

# **Analysis of the Impact of Environmental Law Awareness on Environmentally Unfriendly Behavior and Health Around Rivers Among Indonesian Millennials in the Context of Sustainable Development**

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## **Abstract**

*This study aims to analyze the impact of environmental legal awareness on environmentally unfriendly behaviors among Indonesian millennials living near urban rivers. Using the theoretical framework of legal enforcement, encompassing legal structure, legal substance, and legal culture, this research investigates the relationship between legal awareness and environmental behavior. A normative juridical method was employed, utilizing legislative and conceptual approaches. The findings reveal that environmental legal awareness significantly influences environmentally friendly behavior, with millennials exhibiting higher legal awareness demonstrating reduced pollution and improved public health outcomes. Furthermore, a positive correlation was identified between legal awareness and local initiatives in waste management along riverbanks. The study highlights the need for comprehensive legal education and the strengthening of law enforcement mechanisms to address environmental challenges more effectively. It also suggests that fostering a culture of legal compliance can contribute to long-term environmental sustainability. This research offers valuable insights into the role of legal awareness in fostering a more sustainable relationship between communities and their surrounding environment.*

**Keywords:** Millennials, Sustainability, Environmental Law.

## **Introduction**

Indonesia is one of the countries that is committed to implementing all the pillars in the mandate of the Sustainable Development Goals or better known as the SDG's. The pillars include 17 main goals that cover various aspects of development to create a more sustainable and prosperous world. Some of the goals that are closely related to environmental health include SDG's 6 (clean water and sanitation) and SDG's 14 (life below water). In Indonesia alone, environmental damage is very massive in various aspects of life. In 2021 Indonesia produced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of 259.1 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. Even Indonesia is projected to experience an increase in carbon emissions by 29.13%, reaching around 334 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in 2030. It greatly affects the warming of the global average temperature and contributes to enormous pollution. In Indonesia, climate change affects many aspects of life, one of which is the rise in sea level. According to Jason3 satellite observations, sea levels in Indonesia have risen by 62.3 millimeters (mm) as of May 11, 2022. The phenomenon also has implications for rainfall levels in some regions, which will decrease by 1 to 4% by 2023. Climate change is also causing degradation of land ecosystems by accelerating the emergence of the El Niño phenomenon, which in turn contributes to an increased risk of extreme drought and potentially increased incidence of forest fires. This is also the case in waste management where data according to the MoEF's National Waste Management Information System (SIPSN), the amount of national waste will reach 21.1 million tons in 2022, with 34.29% (7.2 million tons) of that amount not being managed properly. Damage to human survival and the balance of nature can result from poor environmental health, which can negatively affect various aspects of life, such as air, water and soil quality. This factor usually leads to disease outbreaks, and reduces the quality of life. The goals contained in the pillars of the SDGs also emphasize the importance of maintaining and improving environmental conditions. Indonesia has demonstrated its commitment as part of the global community to environmental protection efforts by signing a number of international agreements that demonstrate the country's seriousness in addressing environmental issues. One of them is the Stockholm Convention which was implemented in 2001, in a commitment to control the production and use of hazardous chemicals.

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Participation in these agreements affirms Indonesia's role in global efforts to safeguard the environment and improve domestic environmental quality. Through signing these agreements, Indonesia not only demonstrates a moral commitment to environmental conservation, but also integrates international standards and regulations into its national policies, which on ratification can strengthen the domestic environmental governance system. These steps are important to show that Indonesia is ready to be part of the global solution in addressing the environmental crisis, underscoring the realization that environmental challenges require strong cross-national collaboration.

