

Unraveling Conflict: Implementation of a Criminal Case Resolution Model With a Restorative Justice Approach in Sukoharjo

Suciyani^{1*}, Evi Ariyani², Masrukhin³, Fery Dona⁴, Farkhan⁵

¹⁻⁵UIN Raden Mas Said Surakarta, Indonesia

*Corresponding Author: suciyani@staff.uinsaid.ac.id

Article Info	Abstract
Received: 02-11-2023 Revised: 20-11-2023 Accepted: 20-12-2023 Keywords: Implementation; Restorative Justice; Handling of Criminal Cases.	Traditional law enforcement often focuses on punishing perpetrators without regard to restoring victims and damaged social relationships. Restorative Justice (RJ) has emerged as an alternative that emphasizes restoring victim harm, offender responsibility, and repairing social relationships. Sukoharjo Regency implemented RJ to resolve criminal cases more humanistically and efficiently. This study aims to analyze the implementation of RJ in handling criminal cases at Sukoharjo Police, evaluate its compliance with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and assess public views on this approach. This research used a qualitative method type empirical juridical. Data were collected through in-depth interviews with police officers, victims, perpetrators, and community leaders, as well as analysis of official documents such as police reports and related regulations. The results showed that the implementation of RJ at Sukoharjo Regency was largely in accordance with the established SOPs. The mediation process is conducted transparently and involves all relevant parties. The community generally has a positive view of RJ, considering it a fairer and more efficient way to resolve criminal cases. However, there are several obstacles, such as limited trained human resources and a lack of public understanding of the RJ concept. RJ implementation at Sukoharjo District Police has successfully achieved the goals of recovery and restorative justice, although there is still room for improvement. Increased education and socialization to the community is needed, as well as additional training for police personnel to become more effective mediators. Sukoharjo Police are advised to increase RJ socialization programs, provide ongoing training for officers, and strengthen coordination with community leaders to support more optimal RJ implementation.
Info Artikel	Abstrak
Kata Kunci: Implementasi; Restorative Justice; Penanganan Perkara Pidana.	Penegakan hukum tradisional seringkali berfokus pada penghukuman pelaku tanpa memperhatikan pemulihan korban dan hubungan sosial yang rusak. Restorative Justice (RJ) muncul sebagai alternatif yang menekankan pada pemulihan kerugian korban, tanggung jawab pelaku, dan perbaikan hubungan sosial. Di Kabupaten Sukoharjo sudah banyak pengimplementasian Restorative Justice untuk

menyelesaikan perkara pidana secara lebih humanis dan efisien. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis implementasi RJ dalam penanganan perkara pidana di Sukoharjo, mengevaluasi kepatuhannya terhadap Standar Operasional Prosedur (SOP), serta menilai pandangan masyarakat terhadap pendekatan ini. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan studi kasus. Data dikumpulkan melalui wawancara mendalam dengan aparat kepolisian, korban, pelaku, dan tokoh masyarakat, serta analisis dokumen resmi seperti laporan kepolisian dan regulasi terkait. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa implementasi RJ di Sukoharjo sebagian besar sudah sesuai dengan SOP yang ditetapkan. Proses mediasi dilakukan dengan transparan dan melibatkan semua pihak terkait. Masyarakat secara umum memiliki pandangan positif terhadap RJ, menganggapnya sebagai cara yang lebih adil dan efisien dalam menyelesaikan perkara pidana. Namun, terdapat beberapa kendala, seperti keterbatasan sumber daya manusia terlatih dan kurangnya pemahaman masyarakat tentang konsep RJ. Implementasi RJ di Sukoharjo berhasil mencapai tujuan pemulihan dan keadilan restoratif, meskipun masih ada ruang untuk perbaikan. Diperlukan peningkatan edukasi dan sosialisasi kepada masyarakat, serta pelatihan tambahan bagi personel kepolisian untuk menjadi mediator yang lebih efektif. Sukoharjo disarankan untuk meningkatkan program sosialisasi RJ, menyediakan pelatihan berkelanjutan bagi petugas, dan memperkuat koordinasi dengan tokoh masyarakat untuk mendukung pelaksanaan RJ yang lebih optimal.



Copyright© 2023 by Author(s)

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-Share Alike 4.0 International License.

