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# Alcohol Abuse Among Minors in Tirtomoyo: Patterns, Contributing Factors, And Prevention Strategies

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## Abstract

The abuse of alcoholic beverages by minors in Tirtomoyo District has been associated with an increase in various criminal acts, particularly physical abuse and sexual harassment. This study aims to identify the criminogenic factors contributing to this phenomenon, analyze the types of crimes that emerge as a result, and evaluate the effectiveness of prevention strategies implemented by both authorities and local communities. A qualitative-descriptive method was employed, utilizing interviews, direct observations, and documentation of police records from the Tirtomoyo Police Department spanning 2019 to 2022. The findings indicate that psychological instability, dysfunctional family environments, and a permissive social culture are among the primary contributing factors. Prevention efforts are currently conducted through community-based strategies encompassing repressive, preventive, and preemptive measures. The study concludes that effective mitigation requires cross-sector collaboration and the adoption of a context-sensitive legal framework to prevent the escalation of alcohol-related offenses among minors.

**Keywords:** *Alcohol Abuse, Minors, Criminal Behavior, Prevention Strategies, Community-Based Approach*

## Abstrak

Penyalahgunaan minuman keras oleh anak di bawah umur di Kecamatan Tirtomoyo telah memicu berbagai tindak pidana, khususnya penganiayaan dan pelecehan seksual. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi faktor-faktor kriminogenik yang melatarbelakangi fenomena tersebut, mengkaji bentuk-bentuk kejahatan yang ditimbulkan, serta mengevaluasi strategi penanggulangan oleh aparat dan masyarakat. Metode yang digunakan adalah kualitatif-deskriptif dengan teknik pengumpulan data berupa wawancara, observasi, dan dokumentasi terhadap data Polsek Tirtomoyo tahun 2019–2022. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa faktor psikologis, keluarga disfungsi, dan budaya permisif menjadi pemicu utama. Strategi penanggulangan dilakukan melalui pendekatan represif, preventif, dan pre-emptif berbasis komunitas. Kesimpulannya, diperlukan sinergi multisektor dan pendekatan hukum yang bijaksana untuk mencegah peningkatan kejahatan akibat konsumsi alkohol di kalangan anak.

**Kata kunci:** *Penyalahgunaan Alkohol, Anak di Bawah Umur, Tindak Pidana, Strategi Penanggulangan*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Crime is a complex social phenomenon that cannot be fully understood solely through a normative legal lens, but requires comprehensive analysis from sociological and criminological perspectives. From a legal standpoint, crime is defined as an unlawful act stipulated in statutory regulations and subject to criminal sanctions. In contrast, criminological perspectives conceptualize crime more broadly as deviant behavior that harms society, produces victims, and elicits social responses. This multidisciplinary understanding emphasizes that crime is not merely a matter of legal transgression but is also deeply intertwined with social, cultural, and psychological transformations within society.<sup>1</sup>

One increasingly prevalent and alarming form of criminal behavior is the abuse of alcoholic beverages, particularly among minors. This phenomenon poses significant risks not only to the physical and mental health of children but also contributes to the occurrence of other criminal offenses such as assault, sexual harassment, brawls, and juvenile delinquency. Alcohol consumption has been shown to potentially induce organic mental disorders, impair cognitive and emotional regulation, and increase the propensity for aggressive and destructive behavior—especially among adolescents—thereby endangering both the individuals involved and their surrounding communities.<sup>2</sup>

This issue has gained serious attention in various regions of Indonesia, including Tirtomoyo District in Wonogiri Regency. Data from the Tirtomoyo Police Department indicate a recurring pattern of juvenile involvement in cases of physical assault and sexual misconduct linked to alcohol consumption. Between 2019 and 2022, a total of 120 cases involving minors aged 13 to 18 were documented, with consistently high rates of abuse-related incidents. These findings suggest a systemic failure in the prevention and control of alcohol abuse among youth, pointing to deficiencies in law enforcement, family engagement, educational institutions, and community-based interventions.

