Community-Based Responsive Legal Transformation: A Legal Sociology Innovation to Eliminate Structural Poverty in Indonesia

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KEYWORDS	ABSTRAK
Structural poverty; Sociology of law; Social justice; Access to justice	Poverty in Indonesia remains structural and enduring despite constitutional commitments to social justice. Viewing law as a social practice within a stratified society rather than merely a written standard, this article examines structural poverty from a sociological perspective. Based on a review of academic literature, relevant public policy studies, and laws and regulations, this research employs a *juridical-sociological* approach with qualitative methods. The results show that structural poverty in Indonesia is not only caused by financial constraints but is also created and perpetuated by the ways in which laws are written, implemented, and accessed. Law often operates administratively and procedurally rather than functioning fully as a tool for social transformation, owing to the gap between *law in books* and *law in action*, limited access to justice, and an elite-dominated legal culture. This article argues that, without institutional and cultural reforms, the inherent limitations of law within an unequal social system may actually exacerbate inequality rather than redress it. The distinctive conceptual contribution of this paper lies in reframing structural poverty as a failure of law to operate as a social practice, rather than merely a failure of economic or social policy. In addition to offering a critical perspective for developing community-based responsive legal reform aimed at substantive social justice in Indonesia, this study theoretically advances the sociology of law by establishing law as a constitutive component of the system that reproduces inequality.

INTRODUCTION

In Indonesia, structural poverty is a long-standing socioeconomic problem (Habibullah et al., 2024). In 2024, the poverty rate reached 9.36%, despite economic growth averaging 5% per year (Olasode et al., 2022). From a legal sociology perspective, poverty is not simply an individual economic problem; it is a consequence of an unjust social structure and an inadequate legal system as a tool of social engineering (Remeikienė & Gaspareniene, 2023). This study highlights the gap between formal legal norms (*law in books*) and field practice (*law in action*), where policies such as the *Program Keluarga Harapan* (PKH) and *Bantuan Langsung Tunai* (BLT) often suffer from errors of inclusion and exclusion (Suryani, 2021). The distinctiveness of this study lies in the formulation of the *Hukum Responsif Berbasis Komunitas* (HRBK) model—a conceptual framework that incorporates the active involvement of poor communities in adaptive legal change, a methodology previously unarticulated in the Indonesian legal

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sociology literature. This study goes beyond traditional descriptive analysis by providing a means to achieve structural transformation (Cardinale & Scazzieri, 2019).

The issue of structural poverty is further complicated by regional disparities (Bernard et al., 2023). For example, East Nusa Tenggara has a poverty rate as high as 20%. Legal sociology views law as a by-product of social interaction, wherein the upper-middle-lower class structure perpetuates the marginalization of the poor through limited access to public services and legal protection (Kusuma, 2020). Articles 33 and 34 of the 1945 Constitution clearly mandate social justice for all Indonesians, yet their realization remains constrained by rigid administrative regulations (Handayani, 2019). The HRBK framework employs Nonet and Selznick's (2017) responsive legal principles and adapts them to the Indonesian context through community interaction forums, distinguishing it from the top-down model applied in previous studies such as Agustina (2021). This framework ensures that law is not only normative but also dynamically responsive to the realities of local poverty.

Historically, following the 1998 *Reformasi*, poverty alleviation programmed have prioritized distributive assistance over structural legal reform (Anwar & Puspitasari, 2022). Law enforcement officials are often entangled in inequitable practices that impede the poor from accessing justice, such as excessive court fees and convoluted regulations (Marlina, 2021). Principles of legal sociology—including norms, institutions, and social conflict—explain the mechanisms through which these systems perpetuate poverty (Ehrlich & Ziegert, 2017). This paper advances the discourse on HRBK by articulating its participatory stages, which include identifying local problems, designing joint regulations, and community-based monitoring. This approach is supported by the case of the *Lembaga Bantuan Hukum* (LBH) in remote areas, where community participation increased the effectiveness of legal aid by up to 35% (Nurhadi, 2023).

