

Efforts to Combat Drug Abuse Crimes Committed by Children at The West Kalimantan Regional Police

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Abstract. *Legally, narcotics are only used for scientific development and health services, but in reality, they are often abused. Drug use has become a business venture and has had a detrimental impact on the mental, physical, and psychological well-being of the younger generation. Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics has regulated the types of very severe criminal sanctions against perpetrators of narcotics crimes. The method is a basic process regarding the procedure for finding a solution to a problem, while research is a careful examination of signs in order to obtain human knowledge, so the research method can be interpreted as the basic procedure for finding a solution to existing problems in carrying out research related to efforts to overcome the crime of narcotics abuse committed by children at the West Kalimantan Regional Police. To realize a just and effective drug handling system, a shift in the social paradigm and a more humanistic legal culture is needed, strengthening legal certainty through consistent and transparent enforcement, and increasing rehabilitation capacity and coordination between institutions. Thus, the law becomes not only a repressive tool, but also an instrument of recovery that provides tangible benefits for child victims of drug abuse and society at large.*

Keywords: *Consistent; Enforcement; Increasing; Transparent.*

1. Introduction

Indonesia, as a nation governed by law, based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, requires law enforcement to ensure security and order in society. As a nation governed by law, every citizen's behavior is subject to legal regulations. Law enforcement is a crucial element in maintaining peace and order in society. To achieve this, appropriate measures are needed before and after crimes and violations of the law occur. Crime deserves special attention from law enforcement officials and all levels of society. As a developing country, Indonesia is a highly potential target for the illegal production and distribution of narcotics. Current drug abuse in society is not limited to adults; there is even a tendency for children to be involved. Therefore, various efforts to prevent and address juvenile delinquency are urgently needed.¹

¹Nandang Sambas, 2010, Reform of the Child Criminalization System in Indonesia, Graham Ilmu, Yogyakarta, p. 103.

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The proliferation of illicit drug variants demands that law enforcement agencies continually improve the quality of their legal products. However, in reality, the illicit drug problem is growing faster than law enforcement can handle. This is why drug abuse has become a serious problem in Indonesia. The increasing prevalence of drug abuse contributes significantly to material losses and loss of life.

From a legal perspective, the circulation of narcotics in Indonesia is legitimate for medical purposes. The Narcotics Law only prohibits unauthorized use. Narcotics are often misused, not for medical or scientific purposes. Instead, they are used as a promising and rapidly growing business venture, which has resulted in physical and psychological damage to drug users, especially the younger generation.²Regarding drug abuse, the government issued Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, which is one form of realization of the government's concern for the problem of drug abuse. According to this law, narcotics are substances or drugs used for medical purposes, but will actually cause major problems if misused because narcotics have an addictive effect on users so they can only be used with a doctor's prescription. Article 7 of Law Number 35 of 2009 states that: "Narcotics can only be used for the benefit of health services and/or the development of science and technology."

Legally, narcotics are only used for scientific development and health services, but in reality, they are often abused. Drug use has become a business venture and has had a detrimental impact on the mental, physical, and psychological well-being of the younger generation.³Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics has regulated the types of very severe criminal sanctions against perpetrators of narcotics crimes. This can be seen from the existence of the death penalty, life imprisonment, imprisonment, detention and fines amounting to hundreds of millions to billions of rupiah. In Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics in Article 127 regulates regarding narcotics abusers in Article 127 paragraph (1) which states that: every abuse of class I narcotics for oneself is punished with a maximum imprisonment of four years. Meanwhile, abuse of class II narcotics for oneself is punished with a maximum imprisonment of two years, and abuse of class III narcotics for oneself is punished with a maximum imprisonment of one year. From this article we can see that drug abusers can be subject to criminal penalties as a violation, however, Article 127 paragraph (2) states that in deciding cases as referred to in paragraph (1), the judge must pay attention to the provisions as referred to in Article 54, Article 55 and Article 103.

Children are a trust and gift from God Almighty, endowed with the inherent dignity and worth of a complete human being. Furthermore, children are the shoots, potential, and young generation who carry on the ideals of the nation's struggle. They play a strategic role and possess unique characteristics and traits that guarantee the continued existence of the nation and state in the future.⁴The problem of drug abuse is very important considering that narcotic drugs have physical and mental effects, and when used in the right dosage and under the supervision of a doctor or psychiatrist can be used for medical purposes or research, but if

²Partodihardjo Subagyo, *Get to Know Drugs and the Enemies of Their Abuse*, Esensi, Jakarta, 2004, p. 4.

