

Implementation of Inmate Classification: An Empirical Study at Class IIA Correctional Facility Banda Aceh

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Abstract: This study examines the implementation of inmate classification at the Banda Aceh Class II A Correctional Facility, highlighting its significance as a core component of the Indonesian correctional system. Inmate classification serves as both a security mechanism and a rehabilitative strategy, ensuring that prisoners are grouped according to specific criteria such as criminal background, age, gender, and length of sentence. By doing so, correctional institutions are expected to maintain order while also providing more tailored rehabilitation and reintegration programs. Empirical findings, however, reveal that the practice of classification in Banda Aceh has not been fully aligned with regulatory standards. Structural constraints such as overcrowding, insufficient infrastructure, and limited human resources have hindered the ability of the institution to enforce strict separation among inmates. In many cases, the lack of adequate facilities and specialized personnel has led to inconsistencies between the normative framework and the actual implementation of classification. These gaps highlight the tension between the legal mandate of correctional law and the practical realities faced by correctional institutions in Indonesia. The study concludes that while inmate classification has been applied in principle, its effectiveness remains limited due to systemic and institutional challenges. Strengthening institutional capacity, improving coordination, and enhancing staff training are critical to achieving a classification system that fulfills its intended role. Such reforms are essential not only for maintaining security but also for ensuring the protection of human dignity and the realization of a correctional system that genuinely promotes rehabilitation and reintegration.

Keywords: Correctional System, Prison Management, Rehabilitation.

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1. Introduction

Correctional institutions constitute a fundamental pillar of Indonesia's criminal justice system. Their orientation is not limited to punishment but extends to the rehabilitation, reformation, and resocialization of inmates so that they may reintegrate into society as law-abiding citizens. This paradigm reflects a modern conception of criminal law, which views inmates not merely as objects of punishment but also as subjects entitled to humane treatment and opportunities for self-improvement. Thus, the correctional system serves a dual function: it provides accountability for criminal conduct while simultaneously functioning as a vehicle for social restoration. (Subroto & Maharaja, 2025)

Within this framework, the classification of inmates is one of the most crucial instruments to ensure the effectiveness of correctional programs. Classification is conducted based on certain criteria, including type of crime, age, gender, length of sentence, and risk level (Kurniawan, 2024). The rationale behind this classification is to ensure that every inmate receives an individualized correctional program tailored to his or her specific needs. Without proper classification, rehabilitation tends to be homogeneous and risks producing negative consequences. For example, juvenile inmates may be placed together with adult offenders, or those convicted of minor crimes may be confined with high-risk offenders. Such practices undermine both corrective and rehabilitative justice, which form the essence of the correctional system.

Normatively, inmate classification has a clear legal foundation. Law No. 22 of 2022 on Corrections explicitly affirms that every inmate has the right to humane treatment and rehabilitation under the principle of non-discrimination. This legal mandate is further elaborated in the Regulation of the Minister of Law and Human Rights No. 32 of 2020 on the Requirements and Procedures for Inmate Classification, which provides detailed mechanisms and criteria for implementation in correctional facilities. These regulations demonstrate that the state has furnished an adequate normative framework to ensure the effectiveness of inmate classification.

Nevertheless, a significant legal gap exists between the normative framework and its practical implementation. Although inmate classification is expressly regulated, its application in correctional facilities remains far from optimal. The Class II A Correctional Facility in Banda Aceh, for instance, faces serious challenges in implementing the classification system effectively. The most pressing issues include inadequate infrastructure, overcrowding, limited professional human resources, and insufficient understanding among correctional officers of the technical regulations governing classification. Consequently, inmates with differing backgrounds are often confined together without due regard for risk categories or types of crimes committed.

This legal gap highlights a clear contradiction between the normative mandate of individualized correctional treatment and the actual practice of uniform and undifferentiated confinement. In reality, inmates convicted of narcotics offenses are frequently housed together with those convicted of general crimes or even corruption, largely due to a shortage of space. Likewise, juvenile inmates who should be separated from adult offenders are still placed in shared facilities. Such practices not only diminish the effectiveness of rehabilitation but also increase the likelihood of harmful peer influence among inmates.

