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Conceptualizing an Ideal Rehabilitation Policy for Children in Conflict with the Law in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the conceptualization of an ideal rehabilitation policy for children in conflict with the law within the juvenile criminal justice system in Indonesia. Although existing studies have examined juvenile rehabilitation from legal and social perspectives, few have offered an integrated conceptual framework that connects restorative justice principles with the institutional and coordination challenges specific to Indonesia's justice system. The research employs normative legal research using statutory and conceptual approaches, analyzing legal norms, doctrines, and regulations related to child protection, restorative justice, and rehabilitation. The findings indicate that rehabilitative treatment constitutes an essential approach in handling juvenile offenders, as children require protection, guidance, and social reintegration rather than punitive treatment. However, the implementation of this approach in Indonesia still encounters several obstacles, including limited treatment facilities, insufficient professional human resources, lack of coordination among institutions, and the persistence of punitive paradigms among law enforcement officials. In addition, social stigma against children in conflict with the law often hinders the reintegration process. Therefore, an ideal policy must integrate restorative justice principles, comprehensive intervention programs, inter-agency cooperation, and community participation, structured around a coordinated institutional model rather than isolated sectoral efforts, to ensure the fulfillment of children's rights and their future development. Such a policy is expected to create a more humane juvenile criminal justice system that prioritizes the best interests of the child while preventing recidivism.

Keywords: Children in Conflict with the Law, Juvenile Criminal Justice System, Rehabilitation, Restorative Justice

INTRODUCTION

Children are the nation's future generation who play a vital role in the continuity of society, the nation, and the state. Therefore, the state has an obligation to provide special protection for children so they can grow and develop optimally physically, mentally, and socially. Such protection is part of fulfilling human rights guaranteed under the national legal system. In Indonesia, the protection of children is specifically regulated under Law No. 35 of 2014 on Child Protection, which affirms that children have the right to protection from all forms of violence, discrimination, and inhumane treatment.¹

The phenomenon of children committing criminal offenses, or those known as Children in Conflict with the Law (ABH), has become one of the growing issues within Indonesia's criminal justice system. Children involved in criminal acts are generally influenced by various factors such as a dysfunctional family environment, socioeconomic conditions, peer influence, as well as a lack of supervision and education. This indicates that deviant behavior exhibited by children cannot always be viewed as solely the individual's fault, but is also influenced by social and environmental factors around them.²

In the conventional criminal justice system, the approach used tends to be repressive and punishment-oriented. This approach is considered inappropriate when applied to children because it can lead to negative consequences such as social stigmatization, psychological trauma, and an increased likelihood of the child reoffending in the future. Therefore, the handling of children in conflict with the law requires an approach different from that used for adults—one that prioritizes protection, guidance, and rehabilitation.³

As part of the reform of the juvenile criminal justice system, Indonesia has enacted Law No. 11 of 2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System (UU SPPA), which establishes special mechanisms for handling cases involving children. This law introduces the concepts of diversion and restorative justice, which aim to shift the resolution of juvenile cases from formal judicial proceedings to out-of-court resolutions that emphasize the restoration of the situation, the offender's accountability, and the restoration of relationships between the offender, the victim, and the community. Through these mechanisms, it is hoped that children will not immediately enter the penal system, which can have a negative impact on their psychological development.⁴

Although rehabilitation policies and restorative approaches are normatively regulated within Indonesia's legal system, their implementation on the ground still

¹ Undang-Undang Nomor 35 Tahun 2014 tentang Perlindungan Anak, Pasal 1 angka 2.

² Maidin Gultom, *Perlindungan Hukum terhadap Anak dalam Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak di Indonesia*, Refika Aditama, Bandung, 2014, hlm. 35.

³ Setya Wahyudi, *Implementasi Ide Diversi dalam Pembaruan Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak di Indonesia*, Genta Publishing, Yogyakarta, 2011, hlm. 52.

⁴ Undang-Undang Nomor 11 Tahun 2012 tentang Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak, Pasal 6.

faces various challenges. Several studies indicate that rehabilitation facilities for children in conflict with the law remain limited⁵, coordination among law enforcement agencies handling child cases is not yet optimal⁶, and there persists a paradigm among some law enforcement officials that tends to view children as criminals who must be punished, rather than as individuals in need of guidance and rehabilitation⁷. These conditions indicate a gap between the legal norms established in legislation and their actual implementation on the ground.

