

Trends in the Development of New Modes of Theft and its Countermeasures for the People of Ngawonggo Village, Malang Regency

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ABSTRACT

This community service activity was carried out to increase the understanding of the community and officials of Ngawonggo Village, Tajinan District, Malang Regency, regarding the development of theft criminal methods and strategies for overcoming them. The main problem is the community's limited knowledge in recognizing the development of theft criminal methods, understanding the provisions in the National Criminal Code, and determining preventive measures and actions after a crime has occurred. The solution provided was participatory legal counseling through the delivery of materials, discussions, questions and answers, and case examples relevant to community life. The activity involved 30 participants consisting of the community, village officials, community leaders, and representatives of community groups. The evaluation results showed an increase in the average understanding of participants from 61.8% to 87.8%, or an increase of 26 percentage points.



Figure 3. Graph Showing the Increase in Theft Cases in Ngawaonggo Village

Based on the data used in the activity, theft cases in Ngawonggo Village showed an increase, namely 8 cases in 2023, 10 cases in 2024, 14 cases in 2025, and 17 cases in 2026. This increase shows the need for prevention efforts that are not only repressive, but also through increased public knowledge and awareness.

Another problem is the gap between legal changes and public understanding. The community still understands theft based on the provisions of the old Criminal Code, while the National Criminal Code has been implemented with a systematics and updated legal construction. Village officials also need to understand these changes because they are often the first party to receive reports of disappearances, disputes, or suspected criminal acts (Hanafie et al., 2022). Lack of understanding can lead to informal settlements of criminal cases, false accusations, or acts of vigilantism. In addition, the development of theft modes through technology and various forms of social engineering requires the community to increase vigilance, secure personal goods and information, and understand the correct reporting mechanism (Hasri et al., 2025). Counseling is also important to strengthen the role of village officials as a liaison between the community and law enforcement officials.

Based on these conditions, community service activities with the theme "Legal Counseling: Trends in the Development of New Modes in Theft Crimes and Countermeasures Strategies" are important to be carried out in Ngawonggo Village. This activity is directed to increase public understanding of the development of theft modes, the provisions of the National Criminal Code, prevention strategies, as well as procedures for handling and reporting suspected criminal acts. Through counseling, discussions, and case simulations, it is hoped that a community that is more aware of the law, vigilant, and able to prevent conflicts and vigilante actions will be created so that a safe, orderly, and law-abiding environment in Ngawonggo Village will be created.

IMPLEMENTATION AND METHODS

This community service activity uses a participatory-educational approach, by actively involving the community through the delivery of materials, discussions, questions and answers, simulations, and evaluations. The activity was held on September 19, 2026 in Ngawonggo Village, Tajinan District, Malang Regency, for approximately three hours and was attended by 30 participants consisting of the community, village officials, community leaders, and representatives of community groups. The material was delivered by lecturers at the Faculty of Law, Wisnuwardhana University who have competence in the field of criminal law and state administration, namely Prof. Dr. Widodo, S.H.,

M.H., Dr. Imam Ropi'i, S.Pd., S.H., M.H., Dr. Marsudi Dedi Putra, S.Pd., S.H., M.H., Dr. Agus Pramono, S.Pd., S.H., M.M., M.H., and Dr. Sri Ayu Astuti, S.H., M.Hum., with moderator Heristiawan Aryo Wirotomo, S.H., M.H. This activity is part of the continuation of legal counseling cooperation that has previously been carried out in other partner villages (Putra et al., 2026).



Figure 4. Community Service Team of the Faculty of Law, Wisnuwardhana University, Malang

The implementation of the activity began with the identification of problems and needs of the community, especially related to the development of theft modes, changes in the provisions in the National Criminal Code, prevention strategies, and criminal reporting mechanisms. The material was then prepared including the definition and form of theft, the development of crime modes, the provisions of Law Number 1 of 2023 concerning the Criminal Code, prevention strategies, and actions that need to be taken when becoming a victim or knowing of a criminal act. The National Criminal Code has been in effect since January 2, 2026 and regulates theft, among others, in Article 476 and Article 477.

