Development of Independence as an Effort to Improve Welfare for Convicts in Correctional Technical Implementation Units in Indonesia

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Abstract

The Directorate General of Corrections has the task of guiding and fostering convicts. Prisons and detention centers carry out this task. Self-reliance development is grouped into agribusiness, manufacturing, and service activities. Prisoners who participate in independent development activities are expected to have the provision after being released to find a job or be self-employed. By working, the welfare level of prisoners increases. The method used is qualitative. The research question posed is how is the implementation of fostering independence to increase the welfare of convicts and the obstacles encountered in independent activities and when free convicts want to get a job? This study aims to find out the implementation of self-reliance coaching to increase the welfare of convicts and the obstacles faced by independent activities. The problems convict face when looking for work or entrepreneurship. The results showed that several obstacles were found, such as inadequate infrastructure, non-specific activity budgets, low employee ability for E-commerce, low motivation of prisoners to participate in activities, and when free from prisoners, it is also difficult to get a job. The complexity of the problems faced must be overcome immediately, and it requires the involvement of all parties. One solution to help prisoners who need funds to become self-employed is through productive Zakat.

Keywords: Independence, Convict, Well-Being, Productive Zakat.

A. INTRODUCTION

Prisoners are part of Indonesian citizens who are entitled to have aspirations to have a better life. They have the right to have the desire to live a more decent life, to have a permanent job, to be able to provide proper education for their children, and to be accepted in society and to be part of society. To realize this hope, the correctional center aims to form correctional inmates (WBP) into human beings who realize their mistakes, change themselves for the better to gain the trust of the surrounding community, and be actively involved in development. This goal can be realized by providing them with a coaching program. After being released from prison, convicts can find work according to their skills or open their businesses/self-employed to support themselves and their families. There are two coaching programs, namely, independence and personality development programs. The self-reliance development program includes special work skills for inmates and work and production training for convicts.

Based on existing data, independent activities in the Pas Technical Implementation Unit (UPT) are divided into 3 (three) fields: agribusiness,
manufacturing, and service. The agribusiness comprises agricultural, plantation, animal husbandry, and fishery activities. The manufacturing industry includes wicker, batik, crafts, culinary, furniture, hygiene/health equipment, brick/paving, essential oil, fertilizer, welding, tailoring, household/kitchen equipment, printing, leather, stone carpentry, and carpentry. Activities in the service sector consist of car/motorcycle/bike repair shops, car/motorcycle washes, laundry, reflexology, information technology/electronics, carpentry, installation, and salon/barbershop (Production, Sub Directorate of Work Activities, 2020).

According to Pamudji (Heliany et al., 2019), coaching comes from “build,” which means turning something into something new. Another meaning of coaching is a renewal, namely, efforts to make something better, useful, and as needed. According to Hidayat (Heliany et al., 2019), coaching aims to develop the mindset of people or groups in carrying out an activity to obtain maximum results. Tangdilintin (Heliany et al., 2019) says coaching means “empowerment” or empowerment with the first intention, realizing one’s potential and liberating; second, developing self-ability; third, fostering a sense of responsibility and fourth, actively involved in activities. Self-reliance coaching encourages convicts to improve their abilities to benefit themselves, their families, and society.

The forms of independent activities at each UPT Pas (Prison, Detention Center, Child Special Development Institution/LPKA, Bapas) are the same and different. The determination of independence development activities is determined jointly by the Head of UPT Pas with a team of officers in the Development section. The implementation of independence coaching still faces many obstacles, including the number of prisoners participating in independence activities still needs to be bigger when compared to the total number of prisoners in the UPT. On average, prisoners participating in independent activities are only 1/3 (one-third) of the total number of prisoners. Other obstacles include limited instructor staff, limited infrastructure, minimal budget, and low community participation.

Prisoners who take part in independence activities seriously when free already have certain skills that become their expertise. The expertise possessed by convicts can improve the economy of their families. Prisoners can work in factories or companies that need them or open their jobs (self-employed). Such a situation will reduce the repetition of criminal acts. Repetition of criminal acts can be caused by the limited knowledge and skills these convicts possess. As a result, prisoners need help to get a job or start their own business. Unemployment after being released from prison is one of the factors that cause a person to become a recidivist (Houser et al., 2018). Skills training is given to convicts to prevent the repetition of criminal acts. Armed with their skills, they can find work or be self-employed.

