

# **Criminological Study of Recidivist Juvenile Offenders at the Tenggarong Class II Juvenile Correctional Institution (LPKA) East Kalimantan**

Joni Sasmito<sup>1</sup>  
Universitas Balikpapan

Muhammad Wafy<sup>2</sup>  
Universitas Balikpapan

Paul Ico Niomoy<sup>3</sup>  
Universitas Balikpapan

Edys Panto Simanjuntak<sup>4</sup>  
Universitas Balikpapan

Correspondence Joni Sasmito (Joni.sasmito@uniba-bpn.ac.id)

Submitted :19-05-2025, Accepted : 21-06-2025, Published : 23-07-2025

## **Abstract**

This article discusses criminal crimes by children (Recidivism). Child recidivism is a challenge in the criminal justice system because it shows the failure of rehabilitation in diversion efforts and post-conviction that have been implemented by the Child Special Guidance Institution (LPKA). This study aims to determine the factors that influence child recidivism in terms of social and guidance efforts at LPKA Class II Tenggarong. The method in this study is empirical juridical in-depth interviews with foster children and the LPKA Class II Tenggaraong. The results of the study identify several factors both from the social, economic and low education sectors and the limited human resources who have special competence in conducting training at LPKA Class II Tenggarong so that effective steps need to be taken to optimize the handling of child recidivism through Law No. 11 of 2012 Concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System.  
Keywords : Child criminal; recidivism; Guardance

## **Introduction**

Rapid social developments in the modern era impact children's behavior, including their tendency to become involved in crime. Children in conflict with the law, especially those who commit repeat crimes or are recidivists, are a key issue in the study of criminology and the juvenile criminal justice system.

Children are a gift that must be protected, possessing greater value than other possessions. As a gift from God, children must be safeguarded because they possess dignity and individual rights that must be respected. A child's development process is greatly influenced by the attention and support from their environment to help them become good individuals. Children have a great ability to imitate the actions of those around them, so the role of those closest to them as role models is crucial for

developing positive character. Without appropriate guidance from their environment, children can struggle to control themselves, leading to negative behavior, including crime or violations.

However, as previously explained, the number of children caught up in criminal activity is increasing; they should be protected from involvement in such activities. Criminal acts committed by these children are increasingly worrying because they not only harm themselves but also negatively impact others and society at large. The delinquency and crime committed by these children continue to recur, not only in certain regions but also in large and small cities, making it a serious problem and a national concern.

The repetition of criminal acts (recidivism) among children not only reflects a failure in the correctional system but also has detrimental consequences for victims, their families, and the community. The recidivism rate among children in conflict with the law is an increasingly concerning phenomenon in Indonesia, including at the Tenggarong Class II Special Child Correctional Institution (LPKA), East Kalimantan. Children who should receive protection and guidance are instead re-offending after undergoing the correctional process, indicating weaknesses in the correctional and supervision system.

The phenomenon of child recidivism is a crucial issue that requires in-depth study to identify the causal factors and address its prevention efforts. This phenomenon not only harms the children themselves but also negatively impacts the wider community and poses serious challenges for law enforcement officials in preventing and addressing juvenile recidivism.

The factors that influence juvenile recidivism are diverse, including family circumstances, social environments, and economic factors, which play a significant role in encouraging juveniles to reoffend. Furthermore, the rehabilitative methods implemented at the Correctional Institution (LPKA) need to be evaluated to ensure their effectiveness in reducing recidivism rates, as research from several other LPKAs has shown that suboptimal rehabilitative programs contribute to high rates of juvenile recidivism.

Therefore, this study aims to identify the factors contributing to juvenile recidivism at the Class II Tenggarong LPKA and analyze the rehabilitative efforts that have been implemented. It is hoped

that the results of this study will enrich understanding and provide practical solutions for addressing juvenile criminal recidivism in special rehabilitative institutions.

## Methods

This research uses an empirical juridical method, an approach that examines the application of law as it occurs in social reality. This approach focuses not only on the law written in statutory regulations but also on how the law is implemented and enforced in everyday life.

The focus is on understanding the relationship between written law and its application in the Special Child Development Institution (LPKA). Using the empirical juridical method, researchers gain a comprehensive picture of the effectiveness and challenges in implementing the law related to the guidance of children involved in legal problems in LPKA, as well as the social factors that influence this process.

