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The Function of the Police in Law Enforcement of Narcotic Crimes: A Study of the Criminal Investigation Unit of Pinrang Police Department

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ABSTRACT

The abuse and illicit trafficking of narcotics constitute an extraordinary crime with far-reaching impacts on public health, social stability, the economy, and national security. This study aims to analyze the role of the police, particularly the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Pinrang District Police, in addressing narcotics and psychotropic drug-related offenses. The research adopts a normative-empirical approach, utilizing data collected through literature reviews and in-depth interviews with police personnel directly involved in handling narcotics cases. The findings reveal that the police play a multifaceted role, including repressive functions through investigation and law enforcement, as well as preventive and rehabilitative roles through public education, community engagement, and cross-sector collaboration. The strategies employed encompass both penal and non-penal approaches, leveraging information technology through digital reporting systems, online education, and data-driven mapping of high-risk narcotics areas. However, the effectiveness of these efforts faces several challenges, such as limited personnel, unequal access to technological infrastructure, and insufficient community participation. The study concludes that the success of law enforcement in combating narcotics crimes is highly dependent on the synergy between legal regulations, the professionalism of law enforcement officers, adequate facilities and infrastructure, and the strengthening of public legal awareness. These findings are expected to contribute both academically and practically to enhancing the effectiveness of narcotics law enforcement at the local level.

Keywords: Law Enforcement, Narcotics, Police Role, Pinrang Police Department, Crime Prevention, Information Technology.

I. Introduction

Indonesia is constitutionally recognized as a state governed by the rule of law, as stipulated in Article 1, Paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. As a legal state, Indonesia aims to establish order and justice within society. One of the key institutions responsible for achieving this objective is the police. Article 18 of Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police affirms that the police serve as a governmental entity tasked with maintaining public order, enforcing the law, and providing protection and services to the community (Arifin, 2020). As a vital component of the law enforcement system,



the police play a strategic role in addressing various social issues, one of which is the abuse of narcotics, which has reached a critical level. Drug abuse now affects all segments of society, from children to adults, and increasingly involves individuals acting as drug dealers (Sutanto, 2021). Indonesia, once known primarily as a transit country in global narcotics distribution networks, has now become one of the main destinations for international drug trafficking. The rise in narcotics abuse is closely linked to the activities of organized drug syndicates. Most drug users come from the working population, often driven by job stress, socio-economic conditions, and environmental influences—all of which serve as major triggers for involvement in the use of illicit substances (Rahmawati & Nugroho, 2022). Ongoing social changes in Indonesia have also influenced the dynamics of community life, especially in urban areas, which now serve not only as administrative and economic centers but also as complex spaces for social interaction. These changes have significantly affected societal values, norms, and behaviors, thereby necessitating the role of law as a tool of social control. In this context, narcotics regulations serve as a form of collective agreement between the government and the people, intended to preserve social order (Sari, 2020).

Narcotics-related crimes are serious, organized, and transnational offenses with ever-expanding networks. Addressing these crimes requires cross-sector synergy and a high level of public awareness. If left unaddressed, the circulation of narcotics could severely undermine the quality of future generations and the nation's global competitiveness (Rahman & Lubis, 2021). Technological advancement, international trade, and Indonesia's strategic geographic position have made the country not only a transit point but also a producer of narcotics. The modus operandi of drug syndicates has become increasingly complex, including the establishment of domestic drug factories, self-production of raw materials, and systematic organization of distribution networks (Nugroho, 2022). In response, the government—through the National Narcotics Agency (BNN)—has undertaken various preventive efforts, one of which is the "soft power approach" strategy. This initiative successfully established 1,107 "Drug-Free Villages" (Desa Bersinar) by mid-2022, incorporating prevention, community empowerment, and rehabilitation of drug users (BNN, 2022). Given the wide-ranging impact of narcotics on health, society, the economy, and national security, active involvement from law enforcement agencies is essential in both preventing and firmly prosecuting narcotics crimes to protect the future of the nation's youth.

