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## The Interaction of Legal Awareness and Legal Culture on the Dynamics of Social Order among Generation Z

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**Abstract:** Literature Review on the interaction between legal awareness and legal culture as determinants of social order among Generation Z is a scientific article with the objective of analyzing whether legal awareness and legal culture play a role in shaping the dynamics of social order among Generation Z in the digital era. This research method using document analysis by reviewing relevant national and international journal articles, academic books, and scientific publications related to Generation Z, legal awareness, legal culture, and social order. The results of this article indicate that: 1) legal awareness significantly influences the formation of social order among Generation Z, particularly through reflective and evaluative legal compliance; 2) legal culture plays a crucial role in shaping legal legitimacy, trust, and patterns of compliance, especially within digital and participatory social environments. The interaction between legal awareness and legal culture determines the stability and sustainability of social order in contemporary society. In addition to these two exogenous variables, social order is also influenced by other factors, including legal legitimacy, digital norms, social values, and the effectiveness of legal education and public participation.

**Keyword:** Legal awareness, Legal culture, Social order, Generation Z, Digital era

### INTRODUCTION

Social development in the digital era has brought fundamental changes to how individuals understand, assess, and comply with the law. Generation Z, as a demographic group born and raised within a digital ecosystem, faces social realities that differ significantly from those of previous generations. The rapid, massive, and often unverified flow of information through social media shapes Generation Z's perceptions of law and social order (Sitepu et al., 2024). This condition makes the study of the relationship between legal awareness and legal culture increasingly relevant in contemporary social contexts.

Legal awareness should not be understood merely as normative knowledge of laws and regulations, but also as encompassing attitudes, values, and behavioral tendencies in responding to legal norms. Ningtyas (2021) emphasizes that legal awareness consists of legal knowledge, legal understanding, legal attitudes, and patterns of legal behavior. In the context

of Generation Z, these four dimensions develop within a social environment that is heavily influenced by digital technology and global culture.

Broad access to legal information does not necessarily correspond with adequate levels of legal understanding. Generation Z often obtains legal information from non-formal sources such as social media, content creators, and online discussions, which may lead to distortions in legal understanding (Koestiono et al., 2026). This phenomenon indicates that enhancing legal awareness requires approaches that emphasize not only cognitive aspects but also affective and contextual dimensions.

Legal culture, as a component of the legal system, plays a critical role in determining the effectiveness of law within society. Takdir (2022) states that legal culture reflects societal attitudes toward law, including levels of trust, respect, and compliance with legal norms. A strong legal culture can reinforce the internalization of legal values, while a weak legal culture may undermine social order.

In modern societies, legal culture undergoes transformation alongside changes in social structures and technological development. Generation Z lives within a digital culture that emphasizes freedom of expression, horizontal participation, and critical attitudes toward formal authority. These values influence how Generation Z perceives law and the legitimacy of legal institutions. Social order is a dynamic condition formed through interactions between legal norms, social norms, and individual behavior. From Durkheim's perspective, social order results from the integration of values and social solidarity. In the context of Generation Z, social order is manifested not only in physical spaces but also in digital spaces that present distinct characteristics and challenges.

Phenomena such as hate speech, privacy violations, and disinformation in digital spaces indicate a gap between legal awareness and legal culture. Although legal regulations exist, the internalization of legal values within digital culture still faces significant obstacles. Various studies suggest that strengthening legal awareness among younger generations must be accompanied by the development of an adaptive and participatory legal culture. Contextual, inclusive, and value-based legal education represents a key strategy in fostering sustainable social order.

Therefore, this article focuses on analyzing the interaction between legal awareness and legal culture in shaping the dynamics of social order among Generation Z. This analysis is expected to contribute theoretically to the development of legal and social science studies, particularly in understanding the challenges of social order in the digital era. Based on social developments in the digital era that influence how Generation Z perceives and complies with the law, a comprehensive analysis of the roles of legal awareness and legal culture in shaping social order is required. Accordingly, this study aims to analyze the interaction between legal awareness and legal culture in influencing the dynamics of social order among Generation Z, as well as to examine the challenges of internalizing legal values amid social and digital cultural changes.

