ANALYSIS OF FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO DRUG DEALER RECIDIVISM AT THE CLASS IIB SEKAYU CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

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1*Alfani Putra Amanda, 2Odi Jarodi

1,2Program Studi Manajemen Pemasyarakatan, Politeknik Ilmu Pemasyarakatan – Indonesia

e-mail :
1*redi25redi@gmail.com *(corresponding author)*
2odi.30jarodi@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Drug dealer recidivism poses a significant challenge to the correctional system in Indonesia, where the complexities of internal and external factors often drive former inmates to re-offend. This study aims to identify the factors influencing drug dealer recidivism among inmates at the Class IIB Sekayu Correctional Facility. This research employs a qualitative method, collecting data through observations and interviews with inmates and correctional officers. Findings reveal that internal factors, such as psychological stress and low emotional management skills, along with external factors, such as social stigma and lack of family support, significantly increase the risk of recidivism. Additionally, correctional facilities face challenges in providing adequate rehabilitation services, lack of post-release support programs, and limited community involvement in the reintegration process. The conclusion indicates that sustained rehabilitation programs, strengthened family support, and synergy with external parties are essential to reducing recidivism rates. It is recommended that correctional facilities develop skill-based training and emotional support programs to facilitate more effective reintegration of inmates into society.

Keywords: Recidivism; Drug Dealers; Rehabilitation; Family Support;
Class IIB Sekayu Correctional Facility

INTRODUCTION

Correctional Facilities (Lapas) have the primary function of reintegrating inmates into society through development programs, both in terms of personality and self-sufficiency, as mandated by Law No. 22 of 2022 on Corrections, Article 1 Paragraph 18. In this law, correctional facilities are established as institutions implementing correctional functions based on social reintegration. Through this approach, Indonesia's penal system has shifted from retributive and deterrence concepts to rehabilitation and reintegration, aiming to reduce stigma and equip inmates with useful skills for life after release (Dwidja, 2006).

The philosophy of social reintegration-based penalization aims to help inmates re-adjust to society, avoid stigma, and prevent recidivism. This approach is also expected to reduce the recidivism rate, namely, the tendency of inmates to re-offend after release. However, in Indonesia, the recidivism rate remains high, especially among drug dealers, indicating that the correctional system has not yet fully achieved its goals.

Recidivism among drug-related inmates raises concerns for both correctional institutions and the general public. According to data from the Directorate General of Corrections (Ditjenpas) under the Ministry of Law and Human Rights in September 2023, correctional facilities and detention centers in Indonesia faced overcapacity of 109%, with a total of 276,172 occupants, far exceeding the maximum capacity of 132,107. The majority of these cases are drug-related, reflecting the severity of drug trafficking and abuse issues in Indonesia. Other data indicate that the national recidivism rate for 2023 reached 12.9%, with year-to-year fluctuations, highlighting instability in crime prevention efforts (Lakip Dirjenpas, 2023).

Under Law No. 35 of 2009 on Narcotics, drug dealers and users are classified as serious criminal offenses requiring both strong law enforcement and effective rehabilitation. However, the rehabilitation programs expected to reduce recidivism among drug-related inmates still face numerous obstacles, including resource limitations in correctional facilities and lack of coordination between correctional institutions and the community.

Recidivism is influenced not only by internal factors, such as the psychological conditions of inmates, but also by external factors, including social stigma, family support, and socio-economic conditions. According to criminology theory, recidivism is essentially a manifestation of differential association theory (Sutherland, 1939), which posits that criminal behavior is learned from the social environment where individuals reside. This is relevant in cases involving drug-related inmates, where the influence of peers and a vulnerable social environment tends to reinforce deviant behavior.

Research by Simatupang and Irmawati (2018) identifies several main factors contributing to recidivism among drug dealers, such as family influence, social associations, and economic conditions. The study also shows that weak social support often makes it difficult for inmates to fully reintegrate into society. Meanwhile, Sitohang (2014) identifies the impact of social stigma, which can drive inmates to re-offend in response to societal exclusion.

