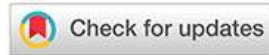# SOCIAL STRUCTURE ANALYSIS TO IMPROVE SECURITY AND ORDER IN CLASS IIA MATARAM PRISON

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ABSTRACT

The social structure, formed from both formal and informal interactions between inmates and officers, plays a crucial role in maintaining stability within prison environments. This article aims to analyze the existing social structure in Lapas (Correctional Facility) Class IIA Mataram and its influence on security and order within the facility. Using a qualitative approach, the study maps out the factors that shape the social hierarchy in the prison and how these social dynamics can be utilized to improve security conditions. The findings reveal that alongside formal regulations, unwritten social norms also significantly influence order within the prison. The combination of strict formal rules and the individual agency of inmates contributes to the reproduction of the existing social structure.

Keywords: Social Structure; Prison Security; Inmate Hierarchy; Agency; Reproduction

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia as a state of law that upholds the rule of law in the life of the nation and state has experienced an evolution in its criminal justice system. Initially, the approach to punishment applied in Indonesia tended to be retributive, focusing on corporal punishment and retaliation for violations of the law. This system emphasised the separation of offenders from society with punitive punishments. Over time, the paradigm shifted to a more reintegrative approach, which aims to nurture prisoners so that they can return to being a positive contributing member of society. This approach is known as the correctional system.

The correctional system in Indonesia was first proposed by Dr Sahardjo, S.H. on 5 July 1963 in his speech when he received his Doctor Honoris Causa degree at the University of Indonesia. In his idea, the correctional centre is not only a place to punish prisoners, but also a means to foster, correct, and prepare them for social reintegration. This is affirmed in Law No. 22 of 2022 on Corrections, which explains that the main objectives of the correctional system are service, guidance, care, security, and observation of prisoners with respect for human rights.

The Correctional Institution (Lapas) as one of the Technical Implementation Units (UPT) under the Directorate General of Corrections of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, functions to carry out development programmes for prisoners. According to Article 1 paragraph 18 of the Law, correctional centres are institutions that carry out the function of fostering prisoners, which includes services, guidance, social development, and security. One of the most important functions of prisons is the security function. Based on Article 1 paragraph 13 of the Law, security in prisons is carried out to maintain order and prevent security disturbances through prevention, prosecution, and restoration of unsafe conditions.

Security conditions in prisons are a crucial issue, given the frequent occurrence of incidents that disrupt stability. Several studies have shown that one of the factors influencing security conditions in prisons is the social structure formed among prisoners and between prisoners and officers. Social stratification, hierarchy, and informal power relations within prisons can affect stability and order. For example, prisoners with higher positions in the social hierarchy tend to have significant influence in determining the interactions and behaviour of other prisoners. Tania (2019) in her research at Class I Bandar Lampung Prison found that social stratification is formed through power relations between prisoners who have economic access or privileges and those who do not.

Apart from internal factors, social dynamics in prisons are also influenced by the criminal, economic and cultural backgrounds of prisoners. Asyarifah (2021) in her research on the social structure in Klaten Class IIA Prison identified that the social interaction of prisoners is often influenced by the background of the criminal offence, where prisoners with similar types of crimes tend to form their own groups, creating subcultures within the prison. Conflicts that occur between these social groups, if not managed properly, can threaten the security and stability of correctional institutions.

Not only that, the influence of officers in the formation of social structures in prisons is also an important factor in maintaining security. Harahap & Ramadhani (2022) found that officers' tolerance of certain practices, such as the distribution of prohibited goods, can disrupt order and increase the risk of conflict among prisoners. Therefore, an in-depth understanding of the social interactions within prisons as well as the role of officers in supervision is essential to identify factors that influence security within prisons.

Based on this background, this study aims to analyse the influence of social structure on security conditions in Class IIA Mataram prison. This research will look at how social hierarchy, power relations between prisoners, as well as prisoners' interactions with officers affect stability and order in prisons. By understanding these dynamics, it is hoped that the results of the study can provide more comprehensive insights into efforts to improve security and order in correctional institutions.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Structuration Theory, introduced by renowned British sociologist Anthony Giddens in 1984, is a social action theory that aims to bridge the divide between two key concepts in social sciences: structure and agency. This theory highlights the interplay between the social frameworks that influence individual behavior and the active role of individuals in shaping the social world. Giddens argues that structures are not simply external forces that constrain human actions, but also serve as resources for individuals, shaping their ability to exercise power. This dynamic relationship between structure and agency forms the core of Giddens' structuration theory.

