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TOWARD AN ETHICAL SOUNDSCAPES: COMPARING INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL NOISE REGULATIONS IN PUBLIC SPACES

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ABSTRAK

Ethical soundscapes refer to sound management in public spaces emphasizing individual rights and high respect toward cultural differences. Indonesia, with a high level of noise pollution from traffic and other human activities, is among countries that are facing challenges in maintaining an ethical sound in the public sphere. While regulations existed, such as regulation for broadcastingAdhan, a more comprehensive regulation is still far from being openly discussed. Theories of ethical soundscapes and the public sphere are used as guidelines in discussing Indonesia's problem of unregulated noise. As for the method, this research employed a literature study on noise regulations to get a broad and systematic view of ethical soundscapes at national and international levels. The result shows that despite existing regulations, the lack of public awareness of the well-being threats caused by noise pollution poses as main challenge in realizing the ethical soundscapes in Indonesia. While finding indicate that dissemination of noise pollution regulations is essential, mainly by promoting constructive discourse at the communities' level.

Kata kunci: Ethical Soundscapes; Noise Pollution; Noise Regulation; Public Sphere

INTRODUCTION

The famous proverb, 'silence is golden', found its relevance in the study of noise pollution. This type of pollution, according to Garcia Ruiz & South (2018), is highly overlook compare to the more tangible type of pollutions, such as air, water pollution, or waste. Bragdon (1971) voices early attention to the problem by addressing the sources and effect of noise pollution. He identifies nine sources, including: (1) Priority to Urban Concern; (2) Human Adaptation in using Technology; (3) Institutional and Public Sector Apathy; (4) Individual and Private Sector Apathy; (5) Unawareness; (6) Conflict in Societal Goals; (7) Auditory Regression; (8) Human Ignorance; and (9) Minimum Priority in Finding Solution. Regarding the effects, Bragdon (1971, p. 2) stated that noise pollution trigger ecological imbalance; also pose a threat to human well-being, both physically and psychologically.

In line with Bragdon, Goines & Hagle (2007) mentioned the effects of long-term noise exposure that caused loss of hearing, fatigue, stress, lack of sleeping, and disturbed mental well-being. While Kohut (2015) mentioned, "*Noise must be considered a hazard to the health of people everywhere*". By coined the term 'toxic sound', Kohut calls the awareness for measurable degrees of noise pollution effects to urban living–"Just as with stench, noise was also considered to threaten the social order. Noise is a form of pollution, as dangerous as tobacco smoke and as recalcitrant to public awareness campaigns. In short, whatever noise might be, it is a contamination or plague". The World Health Organization (WHO) annual report (2000) indicates 250 million people worldwide suffering hearing impairment due to noise pollution, with 30-56% being Southeast Asia–while Meliasari et al (2025) mentioned that Indonesia alone reaches 4.6% of global noise pollution. In dealing with the issue, noise regulation is developed to manage the sonic surrounding, mostly by referring to the WHO 1996 Regulation of 55 dB(A) is a noise level. The limit adjust to the

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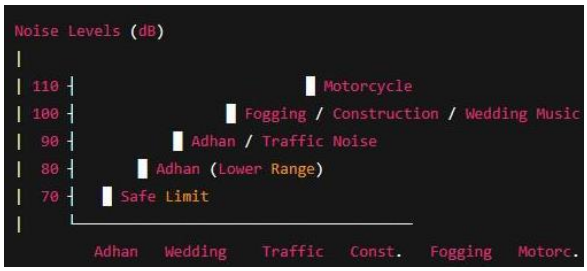
human ear tolerance to noise, however, study by Shaikh presents that most of developing country (with case example: India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Nigeria) is due to "minimum statutory regulations and citizens' indifference" (Shaikh, 1999).

