

Strategy for Handling Criminal Acts of Fighting Due to Juvenile Delinquency in Medan City through Criminal Law Policy

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Abstract

The phenomenon of brawls or fights involving teenagers in Medan City is increasing and has become a serious problem that requires special attention. This crime not only causes physical and psychological harm to the perpetrators and victims, but also disrupts public order and security. This study aims to analyze strategies for dealing with criminal acts of brawls due to juvenile delinquency through a criminal law policy approach. The research method used is a normative legal approach by analyzing laws and regulations, policies, and legal efforts that have been implemented in Medan City in overcoming this problem. The results of the study indicate that the criminal law approach has an important role in providing a deterrent effect, but it needs to be accompanied by preventive and educational steps, such as character building, legal socialization, and community empowerment. Collaboration between law enforcement officers, educational institutions, and parents is essential to prevent juvenile delinquency that leads to criminal acts. Thus, the implementation of a comprehensive and sustainable criminal law policy is expected to effectively reduce the number of criminal acts of brawls in Medan City.

***Keyword:* Criminal Law Policy, Medan City, Juvenile Delinquency**

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Introduction

The phenomenon of juvenile delinquency that leads to criminal acts of fighting or brawls is increasingly common in various regions, including in Medan City. Brawls involving teenagers not only disturb the community, but also have a negative impact on the development of the younger generation and threaten security and public order. These violent acts are often triggered by various factors, such as the influence of the social environment, group pressure, weak parental supervision, and lack of understanding of moral and legal values. Juvenile delinquency, especially in the form of brawls, has become a serious concern for various parties, including the government, law enforcement, educational institutions, and the community. Fights involving teenagers not only cause physical and psychological harm to the perpetrators and victims, but also create broader social impacts, such as damage to public facilities, disturbances of order, and a decline in the image of security in the community. This shows that efforts to overcome the phenomenon of juvenile brawls cannot be underestimated and require a comprehensive and comprehensive approach. (Fikri, 2022).

Criminal law policy plays an important role in efforts to overcome criminal acts of brawls due to juvenile delinquency. Criminal law functions as a tool of social control and enforcement of norms that can provide a deterrent effect for perpetrators of criminal acts. However, an approach that only focuses on punishment is not always effective in dealing with juvenile delinquency. In many cases, criminal punishment alone is not enough to change the behavior of adolescents involved in brawls, especially if it is not accompanied by coaching and education efforts. (Siregar, 2023).

Therefore, this study attempts to analyze the strategy for dealing with criminal acts of brawls due to juvenile delinquency in Medan City through criminal law policies, taking into account the need for integration of preventive, educational, and rehabilitative approaches. This study also aims to identify the factors that cause the high number of brawls among teenagers and how the implementation of existing criminal law policies can be optimized in handling this problem.

It is hoped that this study can contribute to formulating effective policies and strategies to reduce criminal acts of fighting among teenagers. With a comprehensive approach and synergy between law enforcement officers, educational institutions, parents, and the community, it is hoped that a safe and conducive environment can be created for the growth and development of the young generation in Medan City.

Literature Review

Research on juvenile delinquency and criminal acts of fighting or brawls has become a topic that is often discussed in various legal and social studies. This shows that the phenomenon of brawls is not a new problem, but still requires proper and sustainable handling. Several important literatures related to this topic provide a comprehensive view of the causes, impacts, and efforts to overcome juvenile delinquency through a criminal law approach.

1. Concept of Juvenile Delinquency and Brawl

Juvenile delinquency is defined as deviant behavior that violates social and legal norms committed by individuals during adolescence. According to Kartono (2014), juvenile delinquency can be caused by various factors, including a less harmonious family environment, negative influences from peers, and lack of supervision from parents and schools. Brawls involving teenagers are often triggered by emotions, group solidarity, or feelings of wanting to show strength and self-existence in front of peers (Santoso, 2017).

