



The role of media in influencing legal politics in Indonesia

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Abstract

This study examines the role of media in influencing legal politics in Indonesia within the context of the development of digital communication and democratic governance. Media, both conventional and digital, has become an important instrument in shaping public opinion, encouraging transparency, and influencing legal policymaking. This research aims to analyze the role of media in shaping public perceptions of legal issues, influencing the legislative process, monitoring law enforcement, and encouraging accountability among public officials. The study employs a qualitative descriptive method through literature review, media content analysis, and examination of relevant legal and political cases in Indonesia. The findings reveal that media significantly affects legal politics by mobilizing public opinion, exposing corruption and human rights violations, and encouraging government responsiveness to public demands. Social media has strengthened public participation in legal discourse through rapid information dissemination and advocacy movements. However, the study also identifies several challenges, including media bias, political influence, censorship, and the spread of hoaxes that may undermine objective law enforcement and public trust in legal institutions. The study concludes that media plays a strategic role as both a source of information and a mechanism of social control in Indonesia's legal system. Therefore, strengthening media independence, improving digital literacy, and enhancing regulatory frameworks are necessary to ensure that media contributes positively to fair, transparent, and accountable legal politics in Indonesia.

Keywords: Media, legal politics, public opinion, law enforcement, social media, indonesia

Introduction

a. Background

Media plays a highly significant role in shaping public opinion and influencing legal politics in Indonesia. In today's digital era, media is no longer limited to newspapers, radio, and television, but also includes social media platforms that increasingly dominate the way people obtain information. According to Kusumaningsih (2024)^[1], media functions as a bridge between society and the government, as well as a tool of social control that can encourage transparency and accountability in law enforcement. In this context, media can function as an instrument that influences legal policies by voicing relevant issues and providing information capable of shaping public perceptions of law and justice.

In addition, the development of information technology has transformed the way media operates and interacts with the public. Social media, for example, enables people to actively participate in legal and political discussions, thereby creating space for advocacy and public mobilization. In many cases, intensive media coverage of a legal issue can encourage the government or law enforcement agencies to act more quickly. A clear example of this is corruption cases involving public officials, where media attention often contributes to stronger legal action (Sudirman, 2023)^[2].

However, the role of media in legal politics is not free from challenges. On the one hand, media can serve as a tool to promote justice, but on the other hand, it can also be used to spread disinformation or propaganda that may harm legal processes. Therefore, it is important to understand the dynamics of the relationship between media, politics, and law in Indonesia in order to maximize the positive potential of media in supporting fair and transparent law enforcement.

b. Problem Formulation

Based on the background above, the research problems in this study are formulated as follows:

1. What are the roles of media in shaping public opinion regarding legal issues in Indonesia?
2. How does media influence the decision-making process in legal politics?
3. What challenges does the media face in carrying out its role as a public watchdog in the legal context?
4. How is the interaction between media and law enforcement institutions within the context of law enforcement in Indonesia?

These research questions aim to explore more deeply the influence of media in the context of law and politics in Indonesia, as well as to understand how media can contribute to increasing public legal awareness. This study is expected to provide broader insight into the importance of the media's role in supporting effective and fair law enforcement.

c. Research Objectives

The purpose of this study is to analyze the role of media in influencing legal politics in Indonesia by focusing on several key aspects. First, this study aims to identify and analyze the various ways in which media shapes public opinion regarding legal issues. This is important because the public opinion that is formed can influence the legal policies adopted by the government.

Second, this study seeks to explore how media plays a role in the legal-political decision-making process. In this context, the researcher will assess the impact of media coverage on the actions of law enforcement institutions and how media can serve as a tool to encourage public accountability (Raifangga *et al.*, 2025)^[6].

Third, this study aims to identify the challenges faced by media in carrying out its role, including the potential spread of misinformation and political influence that may affect media independence (Kartiko *et al.*, 2024) ^[5]. By understanding these challenges, it is expected that solutions can be found to improve media integrity within the legal context.

Finally, this study also aims to explore the interaction between media and law enforcement institutions, as well as how collaboration between the two can enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement in Indonesia.

By achieving these objectives, this research is expected to provide useful recommendations for the development of legal policies and media practices in Indonesia.

d. Research Methodology

The methodology used in this study is a qualitative approach with descriptive analysis. This research will collect data through literature studies, in-depth interviews, and media content analysis. The literature study will include an analysis of various sources, including academic journals, news articles, and research reports relevant to this topic. This approach is expected to provide an in-depth understanding of the role of media in legal politics in Indonesia (Ismaidar *et al.*, 2024) ^[4].

In-depth interviews will be conducted with various informants, including journalists, academics, and legal practitioners, in order to obtain different perspectives regarding the influence of media on law enforcement. Through these interviews, the researcher will explore the experiences and views of the informants concerning the challenges and opportunities faced by the media within the legal context.

Media content analysis will be conducted to evaluate how legal issues are covered and presented across various media platforms. This study will analyze news reports and articles related to specific legal cases, as well as how social media plays a role in shaping public discussions regarding these issues. By using this methodology, the research is expected to provide a comprehensive overview of the role of media in influencing legal politics in Indonesia.

1. Basic Concepts of Media and Legal Politics

a. Definition of Media

Media can be defined as a means or tool used to convey information to the public. In the modern context, media encompasses various forms, including print media, electronic media, and social media. According to Kusumaningsih (2024) ^[5], media plays a highly important role in shaping public opinion, particularly regarding issues of law and justice. Media functions as a bridge between information and society, enabling broader access to relevant news and information.

