



Prisoner Guidance Model to Prevent Recidivism at Class IIA Pekanbaru Prison

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the inmate rehabilitation model in preventing recidivism at the Class IIA Correctional Facility (Lapas) in Pekanbaru. The research employs a qualitative approach with data collected through interviews, observations, and documentation. The findings indicate that the rehabilitation model is implemented comprehensively through personality development, vocational training, formal and non-formal education, as well as religious and counseling activities. Non-recidivist inmates experience positive impacts such as increased motivation, moral values, and practical skills as preparation for independent living. However, for recidivist inmates, the success of rehabilitation is hindered by external factors such as lack of post-release assistance, limited access to employment, and societal stigma. Thus, the rehabilitation model at Class IIA Pekanbaru Prison significantly contributes to preventing recidivism, although its effectiveness depends on the continuity of post-release support.

Keywords:

Development,
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INTRODUCTION

Crime is an inseparable part of human life in this world. Every human activity—political, social, or economic—can become a channel for criminal acts committed by individuals referred to as offenders. Crime represents a violation of the law, where the perpetrator is subject to legal sanctions for their actions. The occurrence of crime results from actions, whether direct or indirect, that contravene the law or arise from the offender's negligence. Today, many people engage in various forms of crime, both serious and minor, and one of the sanctions imposed on them is imprisonment (Suparni, 2007:40).

The implementation of imprisonment within Indonesia's correctional system refers to the Law on Corrections, which stipulates that the right to life, the right not to be tortured, the right to freedom of thought and conscience, the right to religion, the right not to be enslaved, the right to recognition as an individual before the law, and the right not to be prosecuted under retroactive laws are fundamental human rights that cannot be diminished under any circumstances (Wijaya & Purwadi, 2018).

Correctional institutions function as centers for rehabilitation and protection, serving as the final stage of the criminal justice process. Philosophically, the correctional system represents a penal framework that has moved far beyond the retributive (punitive), deterrence (fear-based), and retaliatory (revenge)

philosophies of punishment. Thus, punishment is not intended to inflict suffering as retribution, nor to deter through pain, nor to assume that the convicted person lacks socialization (Priyanto, 2006:51).

The correctional system is a structured framework that defines the direction, limits, and methods of rehabilitating inmates based on Pancasila. It is carried out collaboratively among correctional officers, inmates, and the community to improve inmates' moral and social awareness, enabling them to recognize their mistakes, reform themselves, and avoid reoffending. The correctional system must be implemented in accordance with the laws and regulations stipulated in Law No. 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections.

Within Indonesia's legal system, correctional institutions play a crucial role in enforcing criminal sanctions and rehabilitating inmates so that they can reintegrate into society as law-abiding citizens. However, the increasing rate of recidivism indicates that the rehabilitation process has not yet been fully effective. The Class IIA Correctional Facility in Pekanbaru, as one of the main correctional institutions in Riau Province, faces challenges in rehabilitating inmates who come from diverse social, economic, and psychological backgrounds. The following section presents the number of inmates at the Class IIA Correctional Facility in Pekanbaru City.

Table 1. Number of Inmates in Class II A Penitentiary, Pekanbaru City

No	Types of Crimes	Type of activity	Amount
1	Special Crimes	Narcotics	1071
		Child Protection	110
		Corruption	76
		Domestic Violence	1
		Terrorism	1
		Pornography	1
		Psychotropics	1
		Immigration	1
2	General Crimes	Murder	76
		Theft	29
		Robbery	17
		Assault	4
		Delinquency	2
		Gambling	2
		Embezzlement	2
		Extortion	1
		Order	1
		Illegal Possession of Firearms	1
		Desertion	1
Total		1403	

Source: Author's Modification, 2025

Based on the table above, it can be seen that the criminal offenses committed by inmates at the Class IIA Correctional Facility in Pekanbaru vary, consisting of both special and general crimes. Among the special crimes, narcotics-related offenses dominate, with a total of 1,071 inmates. Meanwhile, among the general crimes, murder is the most prevalent, with 76 inmates convicted of this offense. The Class IIA Correctional Facility in Pekanbaru has a maximum capacity of 771 inmates.