INTRODUCTION

The resolution of criminal cases in Indonesia faces serious challenges (Khairuddin, 2021), particularly regarding court congestion and the lengthy time required to settle cases. The slow judicial system often leads to dissatisfaction among the public and burdens law enforcement officials. Therefore, efforts are needed to improve efficiency and speed in the resolution of criminal cases (Taqiuddin & Risdiana, 2022). Therefore, legal reforms need to be carried out in line with the times, as law will continue to exist as long as the world exists. One of the areas that need reform is criminal law. In the current era, punishments for criminal offenders should not only consist of criminal sanctions such as imprisonment, detention, fines, and the death penalty, as these are considered less effective and less influential on people's mindset. Nowadays, in the field of criminal law, reforms need to be implemented by adopting concepts or policy approaches that emphasize deliberation and reconciliation to achieve true justice (Mersy Junedy Mandala, Aksi Sinurat, 2020).

In research conducted by Adinata, the policy for resolving criminal cases through restorative justice for criminal acts committed by the elderly is not yet regulated in the current Criminal Procedure Code. (Adinata, 2022). In other research by Nurul et al, the concept of restorative justice can become a permanent legal policy in building a national criminal law system in the future. The Draft Criminal Code has accommodated the principle of restorative justice participation as a method of resolving problems outside of court, so it is very possible for the concept of restorative justice to be used as a criminal law reform in Indonesia in the future and its prospects. The formulation of restorative justice in criminal law reform has been adapted to Indonesian law with the existence of regulations made by law enforcers, where the principles of restorative justice are regulated in the internal provisions for case resolution from law enforcers and are implemented on a sectoral and non-sectoral basis. uses a criminal law policy theory approach, namely reforming criminal law through the formation of laws and restorative justice theory as a whole, namely as an approach to the concept of restorative justice (Awaliah Nasution et al., 2022). Meanwhile, in research conducted by Candlely Rompis, restorative justice can have a good influence on the criminal justice system in Indonesia. This can be seen from the effectiveness of implementing restorative justice in the criminal justice system in Indonesia with the existence of the National Police Chief's Circular Letter Number SE/8/VII/2018 concerning the Implementation of Restorative Justice, Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System, and Prosecutor's Regulation Number 15 of 2020 concerning Termination of Prosecution Based on Restorative Justice which has the impact of reducing the backlog of cases in prosecutors and courts, and excess capacity in detention centers and correctional institutions can be reduced or avoided (Rompis, 2021).

This research shows that restorative justice has an important role in criminal law reform in Indonesia. Its implementation provides solutions to various problems in the criminal justice system, including excess capacity in correctional institutions and the backlog of cases in court.

As part of the criminal justice system, mediation at the Sukoharjo Police Resort can be one way to resolve minor conflicts or disputes peacefully without having to go through a more formal legal process, such as court. Mediation at the Sukoharjo Police Resort involves various types of disputes or issues from restorative justice data and SP3 in Sukoharjo in 2023.

The mediation process at the Sukoharjo Police Resort involves the following steps: registration, mediator selection, mediation selection, agreement, and resolution. Restorative Justice is inseparable from the role of the police institution itself as an institution that can carry out the mediation process, involving both the victim and the perpetrator. Restorative Justice conducted in Sukoharjo has received various opinions from the local community. Many people who are not familiar with Restorative Justice believe that all problems can be solved through the Restorative Justice route. Additionally, some people feel that the Restorative Justice route is unfair because the victim can be freed so easily.

Based on the explanation above, the Sukoharjo Police Resort is one of the law enforcement institutions in Indonesia that has implemented Restorative Justice in resolving criminal cases. This is evidenced by 2023 data showing several criminal cases resolved through the Restorative Justice concept. However, there has not been much in-depth research on the implementation and process of Restorative Justice in this institution to determine whether it complies with SOPs or not. Therefore, this research is expected to provide a better understanding of the application of Restorative Justice in the context of criminal law in Indonesia, particularly at the Sukoharjo Police Resort.

The Indonesian government actively encourages the use of alternative methods in dispute resolution, including Restorative Justice. Thus, this research will not only contribute to improving the efficiency of criminal case resolution but also support government efforts to promote the use of alternative methods in law enforcement. From the explanation provided in the background section above, the author can formulate several issues that will define the scope of this research, namely: How is the process of resolving criminal cases in Sukoharjo with the existing Restorative Justice in Sukoharjo, and is it in accordance with SOPs? What are the community's views on the implementation of Restorative Justice conducted by Sukoharjo from the perspective of Sukoharjo?