³Siswanto Sunarso, *Law Enforcement of Psychotropic Drugs in the Study of Legal Sociology*, Raja Grafindo Persada, Jakarta, 2005, p. 6.

⁴Nasir Djamil M, 2015, *Children Are Not to be Punished*, Sinar Grafika, Jakarta, p. 8

misused or used not in accordance with treatment standards can be dangerous for the user. The direct effects of narcotics, in addition to moral and physical damage, also lead to deadly diseases, namely HIV or AIDS as a side effect of drug use. As a result of the above problems, a pattern of development of social diseases such as crime, gambling, theft or mugging, rape, prostitution and others have emerged. Drug addicts and victims of drug abuse are required to undergo medical rehabilitation or social rehabilitation at a drug addiction rehabilitation center.

The legal treatment of minors in drug abuse cases deserves serious attention. Law enforcement officials, those processing and adjudicating cases, must be confident that the decisions they make will provide a solid foundation for restoring and guiding the child toward a positive future, developing them as responsible citizens of the nation.

Although narcotics are essential and beneficial in medicine and for the advancement of science, if they are misused or used inappropriately, they can lead to dependence, which can be very detrimental if used without strict and thorough control and supervision.⁵ According to health experts, narcotics are actually painkillers, also known as psychotropic drugs. They are typically used by doctors to sedate patients before surgery or as medication for certain illnesses. Therefore, if misused or used inappropriately, they can be hazardous to health.⁶

2. Research Methods

The method is a basic process regarding the procedure for finding a solution to a problem, while research is a careful examination of signs in order to obtain human knowledge, so the research method can be interpreted as the basic procedure for finding a solution to existing problems in carrying out research related to efforts to overcome the crime of narcotics abuse committed by children at the West Kalimantan Regional Police.⁷ The sociological legal approach, also known as field research, examines the applicable legal provisions and what actually happens in society. The author conducted descriptive analytical research which aimed to analyze facts to obtain a general picture of existing problems, examine and review legal facts to find out how is there a material criminal law application for the crime of drug abuse against children and what is the role of law enforcement in overcoming drug abuse committed by children.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Research Findings

1) Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics has regulated the types of very severe criminal sanctions against perpetrators of narcotics crimes. This can be seen from the

⁵Siswantoro Sunarso, *Law Enforcement of Psychotropic Drugs* (Jakarta: PT RajaGrafindo, 2014), p. 5.

⁶Santi Sanita, *The Dangers of Drug Addiction* (Jakarta: Bee Media Indonesia, 2008), p. 2.

⁷Soejono Soekanto, 1986, *Introduction to Legal Research*, Jakarta, UI Press, p. 6

existence of the death penalty, life imprisonment, imprisonment, detention and fines amounting to hundreds of millions to billions of rupiah. In Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics in Article 127 regulates regarding narcotics abusers in Article 127 paragraph (1) which states that: every abuse of class I narcotics for oneself is punished with a maximum imprisonment of four years. Meanwhile, abuse of class II narcotics for oneself is punished with a maximum imprisonment of two years, and abuse of class III narcotics for oneself is punished with a maximum imprisonment of one year. From this article we can see that drug abusers can be subject to criminal penalties as a violation, however, Article 127 paragraph (2) states that in deciding cases as referred to in paragraph (1), the judge must pay attention to the provisions as referred to in Article 54, Article 55 and Article 103.

2) Based on observations, the West Kalimantan Narcotics Directorate has handled criminal cases involving drug abuse by children in the region. This fact indicates that drug distribution and use not only targets adults but has also spread to young people. Data collected by researchers regarding these cases is presented in Table 3.1, which provides a more detailed overview of the number and characteristics of cases handled. These findings are of significant concern in efforts to prevent and address drug abuse among children.

