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The Implementation of Restorative Justice in the Resolution of Minor Criminal Offenses at the Sragen Police Department

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Original Article

Abstract

This study aims to examine the implementation of restorative justice in the resolution of minor criminal cases at the Sragen Police Department. The research employs an empirical method using a case study design and a sociological approach that conceptualizes law not merely as a set of written norms but as a social phenomenon operating within society. Data were collected through observations, interviews, and a review of relevant literature focusing on the stages of restorative justice implementation and the factors hindering its effectiveness. The findings indicate that the restorative justice process begins with the submission of a formal request, followed by investigators' assessment of case eligibility, a mediation process to achieve mutual agreement, and the formalization of the outcome through a written agreement between the parties. However, its implementation faces several obstacles, including limited institutional resources, insufficient understanding among law enforcement officers, disagreements among the parties involved, logistical and scheduling constraints, time limitations, and public perceptions of justice that generate skepticism toward restorative mechanisms. Accordingly, effective solutions are required. The Sragen Police Department should strengthen institutional commitment and regulatory frameworks to ensure that restorative justice is implemented effectively and develops into an embedded organizational culture.

Keywords: *Restorative Justice, Minor Criminal Offenses, Sragen Police Department*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui implementasi *restorative justice* dalam penyelesaian tindak pidana ringan di Polres Sragen. Penelitian menggunakan metode empiris dengan studi kasus di Polres Sragen serta pendekatan sosiologis yang memandang hukum tidak hanya sebagai norma tertulis, melainkan fenomena sosial yang hidup dalam masyarakat. Data diperoleh melalui observasi, wawancara, dan studi pustaka mengenai tahapan pelaksanaan *restorative justice* serta faktor penghambat penerapannya. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penerapan *restorative justice* diawali pengajuan surat permohonan, dilanjutkan identifikasi kelayakan perkara oleh penyidik, proses mediasi untuk mencapai kesepakatan bersama, dan diakhiri perjanjian tertulis para pihak. Dalam implementasinya, terdapat hambatan berupa keterbatasan sumber daya, rendahnya pemahaman aparat, ketidaksetujuan pihak terkait, kendala logistik penjadwalan, keterbatasan waktu, serta persepsi masyarakat tentang keadilan yang menimbulkan keraguan. Oleh karena itu, diperlukan solusi yang efektif. Polres Sragen perlu memperkuat komitmen kelembagaan dan regulasi agar *restorative justice* efektif serta berkembang sebagai budaya hukum.

Kata Kunci: *Restorative Justice, Tindak Pidana Ringan, Polres Sragen*

1. INTRODUCTION

The criminal justice process in Indonesia typically commences with the pre-investigation stage, followed by investigation, prosecution, and ultimately a judicial ruling against the accused. This procedural sequence demands substantial time and resources. The same framework applies to minor criminal offenses, rendering formal litigation inefficient in terms of time, effort, and cost. Cases adjudicated through the court system culminate in judicial decisions only after prolonged procedural stages, reflecting a slow and rigid law enforcement process.¹

Moreover, Indonesia's litigation-oriented criminal justice system is characterized by a win-lose paradigm that frequently generates dissatisfaction, frustration, and a sense of injustice for the losing party—outcomes that cannot be adequately addressed through judicial rulings alone. Parties who perceive themselves as disadvantaged often pursue legal remedies through higher courts, thereby contributing to case congestion and administrative burdens within the judiciary.² This condition undermines the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement, as minor criminal cases that should be resolved expeditiously become entangled in lengthy bureaucratic procedures. Consequently, the criminal justice system is widely perceived as disproportionate in its handling of minor offenses.

In response to the foregoing challenges, restorative justice has emerged as an alternative paradigm aimed at addressing dissatisfaction with a criminal justice system that is predominantly process-oriented. In contrast to retributive models that prioritize punishment, restorative justice focuses on repairing social relationships among offenders, victims, and the wider community. Crime is conceptualized not merely as a violation of legal norms but as social harm that must be addressed through dialogue, consensual agreements, and offender accountability. Although regulatory frameworks and modes of implementation vary across jurisdictions, restorative justice laws generally share common principles and core elements.³ The development of this paradigm reflects the demand for a legal system that is more humane, efficient, and consistent with the socio-cultural values of Indonesian society.

