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The Role of the Police in Addressing the Abuse of Aibon Glue Among Teenagers

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the role of the police in tackling the abuse of Aibon Glue among adolescents and identify the factors causing the abuse of Aibon Glue in the jurisdiction of the Boalemo Police. The study uses an empirical legal method with a qualitative descriptive approach. Primary data was obtained through interviews with police officers, adolescent perpetrators of Aibon Glue abuse, and parents, while secondary data was obtained from laws and regulations, books, journals, and related documents. The results of the study indicate that the abuse of Aibon Glue among adolescents is a form of juvenile delinquency influenced by weak family supervision, peer influence, residential environment, curiosity, affordable prices, and the lack of clear legal regulations specifically regarding the abuse of Aibon Glue. Data from the Tilamuta Police Criminal Investigation Unit shows that there were 110 adolescents handled in 2018-2022, consisting of 109 males and 1 female. The role of the police was carried out through socialization in schools, collaboration with the Social Service and the Boalemo Regency BNN, raids, guidance, data collection, summoning parents, and making statements. This article emphasizes that tackling the abuse of Aibon Glue requires synergy between the police, families, schools, local governments, and the community, including strengthening regional regulations so that prevention and guidance can be carried out more effectively.

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1. Introduction

Adolescence is a crucial developmental phase because it is the transition from childhood to adulthood. During this phase, adolescents experience rapid physical, psychological, social, and emotional changes, but these changes are not always accompanied by strong mental maturity and self-control. Diananda explains that adolescence is often marked by a search for identity, a desire to try new things, and vulnerability to environmental influences [1]. In these conditions, adolescents easily engage in deviant behavior if they do not receive adequate family control, moral education, and social support.

Juvenile delinquency is a social phenomenon that occurs when adolescents engage in actions that violate social, religious, and legal norms. Sumara and colleagues position juvenile delinquency as a social problem that requires integrated handling because it is influenced by family, school, social, and community factors [2]. Karlina also points out that juvenile delinquency cannot be understood solely as an individual error, but rather as a result of weak social control and character building [3]. Therefore, its handling requires a legal approach as well as a social approach.

One form of juvenile delinquency that is developing in society is the misuse of Aibon Glue. Aibon Glue is essentially an adhesive that has economic and technical functions for attaching objects such as rubber, leather, wood, plastic, and other materials. However, this glue is often misused by inhaling it to achieve a high or high sensation. Purwanto and colleagues explain that Aibon Glue contains organic solvents that can cause psychoactive effects if inhaled excessively [4]. This practice is known as glue-sticking and can damage the health and social behavior of adolescents.

From a health and social perspective, Aibon Glue abuse has serious consequences. Loihala and Raka state that Aibon Glue abuse can cause dizziness, hallucinations, respiratory problems, nerve damage, and behavioral disorders [5]. Tajuddin also points out that glue-sniffing behavior in children and adolescents can be studied as deviant behavior from a criminological perspective because it poses a risk of crime, violence, and dependency [6]. Thus, Aibon Glue abuse cannot be viewed as merely minor misbehavior, as its impact can be widespread on health, public order, and the future of adolescents.

Normatively, the regulation of Aibon Glue as a substance of abuse still faces problems. Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics has regulated narcotics and criminal sanctions for their abuse, but Aibon Glue has not been expressly placed as a specific criminal object in the law [7]. This creates a gap between the need for prevention in the field and the availability of specific legal norms. As a result, police officers use more guidance, supervision, and prevention approaches rather than direct criminal enforcement against juvenile users.

The police have a strategic position in addressing this issue. Based on Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, the police are tasked with maintaining public security and order, enforcing the law, and providing protection, guidance, and services to the community [8]. In the context of Aibon Glue abuse among adolescents, these duties are not only carried out through repressive measures, but also through preventive efforts and social development. The police need to be present as an institution that prevents juvenile delinquency, fosters at-risk adolescents, and encourages cross-sector cooperation.

The phenomenon of Aibon Glue abuse in Boalemo Regency demonstrates the urgency of research. Based on data from the Tilamuta Police Criminal Investigation Unit published in this thesis, during the 2018-2022 period, 110 teenagers were handled for Aibon Glue abuse in the Boalemo Police jurisdiction. In 2018, there were 21 people, 23 in 2019, 16 in 2020, 23 in 2021, and 27 in 2022. Of the total, 109 were male and 1 was female [9]. This data shows that Aibon Glue abuse is a recurring problem and is likely to increase again in 2022.

