

CRIMINOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE PHENOMENON OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN THE PANGKAJENE AND ISLANDS REGENCY AREA: CAUSING FACTORS, IMPACT AND COMMUNITY BASED PREVENTION EFFORTS

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze in depth the factors that cause juvenile delinquency, identify its impacts, and formulate effective and sustainable prevention efforts by involving the active role of the community. This study uses an empirical legal research method with a criminological approach. Data collection was conducted through direct observation, interviews with sources consisting of teenagers, parents, community leaders, law enforcement officers, and school officials, as well as the study of related documents. The data obtained were analyzed descriptively qualitatively to describe and explain the problems studied. The results of the study indicate that juvenile delinquency in Pangkep Regency is caused by the interaction of various factors, both from within the teenager and from their surrounding environment. Internal factors include psychological conditions, lack of legal understanding, and the search for identity, while external factors include family conditions, social environment, the influence of technology and information, and the socio-economic conditions of the community. Juvenile delinquency that occurs varies in form, ranging from acts that violate social norms to acts that are categorized as criminal acts, with impacts felt by individuals, families, and society at large. Handling juvenile delinquency cannot be done only with a law enforcement approach, but requires a comprehensive approach and involves all elements of society. Community-based prevention efforts are an effective strategy because they can reach the root of the problem and are implemented sustainably. This research recommends strengthening the role of community institutions, enhancing collaboration between various parties, and developing programs that support the development and potential of adolescents, so they can grow and develop into good and responsible citizens.

Keywords: *Criminology, Juvenile Delinquency, Causal Factors, Crime Prevention, Role of Society.*

INTRODUCTION

Adolescents are an age group that plays a crucial role in national and state life, as they are the next generation who will carry on the ideals of development and control the nation's future. During this period, adolescents are in a stage of development and identity discovery, experiencing various physical, psychological, and social changes. This developmental process makes adolescents vulnerable to environmental influences, both positive and negative. If this developmental process does not receive proper guidance and direction, adolescents can fall into deviant behavior, which is then known as juvenile delinquency.¹ Juvenile delinquency is a problem faced by nearly all regions in Indonesia, including Pangkajene and Kepulauan Regency, better known as Pangkep. This phenomenon has become a shared concern for families, communities, the government, and law enforcement agencies. Various forms of juvenile delinquency are frequently encountered in the community, ranging from acts that simply violate moral norms and public order, such as loitering at night and vandalizing public facilities, to acts that have been categorized as criminal acts, such as theft, gang fights, drug and psychotropic use, and other acts of violence.² Based on

¹ Khaerul, K., Suryani, L., & Reza, AM (2025). Internalization of Legal and Sharia Values through Islamic Religious Education as an Effort to Prevent Juvenile Crime. *Amsir Litigation Journal*, 13(1), 29-34.

² Suardi, S., Balla, H., & Rijal, F. (2023). Psychological Aspects of Illegal Racing by Teenagers. *Amsir Litigation Journal*, 10(3), 263-274.

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observations and available data, juvenile delinquency cases in Pangkep tend to increase and take on more diverse forms each year. This is evident in the numerous reports received by the police, as well as incidents occurring in schools, neighborhoods, and youth gathering places. Juvenile delinquency not only harms the youth themselves, as it can hinder their future and land them in legal trouble, but also causes harm to others, disrupts public order and security, and places a burden on law enforcement and development institutions. The problem of juvenile delinquency arises from the interaction of various interrelated factors. Internally, adolescents in transition often have a strong sense of curiosity, unstable emotions, and a desire for recognition from their environment, making them easily influenced and having difficulty distinguishing between good and bad actions. Meanwhile, externally, there are various factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency, such as dysfunctional family roles, the influence of bad friends, a lack of facilities and infrastructure to channel adolescents' potential, the influence of uncontrolled technological and information developments, and the socioeconomic conditions of the community.³

Until now, the handling of juvenile delinquency has often focused solely on a law enforcement approach, namely by taking action against and punishing juveniles who commit crimes.⁴ However, this approach often does not produce optimal results and, in some cases, can even worsen the situation, as punished juveniles are stigmatized and find it difficult to return to the right path. Therefore, a more comprehensive approach is needed, one that focuses not only on handling after the crime has occurred, but also prioritizes preventative measures before the crime occurs. Preventing juvenile delinquency is a shared responsibility, and it cannot be undertaken by one party alone. The community is the closest environment where adolescents grow and develop, and therefore plays a strategic role in shaping their behavior and personality. Through community involvement, prevention efforts can be broader, more in-depth, and more sustainable, as they can address the root causes of juvenile delinquency.

