



Legal education and land mediation as an effort to build legal certainty on border land in Dembe I Village

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ABSTRACT

Border Land Management in coastal areas often presents juridical and social problems, including in Dembe I Village, Gorontalo City. Communities in this region face uncertainty about the legal status of the boundary land they occupy, although some have pocketed title certificates. The lack of legal understanding, the absence of village mediation institutions, and overlapping land administration add to the complexity of the problem. The thematic real work lecture (KKN) Program Phase II of Gorontalo State University was implemented to respond to these problems through a participatory and collaborative approach. The methods taken include legal counseling with the National Land Agency and the Faculty of law, citizen dialogue forums, participatory mapping, and the preparation of operational standards for land mediation procedures. The results of the activity showed an increase in Community Legal Literacy, the birth of critical awareness about the differences in formal rights and functions of space, as well as the drafting of mediation SOP documents as a local instrument for non-litigation dispute resolution. The conclusion of this activity confirms that the law can be presented in a communicative way to bridge the interests of the state in maintaining protected areas with the rights of communities in maintaining living space. This finding also implies that the model of service based on participatory legal education can be replicated in other coastal areas facing similar problems

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A. INTRODUCTION

Land for the people of Indonesia is not just a physical expanse of beachfront, but also a living space that stores economic, social, and identity value (Rahman dkk., 2024). The land certificate is present as a symbol of legal certainty, in which the state provides official recognition of a person's right to a land plot. On paper, this certificate is a security marker for its owner, a kind of SHIELD that protects against disputes (Idrus dkk., 2025). However, when certification practices come into contact with coastal areas, especially coastal boundaries, the face of land law appears more complicated. Areas that should be protected areas are often occupied, utilized, and even certified to the public.



National regulations have actually given a firm line. Law No. 27 of 2007 on the management of coastal areas and small islands, as amended by Law No. 1 of 2014, places the coastal boundary as a protected area under the full control of the state. Normatively, the border cannot be an object of privatized ownership (Bakung dkk., 2022). This rule is designed not only to protect ecological functions, but also to safeguard coastal spaces from overexploitation and disaster vulnerability. The law at this point serves as a fence, a boundary marker so that ecological and public interests take precedence over individual interests.

The reality on the ground is different. A number of government programs such as transmigration, land redistribution, and asset legalization often come into contact with border areas. Without strict verification of the status of the space, certificates of title were eventually issued on land that legally belonged to the state. This phenomenon exposes a gap between regulatory texts and administrative practices, so that people who receive certificates often do not realize that the formal rights they hold stand on a space with a special status. This situation is not just an administrative anomaly, but a potential legal conflict that could shake the sense of Justice.

Dembe I village in Gorontalo city is a real reflection of the problem. Local communities have long lived on the coast and make the border land as a residential space, place of business, even social space. Some of them hold certificates of Title obtained through official procedures. However, the limitations of legal literacy make them not understand the difference between land rights recorded by the state and the functions of state-controlled space. This information gap opens a gap for serious problems, ranging from agrarian conflicts, potential evictions, to weak legal protection for small communities. The certificate, which was supposed to bring legal certainty, gave birth to New ambiguities.

This kind of problem shows the importance of relinking law with social reality. Law is not just a written text, but also a mechanism that must be able to harmonize norms with the needs of society. When the citizens of Dembe I take advantage of the border lands to survive, the law must not be present only as a punishing hammer, but also as a bridge that seeks the balance between ecological protection and the protection of social rights. It is at this point that the role of academics and universities becomes relevant.

Gorontalo State University through the thematic work lecture (KKN) Phase II program presents the theme "Legal Education on the Status of border land as a state asset and legal certainty for certificate owners in Dembe I Village." The Program is designed not only to convey theoretical legal knowledge, but also to build a collective consciousness of citizens through a participatory approach. The kelurahan government, community leaders, certificate owner groups, and the National Land Agency are involved in the process. Through discussions, counseling, and case simulations, residents are invited to understand that the land certificates they hold do not necessarily give full legitimacy if they stand on protected areas.

This legal education Program departs from a socio-juridical methodology, that is, a way of seeing that not only emphasizes legal norms, but also takes into account social dynamics. This approach allows students to not only transfer information, but also hone legal communication, mediation, and community-based advocacy skills. Residents are given space to express experiences and unrest, while students learn to formulate a simple legal language that can be understood by ordinary people. This two-way meeting is important so that the law does not present itself as an elitist discourse, but as grounded knowledge.

