

SOCIAL REINTEGRATION PROGRAM FOR PRISONERS IN CLASS IIA SERANG PRISON



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ABSTRACT

The Indonesian correctional system has shifted from a retributive to a rehabilitative approach, aiming to rehabilitate inmates so they can reintegrate into society. Social reintegration plays a crucial role in this process but faces challenges such as social stigma, limited facilities, and inmates' lack of preparedness. This study aims to analyze the effectiveness of the Social Reintegration Program at Class IIA Serang Prison, focusing on correctional stages, implementation barriers, and improvement strategies. The research employs a qualitative descriptive approach, utilizing interviews, observations, and document studies. Findings reveal that the program follows four key stages: admission and orientation, advanced personality development, assimilation, and community integration. While the program positively impacts inmates' readiness to rejoin society, challenges remain, including limited training facilities, lack of community support, and inadequate post-release supervision. The study concludes that social reintegration can be more effective with enhanced training facilities, increased public awareness, and strengthened post-release assistance by the Correctional Center (Bapas).

Keywords: Social Reintegration; Correctional System; Inmates; Rehabilitation; Social Stigma



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INTRODUCTION

The correctional system in Indonesia has a long history that dates back to the Dutch colonial era, where the approach used was more retributive or retaliatory. At that time, prisoners were treated as objects of punishment who had to suffer as a form of revenge for the violations of the law they committed. This is reflected in the inhumane prison conditions, the lack of guidance, and the absence of rehabilitation efforts for prisoners. The prison system at that time emphasized the aspect of physical punishment with the aim of providing a deterrent effect to lawbreakers. However, along with the development of thought in the fields of criminology and penology, the correctional paradigm has changed from a retributive system to a rehabilitative system, which is more oriented towards individual recovery and development (Ma'ruf, 2023).

This paradigm shift is inseparable from the ideas of correctional experts and figures, one of which is Dr. Sahardjo, who at the Lembang Conference stated that correctional is not a tool of revenge, but rather an effort to protect society by guiding and returning prisoners as productive members of society. This statement became the foundation for a modern correctional system that does not only focus on punishment, but also pays attention to the right of prisoners to get proper guidance. This philosophy continues to evolve, especially after Law No. 22 of 2022 on Corrections was passed. This law strengthens the role of corrections in providing fair treatment to detainees, children, and prisoners, covering all stages of criminal justice, from pre-adjudication, adjudication, to post-adjudication (Ditjenpas, 2024).

In the context of modern corrections, social reintegration is a key element in prisoner recovery efforts. Social reintegration aims to restore the lives, social relationships, and economic capabilities of prisoners after serving their sentences (Yulianto, 2021). This reintegration not only includes physical aspects, such as providing work and housing after release, but also includes mental, emotional, and social aspects, such as rebuilding relationships with family, community, and work environment. In other words, social reintegration is an important strategy to ensure that prisoners do not return to a criminal lifestyle and can lead a better life after release.

Furthermore, in Article 1 Paragraph (11) of Law Number 22 Year 2022 on Corrections, it is stated that Community Guidance is one of the mechanisms applied in the social reintegration process. This program includes assistance to prisoners both during their sentence in prison and after their release. This assistance is not only limited to moral and psychological guidance, but also includes job skills training, rehabilitation, and providing access to various social services that can help prisoners in the adaptation process in the community. With this program, it is hoped that prisoners will be better prepared to live life outside prison and can avoid falling back into criminal acts.

Various policies have been implemented in order to improve the effectiveness of correctional programs in Indonesia, one of which is the Social Reintegration Program at Class IIA Serang Correctional Facility. This program aims to provide guidance, skills training, and social support for prisoners so that they can return to society with a better social status, without the negative stigma of being a former prisoner. However, in its implementation, this program still faces various challenges, such as community stigma, limited facilities, and lack of economic support for former prisoners.

Based on these problems, this research seeks to analyze the Implementation of the Social Reintegration Program at Class IIA Serang Correctional Facility, with the main objectives:

1. Assessing the extent to which the social reintegration program has succeeded in assisting prisoners in returning to society.

2. Identifying inhibiting factors that are still an obstacle in the implementation of the program.
3. Provide policy recommendations to improve the effectiveness of this program in the long term.

