



The Role of Correctional Officers in Enhancing Legal Awareness Among Inmates at Class IIB Pacitan State Detention Center

Erdi Christian Priyanto Mudumi ¹, Ade Cici Rohayati ²

^{1,2)} Teknik Pemasyarakatan, Politeknik Ilmu Pemasyarakatan, Indonesia

E-mail:¹ erdichristian@gmail.com

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Abstract. Indonesia, as a country with diverse ethnic groups, faces significant challenges in maintaining pluralism and tolerance, especially in the context of conflicts that are vulnerable among the tribes. This research aims to analyze the role of correctional officers in enhancing the legal awareness of inmates at the Class IIB State Detention Center in Pacitan. Using a qualitative approach, data was collected through in-depth interviews, observations, and document studies. The results show that correctional officers play an important role in providing legal understanding, fulfilling the rights of inmates, and acting as good role models. However, obstacles such as limited human resources and the discipline of personnel hinder the effectiveness of coaching. The legal awareness of inmates has increased through the outreach and guidance programs implemented, but there is a need for evaluation and enhancement of the staff's competencies to achieve optimal results. This research emphasizes the important role of officers in creating an environment that supports legal awareness among inmates, which in turn contributes to order and justice in society.

Keywords: *The role of officers, correctional institutions, legal awareness, prisoners, Madiun.*

INTRODUCTION

Each region in Indonesia is dominated by the diversity of ethnic groups in each place. The existence of this diversity necessitates an understanding of tolerance towards that diversity, which is referred to as pluralism. However, within the diversity of Indonesia, there are also impacts that can certainly affect Indonesia's existence in the international arena. The impact that is currently very palpable is the vulnerability to significant conflicts among ethnic groups in Indonesia.

According to (Prasojo & Pabbajah, 2020), there are three perspectives in their viewpoint on the conflicts that arise due to diversity in Indonesia. The first is the form of conflict in Indonesia, which is influenced by communal conflict, sectarian conflict, and political escalation conflict. Secondly, it can be seen from the triggers of conflicts that often occur, namely that diversity conflicts in Indonesia are easily ignited by religious interests. Thirdly, the strong presence of local wisdom in every tribe in Indonesia leads to the emergence of fanatical and anti-social attitudes within each tribe. Then, with the previous issues, it can be interpreted that the society in Indonesia still lacks understanding regarding legal awareness.

According to Ewick and Silbey in the Journal (Luiza, 2023), "Legal Consciousness" focuses on the stages where individuals understand the law and legal institutions, which are understandings that give meaning to people's experiences and actions. In society in general, public legal awareness indirectly influences legal compliance itself. Legal compliance is essentially the awareness and loyalty of the community to the prevailing laws as rules (rule of law) as a consequence of living together, where this loyalty is manifested in the form of actual

behavior that complies with the law. Loyalty to self-interest becomes a benchmark for why the community does not obey and comply with the law. (P.A.F Lamintang, 2014).

This is supported by data from the National Criminal Information Center (Pusiknas) of the Criminal Investigation Agency of the Indonesian National Police, which states that in November 2023, the number of criminal acts in Indonesia reached 394,001 cases. This figure has increased from 2022, which recorded 276,507 cases, representing a percentage increase of 4.33 percent, while in 2021, the number of criminal acts in Indonesia was at 275,258 cases. Therefore, from this data, it can be explained that the high rate of criminality still persists in Indonesian society.

In Indonesia, which is a country based on law as stated in Article 1, paragraph (3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, it is declared that someone who has committed a criminal offense must be punished with a prison sentence. The imposition of this law aims to create a safe environment within society, so that there will be harmony, legal certainty, order, and so on. (P.A.F Lamintang, 2014).

Perpetrators of criminal acts who are sentenced to imprisonment will undergo rehabilitation in correctional institutions or detention centers based on a system known as the correctional system. Based on Article 1 paragraph (2) of Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections, the correctional system is a framework regarding the direction, limits, and methods of implementing correctional functions in an integrated manner.

The main issue faced by prisons or detention centers throughout Indonesia is primarily overcapacity. Overcapacity is a condition in which the number of inmates exceeds the facility's holding capacity. Given this issue, the impact is the difficulty in making certain policies, which must be precise while considering various aspects. In addition, the constraints from this overcapacity also cause the activities aimed at fostering independence and personality development to face various issues, resulting in ineffectiveness in the activities being carried out.

