# Can Virtual Reality (VR) Give Us Better Understanding on Borderless Issue of Social Justice?

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**Abstract.** Some difficulties for lawyers and academics to understand common value of justice beyond national border is mainly the state often determine which country's laws, rights, and obligations apply to individuals. People residing within a state's borders are typically subject to its legal and regulatory frameworks, while those outside such boundary doesn't. This paper limits the discussion of social justice concept on how it can be perceived intersubjectively in cross-border shared experiences. We promote the use of Virtual Reality (VR) technology as means to enable people who are separated by national border, to access common virtual space to open discussion and furthermore 'live' in communities or culture with different background far separated in physical realty. This is a conceptual writing, and we collect literature review from researchers who utilize and find future benefits of VR technology in promoting justice, equality, and cross-cultural understanding. We take step to a hypothetical concept where technological advancements, particularly those related to the digital realm, have led to a world where traditional physical boundaries and limitations have been transcended. In such a society, the limitations imposed by geographical borders, national jurisdictions, and physical presence would be significantly diminished or even eliminated.

**Keywords:** Virtual Reality (VR), Borderless, Social Justice.

## 1    Introduction

When we look at photograph of our planet taken by satellites and other space probes, we see connected landmass and waters adjacent to each other. Despite that, we are accustomed to think as society, us and them, we live separated as nations or countries that draw lines here and there on the surface of earth, an imaginary border [1]. This conceptual border separates one political jurisdiction from another. This border is not a physical barrier but rather a legal and administrative division that defines the territorial limits of a specific state or country. These borders are often delineated by treaties, agreements, historical claims, and international recognition. Imaginary borders are significant because they establish the legal framework within which a state exercises its sovereignty, enforces its laws, and conducts its governance. These borders define the territory over which a state has jurisdiction and control, both internally and internationally.

They can encompass a range of geographic features, including land, water bodies, and airspace.

This border concept creates universal consensus called state territory. It represents a political concept, distinctly separate from the geographical notion of land, which refers to the portion of the earth's surface not submerged in water. Naturally, the majority of land falls under the jurisdiction of a specific state, thus being considered territory. However, there exist instances of unclaimed land or land that is subject to dispute between two states. Moreover, the territorial jurisdiction of a state also encompasses the airspace above and the offshore sea, making it not synonymous with land alone. Territory, then, is more than topology, in part because it includes the idea of political authority [2]. In the context of global awareness, such as taking idea of social justice as universal agenda, this imaginary border sometimes finds itself limited. State borders have a profound impact on how people's lives are governed, how they move, how they interact with each other, and how they are treated by their governments and other states. The complexities and limitations associated with state borders require careful consideration of legal, ethical, and human rights factors to ensure the well-being and rights of individuals and communities.

Some difficulties for lawyers and academics to understand common value of justice beyond national border is mainly the state often determine which country's laws, rights, and obligations apply to individuals. People residing within a state's borders are typically subject to its legal and regulatory frameworks, while those outside such boundary doesn't. Citizenship and nationality are closely tied to state borders, influencing an individual's rights, access to services, and legal status. Another obvious factor is most people live in area within a country separated far away by geographic limitation to access and interact with other people in another country.

## 2      Methods

We understand that concept of justice is varied, so far, no universal understanding about what justice really is. It always been defined under different perspectives, experiences, political thoughts, and cultural backgrounds. Not so many people, perhaps beside some researcher who have opportunities to visit and observe foreign countries and society in direct engagement, most of us spend more time in our own home country. It is hard for us to get direct access other people from different country, and thus to obtain cross border understanding of social justice.

This paper limits the discussion of social justice concept on how it can be perceived intersubjectively in cross-border shared experiences. We promote the use of Virtual Reality (VR) technology as means to enable people who are separated by national border, to access common virtual space to open discussion and furthermore 'live' in communities or culture with different background far separated in physical realty. This is a conceptual writing, and we collect literature review from researchers who utilize and find future benefits of VR technology in promoting justice, equality, and cross-cultural understanding.

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## 3    Discussion

As a pivotal historical juncture, the concept of justice remains a subject of ongoing debate, with its realization eagerly anticipated throughout the passage of time. Similarly, in tandem with the evolution of the current legal framework, the emergence of a modern legal system is witnessed in our contemporary era. This period, often referred to as the technological age, is marked by swift industrialization and rapid advancements. A universally agreed-upon definition of social justice remains elusive. The contemporary comprehension of this normative concept is deeply rooted in political philosophy. Various disciplines, such as sociology, social psychology, law and jurisprudence, and human geography, among others, have collectively contributed to shaping its theoretical foundations and delineating its core components [3]. Social justice pertains to the notion of ensuring a just and equitable allocation of resources, opportunities, and privileges within a society. Its objective is to confront and remedy systemic inequalities and injustices prevalent within the societal framework. It encompasses various aspects of social, economic, and political life, aiming to ensure that all individuals, regardless of their background, have equal access to rights, benefits, and participation in society. It's important to note that the concept of social justice can be interpreted differently by various individuals and groups, and debates may arise about the most effective methods for achieving it. Nonetheless, the overall aim remains to create a more equitable and just society for all. The concept of social justice in education is grounded in various legal frameworks, serving to fortify the accessibility of education for every citizen. Every citizen possesses equal rights and is entitled to non-discriminatory treatment, including access to high-quality educational services tailored to individual needs. In Indonesia, the legal foundation pertaining to education rests upon the fundamental right guaranteed to every individual, as outlined in laws, policies, and government regulations [4].

