



IMPACT OF REHABILITATION PROGRAMS IN INDONESIAN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS ON REDUCING RECIDIVISM RATES

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ABSTRACT

The high rate of recidivism in Indonesia presents a significant challenge to the effectiveness of the national correctional system. This study aims to examine the impact of prisoner development programs on reducing recidivism. These programs encompass personality development, job skills training, and both formal and non-formal education, which are designed to rehabilitate inmates and support their reintegration into society. Using a normative juridical method, this study applies legislative and conceptual approaches to analyze the legal framework and practical implementation of correctional guidance. The findings reveal that the success of these programs largely depends on the quality of implementation, inmate engagement, and the availability of post-release support systems. Nevertheless, structural issues such as overcrowding, limited budgets, inadequate facilities, and a shortage of qualified professionals hinder the effectiveness of rehabilitation efforts. The study recommends increasing government funding, aligning training with labor market needs, and strengthening post-release assistance. These reforms are essential for enhancing the rehabilitative function of correctional institutions and reducing the likelihood of repeat offenses.

1. Introduction

The correctional system in Indonesia plays a key role in protecting society from crime and helping offenders return to a productive and law-abiding life. Based on Pancasila's principles, this system aims to reform and reintegrate prisoners into their communities in a way that benefits both the individual and society as a whole.¹ The main purpose of correctional programs is not only to keep people in custody but also to prepare them for their release by offering education, vocational training, character-building, and moral guidance.² Ideally, these programs should

¹ Muhammad Syahdiyar., Darurat Peraturan Tentang Gangguan Keamanan dan Ketertiban di dalam Lembaga Pemasyarakatan, *Jurnal Hukum Samudra Keadilan*, Vol.15, no.1, 2020, page.99.

² Julinda Silce Abram., Penguatan Kedudukan Pemasyarakatan dalam Sistem Peradilan Pidana Terpadu Melalui Fungsi Bimbingan Kemasyarakatan, *Innovative: Journal of Social Science*

help prisoners find employment, avoid future crimes, and become responsible members of their communities after release.³ Recidivism as the tendency of former prisoners to commit new crimes after their release, continues to be a persistent problem in Indonesia.⁴

According to the Directorate General of Corrections, the rate of recidivism in Indonesia remains high, which signals that the correctional system is not fully effective in addressing the root causes of criminal behavior and helping prisoners avoid future offenses. The conditions in many prisons, including overcrowding and limited resources, make it hard for authorities to implement education and training programs effectively.⁵ Furthermore, many prisoners lack motivation to follow these programs, and the facilities available to support their development are often poor. Additionally, once released from prison, many former prisoners face unfair attitudes from society and find it hard to find employment or reintegrate into their communities.⁶ The combination of these factors makes it more likely for them to commit crimes again, adding to the problem of recidivism.

This persistent problem highlights the need to reassess and improve the implementation of correctional programs in Indonesia. Although education, vocational training, character-building, and moral guidance are available in many facilities, their delivery and impact are not uniformly effective. Certain programs may be weak due to poor resources, poor implementation, or a lack of proper follow-up and support after release. Furthermore, there is a large gap between policy goals and the reality of what happens in practice. The policy framework aims to create a constructive and supportive environment for prisoners' rehabilitation, yet many face obstacles that undermine these goals.⁷

This phenomenon can be understood through the theory of social reintegration, which highlights the role of education and training in reducing recidivism by helping former prisoners become productive members of society.⁸ According to

Research, Vol.3, no.3, 2023, page.4211. See too, John F. Frana., Humanistic correctional programming: A test of self-actualization in a correctional cognitive behavioral program in the United States, *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences*, Vol.8, no.1, 2013, page.10.

³ John H. Esperian., The effect of prison education programs on recidivism, *Journal of Correctional Education*, Vol.61, no.4, 2010, page.325. See too Lena Roxell., What contributes to fewer cases of recidivism? Treatment, education, and work in prison, *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, Vol.63, no.8, 2024, page.493. See too, James S. Vacca., Educated prisoners are less likely to return to prison, *Journal of Correctional Education*, Vol.55, no.4, 2004, page.301.

⁴ Heru Yoga Pamungkas, Adnan Madjid, Irwan Triadi, Pujo Widodo, and Achmed Sukendro., The Resolution of Overcrowding as a Form of Convention against Torture Implementation to Achieve Security Stability in Prisons and Detention Centers in Indonesia, *International Journal of Humanities Education and Social Sciences*, Vol.4, no.2, 2024, page.150.

⁵ Heru Yoga Pamungkas, Adnan Madjid, Irwan Triadi, Pujo Widodo, and Achmed Sukendro., The Resolution of Overcrowding as a Form of Convention against Torture Implementation to Achieve Security Stability in Prisons and Detention Centers in Indonesia, *International Journal of Humanities Education and Social Sciences*, Vol.4, no.2, 2024, page.151.

⁶ Riki Afrizal, Iwan Kurniawan, and Fajar Wahyudi., Strengthening the Position of Correctional Facilities in The Integrated Criminal Service Function Justice, *Jurnal Ilmiah Kebijakan Hukum*, Vol.17, no.1, 2023, page.6.

⁷ Ismail Pettanase., Pembinaan Narapidana dalam Sistem Pemasyarakatan, *Jurnal Hukum Tri Pantang*, Vol.6, no.1, 2020, page.9.

⁸ Heru Yoga Pamungkas, Adnan Madjid, Irwan Triadi, Pujo Widodo, and Achmed Sukendro., The Resolution of Overcrowding as a Form of Convention against Torture Implementation to Achieve

this view, education and vocational training can empower prisoners by developing skills and knowledge that help them find employment and avoid future crimes. Furthermore, character-building and moral education can foster a sense of responsibility and discipline. Behavioral perspectives, such as those advocated by Apel and Diller,⁹ show that incentives and intervention strategies can influence prisoners' attitudes and choices, guiding them toward more prosocial behavior. The principle of contingency management, for example, emphasizes rewarding desirable behavior and applying appropriate consequences for undesirable behavior, thereby strengthening a culture of discipline and responsibility.¹⁰

Despite these promises, there is a clear gap between policy goals and practice. The high recidivism rate signals that education, training, and character-building programs do not always produce the intended outcomes in Indonesia. Structural problems, such as overcrowded facilities, poor resources, and weak post-release support, undermine the delivery and sustainability of these programs. Furthermore, many prisoners do not complete the programs due to a lack of motivation or resources, while society's attitudes toward ex-prisoners create additional barriers to reintegration.¹¹ Without proper follow-up and community support, former prisoners may revert back to crime, adding to the persistent problem of recidivism. For example, effective job training can increase prisoners' chances of getting a job after release, thereby reducing the temptation to return to a criminal environment.

Some previous studies from other contexts, particularly from the USA and European countries, show a strong link between education and vocational training and reduced recidivism. Meta-analyses have found that participating in education programs can cut the likelihood of reoffending by nearly 24%.¹² Completing vocational training and developing employable skills are key factors in helping former prisoners find employment and become productive members of society.¹³

Security Stability in Prisons and Detention Centers in Indonesia, *International Journal of Humanities Education and Social Sciences*, Vol.4, no.2, 2024, page.157.

