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The Role of the Police in Addressing Juvenile Delinquency Due to Alcohol Use

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the factors that cause adolescents to use alcoholic beverages and examine the role of the Boalemo Police in overcoming juvenile delinquency related to the use of alcoholic beverages. The study uses an empirical legal method with a qualitative descriptive approach. Primary data were obtained through interviews with police officers and adolescents who have used alcoholic beverages, while secondary data were obtained from laws and regulations, books, journals, and related documents. The results of the study indicate that adolescent alcohol use is influenced by weak parental supervision, the influence of social circles, the residential environment, lack of religious education, socioeconomic conditions, and ease of access to alcoholic beverages. Data from the Boalemo Police shows that there were 39 cases of juvenile delinquency related to alcoholic beverages from 2018-2022, with a predominance of male perpetrators. The police's role is carried out through preventive efforts in the form of socialization in schools, coordination with the Social Services and the National Narcotics Agency of Boalemo Regency, raids, guidance, and the issuance of statement letters for adolescents caught consuming alcoholic beverages. This article emphasizes that overcoming juvenile delinquency due to alcoholic beverages requires synergy between families, schools, the police, local governments, and the community.

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1. Introduction

Juvenile delinquency is a social problem that continues to grow along with changes in societal lifestyles. Adolescence is a transitional phase that is vulnerable to the influence of family, school, peers, and popular culture. During this phase, adolescents are forming their identity, seeking social recognition, and often lack mature self-control. Therefore, deviant behavior by adolescents cannot be viewed solely as individual errors, but rather needs to be understood as a social phenomenon related to weak family control, social environments, and community development.

One of the most prominent forms of juvenile delinquency is the use of alcoholic beverages. Alcoholic beverages contain ethanol, a psychoactive substance that can reduce awareness, disrupt concentration, trigger behavioral changes, and increase the tendency for aggressive actions [1]. In many cases, alcohol consumption does not stop at health issues, but develops into legal problems because it can trigger fights, assaults, destruction of public facilities, and various other forms of violence. Rori explains that alcohol use can affect the lives of adolescents and have broad social impacts if not controlled [2].

The impact of alcohol on adolescents is not only physical, but also psychological and social. Adolescents who consume alcohol tend to experience emotional changes, are easily irritated, dare to take risks, and lose self-control. Miradj shows that alcohol can change the behavior of the younger generation and impact social relationships in society [3]. Ariyanto and colleagues also found that alcohol addiction can disrupt student academic achievement and lifestyle patterns [4]. Thus, alcohol is a risk factor that can exacerbate juvenile delinquency and increase the potential for law violations.

Legally, the state has a legal basis for addressing behavior that arises from the misuse of alcoholic beverages. The Criminal Code regulates acts related to providing intoxicating beverages to people who are already drunk or minors in Article 300 of the Criminal Code [5]. In addition, acts of violence that often arise due to the influence of alcohol, such as assault, can be linked to Article 351 of the Criminal Code [5]. These provisions indicate that the use of alcoholic beverages that gives rise to violence is not only a moral issue, but also related to criminal responsibility.

The police have an important role in addressing this problem. Based on Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, the main duties of the Indonesian National Police are to maintain public security and order, enforce the law, and provide protection, guidance, and services to the community [6]. In the context of juvenile delinquency due to the use of alcoholic beverages, the police not only function as enforcement officers, but also as a social development institution that plays a role in prevention, counseling, raids, data collection, and coordination with related institutions.

This phenomenon is evident within the jurisdiction of the Boalemo Police. Data used in this thesis shows that between 2018 and 2022, 39 adolescents were handled for juvenile delinquency related to alcohol use. In 2018, there were 6 adolescents, 9 in 2019, 6 in 2020, 11 in 2021, and 7 in 2022. Of these, 37 were male and 2 were female [7]. This data indicates that the problem of alcohol consumption among adolescents is not an incidental case, but rather a recurring problem that requires a sustainable management pattern.

From a social perspective, the use of alcoholic beverages by adolescents in Boalemo is influenced by several factors, including lack of parental supervision, peer influence, residential environmental conditions, low religious education, and easy access to alcoholic beverages. Kartono explains that juvenile delinquency is a social phenomenon that arises due to the failure of parenting processes, social control, and personality formation [8]. Karlina also emphasized that juvenile delinquency needs to be understood as a phenomenon influenced by family, education, environment, and social interactions [9]. Therefore, the causes of juvenile delinquency cannot be separated from the social structures that shape the behavior of children and adolescents.

