

Improving the Understanding of the Marriage Law among the Kodingareng Island Community

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ABSTRACT

Early marriage remains a significant social issue in many community settings, including island and coastal areas where access to legal education and public awareness programs may still be limited. In such contexts, insufficient understanding of marriage regulations can contribute to the persistence of early marriage practices and weaken community awareness of the legal, social, and familial consequences associated with them. This community service activity was conducted in Kodingareng Island with the aim of improving public understanding of the revised Marriage Law and strengthening preventive awareness regarding early marriage. The activity employed a direct socialization approach targeting members of the local community. The implementation process consisted of problem identification, preparation of educational materials, direct delivery of legal information, interactive discussion, and participatory evaluation through community responses during the activity. The socialization emphasized the importance of legal literacy in marriage, the relevance of revised legal provisions, and the risks of entering marriage at an immature age. The results indicate that the activity contributed positively to the community's understanding of the revised Marriage Law. Participants showed active engagement during the session and demonstrated better awareness of the legal and social implications of early marriage. The program also opened a constructive space for dialogue between the service team and the community regarding marriage readiness and family responsibility. In conclusion, legal socialization can serve as an effective initial strategy for strengthening community awareness and supporting the prevention of early marriage in Kodingareng Island.



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INTRODUCTION

Early marriage continues to be a complex social issue in many communities and remains closely related to legal awareness, educational attainment, family resilience, and the protection of children and adolescents. Although marriage is socially and culturally recognized as an important institution, its implementation should not be separated from adequate maturity, preparedness, and legal understanding (Mehra et al., 2018). When marriage occurs at an early age, the consequences often extend beyond the private sphere and affect broader dimensions of social welfare, including interrupted education, economic vulnerability, reproductive health risks, emotional instability, and the potential emergence of family conflict. For this reason, efforts to prevent early marriage cannot rely solely on normative prohibition; they must also be supported by community-based education capable of strengthening public legal literacy and social awareness (Fan & Koski, 2022).

In many local contexts, early marriage is not merely the result of individual choice but is shaped by a combination of social environment, limited legal knowledge, family considerations, cultural perceptions, and insufficient access to relevant educational information (Psaki et al., 2021). Communities with limited exposure to legal dissemination programs may not fully understand that marriage regulation has undergone important developments intended to provide better protection for individuals, especially young people who are not yet fully prepared for married life. As a result, marriage may still be perceived only as a cultural or familial matter, while its legal and developmental dimensions

receive less attention. This condition demonstrates that legal reform alone is not enough. The existence of law must be accompanied by public understanding so that legal provisions can function effectively within everyday social life (Wibowo et al., 2021).

The revised Marriage Law has an important role in strengthening the legal framework governing marriage and in encouraging society to view marriage not only as a social event but also as a legal institution that requires maturity and responsibility. In this regard, the dissemination of legal information to the public becomes highly relevant, especially in communities where direct access to structured legal education may be limited. Socialization activities are therefore important as a practical instrument of community service because they translate legal norms into understandable public knowledge (Goodwin & Maru, 2017). Through socialization, the law is not presented in a rigid and distant form; instead, it becomes part of a dialogue that helps community members reflect on the consequences of early marriage and the importance of legal compliance in family formation (Joshi et al., 2022).

Kodingareng Island represents a community setting in which direct engagement and face-to-face educational approaches are particularly meaningful. As an island community, Kodingareng has its own social dynamics, community relationships, and everyday realities that require contextual and accessible forms of legal education. In such a setting, information dissemination is often more effective when delivered through interpersonal interaction, discussion, and direct explanation rather than through purely formal or text-based legal communication (Kadir, 2026a). Community members are more likely to understand legal issues when they are discussed in relation to actual social experiences and practical family concerns. Therefore, socialization activities addressing the revised Marriage Law become especially relevant as a form of public legal education rooted in the lived realities of the local population (Vissandjée et al., 2017).

The main problem identified in this community service activity was the persistence of early marriage as a social issue among the people of Kodingareng Island. This condition indicates that knowledge regarding marriage regulation and the broader consequences of underage or immature marriage has not been evenly understood within the community. Limited awareness of legal provisions may reduce the community's capacity to critically assess the long-term implications of early marriage, both for individuals and for families. In many cases, people may be aware that marriage is regulated by law, yet they may not fully understand the purpose of legal revision, the protective character of marriage regulation, or the importance of ensuring readiness before entering married life. This gap between legal norms and community understanding creates a pressing need for educational intervention (Cameron et al., 2023).

