IMPLEMENTATION OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE BY PROBATION AND PAROLE OFFICERS IN INDONESIA

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Abstract

The case enforcement of children in conflict with the law has shifted from retribution to restorative. This policy transformation was in line with the ratification of Law 11/2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System, which replaced Law 3/1997 in Juvenile Court. This study utilizes a juridical-normative legal research method by finding and analyzing legal rules, principles, and doctrines to answer the research questions. This study aims to examine and describe the role of probation and parole officers in Indonesia, both before and after implementing the Juvenile Criminal Justice System Act. The study results explain that probation and parole officers have a significant role in implementing restorative justice in Indonesia. The role of the probation and parole officers is through two main functions community research and mentoring. First, through Community Research, Community Counselors provide recommendations for punishment outside prison through a diversion mechanism, carrying out rehabilitation, treatment at LPKS, warnings, criminal conditions, job training, and coaching in institutions. The second role is through a mechanism of assistance in every stage of the judiciary that puts forward a restorative justice approach. This role has been proven to reduce the number of child criminals who must end up in prison. This study indicates differences in the number of sentences for imprisonment, non-imprisonment, and diversion for children before and after enacting the Juvenile Criminal Justice System Act.

Keywords: Restorative Justice; Probation and Parole Officers; Community Research; Mentoring

Abstrak

pendampingan dalam setiap tahap peradilan yang mengedepankan pendekatan keadilan restorative. Peran tersebut terbukti dapat menurunkan jumlah anak pelaku pidana yang harus berakhir di penjara. Kajian ini menunjukkan adanya perbedaan jumlah putusan pidana penjara, non penjara, dan diversi bagi Anak, ditinjau dari sebelum dan sesudah berlakunya Undang-Undang Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak.

**Kata kunci:** Restorative Justice; Pembimbing Kemasyarakatan; Penelitian Kemasyarakatan; Pendampingan

**Introduction**

Albert Eglash, a psychologist from America, introduced the concept of restorative justice in his writings that discuss compensation or reparations (Muladi, 2019). In modern law, the application of restorative justice began in the 1970s in Canada. This program is known as victim-offender mediation. In its implementation, this program is devoted to children's cases, where the perpetrator and the victim are brought together to formulate legal proposals for consideration before executing the sentence (Ness et al., 2001).

The principle of restorative justice is seen in its implementation, including the involvement of perpetrators, victims, families, and the local community. Meanwhile, the orientation of problem-solving is forward progress and preventive efforts. It can implement the flexibility of practice in implementing the punishment given to the perpetrators of criminal acts (Marshall, 1999). Therefore, that illegal settlement with approach restorative justice can aid victims, perpetrators, and the community in rehab and realizing accountability needs (Lanterman, 2021).

In Indonesia, restorative justice has been known for a long time for solving problems through deliberation and consensus. However, the new judicial route used in the deliberation efforts does not obtain consensus (Fathurokhman, 2013). In the juvenile justice approach, restorative justice is the essence of Law 11/2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System (SPPA) (Saefudin et al., 2021; Sriwijanti et al., 2021). Implementing the SPPA Law also provides special treatment for child offenders (Fathonah et al., 2021; Saefudin et al., 2022).

The restorative justice approach can decrease the repetition of criminal actions because of accountability by understanding the perpetrators of their crimes (Mcchargue, 2020). In addition, restorative justice also ensures that the treatment delivered is established for the child's best welfare. Consequently, the criminalization of children forced to undergo legal processes does not occur (Meyrina, 2017).

The implementation of restorative justice in the SPPA Law is implemented through a diversion deliberation process in every stage of criminal justice (Fathonah et al., 2021). Diversion deliberation is a transfer of settlement of children's cases outside the criminal justice procedure to reduce the negative impact that is likely to occur on children. In addition, there are five objectives for the implementation of the diversion deliberation as stated in Article 6 of the SPPA Law, which include acquiring consensus between the perpetrator and the victim; settlement of cases outside the judicial process; preventing children from deprivation of liberty; instill responsibility, and stimulate community participation (SPPA, 2012).

The diversion deliberation process is carried out at every stage of the judiciary, from the police, the Prosecutor's office, to the court. However, the success of the diversion deliberation process is largely
determined by the law enforcement officers involved in playing their roles following the duties and functions regulated in the legislation.

One of the law enforcement officers who fulfill children's rights is a probation and parole officer. The SPPA Law states that probation and parole officers are law enforcement functional officials who carry out guidance, supervision, community research, and assistance to children inside and outside the criminal justice process (SPPA, 2012). The duties and functions of Probation and Parole Officers are also longer and wider than other law enforcement officers such as police, prosecutors, and judges. The SPPA Law stipulates that probation and paroles have been involved from the pre-adjudication to post-adjudication stages. It means that the Probation and Parole Officers fulfill the child's rights at every stage of the judiciary.

