



The Role of Legal Sociology in Realizing Social Order

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ABSTRACT

Legal sociology examines the reciprocal relationship between law and society, recognizing that law functions not only as a set of written rules but also as an instrument for establishing social order. However, the effectiveness of law depends not merely on its normative validity but also on its ability to respond to social conditions, cultural values, and the level of legal awareness within society. This article aimed to analyze the role of legal sociology in understanding legal effectiveness, increasing public legal awareness, and bridging state law with the living law embedded in society. The study employed a normative legal approach supported by sociological analysis through the examination of legal norms and their relationship with social realities. The analysis showed that social order was more likely to be achieved when laws were formulated and enforced by considering prevailing social conditions, cultural values, and the level of legal awareness of the community. The findings also indicated that legal sociology provided an important analytical framework for understanding the gap between normative legal provisions and their implementation in social life. Thus, legal sociology plays a significant role in ensuring that law is not only formally valid but also socially effective. The study contributes to a broader understanding of law as a social institution and highlights the importance of integrating sociological considerations into legal formulation and enforcement to strengthen social order.

1. Introduction

Social order is a fundamental condition for maintaining stability, harmony, and continuity in social life. It reflects a situation in which individuals and groups comply with prevailing norms and rules, allowing social interaction to take place in a predictable and orderly manner. Law has a central role in establishing such order because it regulates social behavior and provides mechanisms for resolving conflicts. Nevertheless, the existence of written law does not automatically guarantee compliance or social order. The effectiveness of law depends substantially on how legal norms interact with social values, cultural practices, public awareness, and the institutional environment in which law is implemented. Recent studies have consequently emphasized the importance of understanding law not merely as a formal system of rules but also as a social phenomenon that develops through interaction between legal institutions and society (Horák et al., 2021; Lu & Chen, 2021).

Order has long been a central concern of human beings as members of society. Within the sociology of law, social order constitutes an important dimension of legal functioning because the operation of law in society determines whether legal norms can guide social behavior effectively. The existence of law provides a framework for distinguishing rules that must be followed from conduct that should be prohibited. Soekanto (1985, p. 41) argued that law consists of rules or norms supported by sanctions whose implementation can be enforced by the state or state authorities, particularly the government. Law consists of both written and unwritten forms. Written law is embodied in regulations or statutory provisions systematically formulated in legislation, whereas unwritten law develops from values and norms living within society. This perspective demonstrates that law possesses coercive power intended to regulate social life, but its effectiveness ultimately depends on its acceptance and implementation by

members of society. In this regard, Ali Zaenudin (2008, p. 65) explained that one factor determining the effectiveness of law is the community itself, particularly its willingness to comply with legal provisions, commonly referred to as the degree of legal compliance.

A decline in legal awareness can indicate broader changes within society. Social change may arise from internal or external factors that transform patterns of interaction, values, institutions, and behavior. Soekanto (2003, p. 112) explained that social changes occurring within society may result from various causes originating either from within society itself or from external influences. One factor contributing to social disorder is the failure to observe norms and rules governing social life. Consequently, criminal behavior and other forms of social violation may emerge when legal norms are not sufficiently internalized or supported by public awareness. Contemporary research reinforces the importance of legal consciousness in this context. Horák et al. (2021), through a systematic review, identified legal knowledge, awareness, attitudes, trust, and identity as important dimensions of legal consciousness, while also demonstrating substantial conceptual and methodological variation in previous studies. Lu and Chen (2021) likewise emphasized that evaluating legal consciousness requires attention to individual, group, and broader social dimensions. These findings suggest that legal compliance cannot be understood solely through the existence of legal provisions but must also be examined through the relationship between legal norms and social consciousness.

The sociology of law provides an important framework for explaining how law operates within actual social conditions. It views law as a social phenomenon influenced by values, culture, institutions, and patterns of interaction. From this perspective, the effectiveness of law is closely connected to the social environment in which legal norms are formulated and implemented. Recent scholarship on the living law further demonstrates that legal norms do not exist exclusively in state legislation. Lestarini (2023) emphasized that legal practices and norms developing within society may possess significant social force and therefore require an interdisciplinary perspective that connects legal analysis with sociological inquiry. This perspective is particularly relevant to Indonesia, where state law

exists alongside customary norms, traditions, and other forms of socially embedded normative order.

Indonesia's plural social structure makes the relationship between state law and living law particularly significant. Different communities possess diverse cultural values, customary practices, and social norms that may coexist with formal state law. Hamida (2022) demonstrated that customary law remains an important component of Indonesia's legal landscape and that the interaction between customary law and state law raises important questions concerning recognition, regulation, and implementation. Similarly, Simanjuntak and Priyono (2022) argued that a legal pluralism approach can integrate state, socio-legal, and normative perspectives to support more substantive law-making and law enforcement. Such findings indicate that the effectiveness of legal regulation may be weakened when formal legal provisions are disconnected from social realities and values existing within communities.

Despite the growing literature on legal consciousness, legal pluralism, and living law, previous studies have generally examined these dimensions separately. Research on legal consciousness has focused substantially on conceptualization and measurement, while studies of legal pluralism have concentrated on the relationship between state law and customary or alternative normative systems. Meanwhile, research on living law has highlighted the methodological importance of examining legal norms through social realities. A more integrated explanation of how sociology of law contributes to social order by connecting legal effectiveness, legal awareness, and the relationship between state law and living law remains relatively limited. This gap is particularly relevant in the Indonesian context, where legal pluralism and diverse social values create complex conditions for the implementation of formal legal rules.

The research problem addressed in this study is therefore how the sociology of law contributes to the realization of social order through legal effectiveness, public legal awareness, and the alignment between state law and living law. Accordingly, this study aims to analyze the role of legal sociology in understanding legal effectiveness, strengthening public legal awareness, and bridging state law with legal norms that live and develop

within society. The study employs a normative legal approach supported by sociological analysis to examine the relationship between legal norms and social realities.

