

The Effectiveness of Providing Assimilation to Prisoners to realize the Social Reintegration Program in Riau Province

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ABSTRACT

Every prisoner has the opportunity to get a coaching program in the form of a social reintegration program in accordance with what is regulated in Article 36 of Government Regulation Number 32 of 1999 concerning Conditions and Procedures for Implementing the Rights of Prisoners. The article aims to examine the effectiveness of an assimilation program for prisoners in Riau Province, Indonesia. This study employs a qualitative research approach with a descriptive-analytical method to assess the effectiveness of the prisoner assimilation program in Riau Province. The research focuses on three correctional facilities: Class IIA Bangkinang, Class IIB Dumai, and Class III Rumbai. The study adopts a normative-empirical approach, combining legal analysis with field observations and interviews. Based on the result on the study, The program implemented across three correctional facilities, Class IIA Bangkinang, Class IIB Dumai, and Class III Rumbai, aims to facilitate social reintegration by enhancing prisoners' skills, behavior, and readiness for community life while addressing prison overcrowding. Key indicators of effectiveness include compliance with prison rules, reduced recidivism, skills development, psychological stability, and community acceptance. However, challenges such as limited resources, societal stigma, and inadequate facilities hinder implementation. The study highlights the necessity for ongoing evaluation and potential program expansion, recommending improvements in training, social support, and collaboration among stakeholders to optimize rehabilitation efforts and support successful reintegration into society.

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PRELIMINARY

The criminal justice system is a system/network that exists in the community in order to eradicate criminal acts that occur in the community.¹ The word criminal comes from the Dutch language, *Straf*, which is commonly known as punishment.² The objectives of this punishment system include preventing the public from becoming victims of crime,

¹ Joko Sriwidodo. (2020). *Perkembangan Sistem Peradilan Pidana di Indonesia*. Yogyakarta: Penerbit Kepel Press, 11

² Maria Maya Lestari and Lena Agustina. (2014). Perlindungan Hukum terhadap Korban Salah Tangkap (Studi Kasus Penangkapan Teroris oleh Detasemen Khusus 88). *Jurnal Online Mahasiswa Fakultas Hukum Universitas Riau*, 1 (2), 1-15

solving crimes that occur so that the public is satisfied that justice has been served and those who are guilty are punished and ensuring that those who have committed crimes do not repeat their crimes.³

Juridically, the implementation of Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections (hereinafter abbreviated as the Corrections Law) provides strengthening in efforts to realize the correctional system as an order regarding the direction and limits and ways of fostering correctional prisoners based on Pancasila which is carried out in an integrated manner between the fosterer, the fostered, and the community to improve the quality of correctional prisoners so that they realize their mistakes, improve themselves, and do not repeat criminal acts so that they can be accepted back by the community, and can actively participate in development with the hope of living reasonably as good and responsible citizens.⁴

Article 3 of Government Regulation No. 31 of 1999 concerning the Guidance and Guidance of Prisoners of Correction states that the guidance provided to prisoners is related to several aspects, namely devotion to God Almighty, awareness of the nation and state, intellectual, attitude and behavior, physical and spiritual health, legal awareness, healthy reintegration with the community, work skills and work training and production.⁵

Every prisoner has the opportunity to get a coaching program in the form of a social reintegration program in accordance with what is regulated in Article 36 of Government Regulation Number 32 of 1999 concerning Conditions and Procedures for Implementing the Rights of Prisoners.⁶ As stipulated in Government Regulation Number 99 of 2012 concerning Conditions and Procedures for the Implementation of the Rights of Prisoners, for prisoners who want to get coaching must meet the specified requirements, namely good behavior, actively participating in the coaching program well; and have served $\frac{1}{2}$ (one-half) of the criminal period. Meanwhile, on the other hand, for narcotics convicts, the requirements that must be met if they want to get assimilation are good behavior, actively participating in the coaching program well and have served $\frac{2}{3}$ (two-thirds) of the criminal period.⁷

One of the problems of prisons today as an institution for providing guidance to prisoners is that there is always an increase in overcapacity and this condition is exacerbated by post-COVID-19 pandemic conditions which have led to increased criminal acts due to economic demands and loss of livelihoods during the pandemic.⁸

Currently, prisons in Indonesia can only accommodate 160,000 people. However, in fact, the number of prison inmates has now reached 270 thousand people.⁹ Minister of Law and Human Rights Yasonna Laoly revealed that as of 17 August 2023, there were 36,641 prisoners released through the assimilation program while 2,181 other prisoners were released through the integration program.

