# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN HANDLING CRIMINAL ACTS OF NARCOTICS WITH CHILD PERFORMERS IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

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Abstract: Narcotics crimes are not only committed by adults but also children. For cases of criminal acts committed by children, the restorative justice system at least aims to repair/recover criminal acts committed by children with actions that are beneficial to children. This research is included in normative juridical research. The data used is secondary data. Meanwhile, the collection of legal materials is carried out by reviewing and collecting library materials and the analysis method is carried out using a qualitative descriptive method. From the results of the study, it can be concluded that based on the three decisions that the researchers reviewed, namely Decision Number 28/Pid.Sus-Anak/2020/PN Mre with the Defendant Andesta Bin Rusimin, Decision No.02/Pid.Sus-Anak/2015/PN- SAB with the Defendant Fajri Bin Nurdin and Decision Number 06/Pid.Sus. Anak/2017/PN-Bir with the Child Defendant, it can be seen that the concept of restorative justice in handling cases of children as perpetrators of narcotics crimes by the panel of judges is not implemented. This can be seen in his injunction; the Panel of Judges actually sentenced the Defendant to years in prison. Whereas the concept adopted by restorative justice is a concept that prioritizes recovery, not retaliation. The ideal concept of restorative justice in handling cases of children as perpetrators of narcotics crimes is a concept that provides a value of justice for both perpetrators and victims, for this reason it is necessary to reform Law Number 35 of 2009 regarding sanctions for child perpetrators of narcotics crimes by eliminating criminal sanctions. imprisonment is half of the adult sentence.

**Keywords:** Restorative Justice, Narcotics Crime, Children

### I. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays the level of narcotics abuse is increasingly worrying, because it has been able to enter and undermine all walks of life of people and various ages, but what is more concerning is the abuse of narcotics by children. So, it is not uncommon for children to have to deal with legal processes. Because children are the successors of the nation's young generation that we need to protect in order to have a noble character, it is fitting that the rights of a child must be protected whether he is a criminal or not. Child legal protection is all activities to guarantee and protect children and their rights so that they can live, grow, develop and participate optimally in accordance with human dignity and protection from violence and discrimination.<sup>1</sup>

Because narcotics crimes are not only committed by adults but also children, when handling children through criminal justice like adults, the resulting impact is not effective, not a deterrent effect that arises but most of the children who have gone through the criminal justice process instead experience chronic trauma. Because children are psychologically different from adults, the concept of criminal justice which puts a lot of pressure on perpetrators of criminal acts is not appropriate for children.<sup>2</sup>

The use of narcotics by children is not just a law enforcement problem. The problem is complex and multi-faceted. Therefore, the issue of drug use should not be viewed as a mere legal issue. There are many aspects that must be studied and used as primary considerations, especially the health and social aspects of drug users based on evidence. In the context of children using narcotics, the state must also look at the best interests of children, vulnerabilities, and assumptions about the immaturity of children's thinking as considerations in making narcotics policies. Children who use narcotics have a tendency to become addicted to certain substances, therefore a health assessment is needed from the beginning of the investigation process, to see to what extent the addiction interferes with the child's health condition. If the level of addiction requires further treatment, the child who uses narcotics should be immediately referred to health services such as a hospital or rehabilitation center. So that detention and imprisonment can be avoided. The approach to preventing the use of narcotics in children must also consider the best interests of the child.<sup>3</sup>

Restorative justice is a shift in punishment in the criminal justice system that prioritizes justice for victims and perpetrators of criminal acts as well as alternative punishments such as social work and others. Bagir Manan, in his writing, describes the substance of restorative justice which contains the principles, among others: "Building joint participation between perpetrators, victims, and community groups to resolve an event or criminal act. Placing perpetrators, victims, and the community as stakeholders who work together and immediately try to find a solution that is considered fair for all parties (win-win solutions)".<sup>4</sup>