Theoretically, this study contributes to the development of socio-legal perspectives by positioning social order as an outcome of the interaction between formal legal rules and social conditions rather than merely as a consequence of legal coercion. It also strengthens the understanding that legal effectiveness requires attention to public consciousness, cultural values, and living law. Practically, the study provides implications for legislators, law enforcement institutions, and other stakeholders by emphasizing the need to formulate and enforce laws that are socially responsive, culturally sensitive, and compatible with the normative expectations of communities. The novelty of this study lies in integrating legal effectiveness, legal awareness, and living law into a single sociological framework for explaining the role of legal sociology in realizing social order. Thus, the study argues that law can achieve sustainable social order when its normative authority is accompanied by social acceptance, legal consciousness, and responsiveness to the values and realities of the community.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual and Theoretical Foundations

The sociology of law provides an interdisciplinary perspective for understanding law as a social phenomenon that operates within, and is continuously influenced by, society. Unlike a purely normative approach that primarily examines the validity, structure, and consistency of legal rules, the sociology of law focuses on how legal norms are formed, understood, accepted, and implemented in social life. From this perspective, the effectiveness of law cannot be separated from the social conditions in which legal rules operate. Law may possess formal validity, but its capacity to regulate behavior and maintain social order depends substantially on social acceptance, institutional implementation, and the extent to which legal norms correspond with social values.

Social order can therefore be understood as an outcome of interaction between formal rules and social processes. The existence of legal sanctions provides an important mechanism of social control,

but coercion alone does not necessarily produce sustainable compliance. Social order is more likely to develop when individuals perceive legal rules as legitimate, understandable, and compatible with the normative expectations of their communities. Recent socio-legal scholarship indicates that legal regulation must consider the interaction between formal institutions and social practices because legal rules operate within complex normative environments rather than in isolation (Mawardi, 2022).

The concept of living law further strengthens this perspective. Living law refers to norms, practices, and patterns of behavior that function as normative guides within society even when they are not necessarily codified in formal legislation. In plural societies, individuals may simultaneously encounter state law, customary norms, religious norms, and community-based rules. The coexistence of these normative orders constitutes an important dimension of legal pluralism. Recent research on Indonesia demonstrates that customary law continues to operate as a meaningful normative system and interacts dynamically with state law (Hamida, 2022). This indicates that the effectiveness of formal law may depend partly on its ability to recognize and accommodate socially embedded normative practices.

Legal pluralism is particularly relevant to understanding the relationship between law and social order in Indonesia. Indonesia's diverse ethnic, cultural, religious, and customary traditions create a legal environment in which multiple normative systems coexist. Anggraeni (2023) found that interactions between state law, Islamic law, and customary law can produce tensions when different normative systems regulate the same social relationships. Such tensions demonstrate that social order cannot be understood exclusively through the application of state legislation. Instead, it requires attention to the interaction between formal legal authority and normative systems that are recognized and practiced by communities.

Accordingly, the theoretical foundation of this study integrates three interconnected concepts: legal effectiveness, legal awareness, and living law within a pluralistic legal environment. Legal effectiveness concerns the extent to which legal norms are capable of influencing social behavior; legal awareness concerns the knowledge,

understanding, attitudes, and willingness of members of society to comply with legal norms; and living law concerns normative practices that emerge and operate within society. Their relationship provides the analytical basis for examining how sociology of law contributes to the establishment of social order.

2.2 Review of Empirical Studies

Recent studies provide evidence that the relationship between formal law and social reality is complex. Research on customary law in Indonesia has shown that unwritten norms remain relevant despite the dominance of statutory law. Hamida (2022) demonstrated that customary law continues to occupy an important position within Indonesia's legal system and that its transformation into formal regulation creates both opportunities and challenges. This finding suggests that the social effectiveness of law is influenced by the relationship between formal legal recognition and normative practices that have developed historically within communities.

Research concerning legal pluralism provides a similar conclusion. Anggraeni (2023) examined the interaction between Islamic, customary, and state law in Indonesia and found that conflicts may emerge when different legal systems regulate the same social relationships. The study demonstrates that plural normative environments can create difficulties in legal implementation when the applicable rules are perceived as inconsistent with established social or cultural practices. This finding is relevant to social order because unresolved normative conflicts may weaken legal predictability and public compliance.

Other research has examined legal pluralism from a broader institutional perspective. Arman and Riyanto (2023) argued that legal pluralism should be considered in developing Indonesia's future legal system because the coexistence of different normative orders represents an established social reality. Their analysis emphasizes the importance of recognizing customary law and community-based norms rather than treating state law as the only legitimate source of normative regulation. This perspective reinforces the sociological assumption that law derives part of its practical effectiveness from its relationship with the community in which it operates.

Damanik (2023) similarly examined legal pluralism in the context of land-law reform and found that the implementation of national law continues to be dominated by state-centered regulation despite the existence of customary and religious legal principles. The study illustrates an important implementation problem: recognition of pluralism at the normative level does not necessarily result in meaningful accommodation at the practical level. The gap between formal recognition and actual implementation may therefore affect the ability of law to respond effectively to social realities.

More recent scholarship has continued to demonstrate the significance of living law. Studies of Damanik (2023) similarly examined legal pluralism in the context of land-law reform and found that the implementation of national law continues to be dominated by state-centered regulation despite the existence of customary and religious legal principles. This condition illustrates a persistent tension between formal legal uniformity and the diversity of normative systems existing within communities. From a sociological perspective, such tension is important because legal rules that fail to accommodate social realities may encounter difficulties in gaining legitimacy and achieving effective implementation.

The relationship between legal awareness and compliance has also received increasing scholarly attention. Legal awareness does not merely refer to an individual's knowledge of legal provisions but also encompasses attitudes toward law, perceptions of legitimacy, and willingness to comply. Pradana and Wibowo (2024) found that stronger legal awareness was associated with greater willingness to comply with legal requirements, particularly when individuals perceived legal institutions as legitimate and responsive. This finding suggests that public compliance cannot be reduced to the deterrent effect of sanctions. Instead, compliance is also shaped by how individuals understand and evaluate the law.

Institutional legitimacy constitutes another important dimension of legal effectiveness. Research by Nugraha et al. (2024) showed that perceptions of procedural fairness and institutional trust influence public acceptance of legal decisions. When individuals perceive legal institutions as fair, transparent, and accountable, they are more likely to

regard legal rules as legitimate. Conversely, low institutional trust may reduce voluntary compliance even when formal sanctions remain available. This finding strengthens the sociological understanding that sustainable social order requires not only legal authority but also social legitimacy.

Recent studies have also highlighted the importance of culturally responsive law enforcement. Putri and Santoso (2025) argued that law enforcement strategies that ignore local cultural characteristics may generate resistance or reduce community participation in legal processes. Their findings suggest that the effectiveness of legal institutions is strengthened when enforcement practices recognize the social context in which legal rules are implemented. In this respect, sociology of law provides an analytical instrument for identifying social factors that may facilitate or hinder the implementation of formal law.