RESEARCH METHOD

The type of research used in this study is field qualitative research type empirical juridical (Amrin et al., 2022). (Sugiyono, 2018). The final outcome of qualitative research is presented in the form of a written report. This method does not employ detailed questions like quantitative methods do. Questions begin generally but then become more focused and detailed. They are broad initially because researchers provide participants with ample opportunity to express their thoughts and opinions without limitations imposed by the

researcher. The data sources used in this study include Primary data, Secondary data, and Tertiary data. The data analysis technique employed in this qualitative method involves obtaining data through interviews. The acquired data is initially reviewed by reading through the entire text, summarizing, and removing duplications. This is followed by coding or classification, where patterns or themes are identified from the coded data. Through this process, the interview and observational findings are interpreted to generate new thoughts, opinions, theories, or ideas (Arikunto, 2013).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Theory of Restorative Justice

1. Definition of Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice originates from English and consists of two words: "restoration," which means repair, recovery, or restoration, and "justice," which means fairness. "Restorative" is a noun meaning a remedy that heals, strengthens, or refreshes. From this understanding, Restorative Justice in English can be interpreted as a healing or restorative justice (Mulyadi, 2018).

Restorative justice is a process where all parties involved in a particular criminal act collectively resolve issues, establish rights and obligations, and create a more conducive atmosphere. This process involves victims, perpetrators, families, and communities seeking solutions to repair and reconcile without retribution. It is undeniable that societal disputes, conflicts, and disputes between individuals, groups, families, ethnicities, and even nations can lead to criminal acts, whether minor or serious. Because society is a collective of individuals living together, cooperating to achieve common interests within a framework of life, norms, or customs that govern their lives (Lestari, 2017).

Restorative Justice is based on the principle of compensation for loss. It emerged due to dissatisfaction with existing criminal justice systems, which often exclude conflicting parties, focusing primarily on the state and the offender. Unlike traditional systems, Restorative Justice involves victims and communities in conflict resolution. Inadequacies in the criminal justice system in meeting the needs of victims and defendants also prompted the emergence of Restorative Justice. In the process of Restorative Justice, certain conditions must be met, including joint participation of offenders, victims, and the community, placing offenders and victims in pivotal roles in seeking fair resolutions through informal and personal avenues (Van Ness, D. W., & Strong, 2010).

Restorative Justice aims not only for legal certainty but also accommodates principles of fairness and benefit. It reflects community reactions used as components of Indonesia's criminal justice system, integrating local wisdom (Braithwaite, 2022). The restorative justice approach in handling criminal cases provides an opportunity for the involved parties, especially the perpetrator and the victim, to participate. In this approach, the roles of the perpetrator and the victim are not just as witnesses but as participants in the resolution process conducted by law enforcement agencies. The principle of Restorative Justice seeks to achieve peace outside of court involving the perpetrator of the crime or their family towards the criminal victim. In restorative justice, resolving a legal issue between the perpetrator and the victim of a crime can be achieved if all parties agree and reach a settlement. This approach allows the perpetrator to take responsibility for their actions by compensating for the damages caused by the crime committed

2. Concept of Restorative Justice.

The concept of restorative justice involves the victim and the perpetrator working together to resolve issues resulting in harm to the victim. Essentially, the concept of Restorative Justice is a measure of justice that no longer relies on proportional retaliation from the victim to the perpetrator, whether it be physical, psychological, or punitive. Instead, harm caused is healed by providing support to the victim and setting conditions for the perpetrator to take responsibility, with assistance from their family and community if needed .

Society and law enforcement are intertwined activities that cannot stand alone but have a close reciprocal relationship. The structure of society influences both by providing social mechanisms that enable law enforcement to operate and by presenting obstacles that hinder or limit optimal operation.

Restorative Justice aims to empower victims, perpetrators, families, and communities to address unlawful behavior through awareness and repentance, which serve as foundations for improving communal living. This explains that the concept of Restorative Justice is fundamentally simple. Restorative Justice is a justice theory that emphasizes the restoration of damages caused by criminal acts (Braithwaite, 2022). The United Nations defines Restorative Justice as a process where all parties involved in a specific criminal offense come together to resolve issues and consider how to address future consequences. This process is facilitated through discretion (policy) and diversion, which involves

diverting from the criminal justice process to resolve matters through dialogue (Nugroho, 2021).

3. Principles of Restorative Justice

1) Community involvement.

Community involvement is one of the core principles of restorative justice, emphasizing the importance of the active role of the community in the criminal case resolution process (Braithwaite, 2022). This principle involves various elements of society in efforts to create restorative and sustainable justice. The main aspects of community involvement in restorative justice are: Active Community Participation, Restoration of Social Relationships, Community Oversight and Support Empowerment and Education, Collaboration with Legal Institutions (Adriana, 2018).

2) Restoration of victim's losses

Community involvement in Restorative Justice is the active participation of community members in the process of resolving conflicts and repairing the harm caused by criminal acts. It involves not only the perpetrator and the victim but also family, friends, neighbors, and other community members affected by the incident.