For cases of criminal acts committed by children, the restorative justice system at least aims to repair/recover (to restore) criminal acts committed by children with actions that are beneficial to children, victims and their environment that involve them directly (reintegration and rehabilitation). in solving problems, and in contrast to the way adults are handled, which will then lead to the purpose of the crime itself which, according to Barda Nawawi Arief, the purpose of punishment is based on "community protection" and "protection/development of individual perpetrators of crime.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Moch. Faisal Salam, Procedural Law of Juvenile Justice in Indonesia, Mandar Maju, Bandung, 2005, p. 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Ibid, p. 4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Ibid, p. 8

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Barda Nawawi Arief, Anthology of Criminal Law Policy, PT. Kencana Prenada Media Group, Jakarta, 2008, p. 98.

According to Rufinus Hutauruk, restorative justice focuses on the process of direct criminal responsibility from the perpetrator to the victim and the community. If the perpetrator and the victim as well as the community whose rights have been violated feel that justice has been achieved through joint deliberation efforts, it is hoped that the implementation of punishment can be avoided. This shows that the perpetrator is not the main object of the restorative justice approach, but a sense of justice and conflict recovery itself which is the main object.<sup>6</sup>

According to Article 1 point 6 of Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System, restorative justice is the settlement of criminal cases by involving the perpetrator, victim, family of the perpetrator/victim, and other related parties to jointly seek a fair solution by emphasizing restoration to its original state, and not retaliation.<sup>7</sup>

In principle, through Law Number 11 of 2012 has put forward a restorative justice approach as an effort to resolve crimes committed by children, so that the application of restorative justice will offer answers to important issues in the settlement of criminal cases, namely: first, criticism of the justice system crimes that do not provide opportunities, especially for victims (criminal justice system that disempowers individuals); second, eliminating conflicts, especially between perpetrators and victims and the community (taking away the conflict from them); third, the fact that the feeling of powerlessness experienced as a result of a crime must be overcome to achieve improvement (in order to achieve reparation). This study will discuss restorative justice in narcotics crime cases committed by children.

In this study, the researcher examines Decision Number 28/Pid.Sus-Anak/2020/PN.Mre with the Defendant Andesta Bin Rusimin, Decision No.02/Pid.Sus-Anak/2015/PN-SAB with the Defendant Fajri Bin Nurdin and Decision Number 06/Pid.Sus.anak/2017/PN-Bir with the Defendant Child.

### II. RESEARCH METHODS

The research method used in this research is the normative juridical method (library law research), namely the method or method used in legal research which is carried out by examining existing library materials. This research refers to the legal norms contained in the legislation, court decisions. In this study, three approaches were used, namely the law approach, the case approach and the concept approach. The legal approach is carried out by reviewing Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System, Regulation of the Indonesian National Police Number 8 of 2021 concerning Handling of Crimes Based on Restorative Justice and other regulations, others related to the problem under study. The case approach was taken to examine Decision Number 28/Pid.Sus-Anak/2020/PN Mre with the Defendant Andesta Bin Rusimin, Case Decision Number 02/Pid.Sus-Anak/2015/PN-SAB with the Defendant Fajri Bin Nurdin, Case Decision Number 06/Pid.Sus.Anak/2017/PN-Bir with the Child Defendant whether or not they have implemented restorative justice.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Rufinus Hutahuruk, Combating Corporate Crime Through a Restorative Approach A Breakthrough in the Law, Sinar Graphic Publishers, Jakarta, 2013, p. 106-107

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System, Article 1 point 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>Ibid. p. 90

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>CFG Sunaryati Hartono, Legal Research in Indonesia at the End of the 20th Century, Alumni, Bandung, 1994, p. 143.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## 1. Implementation of Restorative Justice in Handling Cases of Children as Perpetrators of Narcotics Crime