By understanding the dynamics of the social reintegration program that has been implemented, this research is expected to contribute to the formulation of correctional policies that are more effective and oriented towards holistic recovery of prisoners.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Asmawati discusses the evolution of Indonesia's correctional system, focusing on the shift from a punitive prison system to a more rehabilitative and reintegrative approach. It emphasizes the role of Law No. 22/2022 which strengthens the social reintegration aspect of correctional programs, aimed at restoring the dignity of prisoners. Social reintegration is viewed as a process to return prisoners to society, focusing on human rights and justice, rather than punishment.

Wulandari highlights how the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP) integrates social reintegration into its national legal framework. The focus is on transforming the punitive system into a rehabilitative one where the purpose of punishment is not retribution but rehabilitation. The article discusses the impact of this shift on prisoners and emphasizes the importance of community involvement in the reintegration process. The concept of restorative justice is also explored in relation to juvenile criminal justice.

Sari examines how social reintegration programs are implemented in Balai Pemasyarakatan (Bapas) and analyzes the effectiveness of guidance and supervision in the reintegration process. The research utilizes a four-dimensional approach (individual characteristics, family relationships, community context, and state policy) to assess the challenges and successes of reintegration. It reveals that while social reintegration programs exist, they are often not optimally executed, and there is a need for a more comprehensive approach that includes both social and economic recovery for former prisoners.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative method with a descriptive approach, which aims to provide an in-depth description of the implementation of the Social Reintegration Program at Class IIA Serang Correctional Facility. The descriptive approach is used to understand social phenomena more comprehensively by exploring experiences, perceptions, and obstacles faced in the process of social reintegration for prisoners. Thus, this research not only aims to describe the program that has been running, but also to analyze the challenges and opportunities in implementing rehabilitation-based correctional policies.

In this study, the theories used as a conceptual foundation include social reintegration theory and resocialization theory. Social reintegration theory highlights the importance of rehabilitation in the correctional system to reduce recidivism rates as well as rebuilding the social relationships of prisoners after release. Meanwhile, resocialization theory explains how individuals can re-adapt to society through various forms of social assistance and skills training.

The data in this study was obtained through three main methods, namely in-depth interviews, direct observation, and document study. The combination of these

three methods allowed researchers to obtain more valid data and better triangulation of information.

1. Interviews

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with various informants who have involvement in the social reintegration program at Class IIA Serang prison. The main informants in this study include:

- a. Section Head of Prisoner and Student Development, who provided information on the policy and implementation of the social reintegration program.
- b. Sub-section Head of Community Guidance and Treatment, who plays a role in providing guidance and accompanying prisoners in serving their sentences.
- c. Correctional officers, who supervise and guide prisoners during the training period.
- d. Prisoners and ex-prisoners, to understand their direct experience in undergoing the social reintegration process as well as the obstacles they face after being released from prison.

In these interviews, researchers asked open-ended questions to explore the experiences and views of informants in more depth. The data obtained was then categorised based on the main themes, such as program effectiveness, obstacles in implementation, and the social impact of the social reintegration program.

2. Direct Observation

Observations were conducted in a participatory manner, where researchers directly observed the activities taking place at Class IIA Serang Correctional Facility, especially those related to the social reintegration program. Some aspects observed include:

- a. Interaction between correctional officers and prisoners, especially in coaching and skills training activities.
- b. Supporting facilities and facilities, such as skills training rooms, religious facilities, and psychosocial services available at the prison.
- c. Social and religious activities that are part of the coaching program to support changes in prisoners' behavior.
- d. The response of prisoners to the coaching program, including their level of participation in the training and guidance provided.

3. Document Study

The document study was conducted by exploring various regulations, reports, and literature relevant to the correctional system and social reintegration in Indonesia.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Stages of the Correctional System in Class IIA Serang Prison

The social reintegration program for prisoners at Class IIA Serang Correctional Facility is implemented through four main stages, namely Admissions and Orientation, Further Personality Development, Assimilation, and Integration with the Community. Each stage has a very crucial role in ensuring that prisoners can return to society as productive individuals and not repeat past mistakes.

a. Admissions and Orientation Stage

This stage is the initial phase for prisoners when they first enter the prison. Based on Government Regulation No. 31/1999, this stage has a maximum duration of one month, during which prisoners undergo a process of observation, familiarization, and environmental research. This process is very important because it provides an opportunity for correctional officers to identify the physical condition, mental state, socio-economic background, as well as the most appropriate rehabilitation needs for each prisoner.