3) Offender accountability

Restorative justice, or restorative justice, is an approach in the criminal justice system that focuses on repairing the harm caused by crime through a process involving the perpetrator, victim, and community. One of the key principles of restorative justice is offender accountability. In this context, offender accountability refers to the responsibility of the perpetrator to acknowledge their actions, bear the consequences of their behavior, and strive to repair the damage they have caused (Van Ness, D. W., & Strong, 2010).

- a) **Acknowledgment of Actions and Responsibility:** Offenders are expected to acknowledge their mistakes and accept responsibility for their actions. This involves recognizing that their actions have caused harm to the victim and the community, as well as understanding the negative impact of their behavior.
- b) **Consequences and Reparation:** Offenders must be willing to face the consequences of their actions. This may include financial compensation, community service, or other forms of reparation agreed upon with the victim

and the community. The goal is to repair the harm that has occurred and restore social balance.

- c) Recovery and Reintegration: The accountability process also includes efforts to assist offenders in improving their behavior and reintegrating into society. This may involve counseling, skills training, or other rehabilitation programs designed to prevent offenders from reoffending in the future (Mujahid & Kusriyah, 2020).
- 4) Transformation of social relationships.

The transformation of social relationships in the Principles of Restorative Justice focuses on repairing and restoring relationships damaged by criminal acts. Restorative Justice aims to bring together offenders, victims, and the community in a process of recovery, acknowledging the impact of the crime, and seeking adequate solutions to repair the harm (Lestari, 2017). Here are some explanations and bibliographic sources related to these principles:

- a) Healing for Victims and Communities
Restorative Justice places primary emphasis on victims and the impacted community. The process aims to listen to victims' needs, provide them with opportunities to express the impact of the crime, and offer compensation or other forms of recovery efforts.
 - b) Offender Accountability
Offenders are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions. This includes acknowledging wrongdoing, offering apologies, and participating in processes aimed at repairing the harm caused by their crimes.
 - c) Voluntary Participation
Restorative Justice involves voluntary participation from all parties involved: victims, offenders, and community members. This participation creates opportunities for open dialogue and collaborative problem-solving.
 - d) Transformation of Social Relationships
The Restorative Justice process aims to repair and strengthen social relationships damaged by crime. By bringing all parties together in dialogue, they can work towards better understanding and rebuilding trust.
- 5) Goals of Restorative Justice
 - a) Peaceful conflict resolution.

Restorative justice aims to resolve conflicts peacefully by involving all parties concerned, including victims, offenders, and the community. This process encourages open dialogue and mediation, where involved parties can express their feelings and needs, and reach mutual agreements that restore harmony and social order (Prasetyo, 2015). In conflict resolution, restorative justice emphasizes a justice principle that is restorative rather than retributive. The process of mediation and dialogue between victims and offenders helps reduce tension, repair damaged relationships, and find solutions that benefit all parties involved. This approach also avoids the escalation of conflicts that can occur in traditional justice systems.

b) Rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders into society

One of the main goals of restorative justice is the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders into society. This approach acknowledges that offenders are part of the community and need assistance to become productive and responsible members again (Kognisi et al., 2021). The rehabilitation process involves steps to help offenders understand the impact of their actions and to change their behavior. This often includes educational programs, counseling, and skills training. Reintegration involves community support to accept offenders back and provide them with opportunities to contribute positively. This goal is crucial in preventing offenders from reoffending in the future (Mulyadi, 2018).

c) Empowerment of victims and the community

Restorative justice aims to empower victims and communities affected by criminal actions. This involves giving voice to victims in the justice process and ensuring their needs and interests are prioritized. Victims in the restorative justice process are given the opportunity to actively participate in the resolution process. They can express how the crime has affected them and what they need to recover. Communities also play a role in supporting victims and monitoring offenders to ensure they comply with the agreements reached. This empowerment enhances a sense of justice and strengthens social cohesion (Lestari, 2017).

