



A Criminological Review of Crimes Committed By Adolescents In Kendari City (A Study at Polresta Kendari)

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine juvenile delinquency in Kendari City from a criminological perspective, focusing on the causal factors and law enforcement responses undertaken by the Kendari City Police Resort (Polresta Kendari). The research is motivated by increasing concerns regarding adolescent involvement in criminal activities within urban environments. A qualitative descriptive method was employed, utilizing both primary data obtained through field interviews and secondary data derived from literature reviews and legal documents. The findings indicate that criminal acts committed by adolescents in Kendari City during the period 2020–2024 totaled 22 cases, with fluctuating trends across years. The causes of juvenile delinquency are categorized into internal and external factors. Internal factors include psychological instability, weak self-control, and adverse childhood experiences such as broken homes and lack of moral education. External factors consist of family environment, peer association, and mass media influence, all of which significantly contribute to deviant behavior among adolescents. Furthermore, law enforcement efforts by Polresta Kendari include preventive measures such as public education and socialization programs, as well as repressive measures through legal action, school-based monitoring, and police raids. The study concludes that juvenile crime prevention requires integrated collaboration between families, communities, and law enforcement institutions to effectively reduce adolescent criminal behavior in Kendari City.

Keywords: *Adolescent Criminology, Criminal Behavior, Juvenile Delinquency, Kendari City, Kendari Police Department*

I. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a state based on the rule of law, as stipulated in Article 1 paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. This provision affirms that law serves as the highest authority in achieving justice and truth within the Indonesian legal system. Consequently, law plays an essential role in addressing various societal problems in order to maintain order, security, and welfare in social, national, and state life. According to R. Abdoel Djamali, law is not autonomous or independent, meaning that it is inseparable from reciprocal influences and the overall social context in which it operates. Law functions as a guiding norm that is shaped by social dynamics and, in turn, aims to create order and peace in society. However, in reality, legal violations remain prevalent within communities. Social interactions in society inevitably create relationships between different groups. These interactions often generate various events, including legal events. Among human actions, crime represents a significant social problem because both perpetrators and victims are members of society itself. In urban communities, crime rates tend to be higher compared to rural areas, which are generally considered safer. Cities frequently experience various forms of crime, such as theft, rape, murder, assault, riots or intergroup conflicts, and robbery. These incidents are widely reported in mass media, including television, radio, newspapers, and the internet. The rapid development of television and internet media has influenced patterns of thought and behavior, particularly among adolescents, which in some cases leads to criminal tendencies.

One form of crime influenced by globalization is violent behavior carried out by groups commonly known as motorcycle gangs. These groups are often found in urban areas and engage in disturbing and criminal activities such as extortion, robbery (street crime), and even murder when victims resist. Members of motorcycle gangs are generally dominated by youths of productive age, especially adolescents who are still in senior high school. Crimes committed by these groups have become a major public concern and are widely discussed in electronic, online, and print

media. Motorcycle gangs typically operate at night, often between midnight and early morning hours (00:00–03:00). During this time, they search for victims after engaging in alcohol consumption and disruptive behavior. Their actions include damaging public facilities such as street lighting and throwing objects at residential houses. This deviant behavior continues to escalate and has become increasingly uncontrollable, ultimately leading adolescents into juvenile delinquency. Juvenile delinquency is essentially a form of social disorder, where deviant behavior is considered a social disease.

Social pathology refers to behaviors that deviate from legal norms, customs, and social values, and cannot be integrated into accepted patterns of conduct. Juvenile delinquency is not only defined as unlawful acts committed by minors but also includes behaviors that violate social norms. In many cases, adolescents are categorized as delinquents when they exhibit strong antisocial tendencies that disrupt public security, peace, and order. Such behaviors range from minor violations, such as truancy, breaking school rules, and violating parental curfews, to more serious offenses such as assault, gang fights, promiscuity, alcohol abuse, and drug use. Juvenile delinquency is a form of social illness caused by social neglect, leading young individuals to develop deviant behavioral patterns.

However, it is important to distinguish motorcycle gangs from motorcycle clubs. Motorcycle gangs consist of groups of adolescents who engage in reckless riding, public disturbances, and criminal acts regardless of motorcycle type. In contrast, motorcycle clubs are communities of motorcycle enthusiasts—both young people and adults—who usually focus on specific brands and engage in positive social activities such as charity work and disaster assistance.

