



Criminogenic factors of child protection crime convicts in class IIB pacitan detention center

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the criminogenic factors influencing inmates convicted of child protection crimes at the Class IIB State Detention Center (Rutan) in Pacitan. The research is grounded in the alarming rate of child protection cases in Indonesia, with Pacitan ranking second in the number of such cases within the facility. The primary aim is to identify both internal and external factors that drive inmates to commit crimes against children, as well as to assess the effectiveness of the rehabilitation programs implemented. This qualitative descriptive study employs data collection methods including in-depth interviews, observation, and document analysis. The research subjects consist of five inmates aged 19–25 and two correctional officers. The findings reveal several dominant criminogenic factors, such as lack of self-control, social environment influence, antisocial personality traits, alcohol abuse, and family conflict. Rehabilitation programs at the detention center, which include religious activities and vocational training, have not yet fully addressed the specific needs of inmates. The study recommends the adoption of the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model to reduce recidivism and better prepare inmates for reintegration into society. These findings are expected to inform policymakers in enhancing inmate rehabilitation systems, particularly for child-related offenses.

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1. Introduction

Crimes against children are a violation that not only undermines moral values but also threatens the survival of the nation's future generations. Children, as part of a vulnerable group, have the right to receive maximum protection from all forms of violence, exploitation, and other inhumane acts, as regulated in Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection. However, in reality, crimes against children remain prevalent and often involve alarming levels of violence. The Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI, 2024) reported that violence against children continues to be a massive phenomenon, with causal factors that are complex and multidimensional, ranging from the social environment, family dysfunction, to the perpetrator's weak self-control.

Nationally, data from KPAI indicates that child protection cases have remained relatively high over the past three years, although showing a downward trend. In 2021, there were 5,953 reported cases, which decreased to 4,683 cases in 2022, and further declined to 2,712 cases in 2023 (Bankdata.kpai.go.id, March 2025). Despite this decline, the number remains significant, with thousands of children becoming victims every year. This situation highlights the urgency of a comprehensive response that integrates legal, social, and psychological dimensions.

The research problem lies in identifying what criminogenic factors specifically drive perpetrators to commit crimes against children and how effective correctional programs have been in addressing those factors. Criminogenic factors refer to the conditions or characteristics that increase a person's likelihood of committing crime (Pittaro, 2020). These may include internal factors such as antisocial personality and impulsivity, as well as external factors like social pressure, deviant peer relationships, or poverty (Andrews & Bonta, 1990). Using the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) approach, such criminogenic factors can be systematically identified and used as the foundation for effective rehabilitation and reintegration (Andrews & Bonta, 2010).

At the local level, Pacitan Regency stands out as one of the regions with high numbers of child protection cases that result in legal proceedings. Data from the Class IIB Pacitan State Detention Center (Rutan) shows that crimes against children consistently rank second among all inmate offenses. Furthermore, registration data from March 2025 indicates an increase in inmates convicted of child protection crimes, which aligns with reports by Radar Madiun (2023) identifying Pacitan as one of the East Java districts with the highest rates of child violence cases. These figures underline the urgency of evaluating the effectiveness of prevention and rehabilitation programs.

The novelty of this study lies in applying the RNR approach within the local context of Pacitan. While previous studies have generally discussed criminogenic factors of juvenile offenders at the national level, research that integrates the RNR model into localized correctional practices remains limited. This study thus contributes scientifically by contextualizing the RNR framework in Pacitan, and practically by offering evidence-based insights for improving rehabilitation programs for inmates convicted of child protection crimes.

In the context of the correctional system, inmates convicted of crimes against children require counseling programs that are specifically tailored to their criminogenic needs. However, such counseling will only be effective if grounded in a strong understanding of the motivations and background factors underlying the offenses. Therefore, this study focuses on analyzing internal and external criminogenic factors of inmates convicted of child protection crimes at the Class IIB Pacitan Detention Center, with the aim of providing a more responsive and need-based correctional intervention.