The delivery of material was carried out through interactive lectures, then continued with discussions, questions and answers, and case simulations related to people's living conditions. Participants were also given the opportunity to convey their experiences and problems that had been faced related to theft. Evaluation used pre-test and post-test to measure changes in participants' knowledge about the definition, form and mode of theft, provisions of the National Criminal Code, prevention, and handling and reporting steps. Process evaluation was carried out through observation of participants' activeness in discussion and ability to answer case studies. The success of the activity was measured through an increase in the average score of the post-test compared to the pre-test with a target of at least 20%, at least 80% of participants were able to explain the main material, and were able to mention preventive measures and appropriate actions when facing the crime of theft.

Evaluation was carried out quantitatively and qualitatively. The results of the pre-test and post-test were used to measure the improvement of understanding, while the observation and response of participants were used to identify material that still needed reinforcement. With this method, the activity is not only oriented towards the delivery of legal information, but is also directed at increasing the knowledge, vigilance, and practical ability of the community in preventing and dealing with theft.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The community service activity with the theme "Trends in the Development of New Modes in Theft Crimes and Their Countermeasures Strategies for the Community of Ngawonggo Village, Malang Regency" was carried out to increase public and village officials understanding of the development of theft, changes in its regulation in the National Criminal Code, as well as prevention and handling strategies. The activity was carried out in a participatory manner through the delivery of materials, discussions, questions and answers, case examples, and evaluations using pre-test and post-test. A total of 30 participants consisting of the community, village officials, community leaders, and representatives of community groups participated in the activity.



Figures 5. Counseling Participants Arrive and Fill in the Attendance List

Activity Impact Analysis

The main material was delivered by Prof. Dr. Widodo, S.H., M.H., who discussed the development of the regulation of theft in the National Criminal Code compared to the old Criminal Code. Normatively, the National Criminal Code based on Law No. 1 of 2023 is effective from January 2, 2026. In Chapter XXIV, Article 476 regulates theft, while Article 477 regulates qualified forms of theft. Article 476 specifies that a person who takes goods that partially or fully belong to another person with the intention of unlawfully possessing them can be punished with imprisonment for a maximum of five years or a category V fine.



Figure 6. The Main Speaker, Prof. Dr. Widodo, S.H., M.H., Provided Material Related to the Regulation of the Crime of Theft According to The National Criminal Code

The material on prevention and reporting was delivered collaboratively by Dr. Sri Ayu Astuti and Dr. Agus Pramono. Participants were given an understanding of environmental security measures, protection of valuable goods, prudence in communication and digital transactions, and the importance of immediately reporting suspected criminal acts through appropriate mechanisms. This approach is necessary because theft prevention does not only depend on law enforcement after a crime occurs, but also on the ability of the community to recognize potential risks and take preventive actions.



Figures 7. Counseling Participants from Various Groups

Results of Participant Understanding Evaluation

The results of the evaluation showed an increase in participants' understanding after the counseling activity. The pre-test and post-test include five aspects, namely the definition of theft, the form and mode of theft, the regulation in the National Criminal Code, prevention strategies, and actions that need to be taken when becoming a victim or knowing of a criminal act.

Table 1. Results of Evaluation of Participants' Understanding

No.	Aspects Assessed	Pretest Average	Posttest Mean	Upgraden
1	Definition of theft	68%	90%	22%
2	Forms and development of theft modes	59%	86%	27%
3	Theft regulation in the National Criminal Code	55%	84%	29%
4	Theft prevention strategies	66%	91%	25%
5	Victim/witness actions and reporting	61%	88%	27%
Overall Average		61.8%	87.8%	26%

The average understanding of participants increased from 61.8% before counseling to 87.8% after counseling, or an increase of 26 percentage points. The largest increase was in the aspect of understanding of theft regulations in the National Criminal Code, which was 29 percentage points. These results showed that counseling contributed to participants' understanding of changes in the national criminal law. Participants who previously understood theft based on the concept of the old Criminal Code began to understand the systematics and new constructions in the National Criminal Code.