Restorative justice or also known as redress justice is defined as a means to resolve conflicts and repair the damage by encouraging the parties causing the damage to acknowledge the impact of what has been done and provide an opportunity to make improvements. On the other hand, offering to the victim to replace and change the damage or loss suffered. Although the concept of restorative justice is often proposed as an alternative to the traditional criminal justice system, this concept is increasingly being seen as effective as proposed by Immarigeon, Lee, Robert, and Hough. These experts suggest that the restorative justice program exists at every stage in the criminal justice process, namely from pre-investigation, post-investigation, pre-prosecution, post-prosecution, pre-decision or post-decision, <sup>10</sup>

In a global legal perspective, the presence of the convention on the rights of the child has greatly encouraged the presence of a sense of justice for children in every action taken by law enforcers, especially by judges in making their decisions. This principle is important because children have different physical, psychological, emotional, and educational needs from adults. The principles adopted in the restorative justice approach are:<sup>11</sup>

a. Prioritize victim support and recovery.

Although victim support and recovery seems to be a clear goal of the criminal justice system, making it a priority will make the system stronger. This is because most of the criminal justice system focuses on perpetrators, identifying, apprehending, criminally processing, prosecuting, punishing, and imprisoning them. All law enforcers exist only for perpetrators. Although the needs of victims have begun to be recognized, they are still very disproportionate to the allocated resources.

b. Perpetrators are responsible for what they have done.

Perpetrators usually 'receive punishment,' but this is different from 'responsible' for what they have done. Recognizing that the perpetrator is responsible for what has been done is the starting point of restorative justice.

c. Dialogue to reach understanding.

Dialogue between perpetrators and victims is important because it is one of the main processes in restorative justice. This dialogue is not possible in a formal process in court.

d. There are efforts to repair the losses that occurred.

Taking responsibility for the loss caused is to try to fix it as much as possible. Sometimes an apology is enough, but often something more is needed.

e. Perpetrators try to avoid committing criminal acts again in the future.

When the perpetrator has realized the wrong he has done, they usually do not want to repeat their behavior. Sometimes this is enough to stop them from committing a crime. The important point of the restorative approach is to bring together victims and perpetrators to provide motivation not to repeat the crime.

f. The community assists the process of reintegration of victims and perpetrators.

It is often very clear that perpetrators need to be reintegrated into society, especially after serving prison sentences, they need accommodation, work, and relationships to become positive members of society. Victims also need to be reintegrated into society because they often feel isolated and isolated due to the crimes they have experienced.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>Maidi Gultom, Legal Protection Against Children, Second Printing, PT. Refika Aditama, Bandung, 2010, p. 251

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>Liebman, Restorative justice: How it works, Jessica Kingsley Publisher, London, 2007, p. 28

In ius constitutum, the Juvenile Criminal Justice System Act stipulates that the entire juvenile criminal justice system must prioritize a restorative justice approach at every level of justice, starting from the stages of investigation, prosecution, trial, to the process of coaching, mentoring, monitoring, and mentoring when children undergo implementation of the crime/action. Not only that, the restorative justice approach is also a reference for fostering children after undergoing a criminal period/action.<sup>12</sup>

The main goal of the restorative justice approach according to Aviandari and Septianita is to achieve recovery, for both victims, perpetrators and social structures that were disrupted due to the actions taken by the perpetrators of the crime, therefore case resolution is focused on how to recover the suffering, damage or loss that has arisen, not avenge or replace the suffering, damage or loss of the victim with the suffering (punishment) of the perpetrator.<sup>13</sup>

Regarding children in conflict with the law, the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Article 37 letter a provides a guarantee that children should not be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Moreover, Article 40 of this convention also stipulates that the age of the child must be taken into account, and any plans for what action will be taken against the child must encourage them to be able to reintegrate into society. For perpetrators, who are still in the developmental stage of becoming adults, the restorative justice approach is useful in preventing perpetrators from the bad effects of imprisonment. In addition, the perpetrators will also be spared from the psychological pressure of the examination process by the police, prosecutors and judges in the court environment. Regarding the recovery aspect, Firdaus stated that through a restorative justice approach, 14

- a. Have the opportunity to improve themselves;
- b. Stay in parental care and guidance;
- c. Have the opportunity to directly account for the actions of the victim or the victim's family;
- d. Have the opportunity to be responsible for actions to the community environment; and
- e. Avoid news that can disturb the child's/family's psychology.