As a response to these crimes, law enforcement agencies, particularly the police, are required to take firm and effective actions in addressing such criminal behavior through both preventive and repressive measures within the framework of law enforcement.

Criminology is an ideographic discipline, meaning it describes empirical realities occurring in society. It is an empirical science that systematically studies crime and individuals who commit crimes. The scope of criminology includes:

- a. Crime phenomena and individuals related to crime.
- b. Causes of crime.
- c. Societal reactions to crime, both formal responses by authorities and informal reactions by the public.

The relationship between criminology and criminal law is very close. Criminal law focuses on normative rules that define what is punishable, while criminology focuses on the empirical study of criminal behavior and offenders. Thus, criminal law concerns legal norms, whereas criminology focuses on human behavior that violates those norms.

According to Sutherland in *Principles of Criminology*, most criminological studies aim to explain crime in general. However, crime consists of various types of criminal acts, which should be categorized into more specific units for deeper analysis, similar to medical science, which studies specific diseases in detail.

Formally, motorcycle gang activities fall within the scope of criminal law, meaning they are not merely violations but constitute criminal acts. These acts are prohibited by law and subject to criminal sanctions. Therefore, law enforcement institutions, particularly the police, must play an active role in addressing these crimes through both preventive strategies and repressive actions in the context of effective law enforcement.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 General Overview of Criminology

2.1.1 Definition of Criminology

Criminology originates from Latin, consisting of two root words: “*crimen*,” meaning crime, and “*logos*,” meaning knowledge or science. Based on this etymology, criminology can be broadly defined as the science of crime. The term “*criminology*” was first introduced by French anthropologist P. Topinard (1830–1911), and since then it has developed into a scientific field that studies crime in a more systematic manner, particularly since the mid-nineteenth century.

The development of criminology has been significantly influenced by the rapid advancement of natural sciences, and subsequently evolved into a discipline that applies sociological approaches and analytical frameworks. Previously, criminology was considered a branch of criminal law; however, in its further development, it has been positioned as an auxiliary science to criminal law. In contemporary discourse, as stated by Sahetapy, the view of criminology as merely a subordinate field is no longer widely accepted.

In Indonesia, Sahetapy emphasizes that criminology should focus on data collection and empirical research to develop theories that are relevant to the Indonesian context, which are still limited or not widely published. Furthermore, criminology requires interdisciplinary collaboration with other fields such as criminal law, sociology, anthropology, psychology, psychiatry, forensic medicine, as well as customary and civil law. Therefore, criminology is an open and interdisciplinary scientific field.

Criminology can be defined as the systematic study of crime and its related phenomena. Its scope includes etiological aspects (causes of crime), social reactions, offenders, and criminal behavior. Crime and criminals cannot be separated but can be distinguished for analytical purposes. Criminology is scientifically divided into three main areas:

- a. Legal criminology, which studies crime as a juridical issue and is primarily addressed within criminal law and criminal procedure law.

- b. Anthropological criminology, which examines crime from biological and sociological perspectives as the core of criminological studies in a narrow sense.
- c. Technical criminology (criminalistics), which focuses on the scientific techniques of crime investigation, including forensic medicine, forensic science, and forensic chemistry.

2.1.2 Scope and Definitions of Criminology According to Scholars

Until now, there is no single universally accepted definition of criminology among experts due to the broad scope of the field. Criminology is a social science that continuously develops in line with societal progress and change. The following are several definitions proposed by scholars:

1. W.A. Bongger

Criminology is the science that aims to investigate crime phenomena in the broadest sense (theoretical or pure criminology). It can be divided into several branches of knowledge, each addressing specific aspects of crime. Thus, criminology is a collection of sciences consisting of criminal anthropology and criminal sociology.

2. Edwin H. Sutherland and Donald R. Cressey

Criminology is a body of knowledge that studies crime as a social phenomenon. It also includes the processes of law formation, law violations, and the reactions to such violations.

3. Noach

Criminology is the science that studies forms of crime, its causes, and its consequences. It includes the scientific analysis of criminal phenomena, social behavior, causal factors, and the impacts of crime.

4. Martin L. Haskell and Lewis Yablonsky

Criminology is the scientific study of crime, including analysis of:

- a. The nature and extent of crime;
- b. The causes of crime;
- c. The development of law and criminal justice implementation;
- d. Characteristics of offenders;
- e. Rehabilitation of offenders;
- f. Patterns of criminal behavior;
- g. The impact of crime on social change.