⁹ Alexis B. Apel and James W. Diller., Prison as punishment: A behavior-analytic evaluation of incarceration, *The Behavior Analyst*, Vol.40, no.2, 2017, page.249.

¹⁰ Paul Gendreau, Shelley J. Listwan, Joseph B. Kuhns, and M. Lyn Exum., Making prisoners accountable: Are contingency management programs the answer?, *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, Vol.41, no.9, 2014, page.1090.

¹¹ Riki Afrizal, Iwan Kurniawan, and Fajar Wahyudi., Strengthening the Position of Correctional Facilities in The Integrated Criminal Service Function Justice, *Jurnal Ilmiah Kebijakan Hukum*, Vol.17, no.1, 2023, page.9. See too, Abdullah Ali, Sri Nurhayati, Safuri Musa, and Ansori Ansori., Increasing the Entrepreneurial Independence of Correctional Families through the Development of Degung Arts, *JPPM: Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Pemberdayaan Masyarakat*, Vol.9, no.2, 2022, page.195.

¹² James S. Vacca., Crime can be prevented if schools teach juvenile offenders to read, *Children and Youth Services Review*, Vol.30, no.9, 2008, page.1058. See too, Ben Stickle and Steven Sprick Schuster., Are schools in prison worth it? The effects and economic returns of prison education, *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, Vol.48, no.6, 2023, page.1278.

¹³ John Nally, Susan Lockwood, Katie Knutson, and Taiping Ho., An evaluation of the effect of correctional education programs on post-release recidivism and employment: An empirical study in Indiana, *Journal of Correctional Education*, Vol.63, no.1, 2012, page.79. See too, Mark Ellison, Kirstine Szifris, Rachel Horan, and Chris Fox., A rapid evidence assessment of the effectiveness of prison education in reducing recidivism and increasing employment, *Probation Journal*, Vol.64, no.2, 2017, page.118.

Despite the normative and legal frameworks that support prisoner rehabilitation in Indonesia—such as the adoption of the Mandela Rules, the Bangkok Rules, and the Corrections Law No. 22 of 2022—recidivism remains persistently high. While international research consistently demonstrates that education and vocational training reduce the likelihood of reoffending, there is a lack of empirical evidence and context-specific analysis of how these development programs actually influence recidivism in Indonesian correctional institutions. Most studies have focused on Western contexts, and findings cannot be directly generalized due to Indonesia's unique institutional, socio-cultural, and policy challenges, including overcrowding, inadequate staffing, lack of follow-up mechanisms, and social stigma post-release. Thus, a critical gap exists in understanding how institutional guidance programs operate in practice and whether they are effectively contributing to prisoner reintegration and the reduction of recidivism in Indonesia.

Although Indonesia has institutionalized development programs aimed at rehabilitating prisoners and reducing recidivism, the implementation of these programs remains inconsistent and under-evaluated. There is no clear empirical assessment of how education, vocational training, character-building, and moral guidance—when implemented within the constraints of Indonesian correctional institutions—impact recidivism outcomes. Additionally, the absence of a supportive post-release environment and limited inter-agency coordination hinder the long-term success of these programs. Without addressing these practical limitations and assessing their effectiveness, recidivism rates are likely to remain high, undermining the goals of the correctional system and the principles of social reintegration.

To address the above gap and problem, this study is guided by the following aims: To analyze the role of correctional institutions in the guidance and rehabilitation of prisoners in Indonesia, particularly in delivering education, vocational training, and moral development programs. To identify and evaluate the practical challenges faced in implementing guidance programs, especially for recidivist prisoners, including institutional limitations, societal stigma, and lack of coordinated post-release support. To propose a reconstruction framework for guidance programs tailored to the Indonesian context, ensuring they are more effective in reducing recidivism and promoting successful reintegration.

2. Research Methods

This research is a legal study that applies a normative juridical research method. The main aim of this method is to examine legal provisions and regulations related to the implementation of prisoner development programs in correctional institutions and their role in reducing recidivism. To achieve this, the study focuses on analyzing legal norms, principles, and provisions that govern the correctional system in Indonesia.

The main regulations that constitute the primary legal objects of this study include: Law No. 22 of 2022 on Corrections, which outlines the responsibilities of correctional institutions, prisoner rights and obligations, and the legal framework for rehabilitation and reintegration, Government Regulation No. 32 of 1999, which regulate the terms, procedures, and categories of guidance and parole for prisoners and Minister of Law and Human Rights Regulation No. 35 of 2018 concerning the guidance and coaching of inmates, which provides the technical

and operational guidelines for correctional development programs. The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules) and the Bangkok Rules, which serve as international references integrated into national correctional practices.

This research also utilizes several approaches to provide a comprehensive view of the legal framework and its application in practice. The first is the statutory approach, which involves examining and interpreting laws and regulations to uncover their ratio legis, the legal reasoning or purpose, and to assess how the correctional system is designed to guide and reform prisoners. Through this approach, the research aims to clarify the legal basis for implementing guidance programs and how these programs are meant to contribute to reducing the rate of recidivism.

Additionally, this study uses the conceptual approach to explore and interpret key legal concepts related to prisoner development, rehabilitation, and reintegration. Furthermore, a case approach is applied to provide a more realistic view of how these programs are implemented in practice and to observe their influence on individual prisoners. By combining these approaches, this research seeks to produce a comprehensive understanding of the legal mechanisms that govern prisoner guidance programs and their role in reducing recidivism in Indonesia's correctional institutions.

3. Results

3.1. Recidivism in Indonesia and The Role of Correctional Institutions

Recidivism can be defined as the repetition of a criminal offense by someone who has previously been convicted, even after serving a period of guidance and counseling in a correctional institution. The number of recidivists is documented in the decision of the Director General of Corrections, Ministry of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia, Number Pas-90.Kp.04.01 of 2021, which contains the Strategic Plan of the Directorate General of Corrections for 2020–2024.