From a deductive perspective, one may conclude that Indonesia's correctional law already emphasizes the importance of classification as a core instrument of rehabilitation. Detailed provisions regulating classification procedures have been codified (Waluyo, 2023). Yet, when examined inductively through empirical realities in Banda Aceh's Class II A Correctional Facility, a stark discrepancy emerges between normative ideals and practical realities. Overcrowding, insufficient infrastructure, and a shortage of trained personnel hinder the effective implementation of inmate classification. This indicates a persistent disjunction between law in books (*das sollen*) and law in action (*das sein*).

The consequences of this legal gap are profound. First, individualized correctional goals are unattainable, as programs fail to address the distinct needs of inmates. Second, the risk of negative learning, or the “contagious effect,” increases when low-risk offenders are exposed to high-risk inmates. Third, the effectiveness of rehabilitation and resocialization programs diminishes, as homogenized programming lacks targeted impact. Fourth, the failure to implement proper classification may be construed as a violation of inmates’ human rights, since disproportionate and uniform treatment can constitute a form of implicit discrimination.

The challenges are compounded by weaknesses in the assessment process, which serves as the gateway to inmate classification. Ideally, assessment should include psychological, social, and medical evaluations to determine appropriate categories. However, in Banda Aceh’s Class II A Correctional Facility, assessments are often superficial due to a shortage of professionals such as psychologists, counselors, and medical personnel. As a result, classification decisions are frequently based on administrative assumptions rather than comprehensive evaluations. This further demonstrates that, although regulations mandate assessment-based classification, the practical reality falls short of normative expectations.

Against this backdrop, research on inmate classification assumes urgent significance. Reform of the correctional system requires a critical evaluation of existing regulations, as well as an analysis of the obstacles faced in their implementation. This study proceeds from the premise that inmate classification is the foundation of effective rehabilitation. Without accurate classification, the ultimate goal of corrections social reintegration cannot be achieved.

Conceptually, this research is also important for advancing legal scholarship, particularly in the fields of criminal law and correctional law. First, it tests the consistency between correctional regulations and their implementation, thereby mapping the extent to which positive law aligns with its normative objectives. Second, it provides a basis for reconstructing inmate classification policies so they may be more adaptive to empirical realities. Third, it contributes to reducing the legal gap between normative frameworks and practice by offering recommendations grounded in real-world needs.

Accordingly, examining the implementation of inmate classification at the Class II A Correctional Facility in Banda Aceh is highly significant from both academic and practical perspectives. Academically, this research enriches discourse on the effectiveness of correctional law and contributes to ongoing discussions of criminal law reform in Indonesia. Practically, it offers concrete recommendations to the Ministry of Law and Human Rights and correctional authorities for improving classification systems in ways that are more effective, humane, and just. Ultimately, strengthening the implementation of inmate classification will reinforce the true purpose of corrections: restoring inmates to society as law-abiding, productive, and dignified members of the community.

2. Method

This study employs a normative-empirical legal research design to evaluate the implementation of inmate classification at the Class II A Correctional Facility in Banda Aceh, combining statutory analysis with field-based inquiry to examine both the legal framework ("law in books") and its practical application ("law in action"). The normative component analyzes Law No. 22 of 2022 and Ministerial Regulation No. 32 of 2020, supported by secondary and tertiary legal sources, to clarify the principles and procedures governing inmate classification. The empirical component uses a qualitative case study approach involving document review, semi-structured interviews, and direct observation, allowing an in-depth exploration of how classification norms operate within a facility facing overcrowding, limited resources, and staff shortages (Iqbal et al., 2025). Data from both dimensions were examined through descriptive-analytical methods—doctrinal interpretation for normative data and thematic analysis for empirical findings—revealing gaps between regulatory requirements and actual practice, such as the mixing of inmates with different risk levels due to capacity constraints. Validity was strengthened through triangulation, member checking, and peer debriefing, while ethical safeguards such as informed consent, confidentiality, and institutional permission were strictly observed. Although limited to one correctional facility, the study offers analytically transferable insights into broader systemic challenges and demonstrates how an integrated methodological framework can illuminate discrepancies between legal ideals and correctional realities while informing future policy reform.