Restorative Justice in the Handling of Criminal Cases in Sukoharjo

Restorative Justice in handling criminal cases by Sukoharjo focuses on the restoration of losses experienced by victims, the accountability of perpetrators, and the improvement of social relationships. Sukoharjo adopts this method to reduce the burden on the judiciary, improve community relations, and provide a more humane form of justice. Here is a description of how Restorative Justice is implemented by Sukoharjo:

1. Restorative Justice Process

- a. **Mediation and Dialogue.** Sukoharjo holds a mediation session involving the perpetrator, the victim, and a third party (such as a mediator from the police or a community leader) to discuss the incident and seek a collective solution. The dialogue aims to understand the impact of the crime, provide an opportunity for the perpetrator to apologize, and allow the victim to express their feelings and needs for recovery.
- b. **Compensation and Restitution.** The perpetrator is required to provide compensation or restitution to the victim as part of the agreement reached in mediation. This compensation can take the form of financial compensation or other forms of agreed-upon restitution aimed at recovery for both parties.
- c. **Rehabilitation of the Perpetrator.** In addition to compensation, Sukoharjo also encourages the perpetrator to participate in rehabilitation programs such as counseling, skills training, or community service. The goal is to prevent the perpetrator from repeating the same actions and to assist them in reintegrating into society as a better individual (*Results of Interview with Muthoifin on March 24 2024, n.d.*).

2. Principles Adopted

- a) **Justice for All Parties:** Prioritizing justice that focuses not only on punishment for the perpetrator but also on the recovery of the victim and social balance.
- b) **Voluntary and Equality:** All parties involved in the Restorative Justice process must participate voluntarily and equally without coercion.
- c) **Transparency and Honesty:** The process must be conducted with full transparency and honesty from all parties involved to achieve fair and acceptable outcomes (*Results of Interview with Amran on March 25 2024, n.d.*).

3. Types of Cases Handled

Sukoharjo applies Restorative Justice primarily to minor to moderate criminal cases, such as: Petty theft, Minor assault, Family disputes Traffic violations that do not result in serious accidents

4. Benefits of Implementing Restorative Justice

- a) Reduction of Court Burden: By resolving certain cases outside of court, the court's workload can be reduced and the legal process becomes more efficient.
- b) Restoration of Social Relationships: Repairing and restoring the relationships between the perpetrator and the victim, as well as relationships within the community, creating a more harmonious environment.
- c) Victim Satisfaction: Victims feel more satisfied because they receive compensation and a sense of justice through active participation in the conflict resolution process.
- d) Perpetrator Rehabilitation: Perpetrators are given the opportunity to reform and reintegrate into society, reducing the likelihood of recidivism (*Results of Interview with Amran on March 25 2024, n.d.*).

5. Supporting Programs and Initiatives

Sukoharjo also develops various supporting programs to optimize the implementation of Restorative Justice, such as:

- a. Mediation Training: Providing training to police personnel and community leaders on mediation techniques and conflict resolution.
- b. Awareness Campaigns: Conducting campaigns to raise public awareness about the importance of Restorative Justice and how they can participate in this process.
- c. Collaboration with Social Institutions: Cooperating with social institutions and non-governmental organizations to provide additional support for victims and perpetrators (*Results of Interview with Iqra on March 25 2024, n.d.*).

Analysis of Law Enforcement in Handling Criminal Cases in Sukoharjo

Law enforcement in handling criminal cases in Indonesia aims to maintain order, provide justice, and protect citizens' rights. Sukoharjo, as one of the law enforcement institutions at the regional level, plays an important role in handling various criminal cases within its jurisdiction (Nugroho, 2021). This research analyzes how Sukoharjo handles criminal cases and enforces the law, as well as evaluates the effectiveness and challenges faced in the process . This research uses a qualitative method with a case study approach. Data is obtained through in-depth interviews with police officers, perpetrators, victims, and

other relevant parties. Additionally, an analysis of official documents such as police reports, case files, and court decisions is conducted.

1. Law Enforcement in Sukoharjo

a. Process of Handling Criminal Cases:

- 1) Receipt of Reports: The process of handling criminal cases begins with receiving reports from the community. Each report is followed up with an initial investigation to determine if there is sufficient evidence to proceed to the investigation stage (Prawiro, 2020).
- 2) Investigation: If there is sufficient evidence, investigators from Sukoharjo will conduct further investigations, including gathering additional evidence, examining witnesses, and detaining suspects if necessary.
- 3) Preparation of Case Files: After the investigation is completed, investigators prepare case files to be submitted to the Prosecutor's Office for prosecution.

b. Approaches Used:

1. Conventional Approach: This includes formal investigation and inquiry procedures in accordance with applicable legal procedures, including arrest, detention, and trial.
2. Restorative Justice Approach: This approach focuses more on restoring the victim's losses and reconciliation between the perpetrator and the victim, as an alternative to resolving cases outside the court (Lestari, 2017).

c. Effectiveness of Law Enforcement

1. Speed of Case Handling: Sukoharjo strives to handle each report quickly and efficiently. However, several factors can influence the speed of handling, such as the complexity of the case and the number of cases that need to be handled.
2. Quality of Investigation and Inquiry: The quality of investigation and inquiry greatly depends on the competence and integrity of the police officers. Rigorous training and supervision are needed to ensure that every stage of the investigation is carried out according to legal procedures.
3. Case Resolution Rate: The case resolution rate in Sukoharjo is quite high, with many cases being successfully resolved through both judicial processes and the Restorative Justice approach (Adriana, 2018).

