

Research Article

Preventive Measures for Juvenile Crimes in Yogyakarta City

Fuadi Isnawan*

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Abstract.

This study examined how to effectively and efficiently deal with juvenile delinquency through *klithih*. This research was conducted normatively, and the results showed that several measures must be undertaken to handle juvenile delinquency, including the use of criminal law in a way that does not involve criminal sanctions but by using the mass media instead to punish the juveniles who commit the illegal actions in a way that it would implant fear when they intend to perform the crime. The conclusion was that there are various ways to overcome juvenile delinquency, among others, by strengthening the mentality of adolescents, and understanding adolescents and those who are approaching them so that they can minimize the difficulties that would otherwise be their means to vent the inability to commit juvenile delinquency

Keywords: Adolescence, Juvenile Crimes, PreventiveCorresponding Author: Fuadi
Isnawan; email:
fuadi.isnawan@uii.ac.id

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1. Introduction

Adolescence is the most dynamic period in human development. That period was marked by the turmoil of the soul to achieve something that could be destructive or constructive. In its development, juveniles can have the instinct to show off something that deems to stand out in themselves. They have passion for bringing out the side they want to show, hence they tend to do as they please.

This adolescent desire to show off can be abused by committing crimes, one of which is street crime or commonly known as *klithih* in Yogyakarta. In the past, the meaning of *klithih* was to go out looking for something, for example, food. However, as the times shift, it develops different meanings, one of which refers to youngsters going out to find their opponents. In the past, *klithih* only happened between school gangs, they looked for opponents after school and sometimes caused a brawl phenomenon. However, now that it has shifted to a wider phenomenon, they no longer target other school gangs as their opponents, but rather the public in general when they see as they carry out their

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actions, it could be people who come home from work, people who go out looking for food, people who walk at night, or it could be an online motorcycle/taxi driver. These criminal actions increasingly disturb the community, and in return causes people to be reluctant to go out at night. Even if it is for those people who have to go out at night for something they cannot leave behind. This particular crime has unique characteristics, among others: it is carried out only at night, the attacks are directed towards people who drive at night, it does not take property from the victim, and most of the perpetrators are still school students.

Many of the young generation are trapped in this negative culture because they just want to belong or be accepted as part of a group and the perception of having no future. Yet the effect is terribly dangerous for themselves and their future. Many things are boiling behind this adolescents phenomenon, these factors make this research interesting to study, particularly on how to take effective measures against crimes committed by these youngsters.

2. Methods

This research was conducted using a normative-sociological juridical method which will examine the phenomenon of crimes committed by juveniles and how to overcome them, both in penal and non-penal measures.

3. Results and Discussion

The crimes committed by juveniles must be addressed immediately because it causes disruptions to the life of the people, especially at night, this is supported by the data in the **Figure 1**.^[1]

From the table above, it is shown that the Special Region of Yogyakarta (DIY) occupies the top position where its citizens have worries and fears to travel at night in order to meet their daily needs. This is because there are many *klithih* roaming around and threatening the safety of local residents. The table also shows that the number of concerns in DIY is more than the concerns of residents in the capital city of Jakarta. This shows that there is a need for immediate action to tackle street violence perpetrated by these irresponsible juveniles.

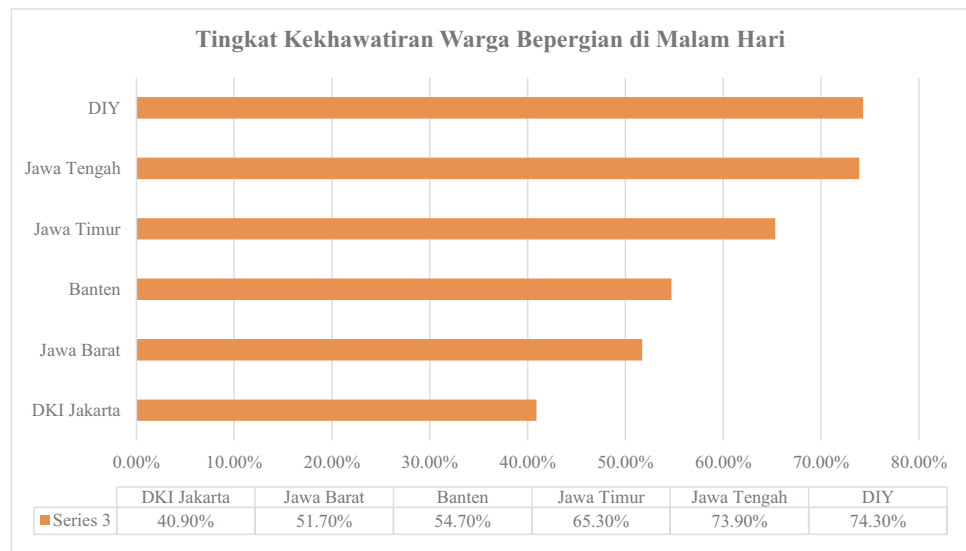


Figure 1: Public Worries on Travelling by Night.