Research related to the focus of restorative justice and the role of Probation and Parole Officers has been widely reviewed by many previous researchers. Among these are studies conducted by (2020), Mufidah and Khasanah (2019), Rado and Badilla (2019), Setyorini et al. (2020), and Mufidah and Khasanah (2019). However, the various studies above focus on restorative justice in juvenile justice and the role of Probation and Parole Officers after the SPPA Law but have not been accompanied by quantitative data from the implementation of the SPPA Law.

This article has two differences from previous research based on the description above. First, the discussion of this article focuses on the implementation of the probation and parole officers' role both before and after the implementation of the SPPA Law. Second, discussing the implementation of restorative justice by probation and parole officers in juvenile criminal justice in terms of the difference in the number of decisions of children who end up in prison from before and after the enactment of the SPPA Law.

From the problems above, there are two problem formulations in this article, namely:

1. What role of probation and parole officers before and after enacting the Juvenile Criminal Justice System Act?
2. How are probation and parole officers implementing Restorative Justice in juvenile criminal justice regarding the number of criminal decisions from 2012 to 2021?

Method

The research uses juridical-normative legal research methods by finding and analyzing legal rules, principles, and doctrines to answer this research question. The procedure of data collection in this research consists of multiple-stage that are: defining the problem and research topic, collecting data from various resources such as legal rules, constitution, and government policy, as well as various journals accessed through Elsevier, Science Direct, Taylor and Francis Online, Google Scholar, Scopus, e-resources national library, and ProQuest. The keywords used in the search include probation officers, probation and parole officers, restorative justice, and restorative justice in Indonesia. The type of this research is library research that uses laws and regulations, scientific journals, and books. The various data are then analyzed via qualitative procedures by collecting and utilizing all data linked to the subject matter. The author then processes and studies descriptively and systematically to respond to the problems
in this article (Marzuki, 2017). First, data collection was carried out through a verification process. Then, secondary data was obtained by searching for appropriate literature to answer research questions. The literature includes scientific journals, books, data publications, and related regulations (Lukito & Haryono, 2020). Data are then analyzed via qualitative methods by gathering and using all information linked to the issue matter. The researchers then process and examine descriptively and systematically to respond to the problems in this paper.

Results and Discussion

Restorative Justice in Indonesia

The SPPA Law is a guideline for resolving juvenile issues in criminal justice in Indonesia (Saefudin, 2020a). Since the government approved and initiated the application of juvenile justice, the SPPA Law has been demonstrated to illustrate restorative justice for children of criminal offenders. McCargue stated that restorative justice is an idea that aims to restore and decrease losses yielded by criminal acts or mistakes (Mcchargue, 2020). Furthermore, Marshall argues that restorative justice is a technique for solving a criminal trial that concerns the parties and society in a dynamic relationship with government institutions (Marshall, 1999).

Marshall’s idea of restorative justice is even used in the juvenile justice system. They started by understanding principles to perform procedures such as mediation and diversion (Sriwiyananti et al., 2021). In the SPPA Law, the definition of restorative justice is the compensation of criminal issues concerning the perpetrators/victims and other related parties to pursue a fair solution by highlighting restoration back to its initial state and not retribution (UU SPPA, 2012).

The implementation of restorative justice in the SPPA Law is via a diversion process (Mahfud et al., 2019). Juveniles can bypass corporal punishment through diversion while always safeguarding their rights. The restorative justice principle is to restore, not as retribution (Lasmadi et al., 2020). The purpose of conducting the diversion deliberation in the SPPA Law is to achieve peace, resolve cases outside the judicial procedure to bypass deprivation of independence, invite the community to partake, and infuse responsibility in juveniles (Saefudin et al., 2021).

Finding a common decision in the diversion process is more pleasing and completes the significance of justice for both groups. Then, enforcing the diversion procedure overrides the criminal justice process, closes the arrest affair, and encourages the community to participate in diversion dialogues. Another benefit of the goal of this diversion deliberation is the existence of responsibility in the form of recognition, regret, recompense, and other points arranged in the diversion dialogue (Nasirudin & Loliancy, 2021).