The benefits of this activity appear on two sides. From the perspective of society, citizens began to realize the difference between formal ownership through certificates and the state-defined status of space. This awareness is important to reduce potential conflicts and increase alertness to future legal risks. From an academic perspective, this program becomes a social



laboratory for students to test theories learned in the lecture hall with reality in the field. In addition, universities can record the real contribution of students in solving real problems as part of the achievement of Key Performance Indicators (IKU) of universities.

This context also teaches that the problem of land on the coast can not be handled only with a normative approach. States do have the right to assert boundaries as protected areas, but communities also have social, historical, and economic ties to the land they occupy (Huda dkk., 2018). Without a just transition policy, rule enforcement can lead to horizontal as well as vertical conflicts. Legal education is a middle ground that prepares people to understand their position, while encouraging the state to be consistent and transparent in land governance (Qadrini, 2022).

Legal and practical gaps in coastal areas are evident when certificates of title are issued on border areas that are normatively protected by the state. Regulations such as Law No. 27 of 2007 and Law No. 1 of 2014 and Presidential Regulation No. 51 of 2016 have confirmed that coastal boundaries should not be privately owned (Widowati, 2022). However, land administration in the field is not always consistent, causing ambivalence: certificates provide formal certainty, but space status actually presents legal vulnerabilities. The phenomenon in Dembe I Village, Gorontalo city, becomes a concrete picture, when some residents hold certificates without understanding the judicial consequences.

Previous research reinforces this picture (Wantu dkk., 2024). Through the service program proposes the establishment of Village regulations in Teluk Tomini to regulate the use of border land through legal counseling. Another service study published in the Journal Kadarkum confirms that counseling on coastal land rights encourages residents to understand the legal basis of ownership and the risk of misappropriation of borders (Nur dkk., 2024). In Tanae, service activities in the context of coastal disaster mitigation prove that community-based education is effective in increasing citizen awareness, although the main focus is more on environmental aspects than land. Meanwhile (Sitorus & Wulandari, t.t.), assess that the implementation of Permen ATR 17/2016 has not been fully effective because the substance of the regulation has not been accommodative and its implementation is limited by institutional capacity.

Although these previous studies and community service activities have contributed to strengthening community understanding and identifying regulatory problems concerning border land, several limitations remain. The previous activities tend to address legal counseling, village regulation, environmental awareness, and regulatory effectiveness separately. They have not yet fully integrated legal education with the identification of actual land problems faced by residents, participatory mapping, direct dialogue with the competent land authority, and the preparation of an operational mediation procedure at the local level. This limitation has practical implications because an increase in legal understanding does not automatically provide the community with a clear mechanism for submitting complaints, verifying land documents, resolving overlapping boundaries, and settling disputes through deliberation. Therefore, a community service approach is needed that does not stop at the transfer of legal knowledge, but also produces an applicable local instrument for preventing and resolving border land disputes.

From the gaps in regulation, literature, and empirical phenomena, it can be seen that the border land problem is not only administrative-technical, but also structural. The lack of Cross-Sector Coordination and the lack of public legal literacy give birth to a double vulnerability: coastal ecology is threatened, while the socio-economic rights of citizens become fragile. Therefore, the proposed service focuses on community-based legal education with a socio-juridical approach. Activities in the form of legal literacy clinics, joint readings of space maps, and case simulations are designed to create a space for dialogue between the



community, the kelurahan government, and BPN. The goal is to build critical public awareness while strengthening operational understanding of the legal status of the border, so that conflicts can be minimized and a fair and proportional settlement between the interests of the state and coastal citizens is achieved.

B. METHODS

The implementation of this service program is based on a participatory and collaborative approach which places lecturers, students, the community, and the Government of Dembe I village as a single team. The main focus of the activity is directed to two fundamental problems that have been faced by the residents, namely the uncertainty of the legal status of border lands that have been occupied and utilized, as well as the low understanding of the law and the lack of legal documentation on lands that are used both for personal and community interests. The unavailability of mediation institutions at the village level further complicates the situation, because every dispute that arises regarding border land does not have a non-litigation settlement channel based on deliberation.