Every year, the number of recidivists varies. In 2016, the total number of prisoners and detainees was 204,549, and the number of recidivists was 30,977. Then in 2017, with a total of 232,080 prisoners and detainees, the number of recidivists fell to 27,531. In 2018, the total number of prisoners and detainees rose to 255,727, while the number of recidivists was 29,262. Subsequently, in 2019, the total number of prisoners and detainees reached 269,846, and the number of recidivists fell further to 24,459. The realization of the reduction in the percentage of recidivists from 2016 to 2019 was 6.08%, with an average annual reduction of 2,913 cases. This decrease in the recidivism rate suggests that the correctional system implemented in Indonesia is fairly effective. The various forms of training and guidance provided to prisoners and correctional clients have successfully supported their reintegration into society and their ability to meet their daily needs and livelihoods.¹⁴

The recidivism rate in Indonesia can be considered quite high. The Ministry of Law

¹⁴ Mochamad Afrizal Azka and Ali Muhammad., Residivisme dan Sistem Pemasyarakatan di Indonesia, *Madani: Jurnal Ilmiah Multidisiplin*, Vol.1, no.10, 2023, page.308.

and Human Rights (Kemenkumham) stated through its social media that the rate of recidivism crimes in Indonesia had reached 18.12% of the total 260,001 prisoners and convicts as of February 2020. Based on data from Indonesian correctional database system,¹⁵ the recidivism rate in Indonesia approached 30,000 cases by December 10, 2021, from a total of 272,212 prisoners. Thus, it can be said that recidivism cases in Indonesia remain quite high and have become a significant social issue. Recidivism, or the repetition of criminal offenses, is an indicator of the success of a rehabilitation program. According to data from the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, the recidivism rate in Indonesia is still high, ranging from 30% to 50% in some regions. This phenomenon reflects the sub-optimal implementation of rehabilitation programs in correctional institutions. Some main factors contributing to recidivism include the inability of prisoners to find employment after release, a social environment that does not support their reintegration, and the failure of development programs to instil the proper mentality and skills in prisoners.¹⁶

In the legal world, repeating criminal offenses (recidivism) is not a new phenomenon, including in Indonesia. Recidivism crimes in the modern era are defined in three possibilities: re-arrest, re-sentencing, and re-confinement.¹⁷ Generally, the criteria for recidivism are divided into two categories: general and special recidivism. A general recidivist is someone who initially committed a crime for the first time and, after serving the sentence for that offense, is released but then commits a different crime. As a result, the person may face a heavier punishment.¹⁸ A special recidivist, meanwhile, is someone who previously committed a crime and served their sentence but then commits a similar crime after their release. However, Indonesian Criminal Code does not regulate general recidivism; it covers only special recidivism.

Recidivism, as a form of crime, is a social phenomenon that occurs within society. It certainly has a negative impact; if left unchecked, it can undermine community safety and cause losses, worries, and unrest. In the context of special recidivism, or recidivism according to LP, it involves individuals who commit repeated offenses of a similar nature. Thus, a recidivist is a person who has already received a sentence for a crime but then repeats a similar offense. Based on Article 486 of the Criminal Code, a recidivist may be liable to a punishment that is one-third heavier than the ordinary punishment, provided that the subsequent offense of the same kind occurs within 5 years after serving the previous sentence¹⁹.

¹⁵ Okki Oktaviandi., *Lapas Sebagai Tempat Penjara, Masihkah?*, *Kumparan*, 10 Desember 2021.

¹⁶ John Nally, Susan Lockwood, Katie Knutson, and Taiping Ho., An evaluation of the effect of correctional education programs on post-release recidivism and employment: An empirical study in Indiana, *Journal of Correctional Education*, Vol.63, no.1, 2012, page.77.

¹⁷ Chantal Fahmy and Meghan M. Mitchell., Examining recidivism during reentry: Proposing a holistic model of health and wellbeing, *Journal of Criminal Justice*, Vol.83, 2022, page.101958. See too, Denis Yukhnenko, Achim Wolf, Nigel Blackwood, and Seena Fazel., Recidivism rates in individuals receiving community sentences: A systematic review, *Plos one*, Vol.14, no.9, 2019, page.e0222495.

¹⁸ Dahlan Dahlan, Zahoor Ahmed, and Sitta Saraya., The Concept of Criminal Justice for Drug Abuse: A Legal Approach, *Jurnal Hukum*, Vol.41, no.1, 2021, page.55. See too, Weini Wahyuni., Jarimah Pemerkosaan dalam Qanun Jinayat Aceh Perspektif Feminist Legal Theory, *Jurnal Hukum*, Vol.38, no.1, 2022, page.43.

¹⁹ Debi Romala Putri and Ikama Dewi Setia Triana., Pelaksanaan Pembinaan Narapidana Dalam

Recidivism is a persistent problem that correctional institutions in Indonesia continue to face. All possible efforts have been made by the Directorate General of Corrections to combat this phenomenon. There are several factors that contribute to recidivism, such as the community's environment and the effects of imprisonment.²⁰ The community's response toward a former convict is often unfavorable; when someone has a criminal record or has been in prison, it can undermine their acceptance back into society. This unfair treatment and stigmatization can affect their ability to reintegrate, causing them to lose hope and revert to crime.²¹ Imprisonment involves absorbing a lifestyle within a correctional institution, whether intentionally or unintentionally.

This phenomenon is very common among prisoners and even detainees. During their time in prison, they become influenced by their surroundings and learn from the experiences of other inmates. This can expose them to new crimes and become a consideration when choosing future actions once they are released.²² Repetitive delinquency occurs when external social pressures, limitations, and coercion undermine internal controls, such as a healthy mind, conscience, and emotions. Certain spaces (places) and periods (durations) can influence this process. Bad situations that repeatedly arise can reinforce delinquent behavior. Eventually, the individual becomes fully aware of their delinquency and considers it a "normal" way of life, fitting their surroundings and forming an integral part of their ego. In such environments, interventions that build emotional empathy and academic competence have been shown to disrupt this normalization of delinquency by fostering personal insight, social accountability, and readiness for reintegration.²³

3.2. The Role of Correctional Institutions in Prisoner Guidance and Rehabilitation

Corrections is a system of guidance for lawbreakers. It plays a crucial role in a country's criminal justice system. The main task of this institution is to carry out the execution of court decisions that sentence prisoners. Through this role, prison

Mencegah Residivisme di Lembaga Pemasyarakatan Kelas II B Cilacap, *Jurnal Media Komunikasi Pendidikan Pancasila Dan Kewarganegaraan*, Vol.2, no.1, 2020, page.149.

²⁰ Denis Yukhnenko, Achim Wolf, Nigel Blackwood, and Seena Fazel., Recidivism rates in individuals receiving community sentences: A systematic review, *Plos one*, Vol.14, no.9, 2019, page.e0222495.

²¹ Byron R. Johnson, Religious programs and recidivism among former inmates in prison fellowship programs: A long-term follow-up study, *Justice Quarterly*, Vol.21, no.2, 2004, page.341. See too, Byron R. Johnson, David B. Larson, and Timothy C. Pitts., Religious programs, institutional adjustment, and recidivism among former inmates in prison fellowship programs, *Justice Quarterly*, Vol.14, no.1, 1997, page.155.

²² Kyleigh Clark and Jason Rydberg., The effect of institutional educational programming on prisoner misconduct, *Criminal Justice Studies*, Vol.29, no.4, 2016, page.334. See too, Kimberly A. Kaiser, Alex Piquero, Linda Keena, and Caitlin Howley., Assessing the institutional barriers and individual motivational factors to participation in prison-based programs, *Crime & Delinquency*, Vol.70, no.3, 2024, page.881. See too, Karen F. Lahm., Educational participation and inmate misconduct, *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, Vol.48, no.1, 2009, page.44.

