



Police Performance in Countering Narcotics Problems

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Abstract

Countering narcotics crimes is one of the major challenges faced by the police, especially the Medan Police, considering the complexity of this crime which has an impact on various aspects of people's lives. This study aims to analyze the legal rules that underlie police performance, the role of the police in overcoming narcotics crimes, and the obstacles faced in the process. The research method used is a quantitative approach with data collection techniques through questionnaires, observations, and document studies. The sample consisted of Medan Police personnel and the local community. The results of the study show that the legal rules that underlie the role of the police, such as Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics and the Regulation of the National Police Chief Number 14 of 2012, have provided a strong foundation in the implementation of their duties. The role of the police includes law enforcement, prevention through education, and rehabilitation for victims of narcotics abuse. However, the police face obstacles in the form of limited human resources, increasingly complex modus operandi of perpetrators, lack of community cooperation, and limited budget. These results show the importance of increasing police capacity through technology training, more adequate budget allocation, and active community involvement in narcotics control efforts. Collaboration between the police, government, and the community is needed to create a safer and drug-free environment, especially in the Medan area.

Introduction

Narcotics crime is one of the serious threats faced by almost every country in the world, including Indonesia (Gukguk & Jaya, 2019). Its circulation not only pollutes urban communities, but also reaches rural areas. The city of Medan, as one of the largest cities in Indonesia, is one of the areas with a fairly high level of narcotics trafficking. This situation requires serious attention from various parties, especially the police as the spearhead of law enforcement.

Narcotics have a very detrimental impact, both individually and socially (Kolopita, 2013). At the individual level, narcotics abuse can cause physical and mental damage, even leading to death. Socially, narcotics are the trigger for various other crimes, such as theft, violence, and murder. The city of Medan, with its complex community dynamics, faces great challenges in overcoming this problem.

The police have a strategic role in tackling narcotics circulation and abuse. The Medan Police, as an institution responsible for security and order in the Medan area, is required to show optimal performance in handling this problem. Countering narcotics is not only a law enforcement task, but also involves prevention, education, and rehabilitation measures (Prabowo et al., 2023; Danil et al., 2022; Mujito et al., 2022). One of the main challenges faced by the Medan Police is the high level of organized narcotics distribution networks. International

and local narcotics syndicates often make Medan one of their strategic trade routes. This requires the police to have qualified analytical and strategic skills in dismantling these networks.

In addition, limited human resources and facilities are another obstacle in efforts to control narcotics (Nyongesa, 2023; Mulyani, 2024; Jamshed & Baksh, 2024). Although the Medan Police have made various efforts, such as arrest operations and confiscation of evidence, their effectiveness is often hampered by these limitations. Therefore, innovation and collaboration with various parties, including the community and related institutions, are needed to achieve maximum results.

A community-based approach is one of the strategies that has begun to be developed. By involving the community in prevention programs, the police can strengthen early detection of narcotics trafficking in the surrounding environment (Ramadani, 2024). Education about the dangers of narcotics to the public, especially the younger generation, is also one of the priorities. This aims to create collective awareness that can be the initial bastion in the fight against narcotics abuse (Mujiwati et al., 2024).

It is undeniable that the success of the Medan Police in dealing with narcotics is highly dependent on synergy between agencies. The National Narcotics Agency (BNN), the prosecutor's office, courts, and rehabilitation institutions have complementary roles in the process of handling narcotics problems (RUDIANTO, 2010). Integrated cooperation will have a more significant impact in eradicating narcotics networks.

In recent years, the Medan Police have shown an improvement in the performance of handling narcotics cases. Various operations succeeded in uncovering the circulation of narcotics in large quantities, as well as arresting the main perpetrators. However, this achievement is not enough to stop all narcotics trafficking activities in Medan. New challenges continue to emerge, including increasingly sophisticated modus operandi of the perpetrators.

Technology is one of the important tools that can be used by the police in improving their performance (Syah, 2023). By utilizing information technology, such as CCTV camera-based surveillance systems and data analysis, the Medan Police can strengthen detection and enforcement. In addition, training for police personnel on the use of this technology needs to be continuously improved.

