

Implementation of Restorative Justice for Narcotics Abuse Cases at the Integrated Assessment Institution of Bnn Gorontalo Province

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Article Info

Article history:

Accepted: 11 May 2026

Published: 16 May 2026

Keywords:

Restorative justice;

Narcotics;

Integrated Assessment Team.

Abstract

This study aims to analyze the implementation of restorative justice in handling narcotics abuse through the Integrated Assessment Team (TAT) at the National Narcotics Agency of Gorontalo Province and identify various obstacles faced in its implementation. The research method used is empirical legal research with legislative, case, and sociological approaches. Data were obtained through interviews, documentation, and literature studies, then analyzed qualitatively descriptively. The results of the study show that the application of restorative justice has been carried out through an integrated assessment mechanism that functions to determine the feasibility of rehabilitation for narcotics abusers based on medical and legal aspects. This approach makes a positive contribution to reducing the overcapacity of correctional institutions and increasing recovery opportunities for narcotics abusers. However, its implementation still faces various obstacles, including limited human resources, facilities and infrastructure, lack of optimal coordination between law enforcement agencies, and the stigma of the community against narcotics abusers. Therefore, optimization efforts are needed through strengthening regulations, improving the quality of human resources, and increasing synergy between institutions to realize more effective and fair law enforcement.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Narcotics abuse is one of the complex and multidimensional legal problems in Indonesia. Narcotics crimes not only have an impact on individual health aspects, but also damage the social, economic, and national resilience order. In law enforcement practice, the approach used against drug abusers so far tends to be repressive through criminalization. However, this approach often does not provide a comprehensive solution, especially for users who are actually victims of dependence.

Along with the development of the modern legal paradigm, a new approach has emerged in handling criminal cases, namely restorative justice. This concept focuses on restoring the situation, not solely punishing the perpetrator. In the context of narcotics abuse, the restorative justice approach becomes relevant because narcotics users are often more appropriately positioned as victims in need of rehabilitation rather than perpetrators who must be imprisoned.

Normatively, regulations regarding narcotics in Indonesia are regulated in Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics. This law regulates various aspects ranging from prevention, eradication, to rehabilitation for narcotics abusers. Article 54 emphasizes that narcotics addicts and victims of narcotics abuse are required to undergo medical rehabilitation and social rehabilitation. This provision shows that there is legal recognition that the rehabilitative approach is an important part of handling narcotics cases.

In addition, Article 103 of Law Number 35 of 2009 gives the authority to judges to decide that narcotics addicts undergo rehabilitation, either through medical and social rehabilitation institutions. This strengthens the legal basis for the application of restorative justice in cases of narcotics abuse, where the focus is on restoring the condition of the perpetrator so that he can return to function socially in society.

In its implementation, one of the important instruments in supporting the implementation of restorative justice is the existence of the Integrated Assessment Team (TAT). This team was formed based on a Joint Regulation between the Supreme Court, the Attorney General's Office, the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia, the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, the Ministry of Health, and the National Narcotics Agency. The Integrated Assessment Team has the task of analyzing the role of suspects in narcotics cases, whether as users, addicts, or dealers.

The results of the assessment from the Integrated Assessment Team are an important basis in determining whether a person deserves rehabilitation or must be processed through ordinary criminal justice channels. Thus, TAT acts as a bridge between a repressive approach and a restorative approach in the narcotics criminal justice system in Indonesia.

At the regional level, the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) of Gorontalo Province has a strategic role in the implementation of integrated assessments. Through the Integrated Assessment Institute, the Gorontalo Provincial BNN seeks to implement national policies in dealing with narcotics abuse with a more humanistic and recovery-oriented approach. However, in practice, the implementation does not always run optimally.

Some of the problems that often arise include limited human resources, lack of supporting facilities, and lack of optimal coordination between law enforcement agencies. In addition, there are still differences in perceptions among law enforcement officials regarding the application of restorative justice in narcotics cases. This has an impact on inconsistencies in the handling of cases, where not all narcotics users get the opportunity to be rehabilitated.

On the other hand, the stigma of society towards narcotics abusers is also an obstacle in the implementation of restorative justice. Many people still view narcotics users as criminals who must be punished, not as individuals who need help. This condition also affects law enforcement policies and practices in the field.

In a theoretical context, restorative justice emphasizes three main elements, namely victim recovery, perpetrator accountability, and community involvement. In the case of narcotics, the concept of the victim is not only limited to the individual, but also includes the family and the social environment. Therefore, a restorative approach in narcotics cases must involve various parties, including medical personnel, social workers, and families of the perpetrator.

