

STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTING EXPOSURE TO RADICAL IDEOLOGIES AMONG INMATES IN MEDIUM-SECURITY PRISONS AT THE SURABAYA CLASS I PRISON



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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes strategies to prevent radicalization among terrorism convicts at the Class I Surabaya Correctional Facility using the Situational Crime Prevention approach. The research employs a qualitative method, with data collected through interviews with correctional officers and terrorism convicts, as well as document analysis. The findings show that prevention strategies are implemented through four main approaches: increasing the effort required to engage in radical activities, increasing the risk of detection, reducing provocations, and removing justifications for such behavior. In practice, these strategies are reflected in strict surveillance, the separation of terrorism convicts in special housing blocks, and the provision of moderate religious guidance to counter radical ideologies. Although these efforts have contributed to controlling the spread of radicalization, the study highlights the need for further improvements. Strengthening collaboration with external institutions, enhancing officer training, and expanding rehabilitation programs are essential steps to reduce tension, manage inmate behavior more effectively, and support successful deradicalization within correctional facilities.

Keywords: *Radicalization Prevention; Terrorism Convicts; Situational Crime Prevention*

INTRODUCTION

The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (UUD 1945) and Pancasila as the basis of the state, known as the constitution, are the highest sources of law for the Indonesian people. The preamble of the 1945 Constitution states its commitment to participate in maintaining world order, namely in creating lasting peace. This principle is in line with Indonesia's efforts to prevent the spread of radicalism, which can threaten social stability and national security. By maintaining peace and promoting moderate national values, Indonesia strives to avoid the influx of radical ideologies that can destroy the social order and harm the nation. In this case, correctional institutions play a role in preventing radicalism in Indonesia, through the principle in the correctional system that affirms that the state has no right to make prisoners worse or more evil than before they were sentenced. This reflects a commitment to providing constructive guidance.

The main objective of this guidance is for prisoners to leave correctional institutions with better attitudes and behavior, and to be able to reintegrate positively into society. In this case, correctional institutions also have a crucial role in preventing the spread of radical ideologies that can destroy the social order. These preventive measures are in line with Indonesia's commitment, as stated in the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution, to maintain lasting peace in the world. By preventing the spread of radical ideologies and ensuring that prisoners receive appropriate guidance, correctional institutions play a role in maintaining social stability and national security, as well as supporting the creation of a more harmonious and peaceful society.

Radicalism is one of the serious threats to social stability and national security. This phenomenon is not only developing in the public sphere, but also spreading into correctional institutions. Terrorist prisoners often take advantage of the psychological conditions and social vulnerabilities of other prisoners to spread radical ideology. This poses a major challenge for correctional institutions in carrying out their rehabilitation and social reintegration functions (Sarwono, 2012). The Surabaya Class I Correctional Institution, as a medium-security prison, has its own complexities in dealing with prisoners convicted of terrorism. The placement of terrorist prisoners in special blocks still allows for interaction with prisoners convicted of other crimes. This condition increases the likelihood of exposure to radical ideas, which is contrary to the objective of the correctional system, which is to create prisoners who are ready to return to society with constructive values (Simon, 2015).

Strategies to prevent exposure to radicalism in prisons need to be designed comprehensively, taking situational aspects into account. The Situational Crime Prevention (SCP) approach developed by Clarke (1997; 2013) is relevant in this context. SCP focuses on reducing the opportunities for crime by increasing the effort required to commit a crime, increasing the risk, reducing provocation, and removing the reasons that perpetrators can use. The application of this concept in prisons is expected to be able to suppress the potential spread of radicalism through measurable preventive strategies (Freilich et al., 2021). In addition, previous studies have shown that radicalization in correctional institutions is a global problem. A study by Iannello et al. (2023) emphasizes that the effectiveness of interventions to prevent radicalization in prisons is still limited and requires a more systematic approach. This is in line with the situation in Indonesia, where limited resources, overcrowding, and a lack of training for officers are significant obstacles (Bahroji & Roffi, 2023). Therefore, this study is important to enrich the literature on prison-based radicalism prevention strategies.

Furthermore, the legal context in Indonesia provides a strong basis for efforts to prevent radicalization. Law No. 5 of 2018 on the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Terrorism

defines terrorism as an extraordinary crime that requires a special strategy. Similarly, Law No. 22 of 2022 on Corrections regulates the rehabilitation of high-risk prisoners, including prisoners convicted of terrorism, through special placement and inter-agency coordination. With this legal framework in place, the implementation of prevention strategies in prisons must be optimized in order to prevent the spread of radical ideology while ensuring the principles of human rights (Directorate General of Corrections, 2025).