On the other hand, the humanist approach should not be ignored either. Handling narcotics users must be done wisely by providing rehabilitation opportunities. This approach not only aims to save individuals, but also to reduce the demand for narcotics in society. Local governments have an important role in supporting police efforts. Support in the form of budgets, facilities, and narcotics prevention programs can strengthen the performance of the Medan Police. In addition, clear and firm regulations are needed to provide a strong legal foundation in cracking down on narcotics offenders.

Effective communication with the media is also an important element in drug control. The media has the power to shape public opinion and disseminate information (Sutanto, 2024). The Medan Police can use the media as a means of education and campaigns about the dangers of narcotics, as well as show their commitment to eradicating this crime. The success of narcotics control is not only measured by the number of cases revealed, but also by the extent to which the community feels safe and free from the threat of narcotics. Therefore, the Medan Police must continue to improve the quality of their services, both in enforcement and prevention.

A holistic approach that involves various aspects, ranging from law enforcement, prevention, education, to rehabilitation, is the key to overcoming the narcotics problem. With a strong

commitment and support from all elements of society, it is hoped that Medan City can be free from the threat of narcotics and become a safer and more prosperous area. In this writing, we will discuss further about the performance of the police in tackling the narcotics problem in Medan, including the challenges faced, the strategies implemented, and the results that have been achieved. The main goal is to provide a comprehensive overview of the role and contribution of the police in dealing with the narcotics problem in the city of Medan.

Methods

This study uses a quantitative approach to analyze the performance of the police in overcoming the narcotics problem in Medan. This approach was chosen because it allows the collection of numerical data that can be processed statistically to produce objective conclusions. The quantitative research methods used in this study are explained as follows:

This research is a quantitative descriptive research (Machali, 2021). The purpose is to describe and analyze the level of effectiveness of the performance of the Medan Police in tackling the narcotics problem. This research also aims to measure the relationship between certain variables, such as resources, operational strategies, and results achieved.

Population: The population in this study is all police members who serve in the Medan Police Drug Investigation Unit, as well as the people of Medan City who are involved in or know about the police's efforts in eradicating narcotics. Sample: The research sample was taken by stratified random sampling method. The sample consisted of: a) 50 police members from various related divisions at the Medan Police; b) 00 residents of Medan City were randomly selected based on their area of residence.

Data Collection Techniques

The main instrument of this study is a questionnaire designed to measure respondents' perception and assessment of police performance. This questionnaire uses a Likert scale of 1-5 to measure levels of satisfaction, effectiveness, and efficiency. Examples of variables measured: a) The success rate of police operations; b) The public's perception of a sense of security in their environment; c) The level of cooperation between the police and the community in eradicating narcotics. Supporting data was obtained from the annual report of the Medan Police, the publication of the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), and statistical data on narcotics cases in Medan in the last five years.

Research Variables

Independent Variables: a) Police human resources; b) Operational strategies implemented; c) Cooperation with the community and other institutions. Dependent Variables: a) The level of effectiveness of narcotics control; b) Public perception of police performance.

Data Analysis Techniques

The data obtained from the questionnaire will be processed using statistical analysis techniques with the help of software such as SPSS. The analyses used include: a) Descriptive Analysis: To provide an overview of the research variables; b) Correlation Analysis: To look at the relationship between independent and dependent variables; c) Linear Regression Analysis: To find out the extent to which independent variables affect dependent variables

Results and Discussion

Legal Rules for the Police in Countering Narcotics Crimes

The legal rules that underlie the role of the police in dealing with narcotics crimes are strictly regulated in various national regulations, including: a) Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning

Narcotics: This law regulates various aspects of narcotics eradication, ranging from prevention, enforcement, to rehabilitation for victims of abuse. The police are given the authority to investigate, investigate, and take action against perpetrators of narcotics crimes (Fokusmedia, 2009); b) Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP): The Criminal Procedure Code provides a legal basis for the police to carry out the investigation and investigation process of narcotics cases (Purwoleksono, 2015); c) Regulation of the National Police Chief Number 14 of 2012 concerning Investigation Management: This regulation regulates the procedures for the police in carrying out investigations, including in narcotics cases; d) The survey results show that 80% of respondents from the police community understand this legal rule well, while another 20% feel that additional training related to the implementation of the rule is needed. This shows the need to strengthen legal capacity for police personnel.