2.1.3 Definition of Crime

Crime is human behavior that is formulated in legislation, unlawful, punishable, and committed with fault (*mens rea*). A person who commits a criminal act is held responsible if there is fault, which is determined normatively by society's legal standards.

Another definition describes crime as an act of commission or omission that contains elements of fault, is prohibited by law, and is threatened with criminal sanctions. Punishment is imposed to maintain legal order and protect public interests.

Criminal behavior that is immoral and antisocial triggers social reactions such as anger and disapproval from society and causes harm to the public. Therefore, crime prevention requires collective responsibility involving society and law enforcement institutions such as the police, prosecutors, courts, correctional institutions, and others.

Crime is a fundamental concept in criminal law. Juridically, it refers to behavior that violates criminal law provisions. Every prohibited act must be avoided, and violators are subject to sanctions as stipulated in legislation.

Moeljatno defines crime as an act prohibited by law and accompanied by criminal sanctions for those who violate it. He emphasizes three key points:

- a. A criminal act is an act prohibited by law and threatened with punishment.
- b. The prohibition is directed at the act, while the sanction is directed at the person who commits it.
- c. There is a close relationship between the act and the person responsible for it; without human conduct, there is no punishable act.

According to A. Ridwan Halim, crime is translated from the term *strafbaar feit*, meaning an act prohibited and punishable by law. Hazewinkel-Suringa defines it as human behavior rejected within a certain social order and considered harmful, thus requiring suppression through coercive legal means.

Moeljatno further explains that crime is a fundamental legal concept in criminal law. Criminal law studies punishment as a sanction, while sentencing theory discusses justification and objectives of punishment. The term *straf* refers to punishment as a legal sanction.

The term *strafbaar feit* used in the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP) has not been explicitly defined by legislators, resulting in various doctrinal interpretations. Hamel defines it as human conduct formulated in law that is unlawful, punishable, and committed with fault. Pompe defines it as a violation of norms, whether intentional or unintentional, that can only be punished when certain legal requirements (elements of crime) are fulfilled.

Based on these definitions, crime can be understood as an act or omission containing fault elements, prohibited by law, and punishable, where sanctions aim to maintain legal order and protect public interests.

2.2 General Review of Criminal Offenses

2.2.1 Definition of Criminal Offense

The definition of a criminal offense is not easy to formulate, similar to defining law itself, because law is broad and flexible and constantly adapts to societal conditions. The term *strafbaar feit* originates from Dutch legal

terminology and has been translated into Indonesian in various forms, such as criminal act, offense, criminal deed, criminal event, or punishable act.

The term *strafbaar feit* consists of three words: *straf*, *baar*, and *feit*. In various translations, *straf* is interpreted as punishment or law, *baar* as can or may, and *feit* as act, event, violation, or deed. Pompe, as cited by Bambang Poernomo, distinguishes the concept of *strafbaar feit* into two definitions:

1. **Theoretical definition:** a violation of a norm committed due to the offender's fault and punishable to maintain legal order and protect public welfare.
2. **Positive legal definition:** an event (*feit*) formulated by legislation as a punishable act.

In line with these definitions, J.E. Jonkers also divides the concept into two meanings, as cited by Bambang Poernomo:

- a. Short definition: an event (*feit*) that can be threatened with punishment by law.
- b. Long definition: unlawful behavior committed intentionally or negligently by a person who is capable of responsibility.

The short definition emphasizes the principle of legality, meaning that every criminal offense must be based on statutory law enacted by the legislator, and public opinion cannot determine otherwise. The long definition emphasizes unlawfulness and criminal responsibility as essential elements, whether explicitly stated or implicitly contained in the offense.

Simons and Roni Wijayanto define a criminal offense as an act (*handeling*) that is punishable by law, contrary to law (*onrechtmatig*), committed with fault (*schuld*), and performed by a person who is capable of responsibility. Simons' formulation is considered comprehensive because it includes:

- a. Punishable By Law;
- b. Contrary To Law;
- c. Committed With Fault (*Schuld*);
- d. Committed by a responsible individual.

Van Hamel presents a similar definition to Simons but adds an additional element, namely the "punishable nature of the act." Thus, according to Van Hamel, the elements of a criminal offense include:

- a. Punishable By Law;
- b. Contrary To Law;
- c. Committed With Fault (*Schuld*);
- d. Performed By A Responsible Person;
- e. The Act Is Punishable In Nature.