Previous studies have extensively discussed the impact of alcohol on society, juvenile delinquency, and the role of the police in cracking down on illegal alcohol. Rajamuddin analyzes crimes arising from the influence of alcohol from a criminological perspective [10]. Padris Jamba discusses the role of the police in cracking down on the sale of illegal alcohol [11]. Polihu examines the crime of assault due to the influence of alcohol according to Article 351 of the Criminal Code [12]. However, studies that specifically link the factors causing adolescents to use alcohol with the role of the Boalemo Police in overcoming it still need to be strengthened. This is where the gap and novelty of this article lies.

The urgency of this research lies in the need to understand how the police carry out their role in preventing and addressing alcohol-related juvenile delinquency. This cannot be achieved simply by conducting raids or providing guidance, but requires an integrated strategy involving the police, families, schools, local governments, the Social Services Agency, the National Narcotics Agency, and the community. Without a collaborative approach, similar cases are likely to recur because the root of the problem remains within the adolescent's social environment.

Based on this background, the problem formulation in this article is:

1. What factors lead to adolescent alcohol use?
2. How do the police try to prevent the use of alcoholic beverages by teenagers?

In line with the above background, this article aims to analyze the factors causing alcohol use among adolescents and explain the role of the police in addressing it. Theoretically, this article contributes to the development of criminal law, criminology, and police law studies. Practically, this article can provide input for the police, local governments, schools, and parents in developing strategies to prevent alcohol-related juvenile delinquency.

2. Research Methods

This study uses empirical legal research. Empirical legal research is used to observe how the law works in social reality, specifically how the police carry out their role in tackling juvenile delinquency due to alcohol use. Benuf and Azhar explain that empirical legal research aims to unravel contemporary legal problems by utilizing social facts obtained from society and legal institutions [13]. Therefore, this study not only examines legal norms, but also examines the prevention practices carried out by the Boalemo Police.

The research object was a case of juvenile delinquency involving alcohol consumption handled by the Boalemo Police. The research location was the Boalemo Police, considering that the area has data and experience in handling juveniles who consume alcohol and engage in deviant behavior such as fighting and assault. The research was conducted by positioning the police as the primary institution with the authority to maintain security, order, law enforcement, protection, and service to the community.

The data used consisted of primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained through interviews with the Head of the UPPA Unit of the Boalemo Police, police officers, and adolescents who had consumed alcoholic beverages. Secondary data were obtained from a literature review that included laws and regulations, books, scientific journals, and relevant documents. The main legal materials used included Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police and the Criminal Code, specifically Articles 300 and 351.

Data collection techniques were conducted through observation and interviews. Observation was used to obtain an overview of case handling at the Boalemo Police, while interviews were used to gather information regarding the factors causing adolescents to consume alcoholic beverages and the forms of police efforts. The collected data were then analyzed qualitatively descriptively. Moleong explains that qualitative analysis aims to produce descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observed behavior [14]. In this study, field data were analyzed by connecting them to theories of juvenile delinquency, concepts of police functions, and legal norms governing alcohol abuse and the resulting criminal acts.

3. Results and Discussion

This section's discussion focuses on answering two research questions. First, the analysis focuses on factors that contribute to adolescent alcohol use, including family, peer groups, social environments, education, and economic conditions. Second, the discussion focuses on police efforts to address adolescent alcohol use, primarily through preventive measures, guidance, raids, cross-agency collaboration, and law enforcement. The analysis is conducted by connecting field data from the Boalemo Police Department, case data from 2018-2022, interview results, theories of juvenile delinquency, and legal norms governing police functions and alcohol-related crimes.

3.1. Factors Contributing to Alcohol Use in Adolescents

Alcohol use by adolescents is a problem that cannot be explained by a single factor. From a criminological and legal sociological perspective, deviant behavior in adolescents arises from the interaction of individual factors, family, social interactions, the social environment, and weak societal control. Juvenile delinquency does not emerge suddenly, but develops through a process of social learning, imitation, the search for identity, and the failure of social control within the immediate environment. Therefore, alcohol use must be understood as part of the social dynamics of adolescents who are emotionally immature and easily influenced by their environment.

The first factor is a lack of parental supervision. Research shows that one of the main causes of adolescent alcohol use is weak family supervision. Adolescents who lack attention, affection, and moral guidance tend to seek acceptance from their external environment. Kartono stated that children who lack attention, affection, and education from their parents are at risk of developing deviant behavior [8]. In the Boalemo context, weak family control allows adolescents to socialize without limits and join groups that are accustomed to consuming alcohol.