Mediastika et al. (2022) stated that Indonesia also among countries with high level of noise pollution mainly due to the public lack of awareness. While Pratisti (2024) argues that high level of cacophonic in Indonesia comes, not only from urban development, traffics, but also from overlapping soundscapes–a concept defined by Thompson (in Kohut, 2015, p. 8) as "*an acoustic environment and a way of perceiving that environment; in which culture constructed to make sense of the world*". Thus, in addition to industrial and human induced noise, Pratisti (2020) stated that Indonesia also facing a grimed reality when it turns to community clashed of soundscapes with cases such as the infamous complaints ofAdhan, or protests toward local cultural activities. With its diverse ethnics, religious groups, and cultural communities, Indonesia noise regulation also has to consider an ethical sharing of soundscapes to avoid conflict. In similar vein with other human induced noise, conflicting soundscape can also pose a threat individual and social well-being. Image below depicts comparison of noise pollution in Indonesia.

Figure 1. Comparison of Noise Pollution in Indonesia



(Pratisti, 2020; Mediastika et al, 2022, 2023, 2023b)

However, despite tangible threat, awareness in reducing noise pollution and efforts in managing ethical soundscape in Indonesia, are still rarely discussed. Previous studies mainly focused on regulating specific sound, such adhan, or urban soundscapes, with limited exploration on noise regulation(Colombijn, 2007;Pratisti, 2020; Mediastika et al, 2022, 2023, 2023b). Addressing to the gap of study, this article aims to explore the existing body of noise regulations by comparing regulations in Indonesia with noise regulation at international level. This article also aims to scrutinize Indonesia public awareness to noise pollution to understand prospects and challenges in constructing the ethical soundscapes. By employing the comparative analysis between national and international regulation, this article seeks to contribute to the study of ethical soundscape by comparing approaches in dealing with noise pollution.

METHOD

This article employs Pickvance's comparative qualitative analysis in exploring noise regulations applied by Indonesia (national level) and standard offered by the World Health Organisation (international level) (Pickvance, 2001). The objective of using comparative qualitative analysis is to depict various approaches that can be adopt in finding solution for noise pollution and constructing ethical soundscape in Indonesia. Data collecting include various sources, such as policy briefs and regulations as primary sources, with scholarly articles and organizational report as secondary sources. Data compiling used literature study technic by using journal database, such as Google Scholar, jstor, Sage Publication, and Elsevier. Acquired data will be categorised into national and international regulations, to make it easier to identify the similarities and differences between the two data sets.

Compiled data will further follow Pickvance' comparative design that required two conditions met: "(a) Data must be gathered on two or more cases. The cases may be countries, cities, firms or families – the nature of the unit is irrelevant; and (b) There must be an attempt to explain rather than only to describe". Based on the mentioned conditions, two set of regulations (national and international) will be explain to explore differences or similarities from the two set of regulations. In analysis, collected data will be analysed with steps as follow: (1) Explore a theoretically postulated relationship; (2) examine the social and cultural relationship within the study; (3) examine the influence between case studies; and (4) examine number of empirical cases to grasp the causal processes leading to

observed similarities and differences (Pickvance, 2001). Therefore, in presenting results and findings, this article follows the comparative analysis steps to understand a specific characteristic of how Indonesia and international communities perceived the problem of noise pollution and ethical soundscapes. While the article does not include primary field measurements (e.g., direct dB readings using a sound level meter), all comparative data are contextualized and cross-referenced with studies that clearly outline their methodology (e.g., location, duration, time of day of measurement). Where possible, multiple sources were triangulated to ensure consistency.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Noise Regulations in Indonesia

Noise regulations in Indonesia are existing and non-existing at the same time. There is comprehensive body of noise regulations comprises of national law, ministerial decree, or regional regulations that applied on specific province or district. The list of regulations on noise management is as follows (Pratisti, 2020; Mediastika e. a., 2022; Meilasari, 2025):

