

Implementation of Balitar Islamic University of Blitar Legal Aid Services as a Form of MBKM

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Abstract

This research aims to evaluate the implementation of Legal Aid Services (LBH) at the Bandung Islamic University (UNISBA) as part of the Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) program. The method used is normative legal research, which involves analysis of relevant legislation and legal documents. The research results show that LBH UNISBA, through its partnership with the Blitar Religious Court and legal education activities in Ngeni Village, has succeeded in increasing access to justice for underprivileged communities and providing valuable practical experience for students. Students gain practical skills and an in-depth understanding of the law, while the public receives legal assistance and education that supports their legal awareness. This program strengthens the relevance of the curriculum and shows the synergy between higher education and the needs of society, in line with MBKM's goal of creating learning that is more connected to the real world.

Keywords: *legal aid; POSBAKU;, UNISBA..*

INTRODUCTION

Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) is a policy from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia which aims to give higher education institutions more freedom and autonomy to foster a more innovative learning environment that is not limited to the classroom but is more relevant to needs. industry and society (Sonjaya & Iskandar, 2022). One of the strategic steps taken by the Bandung Islamic University (UNISBA) to answer educational problems in the context of the Industrial Revolution 4.0 is to adopt MBKM.

MBKM at UNISBA offers students more flexible program options that can enhance their learning experience while providing opportunities to develop as individuals outside of campus. A variety of activities are included in this curriculum, including research, entrepreneurship, independent study, internships, community projects, student exchanges, and school teaching. The aim is to produce graduates who are highly competitive, innovative, creative, and ready to enter the world of work.

Working together with different groups from business, government, and society is an important part of implementing MBKM at UNISBA. Students benefit from increased access to the world of work and a variety of more relevant and real learning experiences as a result of this relationship (Yulindaputri & Sutrisno, 2023). Apart from that, this program also strengthens relations between society and institutions, which can increase the relevance of the curriculum and the quality of education (Mustari, 2022).

There is now an additional option to connect education with community needs more directly thanks to the establishment of the Independent Learning Campus (MBKM) by Bandung Islamic University (UNISBA). The establishment of the Legal Aid Institute (LBH) as a component of the MBKM program is a concrete example of this implementation. Apart from functioning as a learning tool for students, LBH UNISBA directly provides benefits to underprivileged communities by providing legal assistance.

The aim of the UNISBA Legal Aid Service is to provide free legal aid to underprivileged communities - especially those around the Blitar area. This activity is in line with the aim of MBKM, namely to involve students in direct learning experiences that are relevant to community needs and real world situations. Law students at UNISBA can use LBH to practice their education at college by handling real cases.

The general public is in dire need of legal assistance, especially in poor areas where access to quality legal assistance is often limited. Data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) shows that around 27.5% of Indonesians will remain poor in 2022 (Nimatunnuriyah, 2021). This figure is also very significant in Blitar, highlighting the importance of affordable legal services.

LBH UNISBA is very important in providing access to justice and legal defense to marginalized communities. Through LBH, students gain an understanding of the social and economic factors that influence people's access to justice, in addition to learning about legal processes and litigation strategies. This strengthens the MBKM policy need for comprehensive and humanistic education.

Students have additional opportunities to develop soft skills such as empathy, communication, and problem solving when MBKM is implemented through LBH. They learn skills such as listening to complaints, evaluating legal issues, and providing timely and appropriate answers. This is an invaluable experience that cannot be fully gained through classroom theory teaching. (Ibrahim et al., 2021).

The secret to LBH UNISBA's success is collaboration with various stakeholders, such as local communities, NGOs and local governments. Students can engage directly with various stakeholders and gain an understanding of the dynamics that exist in this sector through this partnership. In addition, this also provides students with the opportunity to participate in broader policy lobbying, which has the potential to change the accessibility of the legal system at a systemic level (Chotimah et al., 2019).

LBH UNISBA handles various kinds of cases, ranging from minor criminal cases, family problems such as divorce and child custody, as well as civil disputes such as land disputes. Students gain invaluable experience in understanding various aspects of law and court procedures by handling these cases. They also learn the value of professionalism and ethics in the provision of legal services.