The first problem concerns how social structure and poverty levels are interconnected (McEwen & McEwen, 2017). The economic dominance of the upper class pushes the lower class to the margins of society (Fitriani, 2020). Current legislation, exemplified by Law No. 16 of 2011 on Legal Aid, remains inadequate due to a lack of contextual adaptation (Santoso, 2018). The HRBK framework addresses this issue by providing community-based training modules for law enforcement officers, thereby shifting the function of legal institutions from passive enforcement to active facilitation of social transformation—an approach insufficiently explored in prior research (Gargarella et al., 2017; Kampourakis, 2022; Kandia & Wiryawan, 2025). This methodology also employs digital data to more accurately identify target beneficiaries, reducing errors in social assistance distribution (Dietrich et al., 2024; Subekti & Kensiwi, 2025). In this respect, this article contributes to the advancement of progressive legal sociology (Mackintosh & Armstrong, 2020).

The second problem concerns the manifestation of social justice values in policy, where the fifth principle of *Pancasila* is often invoked merely as rhetoric (Putri, 2022). Social initiatives frequently fail due to inaccurate data and endemic corruption (Suryani, 2021). The HRBK framework integrates conflict theory with responsive legislation to establish a community digital platform for real-time monitoring—a technological-legal innovation yet to be applied in the context of poverty alleviation in Indonesia. This enables the equitable redistribution of resources, as mandated by Article 27 of the 1945 Constitution, and underscores the significance of the HRBK model for achieving long-term structural transformation.

The third issue concerns the functioning of legal institutions, as courts and law enforcement agencies tend to be inaccessible and unresponsive to marginalized communities (Handayani, 2019). Restorative justice offers a viable approach, yet its effectiveness cannot be realized without meaningful community participation (Marlina, 2021). The *Komite Hukum Komunitas* (KHK), or Community Legal Committee, constitutes a new institutional framework that transforms the operational dynamics of traditional legal institutions (Wahidah et al., 2024). As a semi-autonomous body overseeing implementation, empirical studies have shown that this approach can reduce instances of legal discrimination by up to 25% (Lira, 2023). This paper thereby advances empirical methods within the sociology of law.

The fourth concern encompasses sociological and legal barriers, such as a weak legal culture and ambiguous regulations (Kusuma, 2020). Corruption and patronage-based dependencies further exacerbate institutional ineffectiveness (Agustina, 2021). The HRBK framework offers an innovative solution through a community-legal feedback cycle that adapts to social transformations such as urbanization and shifting poverty dynamics, distinguishing it from the static methodologies of previous studies. The implications for national policy are far-reaching. Accordingly, this research aims to test and implement HRBK as a scalable model for effective poverty reduction through responsive legal transformation.

The literature review confirms the significance of the HRBK innovation: no prior publications have proposed integrating community engagement with responsive legislation to address structural poverty in Indonesia. This study is not only descriptive but also prescriptive, providing operational guidelines for HRBK and enriching global discourse on the sociology of law in the context of developing nations. Consequently, this study establishes a new framework for poverty alleviation through legislation that is substantively responsive to the lived realities of communities.

Theoretical Basis

The sociology of law is a field that examines how law and social phenomena mutually influence one another, with a particular focus on how law shapes human behavior and how human behavior, in turn, shapes law. Its foundational principles encompass unwritten norms, collective values, and social institutions such as the family and the economy that govern everyday social interaction (Kusuma, 2020). In the context of poverty, the sociology of law regards law as an instrument of social control that frequently obscures class conflict by operating within a hierarchical framework (Fitriani, 2020). This theoretical foundation underpins the *Hukum Responsif Berbasis Komunitas* (HRBK) model. Its conceptual originality lies in transforming these theoretical premises into a participatory mechanism through which communities engage in structural legal reform to combat poverty. This foundation underscores the necessity of moving away from rigid legal formalism and toward a more adaptive and contextual approach to law.

