

Crime Motivation of Recidivist Inmates in the Class 1 State Detention Center (*Rutan*) Surakarta

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Abstract

Many problems arise in the detention center related to the coaching of Correctional Inmates. Even though some inmates are recidivists, they even move to different detention centers. In this case, the inmates certainly have their motivation in committing the crime so they become a recidivist. The purpose of this research was to describe recidivist inmates' motivation in committing their crimes. This research used the qualitative method by doing interviews and observations to collect the data. The data were analyzed through a descriptive narrative. The subjects were 5 inmates in the Class I State Detention Center (*Rutan*) Surakarta who committed repeated crimes in various cases. The result of this research shows the motivation of inmates in recidivism is influenced by economic factors, environmental factors, psychological factors, the influence of others, opportunities, and habits to commit crimes. To reduce recidivists from committing crimes, it is necessary to pay attention to the factors that trigger these crimes.

Keywords: prison inmates, recidivist, motivation

Introduction Section

Crime is a part that coexists with human life. All human activities in their daily lives, whether in terms of politics, economics, and society become objects in committing crimes. In this case, the perpetrator who commits a crime is called a criminal. The meaning of criminal is relative because in this case, the meaning of criminal comes from the realm of value. Thus, assessing criminals varies depending on humans in defining it. The crime that has been committed by one person is not necessarily recognized by the other party as a crime. The severity and lightness of the crime that has been committed by a person can be considered and debated. Therefore, with the existence of criminals, it is necessary to find prevention and handling efforts to suppress the quantity and quality of these crimes as low as possible (Hussein, 2003). Crime is an antisocial act that consciously gets a reaction from the state in the form of giving suffering and then as a reaction to the legal definition of crime (Bonger in Santoso et al., 2010). According to (Santoso & Zulfa, 2010), crime can be classified into three kinds of understanding. The practical (sociological) understanding of crime is a violation of religious norms, habits, and morals that live in a society. The religious understanding of the transgression of God's commandments is called evil. Juridical understanding is seen from criminal law, crime is any act or omission that is prohibited by public law to protect the community and is punished by the state.

Criminals are usually trained in prisons or correctional institutions. Article 1 number 16 of Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning correctional centers explains that the State Detention Center, hereinafter referred to as prison, is an institution or place that carries out the function of Service to Detainees. Prison is a technical implementation in the field of detention for investigation, prosecution, and examination in court. Meanwhile, structurally, the detention center is directly responsible to the Head of the Regional Office of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia. Based on the Decree of the Minister of Justice and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia No. 03.PR.07.03 of 1985 dated 20 September 1985 concerning the Organization and Work Procedure of the State Detention Center and the State Confiscated Goods Storage

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House and based on the Decree of the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Indonesia No. 02-PK.04.10 of 1990 dated 10 April 1990 concerning Implementing Instructions and Technical Instructions No. E76-UM.01.06 of 1986 dated 17 February 1985 concerning the Treatment of Prisoners and in the Regulation of the Minister of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia No. M.01.PR.07-10 Year 2005, the State Detention Center is located as a Technical Implementing Unit that carries out the Main Duties of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia. The main job of the State Detention Center is to carry out the treatment of suspects or defendants under applicable laws and regulations. The function of the detention center is to provide services and care for the suspects or accused of crimes, to maintain and order the detention center, to manage the detention center, and to carry out the administrative affairs of the detention center.

Article 1 number 3 of Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning correctional centers states that inmates are prisoners, fostered children, and clients. Article 1 point 6 of Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections explains that prisoners are convicts who are serving a prison sentence for a certain time and life or sentenced to death who are waiting for the implementation of the decision, and who are undergoing coaching in a correctional institution. Furthermore, Article 1 point 7 states that fostered children are children who are 14 (fourteen) years old, but not yet 18 (eighteen) years old who are undergoing coaching at a special child development institution. Article 1 point 8 explains that a correctional client, hereinafter referred to as a client, is someone who is in community coaching, both adults and children.

A criminal who repeats the same crime even though he has been sentenced is called a recidivist (Adami, 2002). The term recidivist in the Criminal Code is called the repetition of a crime. Recidivism is a relapse of criminals. It includes rearrest, reconviction, and reimprisonment (Fazel & Wolf, 2015). Repetition of a crime or what can be called a recidivist, namely in the case of a person who has committed several acts, each of which is an independent crime, where one or more acts have been sentenced by a court with permanent legal force (Prasetyo. 2010). Based on the nature of repeated crimes, they can be divided into general recidivists and special recidivists (Prasetyo. 2010). A general recidivist is someone who has committed a crime and is sentenced to a crime he has committed, then there is a repetition of the crime in each type of crime so in this case the repetition of a crime can be taken into consideration in giving an incriminating sentence. A special recidivist is a person who has committed a crime that has been sentenced by a court with permanent legal force yet after serving a sentence there is a repetition of a similar crime so that it can be taken into consideration in an incriminating sentence for the crime committed.

