

Community Policing as a Crime Prevention Strategy in Urban Areas

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Abstract

Urban areas are highly complex. This complexity leads to high crime rates in some urban areas. Crime in urban areas is caused by deep-rooted problems. To overcome this, solutions that address the root causes are also needed. Using a community policing approach, this study will demonstrate methods for preventing crime in urban areas. The study aims to analyze how community policing works to address crime in urban areas. It employs a literature review method, utilizing data from documents, journals, books, and relevant official reports related to the topic. The findings show that crime in urban areas often occurs only in certain areas with specific characteristics. By understanding this, it will be more effective to formulate a community policing-based approach to the community.

Keywords: *Urban Crime; Community Policing; Crime Prevention; Urban Acces; Root Cause of Crime*

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INTRODUCTION

Slum and irregular city layouts have more potential to give birth to crime. According to KBBI, a city is a residential area consisting of houses that are a unit of residence for various levels of society. Badan Pusat Statistik (2010) defines urban as an administrative area at the village/sub-district level that meets the criteria for urban area classification. Meanwhile, Mansyur, et al. (2022) define urban areas from an economic perspective, namely urban areas are areas whose economic activities are not from agriculture. From these various definitions, it can be seen that urban areas are areas populated by various groups of people, the majority of whom do not work as farmers and meet the classification of urban areas. With the dense urban location and high inequality, urban areas have a high crime rate compared to rural areas. This is also what Blumer (1984) said that cities have a high crime rate because of the city's status as a center of population and a newly developing economy. Cities have their own appeal to people outside the city, the progress and new things in the city are always a hope for people outside to gamble their fate in the city.

With everything it has, it encourages many people to move to the city. Data released by databok states that in 2020, 56.7% of Indonesia's population lived in urban areas. This indicates that cities are still a source of livelihood for both native and immigrant populations. History says

that cities have been a destination for people to change their fate since ancient times. An example is the city of Jakarta, which has been a destination for people to try their luck. Candiwidoro (2017) in his research argued that when the Government of the Republic of Indonesia moved from Yogyakarta to Jakarta in 1949, the population in Jakarta also experienced a very rapid increase. The population, which was originally only 823,000, increased to 1,782,000 between 1948 and 1952. In just four years, the city of Jakarta experienced a population increase of almost double.

Very rapid population growth is sometimes not balanced with social or infrastructure maintenance which results in many inequalities in many sectors. Social inequality is a condition where there is a very striking difference in access to resources between community groups. Continuous social inequality has the potential for conflict between community groups. This conflict also has the potential for widespread crime in urban areas. Social inequality also has other effects such as structural poverty. Structural poverty according to Carter and May (1999) is a poverty that arises from long-term social, economic, and institutional processes that are systematic and detrimental to certain groups. If community groups continue to be trapped in these conditions, the next impact is crime and social conflict. The existence of crime is usually driven by dissatisfaction and frustration to get a better life. Furthermore, it can cause political instability in the country, if it has reached this stage, there will be more problems to come. There will be more people who are dissatisfied until the government's legitimacy is lost.

In urban areas, crime has several characteristics. Felson & Clarke (1998) said that the urban environment provides many opportunities for crime because of the dense population that encourages anonymity and ease of movement. In their research, they also emphasized the existence of opportunity theory which will later lead to urban settings in urban areas. This will encourage more opportunities for crime in urban areas because criminals tend to be safe because of the anonymity and ease of movement due to the overly dense city population. Crime in urban areas also has its own complexity because crime patterns are usually related to social, economic, and political factors. So, it is not only limited to one problem but many variables influence it. This makes crime increasingly difficult to identify the source, because crime has no single factor. Crime in cities also has another characteristic, namely that it spreads quickly and adapts to technological advances. Densely populated urban areas with high mobility make crime information circulate quickly, the speed of spread is also driven by increasingly advanced technology. The characteristics of cities that are adaptive to change and centers of innovation make crime always adapt every year. To overcome these problems Kepolisian Negara Republik Indonesia (POLRI) must have effective and efficient problem solving. However, there is a

traditional understanding that sometimes makes the handling carried out by POLRI less than appropriate and does not resolve the root of the problem.