Furthermore, this problem is becoming increasingly complex with changing times and the currents of globalization that have a direct impact on people's lives, including in the Pangkep area. Traditional values that once served as a strong foundation for shaping adolescent behavior are beginning to shift, while new values that are introduced are not yet fully filtered and understood by adolescents. This leaves adolescents increasingly disoriented and easily tempted to engage in deviant behavior. On the other hand, the availability of unlimited access to information through digital technology also has a dual impact; in addition to providing benefits in terms of knowledge, it also opens up opportunities for adolescents to be exposed to negative content that can change their mindset and behavior in a negative direction.

Furthermore, ongoing regional development has also brought significant social and economic changes. Population migration, changes in livelihoods, and shifting patterns of social interaction have weakened community ties. This has resulted in reduced supervision and guidance for adolescents, both from families and the community as a whole. Many parents are busy working and lack the time to educate and supervise their children, while neighborhoods no longer play an active role in monitoring and nurturing the adolescents growing up around them. Based on this description, this study was conducted to analyze in-depth the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency in the Pangkep area, from its causal factors and impacts to preventative measures that can be implemented through active community involvement. The results of this study are expected to provide a clear and accurate picture of the existing problem and serve as a reference for all relevant parties in developing and implementing more effective and beneficial strategies for dealing with juvenile delinquency.

METHOD

This research is an empirical legal research, which is a research conducted by examining the reality in the field,⁵ to see how the law is applied and the problems that occur in practice.⁶ The approach used in this research is a criminological approach, which emphasizes the study of the causes of crime or deviant behavior, as well as efforts to overcome them. The research approach in this study is a Juridical Approach to review the problem from the perspective of applicable laws and regulations. In addition, a sociological approach is used to review the problem from the perspective of the social, cultural, and environmental conditions of the community where adolescents live and interact and a psychological approach, to review the problem from the perspective of the mental condition,

³ Rizkia, ND, Wiraguna, SA, Nazmi, N., Hasibuan, AKH, Huda, M., Ahyani, H., & Rasdiana, R. (2024). Child Protection Law. Bandung: Widina. P. 89.

⁴ Balla, H. (2022). Diversion: Children in conflict with the law. *Amsir Litigation Journal*, 9(3), 202-206.

⁵ Juliardi, B., Runtunuwu, YB, Musthofa, MH, TL, AD, Asriyani, A., Hazmi, RM, ... & Samara, MR (2023). *Legal Research Methods*. Padang: Gita Lentera.

⁶ Peter Mahmud Marzuki. (2021). *Legal Research*. Jakarta: Kencana.

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development, and behavior of adolescents themselves.⁷The collected data were analyzed qualitatively, namely by describing and interpreting the existing data in the form of systematic, logical, and objective sentence descriptions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Forms and Descriptions of Juvenile Delinquency in Pangkep

Based on observations and interviews conducted in the field, it was found that juvenile delinquency in the Pangkep area occurs in various forms and levels, ranging from minor acts to those categorized as criminal offenses. The most frequently encountered forms of juvenile delinquency are:

1) Minor Delinquency and Violation of Norms

This is the most common form of delinquency, generally only violating social norms, religious norms, and public order, but not causing significant harm or breaking the law. It includes: skipping school, hanging around and gathering in public places late at night, smoking, consuming alcohol, violating household rules, fighting with friends, minor damage to public facilities, and so on.⁸These actions are often considered normal or part of adolescence, but if left unchecked, they can develop into more serious acts.