In the SPPA Law, law enforcement must pursue diversion consultations at every step, beginning with the police until court levels (Saefudin, 2020b). Nevertheless, not all issues concerning a juvenile can be fixed by a diversion approach. Two requirements must be completed: the threat of a penalty of fewer than seven years in jail and not recidivism (Firdaus, 2019). These requirements are attached to a juvenile who perpetrates a crime. For example, suppose a juvenile engages in criminality with a criminal punishment of more than 7 (seven) years. In that case, the settlement via the diversion procedure cannot be taken out, even though it is not recidivism.
**Implementation of Probation and Parole Officers' Role before the SPPA Law**

In the legislation, a Probation office (Bapas) was only mentioned in Law Number 3 of 1997 about Juvenile Court (revoked by law number 11 of 2012). However, the Probation and Parole Officers task already existed in a similar institution, under the Community Guidance and Child Alleviation (Bispa). In fact, since the pre-independence period, the implementation of some of the functions in the field of Probation and Parole Officers has been incorporated in prison institutions under the name "Gevangenis Tucht, Opvuding, Reclaseering & Armwezen" or abbreviated as "Gevangeniswezen & TORA" (Prison, Reklasering, and Public Affairs, Poor people's affairs). The term reclasering is what, in its development in Indonesia, is paired with Probation and Parole Officers. Etymologically, the word reclasering comes from the Dutch language, namely "reclasseering" which means to restore (Ditjenpas, 1983).

Through the Decree of the Presidium of the Cabinet dated November 3, 1966, Number 75/U/Kep/11/1966, then the organizational structure of the department was determined, in which there was an institute of director-general of the department which supervised the director as the head/executive element of some of the duties of the directorate general of the department. In the decision, the Directorate General of Corrections was formed, overseeing the Directorate of Corrections and the Directorate of Community Guidance and Child Alleviation (Bispa) (Republik Indonesia, 1966). Furthermore, on July 10, 1968, through the letter of the Director-General of Corrections Number KP.6/6/8/1 concerning the Opening of the Bispa Office, the series of tasks of the Bispa Hall was described then from 1968 to 1969, it was planned to establish 20 Bispa regional offices, which in turn become Bispa Hall (Ditjenpas, 1968).

The term probation and parole officers (PK) is a term coined by Sumarsono in a working paper made at the request of the National Legal Development Institute, now the National Law Development Agency, in 1976 in the Workshop on Evaluation of Probation and Parole Officers and Child Alleviation (Karim, 2003).

After this correctional period, regulations were gradually issued in the form of circulars and ministerial decrees regarding the organization and duties of the Bispa Hall, including:

1. Circular of the Director-General of Community Development No. DDP.2.1/1/13/1977 concerning the duties of Balai Bispa;
2. Letter of the Director-General of Community Development No. DDP.2.1/1/1977 concerning the duties of Balai Bispa;
3. Letter of the Head of the Bispa Directorate Number DBTU.5.22/77 regarding the explanation of the duties of the Bispa Center regarding the Making of Community Research in the Context of Examination at the District Court;
4. Letter from the Head of the Bispa Directorate Number DBTU/4/22/77 regarding the explanation of the duties of Balai Bispa regarding the Procedures for Civil Juvenile Justice;
5. Letter of the Head of the Bispa Directorate Number DBTU/9/2/77 regarding the explanation of the duties of the Bispa Center regarding the Procedure for Adopting Children;
6. Letter from the Head of the Bispa Directorate Number DBTU/10/2/77 regarding the explanation of the duties...
of the Bispa Center regarding Community Research to Complete Data on Materials for Fostering Tuna Citizens in Institutions;
7. Letter of the Head of the Bispa Directorate Number DBTU/14/2/77 concerning the explanation of the duties of the Bispa Center regarding Community Research in the Context of Assimilation and Integration;
8. Letter from the Head of the Bispa Directorate Number DBTU/16/9/77 regarding the explanation of the duties of the Bispa Center regarding Child Parenting Procedures.

The description of the organization and working procedures of the Center for Community Guidance and Child Alleviation (BISPA) is regulated by Ministerial Decree Number M.02-PR.07.03-1987 dated May 2, 1987, which was then followed up with implementing instructions and technical instructions including:
1. Implementation Instructions of the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Indonesia Number E-39-PR.05.03 of 1987 concerning Guidance for Correctional Clients;
2. Technical Instructions of the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Indonesia Number E-40-PR.05.03 of 1987 concerning Guidance for Correctional Clients.

After the enactment of Law No. 12 of 1995, the term Community Guidance and Child Alleviation Center was no longer mentioned. However, it was replaced with the term Correctional Center (Bapas). The Amendment is written in Article 1 that "Penitentiary Center is an institution to carry out guidance for correctional clients." Therefore, through the Decree of the Minister of Justice Number M.01-PR.07.03-1997 concerning the Amendment to the Ministerial Decree Number M.02-PR.07.03-1987, the nomenclature of the Center for Community Guidance and Child Alleviation (Bispa) was changed to the Correctional Center (Bapas) (Republik Indonesia, 1995).