From a community service perspective, legal socialization is one of the most relevant and feasible responses to this problem. Socialization functions not only as a means of delivering legal information but also as a participatory process that allows communities to ask questions, express concerns, and connect legal provisions to social realities they already face. In the issue of early marriage, this approach is particularly important because the problem is closely intertwined with values, habits, and community perceptions. A persuasive and dialogic educational strategy can therefore be more effective than a purely instructive approach. By encouraging discussion, clarifying misconceptions, and presenting the legal and social dimensions of marriage in an understandable way, socialization can contribute to the growth of legal awareness and preventive attitudes within the community (Wibowo et al., 2021).

The urgency of this activity lies in the need to build public understanding before social problems become more deeply rooted. Preventive efforts are more sustainable when communities are empowered to recognize the importance of legal compliance and informed decision-making in family life. In the context of early marriage, prevention requires more than discouragement; it requires the creation of awareness regarding the responsibilities of marriage, the significance of emotional and social maturity, and the possible risks faced by individuals who enter marriage prematurely. Thus, the socialization of the revised Marriage Law is not merely an administrative or legal explanation. It is a community empowerment effort aimed at strengthening the capacity of society to make more responsible choices concerning marriage and family formation.

This community service activity was designed with the objective of improving the understanding of the Kodingareng Island community regarding the revised Marriage Law and its relevance to the prevention of early marriage. More specifically, the activity sought to provide accessible legal education, to increase awareness of the social consequences of early marriage, and to encourage

the community to place greater emphasis on preparedness and responsibility in marital decision-making (Kadir, 2026b). Through direct interaction with community members, the activity also aimed to create a communicative space in which legal issues could be discussed in a practical, relatable, and socially meaningful manner.

The significance of this activity also lies in its contribution to the broader function of community service as an academic and social responsibility. Community service should not be understood merely as the transfer of information from university actors to society, but as a collaborative process of public empowerment. In this case, the socialization of the revised Marriage Law reflects the role of community service in translating formal legal knowledge into community understanding that can influence attitudes and social practice. The activity is therefore important not only because it addresses a concrete issue in Kodingareng Island, but also because it demonstrates how legal literacy can be strengthened through direct engagement with the community.

Another important aspect of this program is its contextual contribution. Discussions on early marriage are often framed in broad policy or national terms, whereas prevention efforts at the local level require more specific and socially grounded approaches. By focusing on an island community and using a direct community-based method, this activity offers a practical example of how legal education can be adapted to local conditions. The program highlights that preventive intervention does not always begin with large-scale institutional mechanisms; it can also begin with direct communication, community dialogue, and the strengthening of public understanding at the grassroots level.

Based on these considerations, this article presents the implementation of a community service activity in the form of socialization of the revised Marriage Law for the people of Kodingareng Island. The article discusses the background of the problem, the implementation method, and the outcomes of the activity, with particular attention to its role in strengthening legal understanding and supporting efforts to prevent early marriage. In this sense, the program is expected to serve as both a practical intervention for the local community and a scholarly contribution to discussions on legal literacy, family resilience, and community-based prevention of early marriage.

RESEARCH METHODS

This community service activity was conducted in Kodingareng Island in September 2025 and targeted members of the local community as the primary participants. The selection of the location was based on the relevance of the social issue identified in the area, namely the persistence of early marriage and the need to strengthen public understanding of the revised Marriage Law. As a community-based legal education initiative, the program was designed to provide accessible and practical information to residents in a manner that was appropriate to the local social setting. The community was chosen as the direct target because marriage-related decision-making is strongly influenced by collective understanding, family perspectives, and social norms operating within the broader community environment.

The method used in this activity was direct legal socialization, implemented through an in-person educational approach. This method was selected because it allows the service team to communicate legal information more clearly, adjust explanations to the audience's level of understanding, and create space for direct interaction with participants. In the context of community service, socialization is not limited to one-way delivery of information; rather, it is an interactive process that combines explanation, dialogue, and clarification. This approach was considered particularly suitable for the topic of marriage law because legal norms often require contextual interpretation to be meaningfully understood by community members. Through face-to-face communication, abstract legal provisions could be translated into practical and socially relevant explanations.