Recidivists repeating the same crime as previous crimes are based on certain motivations. Motivation is a psychological symptom in the form of encouragement from a person consciously to take an action with a particular goal. Motivation can also be in the form of efforts made by someone to achieve goals. Motivation can also be called a plan to achieve success and avoid failure in someone's life. In this case, if someone has the motivation to do an activity, it means that he or she has the power to succeed in life (Nugraha & Abidin, 2013). Motivation consists of intrinsic motivation and extrinsic motivation. Intrinsic motivation is a motive that becomes active without any external stimulation. It is because within the individual there is already an urge to carry out an activity. While extrinsic motivation is an active and functioning motive that requires an external stimulus. A person performs an activity also because of encouragement from the surrounding environment (Prihartanta, 2015). Motivation has a significant role in a person committing the same crime (recidivist). Therefore, it is necessary to know what motivates the inmates to repeat the same crime or recidivist in the Class I State Detention Center (*Rutan*) Surakarta.

This research aims at describing the crime motivation of the correctional inmates in the Class 1 State Detention Center (*Rutan*) Surakarta who have committed the repeated crime and had been sentenced (recidivist).

Method

This research uses a qualitative approach. The qualitative method is a research process that produces descriptive data in the form of written or oral sentences from people and observed behavior (Bogdan and Taylor, 1975). Qualitative research is a method in social science that fundamentally depends on the observations of humans in their own eyes and relates to that person in language and terminology (Kirk and Miller in Moleong, 2018).

The subjects in this research were 5 correctional inmates who committed repeated crimes or were recidivists at the Class I State Detention Center (*Rutan*) Surakarta. The list of subjects who participated in this research can be seen in table 1 as follows:

Table 1. Subjects In Class 1 State Detention Center Surakarta

No.	Name (Initial)	Gender		Age (Year)	Case	Recidivist to
1	F	L	±	32	Robbery	15
2	S	L	±	40	Drug	2
3	PB	L	±	50	Fraud	2
4	DG	L	±	25	Theft	6
5	KP	L	±	40	Theft	4

To collect the data, interviews, and observations were employed. Interviews are a form of a direct conversation conducted by researchers to obtain information related to the research they are doing from respondents. In conducting interviews with respondents, researchers used interview guidelines (Rachmawati, 2007). Interviews were conducted in a semi-structured method. Observation is an observation made directly by using the senses, namely sight, hearing, smell, and touch, and if it is necessary, it uses taste (Alhamid & Anufia, 2019).

Data analysis used in this research is data analysis with descriptive narrative. Descriptive is a procedure of solving the problem under study by providing a description of the state of an object of research carried out and based on the facts as they are (Nawawi & Martin, 1996). A narrative is a thought where the collection of events that occurred which later became a coherent narrative of events (Darmanita & Yusri, 2020). Hence, the data analysis of this research uses a descriptive narrative, namely by providing an overview of the events that have occurred related to the object of research carried out and then compiled into a biased narrative.

Result and Discussion

This research was conducted in August 2022 in the Class I State Detention Center (*Rutan*) Surakarta. A detention center is a place where suspects or defendants are detained during the process of investigation, prosecution, and examination in court. A prison is a place where a person who has not been proven to have committed a crime or a person who has not been sentenced by the court but is strongly suspected of having committed a crime. The function of the detention center is only to temporarily detain a suspect or defendant. There are ± 555 inmates in the detention center and ± 28 inmates at the Polres then divided into Block A ± 32 female inmates, Block B ± 239 male inmates, Block C ± 151 male inmates, and Block D ± 101 male inmates. The majority of inmates were caught in drug and theft cases.

From the results of interviews and observations, it is known that the factors that motivate recidivist prisoners in the Class I State Detention Center (*Rutan*) Surakarta to commit crimes include:

1. Economic Factor

Based on the information from subject F, subject PB and subject KP said that they repeated the crime of recidivism because of economic demands which were an obligation that they had to fulfill. They think that if they do these actions, they can fulfill their economic needs in their daily lives. In this case, the economic factor is a problem that is often faced by inmates so various ways and efforts are carried out to meet their needs, even with deviant actions, namely committing crimes that violate applicable laws. Even though the perpetrators have served time in a correctional institution, they are still determined to commit the same crime again and again because this is triggered by instinct and pressure from the economic problems they face.