Referring to Article 2(b) of Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections, one of the objectives of the correctional system is to ensure that inmates do not repeat their criminal acts after serving their sentences. However, in reality, there has been a significant recurrence of criminal behavior (recidivism) among former inmates after their release from the Pekanbaru Correctional Facility. The following section presents data on the number of recidivists at the Class IIA Correctional Facility in Pekanbaru.

Figure 2. Number of Recidivist Inmates in Class IIA Pekanbaru Prison

No.	Case Type	Amount
1	Narcotics	179
2	Theft	86
3	Child Protection	13
4	Embezzlement	11
5	Sharp Weapons	5
6	Murder	4
7	Fraud	3
8	Handholding	3
9	Robbery	2
10	Corruption	1
11	Moral Offenses	1
12	Assault	1
13	Extortion	1
14	Arson	1
15	Traffic Violations	1
16	Domestic Violence	1
17	Kidnapping	1
Total		314

Source: Class IIA Pekanbaru Prison

The graph shows that narcotics cases are the most dominant, with 179 cases, followed by theft with 86 cases—both significantly higher than other categories. Other notable crimes include child protection violations (13 cases) and embezzlement (11 cases), while offenses such as weapon possession, fraud, murder, robbery, and corruption appear in much smaller numbers. This indicates that narcotics and theft are the most pressing criminal issues requiring special attention for prevention and control efforts.

The high rate of recidivism suggests that the current rehabilitation process has not fully equipped inmates with adaptive skills, life competencies, and moral values to prevent reoffending. Therefore, a more comprehensive, individualized, and behavior-oriented rehabilitation model is needed. Recidivism reflects the failure of the correctional system to break the cycle of crime, contradicting the main goal of criminal law—to prevent and rehabilitate rather than merely punish (Djamali, 2010).

As an institution responsible for correction and rehabilitation, the Class IIA Penitentiary in Pekanbaru plays a crucial role in reducing recidivism through diverse self-reliance programs. However, the increasing number of repeat offenders indicates limited deterrent and rehabilitative impact. This issue underscores the importance of studying and developing an effective inmate rehabilitation model, which forms the focus of this research titled “The Inmate Rehabilitation Model for Preventing Recidivism at Class IIA Penitentiary Pekanbaru.”

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative descriptive approach to provide an in-depth understanding of inmate rehabilitation practices at the Class IIA Penitentiary in Pekanbaru. This approach was chosen to capture real social phenomena within the correctional environment without researcher intervention. Data were collected through in-depth interviews with key informants—including the prison head, correctional officers, inmates, and recidivists—selected purposively based on their involvement and knowledge of rehabilitation programs. Direct observations of personality, religious, and vocational training activities were conducted to understand on-site dynamics, supported by document analysis of activity reports, rehabilitation guidelines, and inmate statistics for data triangulation.

Data analysis followed Miles and Huberman's model, involving data reduction, presentation, and inductive conclusion drawing to identify relevant patterns and themes. The Class IIA Penitentiary in Pekanbaru was chosen as the research site due to its diverse inmate population, allowing a comprehensive exploration of rehabilitation models and their effectiveness in promoting inmates' social reintegration.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The research findings show that inmate rehabilitation at Class IIA Penitentiary Pekanbaru is implemented through two main aspects: personality development and self-reliance training. Personality development includes religious activities, counseling, and moral education aimed at fostering positive attitudes and values. Meanwhile, self-reliance programs involve vocational training such as carpentry, agriculture, and handicrafts to provide economic skills for post-release life. The rehabilitation model is conducted in stages according to the length of the sentence—starting from maximum (strict supervision), intermediate (productive activities), to minimum (community assimilation). These activities align with Law No. 22 of 2022 on Corrections, which emphasizes improving the quality of inmates' character and independence.

Supporting factors for successful rehabilitation include the competence of correctional officers, collaboration with religious institutions, and the availability of vocational programs. However, its effectiveness is often hindered by limited facilities, understaffing, and social stigma against former inmates. These external challenges are major contributors to recidivism, even among inmates who have completed rehabilitation. The findings support Simon's (2011) rehabilitation theory, which stresses the importance of a rehabilitative approach and social support in the reintegration process.

