

PERAN BUDAYA HUKUM DALAM PENGUATAN GOOD GOVERNANCE UNTUK MENDUKUNG AGENDA SDGs

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Abstract

The role of legal culture in strengthening good governance has become increasingly crucial in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This normative legal research aims to analyze the extent to which the internalization of legal culture can reinforce the implementation of good governance principles in public institutions. By employing a conceptual and statutory approach, this study reviews relevant legal frameworks and theoretical perspectives that connect the dimensions of legal culture—such as compliance, awareness, and participation—with governance principles of transparency, accountability, and justice. The findings indicate that a strong and progressive legal culture serves as a foundation for the creation of clean, participatory, and just governance practices. Conversely, a weak legal culture often leads to inefficiency, corruption, and lack of accountability. Therefore, strengthening legal culture through education, institutional reform, and legal socialization is an essential strategy in supporting the achievement of SDG 16, which emphasizes peace, justice, and strong institutions.

Keywords: Legal Culture; Good Governance; SDGs; Law Awareness; Accountability

Abstrak

Peran budaya hukum dalam memperkuat tata kelola pemerintahan yang baik (good governance) semakin penting dalam mewujudkan Tujuan Pembangunan Berkelanjutan (Sustainable Development Goals/SDGs). Penelitian hukum normatif ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis sejauh mana internalisasi budaya hukum dapat memperkuat penerapan prinsip-prinsip good governance di lembaga publik. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan konseptual dan perundang-undangan, penelitian ini menelaah kerangka hukum dan perspektif teoritis yang mengaitkan dimensi budaya hukum—seperti kepatuhan, kesadaran hukum, dan partisipasi—dengan prinsip tata kelola pemerintahan yang transparan, akuntabel, dan berkeadilan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa budaya hukum yang kuat dan progresif menjadi fondasi bagi terciptanya praktik pemerintahan yang bersih, partisipatif, dan berkeadilan. Sebaliknya, lemahnya budaya hukum sering kali berimplikasi pada munculnya inefisiensi, korupsi, dan rendahnya akuntabilitas publik. Oleh karena itu, penguatan budaya hukum melalui pendidikan, reformasi kelembagaan, serta sosialisasi hukum menjadi strategi penting dalam mendukung pencapaian SDG 16 yang menekankan perdamaian, keadilan, dan institusi yang kuat.

Kata Kunci: Budaya Hukum; Good Governance; SDGs; Kesadaran Hukum; Akuntabilitas

INTRODUCTION

Good Governance has become a central paradigm in the reform of government administration in Indonesia. However, its implementation still faces complex challenges despite various structural and institutional improvements that have been made. The Transparency International Report (2023) shows that Indonesia's Corruption Perception Index remains at 34, indicating fundamental issues that lie not only in the regulatory aspect but also in the cultural dimension. This phenomenon reinforces Friedman's (1975) view that the effectiveness of a legal system is determined not only by the structure and substance of law, but greatly depends on legal culture as the soul of the legal system.

Previous research by Huda (2020) revealed that governance and legal culture in Indonesia still face the challenge of transforming legal values within bureaucracy. This study provided important contributions in mapping problems; however, it lacked emphasis on concrete implementation strategies. Wibowo's (2021) research emphasized the importance of bureaucratic reform based on legal culture, but had not yet integrated the perspective of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in its analysis. Meanwhile, Prasetyo (2022) focused on aspects of legal compliance and corruption culture in local government, but did not discuss its linkage with sustainable development.

Kurniawan's (2023) study on the legal culture of state civil apparatus provided insights regarding the accountability of government administration; however, it was limited to micro-organizational level analysis. The most recent research by Dewi (2024) has begun to integrate the concept of

legal culture with sustainable development; however, it has not comprehensively built a conceptual framework connecting all three elements. Several empirical studies also show a gap between regulation and implementation in the field (Nurjanah, 2023; Saputra, 2024), further reinforcing arguments about the importance of the legal culture aspect.

Based on the analysis of previous studies, several major limitations have been identified. First, there is no comprehensive conceptual framework linking legal culture, good governance, and SDGs. Second, most research is still partial in nature and has not presented integrated implementation strategies. Third, the linkage between the legal culture dimension and specific SDG 16 targets has not been explored deeply. Fourth, research approaches used are still dominated by normative analysis without developing operational strategies.

This research aims to address these limitations by developing a conceptual framework that integrates all three elements. The focus of the research is on analyzing the role of legal culture in strengthening the principles of good governance to support the achievement of SDG 16 in Indonesia. The approach used is normative legal research with conceptual methods, legislation analysis, and case analysis to provide a comprehensive perspective.