After enacting Correctional Law No. 12 of 1995 and Juvenile Court Law No. 3 of 1997, the Probation and Parole Officers have a strong legal basis for carrying out their duties. This legal basis is useful in carrying out the Fathers’ role following the law’s mandate. Then issued implementing regulations, which include:
1. Government Regulation Number 31 of 1999 about the Guidance and Guidance of Correctional Inmates;
2. Decree of the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Indonesia Number M.02.PW.07.10 of 1997 Dated December 24, 1997, concerning Procedures for Trial and Meeting Room Arrangements;
3. Decree of the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Indonesia Number M.01.PK.04.10 of 1998 about Duties, Obligations and Requirements for Probation and Parole Officers;
4. Letter of the Director-General of Corrections Number E.PK.04.10-25 of 1998 dated March 9, 1998, concerning the implementation of Law Number 3 of 1997 concerning Juvenile Court;
6. Mutual Agreement between the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, the Ministry of Religion, and the Police Number M. HH. 04.HM.03.02 of 2009 about Protection and Social Rehabilitation of Children in Conflict with the Law.
The various regulations above have implications for the role of the Fathers, through Probation and Parole Officers, as institutions at the forefront of efforts to provide special protection for children with legal problems (ABH) as referred to in Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection. In carrying out its duties, the Father’s Council cooperates with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, and the Child Protection Commission.

**Implementation of Probation and Parole Officers’ Role after the SPPA Law**

The role of Probation and Parole Officers in realizing restorative justice after the enactment of the SPPA Law can be seen from two main functions: mentoring and community research (Saefudin et al., 2021). First, probation and parole officers carry the role of a companion in diversion consultations through their duties as deputy facilitators and in courts that read recommendations from their community research results (Azriadi & Mairul, 2019). The next role is doing community research (Litmas), a legal document taken into consideration by law enforcement officials in the diversion deliberation process and the judge in giving a decision.

The two main roles of probation and parole officers in the SPPA Law can be seen in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Duty</th>
<th>Article</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>14 Paragraph (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prosecutor's Office</td>
<td>a. Consideration of diversion, b. Delegation of files to judges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court</td>
<td>a. Article 55, b. Article 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table shows the function of Mentoring and Litmas in each stage. The mentoring function carried out by the Probation and Parole Officers covers every stage in the criminal justice process (Saefudin et al., 2021). In each stage, probation and parole officers have different functions in implementing restorative justice for children who are criminals. Furthermore, via their Litmas, Probation and Parole Officers can pursue restorative justice for children who are perpetrators of offenses. Both in consideration of diversion at per offense stage and in assessing the decisions provided by the judge. Suppose the recommendations given in the Litmas that are carried out align with the concept of restorative justice, namely, prioritizing the restoration of connections. In that case,
the judge's judgment will also be in line (Mahfud et al., 2019).

The form of efforts to realize restorative justice is prioritizing other alternative punishments to restore perpetrators and victims and making prison the final alternative (ultimum premium) in the recommendations given (Napitupulu et al., 2019). The forms of punishment in question include the diversion of children back to their parents; diversion of the child to a social institution or other; the child's decision returns to the parents; the decision is submitted to a social institution or other, and conditional criminal decisions.

**Implementation of Restorative Justice in 2012-2021**

Applying the SPPA Law can be seen in the Child Special Guidance Institution (LPKA), which does not occur overcapacity, unlike in adult jails/remand centers (Saefudin et al., 2021). The lack of overcapacity in LPKA indicates that a judicial system prioritizes non-prison penalties that have been executed. Hence, this point indicates the success of implementing the SPPA Law through the restorative justice approach. Other alternative punishments from law enforcement officers include diversion, decisions submitted to social institutions, and conditional criminal decisions. The author then classifies the decision as non-imprisonment, while the prison sentence compares this discussion.

Figure 1. Diagram of Decisions Before the SPPA Law Comes into consequence (Dirjenpas, 2022)

Figure 1 shows that in 2012-2013 prison sentences were very high, namely 4,334 and 4,970. Even in 2013, the second year of the promulgation of the Juvenile Criminal Justice System was the year with the most elevated digit of incarceration decisions, which was 4,970 out of a total of 6,466 judgments. On the other hand, in 2014, the number of juveniles who obtained non-prison decisions experienced a significant increase, from 1,496 to 2,572 from the previous year.

