

EMPOWERMENT OF LIPAS GROUPS FOR OPTIMIZING CLIENT INDEPENDENCE GUIDANCE AT GRIYA ABHIPRAYA CLASS I CORRECTIONAL CENTER SURABAYA



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ABSTRACT

The goal of Community Guidance is to support correctional clients in addressing their challenges during the transition after release and to facilitate their reintegration into society. This guidance aims to help clients adapt, develop positive behaviors, and become productive citizens. One key program offered by Bapas is the Independence Guidance Program, which focuses on equipping clients with new skills or enhancing existing ones to prepare them for reintegration. However, challenges such as limited instructor availability and budget constraints affect the implementation of this guidance. The introduction of the Community-Based Corrections Group (Pokmas Lipas) through Director General of Corrections Decree No. PAS-06.OT.02.02 of 2020 provides an alternative solution to these limitations. This research employs a qualitative approach to analyze the dynamics of independence guidance, revealing significant improvements following the establishment of Pokmas Lipas. Supported by Griya Abhipraya, which serves as a platform for both Pokmas Lipas and correctional clients, this initiative optimizes independence guidance by offering a permanent space, expert personnel, structured programs, and operational funding independent of budget constraints. In conclusion, the presence of Pokmas Lipas at Griya Abhipraya enhances the quality of independence guidance and significantly aids clients in overcoming their challenges.

Keywords: Empowerment; Independence Guidance; Pokmas Lipas



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INTRODUCTION

Every individual, regardless of their life background, naturally desires a prosperous living condition. This prosperity is often characterized by a harmonious life, fulfilled needs, and feelings of safety and comfort. These signs indicate the achievement of desired life goals. To realize this prosperity, active participation from each individual in society is essential. One way to achieve welfare is through community empowerment. Community empowerment is a process in which components within society actively participate in a program that is planned and strategically designed as a response to existing social conflicts. In the context of development, empowerment signifies that the community is no longer viewed as an object but as a subject actively involved in the development efforts themselves (Hairudin, 2011).

Former inmates who have recently been released often face challenges such as culture lag or culture shock when they return to society after serving their sentences. According to Akbar (2023), these conditions can hinder their reintegration into the communities they left behind. However, this should not be an excuse to exclude this group from empowerment efforts. On the contrary, former inmates are individuals who urgently need support to restore their social relationships, livelihoods, and overall quality of life. Therefore, strategic programs specifically designed to empower them are essential, fostering positive collaboration between government institutions and relevant community components.

According to Law Number 22 of 2022, clients of the correctional system are defined as individuals involved in the guidance process conducted by the Correctional Centers (Bapas). In the criminal justice system, the focus of reintegration is on the process of returning individuals to society after they have completed their rehabilitation in correctional facilities. This underscores the importance of well-planned measures to ensure the success of their reintegration.

Thus, community empowerment, especially for former inmates, is not only the responsibility of the government but also requires active participation from the wider community. With strong support from various stakeholders, it is hoped that former inmates can positively contribute to society, creating a more harmonious and prosperous environment for all. As Raco (2010) stated, qualitative research methods can serve as an effective tool to gain a deeper understanding of the dynamics and needs of community empowerment.

Guidance involves providing continuous intervention to an individual, allowing them to understand themselves better so that they can direct their own lives and act appropriately according to the norms of their environment (Prameswara & Muhammad, 2023). The issuance of the Decree of the Director General of Corrections of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia Number: PAS-06.OT.02.02 of 2020 regarding the Guidelines for the Establishment of Community Care Groups for Corrections represents a concrete step taken by the government through the Directorate General of Corrections, in response to the evolving dynamics of society, including conflicts and challenges faced by the correctional system. This highlights the importance of leveraging the potential within the community itself. The Community Care Group (Pokmas Lipas) fundamentally reflects the awareness of the community that achieving synergy is crucial and significantly influences the success of programs (Saefudin et al., 2022). This aligns with the shifting goals of sentencing from primary instruments to supporting instruments aimed at realizing social welfare and protection for the community (social defense and social welfare) as the ultimate goal of sentencing (Irmawanti, 2021).