The police operate within the framework of strict legal rules, such as Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, the Criminal Code, and the Regulation of the National Police Chief Number 14 of 2012. These regulations provide a legal basis for the police to act in eradicating narcotics abuse. The study shows that the majority of police members understand the applicable legal rules, although some still feel that further training is needed. These results are consistent with research by (Hariyanto, 2018), which shows that understanding the rule of law is one of the key factors in the success of law enforcement against narcotics. Hariyanto (2018) also emphasized the importance of periodic training to increase personnel's understanding of regulations that continue to develop, especially related to the new modus operandi of narcotics crime perpetrators.

The Role of the Police in Countering Narcotics Crimes at the Medan Police

Based on the results of the survey and secondary data, the role of the police in overcoming narcotics crimes in the Medan Police includes three main aspects:

Law Enforcement

The police are actively conducting arrest operations against narcotics dealers and users. In 2023, the Medan Police succeeded in uncovering 250 narcotics cases with evidence in the form of methamphetamine, marijuana, and ecstasy. As many as 72% of respondents from the public expressed satisfaction with the performance of the police in terms of law enforcement.

Prevention

Education to the community is carried out through the "Stop Drugs" campaign in schools, universities, and community environments. The results of the survey show that 65% of the public feel that this educational program has a positive impact on increasing awareness of the dangers of narcotics.

Rehabilitation

The Medan Police collaborate with the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) and rehabilitation institutions to provide rehabilitation services to victims of narcotics abuse. However, only 50% of the public is aware of this rehabilitation program, indicating the need for more intensive socialization.

Table 1. Public Satisfaction Data Faced with the Role of the Police

Level of Public Satisfaction with the Role of the Police	Percentage (%)
Law enforcement	72%
Prevention through education	65%
Rehabilitation	50%

This study found that law enforcement by the Medan Police, such as arrest operations and confiscation of evidence, has had a significant impact in reducing the number of narcotics trafficking. As many as 72% of public respondents stated that they were satisfied with the performance of the police in this regard. This shows that repressive measures are still an important element in the eradication of narcotics. This finding is in line with the view according to the law enforcement theory by (Soekanto, 2007), which states that the success of law enforcement is determined by three elements: legal structure (legal framework), legal substance (applicable rules), and legal culture (public perception and support). In this context, community support for the police in Medan is an important social capital.

Prevention through narcotics danger campaigns in schools and the community environment is also the main focus. However, the survey results show that only 65% of the public feel that the program is effective, which means that there is still room for improvement, especially in terms of the scope and methods of education delivery. These results support the findings of the research of Arief (2017), which states that the success of prevention programs is highly dependent on an interactive and community-based approach (Achmadi, 2009). Educational programs involving community leaders, religious leaders, and schools tend to be more effective in conveying the message of the dangers of narcotics.

This study also found that rehabilitation programs for narcotics users are still poorly known by the public. Only 50% of respondents understood that narcotics users could access rehabilitation services. This condition shows the need to increase the socialization of rehabilitation programs so that the community, especially the victims' families, are more active in seeking help. According to research by (Rinaldo et al., 2022), rehabilitation is a strategic step to break the chain of narcotics trafficking. Rinaldo emphasized that rehabilitated narcotics users tend to be less likely to be involved in narcotics abuse again.

Obstacles Faced by the Police in Countering Narcotics Crimes at the Medan Police

This study identifies several main obstacles faced by the police in handling narcotics crimes, including:

Resource Limitations

The number of personnel serving in the Narcotics Investigation Unit is still limited compared to the breadth of the jurisdiction of the Medan Police.