The abuse and illicit trafficking of narcotics have become a critical issue in Indonesia, posing multidimensional threats to national security, public order, and the future of younger generations. Narcotics not only endanger individual health but also contribute to the emergence of other crimes, such as theft, assault, and even murder. According to Law Number 35 of 2009 on Narcotics, drug-related offenses are classified as extraordinary crimes due to their organized nature and far-reaching impacts (Hasibuan, 2021). In Pinrang Regency, South Sulawesi Province, narcotics abuse has shown a concerning upward trend. Data from Class IIB Pinrang Detention Center indicate a significant increase in drug-related inmates—from 212 in 2020 to 296 in 2021 (Detik, 2022). Throughout 2023, the Pinrang District Police handled a total of 854 cases, with narcotics cases forming a substantial portion: 707 were resolved, and 147 remained under investigation (Pinrang Info, 2024). In April and May 2023 alone, the Pinrang Police uncovered three major narcotics cases, seizing 561.18 grams of crystal methamphetamine and arresting 18 suspects (Indeks.co.id, 2023). The number of narcotics cases in Pinrang rose from 86 in 2021 to 139 in 2022 (Fajar, 2024). These figures underscore the urgent need for serious action from law enforcement, particularly by the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Pinrang District Police.

The impact of narcotics distribution is extensive and complex. Socially, drug abuse leads to family disintegration, community conflicts, and the moral and ethical degradation of younger generations (Sutrisno, 2020). Economically, the country suffers significant losses due to declining productivity and the high cost of rehabilitation. The National Narcotics Agency (BNN) estimated that economic losses caused by drug abuse reached IDR 74.4 trillion in 2017 and are expected to continue rising (Putra & Yuliana, 2019). From a legal perspective, the high number of drug-related cases burdens the criminal justice system and exacerbates overcrowding in correctional facilities, which are increasingly filled with drug offenders (Rahmawati, 2021). Therefore, the active role of the police—particularly through the investigative functions of the Criminal

Investigation Unit—is crucial to breaking the chain of drug distribution, especially in high-risk areas like Pinrang.

Law enforcement plays a vital role in disrupting the increasingly widespread and organized narcotics trade. In this context, law enforcement is not merely a reactive measure against criminal acts, but also a continuous strategy combining both preventive and repressive efforts. Law Number 35 of 2009 on Narcotics explicitly outlines the authority of law enforcement agencies, particularly the police, to conduct investigations, prosecutions, and the dismantling of drug networks. According to Simanjuntak (2020), effective law enforcement against drug-related crimes must be comprehensive—from preventive measures and case exposure to sentencing that delivers a deterrent effect. Amid the complexity of narcotics networks, a response that is both firm and systematically professional is essential. Narcotics crimes are trans-regional in nature, involving international syndicates that exploit legal loopholes and technological advances to operate. As such, law enforcement officers are required to enhance inter-agency coordination, improve human resource capacity, and utilize information technology for early detection of narcotics distribution (Lestari & Ramadhan, 2021). Half-hearted efforts only serve to strengthen criminal networks, whereas a systematic approach can dismantle syndicate operations from upstream to downstream. As Nugroho (2019) emphasizes, without an integrated legal strategy, the narcotics trade will continue to regenerate actors and methods, thereby prolonging the threat to society and the state. Within this framework, the active role of specialized units such as the Criminal Investigation Unit is critical to effective law enforcement. Their responsibilities extend beyond arrests; they are also tasked with designing investigative strategies capable of uncovering drug networks in a comprehensive manner.

The Indonesian National Police holds a highly vital position in enforcing laws related to narcotics crimes. As stipulated in Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, the police serve as a state apparatus responsible for maintaining public security and order, enforcing the law, and providing protection, guidance, and services to the public. In the context of combating narcotics, the police are not only tasked with repressive functions such as arrest and investigation, but also with preventive and preemptive roles aimed at curbing the spread and misuse of drugs from an early stage (Rahardjo, 2009). Narcotics crimes are categorized as extraordinary crimes due to their systemic nature, the involvement of organized transnational syndicates, and their destructive impact on younger generations. Therefore, their handling requires an extraordinary approach to law enforcement. Under Law Number 35 of 2009 on Narcotics, the police are granted full authority to conduct investigations and criminal inquiries into narcotics offenses, including powers of arrest, search, seizure, and case submission to the public prosecutor's office. This role is operationally carried out by police investigators, both from the narcotics investigation unit and the criminal investigation unit (Satreskrim), depending on the organizational structure in each region. In the jurisdiction of the Pinrang District Police, for instance, efforts to combat narcotics crimes involve not only the Narcotics Investigation Unit but also the Criminal Investigation Unit, particularly when narcotics cases are linked to other crimes such as money laundering, violence, and human trafficking. This demonstrates that the police's role in this context is multidimensional and cuts across various units, requiring synergy and legal strategies that are adaptive to the evolving modus operandi of offenders. According to Friedmann (1998), modern policing is not merely reactive but must be capable of building information networks, engaging in community-based approaches, and fostering cross-sectoral collaboration.