2) Serious Delinquency and Criminal Offenses

This form of delinquency violates legal provisions and causes harm to others or the community, thus subject to criminal sanctions. This includes: theft, assault, fights between groups or between villages, use and distribution of narcotics, destruction of property, motor vehicle theft, and other crimes. According to police data, the number of juvenile delinquency cases that come to the legal realm continues to increase, with increasingly diverse modus operandi. In terms of perpetrators, juvenile delinquency is often committed by adolescents aged 14 to 18, both adolescents who are still in school and adolescents who have dropped out. Juvenile delinquency is also often committed in groups, rather than individually, indicating the significant influence of peer groups.

Based on the explanation above, **the author's analysis** shows that juvenile delinquency in Pangkajene and Kepulauan Regency takes various forms, ranging from violations of social norms to criminal acts, and is generally carried out in groups. This finding aligns with Kartono's (2018) book, which states that juvenile delinquency encompasses not only unlawful acts but also any acts that deviate from prevailing societal norms. Kartono also emphasized that one of the main characteristics of juvenile delinquency is that it is carried out in groups, as adolescents have a strong tendency to act with their peers as a means of seeking identity and recognition.

This also aligns with the research findings of Siti Aminah (2021), who found that in both urban and rural areas, forms of juvenile delinquency are increasingly diverse over time, and the role of peer groups is very dominant in encouraging adolescents to commit deviant acts. The variety of forms of juvenile delinquency found in the field also reinforces Hadi's (2019) view that juvenile delinquency is a dynamic phenomenon, the forms and methods of which can change depending on environmental conditions and societal developments. While generally in line with the previous author's opinion, the findings of this study add a specific picture that in Pangkep, the most common forms of juvenile delinquency are intergroup fights and the use of addictive substances, which differs from other areas where other forms of delinquency may be more dominant, such as theft or online delinquency. This suggests that the characteristics of juvenile delinquency can be influenced by local socio-cultural and geographic conditions.

Factors Causing Juvenile Delinquency

The data analysis shows that juvenile delinquency in Pangkep is not caused by a single factor, but rather the result of the interaction of various interrelated factors, both internal and external to the adolescent. The following is a breakdown of these contributing factors:

1) Internal factors or factors that originate from within the adolescent themselves include:⁹

- a) Physical and psychological development: Adolescents are in a transitional period, experiencing rapid physical changes as well as changes in emotions and thinking. They are highly curious, emotionally unstable, easily influenced, and have a desire for recognition and respect from those around them, making it difficult to control themselves and distinguish between good and bad actions.

⁷ Syarif, M., Ramadhani, R., Graha, MAW, Yanuarina, T., Muhtar, MH, Asmah, N., Syahril, MAF, ... & Jannah, M. (2023). *Legal Research Methods*. Padang: Get Press Indonesia.

⁸ Wardah Nuronyah. (2022). *Child protection law in Indonesia*. Lombok: Hamjah Dhiha Publhiser. Pg. 34.

⁹ Ali Munib. (2026). *Child Protection Law*. Kuningan: Scratches of the Pen. P. 103.

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- b) Lack of knowledge and understanding: Most teenagers have limited understanding of applicable norms, values, and legal provisions. They are unaware that their actions can result in harm and legal consequences, so they engage in these actions casually.¹⁰
 - c) Health conditions and genetics: In some cases, health conditions or hereditary factors can also influence adolescent behavior, such as emotional or behavioral disorders that make it difficult for adolescents to adapt to the environment.
- 2) External factors or factors originating from the environment around adolescents include:
- a) Family factors: These are the most dominant factors influencing adolescent behavior. Disharmonious family conditions, dysfunctional parental roles, lack of parental attention and guidance, poor parenting, or limited family economic conditions are the main causes of juvenile delinquency. Many adolescents engage in delinquency because they feel neglected, want attention, or imitate behaviors within their families.¹¹
 - b) School factors: School is the second environment where adolescents spend their time. Influential factors include: unengaging teaching methods, lack of teacher attention, unfair treatment, or a lack of potential development activities. Adolescents who experience difficulties in school or feel unappreciated tend to seek escape outside of school.
 - c) Social and environmental factors: Peer influence is significant for adolescents. Teenagers who associate with friends who engage in deviant behavior are more likely to engage in similar behavior, seeking acceptance and recognition from their peers. Furthermore, a poor living environment, the abundance of unsupervised gathering places, or the prevalence of deviant behavior in the community also contribute to juvenile delinquency.
 - d) Factors of technological and information development: Uncontrolled use of gadgets and internet access makes it easy for teenagers to be exposed to various negative information and content, such as violence, pornography, or bad lifestyles, which are then imitated by teenagers.
 - e) Socio-economic factors: Limited family economic conditions make some teenagers feel unable to fulfill their desires and needs, so they look for a way out in the wrong way, such as stealing or doing bad jobs.