The phenomenon of alcohol abuse among minors has garnered increasing scholarly attention in recent years. Within criminological discourse, this behavior is viewed not merely as a legal infraction, but as a manifestation of broader and more complex patterns of social change. For instance, a study conducted by Putra, Yuliartini, and Mangku in Buleleng Regency identified both internal factors—such as curiosity and peer influence—and external factors, including family dynamics and social environments, as key drivers of alcohol consumption among children. Their findings

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<sup>1</sup> David Canter and Donna Youngs, “Crime and Society,” *Contemporary Social Science* 11, no. 4 (2016): 283–88, <https://doi.org/10.1080/21582041.2016.1259495>.

<sup>2</sup> Irma Suswati et al., “Managing Mental Disorders in Intracranial Hemorrhage (ICH) Patients: A Case Study on The Importance of Early Recognition and Intervention,” *Brain Hemorrhages* 5, no. 1 (2024): 42–45, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hest.2023.02.005>.

further underscore the necessity of implementing both penal and non-penal strategies to effectively address this multifaceted issue.<sup>3</sup>

Atmaja, Dewi, and Widyantara conducted a related study in Bangli Regency, highlighting the critical role of both community and government actors in fostering collective awareness to prevent alcohol consumption among children. Their research primarily emphasized community-based preventive measures and educational initiatives.<sup>4</sup> Similarly, Nurhayati and Faridah examined the correlation between alcohol consumption and the emergence of juvenile delinquency, attributing this relationship to the disruption of central nervous system functions, which negatively affects self-control and decision-making abilities. They further referenced Article 300 of the Indonesian Criminal Code as a legal framework for prosecuting individuals who provide alcohol to minors.<sup>5</sup> In another study, Ahmad, Wantu, and Sarson explored the nexus between alcohol use and child abuse in Gorontalo, offering a detailed analysis of criminogenic factors and assessing the effectiveness of existing law enforcement responses.<sup>6</sup> Earlier research by Takilala in Sengah Temila District, Landak Regency, identified a high incidence of school-related brawls attributable to alcohol consumption among students. This study demonstrated how alcohol impairs mechanisms of social control and contributes to behavioral deviance.<sup>7</sup>

While a range of studies have explored alcohol abuse among minors from legal and criminological perspectives, much of this research has been geographically concentrated in Bali, Gorontalo, and West Kalimantan. To date, no comprehensive investigation has been undertaken in Tirtomoyo District, Wonogiri Regency, Central Java—an area characterized by distinct socio-cultural dynamics. Moreover, prior research tends to lack integration between longitudinal empirical data on alcohol abuse trends and analyses of localized criminogenic factors, including the influence of alcohol-induced Organic Mental Disorders (OMDs) on juvenile behavior.

The novelty of the present study lies in its interdisciplinary approach, combining criminological and legal perspectives to contextualize the phenomenon of juvenile

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<sup>3</sup> Salit Ngurah Bagus Adi Putra, Ni Putu Rai Yulianti, and Dewa Gede Sudika Mangku, “Tinjauan Kriminologis Terhadap Penyalahgunaan Minuman Beralkohol Oleh Anak Di Kabupaten Buleleng,” *Jurnal Komunitas Yustisia* 4, no. 1 (2021): 107–18, <https://doi.org/10.23887/jatayu.v4i1.33035>.

<sup>4</sup> I Wayan Yuda Atmaja, Anak Agung Sagung Laksmi Dewi, and I Made Minggu Widyantara, “Tinjauan Kriminologis Terhadap Penyalahgunaan Minuman Beralkohol Oleh Anak Di Kabupaten Bangli,” *Jurnal Preferensi Hukum* 5, no. 1 (2023): 69–75, <https://doi.org/10.22225/jph.5.1.8710.69-75>.

<sup>5</sup> Mela Nurhayati and Hana Faridah, “Analisis Dan Kajian Kriminologi Hukum Dalam Kasus Minuman Beralkohol Pada Anak Dibawah Umur Di Desa Mulyasari,” *The Juris: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum* 6, no. 2 (2022): 319–24, <https://doi.org/10.56301/juris.v6i2.598>.

<sup>6</sup> Madina Mulia Ahmad, Fence M. Wantu, and Mohamad Taufiq Zulfikar Sarson, “Tindak Pidana Penganiayaan Yang Diakibatkan Mengkonsumsi Minuman Beralkohol Oleh Anak Dari Aspek Kriminologi (Studi Kasus Polres Gorontalo Kota),” *Jurnal Hukum, Politik Dan Humaniora* 1, no. 3 (2024): 139–51, <https://doi.org/10.62383/progres.v1i3.505>.