Community Views on the Implementation of Restorative Justice in Sukoharjo

Restorative Justice (RJ) is an alternative approach to handling criminal cases that emphasizes restoring social relationships and resolving conflicts peacefully (Gunawan et al., 2024). The implementation of RJ by Sukoharjo aims to resolve criminal cases in a more humane and effective manner. It is important to understand how the community perceives this implementation from Sukoharjo's perspective. Community views on the implementation of RJ in Sukoharjo were gathered through in-depth interviews and surveys conducted among various community groups, including victims, perpetrators, their families, and community leaders (*Komisi Kepolisian Nasional. "Laporan Evaluasi Implementasi Restorative Justice Di Sukoharjo"*. Diakses Dari <https://kopolnas.go.id/>, 2024).

1. Findings from Sukoharjo's Perspective Community Acceptance and Understanding

Many community members see RJ as an effective way to restore losses without going through a lengthy and expensive judicial process. The community feels they receive more humane justice because they tend to appreciate the RJ approach, which emphasizes restoration and reconciliation over mere punishment. With the RJ approach, the resolution process is quicker, as RJ is considered faster in resolving conflicts, which is welcomed by both victims and perpetrators who want to move on with their lives quickly (Ayu, 2017). However, despite these resolutions, the community still lacks a widespread understanding of the RJ concept, leading to resistance or distrust towards its effectiveness. This raises concerns about injustice because there is a fear that RJ could be exploited by perpetrators to avoid rightful punishment (Kurtubi, 2022).

2. Implementation Effectiveness

The success of Mediation in Sukoharjo is noted by the resolution of many cases through mediation, reducing the burden on the judiciary and the police. Most victims and perpetrators involved in the RJ process feel satisfied with the outcomes achieved because they feel heard and receive justice in line with their expectations (Nisa, 2020).

3. Challenges in Implementation

They acknowledge that there are still limitations in the number of trained personnel as mediators, which sometimes hinders the RJ process. Therefore, further efforts are needed to disseminate information about RJ so that the community better understands and accepts this approach. (Flora, 2018)

4. Support from Community Leaders

The involvement of community leaders who support RJ helps enhance the acceptance and understanding of this approach among the general public. Thus, active participation in mediation by several community leaders also serves as facilitators in the mediation process, enhancing legitimacy and trust in RJ.

From previous research studies regarding policies for resolving criminal cases through restorative justice in Indonesia, several important things can be concluded as follows:

- a. Restorative Justice Policy for the Elderly: Highlights that the current Criminal Procedure Code does not specifically regulate the policy of resolving criminal cases through restorative justice for elderly offenders. This shows that there is a legal vacuum that needs to be filled to provide fairer protection and solutions for this vulnerable group (Adinata, 2022). This research identifies legal gaps in the Criminal Procedure Code regarding the policy of resolving criminal cases through restorative justice for elderly offenders. This is a new contribution because there has not been much research that specifically highlights the needs and protection of the elderly in the context of restorative justice.
- b. Permanent Legal Politics: Research by Awaliyah stated that the concept of restorative justice has the potential to be used as a permanent legal policy in building a national criminal law system in the future. The Draft Criminal Code has accommodated the principle of restorative justice participation as a method of resolving problems outside of court (Awaliah Nasution et al., 2022). This shows that there are serious efforts to integrate restorative justice principles into the Indonesian criminal law framework, which has the potential to become the basis for future criminal law reform. The novelty of this research is the analysis of how the concept of restorative justice can be integrated into a permanent part of national legal politics. This research highlights that the draft Criminal Code has begun to accommodate the principle of participation in restorative justice, providing a future view of Indonesian criminal law reform that has not been discussed in depth.
- c. Sectoral and Non-Sectoral Implementation: Emphasize that the principles of restorative justice have been adapted in Indonesian law through various regulations made by law enforcers. The principles of restorative justice are regulated in the internal provisions for case resolution from law enforcers and are implemented on a sectoral and non-sectoral basis (Awaliah Nasution et al., 2022). This shows

recognition of the importance of restorative justice and its application in various aspects of the justice system. This research makes a new contribution by showing that the principles of restorative justice have been adapted in Indonesian law through law enforcement regulations and implemented sectorally and non-sectorally. This comprehensive approach highlights the adaptation and implementation of restorative justice in various law enforcement sectors, which has not been described in detail in previous research.