3. Result & Discussion

3.1. Implementation of Prisoner Classification at Banda Aceh Class II-A Penitentiary

The implementation of prisoner classification within correctional institutions represents one of the most critical aspects of the correctional system in Indonesia (Rinaldi & Abdillah, 2024). Classification is not merely an administrative procedure but a substantive instrument aimed at supporting the objectives of correction, namely rehabilitation, reformation, and reintegration of inmates into society. Within the framework of the correctional paradigm mandated by Law No. 12 of 1995 on Corrections and further regulated by the Ministerial Regulation of Law and Human Rights No. 35 of 2018 on the Revitalization of Correctional Administration, classification serves as the foundation for structuring the daily life of prisoners. The Banda Aceh Class II-A Penitentiary, as one of the largest and most complex penitentiaries in Aceh Province, offers a valuable empirical lens to examine how such classification is conceptualized, operationalized, and experienced in practice (Khan et al., 2023).

Prisoner classification refers to the systematic grouping of inmates based on predetermined criteria such as age, gender, type of offense, sentence length, risk assessment, and specific needs. The theoretical foundation of classification stems from the belief that prisoners, as individuals with diverse backgrounds, cannot be treated uniformly. The correctional approach recognizes that addressing individual differences is vital to achieving successful rehabilitation. In practice, classification aims to prevent

negative influence among inmates, reduce potential security risks, and ensure that programs of guidance and rehabilitation are tailored according to the characteristics of each group. The Banda Aceh Class II-A Penitentiary, in line with national correctional policies, adopts this principle by categorizing prisoners through a multistage process involving intake assessment, risk analysis, and placement decisions.

The process begins upon admission when prisoners undergo an orientation period commonly referred to as the masa pengenalan lingkungan (introduction to the environment). During this phase, correctional officers conduct a preliminary assessment covering personal data, the nature of the offense, health conditions, psychological tendencies, and social background. Such assessments are documented and serve as the foundation for determining the most appropriate category for each prisoner. Official guidelines stipulate that classification should distinguish between adult and juvenile inmates, male and female inmates, first-time offenders and recidivists, as well as those convicted of general crimes and those involved in special crimes such as narcotics or corruption.

In Banda Aceh, this process is further complicated by the significant number of inmates involved in drug-related offenses, which constitute the majority of the prison population. Consequently, the penitentiary faces the challenge of separating narcotics offenders from other types of offenders, particularly to avoid the risk of negative contagion. For instance, first-time offenders or individuals with minor involvement in narcotics cases are ideally separated from large-scale traffickers or recidivists. However, spatial limitations and overcrowding often obstruct the full realization of this ideal. This reality demonstrates a critical gap between the normative mandate of classification and its practical implementation within the penitentiary environment.

The principle underlying classification is not solely punitive; rather, it embodies rehabilitative and restorative values. By separating prisoners into appropriate groups, correctional officers can design and deliver targeted rehabilitation programs (Anderson, 2024). For example, educational programs may be prioritized for younger inmates, vocational training may be directed toward those nearing release, and special counseling or therapy may be provided to inmates with a history of substance abuse. At Banda Aceh Class II-A Penitentiary, classification is therefore the initial stage that determines the trajectory of an inmate's rehabilitation process. Without effective classification, rehabilitation programs risk becoming generic, ineffective, and even counterproductive.

In addition to facilitating rehabilitation, classification plays an essential role in maintaining security and order within the penitentiary. The prison environment is inherently prone to tension, conflict, and potential violence due to the diversity of individuals confined within it. Through proper classification, inmates who pose higher security risks can be segregated from the general prison population (Wooldredge, 2020). For example, those involved in violent crimes, organized criminal activities, or radical ideologies may require closer supervision and restricted interaction with others. Meanwhile, inmates convicted of non-violent offenses may be placed in environments where they can engage more freely in productive activities. In Banda Aceh, officers

emphasize the importance of this preventive measure, as misclassification could result in conflicts, intimidation, or even riots that threaten institutional stability.

However, implementing classification in Banda Aceh Class II-A Penitentiary is not without challenges. One of the most persistent issues is overcrowding. The penitentiary houses more inmates than its official capacity, leading to congestion in housing units and limiting the possibility of fully separating prisoners according to the ideal classification categories. Overcrowding forces officers to make compromises, often grouping inmates with diverse backgrounds into the same space. This condition undermines the purpose of classification and increases the risk of negative influence, such as the transmission of criminal knowledge or the reinforcement of deviant networks inside the prison walls.