The implementation of restorative justice in cases of narcotics abuse is also in line with the goals of the modern criminal justice system, which is not only to provide a deterrent effect, but also to prevent the recurrence of criminal acts (recidivism). By providing proper rehabilitation, it is hoped that narcotics abusers can recover and contribute to society again.

However, the application of restorative justice cannot be done carelessly. Clear criteria are needed to determine who is eligible for this approach. In this case, the role of the Integrated Assessment Team is very important to ensure that the policies taken are on target and not abused.

Based on this description, it can be seen that the implementation of restorative justice in narcotics abuse cases through the Integrated Assessment Institute at BNN Gorontalo Province is a strategic effort but still faces various challenges. Therefore, an in-depth study is needed to find out the extent of the effectiveness of the implementation of the concept, as well as what factors affect its success.

This research is important to contribute to the development of legal science, especially in the field of criminal law and narcotics countermeasures policy. In addition, the results of this study are expected to be evaluation materials for stakeholders in improving the quality of handling narcotics abuse cases in Indonesia, especially in Gorontalo Province.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

The research method used is an empirical legal research (sociological juridical) with a legislative, case, and sociological approach to examine the implementation of restorative justice in handling narcotics abuse by the Integrated Assessment Team at BNN Gorontalo Province. The data used included primary data through interviews with relevant officials as well as secondary data from laws and regulations, books, and legal journals. Data collection techniques were carried out through interviews, documentation, and literature studies, while data analysis used descriptive qualitative methods to describe and assess the effectiveness of restorative justice implementation and the obstacles faced in practice.

3. RESULTS OF RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION

a. Implementation of Restorative Justice in Handling Narcotics Abuse through the Integrated Assessment Team (TAT) at BNN Gorontalo Province

Restorative justice is an approach in the criminal justice system that has developed in response to the limitations of the retributive approach that has dominated law enforcement practices. In the retributive approach, the law focuses more on retribution against the perpetrator through punishment, without thoroughly considering the social, psychological, and background conditions of the perpetrator. In the context of narcotics abuse, this approach is considered less effective because it does not touch the real root of the problem, namely dependence on addictive substances that are medical and psychological. Therefore, restorative justice is present as a more comprehensive approach by emphasizing the recovery of the perpetrator's condition, protection of victims, and community involvement in the case settlement process, so that legal goals are not only achieved formally, but also substantively.

In the Indonesian legal system, the application of restorative justice in narcotics abuse cases has gained normative legitimacy through Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, especially which regulates rehabilitation obligations for addicts and victims of narcotics abuse. The provision shows that the state does not solely view narcotics abusers as criminals who must be punished, but also as individuals in need of protection and rehabilitation. Thus, a rehabilitative approach that is part of restorative justice is an important instrument in realizing legal goals oriented to benefits and social justice.

The implementation of restorative justice in handling narcotics abuse cannot be separated from the strategic role of the Integrated Assessment Team (TAT) as an institution that has the authority to conduct a comprehensive assessment of suspects. TAT consists of medical elements and legal elements that work synergistically to

assess the condition of suspects, both in terms of the level of dependency, role in the crime, and the social conditions behind it. Through this mechanism, it is hoped that an objective picture can be obtained of the suspect's position, so that the decision taken is not only based on legal evidence alone, but also considers the humanitarian aspect.

The assessment process carried out by the Integrated Assessment Team involves various stages that are systematic and structured, starting from initial data collection, medical examinations, psychological interviews, to in-depth analysis by a team that is competent in their fields. Each stage has an important role in producing accurate and accountable recommendations. In this case, the professionalism and integrity of team members are the determining factors in maintaining the quality of assessment results, considering that the resulting recommendations will be the basis in determining the direction of handling cases.

Determining the status of the suspect as a user, addict, or dealer is a very crucial aspect of the assessment process, as it will determine whether a rehabilitative approach can be applied or not. Errors in determining status can have implications for injustice, both for the individual concerned and for the legal system as a whole. Therefore, prudence and high objectivity are needed in conducting assessments, by prioritizing the principles of justice and the usefulness of the law.

The rehabilitation recommendations provided by the Integrated Assessment Team reflect the real implementation of the principles of restorative justice, where the main focus is on the recovery of the perpetrator's condition. Medical rehabilitation aims to overcome physical dependence, while social rehabilitation aims to restore the social function of individuals so that they can return to an active role in society. Thus, the rehabilitation process is not only oriented towards healing, but also on sustainable social reintegration.