The implementation of the activity consisted of several stages. The first stage was problem identification. At this stage, the service team observed the social context of the community and identified early marriage as one of the major issues requiring preventive legal education. The identification process served as the basis for determining the focus of the program and for ensuring that the activity addressed an actual community need. Rather than approaching the topic in a purely theoretical manner, the team positioned the activity as a response to a concrete social condition faced by the local population.

The second stage was the preparation of socialization materials. The materials were developed to focus on the revised Marriage Law and its relevance to the prevention of early marriage. The content

emphasized general legal understanding of marriage, the importance of marital readiness, and the legal and social implications of entering marriage at an immature age. In preparing the materials, attention was given to clarity of language and accessibility of explanation so that the legal substance could be understood more easily by participants from diverse educational backgrounds. This stage was essential to ensure that the program would not merely transfer legal terminology, but would instead communicate the meaning and social purpose of the law.

The third stage was the implementation of the socialization session. During this stage, the service team met directly with community members in Kodingareng Island and delivered the prepared materials through oral explanation. The session was conducted in a communicative and participatory manner in order to encourage attention and maintain community engagement. Rather than presenting the law in a rigid formal style, the socialization emphasized practical understanding by relating legal provisions to the everyday realities of family life and marriage decisions within the community. This approach helped make the content more relevant and easier to follow.

The fourth stage involved interactive discussion and question-and-answer activities. This stage was an important component of the method because it enabled participants to respond to the material, ask for clarification, and discuss issues related to early marriage based on their own social experiences. The dialogic format also allowed the service team to identify areas of misunderstanding and to reinforce the key points of the legal information being delivered. In community legal education, this participatory element is crucial because understanding is often strengthened when people are actively involved in the learning process rather than positioned only as passive listeners.

The final stage was participatory evaluation, which was conducted qualitatively through direct observation of participant responses during the activity. Because no formal survey or written test was used, evaluation was based on verbal interaction, participant engagement, responsiveness during discussion, and the ability of participants to restate or reflect upon the main points of the material. This evaluation approach was considered appropriate for the nature of the activity, which prioritized community communication and public understanding in an open setting. Indicators of success included participants' demonstrated awareness of the importance of marriage regulation, their understanding of the relevance of legal age and marital readiness, and their positive response to the socialization process.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Implementation of the Socialization Activity

Before the implementation of the socialization activity, public understanding of the revised Marriage Law among the community of Kodingareng Island could be regarded as limited and uneven. Although marriage is widely recognized as an important social institution, legal aspects related to marriage were not necessarily understood in a comprehensive manner by all members of the community. In particular, the issue of early marriage reflected the existence of a gap between legal regulation and social awareness. This condition indicated that legal norms concerning marriage had not been fully internalized as part of everyday community understanding. Similar studies have shown that child marriage is shaped by interconnected social, cultural, and informational factors, and that uneven legal awareness remains one of the barriers to more effective prevention efforts (Kok et al., 2023).

The persistence of early marriage as a social issue suggested that marriage decisions were still often influenced by practical, familial, or social considerations without sufficient attention to legal readiness and long-term consequences. In such a context, the community's limited knowledge of the revised legal framework may reduce the effectiveness of the law as a preventive instrument. When legal provisions are not adequately understood, they may remain distant from the daily lives of the people they are intended to protect. Therefore, strengthening legal literacy at the community level became an essential step in addressing the issue.

The initial condition also showed the need for an educational approach that was not overly formal or technical. Community members required legal information to be explained in a simple, relevant, and accessible manner. This was particularly important in order to connect the revised Marriage Law with the social realities experienced by the residents. Thus, the condition prior to the activity confirmed the urgency of legal socialization as a form of community service intervention aimed at bridging the gap between formal law and public understanding.

The socialization activity was implemented directly in Kodingareng Island through face-to-face interaction with the local community. The implementation process was designed to create an

atmosphere that was communicative, participatory, and socially approachable. Rather than relying on a strictly formal lecture model, the activity was conducted in a manner that encouraged the active presence of the participants and made legal issues easier to understand. This approach was particularly relevant for a community-based service program because it enabled the delivery of legal information in a context-sensitive and human-centered way. Evidence from community-based child marriage interventions likewise suggests that locally grounded, participatory engagement is more likely to facilitate discussion, reflection, and program acceptability than purely top-down communication (Melnikas et al., 2023).