Another challenge lies in the limited resources available to conduct thorough and continuous assessment. Ideally, classification is not a one-time procedure but a dynamic process that requires regular reassessment to accommodate changes in an inmate's behavior, psychological state, or risk level. Yet, due to the high workload and limited number of correctional officers, reassessments are rarely conducted systematically. This situation diminishes the responsiveness of the penitentiary to evolving circumstances and may result in inappropriate placement or insufficient support for inmates who require specific interventions.

Moreover, the effectiveness of classification is influenced by the level of professional capacity among correctional officers. While the regulatory framework mandates officers to possess knowledge of criminology, psychology, and correctional techniques, in practice, many officers receive only limited training. This competency gap affects the quality of assessments and reduces the ability of officers to identify subtle but important distinctions among inmates. At Banda Aceh Class II-A Penitentiary, some officers acknowledged that classification often relies on administrative data rather than comprehensive psychological evaluations, thereby limiting its depth and accuracy.

Cultural and social factors also shape the implementation of classification. In the context of Aceh, where Islamic law (Qanun) operates alongside national law, certain moral and religious considerations influence correctional practices. Religious identity and behavior may indirectly affect classification, as inmates who actively participate in religious programs or demonstrate compliance with moral codes may be perceived as lower-risk individuals. Although such practices align with the rehabilitative emphasis on moral guidance, they also highlight the intersection of cultural values and formal classification systems. (Saputra et al., 2025)

Despite these challenges, Banda Aceh Class II-A Penitentiary has made several efforts to strengthen classification. One such effort is the establishment of special units or blocks designated for certain groups of inmates, such as drug offenders, female inmates, and juveniles. Furthermore, the penitentiary collaborates with external stakeholders, including psychologists, social workers, and health professionals, to conduct specialized assessments. These collaborations aim to enrich the classification process by incorporating multidisciplinary perspectives. Additionally, religious leaders

are often involved in providing spiritual counseling, which serves as an informal yet influential dimension of inmate classification and rehabilitation.

The outcomes of classification can be observed in the daily operation of the penitentiary. Inmates classified as low-risk or nearing release often receive opportunities to participate in vocational training programs such as carpentry, agriculture, or handicrafts. Meanwhile, those identified as high-risk are subject to stricter supervision and restricted privileges. The differentiation of treatment based on classification underscores the importance of the process in structuring correctional life. Nevertheless, the persistent issue of overcrowding means that many inmates do not fully experience the intended benefits of classification, thereby limiting its overall effectiveness.

The implementation of classification at Banda Aceh Class II-A Penitentiary also provides valuable insights into the broader correctional system in Indonesia. It illustrates the tension between legal ideals and practical realities, as well as the continuous struggle to align correctional objectives with structural constraints. From an academic perspective, this case highlights the importance of adopting a socio-legal approach in studying correctional practices, as the success or failure of classification cannot be understood solely through the lens of legal norms but must also account for organizational, cultural, and resource-related factors.

Ultimately, the implementation of prisoner classification at Banda Aceh Class II-A Penitentiary demonstrates both progress and limitations. On the one hand, classification remains an indispensable mechanism for promoting rehabilitation, maintaining security, and tailoring correctional programs to individual needs. On the other hand, structural challenges such as overcrowding, limited resources, insufficient training, and cultural complexities hinder the full realization of its objectives. Addressing these challenges requires a multidimensional strategy, including increasing institutional capacity, enhancing officer training, and ensuring greater alignment between legal mandates and correctional realities. Only by strengthening these aspects can classification fulfill its role as the cornerstone of a humane, effective, and rehabilitative correctional system in Indonesia.