Criticism of the traditional approach is not new in addressing crime problems, especially in police and criminology studies. Instead of addressing the problem from the root, the traditional approach prefers to focus on law enforcement. As a result, there are reactive actions such as responding to a report only with patrols or arrests. This approach also emphasizes command and control, meaning that there is a bureaucracy and rigid hierarchy that slows down the handling of a crime. Moreover, the traditional approach measures success only from the quantity of arrests and rapid response. If we look at the crimes that develop in urban areas, we will find deep-rooted problems that must be resolved from the roots.

In general, this approach is said to be unadaptive to urban crime because it does not address the problem from the root, but only relies on solutions when there is a report. This is a problem because it does not start from preventing the cause or resolving the conditions that give rise to social crime in urban areas. The traditional approach also does not empower communities in society, even though communities are important in society because they unite for the same purpose in the community. The traditional approach places the community as a reporter only or in other words a top-down approach. Empowering the community not only prevents crime from occurring, but also builds trust in the community. With the capital of trust given by the community, the police will find it easier to prevent and control crime in urban areas. To be able to reach this stage, the police must first understand local problems in urban areas—each city has different characteristics depending on the aspects that influence the formation of the city—to determine a strategy for empowering the community. One researcher who supports this opinion is Sidebottom, et al. (2020), in their research they said that the traditional reactive policing model has difficulty in dealing with systematic and recurring crime problems. To overcome this problem, there is an idea to create an approach that emphasizes partnerships and problem solving that involves the community.

Community Policing is an alternative approach to overcome the failure of the traditional approach in dealing with crime, especially in urban areas. The Community Policing approach is considered suitable for dealing with crime in urban areas because this approach emphasizes direct community involvement in preventing crime, which is in line with the characteristics of cities that are full of very fast life. If the traditional approach is reactive - only moving when there is a report from the community - while the community policing approach seeks to prevent the causes of crime through direct community involvement. This approach has several

characteristics to not only address crime in urban areas but also prevent crime from occurring in urban areas. These characteristics include actively involving the community in identifying problems and finding solutions, placing the community as a partner not just as an object, the police increasing public trust through their community, and trying to get citizen support to prevent crime.

Research on crime and community policing has been conducted several times by several researchers, but there is no specific linking community policing to the context of urban crime in general. Such as in Aulina's research (2017) entitled "Kejahatan di Wilayah Perkotaan dan Model Integratif Pencegahan Kejahatan". In the article, Aulina discusses how crime in urban areas operates and moves and how to prevent such crimes. It is indeed stated that one way to overcome crime in urban areas is through an approach to the community, but in the article Aulina does not specifically discuss community policing. But includes this approach as one way to overcome crime in urban areas. While in this study the author discusses specifically how urban crime can emerge using urban history studies and social approaches to determine the most appropriate community policing strategy to be applied in urban areas.

Research by Tutrianto (2018) entitled "Munculnya Wilayah Kejahatan di Perkotaan (Studi Pada Kota Pekanbaru)" also discusses the emergence and formation of crime in urban areas, especially in Pekanbaru City. However, this study only focuses on how crime in urban areas can emerge and tries to uncover the factors that cause the emergence of crime-prone locations in the city. Meanwhile, the research conducted by the author will present an approach called community policing to solve the very complex problem of crime in urban areas.

In the two studies, there is clearly a gap with the author's research. The author tries to reveal first what factors cause crime in urban areas. By revealing what factors influence crime in urban areas, an effective way to prevent crime can be formulated. Using the community policing approach, the author will formulate a strategy that is suitable for implementation in urban communities to prevent crime. Research questions is how does the Indonesian National Police involve the community to tackle crime in urban areas? And purpose of the Article is analyzing how community policing works to address crime in urban areas.

METHOD

In this study, the author used the literature study method. According to Nuryana, et al. (2019), literature study is a method that solves problems by tracing previously written sources. Literature study is also understood as a method that uses data collection and analysis techniques

sourced from various written references that are related to the research topic. There are several stages that must be passed when using this method. These stages include identifying, reading, and analyzing the results of previous research, books, scientific journals, official reports, and policy documents that are relevant to the topic studied by the author. The topic of discussion will be a requirement for whether the research can be used by the author as a reference for this research. The author will only select articles, research, books, and scientific sources that discuss urban crime, the emergence of urban crime, community policing, and the methods used to build community policing in overcoming crime in urban areas.