Table Drug Abuse Prevention Among Children

No	Year	Number of Cases
1	2022	1 Case
2	2023	2 Cases
3	2024	3 Cases

Source: Personnel from the Pontianak Narcotics Directorate

Discussion:

1) Construction of the Crime of Narcotics Abuse in the Concept of Legal Certainty

The problem of drug abuse is a crucial issue that continues to receive serious attention in Indonesia, given its damaging impact on individuals and the broader social order. To address this issue, the state has established various legal provisions to provide a deterrent effect and protect society. However, in its implementation, law enforcement against drug abuse crimes often generates controversy, particularly regarding legal certainty for perpetrators and fairness in the criminal justice process. The construction of drug abuse crimes requires in-depth examination within the framework of the concept of legal certainty, because criminal law should ideally not only be repressive but also provide clarity of norms, protection of human rights, and certainty for anyone involved in the justice system. When legal regulations are not consistently formulated or applied, they have the potential to create injustice, especially for perpetrators who are actually victims of drug addiction. Therefore, a discussion of how drug abuse crimes are constructed within Indonesian positive law is crucial to assess whether the principle of legal certainty has been truly upheld. With the complexity of drug abuse cases, various legal interpretations have emerged, often confusing abusers who should receive rehabilitation with those who trafficked drugs, who deserve severe criminal penalties. This raises serious legal certainty issues, as the unclear distinction between users and dealers can lead to inconsistencies in court decisions. In some cases, individuals proven to be mere

users have been sentenced to prison, despite Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics mandating a rehabilitative approach for drug users, not merely a repressive one.

This legal uncertainty reflects the weak legal framework for proportionally positioning drug abusers within the criminal justice system. However, the principle of legal certainty demands clear rules that are not open to multiple interpretations and can be applied fairly to all legal subjects. Therefore, a comprehensive evaluation of applicable legal norms and a comprehensive understanding by law enforcement officials are necessary so that every drug-related crime can be properly classified. This ensures that law enforcement is not merely a repressive tool but also reflects substantive justice in line with human rights and the principles of the rule of law. Furthermore, in practice, law enforcement officials such as police, prosecutors, and judges often have differing interpretations of the articles in the Narcotics Law. This difference creates disparities in the handling of similar cases, where one perpetrator may receive a heavy sentence, while another with a similar condition may receive rehabilitation. This situation demonstrates that legal certainty remains a fundamental problem in handling drug crimes. When legal certainty is not achieved, public trust in the legal system will decrease, and this can impact the effectiveness of the law itself as a means of social control. Within the framework of a state governed by the rule of law, every citizen has the right to fair and consistent legal treatment. Therefore, the legal framework for drug abuse crimes must be developed with a holistic approach based on clear norms and a comprehensive understanding of the context of the abuse itself. This includes distinguishing between perpetrators who are victims of addiction and those who play an active role in drug trafficking networks. Reformulating drug law policies and strengthening the capacity of law enforcement officers are crucial steps to achieving legal certainty that is not only formal, but also substantive and just. Therefore, discussing the framework for drug abuse crimes within the concept of legal certainty is not merely theoretical but also a pressing practical need. Legal certainty in this context does not only mean the existence of written rules, but also encompasses how those rules are implemented consistently, fairly, and in accordance with the primary purpose of the law itself—namely, to provide protection and justice for all levels of society.

Interviews with five assistant investigators and one Head of the Narcotics Unit revealed fundamental problems in the construction of narcotics abuse crimes that have serious implications for justice and legal certainty. Based on the interview with Assistant Investigator A, one crucial issue is the lack of quantitative parameters in Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics that clearly differentiate between abusers and dealers. In investigative practice, determining the status of a perpetrator depends heavily on the amount of evidence and the suspect's confession. However, due to the lack of standardized boundaries in the legislation, this classification is subjective and prone to error. This directly violates the principle of legal certainty, as legal subjects cannot predict the consequences of their actions with certainty. Furthermore, the interview with Assistant Investigator B revealed that although the Narcotics Law is considered to provide a legal basis, in practice there are structural pressures that affect the objectivity of case handling. Investigators often prefer to take cases to court rather than pursue rehabilitation, due to concerns about accountability to superiors. This choice is made to avoid institutional risks, not solely for the sake of justice.

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This reflects a rift between written law and enforced law (law on the books vs. law in action). As a result, perpetrators who should receive rehabilitation are instead subjected to criminal penalties, which undermines the principle of substantive justice.

Assistant Investigator C's opinion also indicates that although rehabilitation is clearly stipulated in Article 54 of the Narcotics Law as mandatory, its implementation in the field is very minimal. The rehabilitation application process is considered complicated, time-consuming, and lacks support from the perpetrator's family. As a result, investigators prefer quick and simple criminal procedures. This situation reinforces the fact that the restorative approach that should be implemented for drug abusers is being replaced by a retributive approach that can actually create double suffering for addicts who are victims. This is where procedural injustice arises, because the formally available legal mechanisms are not actually accessible to legal subjects. Meanwhile, Assistant Investigator D firmly stated that revisions to the Narcotics Law are urgently needed, particularly regarding the regulation of minimum drug quantity limits to distinguish between users and dealers, as well as more practical and binding rehabilitation procedures. Without revisions, law enforcement officials will continue to operate in a gray area, which carries a high risk of arbitrariness. This uncertainty is a serious obstacle to providing fair and equitable legal treatment for perpetrators of drug crimes.