The research questions are formulated as follows:

1. How does legal awareness shape social order among Generation Z in the digital era?
2. How does legal culture influence legal compliance and the dynamics of social order among Generation Z in the context of contemporary social change?

## **METHOD**

This study employs a qualitative approach using document analysis. This approach was chosen to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the concepts of legal awareness, legal culture, and social order in the context of Generation Z based on existing academic literature (Ulfah et al., 2023). Data sources include national and international journal articles, academic books, and scientific publications relevant to the research topic. These documents

were selected based on publication year, topical relevance, and theoretical contributions to legal and social science studies.

Data collection was conducted through systematic searches of academic databases and repositories, followed by the selection of publications addressing Generation Z, legal awareness, legal culture, and social order. The selected data were analyzed thematically to identify patterns, key concepts, and relationships among variables. Data analysis involved comparing and synthesizing findings from multiple sources to produce an integrated conceptual understanding. This approach enables the formulation of conceptual conclusions without the need for primary data collection such as surveys or interviews.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Results**

The results of this article based on problem background, objectives, and methods are as follows:

#### **Legal Awareness of Generation Z**

An analysis of various academic publications indicates that legal awareness among Generation Z develops within a complex and multidimensional social context. Digital technological advancements have transformed how individuals access, understand, and interpret legal information. Generation Z is exposed to legal information rapidly and extensively through social media, online news portals, and various digital platforms. However, increased access does not necessarily correlate with deeper legal understanding. The gap between the quantity of information and the quality of legal comprehension is a prominent phenomenon in recent literature (Humaira et al., 2025).

Information literacy emerges as a crucial factor in determining whether exposure to legal information enhances substantive legal awareness. Without adequate evaluative skills, Generation Z is vulnerable to partial, sensationalized, or algorithmically biased legal information. This condition may lead to legal misconceptions, oversimplification of complex legal norms, and emotionally driven responses that are not grounded in comprehensive normative understanding. As emphasized by Wulandari et al. (2021), legal awareness among Generation Z cannot be understood merely as legal knowledge but must also encompass critical capacity to assess the validity and relevance of received legal information.

Moreover, numerous studies highlight Generation Z's heightened sensitivity to issues of social justice, human rights, equality, and inclusivity. This sensitivity is shaped by intense digital engagement, real-time exposure to global issues, and broader cross-cultural interactions than those experienced by previous generations. These conditions foster critical attitudes toward laws and legal institutions perceived as unjust or disconnected from social realities. Consequently, Generation Z's legal awareness is reflective and evaluative rather than purely normative.

However, this critical stance is ambivalent. On one hand, it can strengthen deeper legal awareness oriented toward substantive justice. On the other hand, when law is perceived as lacking moral legitimacy, such critical awareness may lead to decreased legal compliance. This indicates that Generation Z's legal awareness is strongly influenced by perceptions of legal legitimacy, which serve as a bridge between legal understanding and compliance behavior.

These findings align with previous studies (Raharjo & Widodo, 2019; Sari & Kurniawan, 2020; Mulyani & Setiawan, 2021; Prameswari et al., 2022; Nugraha & Lestari, 2023; Fitria & Hakim, 2020; Putri & Ramadhan, 2021; Arifin & Maulana, 2022), which demonstrate that legal awareness significantly shapes legal compliance and orderly social behavior. These studies emphasize that enhanced legal understanding, awareness of rights

and obligations, and the ability to assess substantive justice encourage reflective and responsible legal compliance among younger generations.

### **Legal Culture of Generation Z**

The legal culture of Generation Z exhibits increasingly participatory, dialogical, and deliberative characteristics. This generation tends to accept laws formulated transparently, accountably, and through public participation in policy formulation and evaluation. Trust in law is no longer built solely through state authority but through ongoing communication and social engagement. Recent literature emphasizes that legal legitimacy among Generation Z depends heavily on whether laws are perceived as fair, inclusive, and responsive to social aspirations (Aprideano & Gultom, 2024).