The second factor is the social environment. The interview results in the thesis show that 16-year-old AA consumed alcohol due to the influence of his neighborhood environment. Initially, he only tried it, but over time he got used to it and became addicted to the cap tikus type of drink. 18-year-old AT also stated that he consumed alcohol due to the influence of friends in the neighborhood and curiosity. These findings indicate that social circles play a major role in shaping alcohol consumption behavior. Aroman and Suminar emphasized that low self-control is related to the tendency of juvenile delinquent behavior [15].

The third factor is a lack of religious and moral education. Religious education serves as a normative filter for adolescents to distinguish between acceptable and unacceptable behavior. If religious education is lacking, adolescents are more likely to follow group pressures and momentary pleasures. Research has shown that a lack of

moral development leaves adolescents with insufficient support to resist invitations to consume alcoholic beverages. This condition is exacerbated by the weak role models of adults in their environment. Purwaningtyas explains that permissive parenting can be linked to juvenile delinquency because children are not accustomed to boundaries and discipline [16].

The fourth factor is the living environment. A social environment accustomed to alcohol consumption will normalize the behavior. Adolescents living in such an environment may view alcohol as normal, even a symbol of courage or maturity. This situation makes drinking part of the group's culture. If there is no social control from community leaders, family, school, and authorities, this habit can continue to develop and give rise to violence. Setiawan explains that the characteristics of child and adolescent crime are related to the social environment in which the child grows up [17].

The fifth factor is economic conditions and the availability of alcoholic beverages. In research, adolescents stated that alcohol is easily obtained and affordable. This easy access increases the likelihood of adolescents trying and repeatedly consuming alcohol. On the other hand, unstable family economic conditions can weaken parental supervision because parents are busy earning a living. Conversely, in families with better economic conditions, parents may also be less likely to supervise their children due to busy schedules. Thus, economic factors do not operate in isolation but are interconnected with the quality of parenting and social control.

The impact of alcohol use on adolescents is evident in the emergence of delinquency in the form of fights and assault. The results of an interview with a member of the Women and Children's Service Unit of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Boalemo Police, Mr. Fiki Polutu, stated that the factors causing alcohol use among adolescents are lack of parental supervision and socializing that exceeds normal limits, resulting in delinquency in the form of assault and fights influenced by the effects of intoxication. Polihu emphasized that the crime of assault due to the influence of alcohol can be linked to Article 351 of the Criminal Code [12]. This shows a direct relationship between alcohol use and violent behavior.

Case data within the Boalemo Police jurisdiction reinforces this picture. Between 2018 and 2022, 39 adolescents were prosecuted for alcohol use. The highest number occurred in 2021, with 11 adolescents, followed by 6 adolescents in 2018 and 2020, 9 adolescents in 2019, and 7 adolescents in 2022 [7]. The predominance of male adolescents in the data suggests that social constructs of courage, group solidarity, and masculinity can also influence alcohol consumption behavior among adolescents. However, the presence of female perpetrators in 2021 and 2022 suggests that this problem is not limited to male adolescents.

Thus, factors contributing to adolescent alcohol use include weak parental supervision, peer influence, permissive living environments, low levels of religious and moral education, economic conditions, and easy access to alcohol. These factors are interconnected and reinforce each other. These findings complement previous research that identified alcohol as a trigger for criminal behavior, as in the Boalemo context, the primary factor lies not only in alcohol itself but also in the social structures that enable adolescents to access and consume alcohol.

3.2. Police Efforts to Combat Alcohol Use among Teenagers

The police have a central role in combating juvenile delinquency resulting from the use of alcoholic beverages. This role stems from the main duties of the Indonesian National Police as stipulated in Article 13 of Law Number 2 of 2002, namely maintaining public security and order, enforcing the law, and providing protection, guidance, and services to the community [6]. In the context of juvenile delinquency, the police are not sufficient to only carry out repressive functions. The police must also develop preventive, preemptive, and social development functions so that teenagers do not re-engage in similar behavior.

The first effort undertaken was outreach and counseling. Based on an interview with First Inspector Danny Anugrah Musa, Head of the Boalemo Police's UPPA Unit, the police are collaborating with the Boalemo Regency Social Services Office and the Boalemo Regency National Narcotics Agency to conduct outreach in schools regarding the dangers of alcohol consumption. This effort is a form of prevention oriented towards legal education and raising adolescent awareness. Outreach in schools is important because schools are the primary space for adolescent development after the family.