This condition shows a gap between the ideal norms of child protection and public order and the social facts on the ground. The state has regulated child protection through Law Number 35 of 2014 and the juvenile criminal justice system through Law Number 11 of 2012 [10], [11]. However, in practice, adolescents remain vulnerable to the abuse of addictive substances that have not been specifically regulated, such as Aibon Glue. This gap is an important basis for assessing how the role of the police is carried out and what factors cause adolescents to engage in such behavior.

Previous research has focused more on juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, and glue-sniffing behavior from a general perspective. Purwanto et al.'s study emphasized the role of the family in preventing deviant behavior among adolescent Aibon glue users [4], while Tajuddin examined glue-sniffing behavior among street children from a criminological perspective [6]. However, studies specifically linking the role of the police in the Boalemo Police jurisdiction with the factors causing Aibon glue abuse among adolescents are still limited. This is where this article's novelty lies, namely placing local data, police officer interviews, adolescent experiences, and juridical-sociological analysis within a single discussion framework.

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

1. What is the role of the police in tackling the misuse of Aibon glue among teenagers in the jurisdiction of the Boalemo Police?
2. What are the factors that cause Aibon glue abuse among teenagers?

Based on the problem formulation above, this study

aims to analyze the role of the police in combating Aibon glue abuse and identify the causal factors. Theoretically, this article contributes to the development of criminal law, criminology, and police law studies. Practically, this article is expected to serve as evaluation material for the police, local governments, schools, families, and communities in developing a more effective juvenile delinquency prevention system.

2. Research Methods

This study uses an empirical legal research method. Empirical legal research was chosen because the main focus of this article is to examine how law and police function work in social practice, particularly in addressing the abuse of Aibon Glue among adolescents. Benuf and Azhar explain that empirical legal research is used to analyze contemporary legal issues by examining social facts, human behavior, and the implementation of legal norms in society [12]. Thus, this study not only examines laws and regulations, but also examines police practices and the social experiences of adolescents.

The approach used is a juridical-empirical approach with qualitative descriptive analysis. The juridical approach is used to examine the legal basis for police duties, child protection, the juvenile criminal justice system, and narcotics regulation. The empirical approach is used to understand field data regarding cases of Aibon glue abuse, police officer interviews, juvenile statements, and parental statements. Qualitative analysis is conducted by linking legal norms with social facts to obtain conclusions relevant to the problem formulation.

The research location is within the jurisdiction of the Boalemo Police, with a particular focus on handling cases of Aibon Glue abuse among teenagers. Primary data were sourced from interviews with police officers, namely members of the Women and Children Protection Unit of the Boalemo Police Criminal Investigation Unit and the Head of the Tilamuta Police Criminal Investigation Unit, as well as interviews with teenagers who abuse Aibon Glue and their parents. Secondary data were sourced from books, scientific journals, laws and regulations, police documents, and other relevant written sources.

Data collection techniques included interviews, documentation, and observation. Interviews were used to obtain direct information regarding the role of the police, guidance patterns, regulatory constraints, and causal factors of Aibon Glue abuse. Documentation was used to review case data from 2018-2022, legal documents, and scientific literature. Observations were used to understand the social context of Aibon Glue abuse in the study area. The data obtained were then analyzed descriptively and qualitatively, emphasizing the relationship between field facts, juvenile delinquency theory, criminological theory, and the legal basis for the police.

3. Results and Discussion

The discussion in this section is directed at answering two main problem formulations. First, the article analyzes the role of the police in tackling the abuse of Aibon Glue among teenagers by examining the legal basis for police duties, forms of preventive and developmental actions, and the factual conditions within the jurisdiction of the Boalemo Police. Second, the article outlines the factors causing the abuse of Aibon Glue based on case data, interviews with teenagers, parental statements, and theories of juvenile delinquency. The analysis is conducted by connecting legal norms, police functions, child protection, and social facts to reveal the gap between the need for prevention and the unclear specific regulations regarding Aibon Glue.

3.1. The Role of the Police in Addressing the Abuse of Aibon Glue Among Teenagers

The role of the police in tackling the abuse of Aibon Glue among teenagers must be seen from the perspective of the three main functions of the Indonesian National Police, namely maintaining public security and order, law enforcement, and protecting, assisting, and serving the community. Article 13 of Law Number 2 of 2002 emphasizes that these three functions are the main duties of the Indonesian National Police [8]. In cases of juvenile delinquency, these functions position the police not only as enforcement officers, but also as actors in prevention and social development.

In the context of Aibon Glue abuse, the police's role is unique because the abused substance lacks clear criminal regulations, unlike narcotics. Aibon Glue is a legal substance traded for adhesive purposes, but its misuse, through inhalation, can cause psychoactive effects. This creates legal challenges, as authorities are confronted with deviant behavior that endangers adolescents, yet not all have specific criminal instruments. Therefore, police within the Boalemo Police jurisdiction tend to play a preventive, developmental, and supervisory role.