1. Regulation on Radio Broadcast for Dakwah and Early Morning Sermon (Keputusan Menteri Agama Nomor 44 Tahun 1978; Instruksi Menteri Agama No. 9 Tahun 1978; and Surat Edaran No.3 Tahun 1978
2. Instruction for Loudspeaker Operational Standard in Mosques (Instruksi Direktur Jenderal Bimbingan Masyarakat Islam No.Kep/D/101/1978; Restated on the Instruction Loudspeaker Operational Standard in Mosques (Edaran Dirjen Bi-mas Islam No. B.3940/DJ.III/HK.00.07/08/2018
3. Ministerial Decree No. 48 of 1996 Issued by the Ministry of Environment on specifies noise level limits for residential (55 dB(A)) and industrial zones (70 dB(A))
4. Government Regulation No. 48 of 2008 on legal framework for environmental noise control that puts a stricter limits during night-time to ensure residents' rest
5. Indonesian Ministry of Health Regulation No. 70 of 2016 recommended exposure time to noise is 85 dB(A) for 8 hours/day; However, according to Indonesia's national standard 7570 of 2023, the intensity noise level of 100 dB(A) is set for 15 minutes daily was consider as maximum noise exposure.
6. Ministerial Decree No. 56 of 2019 sets noise limits for new types of motorized vehicles, also noise emitted by vehicles operating on roads
7. Ministerial Decree No. PM 62 of 2021 sets standard noise to civil aviation for aircraft operating within Indonesian airspace.

However, despite the existing legal basis, public awareness to the existing regulations and threat from noise pollution is rather low. This condition leads to public ignorance to the danger of noise pollution exposure also latent social clash based on conflicting soundscapes. Furthermore, a non-constructive precedent of noise management occurred based on the case of citizen's complaints on the sound Adhan in Tanjung Balai, North Sumatera. For filing a complaint on the Adhanvoice which being too loud, Meliana charged with blasphemy law (Pratisti, 2020). This case contributes to the avoidance of discussing soundscape and noise issues in public sphere.

The lack of public awareness also contributes to the number of complaints. Mediastika et al (2022) stated, that here are 112 noise complaints and 68 complaints specific to mufflers during 13 years (2008 to 2021). Further depiction of noise complaints in Indonesia is present by Mediastika et al. as follow:

> *"Unsuccessful feedback triggers Indonesians not to report noise; also, the socio-condition of Indonesians makes them less prone to express their feelings through complaints. Evidence shows that noise complaints had become criminal in some cases when the complainants illegally solved the issue by attacking the noisemakers or objects that emit noise. This shows that most Indonesians do not have adequate knowledge of noise and are hesitant to rely on the fairness of the court process. The study shows that several complaints and tribunal's prominent cases shifted into disputes about whether the noise was validly measured, indicating that the stakeholders did not fully understand the standard and procedures for determining noise"*

The study also shows that the number was smaller amount compared to

other countries, for instance: from 2010 to 2018, USA record 2.92 million complaints, while Italy recorded around 10,000 complaints 2010 to 2018 with average 150 complaints per year, in similar vein, Singapore recorded 70,000 noise complaints per year (Mediastika e. a., 2022). Indonesia lesser number of complaints, clearly does not mean that the public aware to existing regulations, but more likely based on indifference position to the issue of noise pollution. Kang (2006) in his study mentioned that awareness to complaints over noise pollution is shaped by individual perception of threats, attitude, and government policy in shaping an ethical soundscapes. Reluctance to complaint and continual exposure to noise pollution can lead to vulnerable physical and psychological condition (Meilasari, 2025). In their study of noise in Indonesia, Mediastika et al (2023) mentioned the correlation between noise pollution exposures with raising trend of incidents, such as strife, fights, brawls, and crimes against public order. This argument share a similar vein with Flint (2013), which mentioned that noise contributes for crimes and harms, both at urban or rural. Flints also stated that noise management occurs for different reasons and in different contexts. For example, rural local authorities may introduce noise limits to protect tourism, sustainability, and the environment.

In urban environments, noise is a both a contributor to, and a multiplier of, different aspects of the social life, and thus requires specific control strategies. In Indonesia context, cases such as traffic noise disturbance, noise from entertainment sectors, noise from industrial activities, or mining activities; often end in violence, rather than taking legal action through applicable regulations. According to Mediastika et al (2023), many of the recorded cases shows that the one who making complaints often resort to violence due to their lack of awareness to the existing regulations. This indicates that a majority of Indonesians lack sufficient awareness regarding noise and are reluctant to trust the impartiality of the judicial system. The research reveals that numerous complaints and significant cases in the tribunal have transformed into debates over the legitimacy of noise measurement, suggesting that the parties involved did not entirely grasp the standards and methods for assessing noise.