In line with the explanation above, if analyzed based on the three DecisionsThe researchers studied are Decision Number 28/Pid.Sus-Anak/2020/PN Mre with the Defendant Andesta Bin Rusimin, Decision No.02/Pid.Sus-Anak/2015/PN-SAB with the Defendant Fajri Bin Nurdin and Decision Number 06/ Pid.Sus.Anak/2017/PN-Bir with the Child Defendant, it can be seen that the concept of restorative justice in handling cases of children as perpetrators of narcotics crimes by the panel of judges is not implemented. This can be seen in his injunction, the Panel of Judges actually sentenced the Defendant to years in prison. Whereas the concept adopted by restorative justice is a concept that prioritizes recovery, not retaliation.

The Juvenile Criminal Justice System Act stipulates that the entire juvenile criminal justice system is obligated to prioritize a restorative justice approach at every level of the judiciary, from the stage of investigation, prosecution, trial, to the process of coaching, mentoring, supervising, and assisting when children undergo criminal/action.

As the theory used by the researcher is related to the principle of restorative justice, one of which is the principle of a fair settlement, if analyzed from the three verdicts studied by the researcher, these cases do not apply the principle of a fair settlement. Especially in CaseDecision Number 06/Pid.Sus.Anak/2017/PN-Bir with the Child Defendant, as it is

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup>Supriyadi Widodo Edyyono, Reviewing the Rehabilitation of Narcotics Users in Judicial Practice: Implementation of SEMA and SEJA Regarding the Placement of Narcotics Users in Rehabilitation Institutions in Surabaya, Cet. 1st, Institute for Criminal Justice Reform, Jakarta, 2016, p. 29

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>Aviandari and Septianita, Developing a model of mentoring based on Restorative Justice at the Child Special Guidance Institute, Study Group, Samin Foundation, Yogyakarta, 2016, p. 4
<sup>14</sup>Ibid

known that the Defendant's age at that time was 15 years old, meaning that the Defendant was categorized as a minor whose case settlement was still within the scope of the Judicial System. Child Crime. Meanwhile, the entire juvenile criminal justice system must prioritize a restorative justice approach. Thus, it can be understood that all of the decisions taken by the Panel of Judges do not apply the concept of restorative justice as required by the Juvenile Criminal Justice System Act.

The verdict of imprisonment for 5 (five) years issued by the Panel of Judges inCase Number 06/Pid.Sus.Anak/2017/PN-Bir actually makes the Defendant who is still a minor, psychologically and his life will be disturbed. Because child perpetrators who become narcotics abusers should be given the right to get recovery as aspired to in the principles of restorative justice. However, in fact, in the three decisions described in the previous chapter, the children actually experienced significant difficulties in recovering mentally and psychologically because the panel of judges sentenced them to years in prison.

Ideally, every possible step in order to prevent the adverse effects arising from criminal sanctions for depriving children of liberty must be taken, as well as by judges if the child is already in the criminal justice system. This is what is emphasized in The Tokyo Rules (UN Standard Minimum Rules for Non-Custodial Measures) which encourages community involvement in the criminal justice system. Where non-imprisonment measures must be part of the depenalization and decriminalization movement as well as reintegration efforts in society, so that the public can participate in efforts to prevent the recurrence of criminal acts. <sup>15</sup>

This is also mandated by the Law on the Juvenile Criminal Justice System in which law enforcers, in this case public prosecutors and especially judges, must always adhere to the principle that imprisonment for children is only used as a last resort.

