is intent, as long as there is no opportunity.

Preventive measures have also been implemented by officers or police through various forms, including: First, the police conduct mobile patrols. This method is quite effective because the wailing siren of the patrol car can instill fear in those contemplating criminal acts. Potential criminals will feel that the police are nearby and may catch them in the act, leading them to abandon their criminal intentions. Second, officers or police strive to arrive at the crime scene as soon as possible upon learning of an incident, especially those resulting from criminal acts. Upon arriving at the scene, officers or police immediately set up a police line, a boundary that people present at the scene are not allowed to cross, with only officers or police permitted within this boundary. This prevents others from entering the crime scene, particularly those intending to obscure, destroy, or tamper with evidence at the scene.

Repressive Efforts

These efforts are undertaken when a criminal act or offense has already occurred, involving law enforcement actions and the imposition of penalties. Repressive measures are conceptual crime prevention strategies employed after a crime has occurred. Repressive crime prevention aims to punish offenders according to their actions and rehabilitate them, making them aware that their actions are unlawful and harmful to society, thereby deterring them and others from repeating such actions due to the severe sanctions imposed.

Such repressive measures are implemented by officers or police when crimes occur in Kupang City. However, they are rarely or have not yet been applied because, to date, there have been no cases involving criminals or individuals who intend to obscure, destroy, or tamper with evidence at the crime scene.

Discussion of the repressive system inevitably involves our criminal justice system, which consists of at least five sub-systems: the judiciary, prosecution, police, corrections, and legal defense. The criminal justice system functions as an interconnected whole, with each sub-system functionally related to the others in resolving criminal cases within society.

Discussion

The data analysis results indicate a significant relationship between legal knowledge and understanding and the respondents' legal attitudes in maintaining the status quo of a crime scene. The correlation coefficient between legal knowledge and understanding and legal attitude is "strong" or "high." These research findings align with or support the opinions (theories, explanations) of previous experts, as presented in the Literature Review section of this research report. A similar conclusion is reached in the analysis of the relationship between legal attitude and legal behavior of respondents, showing a significant relationship between legal attitude and legal behavior in maintaining the status quo of a crime scene. The correlation coefficient between legal attitude and legal behavior is "strong" or "high." These research findings align with or support the opinions (theories, explanations) of previous experts, as presented in the Literature Review section of this research report.

Research on public legal awareness has been conducted by one of Indonesia's legal scholars, Soerjono Soekanto. He conducted research for his dissertation at the University of Indonesia. Soekanto (1982) studied the "Legal Awareness and Legal Compliance" of students towards traffic signs. He found a significant relationship between the elements or indicators of legal awareness, namely legal knowledge, legal understanding, legal attitude, and legal behavior. Additionally, he found a significant relationship between legal awareness and legal compliance with traffic signs when these four indicators of legal awareness were generally linked to legal compliance.

Similarly, Otje Salman (1993) conducted research on "Public Legal Awareness of Inheritance Law" for his dissertation at the University of Indonesia. He found a significant relationship between the elements or indicators of legal awareness, namely legal knowledge, legal understanding, legal attitude, and legal behavior in the field of inheritance law. Similar findings can be observed in the research conducted by undergraduate students at the Faculty of Law, Nusa Cendana University, Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara.

Thus, the findings of this research align with the opinions of experts regarding public legal awareness, as previously mentioned. The relationship between these four aspects has been explicitly discussed in the preceding sections. In brief, as explained by Mar'at, the aspect of legal knowledge is influenced by various factors. Through the cognitive component, ideas and concepts about what is seen emerge. Based on the values and norms possessed, belief towards the object develops. The more knowledge one has, the more one understands it. Next, the affective component provides an emotional evaluation (pleasure or displeasure, liking or disliking) towards the object. The subsequent stage is the conative component, which determines the willingness or response in the form of actions (Mar'at, 1984) or behavior towards the object.

In other words, if a person's knowledge and understanding of an object are positive, their attitude towards the object will also be positive, which will then be manifested in positive behavior or actions. Conversely, if a person's knowledge and understanding of an object are negative, their attitude towards the object will also be negative, which will then be manifested in negative behavior or actions. The object in this context is the importance or benefit of maintaining the status quo of a crime scene. Therefore, efforts to enhance public legal awareness are necessary. These efforts are carried out through legal education or socialization (Jimmy Pello, 1991: 20-29). From a theoretical perspective, according to R.B. Seidman, as cited by Satjipto Rahardjo (1983), the application of law by society in their behavior is influenced by both legal and non-legal factors.

The discussion about societal behavior and the law also encompasses the influential power of legal messages communicated to the public. The legal education aims to transform societal behavior into legal behavior. According to Padmo Wahjono, legal education refers to the process of delivering messages consistent with the content of the law to foster legal awareness and behavior (Wahjono, 1983).

The explanations provided by experts on the aspects related to this research, as presented in the Literature Review chapter, remain relevant to current societal developments. In other words, the theories and opinions of these experts are still supported by field data collected during the data collection process.

Conclusion

The factors influencing public legal awareness in maintaining the status quo of crime scenes in Kupang City, in order from the most to the least influential, are past experiences, mass media, socio-cultural values, formal education, and legal education. The relationship between knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and legal behavior of the public in Kupang City is as follows: Legal knowledge and understanding have a significant relationship with public legal attitudes in maintaining the status quo of crime scenes. The nature of this relationship is positive, meaning that the higher or better the legal knowledge and understanding, the higher or better the public's legal attitudes in maintaining the status quo of crime scenes, and vice versa. Legal attitudes have a significant relationship with public legal behavior in maintaining the status quo of crime scenes. The nature of this relationship is positive, meaning that the higher or better the legal attitudes, the higher or better the public's legal behavior in maintaining the status quo of crime scenes, and vice versa. The government's efforts to address the issue of public legal awareness in maintaining the status quo of crime scenes in Kupang City consist of preemptive and preventive measures. To date, there have been no cases that could be addressed repressively, such as cases where certain parties intentionally obscure, damage, or eliminate evidence at crime scenes.

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