Statistics show that the use of social media in Indonesia has increased rapidly in recent years. Data from the Indonesian Internet Service Providers Association (APJII) indicates that in 2022, approximately 77% of Indonesia's population used social media, with platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter being the most popular. This demonstrates that social media has become one of the primary channels for disseminating information and influencing public views on legal issues (Sudirman, 2023) ^[2].

In addition, media also functions as a watchdog over the actions of the government and legal institutions. Through

the presence of media, the public can more easily become aware of legal violations or unjust policies. A concrete example can be seen in corruption cases involving public officials, where media reports often trigger further investigations by the authorities. In this regard, media serves not only as a conveyor of information, but also as an agent of change that promotes social justice.

However, it is important to note that media also faces its own challenges. In some cases, media can be influenced by certain political or economic interests, which may obscure the objectivity of the information presented. Therefore, media literacy becomes essential for society in distinguishing between accurate and inaccurate information. In this context, a proper understanding of the definition and function of media is crucial to optimizing its role in legal politics in Indonesia.

b. Definition of Legal Politics

Legal politics can be defined as policies related to the enforcement and formation of law within a country. According to Ismaidar *et al.* (2024) ^[4], legal politics encompasses various aspects, ranging from the legislative process to the implementation of law in practice. In the Indonesian context, legal politics is heavily influenced by the social, economic, and political dynamics that exist within society.

One important aspect of legal politics is how laws are formulated and implemented to achieve social justice. In this regard, law is not merely viewed as a set of rules, but also as an instrument for achieving political and social objectives. Ramdhany *et al.* (2025) ^[3] note that in many cases, law is used to protect certain interests, particularly by groups that possess political power.

A concrete example can be found in the enactment of laws that often reflect the interests of political elites rather than the needs of the broader public. For instance, the Job Creation Law enacted in 2020 sparked considerable controversy because it was perceived as benefiting employers more than workers. This case demonstrates how legal politics can be influenced by economic and political interests, which in turn may affect justice and public welfare.

On the other hand, legal politics also functions to ensure that laws are enforced fairly and equally. In this context, the role of media becomes highly important in monitoring the implementation of law and exposing injustices that occur. Through investigative reports and news coverage, media can help create accountability among public officials and legal institutions.

Therefore, a deep understanding of legal politics is essential for society to actively participate in legal and political processes. This also emphasizes the importance of media involvement in supporting transparency and accountability within Indonesia's legal system.

c. The Relationship Between Media and Legal Politics

The relationship between media and legal politics in Indonesia is highly complex and mutually influential. Media serves as a tool for conveying legal information to the public, while legal politics determines how such information is processed and implemented. In this context, media functions not only as a distributor of news, but also as an agent of change capable of influencing legal policies.

One clear example of this relationship can be seen in legal cases that receive widespread media attention. For instance, premeditated murder cases involving public officials often become the focus of media coverage. News disseminated by the media can influence public opinion and, in turn, encourage authorities to act more quickly in enforcing the law. This is in line with Sudirman's (2023) ^[2] statement, "No Viral No Justice," which suggests that without media attention, justice is often neglected.

Data indicates that cases receiving greater media attention tend to produce different outcomes compared to cases receiving little public exposure. Based on research conducted by Raifangga *et al.* (2025) ^[6], approximately 60% of cases intensively covered by the media succeeded in gaining the attention of law enforcement institutions, whereas only 30% of cases without media coverage received similar action. This demonstrates that media possesses the power to influence the law enforcement process.

However, this relationship also has negative aspects. Media may sometimes spread inaccurate or biased information, which can harm certain parties involved in legal proceedings. Inaccurate information can create stigma and prejudice against individuals or groups, which in turn may affect the fairness of the legal process. Therefore, it is essential for media to carry out its journalistic function with integrity and accuracy.

Overall, the relationship between media and legal politics in Indonesia shows that media plays a highly important role in shaping and influencing legal policies. Therefore, collaboration among media, society, and legal institutions is necessary to create a more transparent and accountable legal system.

2. The Historical Development of Media in Indonesia

a. The Colonial Era

During the colonial era, media in Indonesia functioned as a limited means of communication, yet it had a significant impact on shaping public opinion. Print media such as newspapers and magazines began to emerge in the 19th century, with one of the earliest well-known publications being *Bataviaasch Nieuwsblad* in 1744. During this period, the media was used by the Dutch colonial government to spread propaganda and information that supported their colonial rule. However, on the other hand, media also became a platform for intellectuals and activists to express dissatisfaction with colonialism, as demonstrated by figures such as Ki Hadjar Dewantara and H.O.S. Tjokroaminoto.

Data shows that the number of print media publications increased rapidly during this period. According to Kusumaningsih (2024) ^[5], in 1900 there were approximately 40 newspapers published in Indonesia, and the number continued to rise until it exceeded 300 by 1930. This indicates that although the media operated under strict colonial government control, public interest in information and news remained high.

A relevant example is the role of the newspaper *Sinar Jawa*, which courageously reported sensitive political and social issues. This newspaper became one of the important voices in the struggle for independence, despite often facing censorship and oppression from the colonial government. This demonstrates how media could serve as a tool of resistance within the context of legal politics.

In the legal context, media during the colonial era was often involved in reporting human rights violations committed by the government. Newspapers frequently reported cases of abuse of power, although many had to operate under strict limitations. This created public awareness of the importance of justice and human rights, which later became the foundation for future social movements.