Figure 1. Direct socialization activity on the revised Marriage Law conducted with members of the Kodingareng Island community.

During the implementation, the service team engaged directly with community members and provided explanations regarding the revised Marriage Law and its relevance to early marriage prevention. The activity was not limited to one-way information delivery. Instead, it involved interaction, clarification, and dialogue that allowed participants to connect the material with their own experiences and concerns. This interaction strengthened the communicative function of the program and supported a more meaningful process of legal education.

The field documentation from the activity indicates that the program was carried out in direct proximity to the community's living environment, which contributed to participant comfort and openness. The presence of residents in small group interactions created a supportive setting for communication and discussion. Such a setting is important in community service programs because legal education often becomes more effective when delivered in familiar social spaces rather than in highly formal institutional environments. The socialization process therefore reflected not only the content of legal education but also an appropriate method of community engagement.

In practical terms, the implementation of the activity demonstrated that legal socialization can be integrated into local community interaction patterns. The direct approach enabled the service team to explain the legal substance clearly while also observing participant responses and adapting the communication style accordingly. This flexibility is an important strength of face-to-face community service activities, especially when addressing socially sensitive issues such as marriage and family life.

The socialization activity focused on the revised Marriage Law as the central topic of legal education. The materials were delivered in a way that emphasized practical understanding rather than abstract legal terminology. This was important because the effectiveness of community legal education depends not only on the accuracy of the legal content but also on the participants' ability to understand its meaning and relevance in their own lives. One of the main points conveyed during the activity concerned the importance of understanding marriage as a legal institution, not merely a social or cultural event. Marriage involves rights, obligations, responsibilities, and legal consequences that require

adequate maturity from the individuals involved. This perspective was essential to help participants recognize that marriage readiness is not only about social acceptance but also about legal and personal responsibility.



Figure 2. Discussion on early marriage prevention during the service activity in Kodingareng Island.

Another important point discussed was the significance of the revised legal provisions in relation to age and maturity in marriage. The socialization emphasized that legal regulation concerning marriage is designed not only to govern procedure but also to provide protection. In this context, the law serves as a mechanism for safeguarding individuals from entering marriage before they are physically, emotionally, and socially prepared. The participants were therefore encouraged to understand the law as a protective framework rather than merely as a formal rule imposed from outside the community. Comparative research on marriage laws has likewise shown that minimum-age provisions and the legal structure surrounding marriage are central to the protection of children and adolescents, even though implementation and exceptions often affect their practical strength (Arthur et al., 2018).

The materials also addressed the broader implications of early marriage. These implications were explained from legal, social, and family perspectives. Early marriage was discussed as a condition that may affect educational continuity, family preparedness, emotional stability, and the quality of future household life. By presenting the issue in this broader framework, the activity sought to deepen participant awareness that early marriage is not only a matter of age but also a matter of long-term responsibility and wellbeing. Research has repeatedly linked child marriage to adverse health and wellbeing outcomes, further supporting the importance of presenting early marriage as a multidimensional social problem rather than a narrow legal issue (Dadras et al., 2023).

In addition, the socialization highlighted the importance of awareness and prudence in making marriage decisions. The participants were encouraged to view marriage as a serious life commitment that should be entered only when sufficient readiness has been achieved. Through this emphasis, the program linked legal knowledge with reflective social attitudes, which is an important objective in community-based prevention efforts.

One of the positive outcomes observed during the implementation was the active response of the community. Participants did not merely attend the activity as passive listeners; rather, they showed interest in the material and engaged with the socialization process in an attentive and participatory manner. This response indicated that the topic of marriage law and early marriage prevention was relevant to the realities and concerns of the community.

The participatory atmosphere became evident through the interactive nature of the session. Community members listened to the explanations, followed the discussion, and contributed to the exchange of ideas during the activity. Such engagement is an important indicator in community service programs because it reflects both the relevance of the issue and the acceptability of the method used.

When a community responds actively to a legal socialization activity, it suggests that the issue being discussed is not perceived as distant or purely theoretical, but as something directly connected to social life.

The observed participation also suggests that the use of a direct and dialogic approach was appropriate for the local context. Participants seemed more comfortable engaging with the material when it was delivered through interpersonal communication rather than through rigid formal instruction. This finding supports the idea that community legal education is more effective when it is designed as a shared communicative process. In this case, participation was not only a matter of attendance, but also a sign of openness to legal understanding and preventive reflection. Similar intervention studies have highlighted that attitude-oriented programs work more effectively when participants are meaningfully engaged rather than treated only as passive recipients of information (Omobowale et al., 2023).