This Program is therefore designed not only to provide short-term solutions in the form of legal education and administrative assistance, but also to build the capacity of local institutions in managing land data independently, inclusively, and sustainably in accordance with the principles of legal justice in coastal areas. All stages of completion are systematically designed, responsive to local needs, and oriented to real collaboration between the community, kelurahan government, and academic teams.

The range of field activities is organized in several main forms. Legal counseling that presents the National Land Agency, the village government, and community leaders as a means of direct explanation of the legal status of border land, both those who have certificates and those who have not. The citizen dialogue Forum was held to explore the understanding, perception, and common misconceptions about the rights and obligations of using border land, as well as explaining the juridical consequences of using state land for personal interests. Legal materials are distributed through leaflets so that information can reach all levels of society. In addition, the academic team together with the residents formulated institutional needs through focused discussions, which led to the proposal to establish a village mediation institution with Representative, neutral, and open principles. This institution is proposed to have a clear legality basis, function to resolve boundary land disputes by deliberation, and still refer to National Land Law.

The sustainability of the program is planned through three approaches, namely legal education, participatory mapping, and legal documentation advocacy. Within a period of forty days, student activities are calculated based on student effective working hours (JKEM) with a total individual workload of 256 hours. Involving fifteen students, the total accumulated collective Working Time reached 3,840 hours, a figure that reflects the seriousness in answering problems in Dembe I Village. During this period, students are fully involved from surveying and mapping of land boundaries, counseling and legal dialogue, advocacy and assistance of citizen certificates, preparation of legal recommendations, to documentation and reporting. The entire series is designed to provide legal certainty on the status of coastal boundary land as a state asset, without neglecting the protection of the rights of people who have been living and moving on the land.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

RESULTS

1.1. Implementation Of Legal Counseling

The implementation of legal counseling on the status of border land became the starting point of a whole series of community service activities in Dembe I Village. This activity was held in the kelurahan Office Hall, a room that is used daily for various meetings of residents, and on that occasion was transformed into a legal education forum. The presence of residents is quite significant, about twenty people consisting of kelurahan officials, landowners with certificates and without certificates, community leaders, youth, and housewives who daily come into direct contact with coastal land use issues.



Figure 1: Legal Counseling

Since the beginning of the forum opened, it is seen that some residents are still hesitant and tend to be defensive. They are worried that this activity will lead to the announcement that their land is not valid or the certificate they hold can be revoked at any time. However, the communicative approach of the implementation team and resource persons managed to break the atmosphere. The initial explanation that the purpose of the activity is to provide an understanding of the law, not to deprive people of their rights, gives a sense of security. Gradually, doubts alternate with openness. Residents began to dare to ask questions, tell experiences, and even challenge the interviewees with real cases they faced.

The chosen method of extension is participatory. Resource persons from the National Land Agency and the Faculty of Law of Gorontalo State University did not just deliver material in a lecture style, but opened a discussion room, simulations, and interactive questions and answers. This strategy proved effective. Instead of just listening, citizens are given space to be the main actors in the forum, voicing their doubts and hopes. This situation confirms that legal literacy cannot be built through a one-way transfer of information, but must be born from a dialogue that gives space for recognition to citizens.

The enthusiasm of the residents increased as the activities continued. Many tell about the difficulties of taking care of the certificate because the status of the land is considered to be in the border zone, or the experience of refusal from land agencies when applying for a new application. Others expressed confusion because their land borders overlapped with those of



their neighbors, and the situation could not be resolved administratively. Extension activities become a means of collective vent, but with a clear direction: to seek answers within the framework of the law.

The positive response was also seen from the active participation of the younger generation who attended. They not only accompanied the parents, but also asked questions regarding the future status of their family estate. This shows that the issue of borders concerns not only the current generation, but also concerns across generations. For them, the clarity of the legal status of the land is very important, as it becomes the basis for planning the future, whether for education, business, or social life.

This extension then ends with the emphasis that people need to understand two main things: first, that the certificate does give formal rights, but those rights remain subject to the limits of the functioning of the space established by the state; second, that the law is present not to negate the ownership of citizens, but to ensure that ownership goes hand in hand with ecological interests and public interests. The result of this activity is obvious: citizens who initially doubted, came out of the forum with new knowledge and more courage to discuss the status of the land they have.