Overall, the colonial era was an important period in the development of media in Indonesia, during which media played a role as a means of expressing dissatisfaction and fighting for justice, despite being under considerable pressure from the colonial government.

b. The Reform Era

The Reform Era, which began in 1998, marked a major transformation in Indonesia's media landscape. Following the fall of the New Order regime, the media experienced significant liberalization, allowing greater freedom of the press and expression. During this period, many new print media outlets, television stations, and radio broadcasters emerged, providing space for diverse voices and perspectives within society. According to Sudirman (2023) ^[2], the number of television stations in Indonesia increased from only 10 in 1998 to more than 200 in 2023 ^[16], reflecting extraordinary growth in the media industry.

During the Reform Era, media functioned not only as a source of information but also as a watchdog over legal and political practices. Major corruption cases, such as the Bank Bali scandal and corruption cases involving high-ranking state officials, were often exposed through media investigations. In this regard, media played a role in promoting transparency and accountability in government, which are essential for fair law enforcement.

One notable example was the role of media in exposing corruption cases involving former President Soeharto. Investigations conducted by various print and television media successfully attracted public attention and encouraged legal action against the former president and his family. This demonstrates how media can influence legal politics by uncovering facts that had previously been concealed. However, despite progress in press freedom, challenges still remained.

Many journalists faced threats and intimidation, especially when reporting on sensitive issues. According to Ramdhany *et al.* (2025) ^[3], although freedom of the press is recognized in the constitution, practices in the field often differ, with many journalists forced to work under dangerous conditions.

Overall, the Reform Era was a crucial period in the development of media in Indonesia. Media functioned not only as a source of information, but also as a tool to influence and monitor legal and political practices, despite continuing to face various challenges.

c. The Digital Era

With the emergence of digital technology, media in Indonesia has undergone a very rapid transformation. The digital era has brought major changes in the way information is disseminated and accessed by the public. Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram have become the primary means for people to share information and participate in public discussions. According to Ismaidar *et al.* (2024) ^[4], more than 70% of Indonesia's population now has access to the internet, and

social media has become one of the main sources of information for the public.

The development of digital media has also changed the way news is reported and consumed. News can now be accessed in real time, and the public can actively participate in the dissemination of information. The phenomenon of “viral” content has become very common, where certain news stories or issues can spread rapidly through social media. This creates pressure on legal institutions and the government to respond to issues that are widely discussed within society.

One significant example is the enforcement of law in cases involving human rights violations that went viral on social media. A case involving the murder of a human rights activist that became viral on social media prompted swift action from law enforcement authorities, which previously might not have received the same level of attention without public pressure through digital media. This demonstrates how digital media can influence legal politics by increasing public awareness and encouraging action.

However, the digital era has also introduced new challenges, such as the spread of hoaxes and misleading information. This can influence public opinion and create uncertainty in law enforcement. According to Kartiko *et al.* (2024) [5], these challenges require better regulation to ensure that information disseminated through digital media is accurate and responsible.

Overall, the digital era has brought major changes to the way media functions in Indonesia. Digital media has not only expanded access to information, but also created new challenges that must be addressed to ensure that media continues to function effectively as a tool for influencing legal politics in Indonesia.

3. The Role of Media in Influencing Public Opinion

a. Media as a Source of Information

Media plays a highly important role as a source of information for society. In the context of legal politics in Indonesia, media not only delivers news, but also functions as a tool for public education regarding law and justice. According to Kusumaningsih (2024) [1], media plays a role in providing relevant and accurate information about emerging legal issues, enabling the public to understand and evaluate policies adopted by the government. With better access to information, society is expected to actively participate in decision-making processes related to law.

Statistics indicate that internet penetration in Indonesia continues to increase, with more than 200 million internet users in 2023 [16] (Indonesian Internet Service Providers Association, 2023) [16]. This shows that many people access information through digital platforms, including social media. Social media, as a form of media, has become a fast and easily accessible source of information. However, the challenge faced is the accuracy and reliability of the information presented, as fake news or hoaxes often spread rapidly.

A concrete example of the influence of media as a source of information can be seen in the exposure of corruption cases in Indonesia. News reports regarding corruption cases, such as the e-KTP corruption scandal, have encouraged the public to become more concerned about legal practices and justice. Media plays a role in revealing facts that were previously unknown to the public, thereby encouraging

more transparent and accountable law enforcement (Raifangga *et al.*, 2025) [6].

In addition, media also functions as a watchdog over the actions of the government and law enforcement institutions. By reporting policies and actions considered unjust or unlawful, media can trigger public reactions that, in turn, may influence legal policies. For example, intensive media campaigns concerning the need for legal reform in the judicial sector can encourage the government to implement necessary changes.

However, it is important to note that not all information presented by the media is objective. Political connections and certain interests often influence the way media presents news. Kartiko *et al.* (2024) [5] note that media bias toward certain political groups can obscure facts and negatively influence public opinion. Therefore, the public needs to be critical in consuming information presented by the media.

b. Media and the Formation of Public Opinion

Media possesses significant power in shaping public opinion. The process of forming public opinion occurs through several stages, ranging from the delivery of information to the interpretation of and public reactions to that information. In the legal context, media can influence the way society perceives certain legal issues, such as government policies, legal cases, or legal reforms. Sudirman (2023) [2] reveals that social media, in particular, has become an arena where public opinion can be formed and freely expressed.

One striking example is how media plays a role in shaping public opinion regarding cases of human rights violations. News coverage concerning human rights violations, such as cases involving the arrest of activists, can trigger broader public reactions. When media intensively covers such cases, the public tends to become more concerned and involved in advocacy for justice. This demonstrates that media functions not only as a provider of information, but also as a driver of social change.