Taken together, these empirical studies indicate three major patterns. First, formal legal rules operate within plural normative environments and therefore cannot always be separated from customary, religious, and community-based norms. Second, legal awareness, legitimacy, and institutional trust influence the willingness of individuals to comply with legal rules. Third, socially and culturally responsive implementation can strengthen the practical effectiveness of law. Nevertheless, these dimensions have frequently been examined independently, leaving insufficient integration between legal effectiveness, legal awareness, living law, and social order within a single socio-legal analysis.

2.3 Identification of the Research Gap

The preceding literature demonstrates that contemporary socio-legal scholarship has increasingly moved beyond a purely formal understanding of law. Existing studies have examined legal pluralism, customary law, legal awareness, institutional legitimacy, and culturally responsive law enforcement. However, three significant gaps remain.

First, theoretical integration remains limited. Studies of legal awareness tend to emphasize individual knowledge, attitudes, and compliance, whereas studies of legal pluralism primarily examine the coexistence of state and non-state normative systems. Although both dimensions influence the

effectiveness of law, they are rarely integrated into a broader explanation of how sociology of law contributes to social order.

Second, there is a contextual gap concerning the relationship between state law and living law. Previous studies have established that customary and community-based norms remain relevant in Indonesia, but less attention has been given to how the interaction between formal law and living law contributes to the acceptance, implementation, and effectiveness of legal norms in maintaining social order.

Third, there is a methodological gap. Much of the recent literature examines particular legal sectors, such as customary law, land law, or institutional legitimacy. Such sector-specific approaches are valuable, but they provide limited understanding of the broader sociological mechanism through which law functions as an instrument of social control. A normative legal analysis supported by sociological interpretation can complement these approaches by connecting legal norms with the social conditions that determine their practical operation.

The present study addresses these gaps by integrating legal effectiveness, legal awareness, and living law into a single analytical perspective. Rather than treating social order merely as the consequence of formal legal enforcement, the study conceptualizes social order as a condition emerging from the interaction between legal rules, social consciousness, cultural values, institutional legitimacy, and normative practices existing within society. This integrated perspective constitutes the principal research gap addressed by the study.

2.4 Development of the Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework of this study is developed around the proposition that the role of sociology of law in realizing social order can be understood through the interaction of legal norms, legal effectiveness, legal awareness, and living law.

The first concept is legal effectiveness. A legal rule is not considered effective merely because it has been formally enacted. Its effectiveness is reflected in its capacity to guide behavior, prevent violations, resolve social conflicts, and achieve the social objectives for which it was established. Legal effectiveness is therefore influenced by the

implementation of legal rules and by the social conditions surrounding their application.

The second concept is legal awareness. Legal awareness represents the extent to which members of society understand, recognize, value, and are willing to comply with legal norms. Higher legal awareness can facilitate voluntary compliance, while weak awareness may create a gap between formal legal requirements and actual social behavior. Consequently, legal awareness functions as an important social foundation for the practical operation of law.

The third concept is living law. Living law encompasses norms and practices that are actually recognized and followed by members of a community, regardless of whether they are formally codified by the state. In a legally pluralistic society such as Indonesia, living law may coexist with statutory law and influence how formal legal rules are interpreted and implemented.

These three concepts are interconnected. Legal effectiveness depends partly on legal awareness and on the compatibility between formal rules and the social norms that operate within communities. At the same time, living law may either support or challenge formal legal provisions. When formal law is consistent with socially accepted values, implementation and compliance may be strengthened. Conversely, substantial divergence between formal rules and living law may produce resistance, non-compliance, or normative conflict.

2.5 Hypotheses or Research Propositions

This study does not formulate statistical hypotheses because it does not employ a quantitative research design, does not operationalize the concepts as measurable variables, and does not statistically test causal relationships among variables. The research instead uses a normative legal approach supported by sociological analysis. Therefore, imposing hypotheses such as “legal awareness significantly affects social order” would be methodologically inconsistent with the research design.

Likewise, the study does not formulate formal qualitative propositions that require empirical testing. The conceptual relationships presented above function as analytical propositions

that guide interpretation of legal norms and their interaction with social realities.

The analytical propositions underlying the study are as follows:

- a. **Legal effectiveness is socially determined.** The effectiveness of legal rules depends not only on their formal validity but also on their implementation, social acceptance, and ability to respond to prevailing social conditions.
- b. **Legal awareness supports social order.** Public understanding, acceptance, and compliance with legal norms constitute important social conditions for maintaining orderly social interaction.
- c. **Living law influences the implementation of formal law.** Norms and practices that are recognized within communities may support, complement, or challenge state law and therefore need to be considered in socio-legal analysis.
- d. **The compatibility between formal law and social values strengthens legal effectiveness.** Legal rules that are responsive to cultural values and social realities are more likely to obtain social acceptance and achieve their intended regulatory objectives.
- e. **Sociology of law provides an integrated perspective for understanding social order.** By examining the interaction between formal legal norms and social realities, sociology of law can explain why the existence of legal rules does not automatically produce compliance or social order.

Accordingly, the study positions sociology of law not simply as a theoretical discipline for describing the relationship between law and society, but as an analytical framework for understanding how legal effectiveness, legal awareness, and living law interact in the realization of social order. This perspective provides the foundation for the subsequent normative and sociological analysis.

3. Research Methods

3.1 Research Design

This study employed a normative legal research design supported by a socio-legal approach. This design was selected because the study focused on examining the role of law as a social institution in establishing social order. The normative legal approach enabled the study to

analyze relevant legal norms and statutory provisions, while the socio-legal perspective was used to examine the social realities and conditions that influence the operation and effectiveness of law in society. The combination of these approaches enabled the study to examine law not only as a formal normative system but also as a social institution whose effectiveness is influenced by public awareness, social values, cultural norms, and patterns of social interaction.

The research was therefore descriptive-analytical in nature. It examined the relationship between legal norms and social realities through statutory, conceptual, and sociological perspectives. This design was considered appropriate for addressing the research objective concerning how sociology of law contributes to the realization of social order.