The first dimension of structuration theory is structure, which refers to the enduring patterns in social organization that influence individual actions. These structures include institutions, norms, and social values that create a framework for social interaction. Institutions like the family, religion, and government set the rules that guide behavior, while social norms provide informal guidelines for how individuals should behave within society. These structures exist before individual actions and provide the context within which social interactions occur, but they are not static. They evolve over time as individuals interact with and challenge them.

The second dimension is agency, which emphasizes the capacity of individuals to act autonomously and make choices that shape the social world around them. Agency is not merely the ability to follow predetermined paths but involves an active engagement with the social environment. Individuals have the power to influence social structures through their decisions and actions. Their knowledge of social norms and their ability to adapt to various social contexts allows them to navigate, reinforce, or challenge the existing structures. In this way, agency highlights the role of human creativity and decision-making in the ongoing formation of society.

A central concept in structuration theory is duality of structure, which explains the reciprocal relationship between structure and agency. Giddens argues that while individuals are influenced by existing social structures, they also contribute to the creation and reproduction of these structures through their actions. This means that individuals are both shaped by and shape the structures around them. For example, social norms influence how individuals behave in social situations, but individuals also reinforce or change these norms through their behavior. This ongoing interaction between structure and agency reflects the dynamic and evolving nature of social life.

Finally, reflexivity and reproduction are key mechanisms in this theory. Reflexivity refers to the ability of individuals to reflect on their actions and the social structures in which they are embedded. This self-awareness enables them to assess the consequences of their behavior and make conscious decisions to modify or maintain the structures around them. Reproduction, on the other hand, is the process through which social structures are either maintained or transformed over time through individual actions. While some actions contribute to the persistence of existing norms and institutions, others challenge and reshape them, ensuring the continual evolution of society.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method that aims to provide an in-depth description of the influence of social structure on the conditions of security and order in Class IIA Mataram Prison. The qualitative approach was chosen because this method allows researchers to understand more complex social phenomena that occur in prisons, especially in the context of interactions between prisoners and between prisoners and officers. This research also seeks to explore the role of social hierarchy, power relations, as well as factors that influence stability within prisons. The data in this study were collected through the following techniques.

Interviews were conducted directly with prisoners, prison officers, and several senior prisoners who have great influence in the social hierarchy within prisons. The interviews aimed to gather information on social dynamics, prisoners' views on the influence of formal and informal rules, and how social structures affect security and order in prisons. The questions in the interviews were semi-structured to allow the researcher flexibility in exploring important relevant topics during the interview process. Interviews were also conducted to identify officers' views on the management of security in prisons and their relationships with prisoners.

Observations were conducted to monitor daily interactions between prisoners and officers within prison blocks, including how social hierarchies are established and maintained. Researchers observed patterns of interaction, the distribution of power, as well as how senior prisoners organise social dynamics within the prison. The focus of the observations was on the daily activities within the prison, including how prisoners navigate formal and informal rules, as well as how officers enforce order. These observations were conducted to gain a deeper understanding of the social structures and interactions that influence security.

The documents analysed in this study include official reports from Class IIA Mataram Correctional Facility related to security and order, as well as relevant policy documents such as Law No. 22 of 2022 on Corrections and Decree of the Director General of Corrections No. PAS-36.OT.02.02 of 2020. This document analysis was conducted to understand the official policies governing security management and inmate development, as well as to evaluate the extent to which implementation in the field is in accordance with the written regulations. This document also helps to evaluate the sustainability of security management efforts in prisons in accordance with established standards.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Social Structure at Class IIA Mataram Prison

This research aims to analyze how the social structure within Class IIA Mataram Prison affects its security and order. Through observations, document analysis, and further examination of internal dynamics, it was found that the social structure formed inside the prison involves complex interactions between inmates and prison staff. This social structure regulates the interactions among inmates and between inmates and staff, ultimately impacting the overall security and order within the prison. The existence of these social structures is not accidental but emerges from the diverse interactions within the prison environment, shaping the daily life of inmates and influencing the control mechanisms in place.