On December 12, 2022, the Guidelines for the Establishment and Management of Griya Abhipraya were issued through the Regulation of the Minister of Law and Human Rights Number M.HH-36.02.02 of 2022. Griya Abhipraya, commonly referred to as the House of Hope, serves as an integration facility specifically designed to prepare correctional clients to reintegrate smoothly into society, supported by the guidance programs provided. The operational process of Griya Abhipraya emphasizes collaboration and empowerment. It is closely linked to the existence of Community Care Groups for Corrections (Pokmas Lipas). Based on the data and information presented, researchers need to conduct studies on how the empowerment of Pokmas Lipas within Griya Abhipraya influences the optimization of independence guidance for correctional clients and what challenges are faced in the dynamic processes occurring in the field.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this writing, the author employs the theory of Community Empowerment. Mufidah (2018) in her article states that the United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) introduced the use of five dimensions as measurement tools for the success of community empowerment implementation. These five points serve as dynamic, interconnected, and complementary categories of analysis, which include:

- a. Social Welfare
This dimension emphasizes the quality of social welfare based on the fulfillment of primary needs. It focuses on whether essential needs are met.
- b. Access
This dimension highlights equal rights to access systems, resources, and their processing. The lack of access is a significant cause of powerlessness and serves as a barrier to improving living standards.
- c. Critical Awareness
This dimension discusses the awareness within a community that the state of powerlessness is not absolute and can be changed through social movements.
- d. Participation
This dimension emphasizes the contribution of the community in every social movement organized. The success of empowerment is influenced by the enthusiasm of the community to fulfill their social roles, enabling them to bridge gaps and improve their living standards.
- e. Control
The control dimension illustrates that the community acts as a regulator of empowerment. The empowerment achieved is a result of controlling the resources possessed by each member of the community. Thus, every layer of society has the right to benefit from conditions that enable empowerment.

METHOD

This research employs a qualitative research method using a descriptive case study model. Qualitative research focuses on in-depth observations, which are then translated descriptively to provide problem-solving options within the study (Adlini et al., 2022).

The qualitative research process is influenced by theory and aims to deeply understand how individuals make choices and act within society (Raco, 2010). In this study, the author seeks to explain the approach to empowerment through the Theory of Community Empowerment as it relates to the independence of clients in correctional facilities.

This research will focus on how the empowerment of clients in correctional facilities is facilitated through the Community Care Group (Pokmas Lipas) at Griya Abhipraya, Bapas Class I Surabaya, which includes:

1. Efforts to enhance the empowerment of clients' independence through the Community Care Group at Griya Abhipraya, which provides benefits in the area of guidance for clients in correctional facilities at Bapas Class I Surabaya.
2. Identified challenges and factors in the efforts to enhance the empowerment of clients in correctional facilities as they build self-reliance through Pokmas Lipas at Griya Abhipraya, Bapas Class I Surabaya.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The independence guidance program is implemented for clients in correctional facilities with the aim of equipping them with specific skills that are expected to help them improve their quality of life through the utilization of their expertise. These skills encompass various aspects, such as technical, social, and financial skills, which are essential for their adaptation and reintegration into society. With the increasing number of clients requiring guidance, there is an urgent need to add personnel who can support the implementation of this independence guidance program.

Through the Director General of Corrections' Decision (Kepdirjerpas) Number PAS-06.OT.02.02 of 2020, a new chapter in the mechanism of guidance for clients in correctional facilities began. In this policy, the involvement of external parties becomes crucial, regulated through cooperation agreements with the community. This collaboration is referred to as the Community Care Group (Pokmas Lipas). This program not only aims to enhance the quality of life for clients but also to foster a sense of social responsibility within the community towards former inmates.

The presence of Pokmas Lipas plays a crucial role in providing support and additional resources for clients, allowing them to receive guidance not only from Bapas officers but also from the surrounding community. "By involving the community, the guidance program becomes more comprehensive and sustainable, as clients will feel real support from their social environment" (Irmawanti et al., 2021). Furthermore, this program aims to build awareness and understanding within the community about the importance of social reintegration for former inmates, which in turn is expected to reduce the social stigma they often face.

To achieve these goals, it is essential to provide training and education for Pokmas Lipas members so they can offer guidance that is effective and relevant to the clients' needs. This collaborative coaching not only assists clients in acquiring new skills but also strengthens the relationship between correctional institutions and the community, creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for all parties involved.

Pokmas Lipas is a voluntary organization that collaborates with Bapas on a self-reliant basis, in accordance with the regulations governing its establishment. This organization is empowered to assist Bapas in providing guidance to clients within the correctional system. To facilitate collaboration between Bapas and Pokmas Lipas in community guidance activities, Griya Abhipraya has been designated as the venue or space for empowering Pokmas Lipas. Griya Abhipraya is a program designed for Bapas, consisting of a facility organized with specific mechanisms that promote collaboration, allowing external parties with a shared positive interest to join in.