After being released, even though convicts have special skills, it is difficult to get a job because of the stigma given by society as ex-convicts. Not a few prisoners also try to open business opportunities with the skills they have. The problem that arises when convicts start a business is the problem faced is capital. It is difficult for convicts to get capital loans with the status of ex-convicts. Solutions like this must be
sought so convicts can meet their needs for a decent life and not become recidivists. This is in line with the statement of Dr. Sahardjo, S.H., whereas the purpose of coaching is correctional, which consists of three: first, do not become recidivists; second, to be a useful human being, actively involved in building society and the nation; third, being able to become a person who is closer to God Almighty so as to obtain happiness in the world and the hereafter (Biafri, 2019). Baharudin Soeryobroto also conveyed the same statement that the purpose of the penitentiary is so that ex-convicts do not repeat crimes, are actively involved in the development of the nation, state, religion, and achieve happiness in life in the world and the hereafter (Biafri, 2019). Convicts who, after being released, work or become self-employed to support themselves and their families are actively participating in nation-building. The benchmark for the success of national development is not only related to the development of infrastructure but can realize the principles of social justice and involves the active participation of the poor and marginalized communities in the development process (Wirata, 2022). This means that success in fostering independence for convicts is also a success in national development. Prisoners are also included in the marginalized group because their socio-economic status is middle to lower.

Research on independence activities in correctional institutions has been carried out a lot. Among them is research by (Regina et al., 2019), which provides batik training to inmates at Class IIA Malang prisons who have never received batik training. Research by Khuswatun Chasanah and Zainal Hidayat (Khuswatun Chasanah, 2019) writes about self-reliance activities at Semarang Women’s Prison as a form of empowering prisoners. Independence is the development of human resources, especially prisoners (Yudiana et al., 2019). In contrast to previous research, this research discusses the implementation of independent activities at UPT Pas, the obstacles in implementing these activities, and the difficulties convicts face in becoming self-employed. The research question is, how is the implementation of self-reliance development activities in the Correctional Technical Implementation Unit? What are the obstacles in the implementation of self-reliance development as well as those faced by convicts after being released to be self-employed?

B. METHOD

This research method uses a qualitative approach. Collecting data using interviews, observation, and documentation studies. Researchers build a complex holistic picture, analyze the results of informant interviews and make observations at locations that are the object of research (Kusmiyanti, 2018). The research subjects were convicts who took part in independent activities at UPT Pas, correctional clients, ex-convicts who successfully became self-employed and armed with skills acquired while at UPT Pas, officials, and officers in the coaching section at UPT Pas. According to Robert K. Yin, there are five stages in the data analysis technique used in this study: collecting data, recording/recording data, sorting/selecting data, analyzing data, and drawing conclusions (Yin, 2016).
C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Implementation of Independence activities at UPT Pas according to statutory regulations is carried out in 3 stages, namely, first, the initial stage starts from the time the convict enters the prison/remand center up to 1/3 (one-third) of the sentence. At this stage, the officer conducts observations, interviews and introduces the existing independence program. It is hoped that inmates can participate in activities according to their interests. Second, the continuation stage is divided into 2, namely the first advanced stage starting from the end of the initial stage up to 1/2 (one-half) of the criminal term, and the second follow-up stage, starting from the end of the first follow-up stage up to 2/3 (two thirds) of the criminal term. Third, the final stage starts from the end of the second, advanced stage until the end of the criminal period.

In the first stage, the coaching section officer must interview inmates who will participate in independent activities. This is done to match the interests and talents of prisoners. In addition, at this stage, the Community Advisor (PK) also conducts initial coaching litmus. This Litmas also provides recommendations for coaching programs aimed at convicts. The initial coaching litmus results and interviews with prisoners by prison/remand center/LPKA officers are discussed in the prison/remand center/LPKA Observer Team (TPP) session to obtain approval. So the type of independence coaching that convicts will follow is determined in the TPP UPT Session. Based on the findings in the field, there are also prisons/remand centers which do not conduct interviews with prisoners who will participate in independent activities. Prisoners interested in participating in independent activities immediately report to the coaching officer the type of activity to participate in. After that, inmates can participate in independent activities according to the schedule. This shows that not all UPT Pas carry out the existing standard operating procedures (SOP). SOP implementation must be the same for each UPT to create clarity on the stages of employee work.