¹ Iklimah Dinda Indiyani Adiasta, "Penerapan Restorative Justice sebagai Inovasi Penyelesaian Kasus Tindak Pidana Ringan," *Interdisciplinary Journal on Law Social Sciences and Humanities* 2, no. 2 (2021): 143–70, <https://doi.org/10.19184/ij.v2i2.25842>.

² Muhammad Bacharuddin Jusuf, "Tinjauan Pelaksanaan Restorative Justice Dalam Penuntutan Tindak Pidana Ringan," *Das Sollen: Jurnal Kajian Kontemporer Hukum Dan Masyarakat* 1, no. 2 (2023): 1–25, <https://journal.forikami.com/index.php/dassollen/article/view/252>.

³ Devina Anggelina, "Penerapan Konsep Keadilan Restorative Justice pada Korban Tindak Pidana Ringan," *Innovative: Journal Of Social Science Research* 4, no. 1 (2024): 9191–9201, <https://j-innovative.org/index.php/Innovative/article/view/5979>.

Restorative justice constitutes an approach to criminal justice that emphasizes reparations for victims, the restoration of disrupted social relations, and the reintegration of offenders into society. It prioritizes open dialogue and cooperative engagement among victims, offenders, and community members to achieve outcomes that are fair and proportionate for all parties involved. At its core, this approach recognizes that criminal conduct represents not only a breach of state law but also an infringement of individual rights and social cohesion.⁴ Restorative justice transcends the adversarial win-lose framework that characterizes conventional criminal proceedings by promoting collective problem-solving to address the consequences of crime and their future implications.⁵ Through voluntary and peaceful processes grounded in mutual agreement, restorative justice seeks to restore social harmony, reinforce offender responsibility, and provide victims with meaningful opportunities to articulate their needs and experiences.

Indonesian National Police Regulation Number 8 of 2021 on the Handling of Criminal Offenses Based on Restorative Justice constitutes the legal foundation for law enforcement authorities to apply restorative justice as a mechanism for resolving criminal cases. The regulation was enacted in response to societal demands for a legal approach that is more efficient, streamlined, and equitable, particularly in addressing minor criminal offenses that do not pose substantial threats to public order. It not only responds to the need for a more effective and accessible justice system but also provides formal legitimacy for a paradigmatic shift in criminal law from a retributive model to a restorative framework oriented toward social recovery. Moreover, the regulation functions as an operational guideline for regional police units to ensure the consistent application of restorative justice.

In practice, the restorative approach offers a range of advantages. Restorative justice has the capacity to reduce recidivism, as direct interactions between victims and offenders enable offenders to perceive the concrete consequences of their conduct, often generating a more meaningful deterrent effect than custodial sanctions that tend to be punitive in nature. The approach also yields psychological benefits for victims. Within conventional justice systems, victims are frequently marginalized due to the predominant emphasis on offender punishment rather than victim recovery. By contrast, restorative justice affords victims opportunities to articulate their experiences and emotions directly to offenders, thereby enhancing victim satisfaction within the criminal justice process.⁶ Accordingly, this

⁴ Hasudungan Sinaga, *Dasar-Dasar Tindak Pidana: Perspektif Hukum dan Penegakan* (Banjar: Ruang Karya, 2024), hal. 139.

⁵ Eko Syaputra, "Penerapan Konsep Restorative Justice Dalam Sistem Peradilan Pidana di Masa Yang Akan Datang," *Lex Lata Jurnal Ilmu Hukum* 3, no. 2 (2021): 233–47, <https://doi.org/10.28946/lexl.v3i2.1209>.

⁶ Amelia Arief, Rhayza Hayuarsi Sekar Sagita, dan Dhanis Sartika, "Pendekatan Restoratif Dalam Sistem Peradilan Pidana: Tinjauan Sistematis Terhadap Tren Global," *JPPM: Jurnal Penelitian dan Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat* 1, no. 1 (2025): 25–35, <https://sagandonginstitute.com/index.php/jppm/article/view/10/11>.

approach promotes a more balanced accommodation of the interests of offenders, victims, and the broader community.