Although the instruments necessary for conducting community guidance activities can be considered comprehensive, there are certainly challenges in the dynamics of its operations that warrant analysis. To understand the dynamics of community empowerment occurring within Pokmas Lipas during their activities at Griya Abhipraya, the author will examine data collected from the field by utilizing UNICEF's theory of community empowerment, which comprises five dimensions. Below, the author will present a discussion of each dimension in UNICEF's Theory of Community Empowerment.

Dimension of Social Welfare

As previously discussed, the essence of Independence Guidance is to motivate individuals to develop towards a better direction. In collaboration with Pokmas Lipas, Bapas organizes practical and easily understandable Independence Guidance activities for clients. Although these programs may seem simple, they still hold significant value and appeal. The skills taught include culinary arts, barista training, carpentry, air conditioning service, handicrafts, and textiles. These skills are relatively easy to learn and offer considerable employment opportunities.

The provision of these programs is based on the results of litmas and assessments conducted on the Clients of Corrections by Community Guidance Officers. The aim is to ensure that the programs offered are targeted and effective. In practice, Pokmas Lipas acts as instructors who provide training. This organization, which has established a cooperation agreement, is empowered to deliver training in fields they are proficient in, ensuring that the training provided to clients is of high quality.

Moreover, in its application, there is no need for significant capital to utilize the skills taught as a source of income. One example is the barista training, where clients learn how to process coffee beans into beverages that can be enjoyed. Clients can apply for jobs at cafes or small eateries as baristas, or even start their own simple coffee shop with relatively low capital.

Another example is carpentry training, which has high market demand due to the current need for skilled workers in this field. Clients who acquire carpentry skills can begin working without incurring significant expenses, thus fostering their independence. With the skills they gain, they can contribute positively and improve their quality of life, creating a beneficial impact for themselves and their surrounding community.

Dimension of Access

Currently, the dynamics in the implementation of Independence Guidance involve Bapas acting as intermediaries and facilitators, while Pokmas Lipas actively serves as practitioners providing training. Bapas has been synergizing with Pokmas Lipas by offering support according to their respective roles. Bapas is responsible for providing expert personnel in the form of community guidance officers, while Griya Abhipraya serves as the empowerment hub. Pokmas Lipas plays an active role as practitioners and instructors, delivering training directly to Clients of Corrections.

Furthermore, Bapas has never restricted clients from attending regular activities at Griya Abhipraya as long as their purpose is to learn. While it cannot be denied that access to independence guidance for clients is quite broad, access to jobs that can be directly provided by Bapas or Pokmas Lipas remains very limited. It is known that there are some placements by Pokmas Lipas, but the numbers are not substantial. Some Pokmas Lipas can only place a few individuals and do not absorb clients directly. One reason for this is the lack of collaboration with labor placement agencies. However, it is noted that

Bapas Surabaya is currently intensifying efforts to seek potential partners to become Pokmas Lipas, particularly in the fields of job training and labor placement.

If we look back to the past, the current situation is in stark contrast to the time before Pokmas Lipas and Griya Abhipraya existed. At that time, Bapas faced challenges in providing access to independence guidance for Clients of Corrections. Activities were heavily reliant on budget constraints and limited locations, resulting in narrow frequency and outreach to clients. In contrast, the current situation allows Bapas to hold Independence Guidance activities at least once a week, with no limit on the number of participants willing to attend.

Comparing this dimension of access with the state of independence guidance before the establishment of Pokmas Lipas and Griya Abhipraya, it can be concluded that there has been remarkable progress in the dynamics of Independence Guidance. Improvements can be seen in frequency, participant numbers, and the quality of the guidance programs offered.

Critical Awareness Dimension

Independence guidance is an important effort to eliminate the criminogenic factors that often remain attached to clients after they have served their sentences. This program not only provides practical skills that can be applied in society but also serves to build the clients' critical awareness of their life realities. By acquiring new skills, clients are expected to enhance their competitiveness in the job market, which in turn can reduce the potential for reoffending. The simple logic behind this approach is that if clients have stable employment and can meet their economic needs, they will be less likely to fall back into criminal behavior.

Alongside the independence guidance process, clients are encouraged to actively participate in positive activities that can enhance their quality of life. This involvement is crucial, as engaging in constructive activities allows clients to shift their focus away from negative thoughts that may arise from past experiences. According to one study, "Productive activities not only provide new skills but also contribute to the formation of a positive identity for former inmates" (Adlini et al., 2022). Thus, independence guidance activities serve as a bridge for clients to build a better self-image and achieve the independence they aspire to.