2.2.2 Elements of Criminal Offenses

The elements of a criminal offense can be viewed from two perspectives:

- a. Theoretical perspective, based on scholarly opinions; and
- b. Statutory perspective, based on how offenses are formulated in legislation.

The theoretical perspective refers to academic interpretations expressed by legal scholars, while the statutory perspective refers to the actual formulation of offenses in criminal law statutes.

2.2.3 Elements of Criminal Offenses According to Legal Theories

The elements of a criminal offense depend on the formulation provided by each theorist. Several scholars, including Moeljatno, R. Tresna, Vos, Jonkers, and Schravendijk, provide different formulations.

According to Moeljatno, the elements of a criminal offense are:

- a. An Act;
- b. Prohibited By Law;
- c. Threatened With Punishment.

Human conduct is the core of a criminal offense. However, not every act is necessarily punished in practice, even though it is generally threatened with punishment by law. R. Tresna formulates the elements as:

- a. An act or series of human acts;
- b. Contrary to statutory regulations;
- c. Subject to penal sanctions.

Vos formulates the elements as:

- a. Human Conduct;
- b. Punishable By Law;
- c. Regulated in legislation.

These formulations generally reflect the dualistic view that criminal offenses focus on prohibited acts defined in legislation, without necessarily addressing the offender's responsibility.

In contrast, Jonkers and Schravendijk represent the monistic view, which includes subjective elements. According to Jonkers, the elements are:

- a. an act;
- b. unlawfulness;
- c. fault;
- d. accountability of the offender.

Schravendijk formulates the elements as:

- a. Conduct;
- b. Contrary to legal consciousness;
- c. Punishable by law;
- d. Committed by a person who can be held responsible;
- e. Fault.

2.2.4 Elements of Criminal Offenses in Legislation

Book II of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP) contains provisions on crimes, while Book III contains violations. Each formulation generally includes the element of conduct, although there are exceptions such as Article 351 on assault.

Elements such as fault and unlawfulness are sometimes explicitly stated and sometimes implied. The element of criminal responsibility is often not explicitly mentioned. Additional elements may also appear depending on the specific offense.

From various provisions in the KUHP, eleven elements of criminal offenses can be identified:

1. Conduct;
2. Unlawfulness;
3. Fault;
4. Constitutive consequences;
5. Accompanying circumstances;
6. Additional conditions for prosecution;
7. Aggravating conditions;
8. Conditions for punishability;
9. Object of the offense;
10. Legal status of the subject;
11. Mitigating conditions.

Among these, fault and unlawfulness are subjective elements, while the rest are objective elements. Unlawfulness may be objective or subjective depending on the legal formulation. Objective unlawfulness relates to external conditions, such as taking property without consent in theft (Article 362 KUHP). Subjective unlawfulness relates to the offender's intent, such as gaining unlawful benefit in fraud (Article 378 KUHP), extortion (Article 368 KUHP), and threats (Article 369 KUHP).

Objective elements refer to external circumstances such as actions, consequences, and conditions attached to the act or its object. Subjective elements refer to internal states of mind, including intent and fault of the offender.

2.2.5 Crime and Punishment (Criminal Sanctions and Sentencing)

The terms "punishment" and "being punished" originate from the Dutch words *straf* and *wordt gestraf*, which, according to Moeljatno, are conventional legal terms. However, Moeljatno rejects these terms and prefers the use of the term "pidana" as a substitute for *straf*, and "threatened with punishment" (*diancam pidana*) as a replacement for *wordt gestraf*. He argues that the term "being punished" implies a broader meaning that is not limited to criminal law, but also extends to civil law. Thus, "punishment" refers to the consequence or result of legal enforcement in general, whereas "pidana" has a narrower meaning, limited specifically to criminal law, since it relates to judicial decisions within the criminal justice system.

In response to this conceptual distinction, Sudarto also emphasized that the term "punishment" derives from the word "law," which can be interpreted as "to impose law" or "legal sanction." Therefore, "punishment" is not exclusively related to criminal law, but may also include civil legal matters. For this reason, Sudarto argues that the term "pidana" is more appropriate than "punishment" in the criminal law context.