In the Correctional Act, it is written that the assimilation activities are philosophically implemented as a correctional system in addition to aiming to return the prisoners as good citizens, it also aspires to protect the community from the possibility of repetition of criminal acts by prisoners and is an application and an integral part that is inseparable from the

³ Dwidja Priyatno. (2009). *Sistem Pelaksanaan Pidana Penjara di Indonesia*. Bandung: Refika Aditama, 3.

⁴ *Ibid.* 4

⁵ Marsudi Utoyo. (2015). Konsep Pembinaan Warga Binaan Pemasyarakatan: Analysis of Prisoners Guidance to Reduce Level, *Pranata Hukum*, 10 (1), 28-48

⁶ Bonanza P. Sidaurok & Subroto, M. (2022). Efektivitas Pemberian Asimilasi kepada Narapidana terhadap Program Reintegrasi Sosial di Lembaga Pemasyarakatan Kelas IIA Kerobokan. *Jurnal Pendidikan Kewarganegaraan Undiksha*, 10(2), 167-175.

⁷ Made Wahyu Arthaluhur. (2018, June 05). Syarat Pemberian Asimilasi Bagi Narapidana, Retrieved January 30, 2025 from <https://www.hukumonline.com/klinik/a/syarat-pemberian-asimilasi-bagi-narapidana-lt5b12d43a4f130/>

⁸ Elza Astari. (2022, March 22). 2 Maret 2020, Saat Indonesia Pertama Kali Dilanda Covid-19. Retrieved January 30, 2025 from <https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2022/03/02/10573841/2-maret-2020-saat-indonesia-pertama-kali-dilanda-covid-19>

⁹ Viva Budy Kusnandar. (2021, Februari 10). Hampir Semua Lapas di Indonesia Kelebihan Kapasitas. Retrieved January 30, 2025 from <https://databoks.katadata.co.id/datapublish/2021/09/13/hampir-semua-lapas-di-indonesia-kelebihan-kapasitas>

values contained in Pancasila.¹⁰

Before the COVID-19 outbreak attacked Indonesia, the Director General of Corrections said assimilated inmates were acting up, Director General of Corrections of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, Reynhard Silitonga, stated that in Indonesia the rate of prisoners who repeat their crimes is very low compared to other countries, namely 0.2%. This is one of the contributions of effective assimilation.¹¹

To overcome this condition, it is necessary to improve a more effective coaching program for each inmate so that the implementation of imprisonment does not have a negative impact on the purpose of punishment.¹² The role of social reintegration is present as a process of forming new norms to adapt to social institutions that have undergone changes in the form of assimilation programs. This shows that the implementation of social reintegration programs in a number of prisons in Riau Province, especially Class IIA Bangkinang Correctional Facility, Class IIB Dumai Detention Center, and Class III Rumbai Open Correctional Facility, has been carried out as a form of improvement in the prisoner development program in accordance with the Corrections Law.

The assimilation program at Class IIA Bangkinang Correctional Facility, Class IIB Dumai Detention Center, and Class III Rumbai Open Correctional Facility aims to overcome overcapacity and remove the negative stigma against prisoners. The program emphasizes the restoration of social relationships, improvement of skills, and readiness for independent living after the sentence period. The implementation of assimilation is faced with various obstacles, such as the difficulty of fulfilling the requirements, limited apparatus, and community stigma.

The assimilation program in Class IIA Bangkinang Correctional Facility, Class IIB Dumai Detention Center, and Class III Rumbai Open Correctional Facility aims to overcome overcapacity and remove the negative stigma against prisoners by emphasizing the restoration of social relationships, improvement of skills, and readiness for independent living after the sentence period. The implementation of this program faces various obstacles, such as the difficulty of fulfilling the requirements, limited apparatus, and community stigma. Based on this background, the legal issues to be discussed include how is the effectiveness of assimilation for prisoners in realizing the objectives of the social reintegration program, what are the inhibiting factors in the implementation of the assimilation program, and how are the efforts made by the Riau Province Correctional Institution and the local government in overcoming these inhibiting factors. This research focuses on evaluating the effectiveness of the assimilation program in Riau Province by comparing it with a previous study that highlighted narcotics prisoners in Surakarta. The difference lies in the location, the subject of the research, as well as the addition of an analysis of efforts to overcome implementation obstacles. Therefore, this study is important to assess whether the assimilation program is still effective in achieving the goal of social reintegration or needs to be updated, especially in dealing with the phenomenon of overcapacity in prisons.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative research approach with a descriptive-analytical method to assess the effectiveness of the prisoner assimilation program in Riau Province. The research focuses on three correctional facilities: Class IIA Bangkinang, Class IIB Dumai, and Class III Rumbai.