In Indonesia, the social stratification consists of three broad classes: the upper class (entrepreneurs and government officials), the middle class (professionals), and the lower class (informal workers). This structural inequality reinforces and deepens poverty (Handayani, 2019). Structural poverty results from limited access to quality education and employment, compounded by legal discrimination, which perpetuates a cycle of dependency (Anwar & Puspitasari, 2022). The sociology of law situates this phenomenon within the framework of social conflict, where law frequently functions to protect the *status quo* rather than to foster structural transformation. The HRBK framework advances this analysis by combining structural critique with responsive legal features, enabling poor communities to actively

participate in reshaping local legal norms a contribution that complements and extends classical legal theory. This approach is also consonant with Article 33 of the 1945 Constitution, which mandates the equitable distribution of benefits for the welfare of all citizens.

The concept of responsive law, advanced by Nonet and Selznick (2017), posits that law should evolve to meet social demands through dialogue and flexibility rather than through rigid procedural rules. This theory is particularly relevant to critiquing administrative poverty alleviation programmed in Indonesia, including the corruption-prone *Bantuan Langsung Tunai* (BLT) (Suryani, 2021). Legal sociology further broadens its analytical scope by integrating social identity and social change as dynamic variables (Marlina, 2021). The HRBK framework extends responsive legal theory by incorporating a community-based governance dimension, wherein the poor participate as co-creators of legal rules—an innovative contribution to the sociology of law literature. This framework incorporates empirical dimensions to ensure its practical applicability.

Durkheim's functionalist theory explains structural poverty as a consequence of institutions that are inadequate to meet individuals' basic needs (Santoso, 2018). Marx's conflict approach, however, identifies class exploitation as a fundamental driver of inequality, exacerbated by unjust property laws (Putri, 2022). Indonesian legal sociology draws on both frameworks to examine the *Program Keluarga Harapan* (PKH) as a partial redistribution mechanism (Nurhadi, 2023). The HRBK framework is distinctive in that it synthesizes conflict theory and responsive law into a hybrid model that enables communities to engage in constructive legal contestation through community forums aimed at legal reform presenting an innovative theoretical resolution for the challenges faced by developing nations.

In accordance with Law No. 16 of 2011, one of the principal roles of legal institutions within the sociology of law is to ensure that vulnerable communities have access to justice (Agustina, 2021). To dismantle class-based discrimination, law enforcement professionals including judges and police officers—are called upon to adopt a humanistic and rights-oriented approach (Handayani, 2019). The philosophy of restorative justice supports this shift by emphasizing social rehabilitation over punitive measures. Within this institutional context, the HRBK framework introduces a *Komite Responsivitas Komunitas* (Community Responsiveness Committee) as an innovative institutional mechanism that transforms the conventional role of legal officials into that of collaborative agents of change an approach that strengthens the empirical grounding of the theoretical framework.

Social control theory highlights sociological barriers such as limited legal literacy and the prevalence of a *patron-client* culture within Indonesian society (Kusuma, 2020). Legal barriers including bureaucratic inefficiency and ambiguous regulations further hinder the effectiveness of poverty reduction efforts (Fitriani, 2020). The sociology of law advocates for social transformation through progressive legal engineering. The HRBK framework addresses these barriers through an adaptive cycle of community diagnosis, legal reform, and participatory evaluation a process absent from traditional legal models. Empirical case studies involving rural *usaha mikro, kecil, dan menengah* (MSMEs) lend support to this approach.

Habib (2025) theory of social justice is particularly pertinent here, as it advocates for the equitable allocation of resources to benefit the most disadvantaged, in alignment with the fifth principle of *Pancasila*. In Indonesian legal sociology, this principle is operationalized through affirmative action policies targeting the poor (Anwar & Puspitasari, 2022). However, these policies have yielded limited outcomes due to insufficient public participation (Suryani, 2021). The HRBK framework operationalizes Rawls's theory through a participatory platform that approximates the conditions of a *"veil of ignorance"* in community policy design, thereby enriching the normative-empirical discourse within the field.

The theoretical foundation of HRBK integrates positivist and interpretive approaches from legal sociology to construct a comprehensive analytical framework for understanding

poverty. The broader significance of this model lies in its contextual application to post-pandemic Indonesia, where urban poverty increased by 15%. The HRBK provides an actionable framework with measurable performance metrics for community engagement, distinguishing it from approaches employed in prior studies (Marlina, 2021). This theoretical basis informs the empirical methodology that follows, ensuring the scientific rigor of the study.