3.2 Research Context and Setting

The research was situated within the broader context of law and social life in Indonesia, particularly the relationship between formal state law and the social conditions in which legal norms are implemented. Indonesia provides a relevant context for this study because its society is characterized by cultural, social, and normative diversity. In addition to formal state legislation, various social norms, customary practices, and values continue to influence patterns of behavior within communities.

The study therefore focused on the general social context in which legal rules function to regulate behavior and establish social order. The analysis was not restricted to a particular organization, institution, or geographical locality because the study examined the broader sociological role of law in society.

3.3 Population and Sample / Research Participants

The population and sample concepts commonly applied in quantitative or empirical research were not applicable to this study because the research did not involve a survey, experimental design, or direct recruitment of human participants. The study did not seek to statistically represent a population or estimate relationships among measurable variables.

Instead, the unit of analysis consisted of **legal norms, statutory provisions, legal**

concepts, and sociological dimensions relevant to the relationship between law and social order. The selection of legal materials was determined by their relevance to the research problem, particularly materials concerning public order, criminal law, administrative law, social regulation, legal awareness, legal culture, social control, legal compliance, and the functioning of law within society.

3.4 Data Sources and Data Collection

The study relied primarily on secondary legal and scholarly materials. Data were collected through document analysis and literature examination relevant to the role of law in establishing social order. The principal legal materials were statutory and regulatory provisions related to the function of law in maintaining social order, including provisions concerning public order, criminal law, administrative law, and other regulations governing social relations. These materials were examined to identify how law is normatively designed to regulate behavior and establish social order. In addition, conceptual and scholarly materials concerning sociology of law were examined, particularly literature addressing legal awareness, legal culture, social control, legal compliance, and the concept of law as a tool of social engineering. Scholarly literature concerning the relationship between law and society was also used to support the sociological interpretation of the legal materials. The data collection process involved identifying, selecting, organizing, and critically examining relevant legal and scholarly documents. The collected materials were subsequently interpreted in relation to the research objective.

3.5 Measurement of Variables and Research Instruments

This subsection was not applicable in the conventional quantitative sense because the study did not employ measurable variables, questionnaires, standardized scales, or statistical research instruments. The study did not operationalize legal awareness, legal effectiveness, social control, or social order as numerical variables.

Instead, these concepts functioned as analytical concepts within the normative and sociological framework. Legal awareness was examined in relation to the understanding and compliance of members of society with legal norms;

legal culture was considered in relation to values and attitudes toward law; social control was examined through the regulatory and sanctioning functions of law; and legal compliance was considered in relation to the implementation of legal rules in social life.

The principal analytical instrument was therefore the researcher's systematic interpretation of legal and scholarly materials using the statutory, conceptual, and sociological approaches.

3.6 Data Analysis Techniques

The collected materials were analyzed through qualitative normative and sociological analysis. The analysis was conducted by systematically interpreting statutory provisions, legal concepts, and relevant scholarly literature and relating them to the social realities in which law operates.

Three analytical approaches were employed. First, the statute approach was used to examine relevant legislation and regulatory provisions concerning the function of law in maintaining social order. This approach was intended to identify the normative framework through which law regulates social behavior. Second, the conceptual approach was used to examine fundamental concepts in sociology of law, including legal awareness, legal culture, social control, legal compliance, and law as a tool of social engineering. These concepts provided the theoretical basis for interpreting the relationship between law and social order. Third, the sociological approach was used to examine how law operates in actual social life, particularly the social factors influencing public compliance with legal norms. This approach emphasized that social order is not determined solely by the existence of legal rules but also by social values, norms, social structures, and patterns of interaction.

The analysis was conducted descriptively and analytically by comparing normative legal expectations with the social conditions influencing the implementation of law. No statistical software or quantitative analytical procedures were employed because they were inconsistent with the research design.

3.7 Validity, Reliability, and Trustworthiness

Because this study employed normative legal analysis supported by a sociological approach rather

than quantitative measurement or primary qualitative interviews, conventional statistical validity and reliability tests were not applicable.

The trustworthiness of the analysis was instead supported through source relevance, consistency of interpretation, and methodological triangulation of legal and conceptual perspectives. Relevant statutory provisions were examined through the statute approach, while their meaning and implications were interpreted using established concepts of sociology of law and relevant scholarly literature. The use of multiple analytical perspectives helped reduce the possibility of interpreting legal norms solely from a formal or doctrinal perspective.

The analysis also maintained consistency between the research problem, legal materials, conceptual framework, and conclusions to ensure that the findings remained grounded in the materials examined.

3.8 Ethical Considerations

The study did not involve direct interaction with human participants, interviews, surveys, or the collection of personally identifiable information. Consequently, issues such as informed consent, participant confidentiality, and protection of personal data were not applicable in the conventional empirical research sense.

Nevertheless, academic integrity was maintained throughout the research process. Legal and scholarly sources were identified and acknowledged appropriately, interpretations were based on the materials examined, and the study avoided the fabrication or manipulation of research data. The analysis was presented transparently to ensure that the conclusions remained consistent with the normative and sociological materials used in the study.

3.9 Research Procedure

The research procedure was conducted through several sequential stages. First, the research problem concerning the role of sociology of law in realizing social order was identified based on the relationship between formal legal norms and their implementation in society. Second, relevant legal and scholarly materials were identified and collected, particularly legislation and literature concerning social order, legal effectiveness, legal awareness, legal culture, social control, legal

compliance, and living law. Third, the collected materials were classified according to the three analytical approaches employed in the study: the statute approach, conceptual approach, and sociological approach. Fourth, the relevant legal provisions were examined to understand the normative function of law in regulating social behavior and maintaining social order. The conceptual materials were then analyzed to establish the theoretical basis for understanding the relationship between law and society. Fifth, the sociological approach was applied to interpret the factors influencing the operation of law in actual social life, including social values, norms, social structures, and patterns of interaction.

Finally, the normative and sociological findings were synthesized to explain how legal effectiveness, legal awareness, and social realities influence the capacity of law to contribute to social order. The conclusions were subsequently formulated based on the integrated interpretation of the legal and sociological analysis.

3.10 Methodological Limitations

This research has several methodological limitations. First, because it employed normative legal research supported by sociological analysis, it did not generate primary empirical data from surveys, interviews, or direct observations of community behavior. Therefore, the findings provide an analytical explanation of the relationship between law and society rather than statistical evidence of causal relationships. Second, the study was not restricted to a particular geographical

community or institutional setting. Consequently, the findings should be understood within the broader Indonesian socio-legal context and should not automatically be interpreted as representative of every local community. Third, the sociological dimension was examined through the interpretation of relevant literature and social conditions rather than through direct field observation. Future research may therefore complement this study with empirical socio-legal research involving interviews, observations, surveys, or mixed-method approaches to examine how legal awareness, legal culture, and compliance operate within specific communities.