Furthermore, the response of the participants contributed to the overall effectiveness of the program. Their involvement created a two-way learning environment in which legal information could be explained, questioned, and reinforced. This kind of interaction is especially valuable in community-based service activities because it enhances the possibility that the knowledge shared during the session will be remembered and socially discussed beyond the activity itself.

2. Impact of the Socialization on Community Understanding and Early Marriage Prevention

The main result of this community service activity was the increased understanding of the revised Marriage Law among the people of Kodingareng Island. Although the evaluation was conducted qualitatively rather than through formal quantitative measurement, the activity showed clear indications that participants gained a better grasp of the legal substance and social significance of marriage regulation. This improvement was reflected in their attentiveness during the session, their participation in discussion, and their ability to connect the delivered material with the issue of early marriage in their community.

Before the socialization, understanding of the revised legal framework appeared to be limited. Legal provisions were not necessarily perceived as directly relevant to everyday decisions concerning marriage. However, through the activity, participants were introduced to the legal rationale behind the regulation and to its protective purpose. As a result, the law became more understandable and more socially meaningful to the participants. Rather than being viewed merely as a formal state regulation, it began to be recognized as a normative framework intended to protect individuals and families from the adverse consequences of premature marriage. Recent experimental evidence from Bangladesh suggests that law-related interventions can influence attitudes and behavior related to child marriage even in settings where enforcement is imperfect, which supports the interpretive value of the present findings (Amirapu et al., 2025).

The improvement in understanding was also evident in the way participants responded to the topic of marital readiness. The socialization helped shift the focus from marriage as a purely social event toward marriage as a responsibility requiring adequate legal, emotional, and social preparation. This shift is significant because preventive awareness often begins with the recognition that marriage should be approached thoughtfully rather than impulsively or solely in response to social pressure.

Another important dimension of the increased understanding concerned the consequences of early marriage. Participants appeared to become more aware that early marriage may create challenges not only in legal terms but also in education, family life, and future wellbeing. This suggests that the activity succeeded in broadening the community's perspective on marriage. Such a change in perspective is a meaningful achievement in community service because awareness is a necessary foundation for longer-term behavioral and social change.

From an academic standpoint, the result of increased understanding shows that legal literacy can be strengthened through direct community engagement. The program did not seek to produce instant social transformation within a single session. Instead, its contribution lay in building awareness, clarifying legal norms, and encouraging reflection. These are essential first steps in the prevention of early marriage, especially in contexts where law must be connected carefully to community realities.

The findings of this activity suggest that socialization can function effectively as an initial preventive strategy against early marriage. Its effectiveness lies in its ability to translate legal norms into practical public understanding. In many communities, legal rules are often perceived as formal,

distant, or difficult to interpret. Socialization addresses this problem by presenting the law in a communicative and socially meaningful way. Through direct explanation and discussion, participants can better understand not only what the law states but also why the law matters.

For the issue of early marriage, this preventive function is particularly important. Prevention does not begin only when a legal violation occurs; it begins when people become aware of the risks, responsibilities, and consequences associated with marriage. In this regard, the activity demonstrated that socialization has the potential to shape preventive awareness by encouraging people to reconsider assumptions and practices related to marriage at a young age. When legal education is combined with discussion of social realities, participants are more likely to understand the relevance of the law to their own lives. At the same time, broader evidence shows that legal reform by itself does not always reduce child marriage unless it is accompanied by contextual social engagement, which strengthens the argument for community-based socialization as a complementary strategy (Batyra & Pesando, 2021).

The effectiveness of the program was also influenced by the face-to-face method used in implementation. In a community setting such as Kodingareng Island, direct communication allows legal concepts to be explained with greater flexibility and responsiveness. Participants can ask questions immediately, and the facilitators can adapt the explanation to the needs of the audience. This makes the learning process more dynamic and accessible. Consequently, the socialization did not merely provide information; it also supported comprehension and reflection.

Several supporting factors contributed to the implementation and positive outcome of the socialization activity. First, the community showed a receptive attitude toward the program. This openness made it easier for the service team to communicate legal information and maintain participant attention throughout the session. Second, the direct and informal setting of the activity created a comfortable atmosphere that supported interaction and discussion. Third, the relevance of the topic itself encouraged engagement, as marriage and family issues are closely connected to the daily lives of community members.