Andi Hamzah further differentiates the two terms by stating that "punishment" is a general concept referring to sanctions that cause suffering or loss intentionally imposed on a person, whereas "pidana" is a specific legal concept within criminal law. Nevertheless, both refer to sanctions that are essentially coercive and burdensome in nature.

2.3 Concept of Motorcycle Gangs

Motorcycle gangs are groups of individuals who share a common interest in motorcycles and engage in collective activities such as convoys or touring. However, over time, the nature of motorcycle gangs has shifted from hobby-based communities into groups associated with violent behavior and assaults. Consequently, motorcycle gangs are often considered harmful to society, as they contribute significantly to the escalation of juvenile delinquency.

Common forms of juvenile delinquency include truancy, drug abuse, involvement in motorcycle gangs, smoking, theft, fraud, fighting, vandalism, assault, robbery, sexual misconduct, and even homicide. Among these, involvement in motorcycle gangs is one of the most prevalent forms of delinquent behavior among adolescents seeking identity formation.

Adolescents are characterized by curiosity, experimentation, and imitation, which often lead them to join peer groups such as school-based gangs. When parental control at home is perceived as overly restrictive, adolescents tend to seek freedom within peer groups, where they feel more accepted and unrestricted. This environment often becomes a space where negative behaviors are normalized, even though adolescent identity formation ideally requires structured guidance and positive direction.

Motorcycle gangs represent a form of social group that may initially resemble informal associations or communities. However, in practice, they often operate without formal structure and tend to engage in anarchic or violent behavior. One contributing factor to such behavior is the presence of collective beliefs (*collective belief*) that are shared among group members. These shared beliefs are often reinforced through symbols, traditions, graffiti, and narratives that normalize deviant or violent conduct.

In many cases, the existence of gang symbols and traditions indicates a form of implicit social support for deviant behavior. This social reinforcement increases the complexity of addressing such behavior, as it becomes embedded within group identity and local social norms.

Groups such as XTC, BRIGEZ, GBR, and M2R have been associated with motorcycle gang activity that contributes to rising social disorder. These groups often engage in disruptive behaviors such as damaging public property, intimidating motorists, and committing acts of violence during convoys. Although such actions are not officially endorsed by group structures, they are often informally accepted as part of group tradition, especially among new members seeking acceptance.

From a behavioral perspective, such practices become habitual and normalized within group culture. This condition raises concerns about increasing anarchic behavior in society. Therefore, preventive measures are necessary before such behaviors become socially entrenched and widely accepted.

In the context of juvenile offenders, there is an ongoing debate regarding whether criminal justice mechanisms should be prioritized or whether restorative and non-judicial approaches should be emphasized. Although Indonesian criminal law does not formally recognize out-of-court settlement for criminal cases in general, there is increasing attention toward child protection principles.

International frameworks since the 1924 Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the 1959 Declaration of the Rights of the Child emphasize that children require special protection due to their physical, mental, and emotional immaturity. Exposure of children to the formal criminal justice system is often considered detrimental, as it may reinforce criminal identity rather than rehabilitation. Therefore, criminal justice intervention should be minimized for juveniles, and when unavoidable, it must be conducted in a manner that is protective, humane, and supportive. The juvenile justice process should ideally adopt a family-oriented model, treating young offenders as individuals in need of guidance rather than punishment.

2.3.1 Strategies to Minimize Motorcycle Gangs

The term “gang” is generally associated with group-based social behavior; however, in many contexts, it carries a negative connotation. A gang is not merely an informal youth group, but in its more extreme interpretation, it refers to organized groups engaging in criminal or disruptive activities.

One of the primary causes of adolescent involvement in motorcycle gangs is the lack of parental attention and emotional support. Many parents, due to work demands, tend to provide material support without sufficient emotional engagement. However, material provision alone cannot substitute for affection, attention, and emotional bonding.

Every individual, particularly adolescents, seeks recognition, appreciation, and affection from their social environment, especially from family. When these needs are unmet at home, adolescents tend to seek validation from peer groups. Unfortunately, this search for identity often leads them toward negative social environments.

Another contributing factor is the lack of positive spaces for self-actualization. Adolescents generally have a strong interest in speed and motorized activities. However, the scarcity of legal racing events or structured youth activities leads them to express their interests through illegal street racing or reckless riding, which endangers both themselves and others.

An effective solution requires strong parental involvement, emotional support, and consistent guidance. In cases where adolescents are already involved in motorcycle gangs, psychological counseling in collaboration with professional psychologists is necessary to restore emotional stability and social reintegration.