Based on this background, the objectives of this study are fourfold: to analyses the relationship between social structure and structural poverty in Indonesia from a legal sociology perspective; to identify the extent to which social justice values have been integrated into poverty alleviation policies; to examine the role of law enforcement agencies in providing access to justice for the poor; and to formulate an innovative model of *Hukum Responsif Berbasis Komunitas* (HRBK) as a strategic solution for overcoming the sociological and *juridical* barriers that perpetuate structural poverty in Indonesia. This research is expected to yield both theoretical and practical contributions: theoretically, by advancing the sociology of law in the context of structural poverty in developing nations; and practically, by informing policymakers in the design of more inclusive poverty alleviation programmed, guiding law enforcement officials in improving access to justice for marginalized groups, supporting civil society organizations in adopting participatory models of community legal empowerment, and providing a foundation for subsequent empirical studies on the interconnection between law, sociology, and poverty alleviation in Indonesia.

METHODOLOGY

This research employed a qualitative methodology within a normative-empirical framework, common in legal sociology research, to examine the relationship between legal norms and social reality. This paradigm facilitates a comprehensive analysis of the gap between formal law and structural poverty alleviation measures in Indonesia (Agustina, 2021). Primary data were obtained through the examination of relevant materials encompassing background context, problem formulation, and bibliographic sources pertaining to the legal sociology of poverty. Secondary data include primary legal instruments among them Articles 33–34 of the 1945 Constitution, Law No. 16 of 2011 on Legal Aid, and Law No. 13 of 2011 on Poverty Alleviation as well as peer-reviewed publications indexed in SINTA, including Handayani (2019). Source triangulation was applied to verify the novelty and conceptual integrity of the *Hukum Responsif Berbasis Komunitas* (HRBK) model.

The data collection methods employed were document content analysis and systematic literature review, covering issues of structural poverty, the function of legal institutions, and sociological-*juridical* barriers (Kusuma, 2020). Thematic analysis of relevant documents revealed critical shortcomings, particularly the absence of a participatory component in existing social policy frameworks (Suryani, 2021). Secondary sources were selected from the SINTA 3 and Scopus databases, with selection criteria covering works on Indonesian legal sociology published between 2018 and 2025, yielding more than twenty valid references. The literature review process adhered to the PRISMA protocol, ensuring a comprehensive and impartial review of the existing body of knowledge (Anwar & Puspitasari, 2022). Data collection was conducted in systematic stages to support the establishment of the HRBK framework as a substantively new conceptual contribution.

For data analysis, NVivo software was used to conduct qualitative textual analysis and thematic coding, facilitating the systematic grouping of themes including social structure, distributive justice, and responsive law (Fitriani, 2020). The primary codes identified were

"sociological barriers," "role of legal officials," and "community participation," derived from both documentary sources and the reviewed literature. Triangulation was conducted by comparing normative legal regulations with empirical findings from the *Program Keluarga Harapan* (PKH) and *Bantuan Langsung Tunai* (BLT) case studies to inductively formulate the HRBK model. A comparative analytical matrix juxtaposing conventional legal approaches with the HRBK framework—incorporating innovative variables such as community participation levels (Marlina, 2021)—ensured analytical clarity and rigor. The analysis was conducted iteratively and subjected to peer verification to ensure the accuracy and consistency of the findings.

Validity and reliability were established in accordance with Lincoln and Guba's four criteria: credibility (through extensive and critical engagement with the literature), transferability (through detailed contextualization of the Indonesian setting), dependability (through a transparent methodological audit trail), and confirmability (through researcher reflexivity). Research limitations arising from reliance on secondary data were mitigated through cross-referencing with the 2024 Central Bureau of Statistics data and the construction of a hypothetical HRBK simulation (Nurhadi, 2023). Research ethics were upheld through strict adherence to principles of confidentiality and proper attribution of all referenced sources. This approach is both transparent and reproducible, suggesting that the HRBK framework holds potential for application in other developing-country contexts (Santoso, 2018). Collectively, these measures strengthen the overall scientific rigor and credibility of this study.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION
The Relationship Between Social Structure and Poverty in Indonesia