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2. Criminal Law Perspective in Handling Youth Brawls

The criminal law approach as a means of overcoming juvenile delinquency has been discussed in various literatures. According to Sudarto (1997), criminal law functions as a tool to enforce norms and provide a deterrent effect on perpetrators of criminal acts. In the context of juvenile brawls, criminal law enforcement is considered important to provide protection for the community and prevent similar actions from occurring in the future. However, Sudarto also emphasized the importance of a humanistic and preventive approach, because teenagers who commit violations are still in the process of character formation and require guidance, not just punishment.

A study by Barda Nawawi Arief (2008) also highlighted that the handling of juvenile delinquency cannot only rely on criminal law enforcement, but must be integrated with non-penal approaches, such as education and character building. Prevention efforts need to be carried out through programs involving families, schools, and communities as an effective form of intervention to reduce delinquent behavior among adolescents.

3. Criminal Law Policy in the Context of Handling Youth Brawls in Medan City

In the context of Medan City, the phenomenon of youth brawls is often caused by social problems such as economic disparities, conflicts between schools, and weak supervision from the authorities. Research by Siregar (2020) shows that although criminal law policies have been implemented to handle cases of youth brawls, their implementation has not been effective due to minimal coordination between law enforcement officers, educational institutions, and the community.

Another study by Situmorang (2019) revealed that the lack of rehabilitation and coaching programs for brawlers is one of the obstacles in efforts to overcome this crime. In some cases, brawlers who have served their sentences actually return to committing similar acts due to the lack of programs that help them understand the legal consequences of their actions and direct them to more positive activities.

4. Preventive and Educational Approach as a Solution

Several literatures emphasize the importance of preventive and educational approaches as part of criminal law policies in dealing with juvenile delinquency. Sarwono (2012) stated that prevention efforts must start from moral education and legal values from an early age, both in the family and school environment. In addition, involving teenagers in positive activities such as sports, arts, and social activities can be an effective means to divert their energy in a more constructive direction.

5. Collaboration in Handling Youth Brawls

The literature also highlights the importance of collaboration between law enforcement officers, educational institutions, government, and the community in efforts to overcome juvenile brawls. A study by Widiastuti (2015) showed that a community-based approach can provide more effective results in reducing juvenile delinquency rates, because the community can act as supervisors and mentors who help prevent negative behavior among teenagers.

Methods

This study uses a normative and empirical legal approach to analyze the strategy for overcoming criminal acts of brawls due to juvenile delinquency in Medan City through criminal law policies. This approach was chosen to gain a comprehensive understanding of the

implementation of criminal law in overcoming juvenile brawls and the factors that influence the effectiveness of the policy. The methods used in this study are explained as follows:

1. Normative Legal Approach

The normative legal approach is carried out by examining laws and regulations related to the handling of criminal acts of fighting, especially those caused by juvenile delinquency. An analysis of laws, government regulations, regional regulations, and policies implemented in Medan City will be carried out to understand how the current criminal law framework plays a role in handling the phenomenon of juvenile brawls. (Nasution, 2023).

The legal sources that will be examined include:

- a. Criminal Code (KUHP)
- b. Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System
- c. Medan City Regional Regulation regarding the handling of juvenile delinquency
- d. Policies from law enforcement officers and related agencies related to efforts to prevent and handle youth brawls

This approach aims to understand the extent to which existing criminal law policies are able to address criminal acts of fighting among teenagers and whether there are gaps or weaknesses in their implementation. (Fatmawati, 2023).

2. Empirical Approach

An empirical approach was conducted to obtain direct data from the field related to the phenomenon of youth brawls in Medan City and efforts to overcome them. This study used interview, observation, and questionnaire methods to obtain empirical data from various parties involved, including:

- a. **Interview:** Interviews were conducted with law enforcement officers (police, prosecutors, and judges), juvenile correctional officers, teachers, school counselors, community leaders, and brawlers who had undergone legal proceedings. The aim was to obtain their views and experiences regarding efforts to overcome youth brawls, the effectiveness of criminal law policies, and the obstacles faced in the law enforcement process.
- b. **Observation:** Observations were conducted in school environments, community environments, and juvenile delinquency handling institutions to understand situations that could trigger brawls and what preventive efforts had been made.
- c. **Questionnaire:** Questionnaires were distributed to teenagers in several schools in Medan City to obtain information regarding their understanding of the law, factors that encourage them to get involved in brawls, and their views on criminal sanctions and the coaching efforts implemented.