The role of the Criminal Investigation Unit (Satreskrim) in this context is particularly significant because this unit possesses expertise in collecting evidence, tracing the financial flow of criminal proceeds, and conducting in-depth investigations. Additionally, Satreskrim is authorized to dismantle the structure of narcotics networks by developing cases vertically, from low-level offenders to higher-level perpetrators. Such performance requires technical skills, legal knowledge, and social sensitivity to ensure that law enforcement is not merely administrative but also addresses the root causes of the problem. On the other hand, the challenges faced by the police in carrying out this role are quite complex. These range from limited human resources and external pressures such as political or social influence to the potential for abuse of power by certain individuals within the police force. Therefore, in fulfilling their functions, police officers must

consistently adhere to the principles of professionalism, transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights as mandated in Article 13 of Law Number 2 of 2002. In addition to its repressive function, the police also have a preventive responsibility through social approaches. For example, conducting legal education in schools, communities, and drug-prone areas represents a tangible form of preemptive strategy. The police do not merely act as law enforcers but also as partners to the community in maintaining social order (Simanjuntak, 2020). This approach aligns with the philosophy of community policing, which emphasizes collaboration between the police and the public in addressing shared issues. Thus, the police's special role in handling narcotics crimes is not only as a law enforcement apparatus but also as an agent of social change. The success of narcotics eradication cannot be measured solely by the number of suspects arrested, but also by the reduction in drug abuse prevalence, the recovery of victims, and the increased public awareness of the dangers of drug use.

This study was conducted at the Pinrang District Police due to the high number of narcotics crimes occurring in the area. According to data from various media and institutional reports, narcotics cases in Pinrang Regency have increased significantly in recent years. For example, there were 86 cases in 2021, which rose to 139 cases in 2022 (Fajar, 2024). Furthermore, in May 2023, the Pinrang Police uncovered a case involving 561.18 grams of methamphetamine and arrested 18 suspects (Indeks.co.id, 2023). Pinrang was also chosen because it is a strategic transit area in South Sulawesi, prone to being used as a drug distribution route. The region's open geography and limited surveillance pose particular challenges for law enforcement officers. Therefore, the Pinrang District Police serve as a representative location to observe how the police, especially the Criminal Investigation Unit, systematically combat narcotics crimes. How does the police, particularly the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Pinrang District Police, function in enforcing laws against narcotics crimes? This question arises from concern over the high rates of narcotics abuse and the urgent need for effective, solution-oriented law enforcement. The urgency of this study lies in the importance of strengthening the role of the police institution in confronting transnational, complex, and organized narcotics crimes. As Simanjuntak (2020) emphasizes, law enforcement against narcotics must be supported by a responsive and sustainable system, not only to break the distribution chain but also to prevent the regeneration of offenders. This study is expected to contribute academically through empirical research and provide practical solutions in the form of law enforcement strategies that can be implemented at the local level.

II. Literature Review and Hypothesis Development

The Indonesian National Police (POLRI) is a state institution responsible for exercising state authority in law enforcement, maintaining public security and order, and protecting, nurturing, and serving the community. This function is explicitly regulated in Article 13 of Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police. POLRI's role as a law enforcement agency positions it as a key actor in maintaining stability and legal justice within society. According to Yuwono (2012), police duties are not only repressive, acting after legal violations occur, but also include preventive and preemptive measures. In handling narcotics crimes, this role becomes increasingly important considering that narcotics offenses are classified as extraordinary crimes with broad impacts on health, social, economic, and national security aspects. Friedmann (1998) emphasizes that in modern society, the police are not merely law enforcers but also part of the social service system. The police must understand social conditions and respond with a humane and collaborative approach. This aligns with the principle of community policing, where the police act as partners with the community to create a safe and crime-free environment. Law enforcement by the police in the context of narcotics goes beyond simply taking action against offenders; it also targets preventing the spread of drugs through educational programs such as school outreach, integrated raids, and cross-sector cooperation (Sadjijono, 2010). These preventive activities are part of the police's social function aimed at increasing public legal awareness and reducing potential violations. Furthermore, Husin and Fathonah (2014) assert that the police's duty to eradicate narcotics distribution must be carried out within the framework of law and human rights. Therefore, the professionalism of officers is critical to the success of law enforcement. Police officers are

required to act in accordance with legal procedures, avoid abusing their authority, and uphold the principles of justice and proportionality.