3.2. Challenges in the Implementation of Prisoner Classification at Banda Aceh Class II-A Penitentiary

The classification of prisoners is designed to function as the cornerstone of correctional management, enabling correctional institutions to provide treatment that is fair, proportionate, and responsive to the risks and needs of individual inmates (Jones, 2024). Ideally, such classification should be implemented systematically, objectively, and in strict adherence to the regulatory framework established by national law and ministerial regulations. However, as is frequently observed in correctional facilities across Indonesia, the translation of normative regulations into practice is not without obstacles. This is particularly evident in the Banda Aceh Class II-A Penitentiary, where the implementation of prisoner classification encounters a wide array of challenges that are structural, human-resource related, and infrastructural in nature. These challenges

create a gap between what the regulations envision and what prison officers are able to carry out on a daily basis.

Prisoner classification is intended not merely as an administrative mechanism but as an operational tool for ensuring security, maintaining order, and tailoring rehabilitation programs to inmates' differentiated profiles. By grouping inmates according to risk levels, types of offenses, and criminogenic needs, correctional institutions seek to minimize the risk of negative influence, provide targeted rehabilitation, and reduce recidivism. Yet, in Banda Aceh Class II-A Penitentiary, the ideal of such a system is undermined by persistent obstacles. High-risk inmates cannot always be separated from medium or low-risk prisoners, given the limitations of housing capacity. Classification, therefore, often remains on paper recorded administratively in registers and databases but is not realized in the physical arrangement of housing or in differentiated rehabilitation programs.

This discrepancy between policy and practice is symptomatic of deeper institutional problems. Overcrowding, limited staffing, and inadequate facilities collectively diminish the effectiveness of classification. Moreover, the lack of specialized training for prison officers compounds the problem, as officers are required not only to supervise inmates but also to conduct risk assessments, deliver counseling, and manage individualized rehabilitation—all while facing overwhelming caseloads. These conditions render the classification process less meaningful, often reducing it to a formality rather than a functional instrument of correctional governance.

The foremost structural challenge facing Banda Aceh Class II-A Penitentiary is overcrowding. The facility accommodates a prison population far exceeding its official capacity, which makes it practically impossible to separate inmates strictly according to their risk categories. In principle, high-risk offenders, such as recidivists, violent criminals, or those engaged in organized crime, should be housed separately from first-time offenders or those with minor infractions. However, the limited number of housing blocks compels prison officials to group inmates of different risk levels together. In effect, classification becomes an administrative record rather than a lived reality.

This structural problem is not unique to Banda Aceh but reflects a broader crisis within Indonesia's correctional system. Scholars such as Heru Susetyo (2020) have observed that most correctional facilities in the country are structurally burdened by inmate populations that far exceed their intended capacity (Maulana, 2024). The consequence of this condition is twofold: first, officers cannot focus their attention adequately on monitoring and guiding inmates according to their classification; and second, the physical environment itself becomes a breeding ground for conflict, intimidation, and the transfer of criminal knowledge. When inmates from divergent risk categories are housed together, the likelihood of negative influence such as the recruitment of lower-risk inmates into criminal networks increases substantially.

Furthermore, overcrowding undermines the preventive function of classification. One of the principal goals of classification is to reduce risks by ensuring that high-risk inmates do not exert negative influence on others. Yet, when structural capacity prevents such separation, classification ceases to protect low-risk inmates, thereby

failing to achieve its rehabilitative purpose. This reveals a systemic disconnect between the theoretical framework of prisoner management and its real-world implementation.

Equally significant are the human resource challenges that afflict Banda Aceh Class II-A Penitentiary. At present, a limited number of correctional officers are tasked with supervising and managing a prison population that exceeds 800 inmates. On any given day, only about 15 to 20 officers are available, which means that each officer is responsible for monitoring dozens of inmates across various classifications. Such a disproportionate ratio not only stretches officers thin but also undermines the effectiveness of classification-based management.

Beyond numerical shortages, the issue of competency also arises. Correctional officers are expected to fulfill multiple roles: they must conduct initial and periodic risk assessments, deliver counseling sessions, administer discipline, and facilitate rehabilitation programs. Yet, many officers lack specialized training in risk assessment methodologies, psychological evaluation, or individualized case management. Without such training, classification tends to rely on superficial criteria or administrative data, rather than comprehensive analyses of inmates' criminogenic needs.