²³ Carter Hay, Emily Hargrove, Kimberly M. Davidson, and Ashton Cobb., Knowing and Caring About the Impact of Crime on Victims: Results from an Intervention for Justice-Involved Youth, *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, Vol.12, no.3, 2024, page.15412040241305327. See too, Ian A. Silver, Joshua C. Cochran, Ryan T. Motz, and Joseph L. Nedelec., Academic achievement and the implications for prison program effectiveness and reentry, *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, Vol.47, no.7, 2020, page.857.

is responsible for keeping prisoners in a controlled environment and providing guidance.²⁴ One of the main functions of prison is to maintain security and order within the institution. This includes strict supervision of prisoners to avoid activities that may harm themselves or others in prison.²⁵ In addition, prison is also responsible for preventing violations of the law within its environment, thereby creating a safe and well-controlled atmosphere.²⁶ In Indonesia, corrections are led by a Head of Corrections. In carrying out its duties, this institution consists of sections that have their respective responsibilities and authorities. These sections are divided into subsections to help realize effective operations. In Corrections, prisoners are regularly and systematically guided to enable them to return to society successfully.

During their detention, prisoners can also take part in spiritual guidance, counseling, and mentoring programs aimed at improving their moral and spiritual values. This guidance is expected to help prisoners reflect on their actions, appreciate the consequences, and encourage them toward positive behavioral change.²⁷ The role of prison extends not only to their duties within its walls but also to preparing prisoners for their eventual release back into society.²⁸ Correctional Institutions have a responsibility to help prisoners successfully reintegrate into their communities upon release. This includes providing social reintegration programs and support after release, so that ex-prisoners can lead more productive and constructive lives.²⁹ As technical implementing units for guiding Correctional Inmates, these institutions base their guidance on ten correctional principles.

²⁴ Byron R. Johnson., David B. Larson, and Timothy C. Pitts., Religious programs, institutional adjustment, and recidivism among former inmates in prison fellowship programs, *Justice Quarterly*, Vol.14, no.1, 1997, page.157. See too, David C. May and Timequa Brown., Examining the effect of correctional programming on perceptions of likelihood of recidivism among incarcerated prisoners, *Journal of Social Service Research*, Vol.37, no.4, 2011, page.358.

²⁵ Kyleigh Clark and Jason Rydberg., The effect of institutional educational programming on prisoner misconduct, *Criminal Justice Studies*, Vol.29, no.4, 2016, page.335. See too, Wayne N. Welsh, Patrick McGrain, Nicole Salamatina, and Gary Zajac., Effects of prison drug treatment on inmate misconduct: A repeated measures analysis, *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, Vol.34, no.5, 2007, page.607.

²⁶ Kimberly A. Kaiser, Alex Piquero, Linda Keena, and Caitlin Howley., Assessing the institutional barriers and individual motivational factors to participation in prison-based programs, *Crime & Delinquency*, Vol.70, no.3, 2024, page.887. See too, Liana R. Taylor, JoAnn Lee, and Faye S. Taxman., Participant and program characteristics: Correlates of substance abuse treatment participation and prison misconducts, *The Prison Journal*, Vol.99, no.1, 2019, page.14.

²⁷ Byron R. Johnson., Religious programs and recidivism among former inmates in prison fellowship programs: A long-term follow-up study, *Justice Quarterly*, Vol.21, no.2, 2004, page.342. See too, Okyun Kwon, Scott D. Camp, Dawn M. Daggett, and Jody Klein-Saffran., Reasons for faith-based correctional program participation: An examination of motive types, *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, Vol.49, no.6, 2010, page.387.

²⁸ John H. Esperian, The effect of prison education programs on recidivism, *Journal of Correctional Education*, Vol.61, no.4, 2010, page.322. See too, Lena Roxell., What contributes to fewer cases of recidivism? Treatment, education, and work in prison, *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, Vol.63, no.8, 2024, page.498.

²⁹ Ian A. Silver, Christopher D'Amato, Jamie Newsome, Shelley Johnson, and Batya Rubenstein., Forecasting the potential effects of programming combinations for justice-involved youths, *Journal of Criminal Justice*, Vol.88, 2023, page.102093. See too, Chantal Fahmy and Meghan M. Mitchell., Examining recidivism during reentry: Proposing a holistic model of health and wellbeing, *Journal of Criminal Justice*, Vol.83, 2022, page.101956.

These principles aim to protect and provide for prisoners' lives so that they may become good and useful members of society. The imposition of criminal penalties is no longer meant as revenge; there should be no torture of prisoners, whether in the form of actions, treatment, words, methods, or placement. The only suffering should be the restriction of their freedom of movement. Guidance should aim at rehabilitation and instilling understanding of societal norms and communal life.

The state has no right to make prisoners or students more harmful than before; therefore, those who commit serious crimes should not be mixed with those who commit minor offenses. During the restriction of their freedom, prisoners and students must not be isolated from society; there should be opportunities for visits from the community, friends, and family. Furthermore, the work given to prisoners and students should not be to fill their time or serve the state's needs, but instead should reflect community employment, developing small industries and food production.³⁰

The guidance and mentoring provided to prisoners and students are based on Pancasila. It instills a spirit of family and tolerance and is supported by spiritual education and encouragement to carry out their religion. Prisoners and students should be treated as people who need treatment and guidance, helping them realize their mistakes and guiding them back to the right path. They must be treated with dignity to help their personalities grow and to foster confidence in their ability to improve. Prisoners and students are only subject to punishment in the form of a temporary limitation of freedom. To aid in their guidance and mentoring, appropriate facilities must be provided to support their progress.

Correctional institutions play an important role in managing prisoners and providing them with opportunities to improve themselves. Through a holistic and rehabilitation-oriented approach, it is hoped that prison can make a positive contribution to individual improvement, reduce crime rates, and help build a safer and more prosperous society.

The stages of correctional institutions form an important process carried out by correctional facilities and detention centers to foster and guide inmates. This process consists of several phases, each with its own goals and roles in helping inmates achieve social rehabilitation.

- 1.1.1. The first stage involves observation, introduction, and environmental research, and it lasts for a maximum of one month. During this period, the prison or detention center aims to observe, get to know, and research the environment surrounding the inmates. The main purpose is to gain a better understanding of their background and psychosocial conditions.
- 1.1.2. The second stage focuses on planning a program for developing the prisoners' personalities and independence. At this point, the prison or detention center designs a tailored program to help each inmate develop a more constructive character and become more self-reliant. The planning process involves identifying the individual needs and

³⁰ Kyleigh Clark, and Jason Rydberg., The effect of institutional educational programming on prisoner misconduct, *Criminal Justice Studies*, Vol.29, no.4, 2016, page.333.

potential of each inmate.

- 1.1.3. The third stage is the implementation of the development program for character and independence. During this phase, the previously designed program is put into action. Inmates are involved in a range of activities that aim to instil positive values, skills, and attitudes toward life.
- 1.1.4. The fourth stage involves assessing the first implementation of the development program. After the program has been implemented, the prison or detention center assesses its effectiveness. The evaluation may consider indicators such as behavioral change, skills improvement, and the inmates' responses to the program.