In general, convicts who actively participate in independence activities are prioritized to obtain integration rights such as parole (PB), parole (CB), pre-release leave (CMB), and assimilation. This is done as a form of reward that they are willing to change to improve themselves. The manifestation is that convicts in prisons/remand centers show efforts to change and have good behavior by participating in one of the coaching activities. This condition will "force" prisoners to be actively involved in coaching activities. This is all for the benefit of the prisoners. This is done to increase the awareness of prisoners on the benefits of independent activities and to prepare them when they return to society.

Prisoners who actively participate in independent activities and sell their work will receive a premium or wages for selling the products they make. The money from selling convict products can be saved and taken back when released, or their families need it. In addition to convicts who work to earn wages from the products sold, the state also benefits. Part of the money from selling products made by convicts is deposited into the state treasury. Moreover, this is Non-Tax State Income (PNBP). If independent activities in each UPT Pas are managed correctly and appropriately, they will become a source of income for convicts and the state. There are self-sufficient
production results at UPT Pas that are sold to the public/community and are in UPT's environment. Products sold in the UPT are generally culinary such as bread and cakes. The marketing of the results of this independence coaching could be more optimal. Many UPT Pas still need help to market their products. As a result, production activities are only carried out if there are orders. The limited ability of officers to utilize information technology and the quality of goods that must be stable or maintained determine the continuity of production. This situation can be overcome by involving employees, even if they are outside the independent section, who can use social media applications to participate in E-Commerce training. It is expected that employees who have been trained can develop E-Commerce in their UPT.

Implementing coaching in prisons/remand centers is guided by the Prisoners/Detainees Development Pattern stipulated by the Decree of the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Indonesia in 1990. Based on these rules, the programs provided are:

a. Activities to create independent businesses include handcraft, home industry, servicing machines, and other electronic devices.

b. Expertise in supporting small industrial businesses, such as managing raw materials into semi-finished and finished materials.

c. Develop skills according to their talents.

d. Expertise in taking advantage of the use of intermediate technology or high technology in agriculture/plantation that supports industrial businesses.

e. In the implementation of skills development, the involvement of various parties, both internal and external, is required.

New convicts must attend activities according to schedule. Trainers for independence activities come from third parties who work with prisons/remand centers. The trainer comes according to the schedule in the cooperation agreement. The training time for inmates is an average of 2 hours per meeting. According to the inmates, the time that was 2 hours was not enough. Skilled convicts will be involved to help train their friends every day. Officers cannot provide training to convicts because officers need to have expertise in certain skills. Officers can only become instructors if there is training to become instructors. Training is only specifically for convicts who cooperate with third parties. Conditions like this have resulted in the UPT being dependent on third parties, and it is feared that if the collaboration ends, the activities can no longer be carried out.

There are various independent activities at UPT Pas. Differences in independent activities are caused by the availability of raw materials for activities that are easy or difficult to obtain in the area, cooperation with the community or related agencies or non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and infrastructure such as equipment needed for these activities are available or not.

Places for independent activities in prisons/remand centers are mostly shared for several activities. The reason is because of the limited infrastructure available. Conditions like this result in the activity of independence is not optimal. The development of independence is part of the social rehabilitation process for convicts.
The comfort of the room will affect inmates in participating in work training. According to John, space capacity and spatial layout are the most important parts of prison architecture in implementing the rehabilitation of room facilities. Adequate skills training rooms will support the comfort of prisoners in participating in activities (John et al., 2019). The limited space used for some independent activities results in a limited number of convicts who will participate in activities. Conditions like this occur in most prisons/detention centers in Indonesia. In addition, the completeness of the equipment for independent activities is a very important factor. Currently, most of the self-sufficient equipment is limited in number, many of which are damaged due to the lack of maintenance budget.

Independent activities will run well if there is adequate budget support. The budget for self-reliance development activities comes from the checklist for implementing the budget (Dipa) for prisons/remand centers for one fiscal year. The existing budget is intended for all one fiscal year’s independence and personality development activities. The amount of the coaching budget in each prison/remand center is different. Budget funds for coaching activities must be divided for all independence and personality activities at UPT Corrections. As a result, there needs to be more budget for equipment maintenance and buying new equipment. Circumstances like this lead to the need for external participation from both the community and related agencies. The involvement of related agencies such as local government and communities in groups or individually is urgently needed.