As many as 60% of respondents from the police stated that their workload is very high due to a lack of personnel.

Complex Operandi Mode

Perpetrators of narcotics crimes use advanced technology, such as online transactions and the use of communication encryption.

The police feel the need to improve their capabilities in information technology, as admitted by 45% of respondents.

Lack of Cooperation with the Community

Not all people are willing to report because they are afraid of threats from narcotics criminals.

Only 55% of the public felt confident enough to report suspicious activities related to narcotics.

Limited Budget

Budget constraints are an obstacle in the provision of operational facilities, such as vehicles and advanced technology.

Table 2. Results of Obstacles Faced by the Police

The Main Obstacles Faced by the Police	Percentage of Respondents (%)
Human resource limitations	60%
The modus operandi of the perpetrators is getting more sophisticated	45%
Lack of community cooperation	55%
Limited budget	50%

This study found that limited human resources are one of the main obstacles faced by the Medan Police. This is reinforced by the admission of 60% of police respondents who stated that the number of personnel is not proportional to the workload. This condition supports the results of research by (Al Qodri & Suprijatna, 2024), which mentioned that the lack of personnel and operational facilities is a common problem faced by police units in Indonesia. Adequate budget allocation from local governments can be a long-term solution

The increasingly complex modus operandi of narcotics perpetrators, such as the use of online technology and encrypted communication, is also a big challenge. As many as 45% of police respondents admitted that they need training in the field of information technology to keep up with the strategies of the perpetrators. These findings are in line with the theory of technology in law enforcement, which states that the adoption of modern technology is crucial in dealing with transnational crimes, including narcotics (Yusuf & Siregar, 2023).

As many as 55% of the public stated that they were not confident in reporting narcotics activities because they were afraid of threats from perpetrators. This shows the importance of building a sense of security in the community so that they are willing to be actively involved in efforts to combat narcotics. According to (Soekanto, 2004), community support is an important element in the success of law enforcement. When people feel trust in law enforcement officials, they will be more proactive in reporting crimes.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the research and discussion that has been carried out, it can be concluded that the performance of the police in tackling narcotics crimes at the Medan Police has shown significant efforts even though it still faces various obstacles. The police have a strong legal basis in carrying out their duties, as stipulated in Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, the Criminal Code, and the Regulation of the National Police Chief Number 14 of 2012. This understanding of the rule of law provides a basis for the police to carry out law enforcement, prevention, and rehabilitation functions in a more targeted manner. In terms of law enforcement, the Medan Police have succeeded in uncovering hundreds of narcotics cases and received appreciation from the public. This shows that repressive actions remain an important element in breaking the chain of narcotics trafficking. On the other hand, prevention efforts through education campaigns to the community have begun to show positive impacts, although their scope and effectiveness still need to be improved. Meanwhile, in the aspect of rehabilitation, the police have collaborated with related institutions, but the level of socialization of this program is still low so that many people do not know or use it. However, there are several obstacles that hinder the effectiveness of police performance. The limitations of human resources and operational facilities, as well as the modification of the modus operandi of narcotics perpetrators that are increasingly sophisticated, are major challenges faced by the Medan Police. In addition, the lack of support from the community, especially in terms of reporting suspicious activities, also slows down the process of eradicating narcotics. These factors point to the need to strengthen the internal capacity of the police as well as increase

collaboration with the community. Theoretically, the findings of this study support the theory of law enforcement which emphasizes the importance of synergy between regulations, law enforcement officials, and community support in dealing with narcotics crimes. The practical implications of this study are the need to develop the capacity of police personnel through information technology training, increasing the budget to support operational facilities, and expanding the socialization of rehabilitation programs. In closing, the eradication of narcotics is not only a task of the police, but requires the cooperation of all parties, including local governments, related institutions, and the community. With a comprehensive approach, this effort is expected to be able to create a safer and free environment from the threat of narcotics, especially in the jurisdiction of the Medan Police.

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