1.2. Issues and questions that arise in the Forum

Question and answer sessions in legal counseling activities turned into a space articulation of real problems that have been shackled citizens. The questions that arise show how big the gap is between public understanding and the formal legal framework. One of the most pressing questions concerns the status of old certificates issued before the boundary line was established. Residents fear that certificates they have held for decades will be automatically invalidated simply because the land is then designated as a boundary. This question is very crucial, because it is directly related to legal certainty, security, and the economic value of the assets they have.



Figure 2: Q & A Session

Another question arises regarding the potential cancellation of land certificates that are considered problematic or overlap with state land. Citizens' concerns are very real, especially when they hear of cases in other regions where certificates were canceled due to perceived administrative defects. They want to know if a similar condition can happen to them, and if so, what procedures can be taken to defend their rights. Compensation mechanisms are also an important theme that many question. People want to make sure that if their land is



deprived in the public interest, the state does not just take it without compensation. They demand clarity of procedures, the amount of damages, and the assurance that the process is fair. This question shows that people do not reject regulation, but they demand transparency and protection of economic rights.

Soil issues arising from sedimentation in Lake Limboto also received great attention. Some residents asked whether the new land that appeared they could claim as private property after years of use. The explanation that Tanah timbul is basically state land does provide clarity, but at the same time raises a sense of anxiety. For them, the land arises not just empty land, but the source of life that they have managed.

This series of questions shows that the problem of borders is not only a question of legal texts, but also of the social, economic and emotional experiences of citizens. The response of the speakers from BPN and Faculty of Law was quite soothing. They affirm that the old certificate remains recognized as valid as long as it meets the administrative requirements, although it needs to be re-verified. The certificate will not be canceled just like that, but through a clear legal mechanism. Regarding compensation, it is explained that the revocation of land for public use must be accompanied by fair compensation. As for embossed land, its status is indeed state land, but the state can consider its use through special policies. This clarification gave a sense of relief, although it did not completely erase the unrest of citizens. Thus, the question and answer forum is not only a complementary part, but precisely the main source of identification of real problems. The questions that arise show how deep the community's need for legal certainty is, while opening up space for the state to be more active in answering these concerns

1.3. Exposure of material by speakers

The material presented by the speakers is an important pillar in strengthening the understanding of Community Law. Sources from the Faculty of Law of Gorontalo State University explained from an academic perspective that the boundary land is part of the state land with a strategic function in the protection of ecosystems and spatial planning. This explanation is based on various regulations, ranging from the 1960 Constitution, Government Regulation No. 24 of 1997 on land registration, to Law No. 27 of 2007 jo Law No. 1 of 2014 on Coastal Area Management. In the context of Lake Limboto, the presence of soil arising from sedimentation complicates the problem. Embossed land is categorized as state land, although in social reality it is already occupied by citizens. The speaker stressed the need for re-verification of old certificates, so that there is legal clarity without neglecting the rights of the community.



Figure 3: The Gorontalo city land office

The National Land Agency provides a practical perspective on the implementation of regulations. They emphasize that the lake boundary is a protected area based on Law No. 26 of 2007 on Spatial Planning and Permen PU No. 28/PRT/M/2015. This area has a minimum distance of fifty meters from the highest tide point, and should not be treated as ordinary land. However, the certificate remains recognized as long as its issuance does not contradict the rules. The principle that is emphasized is that the right to land should not override the public interest, as stated in the 1945 Constitution Article 33 paragraph (3).

The BPN resource person also explained the mechanism of revocation of rights for the public interest. This process must be accompanied by fair compensation, both in the form of money and other compensation. This explanation is very important, as it touches directly on the concerns of citizens regarding the possible loss of their land. In addition, the BPN reminds that certificates that are administratively defective or overlap with state land can be canceled, but the process must be transparent and go through clear legal mechanisms.

These two perspectives complement each other. The Faculty of law emphasizes the juridical and theoretical dimensions, while BPN highlights the technical and administrative aspects. The combination of the two brings a comprehensive understanding to the community: that border land ownership is legal as long as it is according to the rules, but there are still limits that cannot be violated. The public is also aware that the certificate is not an absolute guarantee, but rather an instrument subject to the laws of space and public interest.