In the production process, one of the factors that must be considered is the control and supervision of production quality. The goal is that the goods produced can compete with other products, attract public interest and keep abreast of trends. In the production process, most still need to be innovative. Interesting designs for batik. Handcraft needs to be improved. The causative factor is the officer paradigm, which still considers work guidance activities a filler in free time. As a result, the officers did not carry out their duties optimally. This needs to follow the mandate of 10 principles of corrections number 6, which reads that work for convicts should not only fill time or for the benefit of the ministry/state, which is temporary. It is hoped that convicts who take part in job counseling activities will have skills that can be used to find job vacancies or open their businesses after being released. Job counseling activities can provide additional income for convicts. The results of the convicts’ works that are sold will be divided by the profit for the wages/premiums of the convicts and deposited into the state treasury as non-tax state income (PNBP). PNBP will be returned to the prison/remand center to be managed again. Officers often need to learn this because they need to gain knowledge about managing state finances. Apart from that, the quality control of products should also be carried out by officers, not by convicts. Therefore officers need to be given training so that the quality of the goods produced can be maintained and they can compete with other products.

Marketing of convict products is carried out, among others, by selling them for consumption in prisons/remand centers, generally for processed culinary products such as bakery and cakes. In addition, it is marketed through third parties, participates
in exhibitions and bazaars, and opens showrooms in prisons/remand centers through social media such as Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp groups, and Twitter. Using E-commerce as a means of promotion and marketing still needs to be improved. This is because most of the officers in the work guidance section have not mastered this technology. Officers who master information technology in prisons/remand centers are still minimal. Marketing has an important role in the continuity of production. Continuity of production is very important so that convicts can experience the benefits of independent activities.

The interview results with "W," one of the female ex-convicts who have been released and already have a batik business, armed with the skills obtained in women’s prisons. "W" told that the capital needed to start his batik business was four hundred thousand rupiahs, used to buy batik equipment. Finding a job is very difficult for an ex-convict like me. To apply for a job, you must include a police record certificate (SKCK). The SKCK will include the crimes committed. So I became self-employed with the capital skills I obtained at the women’s prison. In addition to the batik business he manages, "W" also opened a free batik skills training center for interested locals.

Mrs. "S," one of the echelon III B officials, explained that there was a former male convict, "P," who, after being released, became an entrepreneur with capital skills acquired while in prison/remand center. His business makes furniture from synthetic rattan (plastic rattan) for export quality. This skill, "P," was acquired in prison. "P" continued this activity after being released and collaborating with a third party. "P" also involved the community around where he lived to participate.

Mrs. "S" also explained that many inmates in the job guidance section (bikers) save their wages/premiums. Each prisoner has a savings book. Prisoners can take wages/premiums if needed. Inmates use these savings for needs in prisons/remand centers, sent for families, and business capital. Mrs. "S" also told that there were also inmates who obtained entrepreneurial capital through joint ventures with friends, obtaining assistance from family, and continuing to collaborate with third parties in prisons/remand centers, such as continuing to manufacture export quality plastic rattan furniture by involving the local community. Without realizing it, ex-convicts who are successful in entrepreneurship make a big contribution to the nation’s economy. Inmates who have to join venture capital with their friends are forced to choose this method because obtaining business capital loans from banks is difficult. For convicts who do not have business capital but want to work, efforts will be made to work for third parties who become partners with the prison/remand center if they need staff.

Production Zakat as a Solution to Improve the Welfare of Prisoners

The population of Muslims in the world is around 1.9 billion, and Indonesia is the country with the largest population. The total Muslim population is 229 million, of Indonesia’s population of 263 million people. In conclusion, 87.2% of Indonesia’s population is Muslim. This number equals 13% of the world’s Muslim population
In 2023 the Muslim population will be 237.55. This number is equal to 86.7% of the total population. The high Muslim population in Indonesia is a potential source of Zakat for the benefit of Muslims.