Nevertheless, the implementation of restorative justice continues to face multiple challenges, arising from internal constraints such as limited human resources as well as external factors linked to prevailing social conditions. These combined factors often undermine the effectiveness of restorative justice in practice and impede the attainment of its primary objectives, namely the restoration of social relationships, the reintegration of offenders, and the realization of a more humane, community-oriented conception of justice.

Restorative justice, as an alternative mechanism for addressing minor criminal offenses, has become an increasingly prominent focus within Indonesia's criminal justice system, including its application at the Sragen Police Department. Its implementation extends beyond the fulfillment of formal legal requirements to incorporate procedural stages centered on dialogue, mediation, and consensus-building among offenders, victims, and the community in pursuit of a more humane conception of justice. Nevertheless, the application of restorative justice at the Sragen Police Department continues to encounter challenges, particularly with respect to the practical realization of these stages in the resolution of minor criminal cases. Moreover, its implementation is influenced by a range of constraining factors. These circumstances give rise to fundamental questions concerning both the manner in which restorative justice procedures are carried out at the Sragen Police Department and the factors that impede their effective application. Accordingly, this study is pertinent in offering a comprehensive analysis of the restorative justice approach as practiced at the Sragen Police Department.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A research methodology constitutes an essential instrument for achieving a comprehensive and precise understanding of the issues under examination, as it provides the analytical foundation for problem assessment.⁷ This study adopts an empirical research design based on direct fieldwork to obtain factual and contextually relevant data. A sociological approach is employed, which conceptualizes law not merely as a body of written legal norms but as a social phenomenon that evolves and operates within societal interactions.

The data utilized in this study consist of qualitative materials obtained through observation, interviews with personnel of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Sragen Police particularly those responsible for restorative justice procedures and a review of

⁷ Hari Sutra Disemadi, "Lenses of Legal Research: A Descriptive Essay on Legal Research Methodologies," *Journal of Judicial Review* 24, no. 2 (2022): 289–304, <https://doi.org/10.37253/jjr.v24i2.7280>.

relevant literature, including books, academic journals, scholarly articles, prior studies, and electronic sources yielding verbal, visual, and textual information. Data analysis is conducted inductively, beginning with the systematic collection of empirical facts from the field rather than deriving conclusions from predetermined theoretical frameworks. The findings are subsequently presented and interpreted using a descriptive analytical technique. This approach is employed to capture factual conditions and implementation patterns of restorative justice, as well as to elucidate the socio-contextual meanings underlying the application of relevant regulations.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Stages of Restorative Justice Implementation in the Resolution of Minor Criminal Offenses at the Sragen Police Department

Resolving criminal cases through a restorative justice approach presents an alternative framework for addressing criminal conduct. This approach requires collaborative engagement among the parties involved, supported by state institutions, to create conditions that enable offenders and victims to resolve conflicts in an equitable manner. Restorative justice emphasizes the protection of human rights and the recognition of social harm arising from injustice, employing accessible and participatory mechanisms to restore affected conditions. Moreover, it seeks to reestablish victims' sense of security, safeguard their privacy and dignity, and, most importantly, enhance their sense of agency and control within the justice process.⁸

Restorative justice is founded on three core principles: providing restitution to individuals who have suffered harm as a result of criminal conduct, affording offenders the opportunity to participate actively in recovery and restoration processes, and ensuring that the state maintains public order while the community contributes to the preservation of social peace.⁹ Criminal cases may be resolved through restorative justice mechanisms provided that both material and formal requirements are satisfied, as stipulated in Indonesian National Police Regulation Number 8 of 2021 on the Handling of Criminal Offenses Based on Restorative Justice. The material requirements include the offense does not give rise to public unrest and/or community rejection; it does not generate social conflict; it does not have the potential to undermine national unity; it is not radical or

⁸ Ni Nyoman Ayu Pulasari Dewi, Made Sugi Hartono, dan Komang Febrinayanti Dantes, "Impelementasi Prinsip Restorative Justice Pada Perkara Tindak Pidana Penganiayaan Biasa di Polres Buleleng," *Jurnal Komunitas Yustisia* 5, no. 1 (2022): 242–53, <https://ejournal.undiksha.ac.id/index.php/jatayu/article/view/45948>.