1.4. Concrete Products and exterior

One of the most tangible results of this program is the establishment of operational standards for land mediation procedures. Before KKN activities, the idea of border land mediation was only a concept. Through the involvement of students, residents, and the kelurahan government, the concept was then formalized in a document. This SOP contains the stages of complaint procedures, verification, and dispute resolution through mediation. Not stopping at paper, this document is also tested through simulated mediation involving citizens. This trial shows that the SOP is able to provide a clear direction for the community in resolving land disputes without having to directly take the path of litigation.



Another important aspect is the increasing understanding of the law of society. After participating in the activities, citizens who initially considered the certificate to be an absolute guarantee now understand that there are inherent legal restrictions. They realize that the certificate remains valid, but its use is limited in order to maintain the protective function of the border area. This awareness gives a new perspective that is more realistic, so that citizens are no longer trapped in false assumptions. This Program also succeeded in building collaboration with the Gorontalo City Land Office. The presence of BPN as a strategic partner ensures that legal products produced, including mediation SOPs, have formal legitimacy and are in line with technical regulations. This cooperation opens people's access to the latest legal information and strengthens their position in dealing with disputes.

In addition to legal products, this activity produces documentative outputs in the form of final reports, activity videos, and participatory documentation. This output is not only an archive, but also a tool to show the process of joint learning between students and citizens. Furthermore, these products can serve as a replication model for other villages facing similar problems. Thus, the products and concrete outcomes of this program not only solve short-term problems, but also set the foundation for sustainability. Mediation SOP, increased legal literacy, collaboration with BPN, and documentation of joint activities became a legacy that Dembe I residents could use for a longer time. All this shows that community service is not only temporary, but can produce relevant, applicable, and sustainable products.

DISCUSSION

The results of service activities that have been carried out in Dembe I village illustrate the real dynamics between legal norms and the social reality of coastal communities. Legal counseling, dialogue forums, presentation of materials, to the preparation of land mediation SOPs are a series of stages that not only answer the practical needs of citizens, but also reveal layers of structural problems that accompany the issue of border land. This section will discuss the findings by comparing to previous literature and research, linking to relevant legal theories, and attracting contextual meaning for service partners. The discussion also outlines the limitations of the program and offers development suggestions for further service.

The legal counseling that was carried out proved to be an important space to unravel the tension between society and the law, which is often perceived as a repressive instrument (Hasan & Ramadhita, 2020). Citizens who initially showed doubts gradually opened up to discussion, and even actively asked questions. This confirms what Soerjono Soekanto described about the effectiveness of the new norm law will be meaningful if the implementation structure is able to communicate with the culture of society (Yudho & Tjandrasari, 1987). In the case of Dembe I, the presence of a resource person who opens a dialogue space makes the law not present as a rigid text, but as a language that can be understood by the community. This phenomenon is in line with the findings (Wantu dkk., 2024) which shows that legal counseling on the coast of Tomini Bay can be a bridge for harmonizing citizens' understanding of the rights and obligations to use coastal boundaries. In two different contexts, both in Teluk Tomini and Dembe I, participatory approaches in counseling have proven effective in creating new legal awareness in communities that were previously in uncertainty.

The effectiveness of the participatory counseling in Dembe I can be further understood through Soerjono Soekanto's perspective on legal effectiveness. Although the legal substance governing border land had already existed, its effectiveness depended on the ability of the legal structure to communicate the rules in a manner compatible with the community's legal culture (Herlindah dkk., 2025). The involvement of the National Land Agency, academics, and kelurahan officials reduced the distance between formal legal provisions and the actual



experiences of residents (Kencana & Priandhini, 2022). In comparison with the findings of Wantu, the activity in Dembe I confirms the importance of legal counseling, while also demonstrating that legal understanding becomes stronger when the discussion is based on concrete problems concerning certificates, land boundaries, and the legal status of occupied land. Therefore, the change in the residents' attitudes was not merely the result of receiving legal information, but also of being involved in a dialogue that recognized their concerns and connected them with relevant legal procedures.

The questions raised in the forum are another proof that the legal literacy of coastal communities is still low, but at the same time, there is a strong desire to seek certainty. Concerns about the status of old certificates, potential cancellation of rights, compensation mechanisms, and the status of land arise to show the complex dimension of agrarian problems on the coast. This finding corroborates the results of the service published in the Journal Kadarkum, where coastal residents generally consider certificates to be absolute instruments, even though there are legally limits to the function of space attached to land in protected areas. The question of land arises also interesting, because the natural phenomenon of sedimentation in Lake Limboto gives birth to new land that has been socially cultivated, but legally remains state land. This finding is in line with (Sitorus & Wulandari, t.t.) study on the effectiveness of Permen ATR 17/2016, which states that land regulation has not been fully accommodating to socio-ecological dynamics in coastal areas. That is, there is a gap that cannot be ignored between positive law and the reality facing society.