Correctional officers explained that in this stage, they seek to understand the characteristics of the inmate thoroughly before establishing an appropriate coaching program.

"This initial stage is very important because it is from here that we determine whether the prisoner is more suitable to join the skills program or needs more personality guidance first", said Mr. Primandha Anggoro, Community Guidance Officer at Class IIA Serang Correctional Facility (Interview, 15 July 2024).

However, one of the challenges faced at this stage is limited human resources and infrastructure, which can hamper the effectiveness of the assessment process.

b. Advanced Personality Development Phase

After passing the orientation stage, prisoners enter the advanced development phase, which aims to reshape their mental, spiritual, and skills. In this stage, prisoners must serve at least 1/3 to 1/2 of their sentence, with a looser level of supervision than the admission stage.

In interviews with prisoners who have participated in this stage, they stated that the personality development program had a positive impact on them.

"I participated in the pesantren mosque program, taking care of the mosque, learning to read the Qur'an, learning to preach too. From there I began to realize the importance of worship and a better life after leaving", said TR, one of the prisoners at Class IIA Serang Correctional Facility (Interview, July 16, 2024).

However, some prisoners also expressed a lack of variety in the skills provided, so that not all felt that they had sufficient provision after release.

c. Assimilation Stage

Assimilation is a stage where prisoners begin to interact with the community in a wider environment, both through activities inside and outside the prison. This program aims to serve as a transitional bridge before prisoners are completely free and return to society.

"Assimilation is an important step so that prisoners do not immediately plunge into society without preparation. We conduct a strict evaluation before they can participate in this stage," said Mr. Arif Nurhasan, Community Guidance Officer (Interview, July 15, 2024).

However, one of the main challenges in the assimilation stage is the social stigma still attached to prisoners.

"Sometimes I feel doubtful that when we are free, will we be accepted by the community? People often see us as criminals, even though we also want to change" said TR, a prisoner who is undergoing an assimilation program (Interview, 16 July 2024).

d. Phase of Integration with the Community Environment

This stage is the final phase in the social reintegration process, where prisoners who have met the requirements get Conditional Release (PB) or Leave Before Freedom (CMB). Prisoners who have served at least 2/3 of the criminal period with a minimum duration of nine months, can participate in this program with minimal supervision.

"Before actually returning to the community, we must provide guidance first. Because it involves the safety of the community, we do not just release prisoners who have expired their detention period", explained Mr. Primandha Anggoro (Interview, July 15, 2024).

Inhibiting Factors of the Social Reintegration Program

Based on the results of interviews and observations, several main challenges were found in the implementation of the social reintegration program:

a. Lack of Community Participation

One of the biggest obstacles is the low level of community acceptance of ex-prisoners. Many communities still give a negative stigma, making it difficult for ex-prisoners to get a job and adapt again.

"I am afraid that when I am free, people will not accept me. When I was arrested, my family was also ostracized" said TR, one of the prisoners (Interview, July 16, 2024).

b. Limited Development Facilities and Infrastructure

Some correctional officers revealed that the skills training program is still limited due to lack of facilities.

"For obstacles, we cannot touch all prisoners because of the limited programs available, limited space, limited time. The place we have is very limited, there are only a few classes, it is impossible to accommodate all 700 prisoners" said Mr. Primandha Anggoro (Interview, July 15, 2024).

c. Lack of Motivation of the Prisoners

Some prisoners still show resistance to the coaching program, especially those who are still bound by old habits.

"Sometimes when I'm alone, I think about wanting to do it again, I keep thinking about it" said TR, who was previously involved in a drug case.

Strategies to Increase the Effectiveness of Social Reintegration

To increase the effectiveness of the social reintegration program, several steps that need to be implemented are:

a. Improving Facilities and Infrastructure

- Provide more job training rooms.
- Expanding cooperation with the industrial sector and vocational training institutions.

b. Public Education and Socialization

- Organizing an acceptance campaign for ex-prisoners.
- Involve community leaders in the reintegration process.

c. Post-release assistance

- Increase the role of the Correctional Center (Bapas) in monitoring the development of former prisoners.