<sup>7</sup> Julio Cesar Takilala, “Pengaruh Mabuk Minuman Keras Oleh Anak Terhadap Timbulnya Perkelahian Di Kecamatan Sengah Temila Kabupaten Landak Ditinjau Dari Sudut Pandang Kriminologi,” *Gloria Yuris Jurnal Hukum Prodi Ilmu Hukum Untan* 3, no. 3 (2015): 1–82, <https://jurnal.untan.ac.id/index.php/jmfh/article/view/10464>.

alcohol abuse. Specifically, it contrasts empirical social realities—such as patterns of deviance and community responses—with the application of positive law, namely Article 351 of the Indonesian Criminal Code, in cases involving child perpetrators of assault linked to alcohol consumption. To date, no prior research has examined this relationship in a contextual and measurable manner within the Tirtomoyo region.

Given this background, the present study is both timely and necessary. It aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the underlying factors contributing to alcohol abuse among minors in Tirtomoyo District, identify the forms of criminal behavior that result, and analyze both existing and recommended prevention strategies involving law enforcement and community stakeholders. This research not only contributes to the academic discourse on child criminology and community-based crime prevention, but also serves as a critical reference for policymakers at both the local and national levels in formulating effective child protection strategies and addressing alcohol-related juvenile delinquency.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs an empirical (sociological) legal approach, which conceptualizes law not merely as a set of written norms but as an integral part of social reality. Such an approach is particularly relevant for examining the phenomenon of alcohol abuse among minors in Tirtomoyo District, as well as the corresponding responses of both the community and law enforcement agencies. The research adopts a descriptive qualitative design aimed at providing an in-depth understanding of the causal factors, social impacts, and intervention strategies employed by relevant stakeholders.

The study was conducted in Tirtomoyo District, Wonogiri Regency, Central Java, Indonesia—a location selected based on the high incidence of juvenile alcohol abuse cases recorded by local police authorities between 2019 and 2022. The research subjects included law enforcement officers, minors identified as perpetrators or former perpetrators, parents, community and religious leaders, village officials, educators, and healthcare professionals. A purposive sampling technique was employed to select participants with direct knowledge of or involvement in the issue under investigation.

Data were collected through semi-structured interviews, participatory observation, and document analysis. The data analysis followed the interactive model developed by Miles and Huberman, which involves three key steps: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification.<sup>8</sup> To ensure the credibility and validity of the findings, multiple triangulation methods were applied, including source triangulation, methodological triangulation, and member checking to verify the accuracy of the information provided by informants. This methodological framework

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<sup>8</sup> Matthew B. Miles, A. Michael Huberman, and Johnny Saldana, *Qualitative Data Analysis: A Methods Sourcebook* (New York: SAGE Publications, Inc, 2018).

enabled the researchers to obtain rich, contextually grounded data, thereby facilitating a comprehensive analysis of the socio-legal dimensions of alcohol abuse among minors in the local context.

### 3. RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1. Criminogenic Factors Influencing Alcohol Abuse Among Minors

This study seeks to identify and analyze the criminogenic factors contributing to alcohol abuse among minors in Tirtomoyo District. The analysis focuses on two principal dimensions: internal factors (psychological and biological) and external factors (family, social, and cultural environments). Field interviews conducted in March 2025 with five residents of Tirtomoyo District reveal that alcohol abuse among minors remains a persistent and troubling issue. Many of the children involved are of elementary to junior high school age and are reported to consume alcohol clandestinely in informal gatherings or even openly in public spaces. These behaviors are frequently accompanied by acts of deviance, such as disturbing traffic, throwing stones at residential homes, and engaging in physical altercations. The persistence of such conduct indicates the presence of underlying causative factors, which, based on both community and law enforcement responses, can be broadly categorized into internal and external influences.