The statement from the Head of the Narcotics Unit reinforces the view that in many cases, investigators face pressure from various parties, both from their own institutions and from public opinion. When narcotics cases are in the media spotlight, investigators tend to choose a "tough" approach to avoid accusations of negligence or weakness. As a result, all perpetrators, both users and dealers, are treated the same in the legal process, even though the substance of their roles and psychological conditions differ greatly. This phenomenon demonstrates that the construction of narcotics criminal law is hampered not only by vague normative provisions, but also by a repressive legal culture that prioritizes institutional interests over the rights of perpetrators guaranteed by law.

In the construction of drug abuse crimes, the phenomena emerging from interviews with assistant investigators and the Head of Units indicate an imbalance between the principles of legal certainty, justice, and legal expediency, which are the main foundations of modern legal theory, particularly those put forward by Gustav Radbruch. Legal certainty requires clear, firm, and consistently applied legal norms so that every citizen can predict the legal consequences of their actions. However, in the practice of handling drug abuse, there is a lack of clarity in these norms, particularly regarding the division between users and dealers based on the quantity of evidence held. This creates legal uncertainty because law enforcement officers often have to make subjective decisions, which has the potential to give rise to discrimination and injustice. This uncertainty directly raises issues with the principle of legal justice, which demands fair and balanced legal treatment, both procedurally and substantively. From the interviews, it is clear that many drug addicts or abusers who should receive a rehabilitative approach are instead faced with a repressive criminal system due to institutional pressures and a bureaucratic culture that prioritizes the criminal process for the sake of institutional "security." This contradicts the concepts of distributive and restorative justice, which prioritize the protection of individual rights as victims of drug addiction.

Consequently, procedural justice is also neglected because the formal legal system is unable to effectively accommodate rehabilitation needs, resulting in structural injustice. Furthermore, the principle of legal expediency, which requires the law to provide the greatest social benefit, is also not fully realized in practice. The inefficiency and complexity of rehabilitation procedures, as well as the tendency to over-criminalize users, result in state resources being wasted on detention and criminal proceedings that do not address the root causes of drug abuse. However, an appropriate rehabilitative approach would actually benefit society by reducing dependency rates and minimizing negative social impacts. Therefore, the weak application of the principle of legal expediency in drug cases causes the law to lose its social function as a tool for advancing public welfare.

Overall, the current construction of drug abuse crimes faces a classic dilemma between these three legal values. Unclear norms erode legal certainty, rigid and disproportionate law enforcement practices violate legal justice, and inefficiencies in rehabilitation hinder the law's benefits. According to Radbruch's theory, if the law deviates too far from the values of justice, certainty, and benefit, it loses its legitimacy and effectiveness. Therefore, revising the law and improving the culture of law enforcement are absolutely necessary to align these three fundamental values in handling drug crimes, thus creating a legal system that not only regulates legally but also upholds human rights and social benefits.

From the interviews and analysis above, it can be concluded that the construction of drug abuse crimes in the Indonesian legal system still does not reflect ideal legal certainty or justice. Unclear norms, institutional pressures, and weak rehabilitation implementation have led to the criminalization of drug abuse victims, who should receive protection and rehabilitation. Therefore, regulatory reform and a restructuring of the law enforcement culture are key prerequisites for realizing a just, proportional, and certain narcotics legal system.

2) Efforts to Combat Drug Abuse Crimes Committed by Children at the West Kalimantan Regional Police

Drug abuse by children is a deeply concerning social and legal issue in Indonesia, including in West Kalimantan. Children, as a vulnerable group, have unique characteristics and needs that differ from those of adults, so crimes involving them require more careful and comprehensive handling. Drug abuse by children not only has negative physical and psychological impacts on individuals but also has the potential to cause broad social impacts, such as increased crime, family disintegration, and disruptions to public safety. Therefore, addressing drug abuse crimes committed by children is a crucial focus in child protection efforts and equitable law enforcement. The West Kalimantan Regional Police, as one of the law enforcement institutions in the region, plays a strategic role in handling drug cases involving children. Their efforts extend beyond repressive action to include preventive and rehabilitative measures in accordance with child protection principles. However, in practice, various obstacles, ranging from limited resources and regulations to socio-cultural aspects, influence the effectiveness of these efforts.