The second effort is conducting raids on teenagers found consuming alcohol. These raids are conducted to reduce alcohol consumption among teenagers, particularly in the Boalemo Police Department's jurisdiction. If teenagers are found consuming alcohol, police will take them to the Tilamuta Police Department or the nearest police station for counseling. In this context, raids are not merely a repressive measure, but also a means of social control, ensuring that teenagers and the community understand that alcohol consumption can have legal and social consequences.

The third approach is coaching and the creation of a written statement. Juveniles found consuming alcohol are asked to sign a written statement stating that they will not repeat the behavior. This coaching model demonstrates an approach that focuses not on direct punishment but rather on behavioral change. This approach aligns with the nature of juvenile management, which should consider

aspects of education, rehabilitation, and guidance. In this context, the police act as protectors and educators of the community, not merely as enforcers of sanctions.

The fourth effort is coordination with relevant institutions. Handling alcoholic beverages cannot be done solely by the police because this problem is related to health, education, licensing, trade, families, and the social environment. Hairi emphasized that regulating alcoholic beverages requires clear legal policies and the involvement of various institutions [18]. In the context of Boalemo, cooperation between the Boalemo Police, the Social Services Agency, and the Boalemo National Narcotics Agency is an important step to strengthen prevention. However, this cooperation needs to be expanded to include schools, village governments, religious leaders, and youth organizations.

The fifth effort is law enforcement against the distribution and abuse of alcoholic beverages. Although this study focuses on adolescent users, the root of the problem cannot be separated from the presence of sellers or distributors of alcoholic beverages. Jamba shows that the police have a crucial role in prosecuting perpetrators of illegal alcohol sales [11]. Mokorimban also highlights that the sale of alcoholic beverages without a permit poses legal threats and requires more effective supervision [19]. Therefore, efforts against adolescents must be followed by supervision of alcohol sellers who provide access to children and adolescents.

Despite numerous efforts, research findings indicate that obstacles remain. One major obstacle is the lack of written regulations specifically addressing actions or sanctions against buyers and sellers of alcoholic beverages, particularly among teenagers. The lack of clear regional regulations has led to police actions being primarily focused on guidance and advice. This suggests that police efforts need to be supported by regional government policies, such as regional regulations on the control, supervision, and restrictions on the sale of alcoholic beverages.

Another obstacle is the weak role of families and communities. Police can conduct raids and provide outreach, but teenagers still return to the same family and social environment. If this environment remains unchanged, police guidance will only have a temporary effect. Therefore, prevention efforts must prioritize a community-based approach. Parents need to increase supervision, schools need to strengthen character education, community leaders need to exercise social control, and local governments need to create spaces for positive activities for teenagers. In this context, the police play a role as a coordinating force, not the sole bearer of responsibility.

Based on this analysis, the Boalemo Police Department's role in combating alcohol use among adolescents has been implemented through outreach, cross-agency collaboration, raids, guidance, and written statements. However, its effectiveness still needs to be improved through strengthening regional regulations, monitoring the distribution of alcoholic beverages, involving families and schools, and ongoing guidance for at-risk youth. Therefore, the police need to implement a balanced approach between prevention, guidance, and law enforcement to more effectively suppress alcohol use among adolescents.

4. Conclusion

Factors contributing to alcohol use among adolescents in the Boalemo Police jurisdiction stem from the interaction of various social factors. The main factors include lack of parental supervision, peer influence, permissive living environments, poor religious and moral education, family economic conditions, and easy access to alcohol. Alcohol use then triggers juvenile delinquency in the form of fights and assaults because adolescents lose self-control and are driven by the effects of intoxication. Data from 2018-2022 shows that 39 adolescents were prosecuted for alcohol use, making this a recurring issue that requires serious attention.

Police efforts to combat alcohol use among adolescents are carried out through outreach in schools, collaboration with the Boalemo Regency Social Services and the Boalemo Regency National Narcotics Agency, raids on adolescents who consume alcohol, coaching, and issuing statements to ensure that adolescents do not repeat their actions. These efforts demonstrate that the police do not only carry out repressive functions, but also preventive and social guidance functions. However, the effectiveness of prevention still needs to be strengthened through stricter regional regulations, supervision of alcohol sellers, increasing the role of parents and schools, and involving community leaders in building a safer environment for adolescents.

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