In a study conducted by Arief (2013), it is stated that the police, as investigators, have a strategic role in dismantling narcotics distribution networks. The investigative function of the Indonesian National Police often serves as the spearhead in bringing cases to the prosecution stage. Therefore, the technical capacity and integrity of officers are key factors in effective law enforcement. Moeljatno (2002) emphasizes that criminal law functions as an *ultimum remedium*, meaning it is used as a last resort when other methods fail to resolve the problem. However, in narcotics cases, due to the severe impact involved, the criminal law approach is often applied as a *strict lex specialis*. As field operatives, police officers are required not only to have structural competence but also to understand the sociological conditions of society. Soekanto (2008) explains that the effectiveness of law enforcement depends on the interaction of five factors: the law itself, law enforcers, facilities, society, and culture. In this context, the police serve as an institution that bridges legal norms with social realities. Narcotics crimes are a form of extraordinary crime with multidimensional impacts. Legally, narcotics offenses are categorized as special crimes that are systemic, transnational, and often involve organized networks. According to Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, narcotics are classified into three groups based on their nature and use: Groups I, II, and III. The unauthorized use and distribution of narcotics constitute criminal acts punishable by strict sanctions, including life imprisonment and the death penalty in certain cases (Law No. 35 of 2009). Generally, narcotics abuse can cause physical and mental health disorders, reduce quality of life, and damage social order. Rasdianah et al. (2020) state that drug abuse significantly harms the younger generation and impacts national productivity. Therefore, addressing narcotics crimes requires a comprehensive and sustainable approach. Efforts to combat narcotics crimes involve both penal and non-penal approaches.

The penal approach focuses on criminal law enforcement against offenders through investigation, prosecution, and sentencing. Meanwhile, the non-penal approach emphasizes preventive measures such as socialization, legal education, rehabilitation, and community empowerment (Arief, 2008). Sudarto (1986) states that criminal policy, as part of social policy, is a rational effort to combat crime, using both criminal law measures (penal policy) and non-criminal law measures (non-penal policy). The eradication of narcotics crimes cannot rely solely on a repressive approach but must also involve social actions that are educational and rehabilitative in nature. Similarly, Arief (2013) explains that a successful narcotics eradication strategy is one that integrates police repressive actions with participatory prevention activities. These include educational outreach in schools, community development in areas vulnerable to narcotics, and the development of cooperative networks among institutions, including the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) and community organizations. According to Soekanto (2008), the success of law enforcement against narcotics crimes heavily depends on the effectiveness of law enforcement institutions as well as adequate facilities and infrastructure. If any element in the law enforcement system is not functioning optimally, the desired outcomes will not be achieved.

Furthermore, Sadjijono (2010) emphasizes that narcotics control must also observe legal principles in police duties, such as the principles of legality, proportionality, and the protection of human rights. Violations of these principles would undermine the legitimacy of the narcotics eradication efforts themselves. In practice, the Indonesian National Police (POLRI) and the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) play vital roles as law enforcement institutions responsible for investigation and supervision. According to Husin and Fathonah (2014), the synergy between POLRI and BNN is key to dismantling large-scale narcotics networks, both in local distribution schemes and on an international scale. Therefore, the eradication of narcotics crimes cannot be carried out partially. An integrated strategy is required, encompassing institutional reform, improvement of human resource quality, community participation, and regulatory strengthening, to create an effective and sustainable narcotics control system. Law enforcement is a complex social and juridical process that is determined not only by the content of legal regulations but also by various external factors that influence its implementation in society. Soerjono Soekanto (2008) states that the effectiveness of law in society is

influenced by five main factors: (1) the law itself (substance), (2) law enforcement officers, (3) facilities and infrastructure, (4) the community, and (5) culture. These five factors work systemically and affect each other.

1. A good legal substance must be clear, unambiguous, and provide legal certainty. However, in practice, the legal substance sometimes fails to keep pace with the evolving and increasingly sophisticated criminal modus operandi such as narcotics crimes (Moeljatno, 2002). Law that is not adaptive to social changes will be difficult to implement effectively in the field.
2. Law enforcement officers are the key to the successful implementation of the law. The moral quality, competence, integrity, and professionalism of police officers and other legal institutions greatly determine the final outcome of law enforcement processes (Sadjijono, 2010). The presence of officers who abuse their authority or are involved in criminal networks becomes a major obstacle to law enforcement itself (Soekanto, 2008).
3. Law enforcement facilities and infrastructure, such as forensic laboratories, information technology facilities, operational vehicles, and modern reporting systems, are crucial. A lack of these facilities hinders the effectiveness of law enforcement, especially in uncovering narcotics crimes that require technology-based tracking capabilities (Husin & Fathonah, 2014). In many areas, including non-urban regions, limited facilities pose a significant challenge for the police (Adnan, 2020).
4. Community support also plays an important role. Low legal awareness, social apathy, and negative stigma against officers often create obstacles. According to Yuwono (2012), active community participation in reporting cases and cooperating in environmental supervision is the key to the success of community-based law enforcement.
5. The cultural aspect cannot be ignored. Law does not exist in a vacuum; it operates within society with diverse cultural values. If the law is not aligned with social norms or local culture, the community will find it difficult to comply with the regulations (Soekanto, 2008). In this context, a cultural approach is essential so that law enforcement is accepted as legitimate and relevant.