Based on this background, the research questions in this study are: (1) Is the role of legal culture sufficiently strong in strengthening the principles of good governance in government institutions? (2) How can strengthening legal culture support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly

objective 16 concerning peace, justice, and strong institutions?

This research is expected to provide theoretical contributions in developing the concept of legal culture integrated with good governance and SDGs. Practically, the research results can serve as a guide for policymakers in formulating effective strategies for strengthening legal culture. Additionally, this research is also expected to fill literature gaps by presenting a comprehensive conceptual framework and measurable implementation strategies.

The objective of the research is to comprehensively analyze the role of legal culture in strengthening good governance to support the achievement of SDG 16 in Indonesia. Specifically, this research aims to: (1) Analyze the implementation of good governance principles within the framework of positive law in Indonesia; (2) Identify factors that influence the internalization of legal culture in government administration; (3) Develop an effective model for strengthening legal culture to support the achievement of SDG 16; (4) Formulate evidence-based policy recommendations for improving government administration.

This research uses a normative legal approach with methods of conceptual analysis and legislation analysis. Primary data consists of legislation related to good governance, while secondary data consists of literature, scientific journals, and related research reports. Data analysis is conducted qualitatively through techniques of legal interpretation, legal evaluation, and legal construction to build coherent and solution-oriented arguments.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Is the role of legal culture sufficiently strong in strengthening the principles of good governance in government institutions?
2. How can strengthening legal culture support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly objective 16 concerning peace, justice, and strong institutions?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research uses normative legal research, which focuses on the study of legal norms, legal principles, and legal doctrines relevant to the role of legal culture in strengthening good governance to support the SDGs agenda in Indonesia. Normative research was chosen because it aims to explore and analyze the conceptual, theoretical, and normative dimensions of the problems studied, as well as to evaluate the alignment between law in books with the legal ideals (*rechtsidee*) that underpin good governance and SDGs.

The research methods used in this study consist of:

1. Statute Approach

This approach is used to analyze and examine various legislation related to good governance, legal culture, and sustainable development objectives. The regulations examined include the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia of 1945, Law Number 28 of 1999 concerning Clean and Corruption, Collusion, and Nepotism-Free State Administration, Law Number 25 of 2009 concerning Public Services, Law Number 30 of 2014 concerning Government Administration, as well as implementing regulations and derivative policies.

2. Conceptual Approach

This approach is used to dissect and construct key concepts such as "legal culture," "good governance," and "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)." This approach aims to build a coherent framework of thought rooted in expert perspectives and relevant theories, such as Lawrence M. Friedman's Legal System Theory.

3. Case Approach

This approach is applied by analyzing court decisions (for example, from the State Administrative Court) and cases of disputes or violations of government administration that reflect weak legal culture and good governance principles. Case analysis aims to identify gaps between legal norms and field practices.

Research Data Sources

1. Primary Legal Materials, including:

- Legislation as mentioned above.
- Official state documents such as Academic Drafts and Government Accountability Reports (LKPP).
- Court decisions relevant to the research theme.

2. Secondary Legal Materials, including:

- Textbooks, monographs, and compilations of legal articles.
- National and international scientific journal articles published in the last 10 years.

- Scholarly works such as dissertations, theses, and seminar papers.
- Legal dictionaries and encyclopedias.
- Official websites of government institutions and international organizations (such as UN and UNDP) that publish data and reports related to SDGs and governance.

Given the nature of this research as normative and focused on document analysis, the research location is not specific in terms of field geography. The research "location" more refers to the scope of document and regulation studies, namely the legal system and government administration in Indonesia.

The selection of this "location" is based on the reasoning that Indonesia, as a rule-of-law state that is actively conducting bureaucratic reform and committed to the SDGs agenda, provides a rich and relevant empirical context and regulations for exploring the relationship between legal culture, good governance, and SDGs.

Data Collection Technique

Data collection is conducted through systematic and comprehensive library research. This technique involves searching, identifying, and collecting primary and secondary legal materials from various sources, including online journal databases (such as Google Scholar, Sinta, and Scopus), library catalogs, and official websites of relevant institutions.

Data Analysis Technique

The data analysis technique used is normative qualitative analysis. The

collected data is analyzed through several stages:

- **Legal Interpretation**, that is, interpreting the meaning and scope of relevant legal norms.
- **Legal Evaluation**, that is, assessing consistency, effectiveness, and gaps in the existing legal framework.
- **Legal Construction**, that is, developing arguments and conceptual recommendations based on synthesis of interpretation and evaluation results, to answer the research questions.