Both Bapas and Pokmas Lipas play a vital role in motivating clients to make positive changes in their lives. They not only offer skills training but also foster an awareness that every individual has the right to be seen as worthy and independent. In this context, it is essential to understand that change occurs not only at the individual level but also at the social level. The clients' critical awareness of the importance of social reintegration and their roles in society can be a determining factor in this process. "This collective awareness will strengthen the social support networks that former inmates need to successfully adapt back into society" (Irmawanti et al., 2021).

Thus, independence guidance focuses not only on skill enhancement but also on the mental transformation of clients into productive and independent individuals. Through this program, clients are expected to shed negative mindsets and build a brighter future, enabling them to contribute positively to society. In line with this goal, the training and education provided are also designed to support this transformation process, ensuring that clients not only acquire skills but also gain a deeper understanding of positive values in everyday life.

This holistic approach aims to empower clients to view themselves as capable members of the community, fostering resilience and a proactive attitude toward their

reintegration. By emphasizing both practical skills and mental shifts, the program aspires to create a supportive environment where former inmates can thrive and redefine their identities in a constructive manner.

Dimension of Participation

In the researcher's findings in the field, it was observed that the presence of the Community Care Group (Pokmas Lipas) at Griya Abhipraya has fostered a sense of belonging among its members. This feeling of ownership is particularly evident among the Pokmas Lipas groups that have collaborated with the Surabaya Correctional Center (Bapas) for an extended period. Their strong sense of belonging is closely tied to their ongoing contributions to the operations of Griya Abhipraya from its inception. One of the Pokmas Lipas confidently stated that their organization is always ready to engage in activities at Griya Abhipraya whenever called upon.

The implementation of activities involves all parties fulfilling their respective responsibilities diligently. Bapas plays a critical role in facilitating the collaboration between Pokmas Lipas and clients by providing professional community facilitators and the necessary infrastructure, such as Griya Abhipraya. Meanwhile, Pokmas Lipas actively serves as instructors, delivering training aligned with their areas of expertise.

This collaborative dynamic fosters a positive atmosphere that encourages active participation from all involved. Members of Pokmas Lipas feel valued and appreciated, which enhances their commitment to the program. This sense of ownership motivates them to contribute more significantly to the training and mentoring processes, ultimately benefiting the clients. Engaging clients in a supportive environment allows them to feel more at ease and encourages them to actively participate in their own development.

Moreover, the involvement of Pokmas Lipas serves as a bridge between the community and the clients, creating a network of support that is essential for successful reintegration. By working closely with Bapas, these community groups not only provide practical training but also instill a sense of responsibility and accountability in clients. This holistic approach allows clients to learn valuable skills while also developing essential social connections that can assist them in their journey towards independence.

The active participation of community members is vital in creating a sustainable model for rehabilitation and reintegration. As these individuals become more engaged, they also help to break down the stigma surrounding former inmates, fostering a more inclusive community. Through their efforts, Pokmas Lipas enhances the overall effectiveness of the programs at Griya Abhipraya, contributing to a more harmonious relationship between former inmates and the society at large.

In summary, the dimension of participation within the context of Griya Abhipraya illustrates how a strong sense of belonging and community engagement can significantly enhance the rehabilitation process for clients. This collaborative environment not only benefits the individuals involved but also promotes a culture of support and understanding within the community.

Dimension of Control

Before implementing the guidance program for clients, the Community Facilitators first conduct interviews and assessments to ensure that the program aligns with the specific needs of the clients. This assessment process reflects the commitment of the Correctional Center (Bapas) to guarantee that clients receive appropriate programs that genuinely address their requirements. Bapas aims for the guidance provided to be targeted and

effective, which is why assessments and evaluations are crucial tools before the program is structured.

Bapas emphasizes that each Community Care Group (Pokmas Lipas) has equal rights to implement programs based on their expertise. Consequently, Bapas does not dictate how these programs should be run; instead, they offer suggestions and facilitate the groups. This collaborative approach encourages Pokmas Lipas to take ownership of their initiatives, fostering a sense of autonomy and responsibility.

However, this autonomy does not mean that the guidance programs operate without oversight. Bapas maintains the authority to supervise Pokmas Lipas through designated coordinators. The supervision function is vital to ensure that Bapas and Pokmas Lipas share a coherent vision regarding the objectives and methodologies of the programs. This alignment is essential for the overall success of the initiatives, as it ensures that all parties involved are working towards common goals.

Moreover, the oversight performed by Bapas serves multiple purposes. Firstly, it ensures that Pokmas Lipas are fulfilling their obligations responsibly and are receiving their entitled benefits. This oversight mechanism creates a safety net for both Bapas and Pokmas Lipas, fostering accountability and transparency in the execution of the programs. When all parties understand their roles and responsibilities, it leads to a more effective collaboration and enhances the program's impact on clients.