In practice, the implementation of restorative justice through an integrated assessment mechanism requires good coordination between law enforcement agencies, such as the police, prosecutor's office, courts, and the National Narcotics Agency. This coordination is very important to ensure that the recommendations produced by the Integrated Assessment Team can be implemented effectively in the judicial process. Without good synergy, the restorative approach that has been designed normatively will not be able to run optimally in the field.

In Gorontalo Province, the National Narcotics Agency has a very strategic role in coordinating the implementation of integrated assessments as part of the implementation of restorative justice. However, in practice, there are still various dynamics that affect the effectiveness of its implementation, both related to internal and external factors. Internal factors include limited human resources and supporting facilities, while external factors are related to inter-agency coordination and public perception of narcotics abuse.

One of the indicators of the success of the implementation of restorative justice in handling narcotics is the reduction in the number of inmates in correctional institutions, which have been experiencing overcapacity. By transferring drug abusers to rehabilitation programs, not only can the burden on correctional institutions be reduced, but also the quality of coaching for inmates can be improved. This shows that restorative approaches have a significant positive impact on the criminal justice system.

In addition, this approach also contributes to reducing recidivism rates, as individuals undergoing rehabilitation have a greater chance of recovery compared to those who only serve prison sentences without adequate rehabilitation programs.

Thus, restorative justice not only provides short-term solutions, but also has a long-term impact on efforts to overcome narcotics abuse.

b. Obstacles and Efforts to Optimize the Implementation of Restorative Justice in Handling Narcotics at BNN Gorontalo Province

Although normatively the application of restorative justice has a strong legal basis, in practice there are still various obstacles that affect the effectiveness of its implementation. One of the main obstacles is the limitation of human resources in the Integrated Assessment Team, both in terms of quantity and quality. This limitation causes the assessment process to not be carried out optimally, especially when the number of cases handled is quite high.

In addition, limited facilities and infrastructure are also significant obstacles in the implementation of assessment and rehabilitation. Inadequate facilities can hinder the recovery process and reduce the quality of services provided to narcotics abusers. This shows that the successful implementation of restorative justice does not only depend on regulatory aspects, but also on the readiness of supporting infrastructure.

Coordination between law enforcement agencies is also still a challenge in the implementation of restorative justice. Differences in perceptions about the concept and application of restorative justice often cause inconsistencies in case handling. This condition has an impact on inconsistencies in the implementation of policies, so that not all narcotics abusers receive the same treatment.

Delays in the assessment process are also one of the most serious obstacles, because they can hinder the legal process and cause uncertainty for suspects. In the criminal justice system, legal certainty is a very important principle, so every process must be carried out quickly and precisely.

From the community's perspective, the negative stigma against narcotics abusers is still an inhibiting factor in the implementation of restorative justice. Abusers are often seen as perpetrators of crimes that must be punished, not as victims in need of rehabilitation. This stigma can affect law enforcement policies and practices in the field.

In addition, there is also the potential for abuse of authority in the assessment process, especially if it is not accompanied by a transparent and accountable supervisory system. This can reduce public trust in the legal system and hinder the implementation of restorative justice.

To overcome these various obstacles, comprehensive optimization efforts are needed, including through improving the quality of human resources, strengthening regulations, and improving coordination between institutions. In addition, socialization to the community also needs to be improved to change the paradigm regarding narcotics abuse.

Thus, the implementation of restorative justice in handling narcotics abuse in the Gorontalo Province BNN has great potential to continue to be developed, although it still faces various challenges that need to be overcome systematically and sustainably.

4. CONCLUSION

The implementation of restorative justice in handling narcotics abuse through the Integrated Assessment Team at BNN Gorontalo Province shows a paradigm shift from a repressive approach to a more humanistic and recovery-oriented rehabilitative approach. This is reflected in the role of TAT in determining the feasibility of rehabilitation for narcotics abusers based on a comprehensive assessment, so that not all perpetrators must

be processed through criminal channels. However, in its implementation, there are still various obstacles, such as limited human resources, facilities and infrastructure, lack of optimal coordination between institutions, and public stigma against narcotics abusers. Therefore, optimization efforts are needed through strengthening regulations, improving the quality of human resources, and synergy between institutions to realize more effective, fair, and benefit-oriented law enforcement for the community.

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