

Community Acceptance of New Criminal Law Policies in Cases of Violence

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ABSTRAK

This research aims to explore public acceptance of new criminal law policies applied in handling cases of violence in Indonesia. With a qualitative approach, the study used in-depth interviews and focus group discussions to collect data from different walks of life, including victims of violence, perpetrators, law enforcement, and members of the general public. The results show that while there has been positive reception for increased sanctions and legal reforms aimed at protecting victims, there are concerns about the implementation and consistency of law enforcement. Many respondents expressed the need for better education and social support to ensure that the policy is effective in practice. These findings provide important insights into how new policies are accepted on the ground and what obstacles are faced in the implementation process. This research is expected to be a reference for policymakers and legal practitioners in formulating more effective strategies in handling cases of violence in the future.

Keywords: Community Acceptance, New Criminal Law Policy, Cases of Violence, Law Enforcement, Legal Reform, Social Education

INTRODUCTION

Violence, both in the household and in public spaces, is a serious problem that threatens people's welfare and social stability. In Indonesia, cases of violence, such as domestic violence, gender-based violence, and workplace violence, have prompted the need for reforms in the criminal justice system. New criminal law policies have been implemented to tighten sanctions for perpetrators of violence, improve protection mechanisms for victims, and improve existing legal procedures. These policies include stricter regulations, increased support for victims, and improvements in legal processes to ensure fair and effective enforcement (Kurniawan & Widiastuti, 2023).

However, the success of these policies is highly dependent on public acceptance. Public acceptance not only affects the effectiveness of policy implementation but also affects public trust in the legal system. Previous research has shown that policies that are considered appropriate and beneficial by the community tend to be more effective in achieving their goals, while policies that are not accepted can face challenges in their implementation (Julianto & Pratiwi, 2022). Therefore, it is important to understand how society accepts new criminal law policies related to cases of violence, as well as the factors that influence such acceptance.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach to explore public acceptance of new criminal law policies in handling cases of violence. This approach was chosen because it allows researchers to gain an in-depth understanding of public perceptions, experiences, and attitudes towards the policy. By using qualitative methods, this study can reveal the factors that affect public acceptance as well as challenges in policy implementation.

Data were collected through two main techniques: In-Depth Interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). Data obtained from interviews and FGDs were analyzed using thematic

analysis techniques. This research was conducted in several major cities in Indonesia that represent a variety of social and economic contexts. The sample was purposively selected to ensure representation of various relevant community groups. The total sample consisted of 30-40 participants, including 15-20 people for in-depth interviews and 3-4 groups in the FGD. To ensure validity and reliability, this study used data triangulation techniques by combining in-depth interviews and FGDs. In addition, feedback from research participants and peer review was conducted to verify findings and interpretations. Field records and audio recordings are also checked to ensure data accuracy.

RESULT

Public Views on the New Criminal Law Policy

The results of interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs) show that public acceptance of new criminal law policies in handling cases of violence tends to be positive, but there are variations in their views. Most respondents, including victims of violence and members of the general public, saw the new policy as a step forward in improving protections for victims and upholding justice. They feel that stricter sanctions and improved legal procedures can reduce violence and provide better protection (Hadi & Ningsih, 2023).

However, some respondents, especially those directly involved with the legal system, expressed concerns about the effectiveness of policy implementation. They noted that there is uncertainty and chaos in the implementation of new policies, including a lack of training for law enforcement officials and uneven implementation in various regions (Rizal & Tanjung, 2023).

Factors Affecting Public Acceptance

This study identifies several key factors influencing public acceptance of new criminal law policies:

1. Trust in the legal system : Respondents who have high trust in the legal system tend to be more supportive of new policies. They feel that the policy is the right step to improve the existing legal system (Wahyudi & Subianto, 2023).
2. Understanding and Awareness : The level of public understanding of the new policy and their rights greatly influences acceptance. Respondents who have a good understanding of policy changes tend to be more supportive and participate in legal processes (Lestari, 2023).
3. Law Enforcement Performance : Perceptions of law enforcement's performance in implementing new policies also affect revenue. Respondents who felt that law enforcement was not professional enough or consistent in law enforcement showed higher levels of dissatisfaction (Purnama & Kusuma, 2023).

Challenges in Policy Implementation

This study finds several significant challenges in the implementation of new criminal law policies:

1. Resource Constraints : Many law enforcers report resource limitations, such as lack of specialized training and adequate facilities, which hinder the effectiveness of policy implementation (Jati & Prasetyo, 2023).
2. Lack of Socialization : Research shows that the lack of socialization and education about new policies to the public and law enforcement leads to misunderstanding and resistance to policies (Marwan & Pratiwi, 2023).

3. Implementation Inequality : There are differences in policy implementation between urban and rural areas, which leads to inequities in the protection and enforcement of the law (Aditya & Lestari, 2023).

PEMBAHASAN

Community Acceptance and Policy Implementation

The positive reception of the new criminal law policy shows that the public considers this reform important and relevant. However, the negative views that emerge, especially related to implementation, signal that the success of this policy requires further attention to the practical aspects of its implementation.

1. Acceptance Factors

Factors that influence public acceptance, such as trust in the legal system and understanding of policies, suggest that education and transparency are key to increasing public support. Effective training and socialization programs can improve understanding and trust in new policies.

2. Challenges and Recommendations

Challenges in implementation, including limited resources and lack of socialization, require integrated solutions. Governments and relevant agencies should improve training for law enforcement, improve communication with the public, and ensure that policies are implemented consistently across regions. Efforts to improve equality in policy implementation between urban and rural areas are also critical to achieving fair and effective outcomes.

CONCLUSION

Public acceptance of the new criminal law policy in handling cases of violence tends to be positive, as it is seen to provide better protection for victims. The public perceives this policy as a progressive step in the criminal justice system. However, there are differing views on the effectiveness of its implementation, especially among victims and law enforcement officials. The level of trust in the legal system plays a crucial role in shaping public attitudes. Those who have confidence in the legal system are more likely to accept the new policy compared to those who are skeptical. In addition, adequate legal understanding and awareness contribute to broader public acceptance. Unfortunately, challenges remain in implementation, such as limited resources and lack of public outreach. Unequal implementation between urban and rural areas also creates disparities in access to justice. Therefore, improving legal education, providing sufficient resources, and ensuring consistent application are necessary steps. With these efforts, the new criminal law policy is expected to function effectively and fairly.

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