From the perspective of organizational theory, as George R. Terry (2006) argues, the effectiveness of an institution depends heavily on the adequacy and competency of its human resources. When personnel are insufficient in number and inadequately trained, organizational dysfunction becomes inevitable. In the case of Banda Aceh Class II-A Penitentiary, these deficiencies manifest in the inability to translate classification into meaningful differentiation in treatment. Officers cannot dedicate time to individualized monitoring or reassessment, and as a result, many inmates experience generic programs that fail to address their unique rehabilitation needs.

A further challenge lies in the scarcity of supporting infrastructure and facilities. Effective classification requires not only adequate housing space but also specialized facilities for differentiated programs. For instance, high-risk inmates may require secure counseling rooms, while low-risk or near-release inmates may benefit from vocational training workshops. However, at Banda Aceh Class II-A Penitentiary, such facilities are limited or entirely absent. Counseling spaces are minimal, vocational equipment is scarce, and training programs are often underfunded.

This limitation has direct implications for the principle of corrective justice, which emphasizes that every inmate has the right to treatment tailored to his or her risk level and rehabilitative needs. In practice, however, the lack of infrastructure forces the penitentiary to adopt uniform rehabilitation programs. As a result, rehabilitation becomes homogenized, failing to distinguish between inmates who require intensive interventions and those who simply need basic guidance. Such uniformity undermines the core logic of classification and risks perpetuating criminogenic behavior rather than reducing it.

Scholars such as Suteki (2022) have explained this problem using the lens of systems theory. According to this framework, correctional institutions function through interconnected inputs, processes, and outputs. Inputs include human resources, legal instruments, and physical infrastructure; processes include classification, assessment,

and rehabilitation; and outputs are measured in terms of security, order, and successful reintegration. When inputs are insufficient, processes are compromised, and outputs inevitably deteriorate. In Banda Aceh, the imbalance between inputs (limited staff and facilities) and desired outputs (*effective rehabilitation*) exemplifies this systemic dysfunction.

The challenges confronting prisoner classification in Banda Aceh Class II-A Penitentiary are not confined to technical inefficiencies but have broader implications for correctional governance and the legitimacy of the correctional system itself. When high-risk inmates mix with low-risk inmates, the risks of conflict, bullying, and the spread of criminal networks escalate. This not only endangers the immediate security of the prison but also hampers long-term rehabilitative goals by exposing low-risk inmates to negative influences.

Moreover, the homogenization of rehabilitation programs undermines the responsiveness of the correctional system to criminogenic needs. The Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model of correction emphasizes that rehabilitation must be aligned with assessed risks and needs. If classification is not operationalized through differentiated programs, the correctional system fails to reduce recidivism and instead perpetuates cycles of crime. In this sense, the challenges in implementing classification at Banda Aceh highlight a fundamental contradiction: although regulations such as Ministerial Regulation No. 32 of 2020 provide detailed procedures for classification, actual practice falls far short of these normative aspirations.

This discrepancy weakens the legitimacy of correctional law and policy. When regulations promise individualized treatment but practice delivers uniformity and overcrowding, inmates may perceive the system as unjust. Such perceptions can exacerbate resistance, reduce compliance, and ultimately erode the rehabilitative potential of incarceration.

Recognizing these challenges is the first step toward meaningful reform. Addressing structural issues requires systemic investment in prison infrastructure and a commitment to reducing overcrowding, either through expanding facilities or through broader criminal justice reforms such as diversion, parole, or alternative sentencing. Strengthening human resources necessitates both quantitative improvements increasing the number of officers and qualitative enhancements, such as specialized training in risk assessment and individualized rehabilitation techniques. Finally, infrastructural improvements must focus on creating differentiated spaces and programs that can operationalize the logic of classification.

Without such measures, the classification system will remain largely administrative, failing to fulfill its rehabilitative promise. Conversely, if these challenges can be systematically addressed, prisoner classification can serve as the foundation for a correctional system that is humane, effective, and consistent with both national law and international human rights standards.