### 2. The Ideal Concept of Restorative Justice in Handling Narcotics Crimes with Child Perpetrators in Conflict with the Law

Article 54 of Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics mandates: "Narcotics addicts and victims of narcotics abuse are required to undergo medical rehabilitation and social rehabilitation, and judges in deciding cases of narcotics abusers must pay attention to the provisions of Article 127 paragraph (2) and paragraph (3)."

There is a fact that the number of narcotics addicts and victims of narcotics abuse as suspects, defendants, or prisoners in narcotics crimes is increasing and the treatment and/or treatment efforts have not been carried out in an optimal and integrated manner. In fact, in the elucidation of Article 21 Paragraph (4) Letter b of the Criminal Code (KUHAP) it is stated that the suspect or defendant is a narcotic addict as far as possible being detained in a certain place which is also a place of treatment.

Based on this, it turns out that the state is starting to think about how to take steps that can restore and/or develop the physical, mental, and social development of suspects, defendants, or prisoners in narcotics cases carried out with integrated and coordinated treatment, care and recovery programs by issuing Joint Regulation of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Minister of Law and Human Rights, Minister of Health, Minister of Social Affairs, Attorney General, Chief of Police, Head of the National Narcotics Agency Number 01/PB/MA/111/2014, Number 03 of 2014, Number 11 of 2014, Number 03 of 2014, Number Per005/A/JA/03/2014, Number 1 of 2014, Number Perber/01/111/2014/BNN concerning Handling Narcotics Addicts and Victims of Narcotics Abuse in Rehabilitation Institutions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup>Septiana, "Restorative Justice in Juvenile Criminal Decisions", Judicial Journal, Volume. 11, Number 2, August 2018, p. 204.

The Joint Regulation is aimed at realizing optimal coordination and cooperation in solving narcotics problems in order to reduce the number of narcotics addicts and victims of narcotics abuse through treatment, care, and recovery programs in the handling of narcotics addicts and victims of narcotics abuse as suspects, defendants or prisoners, while remaining implement the eradication of illicit drug trafficking. In addition, it is also intended to be a technical guideline in handling narcotics addicts and victims of narcotics abuse as suspects, defendants, or prisoners to undergo medical rehabilitation and/or social rehabilitation. Then it is also hoped that the process of medical rehabilitation and social rehabilitation can be carried out at the level of investigation, prosecution,

However, common rules alone are not enough. The Supreme Court considers the need for the application of Restorative Justice to several cases, one of which is narcotics cases that must be carried out by all district court judges and high court chiefs through the Decree of the Director General of the General Judiciary Agency of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia Number 1691/DJU/SK/PS.00 /12/2020 concerning the Implementation of Restorative Justice Implementation Guidelines in the General Courts Environment on 22 December 2020. The main decisions are:

- a. Order all district court judges to carry out guidelines for the application of restorative justice in an orderly and responsible manner; and
- b. The Head of the High Court is obliged to supervise, monitor and evaluate, as well as report the implementation of restorative justice in the jurisdiction of the High Court concerned.

This decision defines Restorative Justice as the settlement of a criminal act by involving the perpetrator, victim, family of the perpetrator/victim, and other related parties, to jointly seek a fair solution by emphasizing restoration to its original state, not retaliation (imprisonment). In the appendix to this decision, it is stated that restorative justice in case settlement can be used as an instrument of restoring justice and has been implemented by the Supreme Court in the form of policy enforcement (PERMA and SEMA). But so far its implementation in the criminal justice system is still not optimal.

The application of Restorative Justice must be enforced and applied by all district courts in Indonesia, especially in terms of resolving cases in minor crimes, cases of children, women dealing with the law and narcotics cases. Especially for narcotics cases, the Restorative Justice approach can only be applied to addicts, abusers, drug dependence, victims of abuse, and one-day use of narcotics. This is as mandated in Article 1 of the Joint Regulation of the Chairperson of the Supreme Court, Menkumham, Menkes, Social Minister, Attorney General, National Police Chief, Head of BNN regarding the Handling of Narcotics Addicts and Victims of Narcotics Abuse in Rehabilitation Institutions.

