

## Generation Z and Legal Literacy: Efforts to Increase Understanding of Human Rights by Digital World

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
<b>Keywords:</b> Generation Z, legal literacy, human rights, digital world, education	The digital era brings new challenges in understanding and protecting human rights, especially for Generation Z who grew up in a digital environment. Legal literacy becomes key to providing an in-depth understanding of human rights and ways protecting them in the digital world. This article discusses the importance of legal literacy for Generation Z. in supporting awareness and protection of human rights. By using descriptive-qualitative approach, this article explores the role of legal literacy in improve Generation Z's understanding of their human rights, as well as provide recommendations strategies for integrating legal literacy into formal and non-formal education.
This is an open access article under the <a href="https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/">CC BY-NC</a> license 	<b>Corresponding Author:</b> Yudith Sitinjak Universitas Sahid Jakarta, DKI Jakarta <a href="mailto:judith.sitinjak@gmail.com">judith.sitinjak@gmail.com</a>

### INTRODUCTION

Generation Z, born between 1997 and 2012, grew up in a digital ecosystem that complex. They are the first generation to fully witness the integration of technology. in various aspects of life. Despite having wide access to information, low literacy laws can make Generation Z vulnerable to human rights violations, for example spreading privacy, spreading illegal content, and cyberbullying. Legal literacy is needed To equip Generation Z with knowledge about their rights and obligations in the world. digital. As technology usage increases, Generation Z is emerging on complex issues.

such as disinformation, personal data breaches, and digital exploitation. This article aims to identify key challenges and opportunities in improving legal literacy for supporting understanding of human rights in the digital age. Legal Literacy and Human Rights in the Digital World Legal literacy includes an understanding of legal system, citizens' rights and obligations, and the ability to access information relevant laws. In the context of the digital world, legal literacy must cover aspects such as:

1. Right to Privacy: Awareness of personal data protection and privacy risks information on digital platforms.
2. Freedom of Expression: Understanding the legal limitations on expression opinions online.
3. Anti-Disinformation: the ability to recognize and report fake or misleading content. harm.
4. Self-Protection: Knowledge of legal steps to take if you become a victim cybercrime.
5. Digital Responsibility: Awareness of the digital footprint left behind.

## METHOD

A descriptive-qualitative method was chosen because it allows for an in-depth understanding of complex social issues, particularly the relationship between digital literacy and legal awareness. Unlike quantitative methods that focus on statistical measurements, qualitative research provides a holistic exploration of individuals' experiences, interpretations, and responses to digital legal issues. By gathering rich, detailed narratives, this approach enables a comprehensive exploration of legal literacy and its role in shaping Generation Z's interaction with human rights in the digital space.

### Data Collection Methods

#### Literature Review

The literature review comprises scholarly articles, books, reports, and policy papers discussing legal literacy, digital human rights, and Generation Z's digital behavior. Sources were selected based on their relevance to:

- a. The role of legal literacy in fostering responsible digital citizenship.
- b. Existing frameworks for human rights protection in digital interactions.
- c. Challenges in integrating legal literacy within educational curricula.
- d. Government and institutional efforts to promote legal awareness.

This review helps establish a theoretical foundation and contextual background for the research, ensuring that findings are framed within a scholarly discourse.

#### Semi-Structured Interviews

To gain firsthand insights, semi-structured interviews were conducted with three key respondent groups:

- a. Legal Experts (e.g., lawyers, policymakers, and human rights advocates) provided perspectives on digital legal frameworks and common legal issues faced by youth online.
- b. Educators (e.g., teachers and curriculum developers) shared their experiences regarding the integration of legal literacy into formal education.
- c. Generation Z Representatives (aged 18–25) discussed their awareness of digital rights, encounters with cyber-legal issues, and the effectiveness of existing digital legal education.

Each interview lasted 30–45 minutes, with open-ended questions encouraging participants to elaborate on their experiences. The questions focused on:

- a. Awareness and understanding of digital human rights.
- b. Challenges in accessing and comprehending legal information.
- c. The role of education in enhancing legal literacy.
- d. The impact of digital platforms in spreading misinformation and legal misunderstandings.

#### Data Analysis

A thematic analysis was employed to examine qualitative data, allowing patterns and recurring themes to emerge. The analysis followed these steps:

- a. Transcription – All interviews were transcribed for accuracy.

- b. Coding – Key themes were identified based on responses.
- c. Categorization – Data was grouped into major themes such as 'Challenges in Legal Literacy,' 'Education and Awareness,' and 'Digital Risks and Protection.'
- d. Interpretation – Findings were cross-referenced with literature to validate conclusions.