Conversely, laws perceived as repressive, elitist, or opaque tend to trigger social resistance. Such resistance does not always manifest as direct legal violations but often appears in the form of digital criticism, symbolic delegitimization, or informal normative dissent. This phenomenon indicates that Generation Z's legal culture is active and critical rather than passive.

In digital contexts, Generation Z's legal culture is also shaped by online social interactions. Social media functions as a space for legal discourse, normative opinion formation, and expressions of support or opposition to legal policies. Legal culture in digital spaces tends to be fluid, dynamic, and influenced by online community norms, demonstrating that legal culture is rooted not only in formal institutions but also in everyday virtual social practices.

These findings are consistent with previous research (Wibowo & Santoso, 2019; Hidayati & Nurhasanah, 2020; Pratama et al., 2021; Kurniasih & Adi, 2022; Sulastrri & Fadhil, 2023; Yuliana & Firmansyah, 2020; Mahendra & Oktaviani, 2021; Hakim & Lazuardi, 2022), which concludes that legal culture strongly influences patterns of legal compliance. Participatory, communicative, and justice-oriented legal cultures enhance legal legitimacy and public trust in legal systems.

### **Social Order from the Perspective of Generation Z**

In the context of social order, literature findings indicate that order cannot be achieved solely through formal law enforcement and sanctions. Sustainable social order requires the internalization of legal values into collective consciousness, reflected in a living legal culture practiced in daily life (Kusumaningsih et al., 2023). Social order reliant solely on coercive compliance tends to be fragile, especially when legal legitimacy is questioned.

Generation Z demonstrates a tendency to construct alternative norms in digital spaces, such as online community ethics, virtual solidarity norms, and informal social sanctions. In some cases, these norms complement formal law and strengthen social order; in other cases, they conflict with positive law. Misalignment between digital norms and formal legal systems may increase social conflict, legal disinformation, and disorder. This phenomenon underscores that digital spaces are not merely communication platforms but arenas for the formation of new social orders that challenge conventional notions of order.

These findings align with prior studies (Rahayu & Saputra, 2019; Pranoto & Dewi, 2020; Lestari et al., 2021; Ramadhan & Hapsari, 2022; Kusuma & Putra, 2023; Fauzi & Amalia, 2020; Siregar & Wahyuni, 2021; Ananda & Yusuf, 2022), which emphasize that social order depends not only on formal enforcement but also on the internalization of legal values through everyday social practices.

## Discussion

### **The Interaction of Legal Awareness on the Dynamics of Social Order among Generation Z**

Legal awareness plays a fundamental role in shaping the dynamics of social order among Generation Z. The findings of this study indicate that Generation Z's legal awareness develops in a reflective and evaluative manner alongside the intensity of information exposure in the digital era. This generation does not merely perceive law as a set of formal rules but evaluates it based on substantive justice, social relevance, and moral legitimacy. Such legal awareness fosters a critical attitude toward law and legal institutions, which under certain conditions can strengthen social order through active participation and awareness-based compliance.

However, the legal awareness of Generation Z also demonstrates an ambivalent character. When laws are perceived as unjust, lacking transparency, or inconsistent with deeply held values, a high level of legal awareness may instead weaken legal compliance. This phenomenon leads to the emergence of selective compliance, in which individuals adhere to legal norms only in specific contexts. Consequently, the dynamics of social order among Generation Z are strongly influenced by how legal awareness is formed, directed, and facilitated through contextual and critical legal education.

In the context of digital spaces, Generation Z's legal awareness also shapes how they respond to violations of social norms and legal rules. Strong legal awareness may encourage corrective social behaviors, such as constructive criticism, digital advocacy, and the reinforcement of community norms. Thus, legal awareness contributes to social order not only through individual compliance but also through active participation in maintaining a just and inclusive social order.