Thus, research on strategies to prevent the exposure of prisoners to radicalism in Surabaya Class I Prison is expected to contribute both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research adds to the body of criminology and correctional studies, particularly in the application of SCP theory. Practically, the results of this research are expected to serve as a guideline for prison officials in formulating more effective and contextual prevention policies and strategies.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Several previous studies have shown that the prevention of radicalization has been a concern in various contexts. Burhanuddin & Khairuddin (2022) examined the prevention of radicalism through academic policies in Islamic universities, emphasizing the importance of a moderate religious curriculum and the strengthening of national values. Iannello et al. (2023) conducted a scoping review of radicalization prevention interventions in international prisons, finding that their effectiveness is still limited due to methodological constraints.

Maulana et al. (2022) highlighted the relevance of high-risk prisons to policies on preventing violent extremism in Indonesia, emphasizing security aspects but also criticizing the lack of rehabilitation aspects. Meanwhile, Saputro et al. (2024) evaluated the effectiveness of deradicalization programs in the Karanganyar High Risk Prison and found limitations, especially in terms of resources. Other studies, such as Lubis (2021) in Islamic boarding schools and Robbaniyah & Lina (2022), emphasize the role of moderate religious education and social guidance in preventing radicalization. In general, these studies affirm the need for a holistic approach in the fields of education, social welfare, and community service.

Situational Crime Prevention (SCP) is a crime prevention approach that focuses on reducing the opportunities for crime to occur by changing the situations or conditions that enable crime to occur. This approach was first introduced by Ronald Clarke in the 1980s and has since been used in various fields, including the prevention of terrorism. SCP is based on the assumption that crime occurs when there is an opportunity, and by reducing or eliminating that opportunity, we can reduce the number of crimes that occur. Clarke explains that SCP has five main dimensions, namely increasing effort by tightening access control, separating terrorist prisoners from general prisoners, and strengthening the monitoring of goods and facilities to prevent the entry of radical material. Then, increasing the risk by expanding surveillance by involving special officers, using CCTV technology, and creating open prison spaces so that activities are easier to monitor. Next, reducing provocations by minimizing conflict triggers through transparent administrative services, recreational facilities, and arranging inmate interactions to minimize stress.

Fourth is removing excuses by creating clear rules prohibiting the spread of radical ideology, implementing moderate moral and religious guidance programs, and strengthening prisoners' awareness of the dangers of radicalism. Next is reducing rewards. However, in the context of prisons, the most relevant dimensions are the first four because they concern the control of prisoners, supervision of interactions, and

restrictions on access to media that can be used to spread radical ideology. Researchers developed the SCP theory by eliminating one dimension, namely Reduce the Rewards. This decision was made because this dimension is more relevant in the context of preventing external crimes, whereas in prisons, prevention efforts focus more on monitoring and controlling prisoners who are at risk of being exposed to radical ideology, as well as restricting access to materials and communications that could exacerbate the situation. By eliminating the Reduce the Rewards dimension, this study retains four dimensions that are more appropriate and applicable in preventing radicalization in prisons, namely: Increasing the Effort, Increasing the Risk, Reduce Provocations, and Removing Excuses.

METHOD

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach. A qualitative approach was chosen because it is able to explore social phenomena in depth, particularly those related to the interaction between terrorism convicts and other convicts in prisons. According to Creswell (2014), a qualitative approach is used to understand the meaning that individuals or groups give to social issues.

This approach allows researchers to comprehensively interpret the dynamics of radicalization and the prevention strategies implemented by the Surabaya Class I Prison. The research design used is descriptive analytical, which describes the phenomenon of radicalism prevention strategies and analyzes them through the perspectives of criminology and Situational Crime Prevention (SCP) theory.

The main focus of the research is to describe prevention strategies, the effectiveness of their implementation, and the obstacles encountered. To ensure validity, this study uses source and method triangulation techniques. Triangulation is carried out by comparing interview results between informants, confirming data through observation, and matching it with official documents. In this way, the data obtained can be scientifically accounted for.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study found that strategies to prevent exposure to radicalism in Surabaya Class I Prison have been implemented through a situational approach based on Situational Crime Prevention (SCP) theory. The first strategy is to increase efforts by tightening control over access to facilities and personal belongings, separating terrorist prisoners in special blocks, and limiting interaction with general prisoners. This is in line with the principle of target hardening, which aims to narrow the opportunities for terrorist prisoners to spread radical ideology (Clarke, 1997). The second strategy is to increase the risk through strict surveillance, the use of CCTV technology, routine patrols by officers, and the involvement of correctional officers in monitoring the progress of prisoners. This step is in line with the principles of extend guardianship and assist natural surveillance (Freilich et al., 2021), which emphasize the importance of early detection of signs of radicalization.