This Decree stipulates that the Panel of Judges in the trial process may order narcotic addicts and victims of narcotics abuse to take treatment, care and recovery at medical rehabilitation institutions and/or social rehabilitation institutions. Courts are required to provide a list of medical or social rehabilitation institutions in coordination with the National Narcotics Agency. Restorative Justice in narcotics cases can be applied if it meets the requirements when caught red-handed by Polri investigators and/or BNN investigators found evidence of one-day use in the form of: maximum 1 gram of methamphetamine, maximum 8 pills of ecstasy, maximum 1.8 grams of heroin, maximum 1 gram of cocaine, 8 grams, maximum 5 grams of marijuana, maximum 5 grams of coca leaves, maximum 5 grams of mescalina, maximum 3 grams of psilosybin group, maximum 2 grams of lsd group,

In this case, the ideal restorative justice concept in handling cases of children as perpetrators of narcotics crimes is a concept that provides a value of justice for both perpetrators and victims, for this reason it is necessary to reform Law Number 35 of 2009 regarding sanctions for child perpetrators of narcotics crimes by abolishing the penalty of

imprisonment for half of the adult sentence. It is necessary to build rehabilitation places that specifically deal with children who are perpetrators of narcotics crimes.

If the three decisions that the researcher examines are related to the ideal concept of restorative justice in handling narcotics crimes with child offenders, it can be seen that the overall order decided by the Panel of Judges does not reflect the ideal concept of restorative justice in question. Because the ideal restorative justice concept is a concept that provides justice for both the perpetrator and the victim. While the three rulings contained in the case that the researcher studied, the decisions taken by the Panel of Judges did not give a sense of justice but would have a negative impact on the future of the Defendant. Restorative Justice as a goal in implementing diversion in the Juvenile Criminal Justice System from the judicial process so that it can avoid stigma against children in conflict with the law and the child can return to his social environment naturally. Regulations regarding the handling of child perpetrators of criminal acts in Indonesia are still not optimal. Especially the rules for rehabilitation for child addicts, because children are still mixed with adults, future efforts are for joint rehabilitation with the whole family, because it is not only about the drugs, but there may be errors in parenting patterns.

In addition, reform efforts in the Juvenile Criminal Justice System Act are the need to abolish the provisions of Article 7 paragraph (2) in Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System. Diversion should be required not only for criminal penalties under 7 (seven) years but also above 7 (seven) years without distinction. The severity or lightness of the crime committed as a consideration by law enforcement for diversion should be based on benefit and not be limited by the Juvenile Criminal Justice System Act.

### IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the three Judgments The researchers studied are Decision Number 28/Pid.Sus-Anak/2020/PN Mre with the Defendant Andesta Bin Rusimin, Decision No.02/Pid.Sus-Anak/2015/PN-SAB with the Defendant Fajri Bin Nurdin and Decision Number 06/Pid.Sus.Anak/2017/PN-Bir with the Child Defendant, it can be seen that the concept of restorative justice in handling cases of children as perpetrators of narcotics crimes by the panel of judges is not implemented. This can be seen in his injunction; the Panel of Judges actually sentenced the Defendant to years in prison. Whereas the concept adopted by restorative justice is a concept that prioritizes recovery, not retaliation.

The ideal concept of restorative justice in handling cases of children as perpetrators of narcotics crimes is a concept that provides a value of justice for both perpetrators and victims, for this reason it is necessary to reform Law Number 35 of 2009 regarding sanctions for child perpetrators of narcotics crimes by eliminating criminal sanctions. imprisonment is half of the adult sentence. It is necessary to build rehabilitation places that specifically deal with children who are perpetrators of narcotics crimes.

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