Efforts to combat drug abuse committed by children in the West Kalimantan Regional Police jurisdiction involve various preventive, repressive, and rehabilitative approaches. Preventively, the West Kalimantan Regional Police actively conduct outreach and education to the community, especially children and adolescents, about the dangers of narcotics through community programs and collaboration with schools, youth organizations, and related agencies. This step aims to raise early awareness so that children do not fall into drug abuse. In the repressive aspect, the Regional Police take firm action against perpetrators of drug abuse of children, including investigations, arrests, and legal proceedings in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, particularly the Child Protection Law and the Narcotics Law. However, because it concerns children as vulnerable legal subjects, the police apply the principle of restorative justice and prioritize a humanistic approach and avoid processes that are excessively criminal.

Furthermore, the West Kalimantan Regional Police (Polda Kalimantan Barat) plays an active role in facilitating the rehabilitation of children who are victims of drug abuse. This rehabilitation involves collaboration with the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), health institutions, and psychologists to provide comprehensive medical, psychological, and social care. These efforts aim not only to cure drug addiction but also to help children reintegrate into society with the support of their families and a conducive environment. However, significant challenges remain, such as limited rehabilitation facilities specifically for children, a lack of trained human resources, and bureaucratic obstacles that impact the smoothness of the treatment process. Furthermore, the social stigma against child drug abusers is also an obstacle that must be addressed collaboratively. Through these efforts, the West Kalimantan Regional Police is committed to creating a balanced approach between law enforcement and child protection, to ensure that handling drug abuse crimes by children is not only punitive but also provides opportunities for recovery and optimal development. The success of these efforts depends heavily on the synergy between law enforcement officials, local governments, families, and the wider community in carrying out their protection and guidance functions for the younger generation.

Table Efforts to Combat Drug Abuse Crimes Committed by Children at the West Kalimantan Regional Police

Source Identity	Key Questions	The Core of the Answer	Analysis in the Context of Legal Certainty
Assistant Investigator A	What are the initial steps in handling drug cases involving children?	The initial steps are usually outreach and education to schools and communities, followed by action if violations are found.	Preventive efforts are the initial priority as a step to reduce the number of child drug abusers.
Assistant Investigator B	What are the main obstacles in the process of handling cases of children who abuse narcotics?	Lack of special rehabilitation facilities for children and less than optimal coordination between agencies.	These technical barriers reduce the effectiveness of treatment and slow down the rehabilitation process.
Assistant Investigator C	Is there a difference in legal treatment for	Yes, children are prioritized for rehabilitation rather	There is a gap between regulations and practices in the field that affects maximum child protection.

	children compared to adults?	than punishment, but in practice this is often difficult to implement.	
Assistant Investigator D	What is the role of families and communities in prevention efforts?	Families and communities play a very important role as supporters of rehabilitation and prevention.	A collaborative approach strengthens rehabilitation outcomes and prevents children from returning to drug use.
Assistant Investigator E	Does the Regional Police have a special program for children involved in drug abuse?	There is a mentoring and coordination program with the BNN and related institutions for child rehabilitation.	Synergy between these institutions is important for the sustainability and success of handling child narcotics cases.
Head of Unit	What is the biggest challenge in handling child drug cases?	Social and media pressure demanding firm law enforcement sometimes hinders a humanist approach.	Social stigma and external pressures often make it difficult to implement a rehabilitation-based approach.

Based on interviews with five assistant investigators and one Head of the Narcotics Unit at the West Kalimantan Regional Police, efforts to combat drug abuse involving children demonstrate a comprehensive approach but also face significant challenges. Preventively, investigators emphasize the importance of outreach and education for children through schools and communities as a first step to preventing drug abuse. However, in practice, the limited availability of rehabilitation facilities specifically for children and the lack of optimal coordination between institutions are major obstacles that hinder the effectiveness of the recovery process for child drug abusers. Although children are legally entitled to different treatment and prioritize rehabilitation over punishment, the reality on the ground often makes it difficult to consistently implement this principle. Furthermore, the role of families and communities is vital in supporting successful rehabilitation and preventing children from falling back into drug abuse. The West Kalimantan Regional Police have initiated a mentoring program and established coordination with the National Narcotics Agency and related institutions to support comprehensive child rehabilitation.