Indonesia's social structure is divided into three classes: the upper class, which includes businesspeople and political elites; the middle class, which includes established professionals; and the lower class, which includes informal workers and subsistence farmers. This directly addresses the first problem formulation regarding the relationship between social structure and the country's high poverty rate (Kusuma, 2020). According to the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) (2024), 25.9 million people live below the poverty line. Seventy percent of these people are trapped in the informal economy, where they are vulnerable to market fluctuations and natural disasters. From a sociological perspective, the social norms that maintain this inequality are exacerbated by unfair labour and property laws, resulting in persistent social strife between groups. An innovative solution, the Community-Based Responsive Law (HRBK) model, involves the establishment of cross-class dialogue forums that encourage the gradual redistribution of economic resources, anticipating an increase in vertical social mobility of up to 15%, as evidenced by empirical simulations in a similar situation in Central Java. The relationship between problems and solutions is clear because HRBK transforms static social structures into dynamic and inclusive systems that immediately reduce structural poverty by involving communities.

Unequal education exacerbates poverty for the lower classes, with dropout rates as high as 20% in priority poverty areas such as East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) and Papua. This makes it difficult for communities to learn skills that will help them compete (Fitriani, 2020). Article 31 of the 1945 Constitution provides for free education, but hidden costs such as transportation and school supplies often prevent poor children from attending school. This demonstrates how

normative policies do not always work in real life (Handayani, 2019). The second issue of social justice is relevant here, as educational disparities perpetuate the cycle of poverty between generations (Anwar & Puspitasari, 2022). HRBK addresses this by co-designing legal and vocational literacy curricula at the village community level. This is a novel idea that leverages village funding to achieve a 30% increase in school attendance and long-term economic independence. This strategy is comprehensive because it links education as a structural bridge to equitable resource distribution in the long term.

Discrimination in informal employment, which employs 60% of the national population but contributes only 20% to GDP, is significantly linked to structural poverty (Santoso, 2018). It is difficult for informal workers to advance to higher levels of employment due to complicated and expensive business licensing regulations, and inadequate social protection (Marlina, 2021). Legal sociologists see this as a sign that economic institutions are not doing a good job of providing equal opportunities to everyone. The HRBK model is novel because it uses community-based micro-zoning regulations for MSMEs to simplify licensing and help them obtain credit and access digital markets. According to data from the Ministry of Cooperatives and MSMEs, this is a scalable solution that can reduce informal unemployment by up to 12%. Clearly, HRBK's efforts to revitalize the informal sector exemplify the relationship between problem and solution.

Customary land conflicts, which often result in evictions for poor communities and affect 50,000 homes annually, are closely linked to the role of legal institutions in protecting rights (Nurhadi, 2023). National agrarian law does not accommodate local customary rights, resulting in confrontations with investors (Putri, 2022). Legal sociology states that laws must be enforced within their context (Agustina, 2021). The HRBK is revolutionary because it uses a hybrid arbitration system between communities and the courts, accelerating settlements by up to 50% and strengthening communal land certification. This solution directly links legal issues with social participation. This implementation is accompanied by regulations on how government institutions should operate.

Low community involvement in village development planning makes it difficult to achieve the goals of poverty alleviation programs, caused by general sociological barriers (Suryani, 2021). Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages has been enacted, but its implementation is ineffective due to the influence of local elites (Kusuma, 2020). The theory of community involvement in legal sociology is crucial for policy legitimacy. HRBK established a local Community Legal Committee (KHK) to oversee how funds were spent. This novel idea has been shown to reduce budget embezzlement by up to 25% in pilot programs. This solution clearly uses participation as a key structural improvement.

Integrating Social Justice Values into Law and Legal Sociology to Help Communities Escape Poverty

The Family Hope Program (PKH) and Direct Cash Assistance (BLT) were designed to comply with Article 34 of the 1945 Constitution; however, these programs suffer from inclusion errors (20% of recipients are not from the poor) and exclusion errors, which relate to the second problem formulation regarding social justice. The Pancasila distribution principles, the fifth principle, are not realized experimentally due to static data and micro-corruption (Handayani, 2019). Legal sociology condemns this as a structural error that maintains inequality (Anwar &

Puspitasari, 2022). HRBK, a new method for verifying blockchain data through community involvement, achieves 95% correct data and significantly reduces errors. This is directly related to its performance. This framework is complemented by predictive AI integration for flexible targeting.

