



## EFFORTS OF CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN FOSTERING RECIDIVIST INMATES

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Received: January 25, 2025 Accepted: February 09, 2025 Online Published: 30 June 2025

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**Abstract:** Correctional Institutions (Prisons) play an essential role in the rehabilitation of inmates, intending to prepare them to be able to reintegrate into society productively and responsibly. Coaching programs in prisons, which include mental, spiritual, skillful, and educational aspects, are designed to reduce recidivism by helping inmates understand social and legal norms. However, the high rate of recidivism in Indonesia shows that the program is not yet fully effective. Factors such as social stigma, difficulty in getting a job, limited facilities, lack of family support, and the lack of deterrent effects of criminal punishment also make it difficult for former inmates to live a better life post-release. Therefore, a more holistic approach to the penitentiary system is needed, which focuses not only on corporal punishment but also on thorough rehabilitation involving skills training, education, and psychological support to increase the chances of ex-convicts living a crime-free life.

**Keywords:** *Correctional Institution; Prisoner Development; Recidivist*

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### I. INTRODUCTION

The Correctional Institution is a place to carry out the coaching process for inmates and correctional students, as stipulated in Article 1 paragraph 3 of Law Number 12 of 1995. Coaching in Correctional Institution is based on the principles of protection, equality of treatment and service, education, guidance, respect for human dignity and dignity, with detention as the only form of suffering accepted. In the legal framework and criminal justice structure, prisoner rehabilitation efforts emerge as

a fundamental element in maintaining order, security, and public order. As the main institution responsible for the implementation of criminal sanctions, Correctional Institutions play a central role in carrying out the rehabilitation process for inmates. Prisons are not only tasked with executing sentences imposed by the courts, but also serve as a place of transformation aimed at improving the behavior of inmates so that they can return to function productively and responsibly in society.<sup>1</sup>

This rehabilitation approach focuses on the recovery of inmates from various aspects, both mentally, morally, and socially. This is done by implementing coaching programs that aim to rebuild the capacity of individual inmates in understanding and implementing applicable legal and social norms. Through this process, it is hoped that inmates who have completed their sentences will not repeat the crimes they have committed, so that the potential for repeat crimes, or better known as recidivism, can be minimized.<sup>2</sup>

Prisoner rehabilitation also has a strategic role in achieving the broader goals of the criminal justice system, namely realizing justice and creating a safer society. In this case, the prison serves as a bridge for inmates to better carry out social reintegration. Successful social reintegration depends not only on the criminal sanctions themselves, but also on the effectiveness of the rehabilitation programs implemented while the inmates are in prisons.

In this regard, the latest rules and policies further emphasize the importance of a rehabilitation approach in the correctional system. This development reflects the strong aspirations of various parties to implement rehabilitative measures as an integral part of the penal process, with the ultimate goal of creating a more just and peaceful society. Through the application of the rehabilitation approach, prisons are no longer just places of punishment, but as transformation centers that support inmates to improve themselves and return to society with better potential. This is in line with the modern approach in criminal justice that emphasizes more on rehabilitation than just punishment, as well as giving prisoners the opportunity to improve their lives, thereby reducing the risk of recurrence of crimes in the future.

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<sup>1</sup> Hendra Ekaputra and Faisal Santiago, 2020. *Development of Proficiency of The Life of Development Citizens in Corruption Institutions Through Work Guidance as a Form of Fulfilling Human Rights*. Jurnal HAM 11, no. 3, p. 5.

<sup>2</sup> Erlangga Alif Mufti and Ontran Sumantri Riyanto, 2023. *Peran Lembaga Pemasyarakatan dalam Upaya Rehabilitasi Narapidana untuk Mengurangi Tingkat Residivis*. Al-Manhaj: Jurnal Hukum dan Pranata Sosial Islam 5, no. 2, p. 7.

The coaching program in the Correctional Institution covers various aspects, such as mental, spiritual, skills, and education coaching. Mental and spiritual coaching aims to change the attitude and mindset of inmates so that they can adjust to the norms that apply in society, so that they do not repeat the crimes they have committed. Skills and education development programs, on the other hand, provide opportunities for inmates to acquire knowledge and skills that are useful in the world of work. This is done through job training, entrepreneurial activities, and formal and non-formal education held in Correctional Institutions.