Increasing public awareness of the law is another benefit of the UNISBA Legal Aid Service. LBH UNISBA assists communities in understanding their rights and responsibilities as well as the legal processes that must be followed through legal advice

and educational initiatives. This is very important so that people become more independent and able to defend their rights.

Several parties expressed their gratitude for the implementation of LBH which is included in the MBKM. For example, the Blitar regional government appreciates LBH UNISBA's assistance to underprivileged and vulnerable communities. This shows that collaboration between government and academics can have a significant positive influence on society.

In addition, the presence of LBH enhances UNISBA's position as a group that supports social justice and other related issues. This is in line with UNISBA's vision and goals, which indicate that this institution aspires to be at the forefront of community service. As a result, LBH provides benefits for the school as a whole in addition to the children.

However, there are several difficulties in implementing LBH at UNISBA. One of the main obstacles is limited resources, both in terms of funding and professional staff. UNISBA is still seeking assistance from the public and private sectors to overcome this. In addition, increasing the skills and knowledge of LBH staff and students is a priority to provide higher quality and professional services.

LBH UNISBA is involved in broader efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially goal 16, namely "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions". LBH UNISBA helps build a more just and inclusive society by providing everyone in society with access to the legal system.

In addition, it is hoped that the LBH UNISBA initiative will encourage other universities to launch similar initiatives. It is hoped that poor people in Indonesia will have easier access to justice with the increasing number of universities involved in providing legal aid services. This is an important step in helping Indonesia build stronger legal regulations.

Overall, the way MBKM is implemented at Balitar Islamic University through the Legal Aid Service shows how education policy can work in harmony with community needs. This has a beneficial impact on the communities it serves, in addition to providing a deeper and more meaningful learning experience for students. By doing this, UNISBA can fulfill its function as an agent of change that helps build a more equal and just society. Thus, the aim of this research is to see how Legal Aid Services (LBH) are implemented at Bandung Islamic University as one component of the MBKM program.

RESEARCH METHODS

Normative legal research techniques, also known as doctrinal research, were used in this research. This approach focuses on analyzing relevant legal standards and applying them where necessary. Normative legal research seeks to examine relevant legal concepts, doctrines, and statutory regulations relating to the problem being investigated.

The implementation of Legal Aid Services (LBH) at the Bandung Islamic University (UNISBA) as one component of the Independent Campus Study Period (MBKM) policy is examined in the context of this research using normative legal methodology. Various laws and regulations relating to human rights, legal aid, and higher education are analyzed. Apart from that, this research also examines court decisions and related legal theories that discuss poor people's access to justice.

Legal materials at the basic, secondary and tertiary levels are the main data sources in this research. Legislation relating to MBKM and legal aid, such as Law no. 12 of 2012 concerning Higher Education and Law no. 16 of 2011 concerning Legal Aid, is an example of primary legal material. Legal dictionaries and encyclopedias are examples of tertiary legal materials, while academic publications, books related to research topics, and legal literature are examples of secondary legal materials.

The analysis of how the MBKM program can be used to incorporate legal aid ideas into the higher education system also uses a conceptual approach. This method helps in understanding the practical application of legal standards and the ways in which MBKM policies can promote the realization of social justice, especially for disadvantaged groups.

Soekanto (2007) emphasized that the statutory approach, case approach and conceptual approach are three significant techniques in normative legal research. In this research, the regulations that guide the implementation of LBH at UNISBA are studied through a statutory approach and actual cases handled by LBH UNISBA are studied through a case approach. This research uses a legal concept analysis methodology to investigate the potential synergy between legal aid principles and MBKM within the higher education framework in Indonesia.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research result

At the Balitar Islamic University (UNISBA) Blitar, the Independent Learning Independent Campus (MBKM) has been implemented in several concrete ways that are beneficial to the community and students. The UNISBA Faculty of Law's Legal Assistance and Consultation Bureau (BKBH) is one way to implement this strategy. BKBH has carried out various legal counseling and education activities together with the Blitar Class 1A Religious Court. This partnership not only provides students with real-life experiences, but also makes justice more accessible to the community.