Based on the research results, efforts undertaken by the police include outreach in schools. First Brigadier Nuriesa, a member of the Women and Children Protection Unit of the Boalemo Police Criminal Investigation Unit, explained that the police are collaborating with the Boalemo Regency Social Services and the Boalemo Regency National Narcotics Agency to conduct outreach on the dangers of Aibon Glue abuse. This outreach is important because teenagers need knowledge about the health risks, legal risks, and potential delinquency that arise from glue-sniffing behavior. This form of implementation of the police's preventive function.

In addition to outreach activities, the police also conducted raids based on public reports. Aipda Robert Rellua, Head of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Tilamuta Police, explained that the police frequently

receive reports of teenagers gathering and inhaling Aibon Glue. Following up on these reports, officers conduct operations or raids in locations deemed vulnerable. Teenagers found abusing Aibon Glue are then taken to the Tilamuta Police for data collection and guidance. This action demonstrates the police's response to public concerns and efforts to maintain public order.

The next role is to provide guidance to teenagers found abusing Aibon Glue. Based on interviews, police actions include summoning parents, requiring teenagers to sign a written statement promising not to repeat the act, and providing guidance to ensure they understand the dangers of such behavior. In some cases, teenagers are given guidance sanctions such as being sunbathed while saluting the Indonesian flag. While these measures are intended to be deterrent, it is important to ensure that the guidance respects the principles of child protection, does not demean the child's dignity, and is oriented toward behavioral recovery.

From the perspective of child protection law, adolescents who abuse Aibon Glue should be viewed as subjects who need to be guided and protected, not merely as perpetrators of deviance. Law Number 35 of 2014 places children as parties who have the right to receive protection from violence, discrimination, and conditions that endanger their growth and development [10]. Law Number 11 of 2012 also emphasizes the importance of a special approach to children in the criminal justice system [11]. Therefore, police actions should prioritize education, family support, social assessment, and referral to relevant institutions if adolescents show symptoms of dependency or psychological problems.

The role of the police is also evident in cross-agency collaboration. The abuse of Aibon glue cannot be addressed solely by the police, as its causes are intertwined with family, school, economic, social, and mental health issues. Collaboration with the Social Services Agency and the Boalemo Regency National Narcotics Agency (BNN) is an important step in connecting legal approaches with social and health approaches. However, this collaboration needs to be expanded to include schools, village governments, religious leaders, youth leaders, and counseling services to ensure that counseling continues after the adolescent is brought to the police station.

The main weakness identified was the lack of specific regulations governing action against Aibon Glue abuse, both against juvenile users and sellers who sell freely to children. Aipda Robert Rellua stated that to date, the Boalemo Police Department has not yet established written regulations providing a basis for action or sanctions against buyers and sellers of Aibon Glue in the context of abuse by juveniles. This situation presents a normative obstacle that causes the police to rely more on guidance, warnings, and raids. From a legal system perspective, the weakness of legal substance will impact the effectiveness of the law enforcement structure and the legal culture of the community.

Based on the above description, the police's role in combating Aibon glue abuse among adolescents has been implemented through outreach, raids, data collection, guidance, summoning parents, issuing statements, and cross-agency coordination. However, this role is not yet fully optimized due to limitations in specific regulations, limited rehabilitation mechanisms, and weak family and community participation. Therefore, the police's role needs to be strengthened with a more structured, child-friendly, community-based response model supported by local government policies.

3.2. Factors Causing Aibon Glue Abuse Among Teenagers

The factors causing Aibon glue abuse among adolescents cannot be explained solely. This behavior arises from the interaction of family factors, peers, the residential environment, the adolescent's psychological state, and easy access to Aibon glue. According to juvenile delinquency theory, deviant behavior occurs when social control weakens and adolescents are negatively influenced by their surroundings. Teenagers who lack strong self-control are more likely to follow friends' suggestions, try new things, and ignore health and legal risks.

The first factor is the family environment. Research shows that some adolescents abuse Aibon glue due to a lack of parental control and supervision. Busy working parents often lack the time to monitor their children's social interactions, daily activities, and behavioral changes. One parent stated that their child became involved in Aibon glue abuse due to a lack of family supervision due to their busy work schedule. This situation indicates that the family, as the primary institution for character formation, is not functioning optimally in preventing deviant behavior.