Pambudi's (2016) study adds that emotional factors, such as frustration and stress, can worsen inmates' psychological conditions, increasing their risk of re-engaging in criminal acts after release. This situation is exacerbated by the limited post-rehabilitation support programs that could otherwise assist inmates in building a new life.

The limitations faced by correctional facilities in handling recidivism among drug-related inmates need further scrutiny. According to a 2022 report from the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, rehabilitation facilities in Indonesia's correctional facilities

remain very limited, both in quantity and quality. Furthermore, post-release assistance programs for inmates are still minimal, leaving inmates often without the skills or social capital needed to start a new life in the community.

Rehabilitation and social integration programs in correctional facilities are also often hampered by the community's lack of readiness to accept former inmates. According to data from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (2020), community participation in supporting reintegration programs for former drug-related inmates plays an essential role in reducing recidivism risk. This aligns with the social adaptation theory (Bennett, 1964), which states that the reintegration process within a supportive social environment is crucial for successfully establishing a productive life.

According to Articles 54 and 127 of Law No. 35 of 2009 on Narcotics, drug-related inmates are entitled to comprehensive rehabilitation programs, including medical, social, and post-release rehabilitation. However, the implementation of these programs in the field often faces serious obstacles, particularly in terms of resource availability and facility readiness. On the other hand, the Correctional Law also highlights the importance of family and community roles in helping inmates reintegrate into their social environment.

Furthermore, concrete steps for preventing recidivism among drug-related inmates are regulated in the Ministerial Regulation of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights No. 12 of 2018 on Rehabilitation Programs in Correctional Facilities and Detention Centers. This regulation states that every correctional facility must implement development and rehabilitation programs for drug-related inmates, aiming to enhance life skills and reduce the desire to return to criminal activities. However, further coordination with the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) and related parties is still needed to optimize the implementation of this program.

The aim of this research is to identify and analyze the factors driving recidivism among drug-related inmates at the Class IIB Sekayu Correctional Facility. Through a qualitative approach, this research will explore various psychological, social, and economic aspects underlying inmates' decisions to re-offend. Additionally, the study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of existing rehabilitation programs and formulate recommendations to reduce recidivism among drug-related inmates.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Aziza's (2019) findings of this research reveal that each individual has unique dynamics that lead them to re-offend. This study aims to uncover the psychological dynamics and factors that influence someone to become a repeat offender. This qualitative research utilizes a case study method and focuses on two research subjects at the Class IIA Correctional Facility in Malang. The psychological dynamics of recidivist behavior can be understood through the psychological profiles of inmates, where a person's likelihood of recidivism is influenced by various internal and external factors. Examples include family support and family interaction factors, which may cause an individual to feel uncomfortable, prompting them to seek an escape and eventually re-offend. Additionally, social circles also play a role, as a person may feel supported in their criminal actions by their peers.

Sinaga 's (2021) study aims to evaluate empirical legal aspects by collecting data through interviews and literature review. In this study, a logical deduction method is applied for data analysis, with evaluation beginning from a general analysis to a more specific discussion. In the legal context of the Jayapura City Police Department, three main

factors were identified as contributing to the tendency for drug-related crime recidivism: 1) economic factors, 2) social environmental factors, and 3) law enforcement factors. The approach used in this research involves deductive data analysis, starting with a general overview and concluding with a detailed discussion. After conducting research and interviewing several drug recidivists in the Jayapura police jurisdiction, the results indicate three factors influencing recidivism: economic, environmental, and law enforcement factors. The similarity with the current research lies in the objective of discussing recidivism (repetition of criminal acts). The differences are in the theory used, as this study employs strain theory, as well as in the sample and research location.