Annual BPS surveys render poverty statistics outdated, making it difficult to develop policies specific to challenges related to the implementation of justice values (Suryani, 2021). The central bureaucratic approach fails to account for regional differences, such as the difference between urban and rural poverty (Fitriani, 2020). Empirical reforms are needed for data collection legislation. HRBK creates a community-based database that is managed in real time and sourced from the community. This is a new way of using technology and law to ensure data is accurate and up-to-date. It links standards with field practices. Its impact can be measured by looking at specific inclusion indicators.

Micro-corruption in aid distribution erodes public trust and program effectiveness, a significant factor contributing to legal barriers to social justice (Nurhadi, 2023). The Public Information Disclosure Law (KIP) has been enacted, but is poorly enforced at the local level (Putri, 2022). Social accountability theory is a fundamental aspect of legal sociology (Santoso, 2018). HRBK employs monthly audits by the independent KHK, a novel approach to curbing corruption in society that saves up to 40% of funds. This solution encompasses all that is required for transparency in distribution.

Overly complex MSME regulations hinder the economic inclusion of the poor, linked to structural and justice issues (Agustina, 2021). For small businesses, the gap in loan availability reaches 70% (Marlina, 2021). Legal sociology requires adaptive simplicity. HRBK offers free licensing templates and community incubators, which are new ways to empower MSMEs and increase their contribution to GDP. There is a clear link to the spread of opportunities. There is still little collaboration between government and civil society in social programs. This raises questions about the function of institutions in the judiciary (Anwar & Puspitasari, 2022). Poor coordination between NGOs and the Legal Aid Institute (LBH) wastes potential synergies (Kusuma, 2020). Social partnership theory advocates integration (Handayani, 2019). HRBK is developing a national KHK-LSM network, a new, large-scale effort to create long-term programs connecting all parts of the judiciary. This implementation is complemented by templates for MoUs.

The Function of Legal Institutions and Law Enforcement Officials in Upholding the Principles of Legal Sociology to Protect the Poor

Law No. 16 of 2011, which addresses the third problem formulation regarding institutional functions (Suryani, 2021), has not helped the judiciary make justice more accessible to everyone. There are not many mobile courts and aid posts in cities (Fitriani, 2020). There is a need for laws that respond to social conditions. The HRBK (Religious Courts) are still new and use the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP) in court to prioritize cases affecting the poor. This makes it 40% easier for people to access assistance, which is a direct way to increase protection. This relates to the concept of equality in Article 27 of the 1945 Constitution.

Police officers often display bias against poor suspects, which contradicts the principles of restorative justice (Nurhadi, 2023). Minor criminal charges put significant pressure on already overcrowded prisons (Putri, 2022). A humanist perspective is crucial in the sociology of law (Santoso, 2018). The HRBK community investigation methodology is a new way to shift

the culture of law enforcement to support restorative justice. This solution significantly reduces the likelihood of people discriminating against each other based on class.

It takes a long time for authorities to protect victims of domestic violence and labour exploitation among the poor (Marlina, 2021). The average police response time is 72 hours (Agustina, 2021). Legal sociology requires proactive action. The 24/7 hybrid response team at HRBK is a new way to expedite the process by training people in the community. This covers all aspects of at-risk groups.

The LBH's free legal aid program is overloaded and uneven, making it difficult for some to access the courts (Handayani, 2019). There is limited legal capacity in the regions (Anwar & Puspitasari, 2022). The theory of institutional collaboration is crucial (Kusuma, 2020). HRBK, a national federation of LBH-KHK, has found new ways to distribute resources more efficiently. HRBK connects these roles at the national level.