According to Suhaidi (2021), economic factors are one of the motivations for recidivist prisoners in prison. Economic pressures and demands, unfair economic conditions, and high cases of poverty in the community lead to crimes such as theft and fraud to fulfill their daily needs.

2. Environmental Factor

The results of interviews with respondents S and KP stated that they had committed a crime as a result of an invitation from a friend and also had not gotten a job to support their daily life. The social environment is very influential on individuals in acting and making decisions. It can lead to deviant actions and violate the norms that live in society. Behavior is not carried out based on logical awareness because the social environment will change their behavior, it can even lead to the same wrongdoing. According to Weber (Kanti and Hartanti. 2022), social action theory states that individuals can act due to the dominance of feelings or emotions that arise without a conscious plan so that the actions taken are irrational and spontaneous which describe the emotional condition of the individual. In the community, all actions that deviate from the norms that live in society are a violation of the law which can then disrupt order and peace in social life. It can cause various kinds of reactions from the public.

3. Influence from Others

Edwin Sutherland's theory of Differential Association, states that criminal acts can be learned through interactions that arise when serving a criminal sentence in a correctional institution (Hardianto. 2018). Based on information from the subjects with the initials F and KP, they said that the repetition of criminal acts or recidivism was caused by correctional inmates at the time in the correctional institution exchanging stories of experiences related to crimes committed so that they ended up serving criminal sentences. In this case, they learn from each other's experiences to apply when they have finished serving their criminal sentence. They learn new ways to commit crimes again. The influence of others while serving a criminal sentence has an important role because there are no restrictions on interaction based on a background in the prison. Prisoners are influenced to commit repeated crimes in the hope that through the method that they learnt, they can commit crimes and not be caught and also undergo a judicial process.

4. There are Opportunities and Habits to Commit Crimes

Whereas based on the statement of the subject's initials, PB revealed that he committed a crime because he felt he had an opportunity, while the initial subject DG revealed that he had gotten used to it and felt satisfied when he committed a crime. Opportunities can arise because individuals no longer have control over themselves so they end up committing repeated crimes.

The existence of opportunities and opportunities is one of the factors that influence individuals to commit repeated or recidivist criminal acts. Individuals committing criminal acts of crime are recidivists because of addiction and habit (Nugraha and Abidin. 2013).

5. Psychological Factor

Based on the initial subject's statement, DG revealed that he committed the crime because it was difficult to contain his desire to steal. This is influenced because the control of the subject is weak so it is easy to be influenced to commit criminal acts of recidivist crime. The repetition of criminal acts is the result of a series of previous experiences, such as emotions, thoughts, perceptions, and other events that include psychological processes that actively shape certain behaviors (Zamble & Quinesy, 2007).

The factors mentioned above become the motivation of the perpetrators to re-do the crimes they have committed. This motivation arises because they have no other choice but to meet the needs of life in any way even though the actions taken are contrary to applicable law.

Sutherland (in Djanggih & Qamar, 2018) states that the factors that influence recidivist crime are first learned from other people who have done it. Second, it can be learned from interactions caused by other people either directly or indirectly. Third, the individual is in a criminal group. Fourth, they have the technique studied and have justification and motivation. Fifth, have a pattern of thought that is contrary to applicable law. Sixth, because of the impact of differential associations of frequency, duration, intensity, and priority. Seventh, being in an association that learns various patterns of crime as well as anti-crime and fulfillment of needs.

Acknowledgement

From the discussion above, it can be concluded that the prisoners in the Class I State Detention Center (*Rutan*) Surakarta commit repeated crimes or are recidivists due to particular motivations. Prison inmates are motivated to commit recidivist crimes because of several factors, namely: economic factors, environmental factors, psychological factors, the influence of others, and opportunities and habits to commit crimes. Thus, the individual commits a repeated criminal or recidivist crime because of the motivation to achieve the goal, that is, the result in a short time. The crimes committed by the five subjects in this research seemed to be the income to meet their daily needs.

Based on these findings, suggestions that can be given are:

- a. For subjects, they must cultivate self-control to become better people and refuse any invitation or influence to take actions that violate the law.
- b. Correctional Institutions need to provide knowledge to inmates and control correctional inmates, so they know that their actions are wrong and violate applicable laws and regulations, and disrupt peace and order in society. Agencies must also guard the psychology of prisoners in prison so that they become better individuals in social life.
- c. For other researchers, this research can be used as a reference related to the motivation of inmates who commit repeated or recidivist crimes.

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