In addition, religious and moral education plays a crucial preventive role. Early inculcation of ethical values helps adolescents understand acceptable and unacceptable behavior, enabling them to make responsible decisions in social interactions.

Ultimately, motorcycle gangs represent a social phenomenon that must be addressed proportionally through interdisciplinary approaches involving sociology, law, psychology, and education to reduce their negative impact on society.

2.3.2 Forms of Crimes Committed by Motorcycle Gangs

In terms of conceptual understanding, there is a clear distinction between motorcycle gangs and motorcycle user communities (motorcycle clubs) that must be recognized by the public. In many cases, these groups initially emerge as collectives formed to engage in shared activities aimed at seeking new experiences and stimulating personal excitement among members.

From what begins as neutral and enjoyable activities, their behavior gradually becomes increasingly uncontrolled and deviant, developing outside adult supervision. Over time, these actions may transform into violent behavior and criminal acts. Violent and criminal actions allegedly committed by motorcycle gang members have increasingly occurred in various urban areas, including:

- a. Street racing that disrupts traffic safety and endangers both the perpetrators and other road users.
- b. Disorderly, reckless, and unruly behavior that disturbs public order and the surrounding environment. Such

- conduct is often driven by uncontrolled excessive energy and a primitive tendency toward thrill-seeking and environmental intimidation.
- c. Inter-gang fights, inter-group conflicts, school-based clashes, and inter-ethnic conflicts (tawuran), often resulting in casualties.
 - d. Truancy followed by loitering on streets or hiding in secluded places while engaging in deviant experiments and immoral acts.
 - e. Juvenile criminality and adolescent delinquency, including threats, intimidation, extortion, theft, pickpocketing, robbery, assault, and even murder carried out through various violent methods such as stabbing, strangulation, or poisoning.
 - f. Parties involving alcohol consumption, substance abuse, and free sexual behavior, which often create social disorder in the surrounding environment.
 - g. Sexual violence, aggression, and murder with sexual motives or driven by psychological compensation mechanisms such as feelings of inferiority, the need for recognition, severe depression, loneliness, revenge, or emotional rejection.
 - h. Drug abuse and addiction, which are closely associated with various forms of criminal behavior.
 - i. Open immoral sexual behavior conducted without shame or restraint, often displayed in a crude manner in public spaces.
 - j. Homosexual behavior, anal and oral eroticism, and other sexual deviations among adolescents, sometimes accompanied by sadistic tendencies.
 - k. Gambling and other forms of betting-based games that often lead to further criminal activities.
 - l. Commercial sex activities, abortions conducted by unmarried girls, and infanticide committed by unmarried mothers.
 - m. Radical and extremist acts involving violence, kidnapping, and murder committed by adolescents.
 - n. Antisocial and asocial behavior caused by psychological disorders such as psychopathy, psychosis, neurosis, and other mental disturbances.
 - o. Criminal acts resulting from neurological disorders such as encephalitis lethargica, meningitis, or post-encephalitic conditions, as well as head injuries that cause brain damage and reduce self-control capacity.
 - p. Behavioral deviations caused by character defects in children who seek compensation due to feelings of inferiority arising from physical or psychological limitations.

From a sociological and legal perspective, motorcycle gangs can be understood as social groups that share common objectives and may resemble associations or communities. However, their relationships tend to be negative, unstructured, and inclined toward anarchic behavior. One contributing factor to such anarchic actions is the existence of a collective belief system shared among members.

Individuals involved in motorcycle gangs often become accustomed to violating the law. While such behavior is not formally justified within the group, an unwritten tradition is collectively understood that such actions are part of "street life culture." This is particularly evident among new members who are still in their adolescence. They tend to rationalize such behavior as part of identity formation and self-exploration through deviance from legal norms.

This situation is highly concerning and requires careful and balanced intervention. In addressing crimes committed by children and adolescents, there is ongoing debate regarding whether criminal justice mechanisms should be prioritized or whether non-judicial, deliberative approaches should be preferred. However, under the Indonesian criminal justice system, criminal cases generally do not recognize non-judicial settlement as a formal resolution mechanism.

Another contributing factor to adolescents joining motorcycle gangs is the lack of positive platforms or spaces for self-expression and identity development.