These questions indicate that legal uncertainty in Dembe I is produced by the interaction between formal legal rules, administrative practices, and the social experiences of residents. Socially, a land certificate tends to be understood as definitive and absolute evidence of ownership. Legally, however, the exercise of land rights remains subject to spatial, ecological, and public-interest restrictions. The difference between these two understandings creates uncertainty, not merely because of the absence of rules, but because residents have limited access to clear explanations concerning the consequences of those rules for old certificates, compensation, overlapping boundaries, and alluvial land. In relation to the findings of Sitorus and Wulandari, the limitations of regulatory substance and institutional implementation are experienced directly by the community in the form of anxiety over certificate cancellation, loss of land, and the absence of clear settlement procedures. Therefore, legal education must be accompanied by administrative clarification and procedural assistance so that legal certainty is not only formally stated in regulations but also practically understood by the community.

The presentation of the material by the speakers presents a Double Dimension, namely academic and administrative. The Faculty of Law of Gorontalo State University outlines the legal foundations that affirm that border land is state land with a protective function. The National Land Agency added a technical explanation that the boundary of the lake, at least fifty meters from the highest tide point, is a protected area in accordance with the Spatial Planning and Permen PU Law.

The combination of these two perspectives reflects Roscoe Pound's idea of law as a tool of social engineering (Hidayat & Hainadri, 2021). Academia provides the conceptual foundation, while land bureaucracy provides procedural certainty. For the people of Dembe I, this synergy brings a fuller understanding: the certificate remains valid as long as it does not contradict the public interest, and if it is revoked, it must be accompanied by compensation. This explanation also calms the anxiety of citizens who have felt in the gray space of the law.

Viewed through Roscoe Pound's concept of law as a tool of social engineering (Yahya & Alimuddin, 2022), the collaboration among academics, the National Land Agency, the kelurahan government, and residents did not merely function as a process of transferring legal



knowledge. It also created a mechanism for adjusting the interests of the state and the community. Academics translated legal principles into concepts that could be understood by residents, the National Land Agency clarified the administrative consequences of land status, the kelurahan government facilitated communication at the local level, and residents provided factual information regarding the land they occupied. This division of roles enabled the law to operate as an instrument for balancing ecological protection, public interests, and the socio-economic rights of residents (Zanotti & Knowles, 2020). The finding demonstrates that legal change in border land management is more likely to be accepted when it is implemented through participation, institutional collaboration, and transparent procedures rather than through unilateral enforcement.

Concrete products in the form of land mediation SOP showed results that exceeded initial expectations. The SOP prepared together with the community and tested through mediation simulation presents an applicable dispute resolution procedure. This outcome shows the awareness that land disputes do not always have to be brought into the realm of litigation, but can be managed through local deliberation mechanisms that have social legitimacy. This finding is in line with service practices in Takalar, where community-based approaches are effective in building citizen awareness about disaster mitigation in border areas. Although the focus is different Takalar on environmental aspects, Dembe I on aspects of land law both affirm the importance of local instruments as a transitional solution. Sop mediation in Dembe I can be read as an effort to formalize local wisdom, which prioritizes deliberation as a basis for Dispute Resolution.

The land mediation SOP gives an operational form to the participatory legal education implemented in Dembe I. Its significance does not lie merely in the existence of a written document, but in its ability to transform legal knowledge into a sequence of actions that can be followed by residents and local officials. Through procedures for receiving complaints, examining documents, clarifying the positions of the parties, facilitating deliberation, and recording agreements, the SOP provides an initial local mechanism for handling disputes before they develop into litigation. Compared with the previous service activities discussed in this article, which emphasized legal understanding, regulatory formation, environmental awareness, or regulatory effectiveness, the Dembe I program connects increased legal literacy with an applicable dispute-resolution instrument. Nevertheless, the SOP does not replace the authority of the National Land Agency or the courts. It functions as an initial non-litigation mechanism that helps identify problems, facilitate communication, and determine whether a case can be resolved locally or must be referred to the competent authority.