Through this process of rehabilitative care, it is hoped that inmates will undergo a constructive transformation and be able to reintegrate into society with a better character and greater independence. This procedure forms the basis for creating a correctional environment that supports the social rehabilitation and resocialization of inmates.

One of the rights of prisoners is the right to guidance. It is well understood that people who have committed a crime and been convicted by the court will serve their sentence in a detention center or correctional institution as a manifestation of their punishment.³¹ Inside the correctional institution, the person assumes the status of a prisoner and undergoes a program of guidance. Initially, prisoner guidance in Indonesia was implemented through a prison system. This model of guidance was in place long before Indonesia's independence. Guidance is a learning process that involves letting go of previously held attitudes and habits, with the aim of helping people progress and develop their knowledge and skills and learn new ones, allowing them to pursue their life goals more effectively.³²

On the other hand, coaching assists people in identifying obstacles in their lives by examining both the positives and negatives of their situation and finding solutions to move forward. Coaching can motivate people to take action and implement the best strategies to achieve their goals, although it can only provide the necessary provisions or support.³³ Initially, coaching for prisoners in Indonesia was based on a prison system. This model had been implemented long before Indonesia's independence.³⁴ It can be said that the treatment of prisoners at that time mirrored the treatment the Dutch colonial authorities applied to captured freedom fighters. Prisoners were treated as mere objects whose freedom was taken away, while

³¹ Eti Hadiati, Diah Ayu Setianingrum, Muhim Nailul Ulya, Nurnazli Nurnazli, and Akmansyah Akmansyah., Promoting Family Well-being in Indonesia: An Examination of Education-based Initiatives, *RADEN INTAN: Proceedings on Family and Humanity*, Vol.1, no.1, 2024, page.163.

³² Arif Handayani, Padmi Dhyah Yulianti, and Sukma Nur Ardini., Membina Keluarga Sejahtera Melalui Penerapan 8 Fungsi Keluarga, *J-ABDIPAMAS: Jurnal Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat*, Vol.2, no.1, 2018, page.78.

³³ Dwidja Priyatno., *Sistem Pelaksanaan Pidana Penjara di Indonesia*, Bandung, Refika Aditama, 2006, page.50.

³⁴ Cathal Ryan, Fionnuala Brennan, Sarah McNeill, and Raphael O'Keeffe., Prison officer training and education: A scoping review of the published literature, *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*, Vol.33, no.1, 2022, page.124.

paradoxically, their labor was frequently used for various activities, reflecting a paradigm far removed from the values of humanitarianism and human rights that should be upheld.³⁵

The implementation of coaching for prisoners cannot be equated with that for the general population and must follow principles designed specifically for prisoners. There are four important components in coaching for prisoners, namely the prisoner himself, the family, society, and officers. The prisoner refers to the person undergoing the punishment and participating in the guidance program. The family comprises members of the nuclear or close family. Society includes people who were around the prisoner while they were outside the correctional institution or detention center, such as ordinary community members, community leaders, or local officials. Officers can be police officers, lawyers, security officers, social workers, correctional institution officers, detention center officers, or judges.

Coaching is a program where participants come together to give, receive, and process information, knowledge, and skills, whether existing or newly introduced. In real-life situations, people who undergo coaching must be willing to practice what they have learned, and this is not easy because it requires strong will, perseverance, and support from those around them. Continuous coaching will help instill morals and a noble character in a person. Importantly, this process guides the person toward developing a more positive character and ethics. However, the implementation of this program often faces obstacles, such as budget constraints, a shortage of experts, and overcrowded conditions in correctional institutions.

Effective coaching programs have a direct impact on reducing recidivism rates. For example, inmates who receive skills training have a greater chance of securing a job after release, reducing their need to commit crimes to make ends meet.³⁶ Additionally, personality coaching through religious approaches or emotional counseling can help inmates overcome psychological stress that often triggers criminal behavior.³⁷ The development of prisoners and recidivists is closely related to preventing recidivism. Good development programs can help reduce cases of reoffending.³⁸ Some strategies to increase the effectiveness of development and help prevent recidivism include establishing coordination and cooperation with related parties, such as the Social Service and other community institutions,

³⁵ Samuel G. Vickovic and Weston J. Morrow., Examining the influence of work–family conflict on job stress, job satisfaction, and organizational commitment among correctional officers, *Criminal Justice Review*, Vol.45, no.1, 2020, page.15.

³⁶ Ian A. Silver, Joshua C. Cochran, Ryan T. Motz, and Joseph L. Nedelec., Academic achievement and the implications for prison program effectiveness and reentry, *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, Vol.47, no.7, 2020, page.854. See too, Lena Roxell., What contributes to fewer cases of recidivism? Treatment, education, and work in prison, *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, Vol.63, no.8, 2024, page.497.

³⁷ Byron R. Johnson, David B. Larson, and Timothy C. Pitts., Religious programs, institutional adjustment, and recidivism among former inmates in prison fellowship programs, *Justice Quarterly*, Vol.14, no.1, 1997, page.155. See too, John F. Frana., Humanistic correctional programming: A test of self-actualization in a correctional cognitive behavioral program in the United States, *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences*, Vol.8, no.1, 2013, page.12.

³⁸ John H. Esperian., The effect of prison education programs on recidivism, *Journal of Correctional Education*, Vol.61, no.4, 2010, page.327. See too, Dennis R. Brewster and Susan F. Sharp., Educational programs and recidivism in Oklahoma: Another look, *The Prison Journal*, Vol.82, no.3, 2002, page.324.

tightening the assessment system for recidivists by implementing a behavioral checklist,³⁹ and strengthening legal instruments to determine criminal sanctions and punishment for recidivists.⁴⁰

3.3. Challenges in Guidance Implementation for Recidivist Prisoners' Rehabilitation

The prisoner development program, if implemented properly, can be very useful in helping prisoners reintegrate into society, reducing the likelihood of them repeating offenses or becoming recidivists.⁴¹ However, in practice, implementing the development program as described above is not easy. Support is required from various parties, including the quality and quantity of prison officers, and community participation—both by cooperating in the development process and by demonstrating a willingness to accept prisoners' families once their sentences are finished. The role of family members, correctional officers, and the community at large is vital in the social reintegration process.⁴² Support in facilities and funding is also a key factor that greatly determines whether or not the development program can be successfully implemented.

However, the effectiveness of correctional institutions as a place for implementing development programs, such as coaching programs, depends on several factors. The quality of the program plays a key role; training that is relevant to the needs of the labor market tends to have a more positive impact. Prisoner participation is also crucial; those who actively take part in the rehabilitation program are more likely to be successfully rehabilitated.⁴³ Furthermore, post-release support is an important consideration; the rehabilitation program will be more effective if it is supported by an adequate social reintegration system, such as job assistance or a community support network.