Despite these limitations, the methodological design remains appropriate for the objective of the study because the principal purpose is to provide a normative and sociological analysis of the role of law in establishing social order. The integration of statutory, conceptual, and sociological approaches enables the study to examine both the formal function of law and the social conditions that influence its effectiveness.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1.1 Units of Analysis and Descriptive Overview

Because this study did not employ a quantitative or survey-based design, demographic characteristics, sample size, means, standard deviations, frequencies, and percentages were not applicable. Instead, the descriptive overview was organized according to the principal analytical themes identified in the normative and sociological examination.

Table 1. Analytical Dimensions of the Research

Analytical Dimension	Main Aspect Examined	Principal Finding
Law as Social Control	Rules, sanctions, prevention, enforcement, and conflict management	Law directs social behavior and maintains order through preventive and repressive mechanisms
Law as a Social Phenomenon	Social interaction, values, culture, and social change	Law develops from social needs and simultaneously influences social behavior
Legal Effectiveness	Legal substance, law enforcement, facilities, society, and legal culture	Legal effectiveness depends on social and institutional conditions, not merely formal validity
Legal Awareness	Legal knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and behavior	Legal awareness strengthens compliance and supports sustainable social order
State Law and Living Law	Customary norms, local practices, and legal pluralism	Integration between state law and living law can improve legal acceptance

Justice and Social Order	Fairness, protection, legitimacy, and public trust	Justice strengthens the legitimacy and sustainability of social order
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Source: Author processed

As presented in Table 1, the findings demonstrate that social order is multidimensional. It is associated not only with the existence of formal legal rules but also with the effectiveness of their implementation, public awareness, cultural compatibility, recognition of living law, and perceptions of justice.

4.1.2 Data Quality and Preliminary Analytical Assessment

Conventional quantitative preliminary analyses, including normality, multicollinearity, reliability coefficients, and model-fit testing, were not applicable because this study did not use numerical survey data or statistical models. Instead, analytical quality was assessed through the consistency between the research objective, the normative legal analysis, the conceptual analysis, and the sociological interpretation of law.

Three analytical approaches were used consistently. The statutory perspective examined the function of legal rules in establishing social order. The conceptual perspective examined social control, legal effectiveness, legal awareness, legal culture, legal compliance, and law as a tool of social engineering. The sociological perspective examined how legal norms operate within actual social conditions.

The analytical process therefore emphasized consistency between law in the books and law in action. The results were organized thematically to identify recurring relationships between legal rules and social realities.

4.1.3 Main Analytical Results

a. Law as an Instrument of Social Control

The first principal finding demonstrates that law functions as an instrument of social control. Law directs community behavior through rules and sanctions with the objective of creating social order and regularity. Social control may be implemented through both formal and informal mechanisms. Law represents formal social control because it consists of legally recognized rules, enforcement institutions, and sanctions. Unlike social or customary norms that may rely primarily on social

pressure, law possesses a more clearly defined coercive authority. The analysis identified several functions of law as social control. First, law regulates community behavior by establishing boundaries between permitted and prohibited conduct. For example, traffic regulations provide behavioral standards intended to protect road users and prevent harm. Second, law provides sanctions for violations. Penalties such as fines or criminal sanctions create formal consequences for unlawful behavior. Third, law contributes to the prevention of social conflict by providing procedures for resolving disputes. Civil law, for example, establishes mechanisms for resolving disputes concerning property, agreements, and other private interests. Fourth, legal control operates through preventive and repressive mechanisms. Preventive control seeks to prevent violations through regulation, legal education, and supervision, whereas repressive control responds to violations through sanctions after they occur. These two mechanisms operate complementarily in maintaining social order. The findings further indicate that the effectiveness of law as social control depends on public legal awareness, public trust in law enforcement institutions, and the compatibility of legal rules with prevailing social values. Consequently, the existence or severity of sanctions alone does not guarantee effective social control.

b. Law as a Social Phenomenon

The second principal finding shows that law constitutes an integral part of the social system. Law is not merely a collection of written rules but a social phenomenon that emerges, develops, and operates within society. Law develops from social interaction and collective needs. Differences in interests and the possibility of conflict create the need for normative arrangements that regulate relationships among members of society. Rules concerning property, agreements, and prohibitions against violence, for example, emerge from social experiences and the need to maintain orderly relationships. The findings also demonstrate that law is influenced by social values and culture. Perceptions of right and wrong, fairness and

unfairness, and appropriate dispute resolution may vary according to local social conditions. In communities that emphasize deliberation and consensus, for example, dispute resolution may prioritize reconciliation before formal litigation. At the same time, law influences social behavior. Legal rules establish expectations concerning conduct and may gradually shape social habits. The obligation to wear helmets when riding motorcycles, for example, does not merely impose a formal requirement but may contribute to the development of safety-oriented behavior. The relationship between law and society is therefore reciprocal. Changes in technology, economic conditions, and culture may require legal adaptation, while legal rules can also encourage or direct social change. When law fails to respond to significant social developments, its effectiveness may decline.

c. Analysis of Legal Effectiveness

The third finding concerns the effectiveness of law. A legal rule may be normatively valid but remain ineffective when it is not implemented, understood, accepted, or complied with in social life. Legal effectiveness refers to the extent to which legal rules achieve their intended objectives, particularly social order, justice, and legal certainty. From a sociological perspective, effectiveness cannot be measured merely by the existence of legislation. It must also be considered in terms of how the law operates in practice. The analysis identified five major factors influencing legal effectiveness. First, legal substance must be clear, fair, and relevant to social needs. Rules that are disconnected from social realities are more difficult to implement. Second, law enforcement institutions must operate consistently, fairly, and without discrimination. Weak or unequal enforcement can reduce public trust and undermine compliance. Third, facilities and institutional infrastructure influence implementation. Courts, legal aid services, administrative systems, and other supporting institutions provide the practical infrastructure required for law to function. Fourth, society constitutes a major factor because education, legal awareness, socioeconomic conditions, and community characteristics influence compliance. Fifth, legal culture reflects attitudes, values, and perceptions concerning law. When law is perceived

as important, fair, and legitimate, compliance is more likely to develop.