These supporting factors indicate that the success of community legal education depends not only on the material delivered but also on the social environment in which the activity takes place. A supportive atmosphere, accessible communication, and mutual respect between the service team and the community all contribute to the effectiveness of the learning process. In this case, the community context of Kodingareng Island allowed the program to be implemented in a way that was socially grounded and communicatively effective.

At the same time, several constraints should also be acknowledged. One limitation was the relatively simple evaluation method used in the activity. Because the program did not employ structured pre-test and post-test instruments, the assessment of participant understanding was based on qualitative observation and interactive response. While this approach was appropriate for the activity setting, it limited the possibility of measuring learning outcomes quantitatively. Another constraint was the scope of participant reach. As with many community-based programs, not all members of the broader population could necessarily be reached within a single session. This suggests that legal education on marriage should ideally be conducted continuously and repeatedly in order to achieve wider and more sustainable impact, a point that is also consistent with multi-country evidence showing that child marriage prevention requires sustained and context-specific intervention rather than one-off legal messaging alone.

The implementation of this activity has several important implications for the community of Kodingareng Island. First, it contributed to the strengthening of legal awareness concerning marriage. By making the revised Marriage Law more understandable, the activity helped place legal considerations more clearly within community discussions of marriage and family life. This is significant because legal awareness is a necessary component of informed and responsible social decision-making.

Second, the program helped open a public space for discussing early marriage as a shared social issue rather than merely a private or family matter. This shift is important because social problems become easier to address when they are recognized collectively and discussed openly. Through the activity, early marriage was framed not only as a matter of custom or circumstance, but also as an issue involving protection, readiness, and long-term social wellbeing.

Third, the activity suggests the need for continued community education on related themes such as family preparedness, adolescent protection, and legal literacy. A single socialization session can

initiate awareness, but sustained impact requires follow-up activities. Therefore, this program may serve as a foundation for future community service initiatives aimed at deepening legal understanding and supporting preventive social development at the local level.

From an academic perspective, the results of this activity reinforce the view that community service can function as an effective medium for social empowerment through legal literacy. The value of community service lies not only in the implementation of practical activities but also in its ability to connect academic knowledge with real social problems (Mappaselleng & Kadir, 2025). In this case, legal knowledge concerning marriage regulation was translated into a community-centered educational intervention addressing the issue of early marriage.

The findings also show that legal literacy should be understood as part of a broader process of social change. Law becomes more effective when communities understand its purpose, relevance, and protective function. Therefore, socialization activities such as this one are important because they bridge the distance between legal text and social reality. They help convert law from a formal norm into a meaningful source of public awareness.

In addition, the activity confirms that prevention of early marriage requires approaches that are not merely prohibitive but also educational and dialogic. Communities are more likely to internalize legal norms when those norms are communicated through respectful interaction and contextual explanation. For this reason, the Kodingareng Island program may be seen as a practical illustration of how community-based legal education can contribute to the prevention of early marriage while also strengthening the social function of community service in higher education. This interpretation is aligned with current scholarship emphasizing that laws, attitudes, and prevention efforts interact most effectively when legal norms are translated into socially meaningful communication and community-level engagement.

CONCLUSION

The community service activity conducted in Kodingareng Island demonstrates that the socialization of the revised Marriage Law can serve as a relevant and meaningful effort to strengthen public understanding of marriage regulation and support the prevention of early marriage. The activity addressed a social issue that remains significant within the community and provided legal education through a direct and participatory approach. The results indicate that the program contributed to improving community awareness of the legal and social dimensions of marriage, particularly the importance of readiness, responsibility, and maturity in entering married life. Through interactive communication and contextual explanation, the revised Marriage Law became more understandable to the participants and more closely connected to their social reality.

In addition to increasing legal understanding, the activity also created a constructive space for dialogue on early marriage as a shared community concern. This suggests that preventive efforts should not rely solely on legal regulation, but also on continuous educational engagement that helps communities interpret and internalize the purpose of the law. Therefore, the socialization activity in Kodingareng Island may be regarded as an important initial step in promoting legal literacy and preventive awareness at the local level. For greater and more sustainable impact, similar activities should be carried out continuously and complemented by broader community empowerment programs related to family resilience, adolescent protection, and responsible marital decision-making.

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