- Provide psychological guidance and initial economic assistance for ex-prisoners.

By implementing these strategies, it is hoped that the social reintegration program at Class IIA Serang Correctional Facility can run more effectively, so that prisoners have a greater chance of successfully adapting to society without returning to criminal life patterns.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The Social Reintegration Program or better known as Parole by Prisoners of Correction aims to return Prisoners to return to socialize in the midst of society as a person who has been exposed to legal problems without having to give a negative stigma to the actions or mistakes they have made with the guidance they get in prison. Talking about the effectiveness of a punishment is not limited only to the weight of the verdict imposed by the panel of judges or the length of the punishment period of a prisoner, but also very dependent on the facilities and supporting facilities in a correctional institution. In addition to restoring the balance of the attitude of the offender to be deterrent and not repeat the crime again, the narcotics correctional institution has an important task to handle and try to eliminate the nature of narcotics dependence from its prisoners. However, guidance for narcotics prisoners in correctional institutions has not been implemented optimally. This can be seen from the responses of people who are still worried about former prisoners returning to being a drug addict.

The driving factor of coaching for drug prisoners is because terrorism is a crime that must be overcome. Coaching is also a mandate from Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning Correctional Institutions and Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 99 of 2012 concerning the Second Amendment to Government Regulation Number 32 of 1999 concerning Conditions and Procedures for the Implementation of the Rights of Prisoners of Corrections as well as the vision and mission of correctional institutions. Coaching efforts are one of the community protection movements.

Faithful inhibiting factors accompany the course of the Social Reintegration Program in correctional institutions. Some of the inhibiting factors that must be resolved immediately are the first, namely from the Prisoners themselves. Because in the correctional process, it often collides with the willingness of Prisoners who do not want to change. Second, the lack of active participation from the outside community to accept the Prisoners openly without suspicion because they still consider the Prisoners as criminals. Third, inadequate facilities and infrastructure, for example physical facilities, such as classes, equipment, especially when the number of prisoners exceeds the capacity of the correctional institution. Fourth, the budget is insufficient to provide skills to all prisoners.

In carrying out the Social Reintegration Program there are still many obstacles and obstacles that need to be resolved. The following are the obstacles and suggestions that the author summarizes regarding the Social Reintegration Program in Correctional Institution Klas II A Serang:

1. Regarding the Prisoners themselves. Because in the correctional process, it often collides with the willingness of Prisoners who do not want to change. He feels comfortable with his previous life. Also the absorption of different prisoners in receiving guidance. For Prisoners who do not want to change because they are comfortable with their previous lives, there should be Social Workers employed

to help with the problems faced by Prisoners. Social workers can be counselors who will provide social guidance and can be brokers, namely connecting the prisoners they help with the resources available in the prison if the prisoners have a different will with the programs provided by the prison.

2. Inadequate facilities and infrastructure, for example physical facilities, such as classes, equipment, especially when the number of prisoners exceeds the capacity of the correctional institution. Utilize as little unused physical facilities as possible. For classes that are deemed lacking, correctional institutions can utilize the field or empty spots that make it possible to undergo coaching. Because learning does not have to be carried out in a classroom with tables, chairs and blackboards.
3. Lack of active participation from the outside community to accept prisoners openly without suspicion because they still consider prisoners to be criminals. The need for socialization to the community about prisoners who are actually the same as other humans. Have made mistakes and have made up for it by undergoing guidance in prison. Social workers can become educators to the community, explaining the guidance provided by correctional institutions to prisoners so that they can re-socialize and will not repeat acts that violate social values and norms again.
4. Insufficient budget to provide skills to all prisoners. In the end, only a few prisoners can be given skills. Prisoners who undergo skills can hone their abilities and produce work so that the work can be marketed and the profits can be used to meet the needs of the skills class in need.
5. Obstacles in the field of skills because initially many prisoners do not have special skills. Skills are very important for prisoners, because after completing the detention period, prisoners need to have at least one special skill that they will later use to make ends meet. Therefore, prisons can establish intensive cooperation with several agencies. For example, with the Ministry of Manpower (Department of Labor) as the agency authorized to handle employment, or in collaboration with private parties engaged in job guidance.

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