Almukharomah and Wibowo (2022) discusses factors influencing recidivism in drug-related offenses at the Class II B Arga Makmur Correctional Facility. The research was conducted using a qualitative method through interviews, observations, and literature review. The findings indicate that factors driving recidivism are influenced by internal factors (such as uncontrollable desires, morals, and character of the offender) and external factors (such as environmental influences and weak social control). Furthermore, the article highlights the role of family in preventing children from drug abuse and efforts to counter recidivism through preventive and repressive approaches. Community support, appropriate punishment, social protection, and rehabilitation are needed to address the problem of drug offense recidivism.

Although external factors like peer influence and environmental conditions also play a role, preventive and repressive efforts remain essential in changing behavior and preventing involvement in drug-related crimes. In this study, the authors conducted interviews with five inmates convicted of drug trafficking and found various factors driving them to re-offend, such as uncontrollable desires, weak morals, impulsive behavior, the urge for praise, susceptibility to frustration, offender character, and environmental influence. Additionally, the article notes that weak social control also significantly contributes to the high rate of drug offense recidivism. This demonstrates that efforts to prevent and address recidivism need to involve multiple aspects, both internal to the individual and external from their surrounding environment.

METHOD

This research employs a descriptive qualitative method aimed at identifying and understanding the factors influencing recidivism among drug-dealing inmates at the Class IIB Sekayu Correctional Facility. This approach was chosen as the qualitative method provides flexibility in exploring complex and specific phenomena related to recidivism and enables the researcher to gain in-depth insights into the internal and external dynamics influencing inmates' decisions to re-engage in drug-related crimes.

Data in this research were collected through the interviews that were conducted with recidivist inmates involved in drug trafficking cases, correctional officers, and several external parties engaged in rehabilitation and development programs. The purpose of these interviews was to understand the direct perspectives of inmates regarding the factors driving them to re-engage in criminal activities and to identify the challenges faced by correctional officers in implementing rehabilitation programs. The interviews were semi-structured to allow flexibility in exploring relevant issues during the data collection process.

Direct field observations were conducted to monitor the rehabilitation and development processes at the Class IIB Sekayu Correctional Facility. The observations focused on interactions between inmates and correctional officers, participation in rehabilitation programs, and the social dynamics among inmates. This technique aimed

to observe behaviors and situations that may be difficult to capture through interviews alone, providing a more comprehensive overview of the facility's conditions and the effectiveness of the programs being implemented.

Document analysis was carried out on various legal and policy sources related to rehabilitation and recidivism prevention programs in Indonesia, including Law No. 22 of 2022 on Corrections and Law No. 35 of 2009 on Narcotics, as well as decrees from the Head of Class IIB Sekayu Correctional Facility. These documents were analyzed to understand the legal basis, standard operating procedures (SOP), and policies applicable to the implementation of drug offender rehabilitation programs. This analysis also aimed to identify potential gaps between the written policies and their practical implementation in the field.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of this study identify a number of factors influencing recidivism among drug-dealing inmates at the Class IIB Sekayu Correctional Facility. Based on interview analysis, observations, and literature review, it was found that the causes of recidivism can be classified into two main categories: internal and external factors. The analysis of these two categories utilizes Differential Association Theory by Edwin H. Sutherland and the Social Adaptation Theory by John W. Bennett, providing an in-depth perspective on how these factors influence inmates to re-engage in drug-related crimes.

1. Psychological Factors

    Psychological aspects are a significant internal factor in influencing recidivism among inmates. Several inmates revealed that psychological pressures, such as stress, depression, and feelings of helplessness, drive them to turn back to drugs as an escape mechanism. Inmate S, for example, admitted that drugs were used to help him cope with work pressures before he was arrested. In an interview, S stated:

    > "If we don't use [drugs], we feel too lazy to work. But if we use them, even the toughest job gets done." (S, 2024).