The study adopts a normative-empirical approach, combining legal analysis with field

¹⁰ Ica Karina, et.al. (2024). *Hukum Pidana : Tindak Pidana Tertentu Dalam KUHP*. Jakarta: PT. Sonpedia Publishing Indonesia, 17

¹¹ Putri Deanisa, Marly, L., Febriyanti, M., & Ludiana, T. (2024). Peranan Lembaga Pemasyarakatan Dan Partisipasi Masyarakat Dalam Membantu Proses Reintegrasi Sosial Narapidana. *Nusantara: Jurnal Pendidikan, Seni, Sains Dan Sosial Humaniora*, 2(01). 1-10

¹² Aditya Nugraha. (2020). Konsep Community Based Correction pada Sistem Pemasyarakatan dalam Menghadapi Dampak Pemenjaraan, *Jurnal Sosio Sains Humaniora*, 4 (1), 142-155

observations and interviews. The normative aspect involves examining relevant laws and regulations governing prisoner assimilation, while the empirical aspect gathers data from direct observations, structured interviews, and document analysis within the selected correctional facilities.¹³

The data collection methods in this study consist of primary and secondary data sources. Primary data is gathered through interviews with prison officials, social workers, and former inmates to assess the implementation of the assimilation program and the challenges faced. Additionally, observations in correctional facilities are conducted to evaluate the program's effectiveness in skill development, behavioral change, and psychological readiness of inmates. Meanwhile, secondary data is obtained from legal documents and policies, including Indonesian correctional laws, rehabilitation guidelines, and government reports, as well as previous studies and statistical data related to prison assimilation, recidivism rates, and social reintegration.

A qualitative content analysis is conducted to identify patterns, challenges, and best practices. The data is analyzed based on key indicators of program effectiveness, such as compliance with prison regulations, skill acquisition, psychological stability, and community acceptance. Triangulation is applied by cross-referencing interview responses, legal documents, and observation findings to ensure reliability and validity of the study.

This methodological approach enables a comprehensive evaluation of the assimilation program, ensuring that findings accurately reflect both legal frameworks and real-world implementation challenges.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Effectiveness of the Assimilation Program in Class IIA Bangkinang Correctional Facility, Class IIB Dumai Detention Center, and Class III Rumbai Open Correctional Facility in Supporting the Social Reintegration of Prisoners

The parameter indicators measure how far the effectiveness of providing assimilation to prisoners in a correctional institution (lapas) can be measured through several important aspects that can be measured qualitatively and quantitatively. The following are these indicators:¹⁴

The effectiveness of the assimilation program can be measured through eight main indicators. First, inmate behavior is shown by an increase in compliance with prison rules and a decrease in deviant behavior. Second, a decrease in recidivism, where the reduction in post-assimilation law violations is a sign of successful rehabilitation. Third, skills development, seen from the active involvement of prisoners in job training or entrepreneurship. Fourth, readiness for social integration, which is influenced by family support, community, and social acceptance of prisoners. Fifth, psychological conditions, including mental stability, the ability to manage stress, and an optimistic attitude towards the future. Sixth, changes in attitude and motivation, such as an increased sense of responsibility and determination to lead a better life. Seventh, the assessment of prison officers, through monitoring the progress of prisoners in discipline and seriousness in undergoing the program. Lastly, a decrease in prison burden, which contributes to the reduction of prison overcrowding and operations, while addressing the problem of overpopulation.¹⁵

The Class IIA Bangkinang Correctional Institution, which is under the auspices of the Riau Regional Office of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, has an important role in fostering prisoners through an assimilation program to prepare them to return to society.

¹³ Suyanto. (2023). *Metode Penelitian Hukum Pengantar Penelitian Normatif, Empiris dan Gabungan*. Gresik: Unigres Press. 19

¹⁴ Muhammad Iqbal Nur dan St. Nurjannah, (2022). Efektivitas Kebijakan Asimilasi Terhadap Narapidana di Tengah Pandemi Covid-19, *Alaudidin Law Development Journal (ALDEV)*. 4 (3), 678-680.

¹⁵ Haryono. (2023). Optimalisasi Pelaksanaan Tugas dan Fungsi Lapas Terbuka Dalam Proses Asimilasi Narapidana, *Jurnal JIKH*. 12 (3), 295-312.