Statistics show that more than 70% of Indonesians rely on media as their primary source of information regarding legal issues (Kusumaningsih, 2024) [5]. This indicates that media has a major influence in shaping public perceptions of law and justice.

In many cases, public opinion formed through media can influence political and legal decisions, including elections and policy-making processes.

However, the formation of public opinion through media is not without challenges. Inaccurate or biased news can cause misunderstandings among the public. Ismaidar *et al.* (2024) [4] emphasize the importance of media maintaining independence and objectivity in news reporting in order to avoid misleading public opinion. Media must be responsible for presenting accurate and balanced information so that society can make informed decisions.

In this context, the role of media in shaping public opinion is also closely related to ethical responsibility. Media must consider the impact of every piece of news it delivers, especially those related to sensitive issues such as law and justice. Therefore, media functions not only as a source of information, but also as an agent of change that can encourage society to think critically and act based on accurate information.

c. Recent Events and Their Impact

One recent event that demonstrates the role of media in influencing public opinion is the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia. Media played an important role in delivering information regarding government policies, health protocols, and vaccination developments. News disseminated through television, newspapers, and social media greatly influenced public understanding of the pandemic and the measures needed to address it.

Data from the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia shows that public compliance with health protocols increased alongside the rise in media coverage regarding COVID-19 (Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia, 2023) ^[16]. Media actively delivering information about the importance of maintaining physical distance, wearing masks, and receiving vaccinations successfully encouraged the public to become more disciplined in implementing health protocols. This demonstrates that media has the power to shape public behavior during times of crisis.

However, on the other hand, media also faced challenges in presenting accurate information without causing panic among the public. Sensational or unfounded news could create confusion and uncertainty. Sudirman (2023) ^[2] noted that many hoaxes regarding COVID-19 circulated on social media, which could reduce public trust in official information. Therefore, media has the responsibility to filter and present accurate information.

Another relevant example is how media covered alleged corruption cases in vaccine procurement. Intensive reporting on this issue not only attracted public attention, but also encouraged law enforcement institutions to conduct further investigations. Media acted as a watchdog capable of pressuring the government and related institutions to behave transparently and accountably. This demonstrates that media can function as a driving force for better law enforcement.

From these events, it can be concluded that media plays a highly significant role in influencing public opinion and encouraging changes in legal politics in Indonesia. By presenting accurate and relevant information, media can help the public better understand complex legal issues and contribute to better decision-making. However, challenges in maintaining objectivity and accuracy of information must still be addressed by media to ensure that its role as a source of information remains effective and beneficial to society.

4. Media and the Legislative Process

a. The Influence of Media in the Discussion of Bills

Media plays a highly significant role in the process of discussing Bills (Rancangan Undang-Undang/RUU) in Indonesia. As an institution responsible for delivering information, media functions as a bridge between the government and society. In this context, media not only delivers news, but also shapes public opinion that can influence political decisions. According to Kusumaningsih (2024) ^[1], media plays a role in influencing public opinion regarding law and justice, which in turn can pressure legislators to consider public voices in decision-making processes.

Statistics show that more than 70% of Indonesians obtain information regarding Bills through mass media and social media (Sudirman, 2023) ^[2]. When a particular Bill becomes headline news, public attention increases, and this often encourages policymakers to become more responsive to

public input. For example, during the discussion of the Omnibus Law Bill, social media played an important role in disseminating information and organizing protests involving thousands of people. This demonstrates that media possesses the power to mobilize public opinion and influence the legislative process.

Furthermore, media also functions as a watchdog in the legislative process. By reporting various issues arising during Bill discussions, media can help identify potential problems and encourage transparency. For instance, investigative reports conducted by media regarding irregularities in the drafting of Bills often trigger public discussion and encourage legislators to reconsider proposed policies. Thus, media serves as an important instrument of social control within the legislative process.

However, the influence of media is not always positive. At times, sensational or inaccurate reporting can create misinformation among the public. This may lead to misunderstandings regarding the substance of the Bills being discussed. Therefore, it is important for media to present accurate and balanced information so that the public can make informed judgments. In this context, collaboration among media, academics, and government institutions is necessary to ensure that the information delivered to the public is accurate and accountable.

Therefore, the influence of media in the discussion of Bills in Indonesia is highly complex. Media functions not only as a provider of information, but also as a driver of public opinion and a watchdog over the legislative process. Consequently, a deep understanding of the role of media in legal politics is essential for creating a more transparent and accountable legislative system.

b. Media as a Means of Advocacy

Media also functions as an effective means of advocacy in influencing legal politics in Indonesia. In many cases, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society groups utilize media to voice their interests and encourage policy changes. According to Ramdhany *et al.* (2025) ^[3], media has become a powerful tool for advocating legal issues that are often overlooked by the government. One clear example of the role of media as a means of advocacy can be seen in campaigns for the protection of human rights. Various organizations such as Amnesty International and the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) use media to disseminate information regarding human rights violations in Indonesia. Through reports and articles published in the media, they have succeeded in attracting public attention and encouraging the government to take action. This demonstrates that media can function as a platform for advocating important issues that affect society.

Data indicates that advocacy campaigns supported by media often succeed in influencing government policies. For example, after a series of media reports regarding the mistreatment of migrant workers, the Indonesian government eventually issued new regulations that provided greater protection for migrant workers' rights. This demonstrates that media not only plays a role in disseminating information, but also in encouraging fairer policy changes.

However, challenges remain in the use of media as a means of advocacy. Many NGOs face difficulties in obtaining space in mainstream media, especially if the issues they

raise are considered controversial or unpopular. Therefore, social media has become an increasingly important alternative for these groups to voice their opinions. Through social media platforms, they are able to reach wider audiences and build stronger support networks.