The third strategy is to reduce provocations by creating more conducive prison conditions, such as transparent administrative services, provision of recreational and sports facilities, and regulation of inmate interactions to reduce the potential for conflict. This effort aims to reduce stress and frustration among prisoners, which can trigger involvement in radical ideology, as described in the indicator "reduce frustrations and stress" (Clarke, 2013). Meanwhile, the fourth strategy is to remove excuses by implementing strict rules regarding the prohibition of spreading radical ideology,

imposing disciplinary sanctions on violators, and implementing religious guidance programs with a moderate approach. These programs serve to raise moral awareness while removing the ideological justifications often used by terrorist prisoners to justify their actions.

However, the implementation of these prevention strategies is not without obstacles. Limited human resources make it difficult to provide optimal supervision throughout the prison. In addition, overcrowding complicates the separation of terrorist prisoners from general prisoners, allowing risky interactions to continue. Another obstacle is the limited availability of technology-based surveillance tools, as well as the lack of training for officers in detecting signs of radicalization. These obstacles are in line with the findings of Iannello et al. (2023), which confirm that the effectiveness of radicalization prevention programs is often limited by constraints in resources, methodology, and institutional capacity. The study by Saputro et al. (2024) also found similar obstacles in the implementation of the deradicalization program at the Karanganyar High Risk Prison, namely the lack of staff capabilities and limited supporting facilities.

The analysis shows that the prevention strategy at the Surabaya Class I Prison is quite in line with SCP principles because it focuses on reducing opportunities for radicalization through surveillance, limiting interaction, stress management, and strengthening moral awareness. However, its effectiveness is still not optimal because it is influenced by larger structural factors, such as limited human resources, facilities, and consistent policy support. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the strategy through the integration of security approaches, moderate religious guidance, social rehabilitation, and collaboration with external institutions such as the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT) and religious organizations. With these measures, it is hoped that the prevention strategy in prisons will not only function situationally but also sustainably in suppressing the spread of radicalism in the correctional environment.

In addition, the findings of this study also emphasize the importance of a humanistic approach in prevention strategies. Prisoners who are treated fairly, given the opportunity to participate in rehabilitation programs, and provided with space to develop skills tend to be more easily guided than those who only receive repressive treatment. This is in line with Sarwono's (2012) idea that radicalization often stems from feelings of alienation and injustice. Thus, a combination of strict security measures and restorative justice-based rehabilitation is believed to be more effective in the long term. Furthermore, this study shows that strategies to prevent radicalization in prisons cannot be separated from the support of national regulations and policies.

The existence of Law No. 5 of 2018 concerning the Eradication of Criminal Acts of Terrorism and Law No. 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections has provided a clear legal framework for the handling of prisoners convicted of terrorism. However, its implementation still faces challenges at the technical level. Therefore, this study emphasizes the need for policy synchronization between agencies, capacity building for officers, and the provision of facilities and infrastructure so that prevention strategies in prisons are more effective and sustainable.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This study shows that the strategy to prevent exposure to radicalism in Surabaya Class I Prison has been implemented using the Situational Crime Prevention (SCP) approach. The strategies implemented include increasing efforts through the separation of terrorist prisoners and the monitoring of goods, increasing risk through patrols and the use of

CCTV, reducing provocation through the provision of transparent services and recreational facilities, and eliminating excuses through the enforcement of disciplinary rules and moderate religious guidance programs. This strategy has been able to reduce the opportunities for the spread of radical ideology, although it is not yet fully optimal.

The main obstacles to its implementation include limited human resources, overcapacity, limited surveillance facilities, and a lack of training for officers in detecting radicalization. These factors indicate that the situational prevention strategy still needs to be strengthened with policy support, institutional capacity building, and cross-sector collaboration. Overall, the prevention strategy implemented has been running quite well, but its success is highly dependent on the prison's ability to integrate security aspects with a social guidance and rehabilitation approach.

Based on these results, this study recommends several important points. First, increasing the number and quality of correctional officers through special training in early detection of radicalization should be a top priority in order to make supervision more effective. Second, there is a need to optimize surveillance facilities through the use of modern technology such as integrated CCTV and alarm systems. Third, prisoner rehabilitation programs need to be expanded, not only through a moderate religious approach, but also through civic education and useful skills training. Fourth, coordination between agencies such as the Ministry of Law and Human Rights and the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT) must be strengthened so that policies regarding terrorist prisoners can be implemented in a more consistent and integrated manner. Fifth, it is important for prisons to continue to prioritize a humanistic approach based on human rights, so that prevention strategies are not only repressive but also rehabilitative.

With the implementation of these recommendations, the strategy to prevent radicalization in prisons can be more effective, sustainable, and supportive of the correctional system's goal of rehabilitating prisoners so that they are ready to return to society in a constructive manner.

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