    This statement indicates that drug use is seen not only as a way to boost productivity but also as a means of dealing with severe work stress. This phenomenon supports addictive behavior theory, which suggests that individuals often seek escape through illicit substances to cope with life's stresses or pressures (Pambudi, 2016). According to Sutherland (1992), criminal behavior, including drug trafficking, is learned through social interaction with groups that support these crimes. In this context, inmates surrounded by an environment that normalizes drug use are more likely to view it as a valid mechanism to handle psychological stress. This point is reinforced by an interview with Officer 1, who mentioned that many repeat offenders experience significant psychological pressure during incarceration:

    > "Many of them experience severe mental stress, and without adequate support, they often feel they have no choice but to return to old habits." (Officer 1, 2024).

    A lack of psychological support during and after incarceration makes it easy for inmates to be drawn back to drug use after release, increasing the risk of recidivism among them.

2. Emotional Factors

Emotional factors, especially those related to loneliness, lack of family support, and feelings of alienation, also significantly impact inmate recidivism. Several inmates interviewed experienced the loss of family members or felt alienated from their social environment, making them vulnerable to re-engaging in criminal behavior. Inmate J, for instance, revealed that he lost several family members during his imprisonment, which worsened his emotional condition:

> *"After I was here, my wife died, my mother-in-law also passed. My family is very different now." (J, 2024).*

This feeling of loss and alienation often drives inmates to seek comfort or escape through criminal behavior, such as drug use. This situation aligns with research by Putri (2018), which states that inmates who lose family support or experience emotional trauma are more likely to return to a criminal life after release. This analysis is also explained by Bennett's Social Adaptation Theory, which suggests that social and family support is essential for individuals in coping with emotional pressures and post-release adjustment. When this support is absent, former inmates often struggle to adapt to life outside prison, which triggers a return to criminal behavior patterns. As explained by Officer 2:

> *"The lack of social support, especially from family, often makes them feel alienated and forces them to seek an escape. This is a major factor that drives them back to a criminal environment." (Officer 2, 2024).*

This feeling of alienation creates a situation where former inmates find it challenging to adapt to lawful social norms, making it easier for them to fall back into criminal behavior.

3. Social Environment Factors

The social environment surrounding inmates plays an essential role in encouraging them to re-offend after release. Based on interviews, several inmates revealed that peer influence in the drug trade is a significant trigger to return to criminal behavior. Inmate S admitted that most of the influence to resume using and dealing drugs came from his surroundings:

> *"The friends I used to hang out with invited me to do drugs again. In our environment, meth is common." (S, 2024).*

This finding aligns with Sutherland's Differential Association Theory, which states that criminal behavior is learned through interaction with the social environment. Inmates exposed to environments that support drug use norms are more likely to return to such behavior after release. In this context, inmates lacking access to positive environments or community support are at a high risk of repeating criminal acts. Officer 1 highlighted that many inmates return to criminal communities after release due to old friends' influence and a lack of alternative options:

> *"Many return to the same environment with negative influences, making it difficult for them to break out of that cycle." (Officer 1, 2024).*

In this case, a social environment that does not support positive change becomes an external factor that worsens inmates' conditions and increases their risk of returning to criminal behavior.

4. Economic Pressure

Economic pressure is the primary reason many inmates turn back to drug-related crimes after release. The difficulty of securing legal employment and the lack of relevant skills often drive them to seek income through fast and illegal means. Inmate I acknowledged that economic constraints left him with no choice but to return to drug trafficking:

> *"There's no other job, so I went back to the old one. It's the only quick way to make money." (I, 2024).*

This analysis is reinforced by Social Adaptation Theory, which highlights the importance of an individual's ability to adapt to a new environment after release. Inmates who lack skills or sufficient education often struggle to adapt to the job market, forcing them to seek quick income even if illegal. Officer 2 also noted that economic pressure is one of the main factors driving recidivism among inmates:

> *"Economic difficulties after release, coupled with a lack of skills, often drive them to return to their old jobs." (Officer 2, 2024).*

Economic pressure not only affects inmates' financial conditions but also strengthens their decision to return to a criminal life as a means of survival.