In fact, although the justice and correctional system in Indonesia has implemented various coaching and rehabilitation efforts, the recidivism rate or the return of criminals after serving their sentences is still quite high. The number of cases of recidivist offenders shows that not all coaching programs run in Correctional Institutions are able to prevent inmates from returning to commit crimes after they are released. This phenomenon can be caused by various factors. One of them is the lack of effectiveness of coaching programs in helping inmates fundamentally change their mindset and behavior. Existing rehabilitation programs may not be fully successful in preparing inmates to face the challenges of life outside prison, especially in terms of social and economic reintegration. Many former inmates have difficulty finding jobs or being readmitted by the community after they are released from prison. The social stigma attached to them often hinders efforts to improve themselves, so some of them fall back into crime as a way to survive.

In addition, the limited facilities and resources in Correctional Institutions are also one of the obstacles in the implementation of the coaching program. Prisons in Indonesia often face the problem of overcapacity, which has an impact on the quality of coaching provided to inmates. When the number of inmates far exceeds the available capacity, the individual attention and assistance needed by each inmate becomes difficult to realize. As a result, the rehabilitation program does not run optimally and inmates do not receive adequate guidance.

## **II. RESEARCH METHODS**

This research uses a qualitative approach and uses the type of research is empirical legal research which is a type of legal research that is carried out by examining the

actual situation that occurs in society or looking for facts related to the problems in the research. This study combines two data, namely primary and secondary data.<sup>3</sup>

### III. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

#### a. Stages of Correctional Institutions in Carrying Out Coaching for Recidivist Prisoners

Correctional Institutions have certain stages in carrying out coaching for recidivist inmates. This coaching aims to minimize the possibility of inmates returning to commit crimes after serving their sentences. The following are the stages carried out in the development of recidivist inmates:<sup>4</sup>

1) Initial Assessment Stage

At this stage, a through assessment of recidivist inmates is carried out to understand their criminal background, mental and physical conditions, and recidivism motivations. This assessment involves a team of psychologists, correctional officers, and social workers. The results of this initial assessment will be the basis for developing a coaching program that suits the needs of individual inmates.

2) Classification of Prisoners

After an initial assessment, inmates are classified based on the type of crime, risk level, and coaching needs. This classification helps determine the most appropriate and effective rehabilitation program. Recidivist inmates often require a more intensive approach than ordinary inmates, given the potential for repetition of crimes.

3) Mental and Spiritual Development Program

Mental and spiritual coaching aims to improve the mindset and morality of prisoners. Through spiritual guidance, counseling, and religious activities, recidivist inmates are expected to develop awareness not to repeat the same mistakes. In addition, this program also aims to foster a sense of responsibility and respect for moral values that apply in society.

4) Skills Development and Education

Recidivist inmates often have difficulty getting a job or reintegrating into society after being released. Therefore, the prison provides skills training

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<sup>3</sup> Soerjono Soekanto, 1983. *Pengantar Penelitian Hukum*. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta, p. 7.

<sup>4</sup> Saraswati Aji Sawitri, et al., 2023. *Implementasi Pembinaan Narapidana Residivis di Lembaga Pemasyarakatan Kelas IIA Kabupaten Bengkalis (Periode Tahun 2019-2021)*. Jurnal Online Mahasiswa (JOM) Bidang Ilmu Hukum 10, No. 1, p. 9-10.

and education to help them prepare for the world of work. The program includes a wide range of technical training such as carpentry skills, workshops, sewing, and other entrepreneurial skills. It is hoped that through this coaching, inmates can acquire useful abilities after release, so that they do not return to the criminal path.

5) Social Development and Reintegration

At this stage, the prison provides coaching that focuses on developing the ability of inmates to interact healthily with the social environment. The activities carried out include group therapy, social attitude coaching, and good communication training. The goal of this stage is to prepare recidivist inmates to be able to re-adapt to their family and community environment after they are released.

6) Post-Liberation Monitoring and Support

After recidivist inmates are released, the prison works with various parties to monitor and provide support. This assistance includes social and economic assistance so that former inmates can be independent and not return to criminal behavior. Periodic monitoring is carried out to ensure that inmates have been able to adapt to the community environment and do not experience difficulties that can trigger recidivism behavior.

**b. Factors Affecting the Occurrence of Recidivism**

Every individual involved in a criminal act must have a different background that motivates them to commit the act. The factors that cause a person to commit a criminal act are very diverse, ranging from economic problems, social environment, to psychological conditions. One group that often experiences difficulties in living life after the sentence period is former prisoners. Even though they have completed their sentences in the penitentiary, the challenges they face after leaving are not few. One of the main challenges that is often faced is the difficulty of getting a job or a decent source of livelihood.