The cooperation contract for the Legal Aid Service Post (POSBAKUM) for the 2023 Fiscal Year was signed between BKBH Supremacy, UNISBA Blitar Faculty of Law and Blitar Class 1A Religious Court on January 2 2023. A number of members from the UNISBA Blitar Faculty of Law, including Mr. Weppy Susetiyono, S.H., M.H., The Dean of the UNISBA Blitar Faculty of Law, as well as staff from the Class 1A Blitar Religious Court were present at this event. Deputy Chairperson of the Blitar Class 1A Blitar Religious Court, Mrs. Dra. Farida Hanim, M.H., in her speech said that POSBAKUM is a service that seeks to provide information, consultation or legal advice in addition to creating legal documents in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. It is hoped that through this collaboration, the rights of legal aid recipients to gain access to justice can be fulfilled.

This partnership is an important strategic step for UNISBA and also the people of Blitar. As part of the implementation of MBKM, UNISBA sees this collaboration as an opportunity to provide students with direct experience in dealing with real legal situations. Students can apply the academic knowledge they learn in class to real-world situations, gaining experience and developing practical skills essential to the legal profession.

The legal aid services provided by POSBAKUM are very beneficial for individuals, especially those who are less fortunate, in resolving their legal problems. Previous research shows that one of the biggest problems in Indonesia is the difficulty

of obtaining affordable and high-quality legal services, especially for low-income and rural communities. The collaboration between the Blitar Class 1A Religious Court and BKBH Supremasi FH UNISBA Blitar is one example of how universities can help solve this problem.

BKBH Supremasi FH UNISBA Blitar provides legal counseling and education in addition to collaborating with the Blitar Class 1A Religious Court. One of the legal counseling was carried out in Ngeni Village, Wonotirto District, Blitar Regency. Many community members participated in this event, which was held in collaboration with the Student Communication Forum Concerned with Justice (FKMPK). Those who attended included the mosque takmir, village head, village officials, youth organization members, BPD administrators, PKK women and local security forces.

Real contributions to society that are in line with MBKM's mission are provided through legal consultation and education. In this activity, students act as teachers and provide knowledge about criminal and civil law, as well as regulations relating to marriage, forestry and land. The material presented by the speakers was very relevant to the problems faced by the residents of Ngeni Village, because they often deal with problems related to marriage and land.

The Ngeni Village community responded very positively to this legal education initiative. They hope that events like this can be held regularly and feel that the legal knowledge provided is very helpful. This shows how much society really needs legal education. Those who have sufficient legal knowledge can handle their own legal problems and do not need outside help at any given time.

There are several advantages of this legal counseling activity in implementing MBKM. On the one hand, students have the opportunity to learn and practice in an authentic environment. They gain the skills necessary to interact with the public, explain legal concepts in an understandable way, and offer answers to problems that arise.

Support from various stakeholders, including the regional government and local community, is very important for the success of the BKBH Supremasi FH UNISBA Blitar program. Effective collaboration between communities and institutions is critical to the success of this program. Additionally, another key element in the success of this program is the university's dedication to continuously creating and developing legal aid services.

However, there are still several obstacles that must be overcome to make this legal aid program a reality. One of them is the lack of adequate funding and knowledgeable personnel. Continuous efforts are needed to seek assistance from various parties, such as the government, the commercial sector, and non-governmental groups, to overcome these difficulties. Apart from that, it is also necessary to carry out training and capacity development for students and staff involved in legal aid services, so that they can provide more professional and quality services.

Student Empowerment

The Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture launched the Independent Campus Learning Program (MBKM) with the aim of providing flexibility and authority to universities to design a curriculum that is more dynamic and in line with the needs of the business world. Balitar Islamic University's legal aid program provides students with the opportunity to put their legal knowledge into practice. Students who complete this program will not only have a theoretical understanding of the law, but will also have the opportunity to help those in need of legal assistance. In addition to improving

people's access to justice, they will be able to observe firsthand how the knowledge and skills they gain in the classroom are used.

