

An Analysis of The Role of Law In The Formation of Social Identity In Urban Communities

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KEYWORDS

law; social identity; urban society

ABSTRACT

Urban society is a complex and dynamic society, with various social identities that are formed and developed. In the midst of this complexity, law plays an important role in shaping and influencing the social identity of individuals and groups in urban society. This research aims to analyze the role of law in the formation of social identity in urban communities. This research uses a non-doctrinal research method. The data collection technique in this research is a literature study. The data that has been collected is then analyzed in three stages, namely data reduction, data presentation and conclusion drawing. The results showed that law has a complex and multidimensional role in the formation of social identity in urban communities. Law can act as a framework that regulates social interaction and maintains public order. Effective law enforcement contributes to creating a sense of justice and equality among urban citizens. It strengthens the social identity of individuals and groups by providing them with a sense of security and protection under the umbrella of the law. In addition, the law also influences the way individuals and groups interact with each other, shaping social norms that become an integral part of the social identity of urban communities.

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Introduction

Urban society is the result of the development of modernity. According to Anthony Giddens, modernity is a phenomenon that has two sides, as he stated “Modernity, as anyone living in the last year of the 20th century can observe, is a phenomenon with two ends. The development of modern social institutions and their spread throughout the world have opened up wider opportunities for human beings to have more secure and fulfilling lives than pre-modern systems. However, modernity also has a frightening side, which has become apparent in this century” (Achmad, 2020).

In the transformation process of urban society, there are changes in traditional values, behavior patterns, and living habits. Many urban communities face obstacles and barriers in adapting to modern values, especially when interacting with more advanced urban communities. Low levels of education and socio-economic capabilities are among the main factors that complicate this adaptation process. In addition, interventions from outside parties, such as the city government, community institutions, and community leaders, in the form of socialization and training activities are still lacking, so the socio-cultural adaptation of urban communities often takes place slowly (Khuria N, 2021).

Urban society is a complex and dynamic social entity, characterized by the diversity of social identities that continue to form and develop within it. In the midst of this complexity, law has a central role in shaping and influencing the social identity of individuals and groups in urban society. Social identity theory was first introduced in the 1970s by Henri Tajfel. Tajfel defines social identity as an individual's understanding of his or her membership in a group, along with the values and emotions associated with that membership. This concept includes members' involvement, attention, and pride in the group (Nengsih, 2023).

Previous research by (Abdusshomad, 2024) found that Pancasila as the basic source of law has a very important role in shaping Indonesia's national identity. Pancasila serves as a philosophical foundation that awakens the spirit of nationalism and provides a framework for understanding and accepting differences between individuals. In response to the need for an inclusive ideological framework, Pancasila, introduced by Founding Fathers such as Soekarno and Mohammad Hatta, became the foundation of a national identity that reflected the spirit of unity. Its social principles, such as gotong royong and consensus building, also play a key role in addressing the challenges of diversity, as well as guiding Indonesian society towards a harmonious life.

Another study by (Fitriyah et al., 2024) showed that Pancasila plays a role in instilling fundamental values such as justice, unity, and gotong royong to the younger generation. Pancasila education not only provides knowledge about the basic concepts of the state, but also develops a sense of nationalism and love for the country. By strengthening civic identity, people become more aware of their rights and obligations as members of the nation, and are ready to actively participate in state development.

This research can serve as a foundation for the development of new theories or the re-examination of existing theories on the role of law in shaping social identity. In addition, this research can also pave the way for further research in the field of social law or legal sociology to further explore the complex dynamics between law and social identity in urban communities. This research aims to analyze the role of law in shaping social identity in urban communities.

Research Methods

This research uses a non-doctrinal research method. The non-doctrinal method, or what is often called socio-legal research, is a legal research approach that utilizes methods from various other disciplines to collect empirical data. The main objective is to answer research questions related to legal issues, policies, or legal reform (Armia, 2022). The case study in this research is urban communities in Cirebon City. The data collection technique in this study is a literature study. This research involves searching and analyzing various sources of literature relevant to the research topic, such as books, scientific journals, articles, research reports, and legal documents. The data that has been

collected is then analyzed in three stages, namely data reduction, data presentation and conclusion drawing.

Results and Discussions

The city of Cirebon is known to have a strong social identity, thanks to the cultural diversity and acculturation of various ethnicities, which resulted in a heterogeneous society, including the Cirebon tribe (Hariyanto, 2016). These cultures become a social identity that distinguishes Cirebon from other community groups. The concept of social identity according to Leary and Tangney (2012) in (Hafidhoh et al., 2021), refers to the traits and characteristics, social relationships, roles, and membership in social groups that determine who the individual is. This identity can include aspects of the past, present, or future, where a person feels the need to be “who”, or is afraid of being “who”. Therefore, in determining their identity, individuals form a social identity.

Social identity refers to how one recognizes oneself as part of a social group. This includes the values and emotions that are considered important as a member of that group. Social identity has a major influence in shaping a person's concept of identity, where the group is used as a place to shape the feelings and behavior of its members (Syarafa et al., 2020). The importance of social identity can help individuals or groups find their true selves and increase self-confidence. However, social identity is faced with various challenges that occur in urban society.