The benefits of implementing the coaching of recidivist prisoners in correctional institutions lie in an effort to achieve the main goal of these institutions, which is the restoration of unity in broken relationships with the community. Recidivist prisoners must be introduced back into society so that they are not isolated. The program for coaching recidivist prisoners shows that this process is not only about mental and spiritual guidance, which is expected to improve the moral character of prisoners, but also about providing skills and expertise. With such coaching, the main objective is that once recidivist prisoners have finished serving their

³⁹ Kimberly A. Kaiser, Alex Piquero, Linda Keena, and Caitlin Howley., Assessing the institutional barriers and individual motivational factors to participation in prison-based programs, *Crime & Delinquency*, Vol.70, no.3, 2024, page.881.

⁴⁰ Chantal Fahmy and Meghan M. Mitchell., Examining recidivism during reentry: Proposing a holistic model of health and wellbeing, *Journal of Criminal Justice*, Vol.83, 2022, page.101959.

⁴¹ John H. Esperian, The effect of prison education programs on recidivism, *Journal of Correctional Education*, Vol.61, no.4, 2010, page.326. See too, Lena. Roxell, What contributes to fewer cases of recidivism? Treatment, education, and work in prison, *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, Vol.63, no.8, 2024, page.495.

⁴² Carter Hay, Emily Hargrove, Kimberly M. Davidson, and Ashton Cobb., Knowing and Caring About the Impact of Crime on Victims: Results from an Intervention for Justice-Involved Youth, *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, Vol.12, no.3, 2024, page.15412040241305329.

⁴³ Kimberly A. Kaiser., Alex Piquero, Linda Keena, and Caitlin Howley., Assessing the institutional barriers and individual motivational factors to participation in prison-based programs, *Crime & Delinquency*, Vol.70, no.3, 2024, page.882.

sentences and return to society, these skills can be used as provisions for employment or business, especially for those who do not have skills to use as working capital.⁴⁴

Correctional institutions function as a place for implementing the development of prisoners and correctional students. The development must be based on principles and the results of community research that identify the talents, interests, and needs of prisoners through Indonesian Recidivism Risk Assessment (RRI) and criminogenic assessments. The development needs of recidivist narcotics prisoners and general prisoners certainly differ because the development of recidivist narcotics prisoners can be considered to have failed in implementing development during their first sentence in a correctional institution.

However, in implementing this development, Correctional Institutions face several factors that can hinder its success, including the absence of a classification for developing recidivist narcotics prisoners and non-recidivists, their placement, development programs, such as assimilation, the imbalance between the number of officers and prisoners, the attitude of prisoners in participating in development, and a lack of government and community participation. In the implementation of correctional institution guidance, there are factors that warrant attention because they can serve as supports and, more importantly, become obstacles. The emergence of these obstacles certainly needs to be addressed promptly so that the process of guiding correctional students can be carried out properly and smoothly.

This is because there are internal and external factors that hinder the implementation of guidance for recidivist narcotics prisoners in correctional institutions. One internal factor is human resources. The conditions in correctional institutions show that the pattern of guidance for ordinary prisoners is not differentiated from the pattern of guidance for recidivist prisoners in general. In addition to the number of officers being disproportionate to the number of prisoners, the quality of officers is also inadequate to carry out proper guidance. The limitations of human resources for correctional officers are related to human resource issues within Correctional Institutions.⁴⁵

Facilities and infrastructure are another key consideration. One of the keys to the success of organizational performance in correctional institutions is the availability

⁴⁴ Julinda Silce Abram., Penguatan Kedudukan Pemasyarakatan dalam Sistem Peradilan Pidana Terpadu Melalui Fungsi Bimbingan Kemasyarakatan, *Innovative: Journal of Social Science Research*, Vol.3, no.3, 2023, page.4211. See too, Abdullah Ali, Sri Nurhayati, Safuri Musa, and Ansori Ansori., Increasing the Entrepreneurial Independence of Correctional Families through the Development of Degung Arts, *JPPM (Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Pemberdayaan Masyarakat)*, Vol.9, no.2, 2022, page.199. See too, Catriona Connell, Mary Birken, Hannah Carver, Tamara Brown, and Jessica Greenhalgh., Effectiveness of interventions to improve employment for people released from prison: systematic review and meta-analysis, *Health & Justice*, Vol.11, no.1, 2023, page.17.

⁴⁵ Kimberly A. Kaiser, Alex Piquero, Linda Keena, and Caitlin Howley., Assessing the institutional barriers and individual motivational factors to participation in prison-based programs, *Crime & Delinquency*, Vol.70, no.3, 2024, page.885. See too, Karen F. Lahm., Educational participation and inmate misconduct, *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, Vol.48, no.1, 2009, page.46. See too, Lena Roxell., What contributes to fewer cases of recidivism? Treatment, education, and work in prison, *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, Vol.63, no.8, 2024, page.494.

of facilities and infrastructure. According to the results of the study, facilities are still very limited. For example, a room that can accommodate 10 people may in reality be filled with 20. As a result, these conditions may undermine safety and order in the prison. Prisoners also feel the benefits of having proper facilities, but if these facilities are unavailable, it can become a significant obstacle. Facilities must refer to The Standard Minimum Rules required by prisoners in Correctional Institutions, such as skills equipment, sports facilities, health workers, decent residential block rooms, water, lighting, and clean and healthy food. All of these aim to support the implementation of guidance. Therefore, the availability of facilities is a measure of the success of the correctional system. Furthermore, related to infrastructure, it is also still limited because each employee should be equipped with office infrastructure and equipment based on information technology, such as computers, scanners, and printers, but in reality not all employees have these.

The budget is another factor that supports the success of implementing guidance for recidivist prisoners. To implement this, equipment and materials are required. The guidance program is not a "one-size-fits-all"; it must be tailored to the field of interest or skills needed by prisoners upon their release. A lack of funds inhibits the implementation of this guidance, as it prevents all programs from being adequately implemented due to limited resources. Additionally, the shortage of professional staff and a lack of qualified counselors, trainers, or educators further hinders the success of the program.

For external factors, community acceptance plays a significant role in hindering the implementation of guidance for recidivist prisoners in Correctional Institutions. In the concept of correctional institutions, society is a key factor in the success of a social reintegration program that aims to restore the relationships, life, and livelihood of prisoners in their communities. The existence of a negative stigma against former prisoners and a poor reputation can undermine the success of the guidance program that has been implemented through the intramural method (within prison). The guidance program for a prisoner, whether a recidivist or a non-recidivist, requires the active role of the community in restoring the former prisoner's place in society. The success of the guidance program, both in the intramural context (in prison) and extramural context (outside prison), can be measured by the restoration of social relationships between prisoners, victims, and their surroundings, and by the disappearance of criminal tendencies in former prisoners. So far, the main obstacle in the community is the rejection of former prisoners by society. Negative attitudes undermine their self-confidence and may lead them back into crime. Stigma and a poor reputation in society can ultimately become factors that hinder the success of guidance programs aimed at reducing the rate of recidivism.