Internally, alcohol abuse among minors can be examined through two key aspects: psychological and biological. Psychologically, children and adolescents are characterized by heightened curiosity, particularly toward novel and prohibited experiences such as alcohol consumption. Observing adults or peers engaging in such behavior often triggers a desire to emulate, especially when coupled with limited awareness of the associated health and legal consequences. The lack of adequate knowledge and underdeveloped cognitive coping mechanisms contributes to a weak internal resistance against these impulses. Furthermore, the need for peer recognition and acceptance frequently motivates minors to engage in risky behaviors—such as alcohol consumption—as a misguided means of demonstrating courage or social status.

Biologically, adolescence is a developmental stage marked by increased susceptibility to experimental behavior. This vulnerability is often attributed to an imbalance between the maturation of the limbic system, which governs emotions, and the prefrontal cortex, which regulates judgment and self-control.<sup>9</sup> As a result, adolescents tend to exhibit poor risk assessment and limited consideration of long-term consequences, making them more prone to engage in behaviors such as alcohol abuse.

External factors play a more substantial role in facilitating deviant behavior among minors compared to internal influences. Based on interviews and field observations,

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<sup>9</sup> Saz P. Ahmed, Amanda Bittencourt-Hewitt, and Catherine L. Sebastian, “Neurocognitive Bases of Emotion Regulation Development in Adolescence,” *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience* 15 (2015): 11–25, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dcn.2015.07.006>.

several key external elements were identified as contributing to the prevalence of alcohol abuse among children in Tirtomoyo District:

- a) **Lack of Parental Supervision:** Many children are granted excessive freedom by their parents, often due to economic demands or parental disengagement. In numerous cases, parents are preoccupied with work or demonstrate limited awareness of their children's daily social interactions, which increases the likelihood of minors engaging in deviant peer groups and unsupervised activities.
- b) **Peer Influence and Social Pressure:** Children who frequently interact with older peers or individuals accustomed to alcohol consumption are more likely to adopt similar behaviors. Peer pressure emerges as a significant determinant in initiating alcohol use, particularly in social contexts where conformity is equated with maturity or social status.
- c) **Cultural Practices and Community Events:** Local traditions and folk festivals often create environments that are permissive of alcohol consumption. During such events, minors are not only exposed to alcohol but may also receive it freely, sometimes as part of games, entertainment, or prize offerings. The lack of age restrictions and community oversight underscores a broader deficiency in collective awareness regarding child protection from addictive substances.
- d) **Inadequate Regulation by Producers and Vendors:** Alcoholic beverage producers and local retailers frequently neglect to implement age verification protocols. Motivated by economic profit, some continue to sell alcohol to underage buyers, thereby directly facilitating access to addictive substances for minors.

The findings of this study indicate that external factors—particularly those rooted in the family and broader social environment—constitute the dominant influences in the escalation of alcohol abuse among children. Although internal drivers such as curiosity and identity-seeking behavior contribute to this phenomenon, the absence of effective parental supervision, pervasive peer influence, and cultural permissiveness toward alcohol represent the primary catalysts. These conditions not only encourage alcohol consumption but also correlate with increased juvenile delinquency, including assault and disturbances of public order.

These results are consistent with the findings of Ryzin et al., who emphasize the significance of environmental influences—especially family dynamics and peer relationships—as strong predictors of substance abuse in adolescents.<sup>10</sup> Similarly, Loke and Mak highlight that permissive social environments, combined with inadequate familial control and the absence of strict normative frameworks, substantially contribute

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<sup>10</sup> Mark J Van Ryzin, Gregory M Fosco, and Thomas J Dishion, "Family and Peer Predictors of Substance Use From Early Adolescence to Early Adulthood: An 11-Year Prospective Analysis," *Addictive Behaviors* 37, no. 12 (2012): 1314–24, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2012.06.020>.

to the rising trend of adolescent alcohol use.<sup>11</sup> This study also supports the conclusions of Huang et al., who examined the correlation between family social control and youth deviance in both urban and semi-urban settings. Their findings suggest that reduced oversight and weak normative enforcement significantly increase the likelihood of adolescents engaging in deviant behaviors, including alcohol consumption.<sup>12</sup>

Theoretical perspectives also affirm the relationship between environmental conditions and deviant behavior. Bonger contends that crime is often intertwined with alcoholism and deficiencies in moral education, identifying alcohol as a catalyst for aggressive and destructive tendencies among youth.<sup>13</sup> Likewise, Shaw and McKay argue that socially disorganized environments serve as fertile ground for deviance, particularly when structural supervision is lacking, familial intervention is weak, and law enforcement responses remain ineffective.<sup>14</sup> Although some community efforts such as night patrols and public education campaigns have been initiated, these measures tend to be reactive and fail to address the structural roots of the problem.