There are also steps taken to review and use the article, such as. First, searching for scientific sources through internet sources. This step will make it easier for the author to access many readings both in Indonesian and English. Of course, with more sources, it will strengthen the argument and enrich the author's perspective in analyzing the research topic. Second, literature selection. After getting various reading sources from the internet, the next step is to select various literature that is relevant to the topic of discussion. As explained in the previous stage, not all articles found can be used as reference sources and readings. Only articles that are relevant to the topic and quality of the source can be used as references for further review. This is done to limit the scope of discussion in this study, if this is not limited, it will result in the quality of the article not discussing a problem. Third, analyze the contents of the article to find key themes, theories, research results, and recommendations for overcoming problems. After finding an article that is relevant to the discussion of the article, an analysis will be carried out to find the key to the discussion. By carrying out the analysis, you will find references to key themes, theories used in analyzing the problem, as well as the results and conclusions of previous articles. This is important because by finding it will bring this research into a new discovery to overcome the problem. Fourth, synthesis of findings to formulate a conceptual framework in answering research questions.

The selection of this method is not without reason, this method was chosen because it allows the author to find previously used knowledge, identify research gaps, and build a strong theoretical foundation. For this reason, this method was chosen so that the author's purpose in conducting research is right on target. This method is also a way for the author to understand and analyze community policing as an approach to crime prevention in urban areas.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Characteristics of Social Crime in Urban Areas

In order to understand the causes of crime in urban areas, the theory of social disorganization is used. This theory is a theory based on Chicago thinking. Chicago thinking believes that members of society are passive entities that are exposed to and burdened by the environment, on the other hand, society according to Chicago thinking is believed to be something fluid and if there is a change experienced by society, there will be a conflict of values and culture in the middle of the city. The existence of this theory is the result of observations by scientists at the University of Chicago in the city of Chicago which experienced very rapid development at that time. The theory of social disorganization is an increase in the attention of Chicago thinkers to the more complex development of the city of Chicago in terms of population movement, population growth, and urban development. Later, these factors will examine the relationship between the crime rate in a neighborhood and the characteristics of the neighborhood as expressed by Krohn in Kubrin (2009). In research conducted by Chicago scientists, there were interesting findings, these findings said that crime tends to be higher in poor, densely populated areas, and residents often move from one place to another.

Social disorganization explains the relationship between crime and settlement characteristics. Settlements have a very large influence on crime in urban areas. This theory explains the question of why crime tends to be higher in certain areas. This happens because in poor, dense settlements, and those whose residents often move, there is an irregular social environment. An irregular social environment will cause weakened social control, whereas social control is one of the important requirements for preventing crime. Weakened social control opens up opportunities for crime to occur in urban areas. Coupled with the high poverty rate, the cause of crime in urban areas is a deep-rooted problem.

Some thinkers distinguish urban areas depending on their characteristics. The classification is usually based on the economic, social, and population characteristics of each part of the city. Like Burgess (2015) who discusses urban concentric zones into several parts. First, the Central Business District (CBD), which is the zone that is the center of the city's economic activities, this zone contains tall buildings, offices, large stores, and financial centers. This zone is the most advanced zone compared to other zones. Second, the Transition Zone which contains light industry and is located around the first zone. According to Burgess, this zone is a zone inhabited by the working class and immigrants and is identical to slum areas. Third, the working class residential zone. In this zone, the area is better than the transition zone because it is more stable and has access to public transportation that makes it easier to access the CBD. Fourth, the middle-class residential zone which contains more spacious housing and a more planned and clean environment. In this zone there are also

better public facilities. Fifth, commuter or suburban. This zone is a suburban area that has a quieter environment. However, when contextualized to the Indonesian context, Burgess's thoughts are less relevant because urban growth in Indonesia is not always circular and orderly.

Ford in Pacione (2009) revealed that areas in Indonesia are more suited to the following nine classifications. First, the port city located on the coast. Second, the Chinese commercial zone or known as Pecinan. Third, the mixed commercial zone, both ethnic and functional. Fourth, the international commercial zone. Fifth, the government zone near which there are elite settlements. Sixth, the elite residential zone. Seventh, the middle-income suburb. Eighth, the industrial zone. Ninth, the village area.