Furthermore, existing juvenile correctional institutions currently place greater emphasis on detention and supervision rather than comprehensive rehabilitation programs, such as psychological counseling, education, skills training, and social reintegration. In fact, the primary objective of handling children in conflict with the law is not retribution, but rather guidance and restoration so that children can function socially within the community again and not repeat their actions in the future.⁸

Given these various issues, it is necessary to formulate a more comprehensive and appropriate rehabilitation policy concept for children who are in conflict with the law in Indonesia. The formulation of such policies must take into account various dimensions: philosophical, legal, and sociological so that they reflect the goal of child protection within the national legal system. Furthermore, rehabilitation policies must integrate the principles of child protection, restorative justice approaches, and the child welfare approach as the foundation for the rehabilitation process. With such an approach, rehabilitation policies are not merely understood as a form of intervention following the commission of a criminal act, but also as an effort to restore the child's condition and a rehabilitation process aimed at reintegrating the child so they can function positively and productively within society.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is a normative legal research focused on the examination of legal norms, principles, and concepts related to rehabilitation policies for children in conflict with the law. The approaches used in this study include the statutory approach and the conceptual approach. The statutory approach involves analyzing various regulations governing child protection and the juvenile criminal justice system, particularly Law No. 35 of 2014 on Child Protection and Law No. 11 of

⁵ Rahayuningsih, U., Hikmah, A. N., & Nurcahyati, S. (2025). Pendekatan Restorative Justice dalam Perlindungan Hukum Anak sebagai Pelaku Tindak Pidana: Menyeimbangkan Keadilan dan Pembinaan. *Amandemen: Jurnal Ilmu Pertahanan, Politik dan Hukum Indonesia*, 2(2), 79–89, p. 86.

⁶ Rahayuningsih et al. (2025), p. 84; Mansyur et al. (2025), p. 8; Barda Nawawi Arief. (2010). *Masalah Penegakan Hukum dan Kebijakan Hukum Pidana dalam Penanggulangan Kejahatan*. Jakarta: Kencana, p. 42.

⁷ Rahayuningsih et al. (2025), *Op.cit*, p. 84.

2012 on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System. Meanwhile, the conceptual approach is used to examine various legal doctrines and theories related to the concepts of rehabilitation, restorative justice, and child protection within the juvenile criminal justice system⁹.

The legal sources in this study consist of primary legal materials, secondary legal materials, and tertiary legal materials. Primary legal materials include laws and regulations related to the juvenile criminal justice system, while secondary legal materials are obtained from legal books, scientific journals, and research findings relevant to the research topic. Tertiary legal materials consist of legal dictionaries and encyclopedias that used to aid in understanding specific legal terms. The collection of legal materials was conducted through library research, followed by qualitative analysis using a descriptive-analytical method to gain a comprehensive understanding of the concept of an ideal rehabilitation policy for children in conflict with the law.¹⁰

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Rehabilitation in the Juvenile Criminal Justice System Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation in the Juvenile Criminal Justice System Rehabilitation within the juvenile criminal justice system is an approach that emphasizes efforts to restore the well-being of children who have committed criminal offenses, from psychological, social, and moral perspectives. This approach is based on the understanding that children who commit unlawful acts are essentially still in the developmental stage and therefore require protection and guidance that is more educational in nature than punitive. Therefore, the juvenile criminal justice system is designed to provide special treatment for children by prioritizing the principle of the best interests of the child. This principle is reflected in the Juvenile Criminal Justice System Act, which stipulates that the handling of cases involving children must prioritize a restorative justice approach and the application of diversion mechanisms at every stage of the judicial process.

The concept of rehabilitation within the juvenile criminal justice system aims not only to correct a child's behavior following the commission of a criminal act but also to help the child reintegrate into society and lead a normal social life. In practice, rehabilitation can be achieved through various guidance programs, such as psychological counseling, formal and non-formal education, skills training, and social support. These programs aim to reshape the child's character and provide the child with opportunities to improve themselves and develop their potential. This approach aligns with the principle of child protection, which views children as

⁹ Peter Mahmud Marzuki, *Penelitian Hukum*, Kencana, Jakarta, 2017, hlm. 133.

¹⁰ Soerjono Soekanto dan Sri Mamudji, *Penelitian Hukum Normatif: Suatu Tinjauan Singkat*, Rajawali Pers, Jakarta, 2015, hlm. 14.

individuals who must be protected and nurtured, as stipulated in Law No. 35 of 2014 on Child Protection.

