

Criminal Policy in Combating Street Crime in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Street crime is one of the social problems that continues to be a concern in Indonesia because it has a direct impact on the security and comfort of the community. Criminal policies in overcoming street crime are an important instrument for law enforcement officers and policy makers to reduce the crime rate. This article aims to analyze the effectiveness of criminal policies implemented in overcoming street crime in Indonesia. A normative legal approach is used by analyzing related laws and regulations as well as legal literature and law enforcement reports. The focus of the study includes provisions in the Criminal Code (KUHP), Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, and Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System. The results of the study indicate that although the policy has provided a strong legal basis, enforcement and coordination between institutions still need to be improved so that overcoming street crime can run effectively and sustainably. This study provides recommendations for strengthening policy synergy and community-based preventive approaches.

Keywords :Crime Policy, Street Crime, Prevention

INTRODUCTION

Street crime is a phenomenon that continues to be a major challenge in maintaining public order and security in Indonesia. This crime includes various criminal acts committed in public spaces, such as theft, robbery, assault, brawls, and vandalism. Street crime not only causes material losses, but also causes fear and discomfort for residents, which in turn can disrupt social stability and national development.

In the context of criminal law, street crimes are regulated in various articles of the Criminal Code, especially those regulating the crime of theft (Article 362), assault (Article 351), and other unlawful acts. However, the main problem lies not only in the legal provisions,

but also on the implementation of policies for handling and enforcing the law in the field. Street crime cases often involve child and adolescent perpetrators, so a special approach is needed through the Child Criminal Justice System Law (UU SPPA) which prioritizes the principle of restorative justice.

Effective law enforcement against street crime also depends heavily on the role of the Indonesian National Police (Polri), which is regulated in Law Number 2 of 2002. The function of the Polri as a guardian of public security and order must be carried out with synergy between repressive and preventive approaches. In addition, the role of the community in preventing crime is also an important aspect that needs to be encouraged in the prevention policy.

The problem of street crime in Indonesia is still complex and requires comprehensive handling. High levels of unemployment, poverty, and lack of education are the main triggers for high crime rates in public spaces. Therefore, the criminal policy implemented must not only be law enforcement, but also integrate social and economic aspects.

This study aims to examine the criminal policies that apply in tackling street crime in Indonesia, with a focus on the effectiveness and challenges of its implementation. A normative legal approach is used to examine related laws and regulations, legal literature, and relevant court decisions. The results of the study are expected to provide input for policy makers and law enforcement officers to formulate more effective strategies in tackling street crime.

METHOD

This study uses a normative legal approach, which focuses on the study of applicable legal norms and primary and secondary legal documents. Primary data sources are in the form of laws and regulations related to street crime, including the Criminal Code (KUHP), Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, and Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System. Secondary data are obtained from legal literature, scientific journals, reports from law enforcement agencies, and court decisions related to street crime.

The data collection technique is carried out through library research, with descriptive qualitative analysis aimed at describing and analyzing policies and practices for combating street crime. This study also discusses institutional aspects and synergy between law enforcement officers and the role of society in implementing criminal policies.

DISCUSSION

Street crime is a crime that occurs in public spaces and involves acts of violence or threats of

violence that disrupt public security. This crime has a wide impact, not only material losses but also psychological, reducing residents' sense of security and inhibiting community socio-economic activities. According to Criminology theory, street crime is often influenced by social, economic, and cultural factors. A study by Siegel (2015) states that social inequality and unemployment are the main factors causing high street crime.

The Criminal Code regulates various criminal acts that are included in street crimes, such as theft (Article 362), assault (Article 351), and other unlawful acts. However, the Criminal Code regulations are still general and do not specifically regulate street crimes as a separate category. This causes law enforcement to sometimes lack focus and coordination between institutions to be less effective.

Law No. 2 of 2002 gives the main task of the Police in maintaining public security and order. In practice, the Police implement preventive policies such as routine patrols, and a repressive approach through legal action against street criminals. However, obstacles such as limited resources and less than optimal coordination with other authorities remain challenges.

Many street criminals are minors, so Law No. 11 of 2012 concerning the SPPA provides a legal framework for special handling of children. The restorative justice approach is more emphasized, prioritizing victim recovery and coaching perpetrators so that they do not return to crime. A study by Lestari (2020) emphasized the importance of implementing the SPPA to reduce recidivism of child criminals. Combating street crime still faces various challenges, such as a lack of accurate data and information, weak coordination between institutions, and minimal community participation. A study by Sari (2021) showed that the success of combating it is highly dependent on synergy between institutions and active community involvement as part of prevention. To increase the effectiveness of combating street crime, it is necessary to strengthen synergy between law enforcement agencies, increase human resource capacity, and a preventive approach that involves community education and economic empowerment. Community-based approaches such as neighborhood watch programs can increase a sense of security and reduce crime.

Based on modern social and criminological theory, street crime cannot be solved only with a criminal law approach, but also requires integrated social and economic intervention. According to strain theory (Merton, 1938), socio-economic pressures felt by individuals can trigger criminal behavior. Therefore, criminal policy must be balanced with social programs to address the root causes of crime.

CONCLUSION

Combating street crime in Indonesia requires a comprehensive and integrated criminal policy. The Criminal Code, the Police Law, and the SPPA Law provide an adequate legal framework, but their implementation still faces various obstacles. Effective law enforcement must be supported by solid inter-agency coordination and an approach that prioritizes prevention. Community involvement as partners in prevention is also very important to create a safe environment. A restorative justice

approach for child offenders is a strategic step to reduce recidivism. In addition, strengthening the human resources of law enforcement officers needs to be continuously carried out. The government must integrate social and economic policies to reduce the factors causing street crime. Public awareness and education must be increased so that community participation is more optimal. With these steps, combating street crime can be more effective and sustainable. This study recommends periodic evaluation and policy adjustments according to social developments. Commitment from all parties is needed to realize security and order in public spaces.

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