According to Sharawi, Zakat is the obligation of a Muslim that a Muslim issues from assets and bodies of various forms. Zakat has the meaning of purity, cleansing, gratitude, and blessings. Zakat of wealth is a purification of the assets owned so that there are blessings. Zakat Fitrah is a cleanser for the body/body that performs it. From a social perspective, Zakat aims to realize equal distribution of social welfare. Currently, Zakat is more utilized to meet the basic needs of people experiencing poverty and has yet to be used for productive assistance. With Zakat, poverty alleviation can be realized if it is managed properly. To alleviate poverty, The empowerment of Zakat must be productive. The distribution of Zakat must comply with Sharia rules and be transparent. Zakat is also used to meet primary needs directly, develop business activities and work mustahik/zakat (al-hadith), called productive Zakat. Productive Zakat is managed productively by providing venture capital assistance to people experiencing poverty to meet their needs in the future. The National Amil Zakat Agency (BAZNAS) created five programs to distribute Zakat in a targeted manner to mustahik. These programs are aimed at alleviating poverty. Poverty is a universal problem that occurs in all parts of the continent. UN data shows that nearly one billion people live on the poverty line in the world. The number of poor people in Indonesia 2015 amounted to 28.51 million as of September 2015. There was an increase in March 2020 to 26.42 million people (9.78 percent), an increase of 1.63 million people compared to September 2019 of 24.79 million people. Poverty can encourage people to commit crimes. Not a few prisoners commit crimes because of economic factors. According to SMS gateway data, 228,170 prisoners lived in correctional facilities throughout Indonesia on December 14, 2020, and 227,448 were Muslims. This means that 99.68% of prisoners throughout Indonesia are Muslim. Based on data from the Sms Gateway Directorate General of Corrections in May 2021, the number of prisoners in Indonesia is 265,655 people. 99% are Muslim, so there are 262,988 people. In 2023 as of June 8, the number of inmates is 219,075, so 216,885 are Muslims (99%). This large number must be a concern so that their welfare increases.

Free prisoners who want to be self-employed need help to obtain credit loans from banks. One of the solutions to help ex-convicts with financial problems so they can become self-employed is to assist productive Zakat. According to Hafiduddin, if the zakat recipient can trade, then business capital assistance can be provided so that
they will benefit from meeting their basic needs. If the zakat recipient has certain skills, he can be assisted by providing production equipment according to his skills. Zakat recipients who do not have jobs and do not have certain skills can be assisted in the form of life insurance from Zakat by investing zakat money in certain businesses so that they have income from their circulation (Pratama, 2015). With the explanation above, convicts can obtain business funding assistance from Zakat according to their ability to be self-employed.

Convicts who need business capital assistance can be given assistance sourced from Zakat. They can use it to open a business. Zakat has benefits, including raising their dignity, reducing poverty, removing stigma from society, and increasing the welfare of the families of ex-convicts. Productive zakat assistance for business capital can be done by working together. Collaboration between prisons/remand centers and foundations appointed by the Amil Zakat Agency. Prisons/remand centers provide information about convicts who need capital to start a business. The Correctional Center will accompany and supervise convicts using their productive Zakat. Productive Zakat for ex-convicts can improve the welfare of convicts and Muslims. Productive Zakat for prisoners has never existed.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, one of the fathers in West Java Province, the client’s father, received assistance from the Bandung City BAZNAS. The criteria for papa clients who receive assistance are poor people whose economic conditions are worsening due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This assistance was in the form of necessities of life during the COVID-19 pandemic for three months. Eighty clients get help every month. Each client receives the assistance of Rp. 400,000.00 for daily food needs.

Business capital assistance for convicts from Zakat is expected to materialize. The benefits of this capital are very large and have a broad impact on convicts. Prisoners can open businesses, grow self-confidence, remove the stigma on themselves, and support their families so that, finally, their self-actualization needs as human beings can be fulfilled. This will reduce recidivism and poverty rates.

D. CONCLUSION

Based on the research results, it can be concluded that: First, there are many obstacles encountered in the implementation of independent activities, such as unsupported infrastructure (both equipment and space for activities); Second, the limited and non-specific/general budget for independent activities; Third, activity instructors are very dependent on third parties or convicts who are already proficient; Convicts, not officers carry out forth, quality control; Fifth, the SOP for determining convicts will take part in work guidance activities does not apply the same at UPT; Sixth, employees’ understanding of state financial management is still low; Seventh, the low ability of employees in E-Commerce; Eighth, the low motivation of prisoners in participating in independent activities.

After being released, prisoners also face problems starting a new chapter of their life. The problems faced include the stigma from the community as ex-convicts.
making it difficult to get a job. To apply for a job, one must include an SKCK in which the crime was committed, and it is not easy to obtain a loan to open a business/self-employed.

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