In addition to the poor knowledge, study on noise regulations in Indonesia also described that government, both at national and local level, tend to "implemented an outdated and lax regulations that has not been revised since 1996". Furthermore, the existing regulation often failed to address the ethical share of public soundscapes. The limits of noise regulations also caused by the integrated law control of pollution that combined air, water, and noise pollution in one article, rather than having a separate and clear article. The only local government that provides clear measurement procedures for noise pollution is Yogyakarta; which applied both to noise pollution induced by human activities, also to the sound produce by cultural or religious activities (Mediastika e. a., 2023b).

Many large cities, including Jakarta and Surabaya, still struggle with the challenge of unregulated noise resulting in diminished public health and comfort levels. Consequently, Indonesia requires new comprehensive noise regulations that address both psychological and physical risks to the community, manage objects or functions, outline measurement protocols, ensure the use of qualified personnel, and impose strict penalties for infractions. Revisiting the established noise regulations is required to enhance the community well-being and constructing the ethical measure in the shared soundscapes.

International Noise Regulations

Noise pollution has garnered attention from scholars to activist, mainly due to its severe effects to human well-being. Different nations have tried numerous ways to reduce the amount of noise. The USA, for instance, has proceeded and developed websites where man-made noise pollution will not be accepted. In the same vein, the European Union has demanded that "noise maps" of all major cities with populations of over 250,000 be compiled by the year 2002. The regulations in the Netherlands prohibit the construction of homes in localities where the 24-hour average level of noise is above 50 dB to provide protection from the harmful effects of noise. In addition, the Noise Act in Great Britain gives the local authorities the authority to fine individuals who make excessive noise at night and seize noisy equipment (Singh, 2024).

The 2022 WHO Report mentioned that in Europe alone, more than one million

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lives threatened by the traffic-related noise (WHO, 2022). The number is doubled in developing countries caused by the increased movement of automobiles and the faster growth of cities that are linked to rising levels of noise pollution (Shaikh, 1999). Large-scale changes including increased urbanization, mobility, and mechanization, as well as the rising number of global population, increase the exposure to noise levels on a daily basis as mentioned by Abbaspour et al (2016). A recent study coordinated by the WHO (2024) has updated the parameters to enhance the evaluation of health risks linked to noise pollution. The threat is refer as "disability weights", indicate the severity of health loss associated with noise pollution, encompassing cardiovascular issues, mental health conditions, annoyance, and sleep disruptions.

The WHO standard has become main reference for international regulation for managing noise pollution. Based on the 2022 update standard, the WHO address the threats of noise pollution to general population that comes from various sources of human induce noise, such as traffic or industry. The standard also covers issue of amplified noise from other activities, such as leisure, sports, and occupational activities. In developing the international standards, The WHO initial standards is developed based on the WHO European Region studies in countries such as Netherland and Germany that considered has the strictest rules regarding noise pollution. In more recent development, the WHO standard also recommended in tackles noise exposure in other region as it is considered as the most comprehensive and suitable for global implementation. The WHO refers to the European Union Directive 2002/49/EC (3) for noise indicators by using measurement as follow: (1) Lden is an average sound pressure level over all days, evenings and nights in a year. (2) Lnight is the equivalent continuous sound pressure level when the reference time interval is the night; and (3) LAeq, T is the A-weighted (a frequency weighting to better reflect the human ear) at a given point in space (WHO, 2022).

Further, WHO has updated and specified standards for average noise exposure as follows:

1. < 53 dB Lden for road traffic noise
2. < 54 dB Lden for railway noise
3. < 45 dB Lden for aircraft noise
4. < 45 dB Lden for wind turbine noise
5. yearly average from all leisure source noises combined to ≤ 70 dB LAeq, 24h
6. weekly average from leisure sources (such as personal listening devices 14) ≤ 80 dB(A) or 1.6 Pa2h
7. short-term average from occasional exposure to leisure and sport source noise ≤ 100 dB LAeq, for 15 minutes.