2. Method

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach with a case study method, which allows researchers to explore the experiences and backgrounds of the subjects in depth (Moleong, 2013; Bogdan & Biklen, 1982). The research location is at the Class IIB Pacitan State Detention Center, with five inmates serving sentences for child protection cases, as well as two prison officers as additional informants. The design of this research is a case study, which allows in-depth exploration of limited but information-rich subjects. The inmates selected were aged 19–25 years, with the consideration that this age group represents the transition from late adolescence to early adulthood, where identity development and susceptibility to deviant behavior are strongly influenced by social and psychological factors. Two prison officers (Head of Detention Services and Head of Detention Security) were also involved as supporting informants. Subjects were selected purposively based on their direct involvement in the cases and the development process.

Data collection techniques were conducted through in-depth interviews, non-participatory observation, and documentation studies (Sugiyono, 2019; Hatch, 2002). The main instrument in this study was a semi-structured interview guide, which was compiled based on criminogenic indicators from the RNR theory. To ensure that inmates' responses were not influenced by the presence of correctional officers or the detention center situation, interviews were conducted in private rooms without officers present, and the researcher built rapport with inmates by ensuring confidentiality and clarifying that their answers would not affect their sentence or treatment in prison.

Data validity was tested through triangulation of sources and techniques, as well as member checking (Denzin & Lincoln, 1994; Wahidmurni, 2017). The data obtained were analyzed interactively through reduction, presentation, and conclusion drawing (Miles & Huberman in Sukardi, 2022). In addition to interviews, the researcher also conducted non-participatory observations, by directly observing personality and independence development activities at the Class IIB Pacitan Detention Center. This aimed to understand the extent to which the development program was able to accommodate the rehabilitation needs of inmates. Documentation studies of minutes, community research results, and relevant scientific references were also conducted to strengthen interpretation.

For data analysis, the researcher employed a thematic coding strategy using NVIVO software. The concrete steps included: (1) importing interview transcripts, observation notes, and documents into NVIVO; (2) performing open coding by marking key phrases related to criminogenic indicators such as antisocial personality, lack of self-control, and environmental influences; (3) grouping codes into broader categories (axial coding) aligned with the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) framework; (4) generating themes from these categories to capture patterns in inmates' experiences; and (5) visualizing data relationships using NVIVO's node matrix and model functions to support interpretation.

This research also received official research permission from the Ministry of Law and Human Rights through the Directorate General of Corrections, as well as ethical approval from the university's Ethics Commission to ensure compliance with research ethics, particularly regarding the rights and confidentiality of inmates as vulnerable participants.

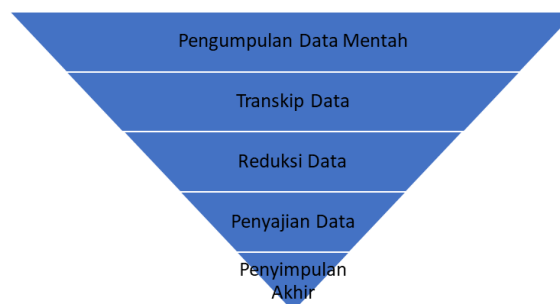


Figure 2. Data Analysis Techniques
Source: Processed by the author, April 2025

The entire data analysis process was carried out systematically using Miles and Huberman's interactive model, which includes five stages: raw data collection, data transcription, data reduction, data presentation, and drawing final conclusions. The flow of this process is illustrated in Figure 2 (Flowchart of Research Methodology), which visually outlines each step from data collection to conclusion drawing.

3. Analysis and Results

3.1. Research result

1. General Characteristics of Research Subjects, this study involved five male inmates, aged 19 to 25, who were serving sentences for child protection crimes. Two prison officers – the

Head of Prison Security and the Head of the Detention Services Sub-Section—also served as sources to corroborate the information obtained. Based on interviews, all of the inmates were local Pacitan residents, the majority from lower-middle class backgrounds, and had only attained junior high or high school education. None of the inmates held permanent employment prior to committing their crimes.

2. Data Collection and Analysis Process, NVivo 12 software was used to analyze the data. One of the initial features employed was the Word Frequency Query, which revealed several dominant words frequently used by inmates: environment, friends, family, work, self-control, alcohol, and emotions. These results then became the foundation for thematic coding and categorization of criminogenic factors that directly informed the discussion on RNR-based rehabilitation strategies.