Overall, the role of media as a means of advocacy in legal politics in Indonesia is highly important. Media not only helps disseminate information, but also functions as a tool for encouraging social change and better policies. Therefore, collaboration among media, NGOs, and civil society is essential to ensure that marginalized voices can be heard and considered in the policymaking process.

c. Case Example: Bills That Went Viral in the Media

One example of a Bill that went viral in the media was the Job Creation Bill (RUU Cipta Kerja) introduced by the government in 2020. This Bill generated considerable controversy and debate among the public, particularly among workers and environmental activists. News regarding the Bill became a major focus across various media platforms, including print media, electronic media, and social media. According to Ismaidar *et al.* (2024) [4], the extensive media attention surrounding this Bill created waves of protests involving thousands of people throughout Indonesia.

Social media played a crucial role in disseminating information regarding the Job Creation Bill. Hashtags such as #TolakOmnibusLaw and #BuruhBersuara became trending topics on Twitter and other platforms, helping organize protests and spread messages rejecting the Bill. Data shows that the use of social media in this context successfully increased public awareness regarding issues contained within the Bill, such as the reduction of workers' rights and negative environmental impacts (Sudirman, 2023) [2].

In addition, media also functioned as a platform for expressing various opinions and perspectives regarding the Job Creation Bill. Numerous opinion articles, analyses, and investigative reports were published by different media outlets, providing space for the public to gain a deeper understanding of the implications of the Bill. Thus, media played an important role in educating the public and encouraging constructive discussions on complex legal issues.

However, not all reporting on the Job Creation Bill was positive. Some media outlets were also involved in spreading misleading or inaccurate information, which could create confusion among the public. Therefore, it is important for society to critically evaluate the information presented by the media. Collaboration among journalists, academics, and activists is also essential to ensure that the information delivered to the public is accurate and balanced. In this context, the Job Creation Bill serves as a concrete example of how media can influence legal politics in Indonesia. By disseminating accurate information and building public awareness, media can contribute to the democratic process and encourage accountability in policymaking. Therefore, the role of media in the legislative process must continue to be strengthened in order to provide positive impacts for society.

5. Media and Law Enforcement

a. The Role of Media in Monitoring Law Enforcement

Media plays an important role in monitoring law enforcement in Indonesia. In this context, media functions

as an instrument of social control capable of supervising the actions of law enforcement officers and ensuring that the law is enforced fairly. According to Kusumaningsih (2024) [1], the role of media in shaping public opinion regarding law and justice is highly significant, especially in cases involving public interest. Media not only delivers information, but also shapes public perceptions of justice and injustice within the legal system.

One concrete example is alleged corruption cases involving public officials. When media provides intensive coverage of such cases, it can attract public attention and encourage law enforcement institutions to act more quickly. Data from *Jurnal Penelitian Inovatif* (Raifangga *et al.*, 2025) [6] shows that the increase in media coverage of corruption cases is directly proportional to the number of public reports and legal actions taken by the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK). This demonstrates that media functions as a driving force for better law enforcement.

However, media must also exercise caution in its reporting. Inaccurate or excessive reporting may create misleading public opinion and harm certain parties. In some cases, media can become trapped in sensationalism, where news is presented in a way that exploits public emotions without providing sufficient context. This can disrupt ongoing legal processes and create inappropriate pressure on law enforcement authorities.

Furthermore, social media has become a highly influential platform in monitoring law enforcement. According to Sudirman (2023) [2], social media provides space for the public to voice opinions and express concerns regarding legal issues. Viral phenomena on social media often force law enforcement institutions to respond quickly, which in turn can increase their accountability. However, this also creates new challenges, such as the spread of misinformation and hoaxes that may damage the reputation of individuals or institutions.

Therefore, the role of media in monitoring law enforcement in Indonesia is highly complex. Media functions not only as a provider of information, but also as a driver of social change and a mechanism of control over power. Consequently, it is important for media to carry out its duties with integrity and responsibility, while always prioritizing facts and truth in every report.

b. Media and Controversial Legal Cases

Controversial legal cases often become the focus of media attention, and this has a significant impact on public perception as well as on the legal process itself. Media plays a role in shaping narratives surrounding these cases, which in turn can influence public opinion and legal decisions. For example, premeditated murder cases involving public figures frequently become headline news, where media not only reports the facts but also constructs narratives that may influence public views.

In this context, media must operate according to strict principles of journalistic ethics. According to Ramdhany *et al.* (2025) [3], inaccuracies or bias in reporting can lead to injustice in legal proceedings. For instance, in cases involving celebrities, media often highlights sensational aspects of the case, which can divert attention away from important facts relevant to the law. This may create misleading perceptions among the public and influence judicial decisions.

Statistics show that media has the ability to influence the final outcome of legal cases. A study conducted by Ismaidar

et al. (2024)^[4] found that 70% of respondents believed that media coverage could influence judges' decisions in certain cases. This demonstrates the powerful influence of media within the legal context, where public opinion shaped by media can contribute to the pressure faced by the judicial system.

Another interesting example is blasphemy cases involving public figures. Intensive reporting in mass media often triggers emotional reactions from the public, which may result in large-scale demonstrations. This creates challenges for law enforcement authorities in enforcing the law objectively without being influenced by social pressure. In situations such as these, it is important for media to act as a mediator capable of helping the public understand the complexity of such cases.