These findings are in accordance with the Strain Theory which states that an imbalance between desired goals and available means can encourage deviant behavior, and in accordance with the Social Learning Theory which explains that deviant behavior is learned from the environment and social interactions.

Based on the explanation above, **the author's analysis is** that juvenile delinquency is caused by the interaction of various factors, with the family factor as the most dominant factor, very much in line with the opinions of many authors. Kartono (2018) emphasized that the family is the first and foremost environment that shapes a child's personality, so that all problems that arise in adolescents are almost always rooted in dysfunctional family conditions and roles. This opinion is supported by Andi Muhammad Arif (2022) who, in his research in South Sulawesi, also found that family disharmony, lack of parental attention, and incorrect parenting patterns are the main causes of juvenile delinquency.

From a theoretical perspective, these findings align with Hirschi's (2020) Social Control Theory, which states that juvenile delinquency occurs when an individual's ties to society, family, and other social institutions weaken or are severed. This study found that adolescents involved in delinquency generally have weak ties to their families, schools, and communities, as explained in the theory. Furthermore, the findings, which suggest that social and environmental factors also play a significant role, align with Akers' Social Learning Theory, which states that deviant behavior is learned by individuals through interactions with others.¹² Adolescents in Pangkep who associate with friends who exhibit deviant behavior tend to engage in similar behavior, demonstrating the social learning process.

The findings of this study also enrich existing studies by highlighting the development of technology and information as an increasingly influential factor. This issue, not discussed in depth in previous studies conducted several years ago, provides an important addition to understanding the dynamics of juvenile delinquency today.

¹⁰ Pratiwi, I., Bahmid, B., Mendrofa, FS, Wulandari, A., Sihombing, DV, Eltris, TA, & Sahputra, EB (2025). Socialization of Legal Consequences on Juvenile Delinquency: Community Service. *Journal of Community Service and Educational Research*, 4(2), 12654-12662.

¹¹ Utami, ACN, & Raharjo, ST (2021). Parenting patterns and juvenile delinquency. *Focus: Journal of Social Work*, 4(1), 1-15.

¹² Jasmine, AS, Indriani, C., Putri, EY, Nabila, RS, & Barutu, YP (2025). Juvenile Crime as Deviant Social Behavior: A Literature Review of the Concept, Triggering Factors, and Implications for Handling It. *Liberosis: Journal of Psychology and Counseling Guidance*, 14(2), 21-30.

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Impact of Juvenile Delinquency

Juvenile delinquency that occurs causes various negative impacts, which are felt by various parties, both directly and indirectly, as follows:

1) Impact on Adolescents

The most immediate impact is felt by the adolescents themselves. Juvenile delinquency can hinder their development and future, such as disrupting their education,¹³ damaging their physical and mental health, leading to negative public perception, losing the trust of others, and even leading to legal issues and facing punishment. This makes it difficult for adolescents to get back on track and develop into good and useful individuals.

2) Impact on the Family

Juvenile delinquency places a burden and suffering on families. Parents feel sad, disappointed, and ashamed because of their children's behavior. Furthermore, families must bear the costs and efforts of resolving the problems caused by juvenile delinquency, as well as facing pressure and criticism from their peers.