Through this approach, the resolution of juvenile cases focuses not only on imposing sanctions but also on efforts to address the harm caused by the criminal act and to restore disrupted social relationships. This approach provides space for the child to understand the impact of their actions and to take moral responsibility for the harm caused. Thus, rehabilitation within the juvenile criminal justice system aims not only to provide guidance to the child but also to foster a more humane and restorative form of justice.¹¹

Concurrently, rehabilitation also plays a crucial role in preventing the recurrence of criminal offenses (recidivism) by children. Children who do not receive adequate guidance after undergoing the legal process are at risk of falling back into deviant behavior. Therefore, rehabilitation programs must be comprehensively designed, taking into account the child's holistic needs—including education, mental guidance, and the reinforcement of social values. Through appropriate rehabilitation programs, children are expected to improve their behavior and have the opportunity to build a better future.¹²

The concept of rehabilitation within the juvenile criminal justice system also requires the involvement of various parties, such as the government, law enforcement officials, families, and the community. Such involvement is crucial to supporting the child's recovery and social reintegration. In this context, families play a role in providing moral and emotional support during the guidance process, while the community is expected to welcome the child back without negative stigma (labeling) so that the rehabilitation process can proceed effectively.

The concept of rehabilitation in the juvenile criminal justice system is, at its core, an approach focused on the protection, guidance, and rehabilitation of the child. This approach views the child as an individual who still has the opportunity to improve themselves and develop their potential. Therefore, the application of the concept of rehabilitation within the juvenile criminal justice system is crucial to ensure that the law enforcement process not only delivers justice but also effectively supports the child's development and future.

Challenges in Implementing Rehabilitation Policies

The implementation of rehabilitation policies for children in conflict with the law in Indonesia has, in principle, been established on a sufficiently clear legal foundation. Provisions regarding a rehabilitative approach in handling cases involving children are reflected in the Juvenile Criminal Justice System Act (SPPA), which emphasizes

¹¹ Setya Wahyudi, *Implementasi Ide Diversi dalam Pembaruan Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak di Indonesia*, Genta Publishing, Yogyakarta, 2011, hlm. 72.

¹² Maidin Gultom, *Perlindungan Hukum terhadap Anak dalam Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak di Indonesia*, Refika Aditama, Bandung, 2014, hlm. 83.

the importance of applying diversion and restorative justice as efforts to prevent children from undergoing punitive criminal proceedings. Nevertheless, in practice, the implementation of these policies still faces various obstacles that prevent the rehabilitation objectives from being fully achieved. This situation indicates that there remains a gap between the normative provisions set forth in legislation and their implementation within the juvenile criminal justice system.

One of the main challenges in implementing rehabilitation policies is the limited infrastructure and facilities supporting the rehabilitation process for children. Specialized juvenile rehabilitation institutions and rehabilitation facilities available in various regions remain limited, both in terms of quantity and the quality of services provided. In addition, the availability of professionals such as psychologists, counselors, and social workers who are competent in handling children in conflict with the law is still relatively low. This situation results in suboptimal implementation of rehabilitation programs that are intended to help children improve their behavior and prepare them to reintegrate into society.¹³

Another challenge is the persistent dominance of a punitive paradigm in the handling of juvenile cases by law enforcement officials. In some cases, the approach toward children still places greater emphasis on imposing criminal sanctions rather than on guidance and rehabilitation. Yet, the juvenile criminal justice system is fundamentally designed to provide special protection for children by prioritizing a more humane and educational approach. This indicates that an understanding of the principles of child protection and restorative justice has not yet been fully and consistently applied in law enforcement practice.¹⁴

Furthermore, coordination among institutions involved in handling children in conflict with the law is also not yet functioning optimally. The rehabilitation process fundamentally requires good cooperation between law enforcement officials, child guidance institutions, social workers, and child protection agencies. However, in practice, this coordination is often not well integrated, resulting in rehabilitation programs provided to children being less effective. Consequently, the process of the child's recovery and social reintegration into society does not proceed to its fullest potential.¹⁵

A comparative perspective with Malaysia further illuminates the strengths and gaps of Indonesia's rehabilitative framework. Malaysia's principal legislation, the Child Act 2001 (Act 611), consolidated three earlier statutes and was enacted partly to fulfill Malaysia's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child¹⁶. The Act provides a range of non-custodial, rehabilitation-oriented orders including admonition and discharge, bonds of good behaviour, placement with a

¹³ Nashriana, *Perlindungan Hukum Pidana bagi Anak di Indonesia*, Rajawali Pers, Jakarta, 2012, hlm. 112.