3.3. Efforts Undertaken by Class II A Banda Aceh Correctional Institution to Overcome Challenges in Prisoner Classification

The implementation of prisoner classification is a fundamental prerequisite for ensuring an effective, fair, and humane correctional system (Coyle & Fair, 2018). Within the framework of modern correctional theory, classification is understood as the cornerstone upon which individualized treatment, rehabilitation, and resocialization programs can be properly designed and implemented. Classification allows correctional institutions to differentiate between high-risk and low-risk inmates, between those convicted of serious crimes and those serving sentences for minor offenses, as well as among children, women, and adult prisoners. In so doing, the correctional system moves beyond a punitive model and embraces a rehabilitative approach consistent with the principles of restorative justice. (Muksalmina & Wiratmadinata, 2023)

Nevertheless, in practice, the Class II A Banda Aceh Correctional Institution faces a variety of structural and functional obstacles that hinder the full realization of an ideal classification system. Challenges include insufficient human resources, limited facilities and infrastructure, chronic overcrowding, and inadequate understanding of technical regulations among prison staff. These issues often result in the homogenization of treatment programs, disregard for the specific needs of inmates, and unintended negative consequences such as cross-contamination of behaviors among inmates with very different criminal profiles.

Recognizing these challenges, the leadership and staff of Class II A Banda Aceh Correctional Institution have undertaken a series of deliberate, adaptive, and multi-faceted efforts to mitigate these obstacles. These strategies operate not only internally through institutional restructuring and staff training but also externally, by fostering cooperation with other governmental, non-governmental, and community-based stakeholders. From the perspective of institutional governance, these efforts may be conceptualized as the application of adaptive governance, wherein a public institution recalibrates its strategies to maximize available resources while responding flexibly to contextual constraints.

One of the foremost initiatives has been the reinforcement of the inmate assessment system. Every newly admitted prisoner undergoes a structured risk and needs assessment. This process involves evaluating the inmate's social background, criminal history, psychological condition, security risk level, and potential suitability for specific rehabilitation programs (Mufti & Riyanto, 2023). The findings are systematically recorded within the correctional database, which then serves as a reference for designing individualized treatment plans.

Although full physical separation of inmates based on classification is not always feasible due to space limitations, the assessment functions as an alternative mechanism to ensure differentiated treatment. For instance, high-risk inmates are placed under more stringent supervision and directed to behavioral control programs, while low-risk inmates are granted greater access to vocational training, social

rehabilitation, and educational activities. In this way, the principle of individualized treatment is preserved even within an environment of structural limitation.

Building upon the assessment system, correctional officers are tasked with managing groups of inmates according to classification results. Responsibilities are divided in a more targeted fashion, enabling officers to focus on the specific needs of each group. Although the number of staff remains limited, this division of responsibilities enhances both the efficiency of rehabilitation and the effectiveness of security supervision. Under this model, high-risk inmates are closely monitored and engaged in structured behavioral interventions, while low-risk inmates are concentrated in empowerment activities, including vocational and social training. This dual-track approach simultaneously minimizes security risks and maximizes rehabilitation opportunities.

Another significant initiative involves systematic capacity building for correctional staff. The institution routinely organizes training sessions focusing on risk assessment methodologies, basic counseling skills, and classification-based management of rehabilitation programs. These programs are facilitated in collaboration with the Regional Office of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights in Aceh and local training institutions.

By enhancing the knowledge and technical expertise of correctional officers, the institution seeks to transform classification from a purely administrative requirement into a substantive mechanism for shaping inmate rehabilitation. Trained staff are better positioned to conduct accurate assessments, manage programs in accordance with inmate profiles, and minimize misclassification practices that often stem from inadequate technical understanding.

Given the persistent issue of limited facilities and overcrowded cells, the institution has adopted a strategy of selective and rotational scheduling for rehabilitation activities. Programs such as vocational workshops, spiritual guidance, and counseling sessions are organized based on inmate classification. Low-risk inmates are granted broader participation in skill-building and vocational training, thereby preparing them for economic reintegration post-release. Conversely, high-risk inmates are steered toward intensive psychological and spiritual programs designed to regulate behavior, reduce disciplinary violations, and foster a more stable correctional environment. Through this approach, differentiated treatment is operationalized without requiring additional physical infrastructure.

Recognizing its own institutional limitations, the Class II A Banda Aceh Correctional Institution actively engages with external partners, including NGOs, educational institutions, and religious leaders. These collaborations help to fill programmatic gaps that cannot be internally addressed. Examples include entrepreneurship training, legal literacy workshops, and comprehensive religious guidance sessions. This external engagement aligns with the principles of open systems theory, which posits that institutions must interact with their environment to acquire the resources and inputs necessary for sustainable operations. By drawing upon community-based resources, the correctional institution enhances the diversity and quality of its rehabilitation programs.