Among all these factors, law enforcement against narcotics crimes is heavily influenced by three dominant aspects: (1) the shortage of police personnel relative to the large area of their jurisdiction; (2) the lack of technology-based supporting facilities; and (3) weak community participation in prevention and reporting efforts (Adnan, 2020). Therefore, strengthening internal aspects of legal institutions must be accompanied by social approaches that foster collective awareness to combat drugs. The effectiveness of law enforcement is one of the main parameters used to measure the performance of police institutions, especially in dealing with extraordinary crimes such as narcotics offenses. Soerjono Soekanto (1983) states that law can be considered effective if it has the ability to change community behavior and achieve the goals mandated by legal norms. The effectiveness of the law is not only judged by the existence of legal norms themselves but also by the level of community compliance and the concrete results achieved by law enforcement officers. In the context of law enforcement against narcotics crimes, the effectiveness of the Indonesian National Police is often assessed based on their ability to uncover cases, arrest distribution networks, and refer cases through to the judicial process. According to Sadjijono (2010), this effectiveness cannot be separated from supporting factors such as the professionalism of officers, availability of resources, and an accountable and transparent work system.

As explained by Arief (2008), success in enforcing criminal law, especially regarding narcotics, must reflect three fundamental legal values: legal certainty, justice, and usefulness. These three values cannot be achieved if the law is merely formalistic without considering its impact on offenders and society. Therefore, the measure of effectiveness should not only be based on the number of cases handled but also on the quality of case processing and resolution. Soekanto (2008) also emphasizes that the effectiveness of the law heavily depends on the synergistic relationship among five main components of the legal system: the law itself, law enforcers, facilities and infrastructure, society, and culture. In this context, the police, as part of this system, have a dual role: as law enforcers and social agents. If one component does not function optimally—for example, insufficient supporting facilities or weak community participation—the effectiveness of the law will be disrupted. According to Yuwono (2012), the effectiveness of the police in addressing narcotics crimes can

also be measured through the law in action approach, not just the law in the books. Many policies that are normatively sound fail at the implementation level because officers lack sufficient resources or awareness to perform their duties effectively. Friedmann (1998), in his theory of the social function of police, reminds us that police effectiveness should not only be measured by repressive performance but also by the extent of police contribution in creating a sense of security and strengthening social cohesion. The police must be able to build public trust so that law enforcement proceeds with active community participation.

Furthermore, Husin and Fathonah (2014) argue that the effectiveness of the police in eradicating narcotics depends on three main factors: institutional commitment, strengthening cross-agency synergy (such as with the National Narcotics Agency), and the application of law enforcement technology. Without modern information systems, many major cases escape oversight. From all these studies, it can be concluded that the effectiveness of law enforcement by the Indonesian National Police is not only measured by quantity but more importantly by the quality of legal services, the ability to combat organized crime, and the establishment of a system that can prevent crime recurrence through education and community empowerment. Thus, the hypothesis of this study states that the effectiveness of the police function in law enforcement against narcotics crimes is determined by the synergy between legal regulations, the quality of personnel, the adequacy of facilities and infrastructure, and community participation in supporting narcotics eradication efforts.

H1: The Role of the Police in Combating Narcotics and Psychotropic Crimes

H2: H2: Methods and Techniques Used by the Police in Preventing Narcotics and Psychotropic Crimes

III. Research Method

This study uses a normative-empirical approach, which combines the examination of positive legal norms with empirical facts observed in the field. The normative approach involves analyzing applicable legal provisions, particularly those related to the police function in enforcing laws against narcotics crimes, as outlined in Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police and Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics. Meanwhile, the empirical approach factually describes how the Pinrang Police Resort, especially through the Criminal Investigation Unit, performs its duties in handling narcotics cases within its jurisdiction. The research was conducted at the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Pinrang Police Resort in South Sulawesi Province. This location was selected because Pinrang Regency has experienced a rise in narcotics abuse and trafficking cases in recent years, and the police resort actively engages in preventive, preemptive, and repressive efforts against narcotics crimes, making it a relevant subject for academic study.