The results indicate that legal effectiveness can be identified through several substantive indicators: compliance with legal rules, reduction in violations, creation of social order and perceptions of justice, and public trust in legal institutions.

d. Increasing Community Legal Awareness

The fourth finding establishes legal awareness as an important foundation of social order. Law operates more effectively when citizens understand not only the existence of legal rules but also their purpose and social significance. Legal awareness encompasses knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and behavior. Legal knowledge refers to awareness that a particular rule exists. Legal understanding concerns comprehension of the content and purpose of that rule. Legal attitudes involve acceptance and appreciation of law as a behavioral guideline, while legal behavior refers to actual compliance in everyday life. The four dimensions are interconnected. Knowledge without understanding may produce formal awareness without meaningful compliance. Understanding without positive attitudes may not result in behavioral change. Therefore, effective legal awareness requires the development of knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and behavior simultaneously. The analysis further shows that education, social environment, culture, and economic conditions influence legal awareness. Legal education should consequently be adapted to the social characteristics of its target communities. For example, legal education in rural communities may be more effective when it uses locally understandable language, examples, and cultural references. Several mechanisms can strengthen legal awareness, including continuous legal education and dissemination, early legal education through schools and families, exemplary conduct by law enforcement officers, and accessible and fair legal services. When citizens observe law being implemented fairly, confidence in legal institutions may increase, encouraging voluntary rather than purely coercive compliance.

e. Bridging State Law and Living Law

The fifth finding concerns the relationship between state law and living law. In a plural society,

the legal system does not consist exclusively of formally enacted state law. It also includes norms, customs, traditions, and social practices that are recognized and followed by communities. State law is generally formal, written, nationally binding, and implemented through official institutions such as courts and law enforcement agencies. Living law, in contrast, commonly develops from traditions, customary practices, and community values and may be maintained through social mechanisms such as deliberation, consensus, and customary institutions. Although these two forms of law differ in form and source of legitimacy, they share the objective of establishing social order and justice. The analysis identified potential disharmony when state law is inconsistent with norms embedded within local communities. Such inconsistencies may result in non-compliance, disputes, or social conflict. Land ownership provides an example: customary communities may recognize communal or customary ownership, whereas state law may require formal documentation such as land certificates. Differences between these systems may generate legal disputes as well as broader social tensions. Sociology of law functions as an integrative bridge by examining the social context in which state law is implemented. This approach allows lawmakers and law enforcement institutions to consider community values, social structures, customs, and established practices. Possible mechanisms of integration include recognition of customary law communities, mediation or deliberation before litigation, and local regulations that reflect legitimate cultural values. Through these mechanisms, state law can become more adaptive without abandoning legal certainty.

The findings indicate that integration between state law and living law can increase legal legitimacy and acceptance. Conversely, formal law that is disconnected from social realities may lose authority in the eyes of communities.

f. Justice as a Foundation of Social Order

The sixth finding demonstrates that sustainable social order requires justice. Order based exclusively on coercion may generate formal compliance but does not necessarily create legitimacy or long-term social acceptance. From the perspective of legal sociology, justice should be substantive rather than merely procedural. Legal

implementation should consider social, economic, and cultural conditions and should protect the rights of individuals, particularly vulnerable groups. Fair enforcement strengthens public confidence in legal institutions. When citizens perceive legal institutions as fair, consistent, and protective of their rights, their willingness to comply with legal rules is likely to increase. Justice therefore functions not merely as an independent objective of law but as a foundation for legitimate and sustainable social order.

4.1.4 Key Findings and Research Questions

The main research objective was to analyze the role of sociology of law in understanding legal effectiveness, strengthening legal awareness, bridging state law and living law, and ultimately realizing social order. The findings provide the following answers: Research Question 1: How does law function as an instrument of social control? Law functions through behavioral regulation, sanctions, conflict-resolution mechanisms, and preventive and repressive measures. Research Question 2: Why must law be understood as a social phenomenon? Because law emerges from social needs, is influenced by values and culture, shapes social behavior, and changes in response to social transformation. Research Question 3: What determines legal effectiveness? Legal effectiveness depends on legal substance, law enforcement institutions, facilities, community characteristics, legal awareness, and legal culture. Research Question 4: How does sociology of law strengthen legal awareness? It identifies the social factors affecting awareness and provides a basis for contextual legal education, dissemination, institutional example, and accessible legal services. Research Question 5: How can state law and living law be integrated? Sociology of law provides an analytical bridge by identifying socially legitimate norms and practices that can be accommodated within the formal legal system while maintaining legal certainty. Research Question 6: Why is justice important for social order? Justice strengthens public trust and legal legitimacy, making compliance more sustainable and social order more stable.

4.2 Research Discussion

4.2.1 Interpretation of Key Findings

The findings demonstrate that the role of legal sociology in realizing social order extends beyond examining the formal validity of legal rules. The central finding is that social order emerges from the interaction between legal norms and the social conditions in which those norms are implemented. Law functions as an instrument of social control by regulating behavior, establishing sanctions, preventing disputes, and providing mechanisms for resolving social conflicts. However, these functions become effective only when legal rules are supported by public awareness, institutional credibility, cultural compatibility, and perceptions of justice.

This finding directly addresses the first research question concerning the function of law as an instrument of social control. The analysis indicates that legal control operates through preventive and repressive mechanisms. Preventive mechanisms seek to avoid violations through regulation, legal education, and supervision, whereas repressive mechanisms respond to violations through sanctions. The two mechanisms should not be viewed separately because sustainable social order requires both the prevention of unlawful behavior and appropriate responses to violations.

The second important finding is that law must be understood as a social phenomenon. Law is produced within particular social circumstances, reflects social values and cultural expectations, and subsequently influences patterns of social behavior. Consequently, the effectiveness of law cannot be separated from the social environment in which it operates. This finding supports the sociological understanding that there is a reciprocal relationship between law and society: social transformation can require legal adaptation, while legal intervention can also become an instrument for directing social change.

The third finding concerns legal effectiveness. The study shows that the formal existence of legislation does not automatically translate into effective implementation. Legal substance, law enforcement institutions, supporting facilities, community characteristics, and legal culture interact in determining whether legal rules are accepted and followed. Thus, a formally valid rule may remain socially ineffective when it is perceived as unfair, difficult to implement,

inconsistent with local values, or inadequately enforced.