The second factor is peer influence. Interviews with adolescents indicate that Aibon Glue abuse often begins with peer encouragement. A teenager with the initials FP, for example, stated that he was influenced by friends in his neighborhood, even feeling threatened if he didn't use Aibon Glue. This shows that peer pressure has a strong influence on adolescents' decisions. In the identity-searching phase, adolescents often want to be accepted by the group, leading them to engage in behavior that is actually dangerous. Purwanto and colleagues emphasized that families need to establish communication and control so that adolescents are not easily dragged into deviant group behavior [4].

The third factor is the residential environment. Teenagers who live in environments that are permissive of deviant behavior are more likely to imitate and repeat such behavior. A teenager with the initials RA stated that he began using Aibon glue due to the influence of his

neighborhood. Initially, he just tried it, but it later became a habit. An environment that allows children to gather unsupervised, has easy access to glue, and lacks strong social controls creates a space for glue-snorting behavior to flourish. From a criminological perspective, environmental conditions such as these can be a driving factor for deviant behavior.

The fourth factor is curiosity and thrill-seeking. A teenager with the initials AL stated that he used Aibon Glue because he wanted to know the effects of inhaling the glue, and because it was readily available, inexpensive, and legal as an adhesive. Curiosity is a common characteristic of adolescence, but it can turn into risky behavior if not properly guided. When curiosity meets easy access and minimal supervision, the risk of abuse increases.

The fifth factor is the lack of clear legal norms specifically regarding the misuse of Aibon Glue. Unlike narcotics, which are expressly regulated in Law Number 35 of 2009, Aibon Glue has not been specifically designated as a substance prohibited for misuse [7]. Teenagers may even assume that misuse of Aibon Glue is not a serious offense because the substance is freely sold and there is no prohibition that they understand. This lack of norms creates problems in guidance and prevention, because the community and authorities do not have a sufficiently specific legal basis to limit adolescents' access to Aibon Glue.

The sixth factor is low legal and health awareness. Many teenagers do not understand that inhaling Aibon glue can damage the respiratory system, nerves, and social behavior. Loihala and Raka showed that counseling has an impact on teenagers' knowledge about the dangers of Aibon glue abuse [5]. This means that teenagers' knowledge can be improved through ongoing education and socialization. If counseling is not carried out consistently, teenagers will more easily acquire misinformation from their peers and those around them.

The seventh factor is the lack of positive alternative activities for adolescents. Teenagers who lack productive after-school activities, such as religious activities, sports, arts, or youth organizations, are more likely to spend time in uncontrolled social environments. This lack of positive spaces leads adolescents to seek pleasure through risky behavior. Therefore, tackling Aibon Glue abuse must be accompanied by the provision of alternative activities, such as youth development, sports activities, skills training, and village- or school-based educational forums.

Case data from 2018-2022 reinforces the analysis that Aibon Glue abuse is a serious problem. The number of 110 adolescents treated, with a predominance of 109 males and 1 female, indicates that males are more frequently involved in this behavior [9]. However, the fact that one female adolescent also indicates that this problem is not limited to a specific group. Therefore, prevention strategies must target all adolescents, both males and females, with an approach appropriate to their age and social context.

Based on this analysis, the factors causing Aibon glue abuse among adolescents include weak family supervision, peer influence, the residential environment, curiosity, easy and affordable access, unclear specific regulations, low knowledge about the dangers of Aibon glue, and a lack of positive activities for adolescents. These factors are interrelated and cannot be resolved through police action alone. Therefore, prevention must be carried out in an integrated manner through families, schools, the police, local governments, community leaders, and social institutions.

4. Conclusion

The police's role in combating Aibon glue abuse among adolescents within the Boalemo Police jurisdiction has been implemented through preventive measures, guidance, and supervision. These efforts include outreach in schools, collaboration with the Boalemo Regency Social Services Agency and the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), raids on locations reported by the public, data collection on adolescents, summoning parents, providing guidance, and issuing written statements to discourage them from repeating their actions. However, this role has not been fully optimized due to the lack of specific legal regulations regarding Aibon glue abuse, so police action still relies more on guidance and warnings. Therefore, the police's role needs to be strengthened through cross-sector coordination, a child-friendly approach, social or psychological referral mechanisms, and support from regional regulations.

Factors contributing to Aibon Glue abuse among adolescents include poor family relationships, lack of parental supervision, peer influence, permissive living environments, curiosity, affordable Aibon Glue, easy access due to its legal status, and unclear legal norms specifically governing Aibon Glue abuse. Data from 2018-2022 shows that 110 adolescents were handled for Aibon Glue abuse, so this problem needs to be understood as a recurring social and legal issue. Effective mitigation cannot be carried out by the police alone, but must involve families, schools, local governments, communities, and social institutions so that adolescents receive ongoing supervision, education, guidance, and positive activity spaces.

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