This program aims to improve the quality of devotion, intellectual, legal awareness, skills, and physical and spiritual health of prisoners. The effectiveness of assimilation is measured through several indicators, such as inmate compliance with rules, decreased recidivism, skills development, readiness for social integration, stable psychological conditions, and changes in attitude and motivation.

The assimilation program at Class IIA Bangkinang Prison has shown positive results. Prisoners' compliance with regulations and a decrease in law violations after assimilation are the main indicators of its success. A supportive environment as well as skills training such as agriculture have helped prisoners prepare for a productive life in the community. In addition, the mental state of prisoners is also considered through various positive activities that encourage changes in attitude and motivation to become a better person.

Support from family, community, and prison supervision are instrumental in ensuring the success of the social reintegration program. These results prove that the assimilation program is effective in reducing recidivism, increasing skills, and improving prisoners' relationships with the community, as well as helping to overcome overcapacity in correctional institutions. The program is run in several structured stages. In the first stage, 66 prisoners participated in assimilation, followed by the second stage with 53 prisoners, and 22 prisoners obtained home assimilation through the home visit method. This program shows the prison's commitment to supporting social reintegration in stages.

Most of the prisoners participated in the social work program inside the prison to develop useful skills after release, while some others received home assimilation with home visit supervision. Assessments by prison officials indicate that the program improves the quality of life of prisoners, both economically and psychologically, by providing a second chance to build a better life. The program also helps reduce the burden on prisons, which has an impact on reducing overcrowding and the risk of recidivism.¹⁶

Questionnaire results show that the majority of prisoners understand the purpose of the assimilation program and experience significant benefits, such as increased mental and physical readiness to return to society.

Overall, the assimilation program at Class IIA Bangkinang Correctional Facility is effective in helping prisoners adapt, improve skills, and reduce recidivism rates. This research emphasizes the importance of expanding the assimilation program to strengthen prisoner rehabilitation and support more optimal social reintegration.

The Class IIB Dumai State Detention Center (Rutan) also implements a similar program with good results, which helps reduce recidivism rates and prepares prisoners for a better life after release. Likewise, Class III Rumbai Open Correctional Facility, which implements a similar program with results that support the social integration of inmates.

Inhibiting Factors in the Implementation of the Assimilation Program in Class II A Bangkinang Correctional Facility, Class II B Dumai Detention Center, and Class III Rumbai Open Correctional Facility for Social Reintegration

Factors inhibiting the implementation of the assimilation program at Class IIA Bangkinang Prison involve internal and external factors. Internally, the main obstacles include inmates' limited skills, lack of education and training, and lack of supporting facilities and resources.

External factors, such as negative stigma from the community, lack of family support, and limited employment opportunities, also hinder the social reintegration of prisoners. In addition, overcrowding, lack of coordination between institutions, and ineffective supervision worsen program implementation. Solutions needed include improved facilities, social support, as well as cooperation between various parties to overcome these obstacles and support the success of the assimilation program.

The implementation of the assimilation program at Class II B Dumai Detention Center

¹⁶ Muhammad Iqbal Nur dan St. Nurjannah, (2022). Efektivitas Kebijakan Asimilasi Terhadap Narapidana di Tengah Pandemi Covid-19, *Alaudidin Law Development Journal (ALDEV)*. 4 (3), 678-680.

faces various obstacles, both internal and external. Internally, inmates' limited skills, low motivation, and inadequate facilities are the main obstacles. Many prisoners do not have relevant training or work experience, making it difficult to participate in the assimilation program.¹⁷

On the external side, negative stigma from the community, lack of family support, and lack of post-assimilation employment opportunities are also significant obstacles. In addition, external policies and lack of collaboration with related parties also hinder the effectiveness of the program. Overcrowding and limited resources in detention centers also exacerbate program implementation. Solutions needed include improved facilities, training, social support, and cooperation between various parties to support the successful social reintegration of prisoners.¹⁸

The implementation of the assimilation program at Class III Rumbai Open Correctional Facility faces various obstacles, both internal and external. The main internal factors are the lack of skills and competencies of prisoners, as well as the mismatch of jobs with their abilities, especially in social work assimilation.¹⁹

Limited infrastructure and facilities also hamper this program. From the external side, the social stigma against ex-prisoners and the difficulty of getting a job after assimilation are major obstacles. The lack of cooperation with external parties and limited family support also worsens the situation. In addition, administrative constraints, limited human resources, and facilities in prisons also affect the effectiveness of the program.²⁰

To overcome this, there is a need to improve the quality of training, psychosocial support, and better cooperation between the government, correctional institutions, communities and businesses. The program has shown positive impacts in helping prisoners return to society, but challenges need to be overcome to maximize the benefits.