Urban society, according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), refers to everything related to cities, having urban characteristics, or people who move from villages to cities. Thus, urban communities are city communities, and include aspects such as social mobility, education levels, and social patterns in urban areas (Aziz, 2018). According to another opinion from (Sukirno, 2017), urban is often interpreted as a transitional area. Based on its characteristics, a sub-urban area is a part of the city that shows characteristics of villages and cities simultaneously. On the one hand, this area has urban characteristics, but on the other hand, it also maintains rural characteristics. This urbanization causes social shifts in society towards change. Both explanations underline that urban society includes various dynamics in urban areas, including social changes that occur due to urbanization. Sub-urban areas represent the transition from village to city, showing a mixture of urban and rural characteristics, reflecting ongoing social change.

Social change is defined as variations in the way of life accepted by a society, caused by changes in geography, material culture, population composition, ideology, and advances in new inventions. New inventions in communication technology such as satellites, computerization, microelectronics, and satellite dishes have changed the way we convey, manage, and send information quickly without being limited by distance. These changes are a normal phenomenon in today's society, and their influence is rapidly spreading and affecting various aspects of human life, including civilization and culture. The impact of these technological advances is enormous, including in the transformation of values in society (Muhammad, 2017).

Advances in urban society show that technological development has become a major factor in driving social change in modern society. Technology has changed the way we communicate, work, and interact with each other, as well as influencing the values and norms adopted by society. Urban societies, which tend to be open to outside influences and always strive to improve their quality of life, are the main drivers in the adoption and spread of technology, especially information technology. The use of

information technology has grown rapidly in urban communities as it is considered to have a significant contribution in improving the quality of life.

However, social changes that occur if not responded to critically make modernization with all its charms and propaganda can make a person fascinated so that he forgets his identity and identity as an Indonesian citizen. As a result, local, regional and national cultural values are becoming increasingly eroded. Worshipping and prioritizing modern things without careful consideration can actually harm the existence of a nation's culture and result in the loss of social identity (Wariin, 2014). When people are too fixated on the modern, they may lose recognition of the traditional values and cultural heritage that make up their identity. Therefore, it is important to strengthen the formation of a community's social identity.

One way of attempting to establish social identity is by using the approach of utilizing the role of law. The definition of law is the provisions, both written and unwritten, that regulate human behavior in interactions between others, including rights, obligations, what is allowed, and what is prohibited in society. These rules are recognized or created by a legitimate law-making authority and applied by a legitimate law-applying institution, and contain sanctions for violations. The main purpose of law is to achieve justice, legal certainty, legal uniformity, order, welfare, tranquility, and fulfill various other needs and goals of human life (Salam, 2015).

The approach of utilizing the role of law in the formation of social identity refers to the use of a system of rules established by the government or authorized institutions in a country. These rules have a coercive nature and regulate the behavior of individuals, groups, and institutions in society (Nugraha et al., 2023). This means that the law is the rules that exist, the law can regulate interactions between individuals and groups, ensure justice, and create order and prosperity in society. Through the involvement of the legal system, the rights of individuals and groups are protected, abuse of power is prevented, and conflicts are resolved fairly.

Based on the social context, law regulates the interaction between society and the legal system, by analytically and empirically studying the impact of mutual influence between law and society. Law is considered an important tool of social control, where effective law enforcement indicates the existence of strong controls in society. The concept of legal social control emphasizes the importance of creating a balance between stability and change in society, with the main goal of maintaining order and achieving justice. Therefore, law is seen as an instrument to maintain social balance and ensure justice in society (Atho'illah, 2024).

The purpose of law is to promote equality and justice for all individuals, regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, gender or socioeconomic status. This principle underlies the belief that every human being has equal rights and dignity, without exception (Putra, 2022). This equality and justice is an important foundation in the formation of an inclusive and harmonious society, where every individual feels accepted and valued as part of the community. Effective law enforcement plays a major role in creating a sense of justice and equality among urban communities to make a significant contribution in strengthening the social identity of individuals and groups by providing them with a sense of security and protection under the auspices of the law.

Effective law enforcement for individuals and groups generates feelings of recognition and respect within the community, thus forming solid and balanced social bonds. In addition, laws also influence the way individuals and groups interact with each other, shaping social norms that are an important part of the social identity of urban

communities. Laws set standards of behavior and values that apply in society, including in urban areas. These standards of behavior and values guide how individuals behave and interact with others. When individuals comply with the applicable standards of behavior and values, they will be accepted and recognized as contributing members of society (Suryadi, 2018).

Based on these findings, the role of law in shaping social identity in urban communities is very important. To ensure its optimality, efforts are needed so that the law can be stronger in strengthening people's social identity. One way is to strengthen strict and fair law enforcement, especially in terms of protecting the rights of individuals and groups related to social identity. This can be achieved by increasing the capacity of law enforcement officials in strengthening the justice system.

In addition, community empowerment is also very important. Communities need to be empowered so that they understand and use the law to protect their rights and strengthen their social identity. Meanwhile, the development of responsive laws is also key. Laws need to be developed to be more responsive to the needs of the community, including in terms of social identity, which can be done by involving the community in the law-making process and considering their aspirations. Implementing these efforts, it is hoped that the role of law in strengthening the social identity of people in urban environments can be optimized. Thus, contributing to the creation of a more inclusive, tolerant and harmonious society.

Conclusion

The role of law in the formation of social identity in urban communities is complex and multidimensional. Law serves as a framework that regulates social interaction and maintains public order. Effective law enforcement plays an important role in creating a sense of justice and equality among city dwellers, helping to strengthen the social identity of individuals and groups by providing them with a sense of security and protection guaranteed by the law. In addition, the law also has an impact in regulating the way individuals and groups interact with each other, shaping social norms that are integral to the social identity of urban communities.

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