This study affirms that alcohol abuse among minors in Tirtomoyo District is not merely an isolated or individual issue, but rather a manifestation of a complex interplay between internal predispositions and external systemic weaknesses. The predominance of external criminogenic factors—particularly those stemming from deficient social control mechanisms—underscores the need for systemic and multidisciplinary interventions.

From a policy standpoint, enforcement of relevant provisions under the Indonesian Criminal Code—namely Articles 300, 492, 536, 538, and 539, along with Article 424(2) of Law No. 1 of 2023—must be strengthened. This effort requires not only normative reinforcement but also robust and collaborative field-level supervision involving village authorities, police, community leaders, and educational institutions. Moreover, early intervention through moral and civic education using contextual and participatory approaches is imperative. The implementation of school-based, family-based, and community-based programs that integrate anti-alcohol values and social skills development may serve as a sustainable strategy for preventing alcohol abuse among minors.

### 3.2. Forms of Crime Attributable to Alcohol Consumption Among Minors

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<sup>11</sup> Alice Yuen Loke and Yim-wah Mak, “Family Process and Peer Influences on Substance Use by Adolescents,” *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 10, no. 9 (2013): 3868–85, <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph10093868>.

<sup>12</sup> Wan Huang, Xiaojin Chen, and Yuning Wu, “Education Fever and Adolescent Deviance in China,” *Crime & Delinquency* 70, no. 10 (2023): 2826–50, <https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287231174421>.

<sup>13</sup> Willem Adriaan Bonger, *An Introduction to Criminology* (London: Methuen & Co. Ltd, 1936).

<sup>14</sup> Clifford Shaw and Henry D. McKay, *Juvenile Delinquency and Urban Areas: A Study of Rates of Delinquents in Relation to Differential Characteristics of Local Communities in American Cities* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1942).

This section aims to examine the specific forms of criminal behavior that arise as a consequence of alcohol consumption among minors, with particular attention to offenses involving physical assault and sexual harassment in the Tirtomoyo District. The study also seeks to identify the causal relationship between underage alcohol use and criminal conduct, as well as to analyze crime trends based on empirical data obtained from the Tirtomoyo District Police for the 2019–2022 period.

According to official records from the Tirtomoyo Police, a total of 120 criminal cases involving minors and associated with alcohol abuse were documented between 2019 and 2022. The offenses predominantly consisted of physical assault and, to a lesser extent, sexual harassment. The breakdown of cases is presented in Table 1 below:

**Table 1.**

*Recorded Criminal Cases Involving Alcohol Abuse by Minors (Tirtomoyo District Police, 2019–2022)*

Year	Physical Assault	Sexual Harassment	Total
2019	30 cases	2 cases	32 cases
2020	33 cases	1 case	34 cases
2021	27 cases	1 case	28 cases
2022	26 cases	0 cases	26 cases

*Source:* Tirtomoyo District Police Data (2019–2022)

The majority of assault cases involved perpetrators aged 13–18 years, while incidents of sexual harassment were primarily committed by individuals aged 15–18 years. Although the data indicate a gradual decline in reported cases over the four-year period, qualitative findings suggest a discrepancy between official records and the actual prevalence of such crimes. In an interview, AKP Musta'in, S.H., M.H. (Chief of Tirtomoyo Police) stated that many incidents remain unreported or are resolved through informal, family-based settlements, thereby escaping formal documentation.

Field observations further indicate that alcohol consumption among minors in Tirtomoyo has become a normalized and informally institutionalized social practice. Children of school age frequently consume alcoholic beverages in secluded or unmonitored locations such as bus terminals, security posts, agricultural fields, and even private residences. Under the influence of alcohol, these youths often engage in verbal altercations that rapidly escalate into physical violence. The lack of emotional regulation and diminished self-control due to intoxication significantly contributes to the occurrence of aggressive behaviors.