Finally, although media has an important role in monitoring and reporting legal cases, it must also recognize its responsibility to provide accurate and balanced information. In dealing with controversial legal cases, media should strive not only to serve as a source of news, but also as a party that educates the public about their rights and the applicable legal processes.

c. The Impact of Media Coverage on Legal Processes

The impact of media coverage on legal processes in Indonesia cannot be underestimated. Extensive and intensive reporting can influence the course of legal proceedings, both positively and negatively. According to Kusumaningsih (2024)^[1], media functions as a bridge between society and the legal system, which can increase legal awareness among the public. However, on the other hand, unbalanced reporting can create prejudice that harms certain parties involved in legal proceedings.

One positive impact of media coverage is the increase in transparency within legal processes. When media reports legal cases in detail, it can encourage law enforcement institutions to act more transparently and accountably. For example, in corruption cases, intensive reporting can motivate the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) to accelerate investigation and prosecution processes. Data shows that during periods when corruption cases were intensively covered by the media, prosecution rates increased by up to 30% (Raifangga *et al.*, 2025)^[6].

However, negative impacts cannot be ignored. Sensational reporting can create negative public opinion against defendants before legal proceedings are completed. This may affect the independence of judges and juries, as well as create inappropriate social pressure.

A study by Sudirman (2023)^[2] found that 60% of judges felt influenced by public opinion shaped by media when making decisions in controversial cases.

In some cases, media can also become a source of inaccurate information that may harm legal processes. For example, in cases involving alleged human rights violations, reporting that is not based on facts can worsen the situation and create tension within society. Therefore, it is important for media to verify information before publication in order not to add further complexity to ongoing legal proceedings.

Finally, media has the responsibility to report news in a manner that is not only informative but also educational. By providing proper context and explaining legal processes to the public, media can help create a better understanding of the legal system and individual rights. In this regard, the role of media as a public educator is highly important in ensuring that legal processes proceed fairly and transparently.

6. Challenges and Obstacles of Media in Legal Politics

a. Censorship and Press Freedom

Censorship is one of the main challenges faced by media in Indonesia in carrying out its function as a watchdog and disseminator of information. Press freedom in Indonesia, although regulated under Law No. 40 of 1999 concerning the Press, is still often hindered by various factors, including government pressure and political influence. According to Kusumaningsih (2024)^[1], despite progress in press freedom, many journalists continue to face threats and intimidation when covering sensitive issues such as corruption and human rights violations. This situation results in a decline in the quality of information delivered to the public, thereby influencing public opinion and, ultimately, legal politics in Indonesia.

In recent years, several cases have demonstrated attempts at censorship against the media. For example, in 2021, several media outlets experienced government blocking because they were considered to be spreading news that did not align with official narratives. Data from the Indonesian Broadcasting Commission (KPI) indicated that more than 100 online media outlets were blocked within that one-year period. This situation created a climate of fear among journalists, which in turn reduced their willingness to report facts that are important to society.

Furthermore, the influence of media owners with political connections may also result in bias in news coverage. Kartiko *et al.* (2024)^[5] explained that media outlets owned by individuals or groups with certain political interests tend to present news that supports their positions while ignoring issues that do not align with them. This creates injustice in the dissemination of information to the public, which can affect public perceptions regarding law and justice.

On the other hand, despite these challenges, many journalists and media organizations remain committed to resisting censorship and promoting press freedom. They employ various strategies, such as investigative journalism and collaboration among media institutions, to ensure that accurate and relevant information remains accessible to the public. Sudirman (2023)^[2] emphasized the importance of support from society and international institutions in defending press freedom in Indonesia so that media can function optimally within the context of legal politics.

Therefore, although media in Indonesia faces serious challenges related to censorship and press freedom, there remains hope for improvement through collective efforts by journalists, civil society organizations, and public support. Greater press freedom will contribute to transparency and accountability in legal politics, while also increasing public trust in Indonesia's legal system.

b. The Spread of Fake News (Hoaxes)

The spread of fake news or hoaxes is a significant challenge faced by media in the digital era. With technological advancements and increasingly widespread internet access, information can spread rapidly, including inaccurate or misleading information. According to Ramdhany *et al.* (2025)^[3], hoaxes can influence public opinion and alter society's perception of legal issues, thereby disrupting fair and transparent law enforcement processes.

One clear example of the impact of hoaxes occurred during general elections. In the 2019 election, many false reports circulated on social media, potentially influencing voters' decisions. Data from the General Elections Commission

(KPU) showed that more than 30% of voters felt influenced by information they received through social media, much of which consisted of hoaxes. This demonstrates the importance of media's role in filtering accurate information and delivering truthful news to the public.

The spread of hoaxes can also create distrust toward legal institutions and the government. When the public receives false information regarding legal actions or government policies, they tend to lose confidence in the legal system. Ismaidar *et al.* (2024) ^[4] noted that this distrust can lead to noncompliance with the law and disrupt social stability, which in turn affects the effectiveness of law enforcement.

Media has the responsibility to combat hoaxes by providing accurate information and verifying circulating news. Many media organizations have launched initiatives to fight hoaxes, such as media literacy programs aimed at educating the public on how to distinguish between accurate and false information. However, these efforts require support from various parties, including the government and educational institutions, in order to achieve maximum effectiveness.

In facing this challenge, collaboration among media, government, and society is essential. By increasing awareness of the dangers of hoaxes and strengthening media literacy, it is hoped that the public will become more critical in filtering the information they receive. This will contribute to the creation of a healthier information environment, which in turn supports fair and transparent law enforcement in Indonesia.

c. The Role of Social Media in Legal Politics

Social media has become one of the most influential tools in shaping public opinion and influencing legal politics in Indonesia. With millions of active users, platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram enable information to spread quickly and widely. Sudirman (2023) ^[2] noted that social media has become an important medium for the public to voice their opinions and demand justice, particularly in legal cases involving public interest.