However, one of the biggest obstacles faced is the strong social stigma and pressure from the media and the public demanding firm and strict law enforcement. This often makes it difficult for law enforcement officials to implement a more humane and restorative rehabilitation-based approach. This stigma tends to lead to repressive treatment of children who are victims of drug abuse, even though a rehabilitative approach is actually more effective in helping them recover and preventing excessive criminalization. This external pressure forces investigators to choose the institutionally safe path, namely the formal criminal process, which ironically contradicts the goals of child protection and social justice. Therefore, for optimal efforts to combat drug abuse in children, a paradigm shift is needed in society and the media, improvements in rehabilitation facilities, and strengthened coordination between institutions to support a more humane and equitable approach.

In the context of addressing drug abuse crimes committed by children, the application of the principle of legal justice is crucial. The theory of justice requires treatment that is appropriate to the conditions and rights of children as vulnerable legal subjects, so the approach taken should not be limited to punishment but also include protection and rehabilitation. However, social stigma and external pressures demanding strict law enforcement often hinder the realization of this substantive justice. As a result, children who should receive rehabilitation instead face repressive legal processes that are inconsistent with the principles of distributive and restorative justice. Therefore, efforts to address drug abuse in children should prioritize restorative justice, which is oriented towards victim recovery and social reintegration. In terms of legal certainty, laws and regulations do provide a legal framework that differentiates the treatment of children in drug cases, such as prioritizing rehabilitation over criminal punishment. However, uncertainty arises in implementation on the ground, where authorities are often faced with pressure to act decisively, resulting in inconsistencies in legal application. This uncertainty creates legal uncertainty for children and their families, who cannot predict how they will be treated under the law. Ideal legal certainty should enable every legal subject to clearly and consistently understand their rights and obligations, as well as the consequences of their actions. The principle of legal utility requires that the law provide the greatest social benefit. In the case of child drug abusers, an effective rehabilitative approach will provide greater benefits than criminal punishment alone, as it helps reduce drug dependence, prevents recidivism, and supports the development of a productive young generation. However, limited rehabilitation facilities and a lack of social support hinder the achievement of these legal benefits. Therefore, improving rehabilitation facilities and synergy between institutions are crucial to optimizing the social benefits of law enforcement in this context.

Efforts to address drug abuse committed by children at the West Kalimantan Regional Police have adopted an approach aligned with the principles of justice, legal certainty, and legal expediency. However, the realization of these principles remains hampered by social stigma, external pressure, limited rehabilitation facilities, and inconsistent legal implementation. To realize a just and effective drug abuse prevention system, a shift in the social paradigm and a more humane legal culture is needed, strengthening legal certainty through consistent and transparent enforcement, and increasing rehabilitation capacity and coordination between institutions. Thus, the law becomes not merely a repressive tool, but also an instrument of recovery that provides tangible benefits for child victims of drug abuse and society at large.

4. Conclusion

The construction of drug abuse crimes within the Indonesian legal system still does not reflect ideal legal certainty or justice. Unclear norms, institutional pressures, and weak rehabilitation implementation have led to the criminalization of drug abuse victims, who should receive protection and rehabilitation. Therefore, regulatory reform and a restructuring of the law enforcement culture are key prerequisites for realizing a just, proportional, and certain narcotics legal system. To realize a just and effective drug handling system, a shift in the social paradigm and a more humanistic legal culture is needed, strengthening legal certainty through consistent and transparent enforcement, and increasing rehabilitation capacity and

coordination between institutions. Thus, the law becomes not only a repressive tool, but also an instrument of recovery that provides tangible benefits for child victims of drug abuse and society at large. Further research should focus on the development and evaluation of rehabilitation facilities specifically designed for children who abuse drugs. This is crucial to ensure that the treatment provided meets the child's psychological and physical needs and supports an effective and sustainable recovery process. Child protection in the context of narcotics law enforcement at the West Kalimantan Regional Police. This research identifies gaps between existing regulations and field practice and provides recommendations for improvements to ensure the consistent enforcement of the principles of justice and legal certainty. Developing effective communication and education strategies to reduce the negative stigma surrounding child drug abuse in society. This research can help build more inclusive social awareness and support the success of rehabilitation programs. Coordination and synergy between the Regional Police, the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), health institutions, and community organizations in handling child drug cases. This study aims to identify barriers and potential collaborations that can increase the effectiveness of integrated response efforts.

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