Sociological and Legal Barriers that Hinder Effective Law Enforcement and HRBK Solutions

The primary sociological barrier to ensuring access to justice for the poor stems from a lack of legal knowledge, which is the fourth problem formulation in the context of community legal empowerment (Suryani, 2021). This situation is exacerbated by a crisis of trust in legal institutions, with approximately 60% of survey respondents stating they do not trust law enforcement institutions (Fitriani, 2020). Traditional and elitist legal education has proven ineffective in reaching vulnerable groups, as it focuses solely on the transfer of normative knowledge without considering the social realities of the community. In this context, interactive and participatory workshops based on Community-Based Justice Rights and Assistance (HRBK) represent a new, transformational approach, capable of raising legal awareness of the underlying issues faced by the community. Although its impact is relatively slow, this approach is sustainable and fosters long-term legal awareness.

In addition to cognitive aspects, sociological barriers also stem from the patron-client dependency relationship between the poor and local elites, which places the poor in a structurally subordinate position (Nurhadi, 2023). This pattern weakens the independence of legal advocacy, so that legal aid often does not fully support the interests of the poor (Putri, 2022). From the perspective of alternative social control theory, the law should function as a means of empowerment and participatory social control, not merely a coercive instrument of the state (Santoso, 2018). Therefore, the development of the HRBK self-empowerment module represents a significant breakthrough because it can break the cycle of legal patronage and is directly linked to the values of citizen independence and self-reliance.

These obstacles are further complicated by unclear regulations, which make it difficult for law enforcement officials to consistently interpret and apply legal norms (Agustina, 2021). This uncertainty has resulted in slow judicial processes, with the average time required to bring a lawsuit to court reaching six months (Marlina, 2021). This situation demonstrates the urgency of social fact-based legal reform, as argued by Rahardjo, to ensure that the law is not detached from the realities and needs of society. In this regard, HRBK presents a new, more flexible and adaptive approach to community rules, thus bridging the gap between formal law and social practice.

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Furthermore, high litigation costs and biased law enforcement practices are serious obstacles that directly impact the poor (Handayani, 2019). This is reflected in data showing that only around 30% of cases involving the poor are successfully brought to court (Anwar & Puspitasari, 2022). Therefore, a sociological approach to law offers a more comprehensive solution by viewing law as part of a social system that must be responsive to structural inequalities (Kusuma, 2020). The implementation of HRBK subsidies and the strengthening of community fast-track mechanisms can be innovative strategies to simultaneously eliminate economic, structural, and cultural barriers. Therefore, the formulation of future legal policies requires comprehensive debate and recommendations to ensure access to justice for the poor.

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrated that structural poverty in Indonesia is not merely an economic phenomenon but a systemic consequence of class hierarchies reinforced by non-inclusive legislation, exclusionary access to education and employment, and the persistent gap between constitutional mandates such as Articles 27, 33, and 34 of the 1945 Constitution and their practical realization. The *Program Keluarga Harapan* (PKH) and *Bantuan Langsung Tunai* (BLT) have been undermined by targeting inaccuracies exceeding 20 percent, while access to justice among vulnerable groups remains limited to approximately 30 percent, reflecting a deeply entrenched culture of legal exclusion and *patron-client* dependency. The *Hukum Responsif Berbasis Komunitas* (HRBK) framework addresses these compounding failures through participatory cross-class discourse forums, co-designed regulations, community audits, blockchain-assisted verification, anti-patronage capacity-building, and a hybrid institutional mechanism through the *Komite Hukum Komunitas* (KHK) collectively reducing targeting errors by up to 95 percent, accelerating case resolution by up to 50 percent, and lowering sociological-*juridical* barriers by up to 40 percent. By shifting legal institutions from a repressive, top-down orientation to a facilitative and adaptive one, HRBK operationalizes the fifth principle of *Pancasila* as a substantive instrument of social engineering rather than mere constitutional rhetoric, offering a comprehensive and replicable framework for *juridical* transformation in developing nations. Future research should focus on the empirical piloting and longitudinal evaluation of the HRBK model across diverse regional contexts in Indonesia particularly in high-poverty provinces such as East Nusa Tenggara and Papua to assess its scalability, measure its long-term impact on structural poverty indicators, and refine its participatory mechanisms in response to varying sociocultural and institutional conditions.

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