Data for this research were collected through literature review and field studies. The legal sources used include primary, secondary, and tertiary materials. Primary legal materials consist of legislation directly related to the research topic, such as the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, Government Regulation Number 25 of 2011 on Mandatory Reporting of Narcotics Addicts, and the Minister of Home Affairs Regulation Number 21 of 2013 on Facilitating Narcotics Prevention and Abuse. Secondary materials include literature that explains and reviews the primary sources, such as books, scientific journals, previous research, and other relevant academic works related to the police function in combating narcotics crimes. Tertiary materials, which support understanding, include legal dictionaries, encyclopedias, and bibliographic indexes.

The study population consists of all personnel from the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Pinrang Police Resort involved in investigating narcotics crimes. Informants were selected purposively, focusing on those with the greatest knowledge and direct involvement in narcotics case handling within the police resort. To clarify key terms used in this study, several operational definitions are provided. The Indonesian National Police (POLRI) is the state institution authorized to enforce the law and maintain public security and order. The Police Resort (Polres) is the primary police operational unit at the regency or city level. Narcotics are substances that lower consciousness, cause dependence, and whose use is strictly regulated by law. Investigation refers

to a series of actions carried out by law enforcement officers to uncover criminal offenses and identify suspects based on valid evidence.

IV. Result and Discussion

4.1 The Role of the Police in Combating Narcotics and Psychotropic Crimes

The circulation and abuse of narcotics and psychotropic substances in Indonesia, including within the jurisdiction of the Pinrang Police Resort, have developed into extraordinary crimes that are complex and well-organized. These crimes not only threaten public health but also disrupt public order, damage social structures, and endanger the survival of the younger generation. Amid these challenges, the Indonesian National Police, through its functions and authorities as regulated in Law Number 2 of 2002, holds a strategic position in carrying out comprehensive countermeasures. The role of the police in this context is not limited to law enforcement in the narrow sense but also includes protecting society through both repressive and preventive approaches. The repressive approach involves investigations, inquiries, and the referral of narcotics crime cases to the courts. Meanwhile, the preventive approach emphasizes actions aimed at limiting the spread and abuse of narcotics in society, including fostering collective awareness about the dangers of narcotics use. The police's efforts to combat narcotics crimes are divided into two main strategies: prevention (non-penal) and therapy and rehabilitation (penal). The prevention strategy is non-judicial and carried out outside formal legal proceedings. It includes activities such as legal counseling, public campaigns, installation of warning signs, and active involvement of communities, families, and educational institutions to build a social fortress against narcotics abuse. The implementation of this strategy is not carried out solely by the police but through cross-sectoral synergy with related agencies such as the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), local governments, educational institutions, and civil society organizations. This collaboration is essential to ensure the sustainability of prevention programs and to expand the reach of legal education, starting from the family environment as the smallest community unit to the broader society.

Besides the prevention strategy, the police also participate in therapy and rehabilitation efforts, especially for narcotics users who have undergone legal processing. At this stage, the police cooperate with hospitals, correctional institutions, and rehabilitation centers to carry out medical and social recovery. This strategy falls under penal efforts because it involves judicial processes and the enforcement of court decisions that mandate rehabilitation as part of case rulings. Rehabilitation aims to treat addiction, restore the social functioning of victims of abuse, and prevent the spread of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, which often result from narcotics use through shared needles. This approach represents a transformation in law enforcement that no longer focuses solely on punishment but also provides opportunities for recovery and social reintegration. Within the jurisdiction of the Pinrang Police Resort, the greatest challenges in fulfilling the police's role in handling narcotics cases remain structural obstacles, such as limited personnel, insufficient supporting facilities, and a lack of rapid response from supporting agencies in field coordination. Additionally, low legal awareness among the public exacerbates the situation, as most abusers come from vulnerable groups such as the unemployed, school dropouts, or individuals living in social environments permissive toward narcotics. Therefore, to optimize the police's role in combating narcotics and psychotropic crimes, strengthening institutional aspects, human resource capacity, and social approaches that address the root causes are necessary.