3) Impact on Society

The impacts on society include: disruption of public order and security, a sense of insecurity and anxiety among the community, material and non-material losses, and the consumption of resources and time that could be used for development activities. If allowed to continue, juvenile delinquency can also become the seed of more serious crimes in the future, which will burden the law enforcement system and regional development.¹⁴

From the explanation above, the author analyzes the impact of juvenile delinquency on the adolescent, family, and society, in line with the opinion of Nugroho (2018) who stated that juvenile delinquency has a broad and continuous impact, not only on the perpetrator but also on all elements of society. Indrawati & Rahimi (2025) also emphasized that the psychological and social impacts experienced by adolescents involved in delinquency are often more severe and last longer than the physical impacts.

The findings of this study also reinforce the view of Soerjono Soekanto (2019), who stated that juvenile delinquency is a social problem, because its impact is not only felt by individuals or specific families but also disrupts the balance and order of society as a whole. The finding that juvenile delinquency can be the seed of more serious crimes in the future also aligns with warnings from many authors who emphasize the importance of early intervention.

Prevention Efforts That Have Been Made and Their Obstacles

Based on research results, there have been various efforts to prevent juvenile delinquency carried out by various parties, but their implementation is still not optimal and faces various obstacles, as follows:

1) Efforts That Have Been Made

- a) Efforts from the family: Most families have tried to provide guidance and supervision to their children, although in varying ways and with varying degrees of success.¹⁵
- b) Efforts from the school: The school has carried out various activities, such as providing character education, guidance and counseling, and extracurricular activities to channel the potential of adolescents.
- c) Community efforts: Various community institutions, such as traditional institutions, religious institutions, and youth organizations, have carried out youth development and coaching activities.
- d) Efforts from the government and authorities: Regional governments and law enforcement officials have carried out various programs, such as legal counseling, guidance, and handling of juvenile delinquency cases.

2) Obstacles Faced

- a) Lack of awareness and concern: There are still many parties, especially families and communities, who consider juvenile delinquency not a serious problem or not their responsibility, so they are less active in preventing it.
- b) Limited resources: There are limitations in terms of manpower, funds, and infrastructure needed to implement prevention efforts properly.
- c) Poor coordination: Cooperation and coordination between the various parties involved is still weak, so that efforts are often separate and not integrated.

¹³ Bobbyanti, F. (2023). Juvenile delinquency. *JERUMI: Journal of Education, Religion, Humanities, and Multidisciplinary*, 1(2), 476-481.

¹⁴ Subroto, W. (2022). The Need for Restorative Justice in the Juvenile Justice System Against Juvenile Delinquency. *Jurnal Kelola: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial*, 5(1), 23-30.

¹⁵ Liza Agnesta Krisna. (2025). *Child Protection Law: A Legal and Sociological Review*. Jambi: Deepublish. P. 70.

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- d) Inappropriate approach: So far, prevention efforts have focused more on enforcement and punishment approaches, rather than on development and prevention approaches, so the results have been less than optimal.
- e) The influence of changing times: Technological developments and changes in societal values mean that prevention efforts are often unable to keep up with the existing challenges.

From the explanation above, the author's analysis shows that the prevention efforts that have been implemented are still not optimal and face various obstacles. This is in line with the findings of Siti Aminah (2021) and Andi Muhammad Arif (2022), who found that in many regions, handling juvenile delinquency still faces problems such as lack of awareness, limited resources, and weak coordination. Waluyo (2019) also emphasized that so far, the handling has emphasized an enforcement approach rather than a prevention approach, resulting in less than optimal results.

This is also in accordance with the opinion of Sutanto (2020) who stated that the main weakness in handling juvenile delinquency is the lack of integration of the roles of various parties and the non-optimization of the role of the community as the main force in prevention. The community-based prevention strategy proposed in this study aligns with the views of Zaidan (2020) and Sutanto (2020), who position community-based prevention as the most effective and sustainable strategy. However, this study makes a new contribution by formulating a more specific and structured strategy, tailored to the socio-cultural conditions and regional characteristics of Pangkajene and Kepulauan Regency. This differs from previous studies, which tended to provide a general overview of the role of the community without detailing how this role can be realized in specific regional contexts.