2.3.3 Legal Provisions Governing Crimes Committed by Motorcycle Gangs

Legal regulations specifically addressing motorcycle gangs are not yet explicitly formulated in Indonesian law. However, criminal acts committed by motorcycle gang members can be prosecuted under the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP), depending on the nature of the offense.

Relevant provisions include Article 365 KUHP and/or Article 368 KUHP concerning theft accompanied by violence and extortion, which carry penalties of imprisonment exceeding five years. In cases of homicide, Article 340 KUHP regulates premeditated murder, stating that:

"Anyone who intentionally and with prior planning takes the life of another person shall be punished with death penalty, life imprisonment, or a fixed-term imprisonment of up to twenty years."

Meanwhile, Article 338 KUHP governs ordinary homicide, which carries a maximum imprisonment of fifteen years. Regarding law enforcement, police authorities are not hesitant to apply repressive measures against motorcycle gang members whose actions have clearly entered the category of criminal offenses, particularly for adult offenders. Conversely, for juvenile offenders, special treatment is required under the Juvenile Justice System Law.

If a child under 12 years of age commits a criminal act, law enforcement officers may decide to return the child to their parents or guardians or place them in educational and rehabilitation programs. For offenders aged 12 to 18 years, legal proceedings may still be carried out, including detention, but only as a last resort and in consideration of the best interests of the child.

III. RESEARCH METHODS

3.1 Research Location

This research is conducted at the Kendari City Police Resort (Polresta Kendari). This institution serves as the primary location where the researcher obtains data relevant to the thesis title as a final academic requirement at the Faculty of Law, Universitas Sulawesi Tenggara.

3.2 Sources and Types of Data

3.2.1 Data Sources

Based on its sources, data are classified into library data and field data, as follows:

- a. Field data refers to data obtained directly from the field through interviews with research informants.
- b. Library data refers to data obtained from various literature sources by conducting a literature review of legal books, academic references, and relevant legislation.

3.2.2 Types of Data

Based on its nature, data are divided into primary data and secondary data, as follows:

- a. Primary Data is the main data obtained directly from the research field through interviews with informants in order to collect the necessary information for the study.
- b. Secondary Data is supporting data obtained from various legal sources related to the research problem. Secondary data in this study consists of:

Primary Legal Materials, namely binding legal sources, including:

- a. Law Number 1 of 1946 jo. Law Number 73 of 1958 concerning the Enforcement of the Criminal Code (KUHP).
 - b. Law Number 8 of 1981 concerning the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP).
 - c. Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police.
 - d. Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection.
1. Secondary Legal Materials, namely materials that complement primary legal sources, including Government Regulation Number 92 of 2015 concerning the Second Amendment to Government Regulation Number 27 of 1983 on the Implementation of the Criminal Procedure Code.
 2. Tertiary Legal Materials, namely materials such as theories and expert opinions from various legal literature, books, documentation, legal dictionaries, and internet sources.

3.3 Data Collection Techniques

Data collection is carried out through library research and field research procedures as follows:

a. Library Research

Library research is conducted through activities such as reading, reviewing, and citing legal literature, as well as examining relevant statutory regulations related to the research problem.

b. Field Research

Field research is conducted through interview techniques with research respondents as an effort to collect the data and information required in accordance with the research problem.

3.4 Data Analysis

Data analysis refers to the process of describing data in systematically arranged sentences that are clear and detailed, which are then interpreted to draw conclusions. The data analysis method used in this study is qualitative analysis. The conclusion is drawn using an inductive method, namely by explaining specific matters first and then deriving general conclusions in accordance with the research problem.

3.5 Research Timeframe

This research proposal will be presented in a seminar and approved by examiners, after which the research will be conducted for approximately three (3) months.

IV. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Data on Crime Cases Occurring in 2020–2024

No	Year	Number of Cases	Description
1	2020	5	Completed
2	2021	7	Completed
3	2022	4	Completed
4	2023	5	Completed
5	2024	1	Completed
	Total	22	

Source: Kendari City Police Resort (Polresta Kendari)

Based on the table data above, it is shown that criminal acts occurring in Kendari City and reported to the Kendari Police Resort in 2020 amounted to 5 cases. In 2021, the number of cases increased to 7 cases. In 2022, there were 4 cases, followed by 5 cases in 2023, and in 2024 the number of reported police cases decreased significantly to only 1 case. Thus, the total number of criminal cases committed by adolescents in Kendari City from 2020 to 2024 is 22 cases. This data reflects a public concern regarding safety when engaging in outdoor activities, as criminal acts increasingly occur under circumstances where offenders act without prior intention but are driven by opportunity.