Efforts by Riau Correctional Institutions and the Government to Overcome Barriers to the Assimilation Program in Bangkinang Correctional Facility, Dumai Detention Center, and Rumbai Correctional Facility

The implementation of the assimilation program at Class IIA Bangkinang Penitentiary, Class IIB Dumai Detention Center, and Class III Rumbai Open Prison faces both structural and social challenges. Limited resources, facilities, and community support are the main obstacles. The program needs to focus not only on skills development but also on the psychological readiness of inmates. Efforts made include improving facilities, providing counseling support, conducting public outreach, continuous evaluation, and collaborating with external institutions.

Bangkinang Penitentiary also addresses overcrowding by utilizing reserve land for agricultural training, collaborating with other institutions, and offering assimilation accompanied by guidance and supervision. These steps aim to improve the effectiveness of the assimilation program, reduce crime rates, and assist inmates in reintegrating into society.

Class IIB Dumai Detention Center faces challenges in the implementation of the assimilation program, such as limited resources and community acceptance of inmates. Efforts to overcome these barriers include improving human resources and facilities, strengthening the assimilation program through skill training and individual counseling, as well as public outreach to raise awareness about the benefits of the program.

Dumai Detention Center also implements the use of reserve land for agricultural

¹⁷ Interviews with Edi Cahyono

¹⁸ Pansya Dila, M. D., Monica, D. R., Dewi, E., Raharjo, E., & Tamza, F. B. (2024). Penerapan Restoratif Justice Sebagai Upaya Mengurangi Overcapacity Lapas. *Jurnal Ilmu Hukum, Humaniora dan Politik (JIHHP)*, 4(5). 1-18

¹⁹ RiauPos.co. (2023, September 03). Warga Binaan Lapas Bangkinang Berhasil Panen Terong. Retrieved January 30, 2025 from <https://riaupos.jawapos.com/kampar/2253591998/warga-binaan-lapas-bangkinang-berhasil-panen-terong>

²⁰ Interviews with Warga Binaan Lapas Kelas IIA Bangkinang

training, collaborates with institutions like Pertamina for skill development, and provides guidance and supervision. These measures aim to support the reintegration of inmates into society and reduce crime rates.²¹

Efforts at Class III Rumbai Open Prison to overcome barriers to implementing the assimilation program include socialization to the community cooperation with the community, continuous evaluation, and collaboration between institutions. Socialization aims to increase community support for the reintegration of prisoners while evaluations are conducted to identify program improvements.²²

Collaboration with local government and non-governmental organizations supports funding and supervision. Lapas Rumbai also collaborates with institutions such as Lembaga Santri NU for skills training, utilizes spare land for agriculture, and conducts socialization and mentoring to maximize assimilation. These measures aim to improve the rehabilitation of prisoners and reduce criminality.²³

CLOSING

The effectiveness of the assimilation program in Class IIA Bangkinang Correctional Facility, Class IIB Dumai Detention Center, and Class III Rumbai Open Correctional Facility is measured based on several indicators, including prisoner compliance, reduction in law violations, skills acquired, readiness for social integration, psychological conditions, changes in attitudes and motivation of prisoners, assessment results from prison officers, and a decrease in prison burden. However, there are several inhibiting factors in the implementation of the assimilation program, such as limited resources, community stigma towards prisoners, variations in the level of compliance of prisoners, and lack of coordination between related institutions. These factors hinder the achievement of the goal of social reintegration, which is to prepare prisoners to return to society with adequate skills and reduce recidivism. To overcome these obstacles, correctional institutions in Riau Province and the local government are making efforts to improve facilities and resources, skills training for prisoners, and strengthening coordination with related agencies and the private sector. In addition, the government is also trying to reduce social stigma through public awareness campaigns and providing post-assimilation support to accelerate the reintegration of prisoners into society.

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²¹ Tekab86.com. (2024, July 09). Rutan Dumai Raih Penghargaan Satker Terbaik Pelaksanaan Rencana Kerja Tahunan Reformasi Birokrasi (RKT RB). Retrieved January 30, 2025 from <https://tekab86.com/rutan-dumai-raih-penghargaan-satker-terbaik-pelaksanaan-rencana-kerja-tahunan-reformasi-birokrasi-rkt-rb/>

²² Interviews with Yudhi Khairudin

²³ Charlotte Gisler, Ineke Pruin, dan Ueli Hostettler. (2018). *Experiences with Welfare, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Prisoners Lessons Learned?*. Working Paper no. 5. Geneva: United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. 21

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