The social structure in Class IIA Mataram Prison is constructed through continuous interaction between inmates and staff, who come from varied backgrounds. This structure is influenced by several elements, such as the inmates' social backgrounds, the types of crimes committed, their age, the length of their sentences, and their interactions

with senior inmates or prison officials. The research identifies a hierarchical system that categorizes inmates into three main layers: senior inmates, mid-level inmates, and new inmates. Senior inmates hold significant informal power within the cell blocks, often acting as leaders who control daily activities and enforce both formal and informal rules. These senior figures are typically granted their status based on the length of their sentence, experience, and relationships within the prison community, including ties with prison staff.

Mid-level inmates play a crucial role in maintaining order within the blocks, as they serve as close associates of the senior inmates. They function as intermediaries between the senior inmates and the rest of the prison population, ensuring that the informal rules set by the seniors are followed. Meanwhile, new inmates are generally at the lowest level of the social hierarchy and must adapt to the established norms and informal rules of the prison. The strict hierarchical system can help maintain order, but it can also lead to conflict if senior inmates abuse their power. The dynamic within this structure is instrumental in both managing and sometimes challenging the prison's security, illustrating how the internal social mechanisms of the inmates are as influential as the formal regulations imposed by the authorities.

The Influence of Social Structure on Security and Order

The social structure within the Class IIA Mataram Prison significantly impacts the security and order within the facility. The hierarchy that has formed, where senior inmates hold informal authority, plays a crucial role in maintaining discipline within the prison blocks. These senior inmates often enforce unwritten rules and act as informal leaders, ensuring that fellow prisoners adhere to the established norms. However, this same hierarchy can also become a source of tension and conflict. When the informal rules imposed by senior inmates are perceived as unfair or if there is an abuse of power, unrest can arise among the other inmates, potentially disrupting the order within the prison.

Several factors contribute to the formation of this hierarchy. Inmates who have served longer sentences often gain more informal authority because of their familiarity with the unwritten rules and the challenges of prison life. Their experience grants them respect from fellow inmates, further reinforcing their leadership role. Additionally, the nature of the crimes committed also plays a significant role in determining an inmate's position in the hierarchy. Those involved in serious crimes such as drug trafficking or violence tend to hold more influence compared to those convicted of lesser offenses. These serious crimes often instill a sense of power and fear among other inmates, further strengthening the offender's place in the prison's social structure. Social background also plays a part, with inmates from more affluent economic backgrounds or those with connections to organized crime outside the prison often enjoying greater access to resources and influence within the prison walls.

Senior inmates frequently act as enforcers of these informal rules, complementing the formal authority of prison officers who are more focused on upholding the official regulations. The relationship between senior inmates and prison officers is pivotal in maintaining order. While the prison officers enforce the formal rules, they often rely on senior inmates to handle informal matters, such as preventing disruptive behavior or stopping the flow of contraband. Although this dynamic can be beneficial in maintaining control, it carries risks. If senior inmates abuse their authority, this reliance on them can lead to heightened tensions and power struggles among the inmate population, potentially undermining the overall safety and order within the prison.

Role of Officers in the Social Structure and Prison Security

Prison officers play a pivotal role in maintaining security and order within correctional facilities by managing inmate interactions and enforcing formal regulations. Their responsibilities extend beyond mere rule enforcement; they also serve as mediators in the complex social dynamics among inmates. Acting as the bridge between prisoners and the outside formal system, prison officers strive to integrate inmates into rehabilitation programs aimed at preparing them for reintegration into society. Their work requires a delicate balance between authority and support, as they navigate the needs of the institution alongside the personal challenges of the inmates. Through this balance, they help foster a more constructive atmosphere that encourages inmate rehabilitation.