3. Data Analysis

The data obtained from the normative and empirical legal approaches will be analyzed qualitatively to obtain a clear picture of the effectiveness of criminal law policies in overcoming criminal acts of fighting due to juvenile delinquency in Medan City. The analysis is carried out by reviewing existing legal regulations, comparing them with field findings, and evaluating strategies that have been implemented by the authorities.

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This research is expected to provide appropriate recommendations for the government, law enforcement officers, educational institutions, and the community in developing more effective, preventive, and educational criminal law policies in overcoming the phenomenon of youth brawls in Medan City.

Results and Discussion

1. Research Results

The results of the study show that criminal acts of fighting or brawling among teenagers in Medan City are influenced by various factors, both from individual aspects, social environment, and the legal policies implemented.

a. **Factors Causing Teenage Brawls**Based on interviews and surveys, there are several main factors that encourage youth brawls in Medan City:

- 1) **Social Environment:** Many teenagers feel pressured by social norms that require them to show courage and self-existence. Involvement in brawls is often seen as a way to gain recognition in the eyes of peers.
- 2) **Lack of Family Supervision:** Observation results show that many teenagers involved in brawls come from families that do not provide sufficient supervision. Parental involvement in their children's lives is essential to prevent delinquency.
- 3) **Peer Influence:** The negative influence of peer groups is very strong, where adolescents tend to follow group behavior to be accepted and recognized. (Fikri, 2023).

b. **Existing Criminal Law Policy**Analysis of the applicable criminal law policy shows that although there is a legal framework that regulates the handling of brawls, implementation in the field still faces many obstacles. Some findings related to legal policy are as follows:

- 1) **Lack of Effectiveness of Law Enforcement:** Although there are criminal sanctions for brawlers, many teenagers still repeat similar actions after serving their sentences. This shows that law enforcement has not been effective in providing a deterrent effect.
- 2) **Lack of Rehabilitation Programs:** Many brawlers do not receive guidance or rehabilitation after undergoing the legal process, so they tend to become involved in criminal acts again.
- 3) **The Importance of a Preventive Approach:** Research shows that more preventive approaches, such as legal education and character development programs in schools, are needed to prevent brawls.

2. Discussion

The results of this study indicate that overcoming criminal acts of fighting due to juvenile delinquency in Medan City requires a more holistic and integrative approach. Criminal law policies alone are not enough to overcome this problem. Emphasis on rehabilitation and education aspects is very important in shaping the character of adolescents.

a. Rehabilitative and Educational Approach

Based on the findings, one of the recommended solutions is the development of a rehabilitation program for brawlers. This program should not only focus on sanctions, but also on coaching that helps them understand the consequences of their actions and directs them to engage in positive activities. For example, skills training programs, sports activities, and legal counseling that involve active participation from teenagers.

b. The Role of Family and Society.

Parental and community involvement is also crucial in preventing juvenile delinquency. Education for parents regarding the importance of supervision and guidance of children at home needs to be improved. In addition, the community must act as a supervisor and provide support to teenagers to engage in positive activities. (Hasibuan, 2022).

c. Synergy between Related Parties

The discussion showed that collaboration between various parties, such as law enforcement officers, educational institutions, parents, and the community, is very necessary to create a safe and conducive environment for teenagers. This joint effort can strengthen the prevention and handling of brawls among teenagers, with a focus on education and character building.

Conclusion

Overall, this study shows that overcoming criminal acts of brawls due to juvenile delinquency in Medan City requires a more comprehensive strategy. Criminal law policies must be balanced with rehabilitation and education approaches, and involve all relevant parties. With appropriate and integrated steps, it is hoped that the number of juvenile brawls can be reduced, thereby creating a safer and more conducive environment for the development of the younger generation.

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