The meaning of these findings in the context of Dembe I society is very significant. Citizens who were initially trapped in the assumption that certificates were an absolute guarantee now realize that their ownership has legal restrictions. This awareness is important because it gives a realistic perspective in the face of state policy. Conversely, the state through BPN is also required to be more sensitive to the social conditions of citizens. With a forum like this, the state is reminded that any land policy at the border cannot be done unilaterally, but must open a space for dialogue and compensation. The Program thus succeeded in showing the law as an instrument that not only protects the ecological interests of the state, but also bridges the social interests of society.

If drawn to the theory of legal effectiveness Soerjono Soekanto(Suryanto dkk., 2024), it can be seen that the program successfully links the substance, structure and culture of law. The substance of the boundary rules already exists. Structures in the form of BPN and kelurahan officials are present to enforce the rules. Culture in the form of understanding and attitudes of citizens slowly built through counseling and dialogue. The harmony of these three aspects is what makes legal norms more easily accepted by society. Without activities such as



KKN, most likely the substance and structure of the law will still run, but not in sync with the culture of citizens, resulting in resistance.

However, this devotion also has limitations. First, the number of participants present at the forum was limited to twenty people, so the representation of the people was not yet fully equalized. Second, the implementation time is only forty days, so the long-term impact cannot be measured comprehensively. Third, the proposal for the establishment of village mediation institutions is still conceptual and does not have formal legitimacy from the local government. Fourth, cross-sector involvement outside BPN, such as the Marine and Environment Agency, is not optimal. This limitation does not diminish the significance of the results achieved, but notes that there is still room for strengthening ahead.

Suggestions for the next service include expanding the scope of participants so that more residents are involved, including fishermen and women groups who are often the most affected parties in land disputes. It is also necessary to carry out a comprehensive participatory mapping, so that people can see directly the boundaries and status of the space on the map. Institutional advocacy must continue with the official establishment of Village mediation institutions that have a strong legal basis. In addition, cross-sector socialization must be strengthened so that border policy is not only understood from the land side, but also from an ecological and spatial perspective. In the end, the sustainability of the program can only be achieved if there is a synergy between the campus, the government, and the community, so that efforts to realize legal certainty on border land go hand in hand with the protection of citizens' social rights.

This whole discussion shows that the service in Dembe I is not just a ceremonial activity of students, but an academic intervention that successfully unravels the complex issues of agrarian law on the coast. The result is not only an increase in legal literacy, but also a real product in the form of mediation SOP that can be replicated. The discussion that took place revealed that the law should be understood as the art of balancing interests, not a hammer that hits flat. This Program gives an important message that legal certainty and social justice are not two opposite poles, but two sides of the coin that must be maintained so that coastal communities can live in certainty and Justice

D. CONCLUSION

Service activities in Dembe I village managed to answer the problem of uncertainty in the legal status of border land and low understanding of community law through counseling, dialogue forums, presentation of materials, as well as the preparation of SOP land mediation involving BPN and the village government. The implication is that citizens obtain better legal literacy, are aware of the limitations of certificates in protected areas, and have local instruments for deliberative dispute resolution. Although still limited in terms of the number of participants, implementation time, and institutional legality of mediation, this activity has shown the law as a means of protection as well as a link between the interests of the state and society, and potentially replicated in other coastal areas with similar problems.

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F. AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Dolot Alhasni Bakung plays a role in conceptualizing ideas, supervising legal substances, preparing analytical frameworks, and finalizing manuscripts. Zainal Abdul Aziz Hadju contributed to the design of service methods, field coordination, and facilitation of collaboration with partners. Fitran Amrain plays a role in strengthening theoretical foundations, juridical analysis, argumentation validation, and critical review of manuscripts. Sofyan Piyo contributes to the implementation of activities, field documentation, recording of forum results, and empirical data processing. Nurul Fazri Elfikri plays a role in literature search, preparation of activity results, language editing, and article format adjustment. Akbar Hidayatullah Daud contributed in participatory mapping, community assistance, supporting data collection, and preparation of the initial draft of mediation SOP. Muhamad Khairun Kurniawan Kadir plays a role in documentation management, preparation of technical outputs, reference checks, and administrative finalization of articles.

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