5. Low Education Levels

Low education levels limit inmates' ability to adapt to life outside prison. Based on interviews, several inmates, such as I, only had basic education, making them feel underqualified for decent employment after release. Inmate I stated:

> *"With limited education, it's hard to find a good job, so we go back to the old way." (I, 2024).*

This low level of education hinders inmates from obtaining jobs in the formal sector, and without adequate skills, they are more likely to engage in drug-related crimes as a quick option to meet economic needs. According to Sutherland, individuals without relevant education or skills are more vulnerable to the influence of criminal environments as they lack other legitimate means of livelihood.

6. Family Influence

Family factors also play an essential role in the recidivism rate among inmates. Inmates without family support often feel isolated and lack motivation to change. Conversely, inmates who receive family support are more likely to adapt to life outside prison. Inmate I mentioned that family economic pressure was the primary reason he returned to drug-related crimes:

> *"I had to go back to drugs because my family's financial situation wasn't enough. I had no other choice." (I, 2024).*

In this case, Social Adaptation Theory indicates that family support is critical for the successful social reintegration of former inmates. When this support is

absent, former inmates are more prone to re-engaging in crime as a way to handle economic pressure or meet basic needs. Officer 1 also emphasized the importance of family support for recidivist inmates:

> *"The lack of family support often becomes a trigger for inmates to return to criminal life after release." (Officer 1, 2024).*

Sutherland's Differential Association Theory provides a clear understanding of how a social environment that supports criminal behavior can influence inmates' decisions to re-engage in crime. Factors such as interaction with criminal groups, social pressure, and support from peers involved in illegal activities reinforce criminal behavior learned by inmates, both before and during incarceration. Conversely, Bennett's Social Adaptation Theory offers insights into the importance of social adaptation processes for former inmates. Support from family, access to employment, and the ability to conform to legitimate social norms are vital for successful social reintegration. A lack of social support and economic pressure cause former inmates to feel isolated, reinforcing their tendency to revert to criminal behavior as a means of survival.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on research findings regarding the causes of recidivism among drug dealers at the Class IIB Sekayu Correctional Facility, it was found that internal and external factors significantly influence inmates' tendencies to re-engage in criminal activity. In terms of internal factors, high psychological pressure, stress, and feelings of helplessness during incarceration are primary drivers for inmates to return to criminal environments upon release. Limited emotional support and isolation from family also contribute to the increased risk of recidivism. Additionally, cognitive factors such as low levels of education and limited job skills leave inmates without the resources needed to secure legitimate employment, making them more vulnerable to returning to crime as a quick means to generate income.

On the other hand, external factors, such as a social environment that does not support positive change, also play a crucial role in encouraging recidivism. Inmates who return to the same community after release often struggle to break free from the influence of old friends still involved in criminal activities. The lack of family support exacerbates this situation, as many inmates feel they have no place of refuge or strong moral support once they leave prison. Social stigma attached to former inmates also serves as a significant barrier, preventing them from being accepted back into society and building a lawful life. These findings highlight the importance of sustained development programs, strong social support, and community involvement in facilitating inmate reintegration. A holistic approach, including psychological support, job skill development, and efforts to address social stigma, is essential for reducing recidivism rates among drug-dealing inmates.

To reduce the recidivism rate at the Class IIB Sekayu Correctional Facility, the following suggestions are proposed:

1. Strengthening Rehabilitation and Training Programs
   Expand access to rehabilitation programs, such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), and practical skill training, such as carpentry, agriculture, and entrepreneurship, so that inmates have adequate work skills after release.

2. Collaboration with Businesses and Government
   Enhance collaboration with businesses and the government to provide job opportunities for former inmates, including incentives for companies that hire them, as well as training that aligns with local market needs.
3. Improving Correctional Facility Infrastructure
   Improve facility infrastructure and budget allocation to ensure that each inmate can participate in rehabilitation and educational programs with adequate facilities.
4. Enhancing Staff Capacity
   Provide additional training for correctional staff in counseling and rehabilitation to ensure proper handling of inmates, especially those with mental health issues or addiction.

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