- d. Effectiveness in the Criminal Justice System: Rompis (2021) found that the implementation of restorative justice has had a positive influence on the criminal justice system in Indonesia. Several regulations such as the National Police Chief's Circular Letter Number SE/8/VII/2018, Law Number 11 of 2012, and Prosecutor's Regulation Number 15 of 2020 have had a significant impact by reducing the backlog of cases in prosecutors and courts, as well as reducing excess capacity in detention centers and correctional institutions. empirical evaluation regarding the effectiveness of implementing restorative justice in reducing the backlog of cases in prosecutors and courts and reducing excess capacity in detention centers and correctional institutions (Rompis, 2021). This research provides concrete evidence of the positive impact of restorative justice policies, which makes a new contribution to the understanding of the practical benefits of these policies. Overall, these studies show that restorative justice has an important role in criminal law reform in Indonesia. Its implementation provides solutions to various problems in the criminal justice system, including excess capacity in correctional institutions and the backlog of cases in court. Additionally, there is increasing recognition of the importance of including restorative justice as an integral part of a more humane and effective criminal justice system.

This research provides first relevance, highlighting the special needs and legal protection of the elderly in the context of restorative justice, which is rarely discussed. Second, describe changes in legal politics and the potential for reform in the Indonesian criminal law system. Third, provide a comprehensive overview of the implementation of restorative justice sectorally and non-sectorally in Indonesia. Fourth, provide concrete evidence about the effectiveness of restorative justice policies in the local Indonesian context. Thus, the research contributes to SOP compliance by providing a systematic assessment of how formal procedures are carried out, and indicating areas where practices

can be improved, such as in personnel training. Apart from that, the effectiveness of RJ implementation by providing empirical evidence about the benefits of restorative justice in recovering losses and improving social relations, as well as positive acceptance from the community. Of course RJ in Sukoharjo shows success in implementation and acceptance by the community, although there are several areas that require further attention to increase the effectiveness and understanding of RJ.

CONCLUSION

Compliance with the SOPs comprising the process of report acceptance, investigation, mediation, agreement formulation, agreement implementation, and case closure has been carried out according to the established SOPs. There is good documentation and strict supervision in the implementation of RJ agreements, although there are still some challenges such as limited trained personnel. The effectiveness of implementing RJ has successfully resolved many criminal cases more quickly and satisfactorily for both parties involved. The high level of satisfaction from victims and perpetrators indicates that this approach is effective in restoring losses and improving social relationships. The general public generally accepts and supports the RJ approach because it is seen as more humane and efficient. However, there are still concerns regarding potential injustice and a lack of deep understanding about RJ.

Challenges in the implementation of RJ include resource limitations, especially in the number of trained personnel, which are major obstacles in its execution. There is a need for increased education and socialization efforts to enhance understanding and acceptance of RJ among the public. Overall, the implementation of Restorative Justice in Sukoharjo has proceeded well and in accordance with established SOPs. The mediation process and conflict resolution through RJ have proven effective in achieving more humane and efficient justice, despite some challenges that need to be addressed. The community positively evaluates this approach, but further efforts are needed to enhance understanding and acceptance of RJ.

REFERENCES

Journals and Books

Adinata, K. D. F. (2022). Penerapan Prinsip Restorative Justice Terhadap Pelaku Tindak