In legal education, the promotion of social justice is approached as both a learning activity for law students and a community service initiative. Particularly, this endeavor aims to address the social injustices faced by disadvantaged and marginalized individuals, especially those belonging to underprivileged communities. This learning model strives to cultivate social justice awareness among students, aspiring for the development of an inherent sense of social justice advocacy. The goal is to nurture law graduates who are not solely oriented toward handling lucrative cases but are also inherently committed to championing social justice causes. The swift evolution of technology perpetually reshapes societal norms and permeates every aspect of human life. Staying abreast of the latest technological advancements can be overwhelming, and integrating these technologies into practical applications can be even more challenging. The realm

of education, although traditionally slower to adapt compared to other sectors, inevitably undergoes transformations to accommodate these changes. Technologies initially on the periphery, championed by technologically adept educators, frequently transition into integral components of mainstream educational paradigms. For instance, digital lesson delivery through video conferencing software, once considered innovative, has now become a standard practice in education.

Virtual Reality (VR) has commenced its shift from the periphery of technological innovations to a capability suitable for integration into mainstream practices. The transition of legal education to online learning, compelled by circumstances, has revealed that certain objectives have not been met as anticipated [5]. Social justice in virtual reality (VR) involves using VR technology and experiences to raise awareness, promote empathy, and address social issues and inequalities. VR has the potential to create immersive environments that allow users to gain a deeper understanding of various social justice concerns and engage with them in a unique and impactful way. The technology can offer personalized experiences that allow users to make choices and experience the consequences of those choices, helping them understand the complexities of social justice issues.

Immersive and interactive Virtual Reality (VR) experiences replicate environments that users can engage with through digitally mediated sensory stimuli [6]. Immersive Virtual Environments (IVEs) have the capacity to perceptually replicate the physical world, providing users with a sense of 'presence' within the virtual experience. Some characteristics of VR-based immersive experiences can be accessed to social justice agendas. Researchers have conduct various activity to measure behavioural or attitude adjustment for users such as, among others:

- Empathy Building [7]: VR experiences can place users in the shoes of individuals who have experienced discrimination, prejudice, or other social injustices. This immersive approach can help users develop a stronger sense of empathy and understanding for marginalized communities. Given its nuanced nature, empathy serves as a crucial concept in elucidating the ability to understand and share the thoughts and emotions of others, making it indispensable in the discourse surrounding social injustice [8].
- Education and Awareness [9]: While there are discernible applications and pedagogical approaches emerging in the realm of VR, there exist significant and distinctive considerations and challenges related to this technology. VR is still in its nascent stages, retaining a novelty factor, especially when integrated into classroom settings. VR can be used to create educational content that highlights various social justice topics, such as racial inequality, gender discrimination, poverty, and more. This can lead to increased awareness and knowledge among users.
- Fostering Cross-Cultural Understanding [10]: VR can facilitate cross-cultural interactions and dialogues, allowing users from different backgrounds to engage in meaningful conversations and learn from one another. Virtual Reality (VR) harbors the potential to revolutionize individuals' interactions with virtual content, particularly in remote contexts. Hence, it is imperative to comprehend the factors influencing its global adoption within a cross-cultural context. This necessity arises from the fact

that education now transcends national and cultural confines. In this era of global interconnectivity, it becomes crucial to discern whether certain factors are more predominant in specific cultures. This understanding is essential for the purpose of designing and employing VR technology that can effectively navigate these barriers or be tailored to individual cultural contexts.

- Restorative Justice Initiatives: VR can be used to facilitate restorative justice processes, providing a safe space for dialogue and healing between victims, offenders, and communities affected by harm. In nations across the globe, restorative justice has surfaced as a viable prospect. This approach typically encompasses an interactive process wherein stakeholders engage in identifying and addressing the harms inflicted by a crime. However, numerous contexts face limitations in resources hindering the full realization of its potential benefits. While restorative justice manifests in diverse forms, the fundamental principle underlying each variant lies in the ability to adopt the perspective of those who experienced the harm, comprehending the repercussions through their eyes [11]. Embodying an avatar offers the opportunity to experience the world as another. In this way, immersed perspective taking can undermine otherness and induce empathy or self-other overlap. When live-survivor encounters are not available or (yet) appropriate, properly designed and implemented virtual reality experiences could serve as thread in the societal undertaking that works toward that repair [11].

## 4     Conclusion

There are many other promising paths in utilizing VR technology, which we do not seek to elaborate each in this paper. However, we can see that at least four points, empathy building, education and awareness, cross-cultural understanding, and restorative justice is closely linked to idea of social justice. The virtual era presents numerous opportunities for justice education, offering innovative ways to enhance learning, increase access, and promote understanding of legal and social justice issues. We can also develop VR as medium to offer innovative ways to teach and engage learners about topics related to social justice, human rights, legal systems, and more.

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