3.2. Criminogenic Factors

The research results show that there are seven main factors that influence prisoners in committing crimes against children:

1. Lack of Self-Control, all the inmates admitted that their actions were impulsive and without rational consideration. They were unable to control their emotional impulses, especially in sexual contexts or personal conflicts. This lack of self-control was a dominant factor.
2. Antisocial Personality, three out of five prisoners exhibit antisocial personality traits such as a disregard for others' feelings, frequent violations of social rules, and a history of problematic behavior since adolescence.
3. Deviant Social Norms, prisoners tend to grow up in social environments that are permissive towards deviant behavior, such as promiscuity, minimal parental control, and the absence of role models of moral values in their residential environment.
4. Influence of Social Environment, negative peer relationships create social pressure to engage in deviant activities. Some perpetrators admit their actions stem from encouragement or influence from friends who have previously engaged in similar activities.
5. Alcohol and Drug Abuse, most perpetrators are unconscious when committing crimes, due to alcohol or other addictive substances. This results in reduced awareness and control of their actions.
6. Family Dysfunction, family background is a significant criminogenic factor. Prisoners often come from families with long-standing conflict, parental divorce, or have been victims of domestic violence. Disharmonious relationships impact psychology and perceptions of social relationships.
7. Economic Pressure and Job Instability, prisoners generally lack stable employment or adequate skills and experience economic pressures to meet daily living needs. This situation drives them to seek escape through negative means.

The findings suggest that these factors do not stand alone, but rather interact dynamically. For example, individuals with antisocial personalities who also come from dysfunctional families are more vulnerable when exposed to deviant peer groups, and this risk intensifies further under conditions of alcohol consumption or economic hardship. Such layered vulnerabilities illustrate why RNR-based rehabilitation requires not only individual assessments, but also integrated interventions that address multiple, reinforcing risks simultaneously.

3.3. Discussion

1. Factors and Criminological Theory, the findings of this study are in line with the criminogenic theory put forward by Taxman, Shepardson, & Byrne (2004), which classifies

the factors that trigger crime into two large groups: internal factors (such as personality, self-control, and personal motivation) and external factors (such as social environment, family, and economic conditions). However, this study further demonstrates the complex interplay of these factors in Pacitan. Rather than acting independently, criminogenic risks overlap, amplify one another, and generate cumulative pressure on individuals. This complexity highlights the necessity of tailoring RNR-based rehabilitation programs to address not just one risk factor, but clusters of interrelated conditions.

2. **Analysis Using the RNR (Risk-Need-Responsivity) Approach**, the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) theoretical framework by Bonta & Andrews (2007) is relevant in explaining how child protection inmates require risk-based and needs-specific counseling. The Risk Principle indicates that the higher a person's criminogenic factors, the greater the risk of recidivism. The Need Principle requires that rehabilitation programs be directed at the offender's specific needs, such as emotional management or addiction therapy. The Responsivity Principle emphasizes the need to adapt counseling methods to the inmate's psychosocial characteristics. In this study, the development program at Pacitan Class IIB Detention Center remains general in nature and does not fully address the specific needs of juvenile inmates. For instance, although vocational training and religious programs exist, they fail to accommodate specific criminogenic risks such as alcohol abuse, impulsivity, or trauma from dysfunctional families. In line with the RNR framework, rehabilitation should move beyond a "one-size-fits-all" model toward individualized plans based on structured risk and needs assessments.
3. **Comparison With Other Region**, when compared with findings from other correctional institutions in Indonesia, such as studies in Surabaya, Medan, and Makassar, similar criminogenic factors—family dysfunction, peer influence, and substance abuse—were consistently identified. However, the prominence of alcohol abuse as a dominant factor appears more pronounced in Pacitan, suggesting a regional specificity linked to local social practices. Thus, while many risks are common nationally, the weight of each factor may vary depending on local socio-cultural dynamics.
4. **Differences Between Recidivists and First-Time Offenders**, the data also suggest subtle differences between recidivists and first-time offenders. Recidivists tend to display stronger antisocial personality traits and entrenched patterns of deviant peer association, while first-time offenders are more often influenced by situational pressures such as family dysfunction or economic instability. This distinction is important for applying the RNR model, as recidivists may require more intensive behavioral modification interventions, while first-time offenders may benefit from family-based or socio-economic support strategies.
5. **Prison Officers' Perspective**, interviews with prison officials revealed that while inmates have the opportunity to participate in developmental activities, psychological barriers such as shame, social pressure within the unit, and a lack of emotional support pose significant challenges. Juvenile inmates also experience stigma from other inmates, leading them to withdraw from social activities. The Head of Prison Security emphasized the need for a better inmate classification system and the involvement of psychologists in the rehabilitation process.
6. **Critical Reflection and Limitations**, this study acknowledges several limitations. First, the number of subjects was relatively small, which restricts the generalizability of findings beyond Pacitan. Second, the reliance on self-reported data carries risks of social desirability bias, even though efforts were made to ensure confidentiality. Third, the absence of female inmate perspectives or comparative cross-institutional sampling limits the comprehensiveness of the analysis. Despite these limitations, the findings provide meaningful insights into how criminogenic factors interact and how RNR-based strategies can be contextualized in Pacitan.