3.1. Street Crime Prevention

The policy to handle juvenile crimes is essentially an inseparable part of the government’s efforts to achieve social welfare and to protect the community. The essence of community protection is to achieve a prosperous and peaceful society. Efforts to overcome crimes are an inseparable part in law enforcement. Law enforcement efforts are part of public order, which are also included in the scope of legislative policies. Criminal policy is nothing but an inseparable part of social policy with the meaning of a policy that has aspirations to achieve social welfare.[2]

As has been affirmed by Prof. Barda, according to Hoefnagels, crime prevention can be conducted with various existing methods, among others, it can be undertaken by: [3]

3.2. The application of criminal law in the law enforcement

In the case of street crimes committed by juveniles, the best interests of children must be prioritized in accordance with the Juvenile Criminal Justice System. It should also be remembered that in order to overcome this at a later time, the criminal law of present time must be applied strictly in order for the juveniles with intention to commit such actions will rethink of what they will do by considering the bad consequences on not only themselves but also on others. The bad consequences vested upon other people can in return turn them into the victim of injuries or even death. While the bad consequences

for themselves is that they shall bear responsibility for what they did, which is to face a strict criminal punishment that commensurates with what they have done to themselves and other people.

Efforts to overcome juvenile delinquency that are carried out repressively are carried out in what way is the effort to detain and oppress juveniles so that they do not commit juvenile delinquency hence more destructive events can be prevented. This effort can be realized by the method of giving warnings and even punishments to juveniles who commit the delinquencies. The punishment can be psychological as well as strict punishment. The psychological punishment is aimed at educating them as well as helping them to realize what they have done. In the family, it can be done by educating the young on disciplines and prohibition to violate the ethics and norms that live in society. In the community, this action can be realized by maximizing the social control function of the community to control the life of the juveniles, also by giving advice to the juveniles directly when they commit the juvenile delinquency. As the final step, the public must have the courage to report to the police of juvenile delinquency accompanied by tangible evidence in the form of witnesses and also victims for it to be overcome and renders deterrent effect and lesson for the perpetrators.[4]

Law enforcers, especially the police, have the right to arrest a juvenile who commits juvenile delinquency, but the punishments handed down are different, as well as the judicial system. There are several elements that must be considered as to why adolescents are treated differently from adults, one of which is based on the fact that the young have a bright future and can still be 'rearranged' if they commit juvenile delinquency. There are several other aspects to consider on why the juvenile could not be sentenced, those considerations include:[5]

1. Characteristics and age of the juveniles
2. The condition of the community in which they live
3. Their interests in the future

3.3. Crime prevention without employing criminal law

To overcome the crime can be done without presenting the criminal law itself, as is done with legal counseling to juveniles, especially those who are studying in high school and junior high school carried out by NGOs, as well as from the police to increase

legal obedience and compliance of juveniles with the law. This is aim for the juveniles' awareness on their rights and obligations as good citizens in the society, so that they can avoid what is prohibited and what the consequences are when doing these actions. This will implant them with sufficient knowledge of the meaning of criminal law and punishment, therefore when they have this understanding they can comprehend that criminal law is firm and able to make people who commit crimes suffer in the form of punishment from the state.

In addition to legal counseling, it can also be done by *influencers* who are loved by the young generations to provide counseling about the dangers of participating in such criminal actions. These *influencers* will have a closer attachment to these juveniles due to the small age gap, as well as the juveniles' sense of idolizing these public figures in a way that what these public figures convey will be well absorbed and remembered, and most importantly will be well carried out. Real efforts are needed to overcome this matter, where there is a slick collaboration between law enforcement and these *influencers* in order to convey about what to avoid at their age so that their lives in the future will be even better and will be even more brilliant.

Juvenile delinquency which is influenced by various factors from the community is not only limited to the desire or intention of the juveniles but there are also factors that influence them to do so, including:[6]

1. Social factors where criminologically what is in the environment and as things that cause these juveniles to behave criminally such as age, social and poverty.
2. This psychological factor is related to the intention of the perpetrator, where the court should pay attention to various kinds of psychological elements that cause the juveniles to commit the act, which is also related to biological factors caused by the psychological factors that cause the influence on the juveniles to commit various kinds of crimes.
3. Biological factors where social factors and psychological factors that increase the risk of adolescents who commit crimes are increasing and stronger.

In general, preventing juvenile delinquency can be achieved in several easy ways, such as the following:[7]

1. Conducting an introduction and understanding to adolescents about the characteristics and peculiarities of adolescent period from the juveniles themselves,

because they provide a description like this they will be aware of the problems they are experiencing, that there is a turmoil in their souls to always be passionate about doing something, as it can be destructive or constructive depending on how the juveniles respond.