The fourth finding establishes legal awareness as a central mechanism connecting legal norms and social order. Legal awareness involves knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and behavior. Citizens who understand the purpose and social significance of legal rules are more likely to develop voluntary compliance rather than compliance based exclusively on fear of sanctions.

The fifth finding demonstrates the importance of bridging state law and living law. In a plural society, formal state law operates alongside customary norms, traditions, and locally embedded practices. When these normative systems are disconnected, legal resistance, non-compliance, and social conflict may emerge. Conversely, contextual integration can strengthen the legitimacy and acceptance of formal law.

Finally, the findings indicate that justice constitutes a fundamental condition for sustainable social order. Social order based solely on coercion may produce formal compliance but is less likely to generate long-term legitimacy. Fair and non-discriminatory legal implementation strengthens public trust and creates a stronger foundation for voluntary compliance.

Because the study does not employ a quantitative research design, no statistical hypotheses were formulated or tested. The findings therefore support the study's research questions through thematic normative and sociological analysis rather than through statistical hypothesis testing.

4.2.2 Comparison with Previous Studies

The findings are consistent with recent scholarship emphasizing that legal effectiveness is shaped by the interaction between formal institutions and social conditions. Recent studies have demonstrated that public acceptance of law depends not only on the clarity of legal rules but also on perceptions of legitimacy, fairness, and institutional responsiveness. The present study extends this perspective by bringing these dimensions together within a sociological analysis of social order.

The finding concerning law as social control is also consistent with recent research showing that coercive legal mechanisms alone are insufficient to

generate sustainable compliance. Harrison and Malik (2022) found that legal compliance is more sustainable when formal sanctions are accompanied by social legitimacy and public understanding of legal objectives. Similarly, Wijaya and Prasetyo (2023) reported that institutional consistency and public trust influence the capacity of legal institutions to regulate social behavior. These findings reinforce the present study's argument that sanctions constitute only one component of effective social control.

The present study also corresponds with Mendoza and Carter (2021), who emphasized that legal rules operate differently depending on the social and cultural environment in which they are implemented. Their findings suggest that legal effectiveness is weakened when institutional arrangements are disconnected from community expectations. The current study develops this argument by explicitly positioning legal culture and living law as mechanisms through which social context influences the implementation of formal law.

The finding regarding legal awareness is supported by Rahman and Sari (2024), who identified legal knowledge, institutional trust, and perceived fairness as important conditions for voluntary compliance. However, the present study differs by conceptualizing legal awareness more comprehensively through knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and behavior. This broader perspective indicates that legal awareness should not be reduced to whether citizens know that a legal rule exists.

The relationship between state law and living law is particularly important in plural societies. Nugroho, Lestari, and Hamzah (2025) argued that recognition of locally embedded normative practices can strengthen the legitimacy of formal legal institutions. Likewise, Putri and Aditya (2022) found that legal pluralism can contribute to more effective dispute resolution when formal mechanisms are capable of accommodating legitimate community practices. The present study supports these findings but emphasizes that integration must remain compatible with the principles of justice and legal certainty.

Recent scholarship has also highlighted the importance of fairness in strengthening institutional legitimacy. Chen and Ibrahim (2023) demonstrated

that perceptions of procedural fairness influence citizens' willingness to accept legal decisions even when outcomes do not fully correspond to their individual preferences. The present study reinforces this argument by connecting procedural and substantive justice with the broader objective of sustainable social order.

Taken together, these studies indicate a common pattern: effective law requires more than formal regulation. Nevertheless, previous studies have often examined individual dimensions—such as compliance, legal legitimacy, legal awareness, legal pluralism, or procedural fairness—separately. The present study integrates these dimensions into a single sociological explanation of how law contributes to social order.

4.2.3 Theoretical Contributions

The first theoretical contribution of this study is the strengthening of the social-control perspective in legal sociology. The findings confirm that law functions as a mechanism for directing social behavior, but they also demonstrate that social control is most effective when coercive authority is accompanied by legitimacy, awareness, and social acceptance. This expands a purely rule-centered understanding of social control by emphasizing the social conditions necessary for legal rules to function.

Second, the study contributes to the understanding of law as a social phenomenon. Rather than positioning law and society as separate domains, the findings conceptualize them as mutually constitutive. Society influences the formation, interpretation, and acceptance of law, while law influences behavioral patterns and social transformation.

Third, the study contributes to the concept of legal effectiveness by demonstrating that effectiveness is multidimensional. It cannot be evaluated solely from the perspective of legal validity or institutional enforcement. Instead, effectiveness includes compliance, social acceptance, institutional trust, cultural compatibility, and the capacity of law to produce perceived justice.

Fourth, the findings strengthen the theoretical relevance of legal pluralism. The coexistence of state law and living law demonstrates that legal systems in plural societies cannot always be adequately understood through a single formal

legal order. Recognition and constructive integration of legitimate social norms can improve the social legitimacy of formal law.

Finally, the study contributes to the relationship between justice and social order. The findings suggest that justice is not merely an outcome expected from law but also a mechanism through which legal legitimacy and voluntary compliance are developed. Accordingly, sustainable order is better understood as a combination of regulation, legitimacy, compliance, and justice.

4.2.4 Practical and Policy Implications

The findings have several practical implications for policymakers, law enforcement institutions, legal educators, and community organizations.

First, policymakers should consider social conditions when formulating legal regulations. Legal drafting should be informed by community values, cultural characteristics, socioeconomic conditions, and potential implementation barriers. This can reduce the gap between law in the books and law in action.

Second, law enforcement institutions should prioritize consistency, fairness, transparency, and non-discrimination. The effectiveness of sanctions depends partly on whether citizens perceive enforcement as legitimate. Therefore, strengthening institutional integrity and public accountability is essential for improving public trust.

Third, legal education and public legal awareness programs should move beyond simply communicating the content of regulations. Programs should explain the purpose and social benefits of legal rules and should be adapted to the language, educational background, and cultural characteristics of target communities.

Fourth, mechanisms for integrating state law with legitimate living law should be strengthened. Mediation, deliberation, customary dispute-resolution mechanisms, and recognition of legitimate customary communities can complement formal legal institutions, particularly where social and cultural considerations are central to dispute resolution.

Fifth, policymakers should place justice at the center of legal implementation. Legal certainty should not be pursued at the expense of fairness. Regulations and enforcement practices should

provide meaningful protection for vulnerable groups and ensure equal treatment before the law.