Despite strong international commitments, Indonesia still faces many complex environmental problems. The problem closest to Indonesian society is the poor management of industrial waste, household waste, and agricultural residues polluting many rivers and other water sources, water pollution is a very serious problem. This condition causes a decrease in water quality, which is detrimental to the environment and humans. Based on data released by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), in 2021 there were 10,683 villages or urban villages that experienced water pollution. One of the main factors causing environmental damage is the low level of public awareness of the importance of preserving the environment. Many people have no understanding of the long-term consequences of actions that damage the environment, such as littering or burning forests. Lack of environmental education and lack of information on the environmental impacts of daily activities exacerbate this situation. This lack of awareness and responsibility is one of the main obstacles to preserving and improving environmental conditions in Indonesia. Indonesia, which will reach the Golden Indonesia in 2045, will be greatly influenced by the millennial generation. The millennial generation is a demographic group that generally consists of individuals born between the early 1980s to the mid-1990s to the early 2000s. Often referred to as "generation Y", this generation is considered to have a high awareness of environmental and social issues. For this reason, Indonesia has a Clean Indonesia Movement which is included in the 5 National Movement for Mental Revolution (GNRM). The Clean Indonesia Movement is an innovative movement that aims for a Mental Revolution towards the commemoration of the National Waste Awareness Day. This movement aims to increase public awareness of the adverse effects of waste as one of the most polluting sources for the environment. This movement is expected to raise collective awareness from the community, especially the millennial generation, to actively protect the environment, especially river pollution that often occurs in the community. Rivers have an important role for the community for drinking water sources and daily needs such as bathing, washing and others. River water pollution that almost occurs in all major cities in Indonesia requires not only the role of the government but also the role of millennials to overcome these environmental problems.

In terms of regulation, Indonesia has passed laws and regulations that aim to protect and improve environmental conditions. One of the important laws is Law No. 32/2009 on Environmental Protection and Management (hereinafter referred to as PPLH Law). This law thoroughly regulates aspects of environmental protection and management, including pollution control, prevention of environmental damage, and efforts to conserve natural resources. Although Indonesia already has a strong legal framework to address environmental issues, the main challenge still lies in the implementation and enforcement of the law that is implemented to various levels of society. This research will analyze the impact of environmental law awareness on environmentally unfriendly behavior and health around rivers among Indonesian millennials. It is hoped that the writing of this research will contribute both to increasing awareness of the importance of protecting the environment and changing millennial lifestyles related to sustainable development.

### *Theoretical Framework*

#### *Environmental Law Awareness*

Kesadaran hukum lingkungan merupakan pemahaman dan komitmen individu maupun masyarakat terhadap aturan hukum yang bertujuan untuk melindungi dan melestarikan lingkungan hidup. Hal ini penting karena manusia memiliki hubungan sosiologis dan biologis yang erat dengan lingkungan sejak lahir hingga akhir hayat. Namun, kesadaran hukum lingkungan kerap kali terganggu oleh berbagai faktor, seperti ekonomi, sosial, budaya, dan lemahnya penegakan hukum. Masyarakat dengan keterbatasan ekonomi, misalnya, seringkali memprioritaskan kebutuhan mendesak dibandingkan pelestarian lingkungan. Di sisi

lain, kebiasaan sosial dan budaya seperti membuang sampah sembarangan semakin memperparah masalah ini, sementara ketidakadilan dalam penegakan hukum turut melemahkan kepercayaan masyarakat terhadap pentingnya hukum.

Kesadaran hukum lingkungan memiliki tingkatan mulai dari mengetahui, mengerti, menaati, hingga menghargai hukum. Namun, mencapai tingkat kesadaran tertinggi memerlukan sinergi antara individu dan kebijakan pemerintah. Pemerintah perlu meningkatkan kesadaran masyarakat melalui edukasi yang berkelanjutan dan sosialisasi yang efektif, khususnya bagi kalangan bawah yang seringkali tidak memiliki akses informasi. Penegakan hukum yang tegas dan adil juga menjadi elemen kunci untuk memastikan masyarakat tidak hanya mematuhi hukum karena takut akan sanksi, tetapi juga menghargai nilai-nilai yang terkandung di dalamnya.

Peran pelaku usaha dalam meningkatkan kesadaran hukum lingkungan juga sangat penting. Mereka harus menjalankan kewajiban seperti melaksanakan AMDAL dan mengelola limbah sesuai aturan. Di sisi lain, pemerintah harus memastikan kebijakan tata kota yang dibuat mendukung pelestarian lingkungan dalam jangka panjang. Contoh kebijakan yang keliru adalah menjadikan area resapan air sebagai kawasan bisnis, yang telah terbukti memperburuk bencana lingkungan seperti banjir dan tanah longsor. Dengan pendekatan yang melibatkan berbagai pihak, upaya kolektif untuk meningkatkan kesadaran hukum lingkungan dapat berjalan lebih efektif.