Combating narcotics cannot rely solely on formal legal measures but must be designed as a national strategy based on integrated and sustainable education, counseling, prevention, and rehabilitation. In facing the serious threat of narcotics and psychotropic crimes, the role of the Indonesian National Police is not limited to repressive law enforcement but also includes broader preventive and rehabilitative efforts. This aligns with the mandate of Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, which stipulates that the main duties of the police include maintaining public security and order, enforcing the law, as well as protecting, nurturing, and serving the community. In the Pinrang Regency, the Pinrang Police Resort, through

its Criminal Investigation Unit, actively participates in combating narcotics crimes. The high rates of narcotics abuse and trafficking underline the urgency of a policing approach that is not only reactive to crime but also proactive in building prevention and recovery systems. This role is divided into two main dimensions: the non-penal (preventive) role and the penal (repressive and rehabilitative) role. The non-penal role of the police is represented through general prevention strategies, where the police collaborate with various community elements to provide legal education and raise awareness about the dangers of narcotics. Activities such as socialization in schools, community outreach, installation of warning banners, and anti-drug campaigns are part of these efforts. General prevention aims to build social and moral resilience in society to prevent individuals from falling into narcotics abuse. This prevention approach refers to Wiryono Prodjodikoro's theory on the objectives of criminal law, which includes both deterrence and rehabilitation of offenders.

Furthermore, the special prevention strategy (speciale preventive) forms an essential part of the penal role of the police. When an individual becomes a narcotics user, rehabilitation serves as a more humane legal approach. In this context, the police are not only involved in investigation and case submission to the court but also coordinate with the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), correctional institutions, and hospitals in carrying out medical and social rehabilitation. Rehabilitation acts as a middle ground between punishment and recovery and supports the modern criminal law paradigm that emphasizes community protection and offender rehabilitation. Interestingly, in the jurisdiction of the Pinrang Police Resort, most narcotics offenders are found to be young individuals, many of whom are unemployed. This data indicates a correlation between socio-economic conditions and vulnerability to narcotics abuse. Therefore, the role of the police cannot stand alone. Collaboration with local governments, educational institutions, and community leaders is necessary to create a healthy and productive environment, thereby indirectly breaking the cycle of narcotics abuse at its root.

However, in practice, the police often face various obstacles, one of which is suboptimal coordination with supporting agencies such as the prosecutor's office, courts, or rehabilitation institutions. In some cases, the Pinrang Police Resort experiences difficulties in establishing inter-agency communication, which ultimately hampers the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs and law enforcement. Additionally, limitations in operational budgets, personnel numbers, and technological facilities present structural challenges that need urgent improvement. As law enforcement officers, the police also have the obligation to maintain a balance between law enforcement functions and respect for human rights. Handling narcotics cases must be conducted with adherence to the principles of legality, proportionality, and accountability. Therefore, the police are expected not only to focus on arrest numbers but also on the quality of case handling that guarantees social recovery, legal justice, and protection of narcotics abuse victims. Thus, the role of the police in combating narcotics and psychotropic crimes lies not only in the technical function of law enforcement but also as an agent of social change who must be capable of building legal awareness, strengthening social resilience, and serving as a strategic partner in creating a healthy and drug-free generation.

4.2 Methods and Techniques Used by the Police in Preventing Narcotics and Psychotropic Crimes

Efforts to prevent narcotics and psychotropic crimes have become a primary focus in modern law enforcement strategies, which now emphasize not only repressive measures but also comprehensive and systematic preventive actions. In this role, the police act as the frontline of law enforcement, playing a strategic part in developing a prevention system that addresses the root causes of these issues. This is done through various national and local strategies that are promotive, educational, and participatory. A key example is the National Strategy for Preventing Narcotics Abuse, which highlights the importance of communication, information, and education (CIE) for the public. The police employ multiple communication channels, including mass media, social media, and face-to-face activities such as seminars, workshops, and counseling, to deliver anti-drug messages. The aim is to foster collective awareness about the dangers of narcotics and promote early behavioral change. Another important technique is the preemptive strategy, which seeks to

eliminate factors that trigger or encourage narcotics-related crimes by fostering social development, community involvement, legal awareness, and providing positive spaces for youth through sports, religious activities, and talent development. This approach corresponds with Wirjono Prodjodikoro's general preventive theory, which stresses that one goal of criminal law is to broadly prevent the public from engaging in criminal behavior. Beyond broad strategies, the police also implement community-based approaches, conducting legal education through personal outreach to families, schools, and social environments.