¹⁴ Abintoro Prakoso, *Hukum Perlindungan Anak*, LaksBang Pressindo, Yogyakarta, 2016, hlm. 145.

¹⁵ Marlina, *Peradilan Pidana Anak di Indonesia*, Refika Aditama, Bandung, 2009, hlm. 96.

¹⁶ *Child Act 2001*, Wikipedia entry citing consolidation of the Juvenile Courts Act 1947, Women and Girls Protection Act 1973, and Child Protection Act 1991.

relative or fit person, and community service reflecting a normative shift away from purely retributive punishment¹⁷. However, unlike Indonesia's SPPA, which formally mandates diversion at every stage of the judicial process, Malaysia's Child Act 2001 contains no explicit statutory provision for diversion, so that children in conflict with the law are still generally processed through police investigation and the Court for Children before any rehabilitative order can be applied. Malaysian scholars have described this as an over-reliance on formal adjudication and institution-based rehabilitation, and have called for the introduction of a more structured diversion mechanism modeled on jurisdictions such as the United Kingdom and New Zealand¹⁸. Viewed against this comparison, Indonesia's SPPA framework which integrates diversion as a mandatory, front-loaded mechanism rather than a judicial afterthought represents a comparatively more advanced normative design, even though, as discussed above, its implementation still suffers from resource and coordination gaps that Malaysia's system, despite lacking formal diversion, does not report to the same degree. This comparison suggests that an ideal rehabilitation policy for Indonesia should preserve the structural strength of its diversion-first design while addressing implementation gaps, rather than treating legal reform and implementation capacity as separate problems.

In addition, social environmental factors and societal stigma also pose significant barriers to the implementation of child rehabilitation. Children who have been involved in criminal offenses often face rejection or discriminatory treatment from their surrounding community. This negative stigma can hinder the child's social reintegration process and even potentially drive the child to commit criminal offenses again. Therefore, the success of rehabilitation policies does not solely depend on the role of state institutions but also requires support from the community to provide children with the opportunity to improve their lives.

Based on these various challenges, it can be concluded that the implementation of rehabilitation policies for children in conflict with the law in Indonesia still requires strengthening in various aspects, including institutional frameworks, human resources, and a paradigm shift in law enforcement. With comprehensive improvement efforts, it is hoped that rehabilitation policies can be implemented more effectively so that they can provide protection and opportunities for children to reform and return to living normal lives within society.¹⁹

Conceptualization of an Ideal Rehabilitation

Efforts to formulate rehabilitation policies for children in conflict with the law cannot be separated from the objectives of the juvenile justice system, namely

¹⁷ Akram (2007), as cited in "Prevention over Punishment: Restoring Hope through Malaysian Child Act 2001," *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science* (2025).

¹⁸ "The Malaysian Juvenile Justice System: The Compelling Need to Implement Diversion in Handling the Issue of Juvenile Delinquency" (2023), *ResearchGate*.

¹⁹ Soerjono Soekanto, *Faktor-Faktor yang Mempengaruhi Penegakan Hukum*, Rajawali Pers, Jakarta, 2014, hlm. 8.

to provide protection and ensure the optimal growth and development of children. From the perspective of modern criminal law, the handling of children who commit criminal offenses should not be solely focused on punishment, but must prioritize guidance and rehabilitation as the primary objectives. This is based on the view that children are still in the stage of personality development and thus have a greater opportunity to improve themselves through appropriate education and guidance. Therefore, rehabilitation policies must be directed toward restoring the child's well-being and providing them with the opportunity to resume a normal life in society.²⁰

In formulating an ideal rehabilitation policy, the approach used must consider various interrelated aspects, including legal, social, and psychological dimensions. Rehabilitation policies are not sufficient if regulated merely through normative legal provisions; they must also be supported by an adequate institutional system and rehabilitation programs tailored to the child's needs. In the Indonesian context, this institutional framework is already partially structured under the Ministry of Social Affairs Regulation No. 26 of 2018, which mandates comprehensive social rehabilitation comprising psychosocial counseling, physical, mental, and spiritual guidance, and vocational training, with the explicit aim of restoring the child's self-confidence and social functioning²¹. Within the correctional setting, the Special Guidance Institution for Children (LPKA) under the Directorate General of Corrections is the primary responsible institution, operating in coordination with the Correctional Center (BAPAS), which conducts the mandatory community research report (*litmas*) that determines each child's individualized program plan²². Formal education is typically delivered through equivalency programs (*Paket A/B/C*) in cooperation with local education offices, while skills training is provided through partnerships with training institutions registered with the Ministry of Education, and is generally introduced only after a child has served between one-third and one-half of their sentence, followed by a certified competency assessment used by BAPAS to plan post-release placement²³. Progress is reviewed periodically through the Assessment Team, which convenes at least twice monthly to evaluate each child's development and adjust the program accordingly²⁴. However, empirical studies show that implementation of the psychological counseling component in