2. Recognizing the various kinds of difficulties experienced by juveniles in general

If we can recognize and understand the various kinds of difficulties then we will be able to prevent delinquency which is usually just an outlet for the inability to overcome these difficulties. Therefore the society as an institution that exists around the adolescents who grow and develop has an unwritten obligation, which is to help them to recognize the difficulties that exist and help to overcome them so that the community, hence they do not do things that deviate because of these difficulties.

1. Conducting coaching to juveniles in real life

This can actually be done by taking a number of steps, including:[8]

1. Strengthening the mentality of juveniles which makes the juveniles have the mental strength and endurance to be able to avoid various kinds of delinquency.
2. Ask them to overcome various kinds of difficulties that they are facing, so as not to vent their inability to things that are destructive, such as the juvenile delinquency per se.
3. Understanding of education is not only to hone skills and knowledge but to provide mental and personal education such as ethical, moral and religious matters that can dispel various kinds of actions that can damage adolescents and their future.
4. Providing various kinds of facilities and creating comfortable conditions for the development of adolescents so that they can avoid juvenile delinquency.
5. Advice given by the community leaders for them to understand their benefit in a way that adolescence is a golden period where they can do good and can avoid the bad behaviours for their brighter future.
6. Strengthening motivation in their behaviour so that they may behave properly and correctly so that their social relations become close, the community can control their behavior and can prevent them from juvenile delinquency.

7. Procurement of facilities for discussion so that juveniles are accustomed to expressing their opinions and can be directed to things that are positive so as to avoid juvenile delinquency.
8. Improvement of environmental conditions around the family and social conditions so as to minimize the occurrence.

The role of the family of the juveniles are quite important in preventing juvenile delinquency. Various types of families that are capable of causing an adverse impact on the adolescents life include:[9]

1. Families who consider their spiritual needs less important, resulting in disharmony.

Adolescent development in which one of the parents can lead an immoral lifestyle; consumerism; so low education and culture; parents who do not have enough knowledge about education and educational facilities that are pedagogically wise, have an authoritarian communication style, have a reluctance to spend time together, sometimes conflicting differences

1. Families that have less moral conditions and have a negative impact on the development of adolescents

Families who has an anti-pedagogical attitude towards children, has nervousness in family relationships; lack of general cultural and spiritual demands; very low basic education. Often this kind of family is a large family with many children whose financial status is not too high; has a lack of concern for the organization in which their child is active; the juveniles is trying to compensate for the lack of affection and attention from their delinquent parents;

1. The criminogenic type of family in which their internal relationships are built in such a way that there are glaring harm to the spiritual and physical health of children; parental education is lower than the average person in the community; Frequent drinking with parents, the immoral lifestyle of the juveniles' parents, often involving children;
2. The neutral impact on the juveniles (in family relationships is characterized by parenting that is free from parents, children often live alone; the focus of parents is only on making money; often single mothers who give birth to a child at a young age; women who have divorced, the conditions of the society in which they live

do not allow them to properly educate their children; large families with many children with weak social and moral standards, with low cultural level; material status is lower than average.

A detailed and comprehensive study on the individuality of the juvenile has a significant contribution to the individualization of punishment. The relationship of the data structure of the minor with the degree of social harm from the crime committed by him, although he has an indirect character, but their identification and consideration is very important to achieve the goals of education and recovery moral personality of adolescents.[10]

3.4. Conducting education to the society on crime and punishment through the mass media

This will produce the result that what juveniles do when they commit road crimes will receive the appropriate punishment and will receive the state of misery in the form of punishment. When it is broadcast in the mass media, the wider community, especially the youth, will be able to listen well and will see the real consequences of what other juveniles have done for violating state rules, so that those who have the intention to commit the crime will give up their intentions and will avoid the misery itself.

4. Conclusions

Street crimes committed by juveniles are disturbing actions that cause people or members of the community to be reluctant to go out at night because of their own perseverance. Therefore, it is necessary to overcome these street crimes so that people's lives can return to peace and tranquility as before. The countermeasures can be done by applying criminal law in law enforcement, preventing crime without involving the criminal law itself and educating the public about crime and punishment through the existing mass media.

These three things will help each other a lot to minimize street crimes committed by juveniles because they synergize with each other and can reduce the level of crime committed by juveniles.

The role of the family is also very important to overcome street crimes committed by juveniles as a form of juvenile delinquency that leads to criminal actions. This is

because the main function of the family is to educate so that the role of parents is very influential on the adolescents and the dynamics of their lives.

The need to strengthen the function of the family to prevent street crime as a form of juvenile delinquency so that it will reduce the effects of juvenile delinquency itself. In addition, the function of society as social control must also be strengthened in order to balance the role of the family itself so that in social life it can improve the quality of the juveniles and can control the various things that are done by the juveniles so that they do not do things that are contrary to the norms. and laws so that their lives become more useful and more brilliant.

There is also a need for firm law enforcement efforts for juvenile street crimes for them to understand that what they are doing constitute a criminal action and has a real effect on them. This will make them think again whenever they have the intention or they are about to do the act.

Acknowledgments

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