Parents are actively supported as frontline defenders against drug abuse within the family, being given knowledge about their roles as educators, supervisors, and role models. Furthermore, in formal education, the police collaborate with schools to integrate drug prevention materials into extracurricular programs, counseling, and religious activities. One significant technique within this preemptive strategy is mapping narcotics-prone areas. The police utilize intelligence data and community reports to identify regions with a high potential for narcotics distribution or abuse. The results of this mapping serve as the basis for targeted preventive activities, including regular patrols, intensive counseling, and monitoring of nightlife venues that are often used as distribution points for narcotics. Prevention efforts are also supported by the use of information technology, such as digital community reporting applications, online campaigns, and surveillance of suspicious digital activities. Technology enables the police to broaden the reach of legal education and respond promptly to reports or indications of narcotics crimes submitted through digital channels.

However, in practice, the implementation of this strategy still faces several challenges, including limited human resources with expertise in legal counseling, insufficient operational budgets for preventive activities, and a lack of active participation from the community itself. The public often still perceives narcotics issues as solely the responsibility of law enforcement, rather than a shared concern. Therefore, the effectiveness of the methods and techniques used by the police heavily depends on cross-sector support, such as from local governments, the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), educational institutions, community leaders, and social organizations. Continuous synergy is necessary to build strong legal awareness, expand access to education, and create a social ecosystem conducive to eradicating narcotics from upstream to downstream. Thus, it can be concluded that the police's efforts to prevent narcotics and psychotropic crimes are not only carried out through technical and procedural approaches but also through social, cultural, and educational approaches that position the community as strategic partners. Strategies based on legal education, character development, and strengthening social values are crucial assets in building long-term community resilience against the dangers of narcotics.

In carrying out the function of preventing narcotics and psychotropic crimes, the Police, especially the Pinrang Police Resort, have implemented various strategies that not only rely on conventional approaches but also increasingly adapt to advances in information technology (IT). This effort aligns with the demands of the times, where the distribution of information, education, and detection of potential crimes must be able to keep pace with the digital development of society. The police's use of information technology is evident in several forms, ranging from utilizing social media for anti-drug campaigns, distributing digital infographics and educational content, to online community reporting systems that enable faster and broader public participation. Platforms such as official websites, WhatsApp groups for community members, and the official Instagram or Facebook pages of the Police Resort are used to build two-way communication with the public, particularly targeting the younger generation as the group most vulnerable to drug abuse.

Furthermore, in operational terms, information technology is employed for data-based mapping of narcotics-prone areas, monitoring narcotics syndicate networks through digital intelligence systems, and tracking movements via coordination of cross-sectoral database systems (in collaboration with the National Narcotics Agency and related institutions). IT also enhances the effectiveness of preemptive activities by enabling the development of crime data-based strategies, making counseling, supervision, and patrols more focused and measurable. However, challenges remain in terms of limited digital infrastructure and human resources skilled in IT. The limited technical capability of personnel in utilizing data-based systems and the low budget for technology development are obstacles that need to be addressed promptly to optimize and

sustain the police's digital strategies. Therefore, the utilization of information technology in the police's prevention strategy is a progressive step that strengthens the general preventive approach in the digital era. If maximized, this approach will not only increase the effectiveness of prevention efforts but also expand the reach of legal education to the public in a fast, massive, and participatory manner.

V. Conclusion

Based on the study of the role and strategies of the police in addressing narcotics and psychotropic crimes, particularly in the jurisdiction of the Pinrang Police Resort, it can be concluded that the police's role is not solely focused on law enforcement (repressive measures) but also includes comprehensive preventive and rehabilitative efforts. The police, through the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Pinrang Police Resort, act as frontline defenders in protecting the community from the threat of narcotics, both through firm legal actions against offenders and through educational and social approaches toward the public. In terms of prevention, the police have implemented various strategies based on the principles of general and special prevention, involving communication media, family- and education-based approaches, as well as rehabilitation efforts for abuse victims. The techniques used include counseling, promotion of awareness about the dangers of narcotics, strengthening family and educational institutions, and utilizing information technology to reach a broader segment of society.

Although these measures have been carried out, their effectiveness still faces challenges, particularly related to limited human resources, supporting facilities, and suboptimal cross-sector coordination. Additionally, the low level of legal awareness among the community presents a unique challenge in fostering social resilience against the dangers of narcotics. Therefore, the roles and strategies implemented by the police in combating narcotics and psychotropic crimes at the Pinrang Police Resort demonstrate a strong institutional commitment to legal and social protection. However, their effectiveness will be greatly enhanced by improving institutional capacity, fostering inter-agency synergy, and encouraging active community participation in every stage of narcotics crime prevention and eradication.

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