Penurunan kesadaran hukum juga dipengaruhi oleh lemahnya sosialisasi hukum dan minimnya pendidikan hukum di masyarakat. Kesadaran hukum bukan hanya sekadar mengetahui peraturan, tetapi juga memahami manfaat dan pentingnya hukum sebagai pedoman hidup bersama. Dalam konteks ini, pendidikan formal dan nonformal harus diarahkan untuk memberikan pemahaman mendalam tentang hukum lingkungan sebagai instrumen perlindungan ekosistem. Pemerintah juga harus mendorong kampanye publik yang berkelanjutan untuk mempromosikan pentingnya kesadaran hukum lingkungan.

Untuk memastikan keberlanjutan upaya ini, keteladanan dari aparat penegak hukum dan pemimpin masyarakat sangat diperlukan. Ketika aparat bertindak tegas, adil, dan konsisten, masyarakat akan memiliki panutan yang jelas dalam mematuhi hukum. Selain itu, peran legislatif dalam menciptakan peraturan yang ramah lingkungan juga sangat penting, dengan memastikan setiap kebijakan yang diambil tidak hanya menguntungkan secara ekonomi, tetapi juga menjaga kelestarian lingkungan untuk generasi mendatang. Dengan sinergi ini, kesadaran hukum lingkungan dapat ditumbuhkan secara holistik dan mendukung tercapainya pembangunan berkelanjutan.

### *Unfriendly Behavior*

Perilaku tidak ramah lingkungan merupakan tindakan individu atau kelompok yang tidak memperhatikan dampak negatifnya terhadap lingkungan, baik secara langsung maupun tidak langsung. Perilaku ini meliputi berbagai aktivitas seperti pembuangan sampah sembarangan, penggunaan energi secara berlebihan, pemborosan sumber daya, serta kurangnya kesadaran akan pentingnya pelestarian lingkungan. Salah satu penyebab perilaku ini adalah rendahnya tingkat pengetahuan dan kesadaran lingkungan, di mana masyarakat sering kali tidak memahami dampak ekologis dari tindakan mereka, seperti pencemaran air akibat sampah rumah tangga.

Ketidaktahanan atau kelalaian dalam menerapkan pola hidup yang lebih berkelanjutan juga diperparah oleh kurangnya infrastruktur atau fasilitas yang memadai. Sebagai contoh, minimnya akses terhadap fasilitas daur ulang dan mahalnya biaya produk ramah lingkungan membuat banyak individu memilih solusi yang lebih murah namun merusak lingkungan. Hal ini diperburuk oleh budaya konsumsi yang mementingkan kenyamanan sesaat dibandingkan dampak jangka panjang, seperti penggunaan kemasan plastik sekali pakai yang sulit terurai. Selain itu, perilaku tidak ramah lingkungan juga dapat dipicu oleh lemahnya penegakan hukum dan regulasi lingkungan. Ketika aparat atau kebijakan gagal memberikan sanksi yang tegas terhadap pelanggaran, masyarakat cenderung mengabaikan tanggung jawab ekologisnya. Dalam konteks ini, perilaku destruktif terhadap lingkungan sering kali muncul dari rasa tidak adanya konsekuensi langsung atau nyata yang mereka rasakan.

Perilaku tidak ramah lingkungan memiliki konsekuensi yang signifikan, baik terhadap ekosistem maupun kesehatan manusia. Misalnya, pencemaran air dan udara dapat meningkatkan risiko penyakit menular serta memperburuk kualitas hidup masyarakat di sekitar area yang tercemar. Efek kumulatif dari perilaku ini juga berkontribusi pada perubahan iklim, hilangnya keanekaragaman hayati, dan berbagai bencana alam seperti banjir dan tanah longsor yang terkait dengan degradasi lingkungan.

Untuk mengatasi perilaku tidak ramah lingkungan, diperlukan pendekatan holistik yang melibatkan edukasi, penguatan penegakan hukum, dan penyediaan fasilitas pendukung. Kampanye kesadaran lingkungan yang menyentuh semua lapisan masyarakat, kebijakan pemerintah yang pro-lingkungan, serta kerjasama antara sektor publik dan swasta sangat penting untuk mendorong perubahan pola perilaku menuju keberlanjutan. Dengan langkah-langkah ini, perilaku tidak ramah lingkungan dapat diminimalisasi, dan kesadaran masyarakat terhadap pentingnya menjaga lingkungan dapat ditingkatkan.