A notable case on November 29, 2020, at the Nglaran Bridge in Banyakprodo Village provides clear evidence of this correlation. In that incident, a minor was assaulted by an intoxicated peer for allegedly staring at him, resulting in the victim suffering a severe head injury after falling from the bridge. Similarly, on January 18, 2021, a junior high school student was sexually assaulted by two intoxicated individuals who had consumed alcohol prior to committing the offense. These cases underscore the strong



link between alcohol-induced disinhibition and serious criminal acts, particularly those involving violence and sexual aggression.

The evidence presented reinforces the argument that alcohol consumption among minors significantly impairs judgment, increases impulsivity, and escalates the likelihood of engaging in criminal behavior. These findings emphasize the urgent need for preventive strategies and policy interventions aimed at restricting minors' access to alcohol and addressing the root causes of youth deviance within a broader social and legal framework.

This study reveals that alcohol consumption among minors is a significant determinant in the occurrence of two predominant forms of juvenile delinquency: physical assault and sexual harassment. Of the 120 documented cases, 116 involved spontaneous acts of physical violence precipitated by minor disputes exacerbated by intoxication, while the remaining 4 cases were instances of sexual assault occurring in contexts marked by impaired awareness and diminished behavioral control. In most instances, these offenses were not premeditated; rather, they were the result of alcohol-induced cognitive impairment and peer influence.

These findings align with previous studies, including research by Sacco et al., which identified alcohol as a strong predictor of aggressive and sexually deviant behavior in adolescents.<sup>15</sup> Beck and Heinz further noted that early-age alcohol consumption significantly elevates the risk of interpersonal violence due to reduced inhibition and heightened sensitivity to provocation.<sup>16</sup> Additionally, Huang et al. found that in semi-urban areas, peer pressure and the ease of access to alcoholic beverages are critical contributors to adolescent criminal behavior.<sup>17</sup>

National data from the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) in 2021 indicated that over 60% of perpetrators of violence against children were minors who had previously consumed addictive substances, including alcohol. At the local level, data from the Tirtomoyo Police similarly demonstrate a direct and relevant link between alcohol use and criminal activity among juvenile offenders.

Sociologically, community norms play a central role in shaping juvenile behavior. Alcohol consumption acts as a catalyst that accelerates the transition from minor behavioral deviance to serious criminal acts.<sup>18</sup> According to Merton's strain theory, when adolescents experience social pressure stemming from the inability to access normative societal goals, they may resort to alcohol use as a form of escapism—

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<sup>15</sup> Paul Sacco et al., "Developmental Relations Between Alcohol and Aggressive Behavior Among Adolescents: Neighborhood and Sociodemographic Correlates," *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction* 13 (2015): 603–617, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11469-015-9546-1>.

<sup>16</sup> Anne Beck and Andreas Heinz, "Alcohol-Related Aggression: Social and Neurobiological Factors," *Deutsches Ärzteblatt* 110, no. 42 (2013): 711–15, <https://doi.org/10.3238/arztebl.2013.0711>.

<sup>17</sup> Huang, Chen, and Wu, "Education Fever and Adolescent Deviance in China."

<sup>18</sup> Travis Hirschi, *Causes of Delinquency*, 1st ed. (New York: Routledge, 2002), <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315081649>.

subsequently engaging in criminal behavior as a maladaptive coping mechanism.<sup>19</sup> Psychologically, intoxication impairs executive brain functions, particularly within the prefrontal cortex, which governs planning, impulse control, and decision-making.<sup>20</sup> In this impaired state, adolescents are unable to adequately distinguish between risky and non-risky behaviors. Alcohol functions as a central nervous system depressant that disrupts moral judgment and rational thinking, thereby increasing the likelihood of violent and sexually deviant conduct.

This study affirms that alcohol abuse among minors is not merely a normative violation but a critical criminogenic factor directly associated with the commission of serious offenses, particularly assault and sexual violence. Although statistical data indicate a declining trend in reported cases between 2020 and 2022, this does not fully capture the magnitude of the problem due to the prevalence of informal resolutions that obscure legal accountability.