3.4. Reconstructing Guidance Programs for Recidivist Prisoners in Indonesia

Correctional institutions in Indonesia are facing serious challenges in rehabilitating repeat offenders, particularly those involved in narcotics-related crimes. While these institutions aim to transform inmates into responsible and productive members of society, numerous internal and external barriers hinder the success of existing guidance programs. Internally, issues such as limited human resources,

poor infrastructure, inadequate funding, and the lack of specialized officer training weaken the delivery of effective rehabilitation. Externally, negative public perception and social stigma make it difficult for ex-prisoners to reintegrate into the community. These obstacles reduce the impact of correctional efforts and increase the risk of reoffending. Therefore, a comprehensive and personalized reconstruction of the guidance programs is urgently needed. This reconstruction should emphasize education, vocational training, targeted psychological interventions, and strong post-release support systems.⁴⁶ However, such efforts require more trained personnel, improved facilities, sustainable funding, and stronger community involvement. The ultimate goal is to build a correctional system that not only addresses the root causes of recidivism but also supports prisoners' personal development and prepares them for successful reintegration into society and the workforce. Through this approach, Indonesia can significantly reduce repeat offenses and promote long-term public safety.

One of the first and most urgent steps in reconstructing guidance programs is addressing the shortage of trained correctional officers, particularly those equipped to handle recidivist prisoners involved in drug-related offenses. Currently, the officer-to-inmate ratio in many Indonesian correctional institutions is severely unbalanced, making it nearly impossible to provide personalized guidance and effective supervision. Moreover, many officers lack the specialized training needed to support repeat offenders, especially those struggling with substance abuse. This gap often results in a punitive rather than rehabilitative approach, undermining the core goals of correctional programs.⁴⁷ To resolve this issue, the new program must prioritize increased recruitment and require comprehensive training for officers. This includes instruction in cognitive-behavioral techniques, addiction counseling, motivational interviewing, and the use of tools like the Recidivism Risk Index (RRI) to assess and respond to individual needs.⁴⁸ Establishing a mentorship system between experienced and junior officers can further enhance program consistency and quality. These steps are essential to creating a more humane, informed, and effective correctional environment that addresses the unique challenges of repeat offenders and supports their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Improving infrastructure is another essential step in rebuilding effective guidance programs for recidivist prisoners. Many Indonesian correctional institutions suffer

⁴⁶ Carlos M. Gonzales, Susan Dewey, Theresa Anasti, Susan Lockwood-Roberts, Kym Codallos, Brittany Gilmer, and Matthew Dolliver., Good neighbors or good prisoners? Non-uniformed staff beliefs about incarcerated people influence prison social climate, *Criminology & Criminal Justice*, Vol.23, no.2, 2023, page.208. See too, Paul Boxer, Keesha Middlemass, and Tahlia Delorenzo., Exposure to violent crime during incarceration: Effects on psychological adjustment following release, *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, Vol.36, no.8, 2009, page.800.

⁴⁷ Carlos M. Gonzales, Susan Dewey, Theresa Anasti, Susan Lockwood-Roberts, Kym Codallos, Brittany Gilmer, and Matthew Dolliver., Good neighbors or good prisoners? Non-uniformed staff beliefs about incarcerated people influence prison social climate, *Criminology & Criminal Justice*, Vol.23, no.2, 2023, page.209.

⁴⁸ Kylie S. Reale, Hina Usman, and Nancy Rodriguez., An examination of prison-based programming and prison misconduct, *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, Vol.52, no.3, 2025, page.437. See too, Paul Gendreau, Shelley J. Listwan, Joseph B. Kuhns, and M. Lyn Exum., Making prisoners accountable: Are contingency management programs the answer?, *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, Vol.41, no.9, 2014, page.10903.

from severe overcrowding, with rooms designed for 10 inmates often housing 20 or more. This overcrowding creates unsafe, stressful environments that hinder rehabilitation efforts. In addition, limited access to classrooms, workshops, vocational training tools, and healthcare services significantly reduces the effectiveness of prisoner development programs.⁴⁹ These deficiencies make it difficult to provide the education and job training necessary for reducing reoffending. The reconstruction plan addresses this by investing in improved infrastructure, including dedicated vocational training areas, adequate health services, and modern digital tools such as virtual training modules. These improvements not only support skills development and mental well-being but also help align prison conditions with international standards for humane treatment. By creating a safer, better-equipped environment, correctional institutions can offer programs that promote long-term behavioral change and improve inmates' chances of finding stable employment after release.⁵⁰ Upgrading infrastructure is thus a foundational move toward a more effective and dignified rehabilitation process.

Budget constraints remain a major obstacle to the success of rehabilitation programs in Indonesian correctional institutions. Many prisons operate with limited financial resources, which restricts their ability to hire adequate staff, upgrade facilities, and implement specialized programs. Without sufficient funding, the delivery of education, job training, and counseling services becomes inconsistent and ineffective. However, research has consistently shown that investing in prison education and vocational training significantly reduces recidivism and generates long-term cost savings for the government.⁵¹ To address this, a dual strategy is needed: increasing direct government support and fostering partnerships with private sector and civil society actors. For instance, collaborations with technology companies could bring in coding or digital literacy workshops, equipping inmates with valuable skills for post-release employment. In addition, partnerships with NGOs, religious organizations, and local businesses can provide funding, training opportunities, and mentorship support.⁵² These initiatives not only enhance rehabilitation outcomes but also demonstrate a return on investment by decreasing future incarceration costs. Thus, strengthening financial resources through collaborative models is essential for building effective, future-oriented guidance programs.

⁴⁹ John M. Nally, Susan Lockwood, Taiping Ho, and Katie Knutson., Post-release recidivism and employment among different types of released offenders: A 5-year follow-up study in the United States, *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences*, Vol.9, no.1, 2014, page.15. See too, Ben Stickle, and Steven Sprick Schuster., Are schools in prison worth it? The effects and economic returns of prison education, *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, Vol.48, no.6, 2023, page.1274.

⁵⁰ John M. Nally, Susan Lockwood, Taiping Ho, and Katie Knutson., Post-release recidivism and employment among different types of released offenders: A 5-year follow-up study in the United States, *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences*, Vol.9, no.1, 2014, page.21.

⁵¹ Ben Stickle and Steven Sprick Schuster., Are schools in prison worth it? The effects and economic returns of prison education, *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, Vol.48, no.6, 2023, page.1279. See too, Mark Ellison, Kirstine Szifris, Rachel Horan, and Chris Fox., A rapid evidence assessment of the effectiveness of prison education in reducing recidivism and increasing employment, *Probation Journal*, Vol.64, no.2, 2017, page.121.

⁵² Grant Duwe, Valerie Clark, and Susan Mcneeley., When prison becomes the devil's workshop: The association between idleness and post-release employment, recidivism, and mortality, *Crime & delinquency*, Vol.71, no.5, 2025, page.1373.