⁹ Abd Rahman, Ruslan Renggong, dan Abd. Haris Hamid, "Penegakan Hukum Melalui Restoratif Justice Dalam Penyelesaian Tindak Pidana Penganiayaan di Kepolisian Resor Mamasa," *Indonesian Journal of Legality of Law* 6, no. 1 (2023): 59–64, <https://doi.org/10.35965/ijlf.v6i1.3816>.

separatist in nature; the offender is not a recidivist based on a final court decision; and the offense does not constitute terrorism, crimes against state security, corruption, or crimes against human life.¹⁰ The formal requirements include reconciliation between the parties, with the exception of narcotics-related offenses; and fulfillment of victims' rights and offenders' responsibilities, with the exception of narcotics-related offenses.¹¹

The Sragen Police Resort (Polres), as a regional law enforcement authority, has applied a restorative justice approach in the handling of various cases, including minor criminal offenses. This approach is grounded not only in prevailing national legal frameworks but also in consideration of local social and cultural conditions, thereby ensuring that case resolution remains effective and contextually relevant. The mechanism for implementing restorative justice at the Sragen Police Resort involves multiple procedural stages and the active engagement of diverse stakeholders.¹² Accordingly, the application of restorative justice at the Sragen Police Resort functions not merely as an expeditious and efficient alternative to formal adjudication but also as a means of reinforcing restorative values that emphasize reconciliation and social harmony within the community.

The resolution of minor criminal offenses through restorative justice mechanisms is undertaken on the basis of reports or complaints submitted prior to the filing of a formal police report, as well as through direct identification of suspected criminal conduct.¹³ The restorative justice process is facilitated by members of the Indonesian National Police performing community development functions as well as those assigned to the Samapta unit.¹⁴

The initial stage in the implementation of restorative justice at the Sragen Police Department involves the submission of a written application addressed to the Chief of the Police Resort and the Chief of the Sector Police, filed by the offender, the victim, their respective family members, or other relevant parties. Subsequently, investigators at the Sragen Police Resort conduct an assessment of reported minor criminal cases to determine their suitability for resolution through restorative justice mechanisms. This evaluation considers several criteria, including the offender's degree of culpability, the magnitude of harm suffered by the victim, the willingness of both parties to pursue an amicable

¹⁰ "Peraturan Kepolisian Negara Republik Indonesia Nomor 8 Tahun 2021 tentang Penanganan Tindak Pidana Berdasarkan Keadilan Restoratif" (2021) Pasal 5.

¹¹ Pasal 6.

¹² Wildan Fikarudin dan Listyowati Sumanto, "Implementasi Restorative Justice Terhadap Tindak Pidana Kecelakaan Lalu Lintas; Studi Pada Kepolisian Resor Kabupaten Garut," *Al-Zayn Jurnal Ilmu Sosial dan Hukum* 3, no. 2 (2025): 439–52, <https://doi.org/10.61104/alz.v3i2.1047>.

¹³ Peraturan Kepolisian Negara Republik Indonesia Nomor 8 Tahun 2021 tentang Penanganan Tindak Pidana Berdasarkan Keadilan Restoratif Pasal 11.

¹⁴ Pasal 12.

settlement, and the absence of community opposition to the use of a restorative justice approach.¹⁵ This screening process is intended to ensure that each case satisfies the requisite substantive and procedural conditions before being directed toward a restorative justice resolution pathway.