One concrete example of the influence of social media in legal politics is the #MeToo movement that emerged in Indonesia. Through social media platforms, many victims of sexual violence found the courage to speak out and share their experiences, which had previously been difficult to disclose. This movement successfully attracted public attention and encouraged changes in legal policies related to the protection of women and children. Data shows that following this movement, there was a significant increase in reports of sexual violence cases to law enforcement authorities.

However, the role of social media is not always positive. Although it provides space for marginalized voices, social media is also frequently used to spread misleading and provocative information.

This can trigger social conflict and affect legal processes. According to Ramdhany *et al.* (2025) ^[3], several legal cases involving sensitive issues, such as religion and race, were often intensified by narratives circulating on social media, which could worsen situations and hinder fair law enforcement.

In this context, it is important for the government and related institutions to supervise and regulate the use of social media so that it is not misused. Digital literacy education is also essential in helping the public understand how to use social media wisely and responsibly. By

improving public understanding of social media, it is hoped that people will become more critical in receiving and disseminating information.

Overall, social media has enormous potential to influence legal politics in Indonesia. By utilizing the power of social media positively, society can actively participate in the law enforcement process and encourage meaningful change. However, existing challenges must be addressed wisely so that social media can function as a tool for justice rather than as a source of conflict.

7. Case Study: Media Analysis in Specific Cases

a. Corruption Cases

Corruption cases in Indonesia have been a major focus of media attention over the past few decades. Media plays an important role in uncovering and discussing various corruption scandals involving public officials. According to Kusumaningsih (2024) ^[1], media functions not only as a provider of information but also as a mechanism for monitoring corrupt practices that harm the state. For example, the corruption case involving former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Setya Novanto, became an important moment in which mass media, including television and online media, actively participated in uncovering hidden facts.

Data from the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) shows that the level of corruption in Indonesia remains high, with more than 200 major cases handled annually. Media serves to provide information and education to the public regarding the impacts of corruption and the importance of transparency in governance. In this context, social media also plays a significant role. Sudirman (2023) ^[2] stated that social media platforms have become a medium for the public to express dissatisfaction toward acts of corruption, thereby encouraging stronger law enforcement.

One concrete example occurred when media investigated the corruption case involving the electronic identity card (e-KTP) project, which implicated many high-ranking officials. News reports broadcast through mass media encouraged the public to become more critical of government actions and pushed the KPK to act more actively in conducting investigations. According to a report by Raifangga *et al.* (2025) ^[6], increased public participation resulting from media coverage contributed to greater accountability among public officials. This demonstrates that media has the power to influence public opinion and encourage changes in legal politics in Indonesia.

However, the challenges faced by media in covering corruption cases include threats and intimidation from parties who feel disadvantaged by such reporting. Kartiko *et al.* (2024) ^[5] noted that media bias is often influenced by political connections, which can reduce the objectivity of reporting. Therefore, it is important to ensure that media remains independent and capable of carrying out its social control function without pressure from any party.

In conclusion, the role of media in corruption cases in Indonesia is extremely crucial. Media functions not only as a provider of information, but also as a driver of social change that encourages better law enforcement. With support from society and stricter regulations regarding media impartiality, it is hoped that media can continue contributing to the eradication of corruption in Indonesia.

b. Human Rights Violation Cases

Human rights violations in Indonesia have also become issues frequently highlighted by the media. Cases of human

rights abuses, such as those related to the 1965 Tragedy, the murder of activists, and violence against minority groups, often receive significant media attention. According to Ismaidar *et al.* (2024) [4], media plays an important role in documenting and revealing facts that are often ignored by the government.

A concrete example of the media's role in human rights violation cases can be seen in investigative reports regarding the kidnapping of activists in 1998. Through various platforms, media successfully amplified the voices of victims and their families, which in turn encouraged the government to become more transparent in investigating these cases. Data from the National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM) shows that although awareness regarding human rights violations has increased, many cases still have not received fair resolutions.

Social media also plays a role in expanding the reach of information regarding human rights violations. Sudirman (2023) [2] noted that online campaigns often become effective tools for mobilizing public support and pressuring the government to take action. For example, the #JusticeForMunir campaign, which demanded justice for Munir Said Thalib, a human rights activist who was murdered, successfully attracted international attention and encouraged the government to conduct further investigations.

However, although media plays a role in raising issues of human rights violations, challenges remain. Kartiko *et al.* (2024) [5] noted that some media organizations experience pressure from the government and certain groups who feel disadvantaged by such reporting. As a result, some human rights violation cases are not covered in depth. Therefore, it is important to create an environment that supports press freedom so that media can properly carry out its responsibilities.

In conclusion, the role of media in human rights violation cases in Indonesia is extremely important in bringing attention to issues that are often neglected. Media functions not only as a provider of information, but also as a driver of change that encourages the enforcement of human rights. With support from society and policies that uphold press freedom, it is hoped that media can continue contributing to the promotion and protection of human rights in Indonesia.

c. Election Cases

Election cases in Indonesia represent one of the areas where media has a significant influence in shaping public opinion and affecting election outcomes. Media serves as a source of information for voters by providing analysis and coverage regarding candidates, political parties, and relevant issues. According to Ramdhany *et al.* (2025) [3], media has the responsibility to present accurate and balanced information so that the public can make informed decisions when voting. During the 2019 general election, for example, mass media and social media played important roles in shaping narratives and public opinion. News regarding presidential candidates Joko Widodo and Prabowo Subianto frequently became major topics across various platforms. Data shows that more than 70% of voters used social media as a source of information in determining their choices (Kusumaningsih, 2024) [5]. This demonstrates that media has the power to influence public perceptions of candidates and political parties.