### **The Interaction of Legal Culture on the Dynamics of Social Order among Generation Z**

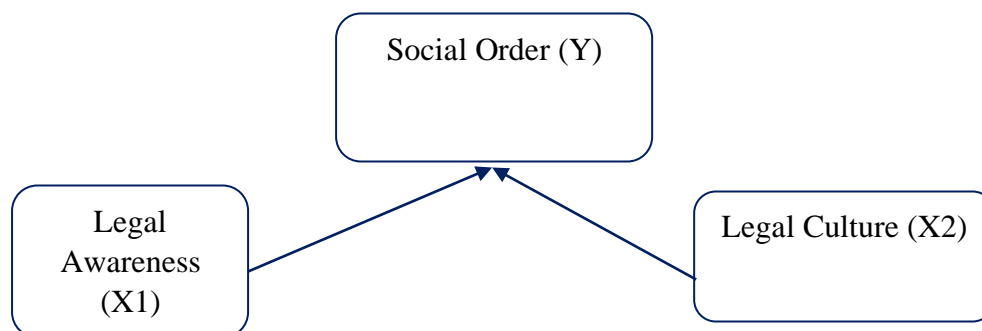
Legal culture functions as a collective framework that shapes and directs the legal behavior of Generation Z in social life. The analysis shows that the legal culture developing among Generation Z is participatory, dialogical, and strongly influenced by digital cultural values. Trust in law is no longer built solely through state authority, but rather through continuous communication, transparency, and sustained public engagement. Such a legal culture contributes positively to the formation of social order based on legitimacy and public trust.

Conversely, a legal culture perceived as repressive, closed, or elitist tends to trigger social resistance and weaken social order. In the context of Generation Z, this resistance often manifests in the form of symbolic delegitimization, open criticism in digital spaces, and the reinforcement of alternative norms that are not always aligned with positive law. This phenomenon indicates that legal culture has a significant influence on the stability of social order, particularly in increasingly digitalized societies.

Legal culture also mediates the relationship between legal awareness and the social behavior of Generation Z. A strong and adaptive legal culture enables individual legal awareness to be internalized collectively, thereby shaping more consistent and sustainable patterns of compliance. In this regard, the development of an inclusive, responsive, and participatory legal culture is a crucial prerequisite for achieving a dynamic and adaptive social order amid ongoing social and digital cultural transformations.

## Conceptual Framework

Based on the research problems, theoretical review, relevant previous studies, and the discussion of intervariable relationships, the conceptual framework of this article is presented as follows.



**Figure 1. Conceptual Framework**

There are many other factors that influence Student Learning Satisfaction (Y), including:

a) Legal Awareness : (Aprilianti & Nugroho, 2021), (Fitriani, 2020), (Hidayat & Prasetyo, 2022), (Ali & Heryani, 2019), (Rahman, 2020), (Sulistiyono, 2023), (Putra & Wahyuni, 2025). b) Legal Culture: (Fitriani, 2020), (Prasetyo & Barkatullah, 2021), (Rahardjo, 2019), (Rahman, 2020), (Pranowo & Nugraha, 2022), (Hidayat, 2023), (Sari & Lestari, 2024).

b) c) Social Order: (Hidayat & Prasetyo, 2022), (Ali & Heryani, 2019), (Wignarajah & Sen, 2020), (Fitriani & Setiawan, 2021), (Sulistiyono, 2023), (Putra & Wahyuni, 2025).

## CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis, the following conclusions can be drawn: 1) High legal awareness alone is insufficient to create stable social order; it must be supported by a positive and relevant legal culture. 2) The interaction between legal awareness and legal culture determines how Generation Z understands, accepts, and complies with the law in social life. 3) Strengthening legal awareness must be accompanied by the development of a legal culture that aligns with the values and characteristics of Generation Z, so that social order can be adaptive and sustainable. 4) A multidisciplinary approach in legal and social policies targeting younger generations is essential to promote the creation of effective and sustainable social order.

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