For night noise exposure, the acceptable levels are as follow:

1. < 45 dB Lnight for road traffic noise
2. < 44 dB Lnight for railway noise
3. < 40 dB Lnight for aircraft noise.

When compared to Indonesian context, the noise regulations applied still referred to the previous WHO standard dated back in 1996 that sets the acceptable noise exposure level at 55 dB(A) for all sources. The above standard has not been introduced to Indonesian noise regulations policy.

The comprehensive standards by WHO also cover noise management and mitigation with specific intervention guidance for noise pollution that include (WHO, 2022):

1. Source intervention by changing the level of sound emission and restricting operational time;
2. Path intervention by changing the noise path between source and receiver also control the insulation in residential areas;
3. Intervention for New/closed infrastructure by applying noise control in the infrastructure noise source;
4. Other physical intervention is conducted by changing physical dimensions of residential areas; and
5. Behaviour change intervention by changing individual behaviour to reduce exposure, reduced duration of exposure, and community education.

These interventions has been used as guidance for tackled the problem of noise pollution, mostly in developed countries, while many developing countries such as India, Nepal, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Nigeria, still have not incorporated WHO guidelines into their national laws (Mediastika e. a., 2022). This problem shows the main limitation of the WHO's non-binding rules, despite the comprehensive standards, the implementation of the regulations still rely to the political willingness and decisions of national policy.

Study on international noise

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regulations also reflected in the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). Despite not being recognized directly as one of the SDGs program, noise management intersects with several key objectives of the UN SDGs. King (2022) outlines the interactions between noise and UN SDGs program that include cut cutting issues depicted as follow:

1. Noise and Economic-Focused SDGs

Overexposure to noise has tangible financial consequences, including decreased home values, missed workdays, less options for land use, and the high expense of addressing negative health effects. In addition to reducing economic values, noise-induced hearing loss is arguably one of the most challenging occupational issues worldwide. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared noise-induced hearing impairment to be the most common occupational hazard, with an estimated 120 million people worldwide suffering from disabling hearing difficulties. Thus, finding solutions to handling noise pollution becomes one of the focuses in SDGs economic development.

2. Noise and the Social-Focused SDGs

The effect of noise pollution to social and community live of people, is among the most indivisible case when discussing noise pollution in UN SDGs. Fisheries around the world are impacted by ocean noise, which directly reduce fishermen income. This problem directly challenges SDGs initiatives of reducing hunger and poverty. Better management on the marine noise pollution become significant issue to tackle. In addition to noise pollution at sea, enhancing management of noise in urban areas' will lessen the frequency of related detrimental health consequences, such as stress, fatigue, and other physical and psychological effects. King's overview also related noise management issues with other SGDs social focus program, including Good Health and Well-Being, Better Education, also peace and Strong Institutions.

3. Noise and the Environmental-Focused SDGs

Numerous new technical advancements have the potential to support numerous SDGs. The technical and technological development, however, must consider noise management at all stages of development. Poor assessments of the impact of noise will lead to either a significant waste of resources or failure in managing noise pollution. Noise management failure could even hinder progress towards more sustainable practices, which would further exacerbate the difficulty to achieve the SDGs. Noise management also in line with SDGs environmental program, mainly in maintaining sustainable life under water or life on land. Therefore, managing human induced noise is pertinent in achieving the UN SDGs.

The standards from WHO also cut cutting solute on with UN SDGs program play critical role in shaping international awareness of noise pollution. Comparing these standards with national noise regulations has provided insights to understand challenges facing by Indonesia in dealing with issue of noise pollution and social clash based on conflicting soundscapes.

