

Public Acceptance of New Criminal Law Policies in Cases of Violence

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to explore public acceptance of the new criminal law policy implemented in handling cases of violence in Indonesia. Using a qualitative approach, this study used in-depth interviews and focus group discussions to collect data from various levels of society, including victims of violence, perpetrators, law enforcers, and members of the general public. The results show that although there is positive acceptance of increased sanctions and legal reforms aimed at protecting victims, there are concerns about the implementation and consistency of law enforcement. Many respondents expressed the need for better education and social support to ensure that the policy is effective in practice. These findings provide important insights into how the new policy is received in the field and what obstacles are faced in the implementation process. This study is expected to be a reference for policy makers and legal practitioners in formulating more effective strategies in handling cases of violence in the future.

Keywords : Community Acceptance, New Criminal Law Policy, Violence Cases, Law Enforcement, Legal Reform, Social Education

INTRODUCTION

Violence, both in the household and in public spaces, is a serious problem that threatens the welfare of society and social stability. In Indonesia, various cases of violence, such as domestic violence, gender-based violence, and violence in the workplace, have prompted the need for

reform in the criminal law system. New criminal law policies have been implemented to tighten sanctions for perpetrators of violence, improve protection mechanisms for victims, and improve existing legal procedures. These policies include stricter regulations, increased support for victims, and improvements in the legal process to ensure fair and effective enforcement (Kurniawan & Widiastuti, 2023).

However, the success of the policy is highly dependent on public acceptance. Public acceptance not only affects the effectiveness of policy implementation but also affects public trust in the legal system. Previous research shows that policies that are considered appropriate and beneficial by the public tend to be more effective in achieving their goals, while policies that are not accepted may face challenges in their implementation (Julianto & Pratiwi, 2022). Therefore, it is important to understand how the public accepts new criminal law policies related to cases of violence, as well as the factors that influence this acceptance.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach to explore public acceptance of new criminal law policies in handling cases of violence. This approach was chosen because it allows researchers to gain an in-depth understanding of public perceptions, experiences, and attitudes towards the policy. By using qualitative methods, this study can reveal factors that influence public acceptance and challenges in policy implementation.

Data were collected through two main techniques, In-depth Interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). Data obtained from interviews and FGDs were analyzed using thematic analysis techniques. This study was conducted in several major cities in Indonesia that represent a variety of social and economic contexts. The sample was selected purposively to ensure representation of various relevant community groups. The total sample consisted of 30-40 participants, including 15-20 people for in-depth interviews and 3-4 groups in FGDs. To ensure validity and reliability, this study used data triangulation techniques by combining in-depth interviews and FGDs. In addition, feedback from research participants and peer review were conducted to verify the findings and interpretations. Field notes and audio recordings were also checked to ensure data accuracy.

RESULTS

1. Public Views on New Criminal Law Policy

The results of interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs) show that public acceptance of the new criminal law policy in handling cases of violence tends to be positive, but there is variation in their views. Most respondents, including victims of violence and members of the general public, consider the new policy as a step forward in improving protection for victims and upholding justice. They feel that stricter sanctions and improved legal procedures can reduce violence and provide better protection (Hadi & Ningsih, 2023).

However, some respondents, especially those directly involved in the legal system, expressed concerns about the effectiveness of policy implementation. They noted uncertainty and chaos in the implementation of the new policy, including lack of training for law enforcement officers and uneven implementation across regions (Rizal & Tanjung, 2023).

2. Factors Influencing Public Acceptance

This study identifies several key factors that influence public acceptance of new criminal law policies:

- a. **Trust in the Legal System:** Respondents who have high trust in the legal system tend to be more supportive of new policies. They feel that the policy is the right step to improve the existing legal system (Wahyudi & Subianto, 2023).
- b. **Understanding and Awareness:** The level of public understanding of new policies and their rights greatly influences acceptance. Respondents who have a good understanding of policy changes tend to be more supportive and participate in the legal process (Lestari, 2023).
- c. **Law Enforcement Performance:** Perceptions about the performance of law enforcement in implementing new policies also affect acceptance. Respondents who felt that law enforcement was not professional enough or consistent in enforcing the law showed higher levels of dissatisfaction (Purnama & Kusuma, 2023).