These difficulties usually arise due to the negative stigma attached to their status as ex-convicts, which causes many companies to be reluctant to hire them. As a result, most former inmates are trapped in situations where they find it difficult to meet the daily necessities of life. This often encourages them to return to criminal acts, especially to meet the economic needs of themselves and their families. This cycle of crime is a serious challenge for the reintegration of ex-convicts into society,

because without adequate social support and access to work, they tend to fall back into the world of crime.<sup>5</sup>

One of the obstacles faced by former inmates in finding a job is the requirement for a Police Record Certificate. A Police Record Certificate is one of the documents that must be attached when applying for a job in various companies or agencies. Usually, for former inmates, a Police Record Certificate they will record a history of crimes they have committed, because the records are kept by the police. This condition is often the main reason why ex-convicts have trouble getting a job, as most employers tend to be reluctant to accept someone with a criminal record. As a result of the difficulty of obtaining this job, many former inmates feel cornered and eventually return to criminal acts as a way to make ends meet. The economic challenges they face, such as difficulties in providing food, paying children's education fees, paying rent or shelter, and other basic needs, further exacerbate the situation. Therefore, the obstacles in getting a job due to a Police Record Certificate who are registered as ex-prisoners create great pressure for them, thus increasing their risk of falling back into criminal acts.

The next cause is as stated by Gerson W. Bewengan that the family has an important role as an institution that is responsible for meeting daily needs. This family environment is the main basis for individuals to gain early experience that will help them face life in the wider society.<sup>6</sup> The family's concern for former inmates has a significant impact. When families don't care, ex-convicts often feel disappointed and distract themselves from other things. Family indifference, both while ex-inmates are still in prison and after they are released, can reduce their motivation to change and behave better. As a result, many former inmates have returned to commit criminal acts, even though they have undergone coaching while in prison. As such, it is very important for families to provide positive support to ex-convicts so that they can build a better life. The last cause that contributes to the return of ex-convicts to criminal behavior is the lack of a deterrent effect from the imposition of legal sanctions. Many inmates feel that the punishment imposed on them is not strong enough to have a strong psychological or moral impact to prevent them from repeating the act. One reason is that punishment often focuses only on the aspects

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<sup>5</sup> Teguh Prasetyo, 2010. *Hukum Pidana*. Jakarta: Rajawali Pers, p. 125.

<sup>6</sup> Qomariatul Karimah, 2020. *Pertanggungjawaban Pidana Terhadap Residivis Pencurian (Studi Kasus Pengadilan Negeri Jambi dan Lembaga Masyarakat Jambi)*. "Skripsi" Jambi: Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Thaha Saifuddin Jambi, p. 52.

of retaliation or imprisonment, without paying attention to the needs of rehabilitation and social reintegration as a whole.

In some cases, the justice and correctional systems are still not optimal in creating conditions that support the improvement of inmate behavior. As a result, the sanctions imposed are not able to provide deep learning about the consequences of criminal acts committed. The lack of effective rehabilitation programs, skills education, and psychological support in prisons is also an important factor why the deterrent effect is not optimally achieved. In addition, for some individuals, corporal punishment or detention does not create fear or awareness of the importance of behavior change. They may consider punishment as commonplace, even considering it as a part of their lives, especially if they live in a social environment full of crime. In these situations, they are more likely to repeat the crime because there is no fundamental change in their perspective or motivation after serving their sentence.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

Correctional Institutions have an important role in the rehabilitation of prisoners, with the aim of preparing them to be able to reintegrate into society productively and responsibly. The coaching program in the prison, which includes mental, spiritual, skills, and educational aspects, is designed to help inmates understand the applicable social and legal norms and prevent the occurrence of recidivism. However, the reality is that the recidivism rate in Indonesia is still quite high, which shows that the existing rehabilitation program is not fully effective in changing the mindset and behavior of prisoners. Factors such as social stigma, difficulty in obtaining jobs, and limited facilities in prisons also contribute to the difficulty of ex-prisoners to live a better life after they are released.

In addition, the lack of family support and the absence of a strong deterrent effect of criminal punishment are also the causes of the return of former inmates to criminal behavior. Without positive support from their families and conducive social environment, ex-convicts often feel hopeless and return to the path of crime to meet their economic needs. Therefore, a more comprehensive and holistic approach is needed in the correctional system, which not only focuses on corporal punishment, but also on more in-depth rehabilitative aspects, including skills training programs, education, as well as effective psychological support to ensure that ex-convicts can

return to society with better opportunities and reduce the risk of relapse of criminal acts.

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