²⁰ Muladi dan Barda Nawawi Arief, *Teori-Teori dan Kebijakan Pidana*, Alumni, Bandung, 2010, hlm. 188.

²¹ Peraturan Menteri Sosial Republik Indonesia No. 26 Tahun 2018, sebagaimana dikutip dalam Shaqinah et al. (2024), "Optimalisasi Fungsi Pelayanan dan Perawatan bagi Anak Berhadapan dengan Hukum Melalui Tindakan Rehabilitasi: Studi Komparasi Kasus dalam dan Luar Negeri," *Jurnal Ilmu Hukum, Humaniora dan Politik*.

²² Direktorat Jenderal Pemasyarakatan, Kementerian Hukum dan HAM, "Pendidikan Keterampilan bagi Anak," Sistem Informasi Pelayanan Publik (SIPP); lihat juga ketentuan mengenai peran Pembimbing Kemasyarakatan dalam Ariani (2020), *Jurnal PLS Undip*

²³ Direktorat Jenderal Pemasyarakatan, Kementerian Hukum dan HAM, "Pendidikan Keterampilan bagi Anak," Sistem Informasi Pelayanan Publik (SIPP); lihat juga ketentuan mengenai peran Pembimbing Kemasyarakatan dalam Ariani (2020), *Jurnal PLS Undip*

²⁴ Direktorat Jenderal Pemasyarakatan, *ibid.* menjelaskan tahapan 1/3 hingga 1/2 masa pidana untuk pendidikan keterampilan, serta sidang TPP rutin minimal dua kali sebulan.

particular remains uneven: many LPKA units lack permanent psychologists or counselors and instead depend on ad hoc partnerships with external organizations such as the Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association (PKBI) or university student volunteers, resulting in inconsistent frequency and quality of psychological support²⁵. An effective rehabilitation program must therefore not only list its components psychological counseling, formal and non-formal education, moral guidance, and skills training but specify who delivers them, how they are sequenced across the child's sentence, and how their continuity is funded and monitored, since without this operational specification the program risks remaining aspirational rather than institutionally enforceable. With such a comprehensive and clearly structured program, the rehabilitation process is expected not only to improve the child's behavior but also to equip the child to build a better future.

Furthermore, the conceptualization of rehabilitation policies must integrate a restorative justice approach as a crucial component in resolving cases involving children. This approach emphasizes efforts to restore relationships between the perpetrator, the victim, and the community through dialogue and mutual agreement. Through this mechanism, children are not only required to take responsibility for their actions but are also given the opportunity to understand the impact of their actions and to make amends for the harm caused. Thus, the rehabilitation process focuses not only on changing the child's behavior but also on restoring social relationships disrupted by criminal acts.²⁶

An ideal rehabilitation policy requires more than a general call for stakeholder involvement it requires a clearly defined coordination structure that assigns specific roles and responsibilities across the different phases of a child's case. This study proposes a single case management model, in which the Community Correctional Supervisor (*Pembimbing Kemasyarakatan*/PK Bapas) functions as the designated case coordinator responsible for tracking a child's progress from the point of diversion through institutional guidance and into post-release reintegration rather than leaving each phase to be handled independently by whichever agency is currently in contact with the child. Under this model, responsibilities would be formally divided as follows: law enforcement agencies (police and prosecutors) are responsible for the diversion assessment and referral at the pre-adjudication stage; the Special Guidance Institution for Children (LPKA), in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs, is responsible for delivering the substantive rehabilitation program (counseling, education, and skills training) during the guidance period; and local government social services, together with the family and community, assume responsibility for reintegration once the child is released. To

²⁵ Studi CIPP terhadap layanan konseling di LPKA Kelas I Kutoarjo (2025), *Ulil Albab Institute Journal*, mencatat ketiadaan tenaga psikolog/konselor tetap dan ketergantungan pada mitra eksternal seperti PKBI dan mahasiswa; lihat juga Peran LPKA dalam Reintegrasi (2024), *Jurnal Ilmu Sosial, Humaniora dan Seni (JISHS)*.