Ethical Soundscapes: Constructing Noise Awareness in Public Spaces

In discussing the noise awareness in Indonesia, it is important to lay out the ethical standpoint of noise in public spaces. Holger Schulze (2018) noted that noise in public spaces should consider as social contract, "a shared space that demands mutual care, respect, and negotiation". Schulze identifies the concept of sonic well-being, where people could have their right to be undisturbed by any unwanted noise. However, in urban spaces, the right for silences is nearly impossible, as sonic expression (street musician or local vendor) is also part of social interaction. The key in ethical soundscapes, according to Schulze is negotiation between the voice emitter with the listener; ethical sound, support by public policy, can encourage awareness to respect other's well-being. Example can be found by referring to several cities that employs noise regulation for ethical soundscapes. For instance: Paris regulate Plan Bruit (Noise Action Plan) to reduce environmental noise; London employ Night-time Economy Noise Guidelines to ensure calmness in residential areas during night time; while Zurich has "Quiet Zones" protected by zoning law.

Another scholar contribute significantly to the study of soundscapes is Charles Hirschkind (2006). He defines ethical soundscapes as "A sensory and

affective environment structured by auditory practices, through which ethical dispositions are cultivated and moral subjectivity is formed". Hirschkind's further elaboration noted that sound can shape people's daily behavior, moral reason, spiritual sensibilities, and political identity. Thus, in constructing ethical soundscapes, each individual must put respect to other as they creating sound–or as Hirschkind noted, "making sound is an ethical practice, and ethical soundscapes help form ethical subjects". Despite having similar concept, Hirschkind study emphasis more on sound as cultural context compare to Schulze' socio-political approach. By focusing on Muslim soundscapes in Egypt, Hirschkind found that by ethical soundscapes hold key to understanding cultural context within sound. His finding found a resonance on Schafer's study on soundmark, which defined as "the sonic equivalent of a landmark, unique to a place or community, and holds cultural, historical, or emotional significance" (Schafer, 1994). By understanding the cultural context of sound, communities can negotiate different values, transmit a common perception, and internalize similar moral rhythms. Reflecting to Hirschkind notion, the practice of ethical soundscapes can be found in two extreme conditions: (1) Soundscapes in Egypt where cacophony and loud sound is appreciate as part of their culture; or (2) Soundscape in Tokyo where ethical soundscape with minimum noise disturbance in public spaces is achieve through strict social pressure.

Based on Schulze and Hirschkind conceptions on ethical soundscapes, two approaches can be used in the construction of ethical soundscapes in Indonesia. The first approach refers to the Schulze's socio-political ethical soundscapes, where the state plays an active role in regulating noise pollution. However, by comparing the national noise regulation implemented by Indonesian government with the international standards sets by the WHO, findings shows that regulations in Indonesia are still far below international standards as explain in the following table

Table 1. The comparative noise regulation in Indonesia and WHO Best Practice

Issue Area	Current Situation in Indonesia	Best Practice / WHO Standard
Regulatory Framework	Limited, fragmented regulations;	Integrated national policies addressing environmental noise comprehensively
Impact on Public Health	Rising complaints of sleep disturbance, stress, and other health issues	WHO: Prolonged exposure above 70 dB should be avoided to prevent health damage.
Conflict Resolution Capacity	Local government officials often lack training and knowledge to mediate noise-related disputes	WHO emphasizes participatory planning, mediation tools, and community education.
Urban Planning / Infrastructure	Lack consideration of infrastructure	WHO advises buffer zones and land use regulation based on noise mapping and impact studies.
Policy Integration	National development often overlooks environmental sound as a health	WHO urges that environmental noise be integrated into sustainable development
Potential Solutions	Needs stronger national guidance, public education	Follow WHO's Environmental Noise Guidelines and adopt international best practices for noise intervention planning.

(Pratisti, 2020, Mediastika et al, 2022, 2023, WHO 2000, 2022, 2024)

Outdated standards make noise pollution in Indonesia is among the worst in the world, with traffic noise and inter-cultural soundscapes being the main source of conflict (Pratisti, 2020; Mediastika e. a., 2022). The lack of regulation led to worsening public health and inter-community violence, this condition is coupled with government official's lack of knowledge in handling conflicts based on noise disturbances. Government's lack of knowledge also contribute to

mismanagement of sound, for example, factories is built near residential areas, or railroad that also did not considered noise effect to the surrounding. This problem can be avoided if national development policies pay attention to WHO standards regarding noise intervention (WHO, 2022).