Addressing this issue requires a systemic, multi-sectoral, and community-based strategy. First, regulatory measures must be enforced to restrict minors' access to alcohol, including strict oversight of alcohol vendors, particularly those operating near schools and residential areas. Second, preventive education—both school-based and family-oriented—should focus on early intervention and awareness regarding the dangers of alcohol. Third, law enforcement agencies, particularly the Tirtomoyo Police, must strengthen mechanisms for reporting and handling cases to ensure that offenses are not disproportionately settled through informal or familial means. Lastly, sustained collaboration among local governments, law enforcement, educational institutions, and community and religious leaders is essential for building a child protection system that is not merely reactive, but proactively addresses the structural, cultural, and individual dimensions of alcohol-related juvenile delinquency. A comprehensive, integrated approach is imperative to effectively mitigate this phenomenon and safeguard the well-being of children.

### **3.3. Effectiveness of Strategies and Measures to Address Alcohol Abuse Among Minors**

The primary objective of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of current strategies implemented by law enforcement and community stakeholders in addressing alcohol abuse among minors in the Tirtomoyo District. Furthermore, this study seeks to propose a comprehensive, community-based legal framework that integrates repressive, preventive, and pre-emptive approaches. By identifying the strengths and limitations of

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<sup>19</sup> Robert King Merton, "Social Structure and Anomie," *American Sociological Review* 3, no. 5 (1938): 672–82.

<sup>20</sup> M T Ratti, A Giardini P Bo, and D Soragna, "Chronic Alcoholism and the Frontal Lobe: Which Executive Functions Are Impaired?," *Acta Neurologica Scandinavica* 105, no. 4 (2002): 276–81, <https://doi.org/10.1034/j.1600-0404.2002.0o315.x>.

existing interventions, this research aims to inform the development of a more effective, adaptive, and participatory strategy to confront this persistent social issue.

Based on interviews with the Tirtomoyo Police and local village authorities, alongside direct field observations, it was found that alcohol abuse among minors remains a pressing concern, despite a downward trend in reported cases. Law enforcement authorities have observed that underage alcohol consumption frequently results in criminal behaviors, including physical assault, sexual harassment, and disturbances of public order.

The strategies currently employed to mitigate this issue can be classified into three categories: (a) preventive, (b) repressive, and (c) community-based pre-emptive measures. The preventive approach involves public awareness campaigns conducted by village officials, dissemination of educational content via social media platforms, and the placement of warning signage in high-risk areas. However, the effectiveness of these efforts is constrained by limited institutional resources and minimal community engagement.

The repressive strategy, led by the police, includes night patrols, the confiscation of illicit alcoholic beverages, legal action against adult offenders, and the diversion of juvenile offenders in accordance with Law No. 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System (UU SPPA). Meanwhile, the pre-emptive approach—though not yet systematically institutionalized—has emerged through grassroots community initiatives such as neighborhood night watches (*siskamling*), interactive forums involving community leaders, and the active participation of youth organizations in organizing constructive activities for adolescents.

The findings of this study suggest that mitigation strategies relying predominantly on repressive measures are insufficient when not complemented by sustained preventive and pre-emptive interventions. While legal sanctions may provide short-term deterrent effects, they fail to address the underlying socio-cultural drivers that enable underage alcohol consumption. In contrast, initiatives that emphasize continuous community engagement, targeted education, and the provision of positive recreational spaces for youth have demonstrated greater efficacy in curbing alcohol abuse. Therefore, a synergistic and integrated approach that prioritizes both legal enforcement and community-based preventive efforts is essential for producing sustainable outcomes in the prevention of alcohol-related juvenile delinquency.

These findings are consistent with prior research by Amaro et al., which emphasizes that the success of interventions targeting substance abuse among minors is highly contingent on cross-sectoral social engagement rather than the sole involvement of law enforcement agencies.<sup>21</sup> Similarly, Reynolds argue that legalistic

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<sup>21</sup> Hortensia Amaro et al., “Social Vulnerabilities for Substance Use: Stressors, Socially Toxic Environments, and Discrimination and Racism,” *Neuropharmacology* 188 (2021): 1–21, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuropharm.2021.108518>.

approaches tend to address only the symptoms of the problem, overlooking underlying causes such as permissive social norms, inadequate adult role models, and weak community-based social control mechanisms.<sup>22</sup>

However, diverging from the aforementioned studies, the present research highlights the critical need for integrating community-based, pre-emptive strategies that involve a diverse range of stakeholders—religious leaders, educators, youth groups, and local business actors—to establish a robust and inclusive prevention network. Overreliance on law enforcement as the central agent of intervention risks stigmatizing minors and may inadvertently alienate them from their communities.