The rehabilitation provided to inmates is one of the rights that has been regulated by law. According to Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections, Article 9 letter (f) states that one of the rights of inmates is to receive legal counseling and legal assistance. The legal counseling program is also available at the Class IIB State Detention Center in Pacitan. The program is an implementation of the services provided by the prison to inmates, prioritizing the enforcement of Human Rights. With this background, the author is interested in researching the topic with the title "The Role of Correctional Officers in Enhancing Legal Awareness Among Inmates at Class IIB Pacitan Prison." The author's aim with this research title is to understand the role of correctional officers and to identify the obstacles in enhancing legal awareness among inmates at the Class IIB State Detention Center in Pacitan.

LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Soejono Soekanto (2002), a role is a dynamic component of a position in relation to something. In the role theory by Biddle and Thomas (1992), there are indicators regarding behavior in relation to roles, which are as follows:

1. Expectation

Role expectations are the hopes of others regarding the appropriate behavior that someone should display in a specific role.

2. Norm

Norm is one form of hope. The types of expectations according to Secord & Backman are as follows:

- a. Anticipatory norms are norms about a behavior that will occur.

- b. Prescribed role expectations are norms that accompany a role. Prescribed norms are covert norms that exist without being explicitly stated.
3. Performance (manifestation of behavior) The manifestation of behavior in roles. The role is manifested in real behavior, not just hopes.
4. Evaluation and sanctions
While sanctions are efforts by individuals to maintain positive values or change the manifestation of roles so that those initially assessed negatively become positive, role assessment is the provision of positive or negative impressions based on societal expectations of the intended role.
Meanwhile, legal awareness is the attitude or values held by individuals regarding existing or expected laws, which includes the objective values of the law. In an effort to ensure that the community understands and complies with the law, it is important to pay attention to the indicators of legal awareness as explained by Prof. Soerjono Soekanto:
 - a. Knowledge of the definition of law
 - b. Awareness of legal obligations towards others
 - c. Acceptance of the law

By paying attention to and implementing these legal awareness indicators, it is hoped that the community can better understand, respect, and comply with the law, thereby creating order and justice in society. According to research by (Pangestu, 2022), it was found that the shortcomings of correctional facilities, a lack of staff, and a shortage of experts can diminish the morale and affect the mental condition of inmates. However, the training and mentoring programs provided by correctional officers can enhance the motivation and mental well-being of inmates within the detention center. This is supported by (Alis Badawi & Et al, 2022) who concluded that correctional institutions provide spiritual guidance, personality development, and skills training to inmates.

METHODS

Qualitative research methods are an approach aimed at understanding social and cultural phenomena from the participants' perspective. This research is based on post-positivist philosophy, placing greater emphasis on natural conditions rather than experiments, and utilizes non-numeric data collection methods such as interviews, observations, and documentation. This research was chosen to explore the role of correctional officers in enhancing the legal awareness of inmates, considering the complexity of the interactions involved. The research population consists of correctional officers and inmates at the Class IIB Detention Center in Pacitan. The sample was taken purposively, selecting individuals who have an understanding and direct experience related to the phenomenon being studied.

The sources of data are twofold: primary data obtained from in-depth interviews with informants such as the head of the detention center, staff, and inmates, who were selected through purposive sampling to ensure the relevance of the information. Meanwhile, the secondary data comes from official documents, records, and relevant literature, such as laws and previous research. The data collection in this study was conducted through interviews using a semi-structured technique to obtain in-depth information from sources, observations involving the researcher who directly observes activities in the detention center to understand the context, and literature review and documentation: collecting data from relevant literature and official documents. Data analysis is conducted interactively and continuously. The process includes data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. Thus, this qualitative research method is expected to provide in-depth insights into the efforts of correctional officers in fostering legal awareness among inmates at Class IIB Pacitan Prison.

RESULTS

This research was conducted from January to May at the Class IIB State Detention Center in Pacitan, which is a Technical Implementation Unit of Corrections under the Ministry of Law and Human Rights in East Java, located at Jalan Ronggowarsito No.5, Kuwarasan, Baleharjo, Pacitan District, Pacitan Regency. The Class IIB Rutan Pacitan was built on an area of 3,093 m² with a building area of 1,235 m². The Class IIB Prison in Pacitan has been established since the Dutch colonial era and experienced a fire in 1942. The number of inmates at the Class IIB State Detention Center in Pacitan as of April 2024 is 111 people. Meanwhile, there are 60 staff members at the Class IIB State Detention Center in Pacitan as of April 8, 2024.