Due to this grouping, crime in urban areas has its own characteristics that are influenced by the environment. Urban areas have a complexity of crime compared to other areas such as villages. This includes conventional crimes such as theft and robbery to organized crimes such as narcotics and human trafficking. In addition, crime in urban areas also adapts to technology, such as online fraud, defamation, doxxing, and others. Data released by cyber patrol statistics shows 14,495 online frauds reported by the public. Crime in urban areas also has high anonymity because urban areas tend to be individualistic and do not know each other. This results in social control described in the theory of social disorganization loosening. The rapid spread of crime is also a characteristic of urban crime because of the advancement of technological access so that perpetrators are usually in the same coordinator or even crimes that are easily imitated by others.

The occurrence of crime in urban areas cannot be separated from the inequality that occurs in it, so it is very necessary to know which urban areas have the highest potential for crime. This is done to anticipate or prevent crime before it occurs. Of course, this cannot be done using only a traditional approach. The concept of Community Policing is more suitable for the National Police to implement to prevent crime in urban areas.

B. Community Policing Concept

In simple terms, community policing or more familiarly known as Community Police is a concept or strategy in carrying out the function of supervision and regulation by the Indonesian police institution or POLRI. This concept is considered by experts as the antithesis of the concept of regulation known to the public and closely associated with harsh and repressive connotations. This is because the impression brought by the diction "community" is very thick with the values of community, family, and volunteerism (Indarti, 2019). Specifically, Robert Blair defines the concept of community policing as a philosophy

of policing and a series of programs and strategies to achieve common goals and interests. Meanwhile, according to Jayne Seagrave, he tries to distinguish the characteristics of the concept of community policing from other policing concepts, and what stands out from the concept of community policing is its key element which lies in the legitimacy and direct contribution of the community. From these two definitions, several general meanings of community policing can be embodied as follows:

1. Philosophy or ideology;
2. Strategy or policy;
3. A series of procedures, programs, or techniques;
4. Emphasis on police as public servants;
5. Ideas that are not yet rigid;
6. Rhetoric;
7. Balancing and limiting police authority;
8. Opportunities, vehicles, or tools to facilitate public control, intervention, and utilization efforts.

In ensuring that the community policing concept is implemented maximally and optimally, it must at least fulfill and implement three main components of the community policing concept, including:

1. Strategic Partnership

What needs to be emphasized from the concept of partnership is the relationship built under the principle of equality between the parties involved. In other words, partnership means not forming a hierarchy that places one party in a dominant position and the other party in a subordinate position.

2. Collaborative Problem Solving

With this community policing concept, it will open up wider access to a more deliberative problem-solving process than previous policing concepts. This is because this concept allows the involvement of many parties who automatically also represent

different interests in a case. From these varied representations, decision considerations can then be created that are based on the interests of many people.

3. Community Based Prevention

In carrying out its function as a law enforcer, of course, these efforts are also carried out in a preventive scheme. In maximizing the performance of preventing a crime in society, the concept of community policing opens up opportunities for the spread and even distribution of the function of supervision and protection for the community because this concept runs in a bottom-up framework, namely providing space for the community to be able to play a role even from the lowest level or grassroots. This can be applied in real terms through various activities that require the Police at the urban level to go directly into community activities.

With this concept, crime can be prevented before it occurs. This is because the police have collaborated with the community in dealing with crime. After all, the community knows the area where they live better than outsiders. Therefore, this approach is an effort to build a bridge between the police and the community to achieve a common goal, namely preventing crime in urban areas.

C. Community Policing as a Strategy to Combat Social Crime

In an effort to prevent crime in urban areas that are common such as brawls, drug and narcotics trading, theft, and others, it is clear that it cannot be done without the right strategy and mechanism, there needs to be an approach that is in accordance with the target and type of crime so that the process of control can be carried out optimally and does not violate anyone's human rights. In this case, the ideal approach that can be taken by the National Police is through dialogic patrol activities. Dialogic patrol is a supervisory approach that emphasizes two-way communication and without pressure between the National Police and the community to be able to maintain a conducive situation. Furthermore, the second mechanism is the pioneering of organizations such as the Police and Community Partnership Forum (FKPM) which operates informally and does not bind its members. This is because if FKPM membership is carried out in a bound and formal manner, it will only be an exclusive forum because it narrows the space for each individual to be involved as a member. And the last is preventive education or socialization. This mechanism is carried out with the hope that this provision can encourage the community to be aware of and

understand their position and role in social life, so that it can motivate them to collaborate with the National Police in carrying out their supervisory function.