## Results and Discussion

### Factors influencing child recidivism in Class II Tenggarong LPKA

Understanding the factors that cause juvenile recidivism is crucial for designing effective rehabilitative strategies, considering that recidivism in juveniles is not simply a repetition of criminal acts, because this phenomenon is not only a repetition of criminal acts, but also reflects the failure of the existing rehabilitation and rehabilitative system. In juvenile criminal law, children are seen as individuals who require special protection and treatment compared to adults, with a focus on rehabilitation and social reintegration. However, various internal and external factors still hinder the success of the rehabilitative process in LPKA

**Table 1. Data on Criminal Offenses of Children in the Care of the Class II Tenggarong LPKA**

No	Types of Educational Actions	Amount
1.	Theft	14 People
2.	Murder	1 Person
3.	Child Protection	46 People
4.	Abuse	4 People

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5.	Drugs	15 People
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Source : Powerpoint Material for the Profile of the Class II Tenggarong LPKA

Based on data on the number of child recidivists by type of crime at the Tenggarong Class II Correctional Institution (LPKA), the most frequently reoffended offenses are child protection offenses, with 46, followed by narcotics offenses with 15, theft with 14, assault with 4, and murder with 1. This phenomenon indicates that child recidivism occurs not only in minor crimes like theft, but also in more serious cases such as child protection offenses and drug abuse, which have significant social and psychological consequences.

Based on interviews and observations at the Tenggarong Class II Correctional Institution (LPKA), it was found that internal factors such as a child's level of psychological maturity, past trauma, and low legal awareness significantly influence their likelihood of reoffending. Children who are in the process of developing their identity and self-control are more susceptible to emotional and environmental pressures.

Furthermore, unaddressed psychological problems, such as anxiety disorders or depression, also increase the risk of recidivism. This psychological aspect is often overlooked in the development process, even though a better understanding of a child's mental state is crucial to reducing the likelihood of reoffending.

From a family perspective, a lack of parental attention, supervision, and moral support are external factors that significantly contribute to a child's tendency to reoffend. A disharmonious or dysfunctional family environment often causes children to feel neglected and seek refuge in negative social circles. Active family involvement in the development and reintegration process is essential to reducing recidivism rates. From my experience in the field, I have found that without active family involvement in the development and reintegration process, LPKA efforts will struggle to achieve optimal results. Therefore, development needs to involve families intensively as part of the child's support system.

Socioeconomic factors are also crucial. Children from low-income families and those living in crime-prone neighborhoods are more vulnerable to reoffending as a response to economic and social

pressures. Development programs that solely emphasize legal aspects and discipline without offering concrete economic solutions tend to be unsuccessful. Children need real skills and economic opportunities to become independent and stay away from crime.

Institutionally, the Tenggarong Class II Correctional Institution (LPKA) faces challenges related to a lack of expert staff in child psychology, inadequate facilities, and general and impersonalized counseling methods. The lack of variety in the counseling approach and its lack of adaptation to the individual needs of children are among the factors contributing to the high recidivism rate. Criminological theory, particularly social control theory, suggests that enhancing social control through personalized and contextual counseling is crucial for reducing recurrent criminal behavior.

### **Guidance efforts that have been carried out by the Class II Tenggarong LPKA regarding the economic, social and psychological aspects of children.**

In its development efforts, the Tenggarong Class II Correctional Institution (LPKA) has implemented various programs covering the education, economic, social, and psychological skills of its inmates. This special child development institution is specifically established for the development of children. In implementing this development, the LPKA must prioritize the fulfillment of the right to education. Decree of the Minister of Law and Human Rights Number M.HH-03.OT.02.02 of 2014 concerning guidelines for handling children in LPKA, Government Regulation No. 31 of 1999 concerning the development of inmates, and Law No. 22 of 2022 concerning correctional institutions serve as important references in ensuring that children in LPKA have the right to education.

Article 12 letter c of Law No. 22 of 2022 concerning correctional institutions states that one of the rights of correctional students is to receive an education at LPKA, even if the child is involved in a criminal case. Because education is a crucial component in implementing LPKA guidelines, the right to education is a crucial right and requires careful consideration by the institution for children. This is in accordance with the provisions of Article 31 of Law No. 22 of 2022 which emphasizes the need to implement the best interests of children as a guideline in the implementation of education.

**Table 2.** Data Pendidikan Anak Binaan LPKA Kelas II Tenggara

No	Types of Educational Actions	Amount
1.	Package A	12 People
2.	Package B	30 People
3.	Package C	22 People
4.	High School Formal	31 People
5.	High School Graduate	5 People

Source: Powerpoint Material for the Profile of LPKA Class II Tenggara

Based on the table above, the Child Protection and Rehabilitation Center (LPKA) has undertaken educational efforts by implementing non-formal education programs through the Package A, B, and C catch-up programs in collaboration with the Puspa Wijaya Kutai Kartanegara Community Service Center (PKBM). However, the implementation of formal education has not been optimal due to limited facilities.