### *Sustainable Development*

Pembangunan berkelanjutan adalah pendekatan pembangunan yang bertujuan untuk memenuhi kebutuhan generasi saat ini tanpa mengorbankan kemampuan generasi mendatang untuk memenuhi kebutuhan mereka sendiri. Konsep ini menekankan pentingnya keseimbangan antara tiga pilar utama: keberlanjutan ekonomi, sosial, dan lingkungan. Ketiganya harus berkembang secara simultan dan harmonis agar pembangunan tidak terjebak pada model konvensional yang hanya menekankan pertumbuhan ekonomi sambil mengabaikan dampak sosial dan kerusakan lingkungan.

Dalam pendekatan ini, keberlanjutan ekonomi diartikan sebagai pertumbuhan yang tidak hanya menghasilkan peningkatan pendapatan, tetapi juga memastikan penggunaan sumber daya alam secara efisien dan bijaksana. Di sisi lain, keberlanjutan sosial mencakup aspek pemerataan, pendidikan, dan kesehatan, yang memungkinkan seluruh lapisan masyarakat merasakan manfaat pembangunan. Sementara itu, keberlanjutan lingkungan menekankan pelestarian ekosistem dan pengelolaan sumber daya alam untuk mencegah degradasi lingkungan dan memastikan ketersediaan sumber daya bagi generasi mendatang.

Keberhasilan pembangunan berkelanjutan memerlukan sinergi antara berbagai pihak, termasuk pemerintah, sektor swasta, dan masyarakat. Pendekatan multipihak ini penting untuk menciptakan kebijakan yang inklusif dan berwawasan lingkungan. Salah satu inovasi dalam mendukung pembangunan berkelanjutan adalah penerapan Produk Domestik Regional Bruto (PDRB) Hijau, yang mencakup perhitungan dampak deplesi sumber daya alam dan degradasi lingkungan dalam indikator pertumbuhan ekonomi. Beberapa daerah di Indonesia, seperti Bali dan Jawa Barat, telah mulai langkah ini untuk mendorong pembangunan yang lebih ramah lingkungan.

Selain itu, upaya pelestarian lingkungan memerlukan langkah konkret, seperti pengembangan energi terbarukan, pengelolaan air yang efisien, dan pelestarian kawasan hutan. Tantangan-tantangan seperti polusi, banjir, kekeringan, dan krisis energi menunjukkan perlunya perubahan paradigma dalam perencanaan pembangunan. Paradigma baru ini menekankan integrasi antara pertumbuhan ekonomi dan pelestarian lingkungan, sehingga pembangunan tidak hanya menghasilkan kesejahteraan material, tetapi juga lingkungan yang sehat dan layak huni. Dengan mengedepankan pembangunan berkelanjutan, diharapkan muncul keseimbangan yang menjamin keberlanjutan sumber daya alam sekaligus memenuhi kebutuhan masyarakat secara adil. Pendekatan ini menjadi landasan penting dalam menciptakan masa depan yang lebih inklusif, seimbang, dan ramah lingkungan bagi generasi mendatang.

### **Research Methods**

The type of legal research used in the preparation of this research is normative juridical research using conceptual and statutory approaches. This research will also be examined with descriptive analysis of the issues mentioned in the research title. This research will use a statutory approach and a conceptual approach. Statutory approach by examining based on laws and regulations that are associated with the formulation of the problem to be discussed. This writing uses primary legal materials, namely Law No. 32 of 2009 concerning Environmental Protection and Management which will be supported by secondary legal

materials which include law books, and articles from online media, in explaining the legal issues in this paper.

## Discussion

### Levels of Environmental Law Awareness that Influence Environmentally Unfriendly Behavior among Indonesian Millennials Living Around the River

Indonesia has UUPPLH as the main legal basis for enforcing environmental sanctions. Apart from being contained in the regulation, Article 28H paragraph (1) of the Indonesian Constitution also mandates the right to a healthy environment for every citizen. The law provides a comprehensive framework for environmental protection and management, including the requirement to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (AMDAL) for projects that have the potential to damage the environment. Implementation of the law includes oversight by the MoEF as well as local agencies, which often face challenges in terms of capacity, resources, and corruption constraints that undermine the effectiveness of law enforcement. Rivers have an important role in ecosystem balance, as stated in Article 2 of the UUPPLH which states that the protection and management of the environment is based on river ecoregions.

Indicators of public legal awareness can also be seen from obedience to applicable laws, community participation is very important apart from law enforcement to achieve legal objectives in protecting the environment. The low level of public legal awareness of the environment is caused by a lack of understanding of the impact of these actions. Efforts such as counseling, guidance, and community participation can be made in overcoming environmental problems. Law enforcement activities that are more oriented towards educating ways of prevention and how sanctions will be imposed on perpetrators who commit environmental violations.