Where a case is deemed eligible, mediation is subsequently conducted among the relevant parties. Investigators serve as facilitators, and the process is carried out in accordance with the principle of neutrality to ensure fairness and balance. Within this forum, offenders are afforded the opportunity to acknowledge their wrongdoing, express remorse, and propose compensation or restitution as a manifestation of accountability. Victims, in turn, are provided with space to convey their experiences, articulate the impacts of the offense, and express their expectations regarding case resolution.¹⁶

Any agreement reached through the restorative justice process is subsequently formalized in a written instrument. The document is executed by both the offender and the victim and witnessed by the investigator and other relevant parties, thereby conferring legal validity and ensuring certainty of the agreed terms. The agreement specifies the forms of compensation or restitution, whether material or immaterial, as mutually determined to fulfill the victim's sense of justice.¹⁷ The outcome of the settlement is then recorded in the restorative justice resolution and investigation termination register and recognized as a completed case.

Based on an interview with Aipda Veri Aditya, S.H., Acting Head of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Sragen Police, it was found that throughout 2025 the Sragen Police resolved 42 criminal cases through restorative justice mechanisms. This practice reflects the institution's commitment to prioritizing deliberation, restoring social relationships, and resolving disputes in the interests of all parties without requiring recourse to formal judicial proceedings. Among these cases, three involved minor theft offenses, in which offenders, victims, and law enforcement successfully reached amicable settlements after taking into account factors such as minimal material loss, the offender's demonstrated good faith, and the victim's preference for an amicable resolution.

Table 1.

Minor Criminal Cases Resolved through Restorative Justice

¹⁵ Fikarudin dan Sumanto, "Implementasi Restorative Justice Terhadap Tindak Pidana Kecelakaan Lalu Lintas; Studi Pada Kepolisian Resor Kabupaten Garut."

¹⁶ Fikarudin dan Sumanto.

¹⁷ Fikarudin dan Sumanto.

No	Police Unit	Police Report Number and Date	Offense	Investigation Termination (RJ)	Determination Letter
1	Sragen Sector Police (Gemolong)	LP/B/1/I/2025/SPKT/Gemolong Sector/Sragen Police/Central Java Regional Police, January 17, 2025	Theft of one black OPPO mobile phone	Investigation Termination Letter No. S.PPP/1/I/RES.1.8./2025/Sec. Gml, January 21, 2025	Determination Letter No. S.Tap/1/II/RES.1.8./2025/Sec. Gml, January 21, 2025
2	Sragen Sector Police (Gemolong)	LP/B/3/II/2025/SPKT/Gemolong Sector/Sragen Police/Central Java Regional Police, February 13, 2025	Attempted theft	Investigation Termination Letter No. S.PPP/2/II/RES.1.8./2025/Sec. Gml, February 14, 2025	Determination Letter No. S.Tap/2/II/RES.1.8./2025/Sec. Gml, February 14, 2025
3	Sragen Sector Police (Plupuh)	LP/B/1/II/2025/SPKT/Plupuh Sector/Sragen Police/Central Java Regional Police, February 13, 2025	Theft of one gray Redmi Note 10 mobile phone	Investigation Termination Letter No. SPP.Sidik/1/II/Res.1.8./2025/Sec. Plp, February 14, 2025	Determination Letter No. S.Tap.Sidik/1/II/Res.1.8./2025/Sec. Plp, February 14, 2025

Source: Sragen Police

Based on these data, the restorative justice mechanism appears to have been implemented consistently through formal policing procedures. Each case commenced with the submission of a police report, including LP/B/1/I/2025 at the Gemolong Police Station concerning the theft of an OPPO mobile phone, LP/B/3/II/2025 involving an attempted theft, and LP/B/1/II/2025 at the Plupuh Police Station concerning the theft of a Redmi Note 10 mobile phone. Following the receipt of each report, a preliminary investigation was conducted to determine whether the offense met the criteria for classification as a minor crime and was therefore eligible for resolution through restorative justice. This stage reflects the initial phase of the restorative justice process, which prioritizes the assessment of case eligibility for amicable settlement and the avoidance of formal judicial proceedings.

During the mediation phase, the Sragen Police served as neutral facilitators and successfully enabled the parties to reach a mutual agreement. The subsequent stage involved the issuance of a Letter of Termination of Investigation (SP3), signifying the formal decision to resolve the case through restorative justice, followed by a Determination Letter (S.Tap) that provided administrative legitimacy for the termination of proceedings based on the reconciliation achieved between the offender and the victim.