Rehabilitation programs for recidivist prisoners—particularly those with drug-related offenses—must be tailored to their unique risks and needs rather than applying a one-size-fits-all approach. Unlike first-time offenders, repeat offenders often struggle with deeper issues such as chronic substance abuse, poor education, limited job skills, and unstable social backgrounds. The new system should adopt the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Model to design individualized rehabilitation plans based on thorough risk assessments.⁵³ These plans would integrate therapy, education, and job training, with regular progress evaluations to allow for adjustments as needed.⁵⁴

However, one of the persistent barriers to success is low inmate motivation. Many prisoners distrust the system or feel hopeless about change. To address this, the program would incorporate incentives, such as reduced sentences or additional privileges, to reward active participation. Additionally, using peer mentors—rehabilitated former inmates—can offer relatable support and encouragement. Programs would also be personalized based on interests, offering activities like music, sports, or art therapy to foster engagement and emotional growth. This dual focus on tailored content and sustained motivation is crucial to creating meaningful, long-term behavioral change and reducing recidivism.

Social stigma remains one of the most persistent external barriers to the successful reintegration of former prisoners in Indonesia. Many ex-offenders, particularly those with histories of drug-related offenses, face rejection and distrust from their communities, making it difficult to secure employment, housing, or social acceptance. This marginalization often drives them back into criminal behavior due to lack of opportunity and support.⁵⁵ To counter this, comprehensive public awareness campaigns are essential to shift societal attitudes. These campaigns should highlight successful rehabilitation stories and promote the message that people can change and contribute positively after incarceration.

Moreover, reintegration efforts must involve key community stakeholders, including local leaders, religious figures, employers, and civil society organizations. Job placement initiatives, led by partnerships with businesses and supported by government incentives, can provide meaningful employment opportunities. In parallel, halfway houses can offer temporary shelter and structured support during the transition period, while family counseling can strengthen personal relationships and reduce emotional strain. Post-release programs must also include ongoing mentoring, peer support groups, and regular check-ins from social workers to monitor progress and provide guidance.⁵⁶ These community-based, multi-

⁵³ Paul Gendreau, Shelley J. Listwan, Joseph B. Kuhns, and M. Lyn Exum., Making prisoners accountable: Are contingency management programs the answer?, *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, Vol.41, no.9, 2014, page.10902.

⁵⁴ Anouk Q. Bosma, Maarten JJ Kunst, Anja JE Dirkzwager, and Paul Nieuwbeerta., Recidivism after a prison-based treatment program: A comparison between a treatment and control group using proportional weighting within strata, *Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology*, Vol.6, no.1, 2020, page.110. See too, Amanda Pompoco, John Wooldredge, Melissa Lugo, Carrie Sullivan, and Edward J. Latessa., Reducing inmate misconduct and prison returns with facility education programs, *Criminology & Public Policy*, Vol.16, no.2, 2017, page.531.

⁵⁵ Charles E. Loeffler and Daniel S. Nagin., The impact of incarceration on recidivism, *Annual review of criminology*, Vol.5, no.1, 2022, page.142.

⁵⁶ William Arbour, Guy Lacroix, and Steeve Marchand., Prison rehabilitation programs and recidivism: evidence from variations in availability, *Journal of Human Resources*, Vol.21, no.1,

stakeholder strategies are vital to reducing recidivism and ensuring long-term reintegration success.

The reconstruction of Indonesia's guidance programs for recidivist prisoners must also incorporate spiritual and moral development rooted in national values such as Pancasila. These values, which emphasize tolerance, mutual respect, and family unity, provide a strong ethical foundation for rehabilitation. Spiritual counseling and interfaith dialogue sessions can support self-reflection and character growth, which are essential components of personal reform. This emotional and moral guidance complements practical programs such as vocational training and education, offering a more holistic approach to rehabilitation.

To ensure program effectiveness, structured monitoring and evaluation mechanisms must be integrated. Tools like behavior tracking checklists, psychological assessments, and regular feedback surveys can help measure prisoner progress objectively. A centralized oversight body at the national level should be responsible for maintaining program consistency and fairness across all correctional institutions. The legal system should not only uphold consequences for repeat offenses but also ensure that laws encourage rehabilitation and protect the rights of prisoners post-release. Coordination among correctional facilities, the judiciary, and law enforcement is vital to ensure seamless implementation and follow-up. Therefore, rebuilding Indonesia's correctional programs means shifting the focus from punishment to transformation. By aligning legal, structural, emotional, and community-based efforts, the nation can meaningfully reduce recidivism and support ex-offenders in becoming productive citizens.⁵⁷

4. Conclusion

Indonesia's correctional system is based on the values of Pancasila and is designed to help prisoners become responsible and productive members of society. However, the high rate of repeat offenses (recidivism) shows that this goal is still far from being fully achieved. Many problems—such as overcrowded prisons, lack of trained staff, limited budgets, and negative public views—make it difficult to run effective guidance programs, especially for repeat offenders, including those involved in drug-related crimes. To improve this situation, the system needs a more complete and focused approach that deals with both the inside and outside

2024, page.21. See too, Catriona Connell, Mary Birken, Hannah Carver, Tamara Brown, and Jessica Greenhalgh., Effectiveness of interventions to improve employment for people released from prison: systematic review and meta-analysis, *Health & Justice*, Vol.11, no.1, 2023, page.19. See too, Duwe, Grant, and Michelle King., Can Faith-Based Correctional Programs Work? An Outcome Evaluation of the InnerChange Freedom Initiative in Minnesota, *International journal of offender therapy and comparative criminology*, Vol.57, no.7, 2013, page.827. See too, John M. Nally, Susan Lockwood, Taiping Ho, and Katie Knutson., Post-release recidivism and employment among different types of released offenders: A 5-year follow-up study in the United States, *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences*, Vol.9, no.1, 2014, page.16. See too, Alexandra V. Nur and Holly Nguyen., Prison work and vocational programs: A systematic review and analysis of moderators of program success, *Justice Quarterly*, Vol.40, no.1, 2023, page.143.

⁵⁷ Paul Gendreau, Shelley J. Listwan, Joseph B. Kuhns, and M. Lyn Exum., Making prisoners accountable: Are contingency management programs the answer?, *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, Vol.41, no.9, 2014, page.10901. See too, Ben Stickle and Steven Sprick Schuster., Are schools in prison worth it? The effects and economic returns of prison education, *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, Vol.48, no.6, 2023, page.1291.

challenges of rehabilitation. Correctional facilities should invest in special training for officers, better infrastructure, and stable funding—possibly through cooperation between the government and private sector. Providing prisoners with quality education, job training, and mental health support will prepare them better for life after prison.

Programs should also match each prisoner's specific needs. Tools like the Indonesian Recidivism Risk Assessment can help do this. Giving rewards and involving peer mentors can also increase motivation. Outside the prison, public education to reduce stigma and the creation of support networks, such as job placements and halfway houses, are essential for successful reintegration.

In addition, spiritual and moral guidance, in line with Pancasila, should go hand in hand with skill-building to promote ethical values and personal responsibility. Stronger legal frameworks, better cooperation among institutions, and continuous evaluation will also help improve program results. This renewed approach moves the correctional system from being focused only on punishment to supporting real change. It aligns with global standards like the Mandela Rules. With the right support, prisoners can return to society with skills, confidence, and a sense of purpose—reducing repeat offenses, making communities safer, and respecting human dignity. In the long term, such efforts can help build a more fair, inclusive, and successful society.

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