From an economic perspective, practical skills training programs such as sewing, handicrafts, and entrepreneurship are prioritized to provide children with the skills to become financially independent. These programs aim to equip children with the skills to become financially independent. This program is designed to create business opportunities and increase their independence after leaving the foster care institution.

From a social and psychological perspective, LPKA strives to build character and strengthen children's social interactions through group activities, communication training, and the development of moral and ethical values. The psychological aspect is a key focus, with the LPKA providing counseling and psychosocial therapy services. These services are crucial in helping children cope with trauma and build self-awareness. Furthermore, LPKA collaborates with various parties, including the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Kutai Kartanegara Regency, to improve religious and moral development for its children. Family and community involvement is also encouraged as part of the social reintegration process for children, enabling them to play a positive role in their communities.

However, issues such as inadequate assessment processes due to the limited number of competent psychologists and the standardized approach hamper the effectiveness of psychological counseling. Therefore, human resource capacity development and the implementation of more innovative and personalized therapy methods are needed.

Children, as legal subjects, have the right to special protection, and the juvenile justice system focuses on rehabilitation and reintegration into society. The high recidivism rate among children is a sign of the failure of the correctional system, which must be addressed with an approach that encompasses various legal, social, economic, and psychological aspects. The Child Protection and Rehabilitation Center (LPKA), as a correctional institution, plays a crucial role in carrying out its functions, but must continue to innovate and adapt its programs to the children's needs and local conditions.

From a criminological theoretical perspective, juvenile recidivism can be understood as the result of a complex interaction between individuals and their social environment, where an imbalance between social strain and social control is a key factor triggering recurrent criminal activity. Hirschi's social control theory asserts that strong social bonds—including attachment, involvement, commitment, and belief—play a crucial role in preventing individuals, including children, from reoffending. When these bonds weaken, children are more vulnerable to negative environmental influences and social pressures that can lead them to recidivism.

Furthermore, Merton's strain theory explains that a mismatch between societal goals and the means available to achieve them can create psychological and social pressures that drive individuals to commit crime as a means of escape. In the context of juveniles in correctional institutions (LPKA), this imbalance can arise from limited access to education, low family support, and difficult economic conditions, forcing children to seek shortcuts through crime.

This criminological approach is highly relevant for assessing the effectiveness of rehabilitation at the Class II Tangerang Correctional Institution (LPKA). Rehabilitation institutions must be able to strengthen children's social control by strengthening family support, creating a positive environment, and providing adequate psychological guidance. Intensive family support and a

conducive social environment can strengthen children's attachment to social norms and values, thereby reducing the risk of reoffending. Holistic psychological guidance is also crucial to help children overcome trauma, increase legal awareness, and build strong self-control to prevent relapse into criminal behavior.

However, in practice, LPKA still faces many challenges, such as limited psychological expertise, inadequate facilities, and rehabilitation methods that are not fully personalized and contextual. This demonstrates that effective rehabilitation must integrate a multidimensional approach that focuses not only on legal and disciplinary aspects but also considers the child's overall psychosocial and environmental conditions. Therefore, criminological theory serves as a crucial foundation for designing rehabilitation programs that can significantly reduce juvenile recidivism rates.

The success of rehabilitation at LPKA depends heavily on the synergy between the institution, family, and community in strengthening social control and providing ongoing support. Without the active involvement of all parties, rehabilitation and social reintegration of children will be difficult to achieve, thus maintaining a high risk of recidivism. Therefore, the development of children in conflict with the law must be viewed as a complex social process that requires an interdisciplinary approach that adapts to the child's individual needs and social context..

## **Conclusion**

In the context of West Sumatra's dynamic business landscape, this study highlights the crucial role of digital marketing and business management knowledge in shaping the marketing sustainability of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Empirical analysis shows that digital marketing and business management knowledge have a significant and positive relationship with marketing sustainability. Digital marketing, encompassing strategies such as social media marketing, SEO, content marketing, email marketing, and paid advertising, emerged as a key driver of online market presence growth, customer acquisition, and overall marketing sustainability. This highlights the importance of implementing digital transformation and adapting marketing activities to address changing consumer behavior. Knowledge management, including knowledge-sharing



platforms, communities of practice, and knowledge testing, emerged as a driver of a culture of learning and innovation in MSMEs. This, in turn, enhances marketing sustainability by leveraging internal expertise and facilitating adaptability to global market challenges.

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