Changing Public Understanding of Theft Modes and Prevention

Changes in understanding were also seen in the participants' ability to identify the development of theft modes. Before counseling, participants tended to identify theft through conventional modes, such as the theft of vehicles, livestock, household goods, or other people's belongings. After being given case examples, participants understood that technological developments and patterns of social interaction can create more diverse forms and modes of crime. In the aspect of prevention strategies, participants' understanding increased from 66% to 91%. Participants understand that prevention can be carried out through improving environmental security, securing valuable goods, being careful in providing personal information, vigilance in communication or digital transactions, and strengthening communication between citizens. These efforts are a form of community participation and do not replace the authority of law enforcement officials.

For village officials, the activity provides an understanding of the importance of the village government's position in supporting the prevention of crimes. Village officials can help convey legal information, encourage the community to make reports, maintain social communication, and connect the community with the authorities. Thus, increasing the capacity of village officials has the potential for a wider impact because the knowledge can be disseminated back to the community.



Figures 8. Presenter from the Service Team of the Faculty of Law, Wisnuwardhana University Provides Counseling Materials to the Community of Ngawonggo Village

Key Findings of Service

There are three main findings from this activity. First, the community needs legal education that follows the development of criminal modes as well as changes in regulations. The enactment of the National Criminal Code since January 2, 2026 strengthens the need for socialization so that legal changes are not only understood by officials and academics, but also by the public. Second, the counseling method that uses simple language, case examples, discussions, and evaluations before and after the activity is able to improve participants' understanding. The increase from 61.8% to 87.8% shows that the material can be well received by the participants.

Third, increasing knowledge needs to be followed by strengthening preventive capabilities and reporting mechanisms. The community needs to be directed from a reactive pattern to a preventive one, which is not only understanding the law after becoming a victim, but also being able to recognize risks, increase vigilance, maintain environmental safety, and take appropriate steps when finding suspected criminal acts. Overall, the service activities showed that counseling on the development of the mode of theft provided benefits in increasing the knowledge, vigilance, and practical ability of the people of Ngawonggo Village. The involvement of village officials is also an important factor for the sustainability of the impact of activities because village officials can be a liaison between the community, village government, and law enforcement officials.



Figure 9. The Enthusiasm of the Residents of Ngawonggo Village, Malang Regency with the Service Team of the Faculty of Law, Wisnuwardhana University of Malang

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The service activity on "Trends in the Development of New Modes in Theft Crime and Its Countermeasures Strategies" in Ngawonggo Village showed the importance of legal counseling in increasing public and village officials' understanding of the development of theft modes and regulations in the National Criminal Code. Through interactive lectures, discussions, case studies, and evaluations, participants' understanding increased from 61.8% to 87.8%, or by 26 percentage points. The increase showed that the activity not only strengthened normative knowledge, but also increased the community's preventive awareness in recognizing risks and preventing crimes. The involvement of village officials also strengthened the impact of activities because they could support the dissemination of legal information, build community communication, and connect residents with law enforcement officials. Thus, the activity contributed to strengthening legal awareness, vigilance, and community participation in creating a safe and orderly environment in Ngawonggo Village.

Based on the results of the activity, continuous legal counseling is needed with materials that follow the development of criminal modes and the implementation of the National Criminal Code. The Ngawonggo Village Government is advised to integrate security education and legal awareness in community activities and encourage village officials to become a liaison between the community and law enforcement officials related to the prevention, reporting, and early handling of crimes. Citizen participation through the environmental vigilance system also needs to be strengthened while still avoiding vigilante actions. For universities, service programs can be developed on an ongoing basis through measurable evaluations using pre-tests and post-tests as well as monitoring behavior changes. Collaboration between universities, village governments, police, and the community needs to be strengthened to build a culture of legal awareness, vigilance, and the ability to prevent and report criminal acts appropriately.

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