Socio-political approach also challenge by community lack of awareness to noise pollution. Anrofi et al (2024) identify four causes: (1) normalization of noise due to high exposure of noise disturbance; (2) lack of education as most people do not recognize sound disturbance as pollution; (3) cultural and social habit that shaped sound tolerance toward specific noise disturbance; and (4) the lack of regulation. In Indonesia context, despite needed more updating to increase the standards, noise regulations has been published in the form of decree, also in national or local policy. Thus, in addressing community lack of awareness, point number 1 to 3 has more resonance to the problem. Community engagement in narrating the threat of noise pollution should take place in Indonesia's public sphere. Schulz in 2008 [46] stated that awareness to noise is registered as sensual perception and formed orientation, which means, understanding the problem of noise disturbance can change how community perceived sound. Kollia et al (2025) noted that social media can play significant role in increasing people awareness on noise pollution, as stated in their article:

> *"Analysis of video characteristics indicated that the 100 most viewed videos on YouTube on the topic of noise pollution were uploaded from 2009 to 2023, with the highest frequency of uploads occurring in 2022 (16%), with 27% originating from the general public and 73% originating from professional health organizations"*

However, in Indonesia, public discussion on noise disturbance is overlapped with conflicting soundscapes and legal charges. The case and the legal charge (by applying blasphemy law to citizen' complaint) has diverts public attention from the real problem, while at the same time creates people's reluctance to conduct reasonable publicly discussion on noise disturbance.

The case related to noise disturbance is in line with the second approach of ethical soundscape by Hirschkind (2006) that focus on the cultural and community aspects. Public discussion and education regarding noise pollution are important steps in building ethical soundscapes, where the public can play an active role in building a healthy sonic environment. Community awareness also play important role in shaping an ethical behavior toward noise disturbance. For example, religious and cultural sound, should respect communities in general. Community awareness also perform as the forefront in noise management as standards set by the WHO also involves community in making their own regulation in dealing with noise disturbance. By actively making their own regulation, community can shape and transmit their contextual values to construct an ethical soundscapes that works each community.

Therefore, in dealing with noise pollution in Indonesia, a community approach is equally important to the socio-political approach. In practice, putting emphasis to community efforts in constructing ethical soundscapes has been regulated through the Regulation for Religious Harmony (Peraturan Bersama (PBM) Menteri Agama dan Menteri dalam Negeri No. 9/2006 and No. 8/2006) (Pratisti, 2020). However, without public discourse, awareness of building an ethical soundscape, at both the government and community level, is still far from being realized.

CONCLUSION

The problem of noise pollution in Indonesia is overlook due to the minimum awareness from either the government or the public. Consequently, noise pollution threatens various aspects of people's lives, including health and psychological threats, also contributing to inter-community conflict due to noise complaints. In positioning public noise, this article employs the concept of ethical soundscapes to grasp the socio-political and community approach in dealing with the noise pollution in Indonesia. Analysis is made by comparing national noise regulations to international standards sets by the World Health Organization (WHO) and standards included in United Nation Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). Further analysis shows three findings: First, Indonesia noise regulation is rather outdated since the regulation did not apply the current standard of the WHO. The regulation still refer to the 1996 standard that

has narrow scope (using a simple and single weight-decibel measurement to all sources dB(A)) and higher tolerance to noise disturbance (sets to 55 dB(A), which is higher than the later standard that sets between (40-53 dB LAeq). Second, the out of date regulation cause public lack awareness to the danger of noise pollution and less ethical noise behavior. Lastly, in constructing ethical soundscapes, socio-political and community based approaches are correspondingly significant to strengthen regulation and public awareness. However, without education and promoting public discourse, Indonesia government and public is unlikely to construct a balance and ethical soundscapes.

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