3.2. Inhibiting Factors Affecting the Implementation of Restorative Justice in the Resolution of Minor Criminal Offenses at the Sragen Police Department

One indicator of law enforcement effectiveness in maintaining public order and security is a reduction in crime rates or an increase in the efficiency of resolving criminal cases reported by the public.¹⁸ Data concerning reported criminal incidents at the Sragen Police Department and their resolution rates from 2020 to 2023 are presented in the table below.

Table 2.

Summary of Criminal Case Reports at the Sragen Police Department (2020–2023)

No.	Year	Total Police Reports	Cases Resolved	Unresolved Cases	Case Resolution Rate (%)
1	2020	259	170	89	65.64
2	2021	223	151	72	67.71
3	2022	181	132	49	72.93
4	2023	117	86	31	73.50

Source: Sragen Police

Based on these data, the case resolution rate at the Sragen Police Department demonstrates a steady increase, rising from 65.64 percent in 2020 to 73.50 percent in 2023. In resolving cases, the Sragen Police Department has incorporated restorative justice principles, although such mechanisms are not applied uniformly across all categories of criminal offenses. Nonetheless, these figures suggest that the application of restorative justice has made a substantial contribution to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of case resolution at the policing level. This trend reflects the capacity of the restorative justice approach to support a more responsive and less procedurally burdensome criminal justice system, thereby reducing the accumulation of unresolved cases at the Sragen Police Department.

Despite these achievements, obstacles inevitably arise in any legal process, including in the implementation of restorative justice at the Sragen Police Department. Such challenges must be addressed on an ongoing basis to ensure that legal mechanisms operate

¹⁸ Agus Rianto, Aswandi, dan M. Noor Ramli, “Penerapan Restorative Justice Oleh Polisi Dalam Rangka Terwujudnya Proses Penyelesaian Perkara yang Murah dan Cepat (Studi di Wilayah Hukum Polda Kalbar),” *Nestor Tanjungpura Journal of Law* 1, no. 1 (2022): 1–17, <https://doi.org/10.26418/nestor.v1i1.69908>.

effectively and are understood and observed across all segments of society.¹⁹ Several factors have been identified as impeding the implementation of restorative justice at the Sragen Police Department, including:

1) Limited Institutional Capacity

Law enforcement personnel at the Sragen Police Department continue to encounter challenges related to limited knowledge and expertise in applying restorative justice procedures. The role of police officers as facilitators is pivotal, as they are tasked with ensuring that deliberative processes are conducted in an orderly and impartial manner and result in agreements acceptable to all parties. These limitations have contributed to inconsistencies in the application of restorative justice across cases.

2) Lack of Consensus among the Parties

Restorative justice depends on the voluntary participation of all involved parties, including both offenders and victims. When one party is unwilling to engage, mediators face significant constraints in implementing the restorative approach. Such challenges are closely linked to the need for a fundamental shift in societal perspectives on criminal case resolution.²⁰ Communities accustomed to retributive justice models often equate justice with formal punishment, which hinders acceptance of restorative principles that emphasize dialogue, accountability, and reconciliation.

3) Operational and Logistical Constraints

Effective implementation of restorative justice requires structured coordination and skilled facilitation. One logistical challenge faced by the Sragen Police Department involves scheduling restorative meetings due to time constraints or conflicting availability among the parties.²¹ These difficulties may delay mediation or restorative dialogue, thereby postponing case resolution and potentially diminishing the effectiveness of restorative justice by disrupting the momentum necessary for timely settlement.

4) Insufficient Awareness and Dissemination

Limited understanding of restorative justice concepts among offenders, victims, and law enforcement officials represents a substantial barrier to effective implementation. Inadequate comprehension of its fundamental principles and objectives may result in

¹⁹ Mohammad Hakim Pratama Rahim, Dian Ekawaty Ismail, dan Apripari, "Hambatan Pelaksanaan Restorative Justice Pada Tindak Pidana Narkotika Di Kepolisian Resort Gorontalo Kota," *Jaksa Jurnal Kajian Ilmu Hukum dan Politik* 2, no. 2 (2024): 258–66, <https://doi.org/10.51903/jaksa.v2i2.1691>.