The concept of community policing has been widely adopted in Indonesia, although not yet optimally. An example is the Bhayangkara Pembina Keamanan dan Ketertiban Masyarakat (Bhabinkamtibmas) as an extension of the POLRI at the RT to city levels. As frontliners, Bhabinkamtibmas also collaborate with local officials such as village governments, traditional leaders, and other security institutions in carrying out the function of order at the lower or grassroots level. Bhabinkamtibmas is the closest example of the implementation of community policing because it is reflected in how this forum or group is closely related to community-based empowerment and operates in a bottom-up scheme.

D. Challenges and Opportunities for Implementation in Indonesia

In the application of community policing to overcome urban crime, there are various challenges that will be faced. These challenges can come from within or outside the institution. Primarily, challenges from outside the institution if not addressed will delay or even make this approach impossible to implement. First, lack of public trust. Data revealed by the Civil Society for Police Watch researcher, Hasna, said that out of 1,700 respondents, 44.7 percent had little or no trust in POLRI. This indicates that there are still many people who do not trust the POLRI, of course if this problem is not immediately resolved it will cause problems in applying the community policing approach. This approach is based on communication with the community to be able to work together to overcome crime in urban areas. However, if there is no trust in one party, the cooperation will be difficult to implement. As a result, the approach that should be a bridge for cooperation ends the opposite because there is a sense of distrust. Second, the capacity of personnel is not evenly distributed. The community policing approach is an approach that requires the ability to conduct dialogue and approach residents, this approach also takes longer because it addresses the problem from the root. When compared to the traditional approach, this approach tends to prioritize dialogue and long introductions. Therefore, it requires the capacity of members who are able to conduct a dialogue approach and mingle with the community. While on the other hand, personnel who have this ability can be said to be uneven. This is because each personnel has a high workload so it is difficult to build personal relationships with residents.

Third, socio-cultural heterogeneity. In urban communities with large populations, there is a lot of diversity. This diversity is formed by social, economic, political, and cultural factors. Although located in the same city, each area within the city does not necessarily have the same characteristics. This is a serious challenge because the police must also have an

approach that is tailored to the area where community policing is implemented. If a uniform approach is still used, it is not impossible that there will be conflict between the police and the community due to differences in culture and behavior.

However, behind the challenges there are opportunities to implement community policing in urban areas of Indonesia. Several opportunities such as Community Police have been regulated in the POLRI policy. This is an opportunity that can be taken by utilizing official policies as a basis for preventing crime through community policing. Another opportunity is the need for a sense of security in urban areas. Nowadays, urban residents are growing increasingly complex, this complexity encourages people to need a sense of security to be able to carry out their daily activities. People are starting to realize that if there is no sense of security in a city, it will disrupt their activities as modern humans who must be fast. On this basis, cooperation between the community and the Police can be built there.

Urban areas support technological advancements. This is also an opportunity to implement community policing. RT/RW WA groups to social media can be utilized to coordinate with residents. Of course, this is an effort to achieve cooperation between residents and the Police. Furthermore, the Police can utilize online reporting applications to be able to respond to residents more quickly.

CONCLUSION

Crime in urban areas is not a crime without cause. Urban crime is crime caused by deep-rooted problems. It is not only economic motives that are often discussed, but also social and political motives that cause social disintegration. If this situation is allowed to continue, it will cause widespread conflict among the community. Urban crime is also caused by the layout of urban areas, which creates opportunities for criminal activity. Since these issues are deeply rooted, a long-term solution is needed that not only addresses surface-level problems but also attempts to tackle the root causes.

More than that, the use of a community policing approach through FKPM and Bahabinkamtibmas provides a perspective on how to prevent crime from the outset, rather than just following up on crimes. In its implementation, cooperation between the community and POLRI is needed. Therefore, POLRI must show that they are there to help the community. Once mutual trust has been established, cooperation to overcome crime in urban areas will be achieved.

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