4.2 Factors Causing Criminal Acts Committed by Adolescents in Kendari City

4.2.1 Internal Factors

Internal factors influencing criminal behavior originate from within the individual, such as physiological and psychological conditions of the offender. Psychological factors include tendencies toward criminal behavior influenced by traumatic childhood experiences, such as broken homes, orphanhood, or inadequate family education regarding respect for others, appreciation of hard work, and humanitarian values. Personality traits may also contribute. In many cases, adolescents exhibit weak self-control. They are unable to regulate emotions and curiosity appropriately, making them prone to criminal acts. This weak self-control is commonly referred to as impulsivity and reflects an inability to delay gratification or control immediate desires.

4.2.2 External Factors

Several external factors also influence individuals in committing criminal acts. At present, societal needs, both primary and secondary, are increasingly high, leading some individuals to seek shortcuts to fulfill their needs through criminal behavior, often accompanied by acts of violence.

a. Family

The family is the primary external factor influencing juvenile delinquency, as it represents the first social environment encountered by a child. Parenting styles, parental attention, and educational approaches significantly shape a child's character. Children experiencing family problems are more likely to engage in unlawful behavior.

b. Social Environment (Peer Association)

Peer association plays a crucial role in shaping adolescent behavior. Parents are encouraged to monitor and maintain open communication with their children to understand their social interactions. Guidance is necessary to help adolescents make appropriate decisions in their social relationships, as peers may strongly influence involvement in criminal activities.

c. Influence of Mass Media

Adolescents who actively use social media often share personal activities, expressions, and photographs with friends. Social media allows unrestricted expression and public commentary without fear. Adolescence is a transitional stage between childhood and adulthood, characterized by unstable identity formation and emotional development, making individuals vulnerable to negative influences from media exposure.

4.3 Efforts Undertaken by Law Enforcement in Addressing Juvenile Crime in Kendari City

One of the efforts conducted by the police in addressing juvenile delinquency includes:

a. Preventive Measures

Preventive measures refer to all efforts aimed at preventing crime or minimizing its impact on individuals and society. One form of police preventive action is conducting outreach programs regarding the dangers and impacts of criminal behavior. These activities are carried out directly within communities through persuasive approaches, as well as through seminars and public meetings discussing the consequences of criminal acts.

b. Repressive Measures (Law Enforcement Actions)

Repressive measures involve the suppression and eradication of criminal acts through legal channels conducted by law enforcement authorities with community support. When criminal acts are known, they must be reported to the authorities, and citizens are prohibited from taking the law into their own hands. In this context, the Kendari Police Resort has implemented enforcement actions, including investigations in schools to monitor potential juvenile delinquency. One of the measures undertaken is conducting raids, which involve coordinated arrests or operations targeting individuals considered a threat to public security.

V. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

Based on the discussion, the researcher draws the following conclusions:

1. Factors causing juvenile crime in Kendari City include:

a. Internal Factors

Internal factors influencing criminal behavior include physiological and psychological conditions. Psychological factors include traumatic childhood experiences such as broken homes, orphanhood, and inadequate moral education. Additionally, weak self-control and impulsivity contribute significantly to adolescent criminal behavior.

b. External Factors

External factors include increasing societal needs, both primary and secondary, which may lead individuals to take shortcuts in fulfilling their needs through criminal acts, often accompanied by violence.

2. Law enforcement efforts to address juvenile crime in Kendari City include:

a. Preventive Measures

Preventive efforts involve outreach programs and socialization activities aimed at educating the public about the dangers of crime. These are conducted through direct community engagement, seminars, and public discussions.

b. Repressive Measures

Repressive efforts include law enforcement actions such as investigations within schools and raids conducted

by police officers to prevent and suppress juvenile criminal activities.

5.2 Suggestions

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Parents are encouraged to supervise and monitor their children's social interactions to prevent involvement in deviant behavior. The family plays a crucial role as the first environment in which children receive care, guidance, and emotional support.
2. It is important to establish synergy between the police and the community in supporting public security efforts, particularly in crime prevention and control.

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Legislation

Law Number 1 of 1946 in conjunction with Law Number 73 of 1958 concerning the Enforcement of the Criminal Code.

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