²⁰ Aista Wisnu Putra dan Muhammad Iftar Arya Putra, "Peran Advokat dalam Penyelesaian Perkara Pidana melalui Restorative Justice," *Unes Law Review* 6, no. 3 (2024): 8027–34, <https://doi.org/10.31933/unesrev.v6i3.1676>.

²¹ Putra dan Putra.

minimal engagement in restorative processes or generate uncertainty among participants. This challenge is compounded by insufficient public education and outreach, leaving many community members unfamiliar with restorative justice mechanisms.²² As a result, public participation and support remain limited due to a lack of awareness regarding its benefits and procedures.

5) Public Perceptions of Justice

Certain segments of the public perceive restorative justice as synonymous with undue leniency toward offenders. Victims and community members may believe that criminal conduct warrants more severe punitive sanctions. Such perceptions foster skepticism toward restorative justice, as it is viewed as potentially diminishing deterrence and weakening the role of law as an instrument for the enforcement of justice.²³

Enhancing the effectiveness of restorative justice implementation at the Sragen Police Department requires a range of measures addressing multiple dimensions. These measures include strengthening training and capacity-building initiatives for personnel on restorative justice principles and practices, as well as expanding public awareness and understanding through social media outreach, seminars, workshops, and educational programs targeting victims, offenders, and the broader community regarding the benefits and procedures of restorative justice. In addition, systematic evaluation and monitoring are essential to ensure effective implementation. The Sragen Police Department should establish mechanisms to oversee restorative justice processes, assess outcomes and emerging challenges, and undertake continuous improvements.²⁴ Through these efforts, the implementation of restorative justice is expected to function more optimally, deliver equitable outcomes, and contribute to the development of a more effective justice system at the Sragen Police Department.

4. CONCLUSION

Resolving criminal cases through a restorative justice approach provides an alternative framework for addressing criminal conduct. The initial stage of restorative justice implementation at the Sragen Police Resort involves the submission of a formal request,

²² Alifa Zahrani Putri, Tri Imam Munandar, dan Haryadi, "Faktor-Faktor yang Mempengaruhi Belum Optimalnya Pelaksanaan Restorative Justice di Polres Muaro Jambi," *Pampas Journal of Criminal Law* 5, no. 3 (2024), <https://doi.org/10.22437/pampas.v5i3.36944>.

²³ Kurnia Azani Putri, "Pelaksanaan Restorative Justice Dalam Konteks Penanganan Tindak Pidana Di Polsek Luhak Polres Payakumbuh," *Sumbang12 Law Journal* 4, no. 1 (2025): 66–75, <https://jurnal.umsb.ac.id/index.php/smb12lj/article/view/6873/4499>.

²⁴ Putri, Munandar, dan Haryadi, "Faktor-Faktor yang Mempengaruhi Belum Optimalnya Pelaksanaan Restorative Justice di Polres Muaro Jambi."

followed by an assessment by investigators to determine the case's eligibility for restorative resolution. Where the requisite conditions are satisfied, mediation is conducted to facilitate a mutually acceptable outcome, and any agreement reached through the restorative justice process is subsequently formalized in a written instrument.

The implementation of restorative justice at the Sragen Police Resort encounters several challenges, including limited institutional capacity, insufficient understanding and expertise among law enforcement personnel regarding restorative justice procedures, lack of consensus among the parties involved, logistical constraints such as scheduling conflicts and time limitations, limited awareness of restorative justice concepts among participants, and divergent perceptions of justice that generate skepticism toward its application. Accordingly, the development of equitable and adaptive solutions is necessary to support the realization of a more effective justice system at the Sragen Police Resort.

It is therefore essential for the Sragen Police Resort to reinforce its institutional commitment to restorative justice by integrating it as a core component of law enforcement strategies oriented toward restoration rather than punishment alone. In addition, clearer and more consistent regulatory frameworks are required to provide authorities with definitive guidance in implementing restorative processes. With strong institutional commitment and a robust legal foundation, restorative justice is expected not only to function as an alternative mechanism for case resolution but also to evolve into a legal culture that gains broader acceptance within society.

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