Another crucial initiative is the implementation of regular evaluation and reclassification processes. Evaluations are conducted at least every six months, or earlier if recommended by rehabilitation or security officers. These evaluations aim to reassess risk and needs profiles, adjust rehabilitation programs, and, if necessary, alter inmate classifications.

This practice ensures that classification remains dynamic rather than static, enabling the correctional system to respond to behavioral improvements or regressions among inmates. As such, the classification system reflects not only administrative categorization but also the evolving rehabilitative trajectory of each inmate.

The various strategies pursued by the Class II A Banda Aceh Correctional Institution are underpinned by restorative justice principles. Restorative justice emphasizes the notion that prisoners are not merely offenders to be punished, but human beings with the potential for transformation. Thus, rehabilitation programs are tailored not solely to the nature of the crime committed but also to the specific risks and needs of the individual inmate. This restorative orientation ensures that classification is not reduced to bureaucratic categorization but instead becomes an ethical and pragmatic framework for guiding rehabilitation. By aligning treatment with individual profiles, the institution fosters more meaningful opportunities for reintegration into society.

Despite these efforts, significant challenges remain. The institution acknowledges that current measures are far from optimal. Structural reinforcement from the central government is urgently needed in the form of additional staff, increased budget allocations, and expanded infrastructure. Without these structural supports, classification efforts will continue to operate under severe constraints, limiting their full potential.

Nevertheless, the strategies employed have yielded tangible positive outcomes. Security within the facility has improved, the potential for inter-inmate conflict has been reduced, and rehabilitation programs have become more targeted and relevant. Inmates themselves report clearer direction in their rehabilitation processes, thereby enhancing their readiness for eventual reintegration into society.

In sum, the Class II A Banda Aceh Correctional Institution has pursued a range of adaptive strategies to overcome the multifaceted obstacles impeding prisoner classification. These include strengthening assessment systems, enhancing staff capacity, strategically scheduling rehabilitation programs, collaborating with external actors, and instituting dynamic evaluation mechanisms. Collectively, these efforts demonstrate a commitment to implementing classification in a manner that is collaborative, responsive, and grounded in humanitarian values.

Although challenges such as overcrowding and resource limitations persist, the institution's initiatives highlight the potential for progress even within structural constraints. By embedding its classification strategies within frameworks of adaptive governance, open systems theory, and restorative justice, the Class II A Banda Aceh Correctional Institution exemplifies how correctional facilities can pragmatically reconcile ideal standards with real-world limitations, thereby advancing the overarching goals of Indonesia's correctional system.

4. Conclusion

The implementation of inmate classification at the Banda Aceh Class II A Correctional Facility demonstrates that the system is an essential element of correctional management designed to ensure order, security, and the fulfillment of prisoners' rights. As mandated by statutory regulations, classification serves not only as a mechanism for separating inmates based on their criminal background, age, gender, or length of sentence, but also as a foundation for developing tailored rehabilitation and reintegration programs. In practice, the institution has made significant efforts to implement classification consistently, thereby reflecting the commitment of the correctional system to uphold both security and human rights principles.

Despite these efforts, the empirical findings reveal several challenges that hinder the optimal realization of classification. Limited infrastructure, overcrowding, and resource constraints frequently prevent inmates from being separated strictly according to the established categories. These conditions often lead to inconsistencies between the legal framework and its implementation at the institutional level. Moreover, the complexity of inmate characteristics and the absence of sufficient human resources further exacerbate the difficulty of maintaining a classification system that is fully aligned with regulatory standards.

Therefore, the study concludes that inmate classification at the Banda Aceh Class II A Correctional Facility has been implemented but remains imperfect due to structural, institutional, and resource limitations. To address this gap, it is necessary to strengthen institutional capacity, improve coordination between correctional authorities, and enhance supporting facilities and personnel training. Only through these improvements can inmate classification function effectively as a tool for rehabilitation, security management, and the broader objective of realizing a correctional system that harmonizes justice, order, and human dignity.

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