While preventive efforts undertaken by village authorities and law enforcement demonstrate a commendable commitment to raising public awareness, these initiatives remain sporadic and lack a systematic framework for monitoring and evaluation. Educational campaigns targeting both alcohol vendors and underage consumers must be reinforced through locally adapted regulatory mechanisms, including moral and administrative sanctions such as customary penalties or community-based public warnings facilitated by traditional and religious leaders.

In the context of repressive strategies, current law enforcement responses are predominantly reactive—largely dependent on citizen reports—and lack the capacity for proactive identification of early warning signs. Legal action against illicit alcohol distributors should be enhanced through institutional collaboration with district governments, particularly in regulating distribution channels and licensing procedures. Moreover, the diversion of juvenile offenders must be accompanied by comprehensive psychosocial rehabilitation measures, rather than limited to symbolic or procedural forms of legal guidance.

Pre-emptive community initiatives, such as neighborhood watch programs (*siskamling*), youth organization involvement, and local patrols, should be further institutionalized under a community-based policing framework. The establishment of forums promoting alcohol-free villages and youth education centers represents a tangible step toward fostering a safer and more supportive environment for adolescents. In several villages, the integration of local technologies—such as early reporting applications or WhatsApp-based community alert systems—holds promise for enhancing community vigilance against the circulation of alcohol.

This study affirms that the effectiveness of strategies to address alcohol abuse among minors in the Tirtomoyo District depends on the synergistic integration of repressive, preventive, and pre-emptive approaches. These strategies must not operate in isolation; rather, they must be mutually reinforcing. The repressive approach serves as a legal safeguard, the preventive approach fosters behavioral change and awareness,

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<sup>22</sup> Bertlyn Gretna Reynolds, "Preparing The Young Offender for Return to Society: A Theoretical Evaluation of Guyanese Juvenile Delinquents' Narratives Based on General Treatment Models" (Wayne State University, 2011).

and the community-based pre-emptive approach provides the social infrastructure necessary for sustainability. The most effective outcomes are achieved through a combination of strict regulatory enforcement, value-driven education, and community empowerment. Accordingly, governmental policy should prioritize village-level capacity-building, including the formation of specialized task forces for alcohol surveillance, the mobilization of youth in socially productive initiatives, and the creation of alternative recreational spaces to replace youth subcultures centered on alcohol consumption.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

This study aims to identify and analyze the criminogenic factors contributing to alcohol abuse among minors in the Tirtomoyo District, examine the types of crimes resulting from such behavior, and evaluate as well as formulate mitigation strategies employed by law enforcement and the community through a community-based repressive, preventive, and pre-emptive legal approach. The findings reveal that internal factors—such as psychological instability, juvenile delinquency, and underdeveloped biological maturity—significantly increase the propensity of minors to experiment with and consume alcohol. Externally, contributing factors include dysfunctional family environments, inadequate parental supervision, peer pressure, and a permissive societal culture that normalizes alcohol consumption.

Empirical data from the Tirtomoyo Police during the 2019–2022 period indicate that alcohol use among minors frequently culminates in criminal acts, particularly physical assault and sexual harassment. These findings underscore the critical need for well-structured legal and social interventions. Current mitigation efforts encompass a repressive strategy, involving legal enforcement and diversion programs led by the police; a preventive strategy, consisting of educational outreach by local authorities; and a community-based pre-emptive strategy, involving neighborhood-level social engagement and environmental monitoring.

While these approaches have yielded some positive outcomes, their effectiveness remains constrained by limited coordination and insufficient cross-sectoral collaboration. The contributions of this study lie in providing both conceptual and practical foundations for the development of policy interventions aimed at preventing juvenile delinquency related to alcohol abuse. However, the study is geographically limited to a single sub-district, which may affect the generalizability of its findings. Consequently, future research is recommended to adopt a comparative design across multiple regions using both qualitative and quantitative methods to generate a more comprehensive understanding of the issue.

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