²⁶ Tony F. Marshall, *Restorative Justice: An Overview*, (London: Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate, 1999), hlm. 5.

prevent the coordination breakdowns identified earlier in this study, each transition between phases would be documented through a standardized case-transfer report, similar in function to the existing *litmas* (community research report) but extended to follow the child across institutional boundaries rather than being produced once and archived. This case management structure differs from a general appeal for "inter-agency cooperation" in that it assigns a single accountable coordinator, specifies which agency is responsible at each stage, and creates a documentary mechanism to track handoffs addressing directly the coordination gap diagnosed in the Discussion section, rather than restating it as an aspiration.

An ideal rehabilitation policy must prioritize preventive measures to ensure children do not reoffend in the future. Rehabilitation should not merely be viewed as a process of recovery following a legal violation but also as a means to shaping character and enhancing children's legal awareness. Through a continuous guidance process, children are expected to understand the consequences of their actions and develop a sense of responsibility in social life. Such an approach is crucial to ensure that the juvenile criminal justice system not only resolves existing legal issues but also contributes to preventing future crimes.²⁷

Thus, rehabilitation policies for children in conflict with the law must be based on the principles of child protection, a rehabilitative approach, and interagency cooperation among institutions involved in the guidance of children. These policies serve not only as a mechanism for addressing the situation after a child commits a criminal act but also as an effort to restore the child's wellbeing and prepare them to play a positive role in society once again. Through comprehensive rehabilitation policies oriented toward the best interests of the child, it is hoped that the juvenile criminal justice system in Indonesia can provide more effective protection while supporting the creation of a better generation in the future.²⁸

CONCLUSION

Rehabilitation policies for children in conflict with the law in Indonesia are fundamentally intended to provide protection, guidance, and social reintegration for children through a restorative and rehabilitative approach. The study demonstrates that the juvenile criminal justice system should prioritize the best interests of the child by emphasizing rehabilitation rather than punitive sanctions. Nevertheless, the implementation of rehabilitation policies still faces significant challenges, including limited rehabilitation facilities, inadequate professional human resources, weak coordination among relevant institutions, and the continued dominance of punitive paradigms in law enforcement practices. In addition, social stigma toward

²⁷ Sudarto, *Hukum dan Hukum Pidana*, Alumni, Bandung, 1986, hlm. 56.

²⁸ United Nations, *United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules)*, 1985.

children in conflict with the law often obstructs their reintegration into society. Therefore, an ideal rehabilitation policy must integrate restorative justice principles, comprehensive rehabilitation programs, institutional cooperation, family participation, and community support to ensure children's recovery and development. Through a more humane and child-oriented rehabilitation system, the juvenile criminal justice process in Indonesia is expected not only to uphold justice but also to create opportunities for children to reform themselves, avoid recidivism, and contribute positively to society.

To move from normative aspiration toward implementation, this study recommends three concrete steps. First, the government should formally establish a single case management structure designating the Community Correctional Supervisor (PK Bapas) as the accountable coordinator across the diversion, guidance, and reintegration phases through a revision or implementing regulation of the SPPA Law, rather than leaving inter-agency coordination to informal practice. Second, the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs, should mandate that every LPKA maintain at least one permanent psychologist or certified counselor, funded through the state budget (APBN) rather than relying on ad hoc partnerships with external organizations, to ensure consistent delivery of the psychological counseling component identified as essential in this study. Third, policymakers should consider introducing a statutory diversion mechanism modeled on Indonesia's own SPPA framework as a benchmark for regional harmonization efforts, given that comparator jurisdictions such as Malaysia have yet to formalize such a mechanism despite recognizing its importance positioning Indonesia's diversion-first design as a reference point worth strengthening rather than replacing.

This study is subject to certain limitations. As a normative-conceptual analysis relying on statutory and doctrinal materials, it does not incorporate primary field data such as interviews with LPKA officials, BAPAS supervisors, or children who have undergone rehabilitation that would allow the proposed case management model to be empirically validated. Future research employing a socio-legal or empirical approach is needed to test the feasibility, costs, and institutional resistance that such a coordination model may encounter in practice, as well as to evaluate recidivism outcomes under the current versus proposed frameworks.

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