Legal education in Indonesia is often hampered by economic interests, where there is often collusion between the private sector and government officials in issuing business licenses that do not comply with environmental standards. These obstacles lead to weak implementation of the law and minimal enforcement against environmental violators. Menurut pendapat dari Lawrence M Friedman, setidaknya ada tiga komponen yang mempengaruhi keefektifitasan penegakan hukum di suatu negara, yaitu legal structure, legal substance dan legal culture.

Legal structure refers to the institutions and mechanisms responsible for law making, implementation and enforcement. In Indonesia, the legal structure related to the environment involves various institutions such as the MoEF and related law enforcement agencies. In the case of environmentally unfriendly behavior around rivers, an effective legal structure will be able to enforce rules on waste disposal and protection of river water quality. However, in reality, there are often weaknesses in law enforcement caused by a lack of coordination between agencies, limited resources, and convoluted bureaucracy. This results in many environmental law violations going undetected or inadequately punished, thus reducing the deterrent effect and not encouraging people to behave in an environmentally friendly manner.

The substance of the law includes the applicable rules and regulations as well as the legal principles contained in these regulations. The UUPPLH regulates various aspects of environmental protection, including water resources management and river pollution prevention. However, although the substance of this law is in place and quite comprehensive, it is often the case that people do not have adequate knowledge of these rules. This lack of legal awareness leaves many people not understanding the importance of keeping rivers clean and the legal consequences of their actions. Without a good understanding of the applicable rules and penalties, environmentally unfriendly behaviors such as throwing garbage into the river or conducting other activities that pollute the water become commonplace. Legal culture reflects people's attitudes, values and practices towards the law. According to Lawrence M. Friedman, legal culture is the most difficult factor to change because it is related to the mindset and habits that have been embedded in society. In Indonesia, the legal culture related to the environment still needs significant improvement. Many people do not realize the importance of preserving the environment or consider violations of environmental law as a serious problem. Around rivers, a weak legal culture can be seen in the habit of people who often

litter or engage in other activities that damage river ecosystems. This lack of awareness and concern shows that although there are laws governing environmental protection, without a change in legal culture, law enforcement will not be effective in changing people's behavior.

Of these components, legal awareness plays an important role in influencing people's behavior. When people have good knowledge of environmental laws and understand their importance, they tend to be more compliant and engage in practices that support environmental conservation. Conversely, low legal awareness can lead to environmentally unfriendly behaviors that damage water quality and river ecosystems. In relation to Lawrence M. Friedman's theory, to increase legal awareness and change environmentally unfriendly behavior around rivers, efforts are needed to strengthen legal structures, improve legal substance, and develop a positive legal culture. Thus, it is expected that higher legal awareness will have a positive impact on changes in community behavior.

Millennials can be a major catalyst in the Clean Indonesia Movement, especially in the context of keeping rivers clean. Through initiatives such as those undertaken by Pandawara Group as an example of environmentally conscious youth, where they actively clean rivers and promote environmental awareness through social media. Millennials can play an important role in mobilizing the public to participate in activities that keep the environment clean. The engaging and educational content they create can spread important messages about the negative impacts of environmentally unfriendly behavior and the importance of keeping rivers clean. The effectiveness of community-initiated behavior to clean up polluted river environments requires integration with government efforts. The government can support community initiatives such as campaigns conducted by millennials by providing logistical and legal support, as well as promoting environmental programs through formal and informal channels. Cooperation in this regard can strengthen efforts to keep rivers clean. In the long run, by increasing legal awareness and a positive environmental legal culture, as well as through government support and community initiatives, we can see real changes in the behavior of people around the river. This will have a positive impact not only on river water quality and environmental health, but also on the well-being of communities that depend on clean and healthy water resources.

#### *Factors Affecting Environmental Law Awareness among Indonesian Millennials in the Context of Sustainable Development*

The action taken by many young people in reflecting mutual cooperation behavior to clean the river from pollutants is a form of environmental care. The understanding gained from legal education should be given to the community without exception so that indifferent behavior towards cleanliness can be minimized. Not only that, access to information that is easily obtained by the millennial generation can make this generation an effective model for society. Through the green living movement as a lifestyle that emerged in response to concerns about the deteriorating environment. Green living behavior as an example of the life style of the younger generation can have a good impact on environmental awareness. The concept of green living combines the use of eco-friendly materials, zero waste, and sustainability. Trash and waste, which are the main sources of river pollutants, can be reduced by movements that have a good impact on the environment by starting to abandon the behavior of daily plastic use.