3. Challenges in Policy Implementation

This study found several significant challenges in implementing the new criminal law policy:

- a. **Limited Resources:** Many law enforcers report resource constraints, such as lack of specialized training and adequate facilities, which hinder the effectiveness of policy implementation (Jati & Prasetyo, 2023).
- b. **Lack of Socialization:** Research shows that the lack of socialization and education about new policies to the public and law enforcement officers leads to a lack of understanding and resistance to the policies (Marwan & Pratiwi, 2023).
- c. **Uneven Implementation:** There are differences in the implementation of policies between urban and rural areas, which causes injustice in protection and law enforcement (Aditya & Lestari, 2023).

DISCUSSION

1. Community Acceptance and Policy Implementation

The positive reception of the new criminal law policy shows that the public considers this reform important and relevant. However, the negative views that emerged, especially related to implementation, indicate that the success of this policy requires further attention to the practical aspects of its implementation.

2. Acceptance Factors

Factors influencing public acceptance, such as trust in the legal system and understanding of the policy, suggest that education and transparency are key to increasing public support. Effective training and outreach programs can improve understanding and trust in new policies.

3. Challenges and Recommendations

Challenges in implementation, including limited resources and lack of socialization, require an integrated solution. The government and related institutions must increase training for

law enforcement, improve communication with the community, and ensure that policies are implemented consistently across regions. Efforts to increase equity in policy implementation between urban and rural areas are also critical to achieving fair and effective results.

CONCLUSION

1. Public Acceptance of New Criminal Law Policies

Public acceptance of the new criminal law policy in handling cases of violence is generally positive. This policy is considered a step forward in providing better protection to victims and upholding justice with stricter sanctions for perpetrators of violence. The public feels that this policy has the potential to reduce cases of violence and increase justice in the legal process (Hadi & Ningsih, 2023). However, there are differences in views regarding the effectiveness of its implementation, especially among law enforcers and victims of violence, indicating that although the new policy has positive potential, its implementation still faces various challenges.

2. Factors Affecting Acceptance

Several key factors influence public acceptance of new criminal law policies:

- a. **Trust in the Legal System:** People who have high trust in the legal system are more likely to support new policies, while those who feel the legal system is ineffective show lower levels of support (Wahyudi & Subianto, 2023).
- b. **Understanding and Awareness:** A good understanding of new policies and legal rights contributes to higher acceptance. Effective education about these policies can increase community support and participation in the legal process (Lestari, 2023).
- c. **Law Enforcement Performance:** Perceptions about the performance of law enforcement in implementing new policies affect the level of acceptance. Dissatisfaction with the implementation of the law can reduce public support for the policy (Purnama & Kusuma, 2023).

3. Challenges in Implementation

Some of the main challenges in implementing the new criminal law policy include:

- a. Limited Resources: Law enforcers often experience limitations in resources, including training and facilities, which hinder the effectiveness of policy implementation (Jati & Prasetyo, 2023).
- b. Lack of Socialization: Lack of socialization and education to the public and law enforcement officers leads to a lack of understanding and resistance to new policies (Marwan & Pratiwi, 2023).
- c. Uneven Implementation: Uneven policy implementation between urban and rural areas causes injustice in legal protection and enforcement (Aditya & Lestari, 2023).

To increase the effectiveness of the new criminal law policy, several steps need to be taken:

- a. Improving Education and Socialization: Increase education and outreach programs regarding new policies to increase public and law enforcement understanding (Marwan & Pratiwi, 2023).
- b. Resource Enhancement: Provide adequate training and resources for law enforcement officers to ensure effective policy implementation (Jati & Prasetyo, 2023).
- c. Consistency of Implementation: Ensure that policies are implemented consistently across all areas, both urban and rural, to achieve equitable outcomes (Aditya & Lestari, 2023).

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