Figure 2. Diagram of Decisions After the SPPA Law is Effective (Dirjenpas, 2022)

After that, from 2015 to 2021, the verdicts on non-prison sentences in Indonesia were always higher than the prison sentences. Figure 2 illustrates that non-prison sentences increased after the SPPA Law became effective. In 2015, the number of children sentenced to prison
was 2082 juveniles and non-prisoners were 4911 juveniles. This figure indicates a significant decrease in the number of children receiving prison sentences compared to 2014, with 3182 cases of children being sentenced to prison.

This fact confirms that the effectiveness of the SPPA Law with a restorative justice approach is very significant in the imposition of non-imprisonment crimes, including diversion and conditional punishment; the decision is handed over to a social institution. The decision is returned to the parents. This fact also affirms the Litmas recommendations made by probation and parole officers in determining the type of punishment given to juveniles. Furthermore, the percentage difference in the decisions can be seen in the graph below.

Figure 3. Prison and Non-Prison sentence diagrams for 2012-2021 (Dirjenpas, 2022)

Figure 3 shows that from 2012 to 2013, the percentage of juvenile criminals imprisoned was very high, namely 72% to 77%. However, in 2014 the number of juveniles who obtained non-prison judgments nearly doubled from 23% to 45% last year. After that, from 2015 to 2021, non-prison penalties in Indonesia were consistently past 60% of the total judgments. The highest percentage of non-prison criminal decisions occurred in 2015 and 2018, reaching 70%.

In addition, Figure 4 illustrates an increase in the recommendation for punishment in the form of diversion from 2015 to 2021, which is always higher than the number of recommendations for punishment in the form of imprisonment.

Figure 4. Diversion, Prison, and Non-Prison Verdict Diagrams for 2012-2021

The dominance of prison sentences from 2012 to 2014 was due to the SPPA Law, which was entering a transition. The SPPA Law is enforced no later than two years after its promulgation in 2012. Accordingly, from 2015 to 2021, the number of juveniles sentenced to non-prison crimes is regular at over 60%. This figure can indicate that through mentoring and community research, probation and parole officers are proven to implement restorative justice to increase the number of non-prison decisions.

The graph also demonstrates the implementation of restorative justice in each stage of criminal justice. Probation and parole officers have different functions in implementing restorative justice for child offenders. In addition, the graph above also illustrates the function of Litmas as a legal document that strengthens restorative justice efforts. Thus, probation and parole officers can
pursue restorative justice for child offenders. Finally, suppose the recommendations given in the Litmas align with the idea of restorative justice, namely, prioritizing relationship repair. In that case, the judge's judgment will also be in line (Mahfud et al., 2019).

Thus, probation and parole officers have contributed positively to the juvenile justice paradigm. Therefore, it can be interpreted that the application of the SPPA Law in the judicial procedure pursues international legal tools based on the juvenile's best interests and makes incarceration the final option in the criminal judgment.

**Conclusion**

Probation and parole officers are critical in implementing restorative justice in Indonesia. However, before the SPPA Law, the probation and parole's duty was limited to implementing the community research for the judge's consideration in deciding on children in court cases. After the SPPA Law, probation and parole officers' task was more strategic because carrying out Litmas for case resolution was at the court level and the police through diversion, in the Prosecutor's office through diversion, and in court through diversion and trial. Also, the probation and parole officers are deputy facilitators in the diversion deliberation. Therefore, probation and parole officers could implement restorative justice through their duties and functions by preventing children from being sentenced to prison. In addition, implementing the SPPA Law, which is based on restorative justice in juvenile criminal justice, significantly reduces the rate of non-prison decisions.

**Suggestions**

As for this article, the researcher provides three suggestions for the Directorate General of Corrections, Probation and Parole Officers, and future researchers.

First, as a community advisory institution, the Directorate General of Corrections needs to carry out continuous guidance and strengthening so that Probation and Parole Officers continue to implement restorative justice in cases of children. In addition, the fulfillment of education, training, and supporting infrastructure are also needed to support the performance of Probation and Parole Officers in implementing restorative justice through their duties and functions.

Second, for probation and parole officers, it is hoped that they will continue to seek alternative punishments, resolve children's cases through a diversion process, and prioritize children's best interests. Probation and Parole Officers must collaborate with various agencies to maximize their duties and functions to be an alternative place for children to provide social services.

Third, further researchers can conduct field research to detailed data to measure the effectiveness of recommendations with decisions issued by judges. Thus, researchers can see the accuracy of the recommendations and decisions, whether they are appropriate or different.

**Bibliography**