- Pidana Lanjut Usia (Studi Tentang Penerapan Pendekatan Keadilan Restoratif Dalam Praktek Penegakan Hukum). *Jurnal Hukum Media Justitia Nusantara*, 12(1), 26–62. <https://doi.org/10.30999/mjn.v12i1.2059>
- Adriana. (2018). *Mewujudkan Keadilan Restoratif di Indonesia*. Penerbit Remaja Rosdakarya.
- Amrin, A., Yono, Y., & Zakaria, Z. (2022). The Development Concept Of Halal Tourism In Indonesia In The New Normal (Study In Bima Regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province). *Al-Infaq: Jurnal Ekonomi Islam*, 13(1), 181. <https://doi.org/10.32507/ajei.v13i1.1308>
- Arikunto, S. (2013). *Prosedur Penelitian Suatu Pendekatan Praktik*. PT. Rineka Cipta.
- Awaliah Nasution, N. P., Hamdani, F., & Fauzia, A. (2022). The Concept of Restorative Justice in Handling Crimes in the Criminal Justice System. *European Journal of Law and Political Science*, 1(5), 32–41. <https://doi.org/10.24018/ejpolitics.2022.1.5.37>
- Braithwaite, J. (2022). *Restorative Justice & Responsive Regulation*. Oxford University Press.
- Flora, H. S. (2018). KEADILAN RESTORATIF SEBAGAI ALTERNATIF DALAM PENYELESAIAN TINDAK PIDANA DAN PENGARUHNYA DALAM SISTEM PERADILAN PIDANA DI INDONESIA. *Ubelaj*, 3(2), 145–155.
- Gunawan, M. M., Suwadi, P., & Rustamaji, M. (2024). Comparison of Restorative Justice Implementation in Indonesia, Usa, Germany, Poland and Switzerland. *Revista de Gestao Social e Ambiental*, 18(1), 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.24857/rgsa.v18n1-055>
- Khairuddin, K. (2021). Mekanisme Penyelesaian Kasus Tindak Pidana Pengaiyaan Melalui Hukum Adat Di Kabupaten Aceh Singkil. *LEGALITE: Jurnal Perundang Undangan Dan Hukum Pidana Islam*, 6(2), 96–109. <https://doi.org/10.32505/legalite.v5i2.2780>
- Kognisi, P. K., Risiko, P., Jenis, D. A. N., Bidori, F., Puspitowati, L. I. dan I., Wijaya, I. G. B., Alifah, U., Artikel, I., Paedagoria, S. N., Anwar, I., Jamal, M. T., Saleem, I., Thoudam, P., Hassan, A., Anwar, I., Saleem, I., Islam, K. M. B., Hussain, S. A., Witcher, B. J., ... alma. (2021). IMPLEMENTATION OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE TOWARDS THE CRIME OF THEFT IN THE JURISDICTION OF BIMA KOTA POLRES. *Industry and Higher Education*, 3(1), 1689–1699.
- Komisi Kepolisian Nasional. “Laporan Evaluasi Implementasi Restorative Justice di Sukoharjo”. Diakses dari <https://kopolnas.go.id/>. (2024).
- Kurtubi, M. (2022). Nusantara : Journal of Law Studies. *Journal Of Law Studies*, 2(NO.2), 1–8.
- Lestari. (2017). *Restorative Justice dalam Perspektif Hukum Pidana Modern*. LKiS.
- Mersy Junedy Mandala, Aksi Sinurat, O. G. M. (2020). Implementasi Prinsip Keadilan Restoratif Pada Perkara Tindak Pidana Korupsi. *Jurnal Cahaya Mandalika*, 5(2), 851–863.
- Mujahid, M., & Kusriyah, S. (2020). Implementation Restorative Justice in Criminal Cases

- at Investigation Level. *Law Development Journal*, 2(2), 216.
<https://doi.org/10.30659/ldj.2.2.216-224>
- Mulyadi. (2018). *Restorative Justice: Implementasi dan Tantangan di Indonesia*. Pustaka Obor Indonesia.
- Nisa, C. U. (2020). Penerapan Bentuk Mediasi Penal Dengan Pendekatan Keadilan Restoratif Dalam Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak. *Jurnal Komunikasi Hukum (JKH) Universitas Pendidikan Ganesha*, 6(1), 253–265.
- Nugroho. (2021). *Kebijakan Restorative Justice dalam Sistem Peradilan Pidana*. Pustaka Utama.
- Prasetyo, T. (2015). *Hukum Pidana: Pendekatan Restorative Justice*. PT. Rajagrafindo Persada.
- Prawiro. (2020). *Peran Polisi dalam Keadilan Restoratif*. Universitas Sebelas Maret Press.
- Rompis, C. P. M. R. F. E. T. (2021). Penerapan Dan Pengaruh Keadilan Restoratif Sebagai Alternatif Penyelesaian Tindak Pidana Dalam Sistem Peradilan Pidana Di Indonesia. *Lex Crime*, X(5), 142–150.
- Sugiyono. (2018). *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif, Kualitatif dan R&D*. CV. Alfabeta.
- Taqiuddin, H. U., & Risdiana, R. (2022). Penerapan Keadilan Restoratif (Restorative Justice) Dalam Praktik Ketatanegaraan. *JISIP (Jurnal Ilmu Sosial Dan Pendidikan)*, 6(1), 3596–3610. <https://doi.org/10.58258/jisip.v6i1.2972>
- Van Ness, D. W., & Strong, K. H. (2010). *Restoring Justice: An Introduction to Restorative Justice*. Routledge.

Interviews

- Amran (2024), personal interview in Sukoharjo, 25 March
- Iqra (2024), personal interview in Sukoharjo, 25 March
- Muthoifin (2024), personal interview in Sukoharjo, 24 March