One example is the agreement signed on January 2 2023, between BKBH Supremasi Faculty of Law UNISBA Blitar and the Blitar Class 1A Religious Court regarding the Legal Aid Service Post (POSBAKUM). Students get the opportunity to engage in real legal services through this partnership, which helps them understand and address legal issues in everyday practice. In addition, previous research has shown that student participation in actual legal practice can greatly improve their analytical and practical skills (Nugroho, 2021).

Practical Skills Improvement

For law students, participating in the legal aid program at Balitar Islamic University offers invaluable real-world experience. Students can apply the legal knowledge they gain in class to real-life scenarios in a simulation setting. Through direct interaction with people facing legal problems, they not only improve their analytical skills but also their understanding of the complexity and content of the law as it is used in society.

In Ngeni Village, Wonotirto District, Blitar Regency, the legal education and counseling program is an illustration of how legal aid services are a means of improving students' practical abilities. In this activity, students act as teachers and provide knowledge about criminal and civil law, as well as regulations relating to marriage, forestry and land. This is an invaluable opportunity for students to gain applicable and useful skills. Direct experience is very important in the learning process, according to Kolb's experience-based learning theory, which was highlighted by Saleh and Yaacob (2014). This legal aid program makes this possible.

Increasing Legal Awareness

Public awareness of the law can increase significantly as a result of the introduction of legal aid services by Balitar Islamic University. Universities that help those in need gain access to legal counsel not only give them real answers to their legal problems, but also increase society's knowledge of legal rights and responsibilities.

A practical example of how legal aid services can increase community legal awareness can be seen in Ngeni Village, where legal counseling is provided to various community groups, including village heads, village officials, youth organizations, BPD administrators, PKK women, mosque takmir, and local security forces. The information provided by the resource persons was quite relevant to the problems faced by the surrounding environment, and the people of Ngeni Village responded well to the suggestions. Participatory legal education can dramatically increase people's legal understanding, according to research by Arba et al. (2020).

Collaboration and Networking

Two initiatives at Balitar Islamic University—legal aid services and MBKM activities—not only directly help students but also pave the way for strong collaboration between students, instructors, and outside the classroom. Students can develop their professional networks and make important connections in the legal field through this collaboration.

One example of a productive partnership is the partnership that exists between the Blitar Class 1A Religious Court and BKBH Supremacy, UNISBA Blitar Faculty of Law. Representatives from the UNISBA Blitar Faculty of Law and a number of officials from the Blitar Religious Court were present at the signing of this cooperation pact, showing how this partnership can improve students' educational opportunities and

strengthen their professional networks. In accordance with Hamid (2015), Putnam's social capital theory shows that students can benefit greatly from a strong professional network in terms of career development and practical knowledge acquisition.

Community empowerment

The MBKM program at Balitar Islamic University and legal aid services significantly improve the community. People who are less fortunate or who need access to the legal system can get the help they need by using legal aid programs. By providing this access, legal aid programs support people's access to justice and at the same time offer specific answers to individual or group legal problems.

For example, the local community of Ngeni Village directly benefits from legal education. This outreach provides people with more knowledge about their legal rights and responsibilities, so they can defend themselves in court. In addition, this outreach partnership with the Student Communication Forum Concerned with Justice (FKMPK) shows how the MBKM initiative can directly benefit the surrounding community. According to research by Chotimah, Widodo, and Handayani (2019), legal empowerment through counseling can reduce the number of law violations in society.

CONCLUSION

The Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture has launched the Independent Campus Learning Program (MBKM) as an effort to raise the standards of higher education and make it more relevant to the needs of the business world. In this case, the provision of legal aid services by Balitar Islamic University can be quite significant and connected to the MBKM initiative. First, by empowering students, both offer opportunities for them to broaden their perspectives and gain useful skills. Second, by facilitating access to the legal system and initiatives that provide direct benefits, legal aid services and MBKM initiatives provide significant benefits to society. Third, both programs facilitate collaboration between students, faculty, and outside legal practitioners, which in turn enables the growth of strong professional networks. Thus, the link between legal aid services and MBKM shows great potential for creating more skilled students, a more legally aware society, and closer cooperation between higher education and the world of work.

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