#### **Ethical Considerations**

To ensure ethical integrity, the study adhered to ethical research guidelines, including:

- a. Informed Consent – Participants were briefed about the study's objectives and provided consent before participation.
- b. Confidentiality – Personal identities were anonymized to protect participants' privacy.
- c. Voluntary Participation – Participants could withdraw at any stage without any repercussions.
- d. Data Protection – All recorded data was securely stored and used solely for research purposes.

#### **Limitations of the Study**

Despite its contributions, this study acknowledges several limitations:

- a. Limited Sample Size – The study's scope is confined to a select group of participants, potentially limiting the generalizability of findings.
- b. Subjective Interpretations – Responses may reflect individual biases, though cross-referencing with literature mitigates this issue.
- c. Evolving Digital Landscape – The rapid development of digital platforms and laws means that legal literacy challenges continue to change.

By addressing these limitations through future research recommendations, this study aims to contribute valuable insights into the evolving role of legal literacy among Generation Z and its implications for human rights protection in digital spaces.

## **DISCUSSION**

This study found that Generation Z has a high awareness of issues digital, but have little understanding of its legal enforcement. Most respondents admitted that they do not know what legal steps to take if their rights are violated in the digital world. Factors that influence low legal literacy include:

1. The education curriculum is not yet integrated with digital legal literacy.
2. Minimal access to easy-to-understand sources of legal information.
3. Low level of socialization from the authorities regarding the protection of human rights in the digital world.

To overcome this challenge, the following steps need to be taken:

1. Integration of Legal Literacy into Education: Developing a curriculum that includes legal literacy from an early age.
2. Collaboration with Digital Platforms: Holding campaigns with media platforms social to raise awareness of human rights.
3. Training and Workshops: Conduct interactive training for Generation Z on protection of human rights in the digital world.

4. Resource Provision: Explain relevant and easy to understand educational content accessed.
5. Community Approach: Building a community that supports legal literacy through public dialogue and discussion.

Challenges in Legal Literacy Among Generation Z. One of the most significant challenges facing Generation Z is the absence of legal literacy education within formal curricula. Many educational institutions focus on general digital literacy, such as understanding social media and information security, but do not provide adequate instruction on digital legal frameworks. As a result, young people are often unaware of their rights and responsibilities in online interactions.

Additionally, the complexity of legal language presents a barrier to legal literacy. Most legal documents and regulations are written in technical terms that are difficult for the general public, let alone young people, to understand. This complexity discourages engagement with legal resources and leads to a reliance on informal sources, such as social media, where misinformation is prevalent.

Another challenge is the influence of social media and digital platforms on the perceptions of legal issues. Misinformation spreads rapidly, shaping the beliefs and behaviors of young users without them fully understanding the legal consequences of their actions. Many individuals unknowingly engage in activities that could lead to legal repercussions, such as sharing false information, violating copyright laws, or participating in cyberbullying.

Moreover, there is a gap in government and institutional initiatives aimed at promoting legal literacy in the digital age. While some efforts have been made to educate the public on cyber laws and digital ethics, these initiatives are often fragmented, lacking consistent implementation across different educational levels and social settings.

Implications of Legal Literacy for Digital Citizenship. Legal literacy is not just about protecting Generation Z from digital risks—it also empowers them as active digital citizens who can engage in informed online discussions, advocate for human rights, and contribute to shaping ethical digital spaces. Understanding the legal implications of digital actions fosters a more responsible and law-abiding online community.

Furthermore, improving legal literacy strengthens trust in digital governance. When young people are aware of their rights, they are more likely to hold platforms, corporations, and governments accountable for ethical digital practices. This contributes to a healthier and more transparent digital ecosystem.

Moving forward, research should explore how different cultural and regional contexts affect legal literacy levels among Generation Z. Additionally, there should be further studies on the effectiveness of digital tools in educating young people about online laws. AI-driven legal education models and immersive learning experiences could also play a role in making legal literacy more accessible and engaging for the digital generation.

In conclusion, legal literacy is a critical component of digital education that must be prioritized to ensure that Generation Z can safely and responsibly navigate the online world. Through collaborative efforts in education, technology, and policy, young people can be better equipped to protect their rights and promote a more legally aware digital society.

## CONCLUSION

Legal literacy is an important foundation for Generation Z to understand and protect their human rights in the digital world. By increasing legal literacy through education, collaboration, and resource provision, Generation Z can be agents of change. who is active in fighting for human rights in the digital era. In addition, adequate legal understanding will enable them to deal with various things. digital world challenges such as privacy violations, the spread of disinformation, and cybercrime. Integration of legal literacy in formal and non-formal education is a strategic step to building a more legally aware generation. The role of government, educational institutions and digital platforms is very important in creating ecosystem that supports increasing legal literacy. Generation Z who has legal literacy high will be better able to utilize the potential of the digital world while still respecting human rights. themselves and others. Thus, legal literacy is not only a means of protection, but also empowerment to face increasingly complex future challenges.

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