A significant aspect of a prison officer's duty lies in their role as rehabilitators, not just supervisors. They engage with inmates on a deeper level, aiming to understand their struggles and provide guidance that can lead to personal transformation. By offering empathy and support, prison officers contribute to the inmates' development, hoping to equip them with the skills and mindset necessary for a better life post-incarceration. This multifaceted role goes beyond maintaining order—it reflects a genuine commitment to helping inmates reform. A positive relationship between officers and inmates, particularly when officers show personal care, can greatly enhance the overall environment, creating a space conducive to rehabilitation and growth.

However, officers must also tread carefully in these interactions, ensuring that they maintain the necessary authority to enforce the rules. Becoming overly close with inmates could compromise their ability to manage the facility effectively, particularly in dealing with influential senior inmates. Officers often act as intermediaries during conflicts between inmates, using their knowledge of inmate hierarchies to prevent disputes from escalating. By addressing issues through mediation before they escalate, officers help maintain a sense of stability within the prison, ensuring that conflicts are resolved in a manner that preserves order and minimizes the potential for violence.

Agency and Structure Duality in Prison Social Dynamics

In the context of Anthony Giddens' Structuration Theory, inmates are not merely passive recipients of the existing social structure; they possess agency that allows them to act within these constraints. While they are bound by formal and informal rules, inmates can make choices that shape their experiences and interactions within the prison environment. This agency manifests in various ways, such as participating in rehabilitation programs aimed at self-improvement or opting to engage in rule-breaking behaviors. For example, those who actively choose to join rehabilitation initiatives illustrate their commitment to personal growth and conflict avoidance, leveraging their autonomy to create positive changes in their lives. Conversely, inmates who participate in illicit trade demonstrate their agency by defying established regulations in pursuit of personal gain, thus navigating a complex web of power dynamics and risk.

The decisions made by inmates often reflect the challenges inherent in their environment, as they weigh the benefits and consequences of their actions. In navigating these choices, inmates confront difficult dilemmas that impact their social standing and safety within the prison. They must consider the implications of aligning with certain groups, which may require adherence to specific rules and norms, or opting to remain independent, which can lead to isolation and vulnerability. This ongoing negotiation of identity and status highlights the constant tension between individual agency and the overarching structures that seek to govern behavior. The interplay of these factors can

significantly affect their experiences and the relationships they form with fellow inmates and staff.

Giddens' theory of the duality of structure posits that social frameworks not only constrain individual actions but also enable them to enact change and potentially transform those very structures. In the prison context, inmates' behaviors can serve to reinforce the existing hierarchy or challenge it, depending on their choices. When inmates engage in cooperative behaviors or support each other in positive initiatives, they contribute to a more cohesive social fabric that can diminish conflict. Conversely, when they choose to resist authority or engage in disruptive activities, they can instigate shifts in power dynamics, potentially altering the social order within the prison. Thus, the agency exercised by inmates reflects a complex interplay of conformity and resistance, illustrating how individual actions can shape, and be shaped by, the surrounding social structures.

Social Reflexivity and Reproducibility

Reflexivity, or the ability of individuals to critically assess their own actions within a social context, plays a crucial role in how both inmates and prison officers manage interactions within the correctional facility. Senior inmates, in particular, tend to develop a deeper awareness of their position in the social hierarchy and their role in maintaining order. This awareness is often passed on to newer inmates, guiding them to avoid conflict and adapt to their new environment. Understanding one's place in the social structure and adhering to informal rules often helps new inmates navigate their surroundings safely. This reflexivity fosters a self-regulating environment, where individuals learn from their experiences and adapt their behavior in ways that reduce friction within the prison community.

The concept of social reproduction is also evident in how the norms and values of the prison community are maintained and passed down from one generation of inmates to the next. Senior inmates often serve as informal mentors to newcomers, teaching them unwritten rules and helping them adjust to the social dynamics within the facility. This process mirrors the socialization that occurs in the outside world, where more experienced individuals introduce societal norms to those who are less familiar. The transfer of knowledge helps sustain a sense of order and continuity, ensuring that new inmates understand the expectations of prison life and their roles within the social hierarchy. This mentoring system, although informal, significantly influences the overall stability of the prison environment.