Through the application of these methods and techniques, this research is designed to produce an in-depth, systematic, and scientifically accountable analysis.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. The Role of Legal Culture in Good Governance

Based on the results of the study, legal culture plays a fundamental role in shaping legal behavior both within society and among state administrators (Friedman, 1975: 15). The research findings reveal that legal culture is not merely a reflection of formal compliance with rules, but more deeply involves the internalization of legal values in daily government practice (Rahardjo, 2017: 45).

From the perspective of Friedman's legal systems theory, legal culture is the "soul" that brings legal structure and substance to life (Friedman, 1975: 34). The reality in Indonesia shows that although regulations promoting clean and transparent government have been extensively established, their implementation remains weak because it is not supported by strong

legal culture (Huda, 2020: 455). Analysis of court decisions and supervisory agency reports reveals that the effectiveness of implementing good governance principles is greatly determined by the strength of legal culture within government institutions.

2. Legal Culture as a Bridge Between Law in Books and Law in Action

This research found that legal culture functions as a critical bridge between written law (law in books) and applied law (law in action). Many well-drafted regulations, such as Law No. 30 of 2014 concerning Government Administration and Law No. 25 of 2009 concerning Public Services, have inconsistent implementation due to weak legal awareness and moral commitment among practitioners (Wibowo, 2021: 128).

Legal culture acts as a driver ensuring that legal norms do not remain at the formal level, but truly become guidelines in government practice. This finding aligns with previous research showing that without the support of strong legal culture, good regulations will not be able to create government with integrity (Nurjanah, 2023: 182).

3. The Relationship Between Legal Culture and the Achievement of SDG 16

The results of the analysis show a close relationship between legal culture and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 16 which emphasizes peace, justice, and strong institutions (United Nations, 2015: 26). Achieving this objective requires not only good law but also legal culture that supports its implementation.

This research groups the relationship into three main dimensions:

First, the dimension of legal awareness that determines the extent to which society understands its rights and obligations. Legally aware citizens tend to be more active in rejecting violations and demanding government transparency (Santoso, 2021: 250).

Second, the dimension of legal participation as seen in community involvement in the process of making and monitoring public policy. High participation strengthens the implementation of good governance principles (Maulana, 2022: 62).

Third, the dimension of institutional integrity that reflects the ability of bureaucratic internal legal culture in shaping professional and ethical behavior of government officials (Kurniawan, 2023: 142).

4. Strategies for Strengthening Legal Culture

Based on research findings, efforts to strengthen legal culture must be conducted through a layered approach:

First, legal education oriented toward values and morality, not merely legal knowledge. Education in schools and government institutions must instill values of honesty, responsibility, and social justice (Suteki & Taufani, 2019: 89).

Second, institutional reform so that the bureaucratic system operates based on merit and high integrity. This aligns with findings that weak institutional integrity is one of the main obstacles to good governance (Dewi, 2024: 55).

Third, increased community participation in policy oversight and the process of making regulations. Effective participation mechanisms can bridge the

interests of government and society (Firdaus, 2023: 218).

Fourth, firm and consistent law enforcement against any violations of good governance principles. Sanctions that provide deterrent effects are needed to build a culture of legal compliance (Prasetyo, 2022: 310).

5. The Impact of Strengthening Legal Culture on Public Trust

The results of the study show a positive correlation between strong legal culture and increased public trust in state institutions. When the public sees fair, non-discriminatory, and consistent law enforcement, trust in the government will grow (Hidayat, 2023: 95). Conversely, discriminatory law enforcement will reduce public trust and cause delegitimization of government policy.

Therefore, strengthening legal culture is a fundamental step to maintain the legitimacy and credibility of government. This finding is consistent with previous research stating that public trust is essential social capital for government effectiveness (Saputra, 2024: 42).

CONCLUSION

Based on the research conducted, it can be concluded that the role of legal culture in supporting good governance in Indonesia is not yet optimal. Legal culture within the government environment still tends to be formalistic, emphasizing procedural compliance rather than internalization of substantive good governance values. Legal culture functions as a critical bridge between written law and its implementation, where without its strengthening, various regulations

supporting good governance cannot be implemented effectively.

Strengthening legal culture is a key strategy for achieving SDG 16 objectives concerning peace, justice, and robust institutions. This requires internalization of SDG values in the legal and institutional system, increased legal awareness and community participation, strengthening institutional integrity of the bureaucracy, and consistent and fair law enforcement. A transformative approach is needed through value-based legal education, integrity-oriented institutional reform, increased substantive public participation, and consistent law enforcement.

Ultimately, strengthening legal culture is an essential foundation for achieving effective government administration and the achievement of a just and prosperous society in accordance with the ideals of the SDGs.

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