Bapas also conducts regular evaluations of the programs to monitor their effectiveness. These evaluations are designed to gather feedback from clients and facilitators, allowing Bapas to make necessary adjustments to the programs. Such responsiveness to feedback ensures that the programs remain relevant and beneficial to the clients' needs. Additionally, this iterative process of evaluation and adjustment reinforces the culture of continuous improvement, which is essential for successful rehabilitation and reintegration.

Another critical aspect of the control dimension is empowering clients to take an active role in their rehabilitation journey. By involving clients in the decision-making process regarding their training and development, Bapas promotes a sense of agency among them. Clients are encouraged to express their opinions and preferences, which not only enhances their engagement but also fosters a sense of ownership over their rehabilitation process. This empowerment is crucial, as it can significantly reduce feelings of helplessness and increase motivation.

In summary, the dimension of control within the context of guidance programs at Griya Abhipraya underscores the importance of a balanced approach that combines oversight with empowerment. While Bapas provides the necessary supervision to ensure that Pokmas Lipas and clients are meeting their obligations and achieving program objectives, they also empower the community groups and clients to take charge of their development. This dual focus not only enhances the effectiveness of the programs but also contributes to a more collaborative and supportive environment for all involved. By fostering a culture of accountability and empowerment, Bapas and Pokmas Lipas work together to create a sustainable model for client rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The empowerment of Pokmas Lipas in optimizing the guidance for the independence of correctional clients has a significant impact on the quality of the program and its acceptance among these clients. Independence guidance is understood as a self-motivating force to develop towards a better direction, with Pokmas Lipas acting as a

catalyst for this change through practical and marketable guidance programs. Located at Griya Abhipraya, Bapas and Pokmas Lipas collaborate using a Community-Based Correction (CBC) approach, where community involvement is heavily emphasized in the programs provided to correctional clients. Griya Abhipraya serves as a permanent venue for Pokmas Lipas and clients to engage actively, effectively resolving issues related to space, secretariat, and the home base of Pokmas Lipas.

Based on field research findings, one of the most pressing needs for clients upon their release is employment. This need is addressed through the provision of job training programs that have market value. Currently, the training offered may seem simple, but when appropriately actualized, it can generate income quickly. This is largely due to the interventions provided by Pokmas Lipas, each with its unique expertise in various fields. Reflecting on the period before the establishment of Pokmas Lipas, Bapas faced significant challenges related to the availability of instructors and budget constraints. The intensity of independence guidance sessions was heavily dependent on the available budget, limiting the frequency of these sessions. In stark contrast, the current dynamics with the existence of Pokmas Lipas have led to a more varied and frequent implementation of guidance activities. Notably, these high-intensity activities do not rely solely on the budget allocated by Bapas, as outlined in the Director General of Corrections' Decree No. PAS-06.OT.02.02 of 2020 regarding Pokmas Lipas, which states that operational costs for programs can be borne by Pokmas Lipas.

Newly released clients often hold outdated mindsets, resigned to their fate as outcasts. They feel compelled to accept their circumstances without knowing how to change their destiny. Therefore, in this context, independence guidance is a program designed to provide knowledge and new skills that can transform clients' negative perceptions, making them realize that their current situation is only temporary. This guidance is a crucial effort to eliminate the criminogenic factors that still cling to these clients.

Research findings indicate that the presence of Pokmas Lipas at Griya Abhipraya has fostered a sense of belonging among its members, especially those who have long collaborated with Bapas Surabaya. This sense of ownership is linked to their contribution in supporting the operation of Griya Abhipraya from the outset. One Pokmas Lipas confidently stated that their organization is ready to engage in activities at Griya Abhipraya whenever called upon. Before executing the guidance program for clients, Community Facilitators conduct interviews and assessments to ensure that the program aligns with the clients' actual needs. This assessment process reflects Bapas's commitment to ensuring that clients receive programs that genuinely meet their requirements.

However, the implementation is not without challenges. Scheduling independence guidance sessions has become a notable issue, as facilitators often clash with other priorities perceived as more important by clients. Additionally, as a relatively new program, both Pokmas Lipas and Griya Abhipraya still require considerable development to create a comprehensive education and training program for clients. One concrete step towards achieving this goal is to follow up with Pokmas Lipas members who have been less active in contributing to ongoing activities. This proactive approach can help enhance the effectiveness of the guidance programs and better serve the clients' needs.

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