However, one of the major challenges faced by media during elections is the widespread circulation of hoaxes and disinformation. Sudirman (2023) [2] noted that the spread of inaccurate information can mislead voters and damage the integrity of elections. Therefore, media must play an active role in educating the public about the importance of verifying information and recognizing fake news.

Election cases also highlight the importance of media impartiality. Kartiko *et al.* (2024) [5] warned that media outlets with certain political connections may influence the way news is reported, thereby creating potential bias in the information delivered to the public. This can result in unfairness in the electoral process and weaken public trust in the political system.

In conclusion, the role of media in election cases in Indonesia is highly important in shaping public opinion and influencing election outcomes. Media must properly carry out its journalistic functions by presenting accurate and balanced information, while also educating society to recognize hoaxes and misinformation. In doing so, media can contribute to the creation of democratic and transparent elections in Indonesia.

Conclusion

a. Summary of Findings

This journal has discussed in depth the role of the media in influencing legal politics in Indonesia. Both traditional and digital media play a highly significant role in shaping public opinion and influencing legal policies. Based on research conducted by Kusumaningsih (2024) [1], the media has the ability to disseminate information related to law and justice, which in turn can influence public perceptions of the existing legal system. The data shows that 70% of respondents in the survey admitted that they obtained legal information from the media, both print and online, indicating the high level of public dependence on the media in understanding legal issues.

Furthermore, Sudirman (2023) [2] highlighted the role of social media as a tool for expressing the voice of justice. Cases that become viral on social media often encourage legal action and policy reform.

For example, the murder case of an activist that went viral on social media successfully attracted public attention and encouraged the government to take firmer action against human rights violations. This demonstrates that the media functions not only as a channel of information, but also as an agent of social change capable of influencing political and legal decisions.

In addition, research conducted by Ramdhany *et al.* (2025) [3] shows the dynamic relationship between the media and legal politics, which can create pressure on law enforcement in Indonesia. The media often exposes corrupt practices and abuses of power committed by public officials, thereby encouraging society to demand greater accountability. In this context, the media acts as a watchdog that helps maintain the integrity of the legal system.

From the perspective of bias, Kartiko *et al.* (2024) [5] revealed that political connections can influence media independence. Media outlets tied to certain political interests often present information that is not objective, which can mislead the public and influence political and legal decisions. This creates challenges for the sustainability of democracy and the enforcement of fair law in Indonesia.

Overall, these findings indicate that the media has a complex and multifaceted role in influencing legal politics in Indonesia. The media functions not only as a provider of information, but also as a driver of change and a supervisor of unjust legal practices.

b. Implications for Legal Politics in Indonesia

The implications of these findings are highly significant for legal politics in Indonesia. First, the existence of active and critical media can encourage transparency and accountability within the legal system. With increasing access to information through the media, society becomes more aware of their rights and can participate more actively in demanding justice. This is in line with the findings of Raifangga *et al.* (2025)^[6], which show that increased public participation in legal issues can reduce corrupt practices among public officials.

Second, the media can also function as a tool for advocating legal reform. When certain legal issues receive widespread media attention, this can trigger public discussion and encourage policymakers to consider changes to existing laws or policies. For example, successful media campaigns advocating for the abolition of discriminatory laws demonstrate how the media can influence the legislative process.

However, one of the challenges faced is media bias, which can affect the objectivity of the information being delivered. When the media becomes trapped in certain political interests, it can obscure facts and negatively influence public perception. Therefore, it is important for society to think critically when consuming information and for the media to maintain its independence in order to function optimally in influencing legal politics.

In addition, stricter regulations on media practices are needed to ensure that the information disseminated is accurate and impartial. Supervision of the media also needs to be strengthened to prevent the spread of false information that could damage public trust in the legal system. In this way, the media can play a constructive role in strengthening legal politics in Indonesia.

Overall, the role of the media in legal politics cannot be ignored. The media has the potential to become a powerful tool in promoting justice and transparency, but it also carries risks if not managed properly. The implications of these findings emphasize the importance of collaboration between the media, the government, and society in creating a better legal system.

c. Recommendations for Future Research

Considering the complexity of the media's role in influencing legal politics in Indonesia, there are several recommendations for future research. First, further studies need to be conducted to explore more deeply the relationship between social media and changes in legal policies. Given the increasing dominance of social media in everyday life, it is important to understand how these platforms can be used to mobilize public support for certain legal issues.

Second, research focusing on media content analysis can provide insights into how legal issues are presented and constructed in news reporting. By analyzing the language and narratives used in the media, researchers can identify potential biases and alignments that may influence public

opinion. This is important to ensure that the information delivered by the media remains objective and accurate.

Third, studies on the impact of media education on public legal awareness also need to be conducted. Media education can help society become more critical in consuming information and understanding their legal rights. Such research can provide an overview of the effectiveness of media literacy programs that have been implemented in various communities.

Fourth, there is a need for research that explores the role of the media within regional or local contexts. By understanding how the media operates at the local level, researchers can identify the challenges and opportunities faced by the media in influencing legal politics in specific regions. This can provide a more comprehensive perspective on the dynamics between media and law in Indonesia.

Finally, collaboration between academics, media practitioners, and policymakers is essential in producing research that is both relevant and applicable. By involving various stakeholders, research findings can be more easily implemented in practice and make a meaningful contribution to improving the legal system in Indonesia.

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