In this research, to obtain data and information, the researchers conducted interviews with 6 (six) informants regarding the role of correctional officers in raising legal awareness among inmates in the Correctional Facility. With the details of the sources being: There are 3 inmates, Mr. Kasutan, Mr. Kasubsi, and Mr. Biyena as key information. The dimensions used include: Expectation, Norm, Performance, Evaluation, and sanctions, as well as 4 dimensions of the concept of legal awareness, which are knowledge of the definition of law, awareness of legal obligations towards others, and acceptance of the law. To determine the effectiveness of the risk and needs assessment activities at the Class IIB Pacitan Prison, it is necessary to measure the success level based on several indicators. These indicators will be used to evaluate activities and provide suggestions for improvement in the future. Here are some indicators that will be used in this research:

Expectation

This hope refers to the assumptions or beliefs of others about how a person should behave in a certain role. Officers play a significant role in the continuity of inmate behavior. An officer is a person who serves as a guide in behavior. In the context of the interview provided, the informant expressed their hopes regarding the behavior of the officers. The resource person hopes that the officers will always set a good example every day, whether after the morning, afternoon, or evening roll call. In this regard, officers must behave well at all times when in the Class IIB Detention Center in Pacitan and when in the surrounding environment outside the detention center. Supported by the statement of Mr. Biyena as a correctional staff member, who stated that inmates gain more legal knowledge. This is so that they can understand their rights and obligations as citizens, as well as to help them avoid legal violations in the future.

Norm

Norms can be divided into two types: predictive norms and normative norms. Predictive norms are those that regulate behaviors that are expected to occur. Normative norms, on the other hand, accompany a specific role. These norms dictate how a person should behave in a particular role. The norm observed from the interviews with the informants, namely the inmates, indicates that one example of a norm practiced by correctional officers towards inmates is to behave well and fulfill the rights of all inmates. Supported by statements from correctional staff as sources, that the norms practiced by correctional officers influence the behavior of inmates. So if there are officers who are not good, then the inmates will also follow their example. The existence of this statement requires the officers of the Class IIB State Detention Center in Pacitan to consistently behave in accordance with the law so that their actions can serve as a model for the inmates, thereby minimizing the occurrence of legal violations among them.

Performance

The manifestation of behavior in a role is how someone acts while performing their duties. The manifestation of behavior in a role must align with the norms and expectations associated with that role. This is in line with Pasal 37 Undang-Undang Nomor 22 Tahun 2022 concerning

Corrections, which states that correctional officers are tasked, among other things, with carrying out guidance for inmates and correctional students. Based on the interviews conducted by the researcher with the sources, it was found that correctional officers can fulfill their role by providing guidance to inmates so that they can understand the applicable laws. All forms of rehabilitation carried out by the officers aim to transform inmates into better individuals. Mr. Kasubsi added that through an approach involving socializing and face-to-face conversations with inmates, it can raise awareness among the residents under supervision. This needs to be done more thoroughly for inmates who are experiencing issues or require special treatment. Thus, the role of correctional officers can also be seen from the behaviors they exhibit in accordance with the statement of Mr. Kasubsi.

Assessment and Sanctions

Sanctions are efforts by individuals to uphold positive values or change the manifestation of roles. Sanctions can be in the form of positive sanctions or negative sanctions. Meanwhile, role assessment is the giving of positive or negative impressions based on societal expectations of the intended role. There are indicators of role assessment that can be observed from the results of the interviews conducted by the researcher with the inmate informants. The indicator shows that the correctional officer behaves in a manner that aligns with the norms and expectations related to their role, resulting in a positive role assessment from the inmates as informants. On the other hand, if the officers behave unlawfully, they will certainly receive a negative perception due to their negative role. This can also invite inmates to commit unlawful acts, so it needs to be avoided. In addition, there is a statement from another source, Mr. Karutan, who explained that the evaluation or assessment of the role of correctional officers is not yet fully competent. He hopes that there will eventually be specific training so that they can collaborate more effectively for the offenders in terms of legal awareness itself.

Knowledge about the definition of law

Legal awareness is the understanding and compliance with the norms and legal regulations in force. In the interview conducted by the researcher, it was evident that the inmates already possessed legal knowledge, as implied by the responses of the informants who were aware that in Indonesia, every action is governed by laws and regulations. Therefore, the regulations in Indonesia must be implemented by all Indonesian citizens. Every violation of an action has its established sanctions. Additionally, Mr. Karutan, as the correctional officer, stated that inmates should understand the law through two-way guidance. If anyone violates the law again, they will receive special training to avoid the temptation of unlawful behavior.

Awareness of legal obligations towards others

In legal awareness, it involves understanding what is permissible and what is not permissible to do to others. Based on the interview results, it can be noted that there are statements indicating that the inmate in the interview has an awareness of their legal obligations towards others. Overall, the interview with the inmate shows that he is aware of the importance of the law and his obligation to respect it. 1. He understands that his actions violate the law and have a negative impact on others, and he wants to change and become a law-abiding member of society.