Inmate rehabilitation is a vital component of the correctional system, as the ultimate goal of punishment is not merely deterrence but behavioral transformation—enabling inmates to become law-abiding and productive members of society. Both first-time offenders and recidivists possess the potential for reform through education, vocational training, spiritual guidance, and psychological counseling. Rehabilitation allows inmates to reflect on their actions, develop moral awareness, and prepare for reintegration into society.

For recidivists, rehabilitation is even more crucial because of their higher tendency to reoffend. The rising rate of recidivism across Indonesian prisons indicates that imprisonment alone cannot prevent reoffending without targeted intervention. Rehabilitation for recidivists should therefore be intensive, structured, and sustainable, focusing on mindset transformation, mental resilience, and providing realistic post-release opportunities. Programs such as job training, entrepreneurship workshops, and social reintegration support function as protective mechanisms against relapse into crime (Andriyani, 2017).

In this context, Correctional Institutions (Lapas) play a central role—not only as facilities for detention and security but also as spaces for social transformation. Lapas are responsible for offering comprehensive programs that include religious activities, formal and informal education, and vocational training tailored to inmates' skills and interests. They also serve as a bridge between inmates, families, communities, and external organizations supporting reintegration. Through a humanistic and systematic approach, Lapas can help reduce stigma and ensure former inmates return to society with dignity and equal opportunities.

Overall, the study found that rehabilitation at Class IIA Pekanbaru adopts a holistic, collaborative, and transformative approach, covering personal, vocational, social, and spiritual aspects to minimize recidivism and prepare inmates for productive reintegration. Programs include religious activities, counseling, formal and nonformal education, vocational training (e.g., bakery, agribusiness, barbershop, and farming), and social rehabilitation with family support. These initiatives are strengthened through partnerships with external institutions such as educational organizations, businesses, religious groups, NGOs, psychologists, and volunteers.

Interviews revealed that rehabilitation significantly contributes to preventing recidivism. Non-recidivist inmates reported improved morale, attitudes, and employable skills, with noticeable psychological changes such as higher optimism, spiritual awareness, and motivation to live lawfully. However, recidivists noted that the lack of post-release support often drives them back into crime due to economic hardship, stigma, and limited job opportunities. Thus, while internal rehabilitation programs are increasingly diverse and structured, their long-term success depends on continued external assistance and social reintegration support.

Despite these strengths, recidivism rates remain high, particularly in drug-related and theft cases, indicating current programs' limitations. While vocational training (e.g., bakery, barbershop, farming) provides useful skills, it may not fully address the root causes of recidivism for certain crimes. Drug offenders, for instance, require addiction rehabilitation, ongoing counseling, and post-release support networks, while theft offenders need moral reinforcement, self-control training, and real employment access.

In other words, the current rehabilitation model tends to be generic, whereas inmates have varying needs and criminogenic factors. Without more targeted and problem-based approaches, rehabilitation's impact on recidivism reduction will remain limited. Therefore, future correctional programs should integrate individualized treatment models, specialized interventions (e.g., drug rehabilitation, family counseling), and stronger post-release socio-economic reintegration initiatives to effectively break the cycle of reoffending.

CONCLUSION

The rehabilitation model at Class IIA Penitentiary Pekanbaru includes personality, religious, and vocational training programs aimed at providing inmates with moral values and practical skills for social reintegration after release. Religious guidance effectively fosters moral and spiritual awareness, while vocational training—such as sewing, carpentry, and entrepreneurship—helps inmates gain self-employment opportunities. However, the program's impact on reducing recidivism remains limited, especially in drug and theft cases, as it still applies a general approach. Drug offenders require addiction rehabilitation, intensive counseling, and post-release support, while theft offenders need moral reinforcement and real job access. Therefore, rehabilitation programs should be tailored to the type of offense to better prevent reoffending.

The study suggests that the government should increase funding, professional staff, and facilities, strengthen post-release programs through job provision and mentoring, and enhance collaboration

between prisons and external institutions for social reintegration. Inmates should actively engage in rehabilitation with high motivation, while society needs to reduce stigma and create inclusive environments that offer opportunities for former inmates to rebuild their lives and avoid returning to crime.

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