Personality development programs such as religious studies, religious lectures, and sewing and screen-printing skills training are available, but they are not yet able to address the specific

needs of child protection inmates. The lack of a psychosocial approach has resulted in some inmates not experiencing significant change during their sentences.

As an illustration, one inmate admitted to only realizing his mistake after serving 18 months of his sentence, after receiving informal, specialized guidance from prison officials. This demonstrates that a more personalized, trust-based approach can be more effective than a uniform, mass program.

This study concluded that criminogenic factors are interactive and mutually reinforcing. For example, individuals with antisocial personalities and those from dysfunctional families, then exposed to deviant social environments, have a significantly higher risk of committing crimes. Furthermore, when combined with alcohol use or economic pressure, the tendency to commit crimes increases even further.

This finding reinforces the results of a study by Pittaro (2020) which stated that the success of prisoner rehabilitation is highly dependent on the extent to which the correctional system understands and responds to criminogenic factors holistically.

These findings have several important implications for correctional facility administrators: a) It is necessary to conduct an individual risk and needs assessment for each prisoner using standard instruments based on RNR theory; b) Counseling programs should be customized for juvenile inmates, including trauma counseling, impulse control therapy, and interpersonal training; c) The involvement of psychologists and social workers as companions in the coaching process is very important; d) Improving prison officers' understanding of the psychological dynamics of prisoners in order to build more supportive and humane relationships.

4. Conclusion

Based on the research findings, it can be concluded that child protection crimes committed by inmates at the Class IIB Pacitan Detention Center are influenced by interrelated criminogenic factors, including lack of self-control, antisocial personality, deviant social norms, the influence of the social environment, alcohol abuse, family dysfunction, and economic pressure and job instability. These factors operate simultaneously and form a complex pattern in the inmates' lives prior to committing the crime. Analysis using the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) approach shows that inmates in child protection cases have a high-risk profile and very specific developmental needs, particularly in psychosocial aspects, yet current development programs remain general and do not adequately accommodate these dimensions, resulting in resistance or stagnation in the rehabilitation process. The findings further highlight the crucial role of family and social environments in shaping deviant behavior, suggesting that preventive approaches starting from the family, education, and community are essential. Therefore, reforms in prisoner development strategies that emphasize individual assessments and involve professionals such as psychologists and social workers are needed to improve correctional effectiveness, reduce recidivism rates, and support inmates' reintegration into society, while also providing evidence-based insights for policymakers in designing programs more responsive to the specific needs of inmates convicted of child protection crimes.

This study recommends several follow-up actions. First, correctional institutions should adopt standardized risk and needs assessment instruments based on the RNR framework to tailor rehabilitation strategies to each inmate. Second, multidisciplinary collaboration involving psychologists, social workers, educators, and community leaders is necessary to address inmates' psychosocial and behavioral needs. Third, preventive measures must be strengthened at the family and community levels, focusing on parenting education, early moral development, and awareness campaigns about child protection. Fourth, further research should expand the scope to include female inmates and cross-regional comparisons, as well as explore the long-term effectiveness of individualized rehabilitation programs in reducing recidivism. By implementing these recommendations, correctional facilities and policymakers can create more comprehensive and humane approaches to handling child protection crimes.

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