The social structure within the prison plays a critical role in maintaining security and order, with a clear hierarchy established among inmates where senior prisoners hold informal authority. This system helps enforce rules and promote stability, but it can also lead to power imbalances, where the misuse of authority by senior inmates can create tension and conflict. Prison officers are tasked with managing this delicate balance between formal rules and informal social dynamics, ensuring that power is not abused and that the prison remains safe for everyone. The interaction of individual agency, reflexivity, and social reproduction within the prison shapes the social dynamics, offering valuable insights into how order and security can be improved through better management of the social structure.

Obstacles in Supporting Social Structure as a Means of Security and Order in Mataram Class IIA Prison

While the social structure within the Mataram Class IIA Prison has the potential to enhance security and order, several obstacles hinder its optimal functioning. One of the primary challenges is the occurrence of conflicts among inmates, which are often fueled by differences in backgrounds, power dynamics, and ethnic or religious affiliations. Even minor disputes can escalate into violence, disrupting the stability of living units within the prison. The informal leadership provided by senior inmates, intended to mediate such conflicts, does not always prove effective; in fact, it can sometimes exacerbate tensions rather than resolve them. This creates a volatile environment where conflicts can spiral out of control, undermining the social cohesion necessary for maintaining order.

Another significant obstacle to maintaining security and order is the abuse of power by senior inmates. These individuals often exploit their informal authority to impose unwritten rules on newer inmates, creating an environment of fear and injustice. Such abuses can lead to feelings of insecurity among inmates and disrupt the intended role of the social structure in fostering discipline. When senior inmates wield power inappropriately, it not only contributes to a culture of intimidation but also diminishes the effectiveness of the hierarchical system that is supposed to promote cooperation and adherence to rules. As a result, the very structure designed to support order becomes a source of instability.

Additionally, the limited number of prison officers exacerbates these challenges. With insufficient personnel to effectively monitor and guide inmate behavior, minor infractions often go unaddressed, allowing issues to escalate into larger problems. This lack of oversight creates opportunities for senior inmates to exert their influence over others without proper checks and balances. Moreover, the inadequate training of prison staff in conflict mediation and interpersonal skills further complicates the situation, as responses to conflicts tend to be reactive rather than proactive. The formal and emotionally detached nature of the relationships between officers and inmates can also hinder effective supervision, fostering resentment among inmates who feel that officers are more interested in punishment than rehabilitation. Together, these factors, compounded by issues such as overcrowding, contribute to a challenging environment where maintaining order and security becomes increasingly difficult.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the results of research at the Class IIA Mataram Correctional Institution, it can be concluded that the social structure within prisons plays an important role in regulating interactions between prisoners and between prisoners and officers. This structure forms a social hierarchy based on factors such as length of sentence, type of crime and social background. Senior prisoners often take on the role of informal leaders, which if well executed can maintain stability, but also has the potential for conflict in case of abuse of power.

Although prisoners are under the constraints of a strict social structure, they still have agency or freedom in making choices, such as choosing safe interaction pathways or participating in coaching programmes to improve skills. Prisoners who are better able to understand both formal and informal rules tend to utilise their agency to adapt well in a restricted environment.

The concept of duality of structure is seen in the interaction between the social structure of prisons and the actions of prisoners. Prisoners not only play a role in maintaining existing structures, but also have the power to influence change, especially in

the social dynamics within the blocks. The actions of senior prisoners often reinforce social hierarchies, while individuals who reject the status quo can trigger changes in existing structures.

Reflexivity, or prisoners' awareness of their position in the social structure, also strongly influences their behaviour and decisions. Senior inmates tend to act as guardians of social stability, while new inmates must learn to fit into the existing hierarchy. This reflection is also visible in the coaching programme, where prisoners begin to realise the impact of their actions on the social environment in the prison.

However, the study also identified several obstacles in supporting the social structure as a means of security and order. The main obstacle is conflict between prisoners which is often fuelled by differences in background, ethnicity or views. These conflicts weaken solidarity and create distrust. In addition, the abuse of power by senior inmates over new inmates creates injustice and insecurity. Mistrust between prisoners from different blocks also worsens the situation and hampers co-operative efforts to maintain order within the prison.

Therefore, while the social structure in prisons plays a significant role, optimising its role requires efforts to overcome these barriers, such as by reducing conflicts between prisoners, limiting abuse of power, and enhancing cooperation between prisoners from different groups.

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