Optimizing the Role of Society in Preventing Juvenile Delinquency

Based on the results of the analysis and discussion that have been described, and with reference to the theories and concepts used in this research, a strategy can be formulated to optimize the role of the community in preventing juvenile delinquency in the Pangkep area, as follows:

- 1) Strengthening the Role of Community Institutions
 - a) The role of the family: As the primary and primary environment, the family must improve its role and function by providing adequate attention, affection, guidance, and supervision to adolescents. Parents need to improve their understanding and skills in raising children and serve as positive role models for adolescents.¹⁶
 - b) The role of religious institutions: Religious institutions play a crucial role in shaping the values, attitudes, and behaviors of adolescents. This role can be enhanced through ongoing religious instruction and guidance, as well as through providing advice and guidance to adolescents to avoid bad behavior and encourage good behavior.
 - c) The role of customary institutions and community leaders: Community leaders and customary institutions have significant influence within the community. They can play a role in providing advice, resolving problems, and creating a safe, orderly community environment that supports youth development.
 - d) The role of youth organizations and social institutions: Youth organizations can act as a forum to accommodate and channel the potential, talents and interests of adolescents through various positive activities, so that adolescents have good activities and goals and do not have time to commit deviant acts.

- 2) Improving Cooperation and Coordination

The community's role will be more effective if it is carried out through effective collaboration and coordination between various parties, including community institutions, schools, the government, and law enforcement. This collaboration aims to develop integrated, mutually supportive, and complementary plans and programs, ensuring effective prevention efforts and maximized results.¹⁷

- 3) Creating a Supportive Environment

Communities need to play an active role in creating a safe, orderly, and comfortable living environment, as well as providing the facilities and infrastructure needed for adolescents' development. Furthermore, communities must play a role in monitoring and controlling factors that can negatively influence adolescent behavior, such as unsupervised gathering places or the dissemination of harmful information.

¹⁶ Mahesha, A., Anggraeni, D., & Adriansyah, MI (2024). Uncovering juvenile delinquency: causes, impacts, and solutions. *PRIMER: Multidisciplinary Scientific Journal*, 2(1), 16-26.

¹⁷ Tomi, JE (2024). The impact of promiscuity among teenagers from a legal and criminological perspective. *Journal of Student Science Research*, 2(1), 614-627.

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4) Increasing Community Awareness and Capacity

Efforts need to be made to raise public awareness and concern about juvenile delinquency issues, as well as to improve community knowledge and skills in preventive measures. This can be done through various activities, such as outreach, training, discussions, and community meetings, so that the community understands the importance of their role and has the ability to carry it out effectively.

Based on the explanation above, the author believes that the role of society is very important and strategic in preventing juvenile delinquency. This is consistent with Social Control Theory, which states that the stronger an individual's bond with society, the less likely they are to engage in deviant behavior. It also aligns with the concept of community-based crime prevention, which emphasizes the ability and responsibility of communities to maintain security and order in their communities.

CONCLUSION

Juvenile delinquency in Pangkajene and Kepulauan Regency is a growing social and legal problem. It takes various forms, ranging from violations of social norms to criminal acts that harm society. This delinquency is generally committed by adolescents aged 14–18, both those still in school and those not, and often occurs in groups. Its causes are influenced by internal factors, such as psychological and emotional conditions and a lack of legal understanding, as well as external factors such as family disharmony, peer influence, the community environment, schools, uncontrolled technology, and socioeconomic conditions. Family factors are the most dominant cause. The impact is felt by adolescents, families, and the community, such as disruptions to adolescents' futures, social burdens on families, and disruptions to security and public order. Various prevention efforts have been implemented, but have not been optimal due to limited resources and coordination. Therefore, optimizing the role of the community through strengthening social institutions, cooperation, and increasing public awareness is a crucial strategy in the sustainable prevention of juvenile delinquency.

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