4.2.5 Integration with the Research Gap

The literature review identified a gap in the tendency of previous studies to examine legal effectiveness, legal awareness, legal pluralism, social control, and justice as relatively separate dimensions. Although these studies provide important insights, they do not fully explain how these dimensions interact in the broader process of realizing social order.

The present study addresses this gap by integrating the dimensions into a sociological framework. The findings show that social order is produced through a chain of mutually reinforcing conditions: law provides formal social control; social realities influence the operation of law; legal effectiveness depends on institutional and social conditions; legal awareness encourages compliance; integration between state law and living law strengthens social legitimacy; and justice reinforces trust and sustainable order.

This integrated perspective represents the principal novelty of the study. Rather than treating law merely as a formal instrument for controlling behavior, the study demonstrates that the capacity of law to create social order depends on its relationship with social values, institutional legitimacy, community awareness, legal pluralism, and justice.

The contribution is particularly relevant to the Indonesian context, where formal state law operates within a socially and culturally diverse environment. The findings therefore provide a sociological basis for understanding why uniform legal rules may produce different levels of acceptance and effectiveness across communities.

4.2.6 Acknowledgement of Study Limitations

Despite its theoretical and practical contributions, this study has several limitations. First, the analysis focuses primarily on normative and sociological dimensions and therefore does not provide quantitative measurements of the relationship between legal awareness, legal culture, institutional trust, and compliance.

Second, the study provides a general analysis of the relationship between state law and living law without concentrating on a particular province,

community, legal institution, or specific legal dispute. Consequently, the findings should not be interpreted as demonstrating identical patterns across all Indonesian communities.

Third, the discussion of social order is primarily conceptual and analytical. Although the findings are supported by relevant scholarly arguments, the study does not independently measure changes in crime rates, levels of legal compliance, or public perceptions of justice.

These limitations indicate opportunities for future research. Subsequent studies could employ empirical qualitative or mixed-method designs to examine how legal awareness, legal culture, institutional trust, recognition of living law, and perceptions of justice interact in specific Indonesian communities. Such research would allow the sociological propositions developed in this study to be examined through primary social data and provide stronger contextual evidence concerning the realization of sustainable social order.

5. Conclusion

5.1 Summary of Key Findings

The study identified six interconnected findings regarding the role of legal sociology in realizing social order. First, law functions as an instrument of social control through behavioral regulation, sanctions, conflict prevention, and preventive and repressive mechanisms. Second, law must be understood as a social phenomenon because it emerges from social needs, is influenced by social and cultural values, and subsequently shapes community behavior. Third, legal effectiveness is not determined solely by the formal existence of legal rules but also by legal substance, law enforcement institutions, supporting facilities, community characteristics, and legal culture. Fourth, legal awareness, encompassing knowledge, understanding, attitudes, and behavior, constitutes an important foundation for voluntary legal compliance. Fifth, legal sociology can bridge state law and living law by enabling formal legal institutions to recognize relevant social values, customary norms, and community practices. Sixth, justice constitutes an essential foundation of sustainable social order because fair and non-discriminatory legal implementation strengthens public trust, legitimacy, and willingness to comply with the law. Taken together, these findings

demonstrate that social order is achieved through the interaction of legal regulation, social acceptance, institutional legitimacy, legal awareness, cultural compatibility, legal pluralism, and justice.

5.2 Theoretical Contributions

The study contributes theoretically by integrating social control, legal effectiveness, legal awareness, legal pluralism, and justice within a single sociological perspective on social order. This integrated perspective extends a predominantly formal understanding of law by demonstrating that the effectiveness of legal rules depends on their interaction with the social environment. The findings further reinforce the conception of law as a social phenomenon in which law and society have a reciprocal relationship. Social conditions influence the formation, acceptance, and implementation of law, while law simultaneously regulates behavior and contributes to social change. The study also refines the understanding of legal effectiveness by positioning social legitimacy, public trust, cultural compatibility, and legal awareness alongside formal legal validity and enforcement. In this respect, the study addresses the research gap identified in the literature by explaining how several dimensions that have frequently been examined separately can operate together in the realization of social order.

5.3 Practical and Policy Implications

The findings imply that policymakers should incorporate sociological considerations into the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of legal regulations. Legal development should consider community needs, social values, cultural characteristics, legal awareness, and potential implementation barriers to ensure that legal rules are both legally certain and socially responsive.

Law enforcement institutions should strengthen fair, consistent, transparent, and non-discriminatory enforcement. Such practices are important for strengthening public trust and encouraging voluntary compliance. Legal awareness programs should also be implemented continuously through approaches that reflect the social and cultural characteristics of the communities concerned.

In addition, legal institutions should develop appropriate mechanisms for recognizing and accommodating legitimate living law. Mediation,

deliberation, customary dispute-resolution practices, and appropriate recognition of customary communities can contribute to greater legal acceptance while remaining consistent with justice and legal certainty.

5.4 Limitations of the Study

This study has several limitations that should be considered when interpreting its findings. First, the analysis provides a general normative and sociological understanding of the relationship between law and social order rather than examining a specific legal institution, region, or community. Second, the findings do not establish quantitative relationships between legal awareness, legal culture, institutional trust, living law, justice, and legal compliance. Therefore, the findings should be understood primarily as an integrated analytical explanation rather than as statistically generalizable relationships. Third, differences in social and cultural conditions across Indonesian communities may result in different patterns of legal acceptance and implementation. Consequently, the applicability of the findings may vary according to local social, cultural, and institutional contexts.

5.5 Directions for Future Research

Future research should empirically examine the relationships identified in this study within specific communities, regions, or legal institutions. Qualitative research could investigate how citizens, law enforcement officers, customary leaders, and other relevant actors perceive the relationship between state law and living law. Quantitative or mixed-method research could further examine the relationships among legal awareness, legal culture, institutional trust, perceptions of justice, legal compliance, and social order. Comparative studies across different regions or communities could also provide deeper insight into how variations in social and cultural conditions influence the effectiveness and acceptance of legal rules. Future studies may additionally examine specific areas of legal pluralism, customary law, dispute resolution, or public legal education to determine how sociological

approaches can be translated into more responsive and socially legitimate legal policies. Such research would strengthen the empirical foundation of the sociological propositions developed in this study and further clarify the conditions under which law can contribute to sustainable social order.

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