Accepting the law

After knowing, understanding, and realizing legal obligations towards others, legal awareness will arise. This legal awareness will emerge on its own once the inmates become aware of what they have gone through. From the interview representing the inmate, it was

conveyed that the inmate accepts their sentence and is willing to serve their time. This indicates that he acknowledges the legitimacy of the legal system and is willing to take responsibility for his actions after receiving guidance from the correctional facility staff. Supported by statements from other sources, namely the correctional officers themselves, who emphasize that the important role of providing legal services can encourage the acceptance of the law among inmates, allowing them to adhere to the rules effectively.

DISCUSSION

The Role of Correctional Officers in Enhancing Legal Awareness Among Inmates at Class IIB Pacitan Prison Based on the Presented Indicators

Based on the presented indicators, officers play a significant role in enhancing the legal awareness of inmates at Class IIB Pacitan State Prison. This can be seen from the following aspects, namely:

1. Expectation

The officers of the Class IIB State Detention Center in Pacitan are expected to be good role models and consistent in their behavior. If the officer does not act properly in accordance with the applicable regulations, both written and verbal. This will invite unlawful behavior among prisoners. This matter requires supervision. There is a need for an evaluation of the actions of the officers so that they have a clear understanding of what they should change to become better individuals for the inmates.

2. Norma

The existence of norms inherent in the environment needs to be examined to determine whether these norms can lead to a better path or if they have any potential, even if they may be detrimental. This is what needs to be analyzed and evaluated periodically by personnel who have good competence in their field. This norm influences the behavior of inmates, so if there are officers who are not good, the inmates might emulate them.

3. Implementation of Behavior

The officers provide guidance to inmates to understand the applicable laws. Officers play a significant role in providing understanding to inmates to consistently behave in accordance with existing legal regulations. The existence of this will certainly lead inmates to become better individuals in the future. In addition to guidance, officers can also approach inmates through socialization and direct conversation to foster closeness and a sense of care from the officers towards the inmates, so that the inmates feel that they are not alone and are being attended to by the officers.

4. Assessment and Sanctions

The assessment of the role of correctional officers is based on the public's expectations of that role. Inmates give positive assessments to officers who behave according to norms and expectations. On the other hand, if the officers behave negatively, the inmates will give a negative assessment.

5. Every action taken will certainly result in sanctions. Sanctions can be in the form of positive sanctions (rewards) or negative sanctions (punishments). Sanctions are given to uphold positive values or to change the manifestation of roles. Meanwhile, negative sanctions will always be imposed on inmates or officers who violate the applicable regulations, whether written rules or verbal rules commonly known as regulations in accordance with the norms present in the relevant environment.

Knowledge about the Definition of Law

6. Prisoners already possess legal knowledge, such as understanding that every action in Indonesia is governed by laws and regulations. All actions have been regulated and sanctions have been established for the community that commits violations.

7. Awareness of Legal Obligations Towards Others

Inmates understand that their actions violate the law and have negative impacts on others. They acknowledge the violation of the law, the negative impact of their actions, and the importance of the law. The existence of this can create awareness among inmates to always behave well in accordance with the existing legal provisions.

8. Accepting the Law

The inmate accepts their sentence and is willing to serve their time. This demonstrates recognition of the legitimacy of the legal system and a willingness to take responsibility for one's actions. What obstacles do correctional officers face in raising legal awareness among inmates at Class IIB Pacitan Prison? The limited number of educators is indeed a significant barrier affecting the implementation of a rehabilitation program. If left unaddressed, this will certainly pose a risk to the increase in legal awareness among inmates at the Class IIB State Detention Center in Pacitan. This can make it difficult for them to convey complex legal information in a way that is easily understood by the inmates. The Class IIB State Detention Center in Pacitan needs to evaluate the competencies of both the educators and the staff in delivering training materials and socialization, so that the program can run effectively and efficiently, allowing the expected goals to be achieved to the fullest extent. Officers need to undergo behavioral assessments so that evaluations can be conducted gradually. This will be a valid assessment method conducted for the officers to help transform inmates into better individuals as well. In addition, it can enhance the sense of legal awareness among inmates.

CONCLUSION AND LIMITATION

It shows that the role of correctional officers at Class IIB Pacitan Prison in enhancing the legal awareness of inmates has proven to be effective, with positive feedback from inmates regarding the guidance provided. Officers are expected to be role models, provide legal knowledge, and fulfill the rights of inmates.

Nevertheless, there are several obstacles, such as the limited number of competent human resources and the inadequate discipline of the personnel. This can affect the quality of guidance and the understanding of the law among prisoners. Therefore, improving the competence of staff and discipline in behavior is very important to achieve better development goals.

It is for sure that your research will have some limitations and it is normal. However, it is critically important for you to be striving to minimize the range of scope of limitations throughout the research process. Also, you need to provide the acknowledgement of your research limitations in conclusions chapter honestly.

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