In addition, factors that influence environmental legal awareness can come from internal and external factors of each individual. Knowledge of UUPPLH can be an effective preventive measure for communities living around rivers, as they will be more aware of the legal consequences of actions that damage the environment. Millennials, with greater access to information and technology, have great potential to become pioneers in raising environmental law awareness. Movements such as the one by Pandawara Group, which actively cleans up waste in the river and raises the issue through social media content, show how this generation can play a role in educating and influencing the public to care more about the environment. Campaigns and concrete actions carried out by these millennials can increase legal awareness and encourage changes in behavior that are more environmentally friendly.

On the other hand, an important external factor is the role of the government and relevant agencies in enforcing laws and maintaining environmental quality. Relevant agencies should also routinely conduct inspections and monitoring to ensure compliance with environmental laws. Consistent law enforcement

against water polluters is a key step to ensure that existing laws are truly effective in preventing river pollution. In addition, cooperation with community organizations is also very important. For example, community organizations collaborate with research institutions to contribute to monitoring river water quality using methods such as Biochemical Oxygen Demand, Chemical Oxygen Demand, and heavy metal content measurements to detect pollution. Community involvement in these monitoring activities not only helps the government in identifying environmental problems, but also raises the awareness of local communities on the importance of maintaining water quality.

Law enforcement against perpetrators of environmental destruction is often ineffective. This also plays an important role in influencing public awareness of environmental cleanliness and health. The sanctions imposed on violators are not proportional to the damage they cause, making them less effective in producing a deterrent effect or changing behavior. Nonetheless, environmental law in Indonesia has great potential to increase environmental awareness among millennials who are increasingly active in social and environmental issues. Environmental education programs and public campaigns supported by government regulations have helped increase understanding of the importance of environmental conservation. However, their effectiveness is often hampered by the knowledge gap between urban and rural millennials, as well as negative perceptions of environmental regulations as bureaucratic obstacles.

#### *The Impact of Environmentally Unfriendly Behavior on Public Health around the River, Especially among Indonesian Millennials*

A river is a water source that has many uses for humans as a whole. Because of the important benefits of rivers to the needs of all living things, the protection of rivers is very necessary. If the ecosystem around the river is polluted, the river becomes very dangerous to use. Domestic and industrial waste can cause pollution of river water, which contains substances that are harmful to the body when consumed. Water pollution usually contains various chemicals that cause diseases such as cholera, typhoid and skin diseases. Long-term illnesses such as skin diseases, respiratory diseases and digestive problems can be caused by continuous exposure to polluted water. Children and the elderly are vulnerable groups that can experience more severe impacts due to weaker immune systems.

Pollution in rivers results in sedimentation, increased suspended solids, and decreased dissolved oxygen content. This not only damages the river ecosystem and food chain, but also creates contamination from detergent waste when washing clothes in the river. Low public awareness of the issue has led to severe ecosystem damage and lack of law enforcement. To address this issue, measures such as reducing waste disposal, applying the 3R principle in waste management, and enhancing cross-sectoral cooperation are needed. Socialization, community development, regulation making, supervision, and law enforcement must be carried out by the government. Millennials can get involved by taking an active role in river cleanup activities, participating in environmental campaigns, and supporting environmental conservation initiatives. Through strong cooperation, we can reduce the negative impact of environmentally unfriendly behavior and ensure the health of people living around the river.

## **Conclusion**

Indonesia as a country that has committed to making changes to create a clean environment is inversely proportional to the reality on the ground. The lack of legal awareness for the community, especially the millennial generation, has an impact on the amount of pollution of the river environment as one of the ecoregions protected by the UUPPLH. Environmentally unfriendly behavior has a serious impact on the health of people around the river, including the risk of disease due to river water pollution. To address this problem, preventive measures such as reducing waste disposal, applying the 3R principle in waste management, and enhancing cross-sectoral cooperation are needed. With strong preventive measures, effective legal education, and increased community participation, it is expected that legal and environmental awareness will increase, reduce the negative impacts of unsustainable behavior, and ensure the health of communities around the river.

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