

# Dynamics of Correctional Institution Governance in Increasing The Meaning of Life of Inmates

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## Abstract

*This study examines the role of correctional institutions in improving the meaning of life of prisoners through the dynamics of correctional institution governance in Sleman Class IIB. The main focus of this study is to evaluate how a comprehensive rehabilitation program-including skills training, education, mental health support, and spiritual activities-can improve inmates' quality of life and meaning of life. This research used a qualitative method with a literature study approach and interviews to collect primary data from prisoners and officers at Sleman Class IIB. The results show that a holistic approach to rehabilitation, which includes skills development, education, and health services, has had a positive impact on the well-being and self-development of prisoners. Despite challenges related to overcapacity, measures such as facility additions and parole programs during the pandemic have helped improve the living conditions of inmates. Active participation of prisoners in decision-making and ongoing training for prison officers also play an important role in creating an enabling environment for effective rehabilitation. The study concludes that good governance and a holistic approach can significantly improve the meaning of prisoners' lives and make Sleman Kelas IIB a model for other correctional institutions in creating a more humane and productive system.*

**Keywords:** Dynamics, Institution Governance, Inmates

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## 1. Introduction

This study aims to look at the role of Correctional Institutions in creating an environment in supporting the increasing meaning of life for inmates, reviewed from various aspects of prison governance by fostering, rehabilitating, and reintegrating inmates into the community (Tongkeles, 2022). Like many other correctional institutions in Indonesia, Sleman Class IIB Prison faces complex challenges in carrying out its duties and functions. In the midst of efforts to maintain security and order, there is an urgent need to improve the quality of life and the meaning of life of the inmates (Lubis & Maslihah, 2012). The meaning of life for the inmates is not only related to physical conditions, but also includes psychological, social, and spiritual aspects (Dwi Syaputri, 2021). An effective rehabilitation process should include a comprehensive program, from skills training and education to mental health support and religious activities (Lerman & Harney, 2019). This holistic approach aims to prepare inmates to better reintegrate into society and reduce their risk of relapse into criminal acts. In this context, dynamic and adaptive governance is crucial. Effective governance not only ensures that the basic needs of inmates are met, but also creates an environment conducive to the rehabilitation and coaching process (Peirce & Fondevila, 2020). This involves cooperation between various parties, including prison officers, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations, and local communities. Through a holistic approach, it is hoped that effective and innovative strategies can be identified to be applied in Sleman Class IIB prisons. The main focus includes improving rehabilitation and coaching programs, skills development and education, empowerment through productive activities, improving the quality of daily life, and



social and emotional coaching. In addition, aspects of transparency, participation of inmates, and training and development of prison officers will also be discussed as part of dynamic governance. With structured and systematic efforts, Sleman Class IIB Prison is expected to become a model for other correctional institutions in terms of effective management and increasing the meaning of life for inmates. This will ultimately create a more humane and productive correctional system, as well as contribute to the formation of a safer, fairer and more prosperous society.

Efforts to improve the management of the Sleman Class IIB Correctional Institution involve cooperation between various parties, including prison officers, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the local community. This holistic approach aims to identify and implement effective and innovative strategies to improve the quality of prison management. The main focus of this initiative includes improving rehabilitation and coaching programs for inmates, skills development and education, empowerment through productive activities, improving the quality of inmates' daily lives, and their social and emotional development. In addition, aspects of transparency, inmate participation, and training and development of prison officers are important parts of dynamic governance. With a structured and systematic approach, Sleman Class IIB Prison is expected to be an example for other correctional institutions in terms of effective management, as well as contributing to the formation of a safer, fairer, and more prosperous society (Hadi, 2021; Setiawan, 2022). Correctional institution governance is the most crucial and fundamental thing in improving services in the correctional sector (Peirce & Fondevila, 2020). As a result, this governance will have a significant impact on increasing the satisfaction of the community at large and the inmates in particular. The main argument is that good prison governance will strengthen the psychology of inmates, through rehabilitation programs that emphasize efforts to change the behavior of inmates through coaching and education programs. An effective rehabilitation program should be based on the principle of Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR), which adapts the intervention to the level of risk, needs, and responsiveness of the Assisted Citizen (Bourgon et al., 2010). To be able to run a coaching program in prisons, of course, it must be supported by the condition of the prison itself, because almost most prisons in Indonesia are overcapacity. According to a report from the Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (ICJR), overcrowding can reduce the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs and worsen the physical and mental health conditions of inmates ("ICJR Publications Received," 2019). Rehabilitation programs that include education, training, and psychological counseling can significantly reduce recidivism rates (Kerr, 1988). Access to education and skills training in prisons is very important in supporting the success of social reintegration of inmates (Becker-Pestka, 2017). And no less important is that the mental and physical health of inmates is an aspect that should not be ignored during the rehabilitation process. Adequate health services in prisons can reduce stress and mental health disorders (John, 1999). Prisoners' participation in productive activities, such as working and participating in skills training programs, can increase their sense of self-esteem and meaning in life. Continuous training for prison officers is very important to develop a more humane and effective approach in dealing with inmates. The existing literature shows that a holistic approach to prison governance, which includes various aspects of rehabilitation, education, health, empowerment, transparency, and officer training, can significantly improve the meaning of inmates' lives. This study will examine how Sleman Class IIB Prison implements these principles and overcomes the challenges faced to create an environment that supports the overall development of Assisted Citizens.

## 2. Method

This study relies on qualitative methods to collect primary data. The purpose of this study is to find out the efforts of the Sleman Class IIB Correctional Institution in improving the meaning of life of the Assisted Citizens. To achieve this goal, it is done by browsing previous references related and followed up with interviews to explore opinions. The combination of literature review and interviews has its advantages. First, identifying various impacts of the

dynamics of Correctional Institution Governance. Second, dig deeper, by conducting interviews with Assisted Residents to find out more and ascertain information related to the Correctional Institution's efforts in improving the meaning of life of Assisted Residents. Literature exploration and interviews are research techniques related to qualitative research. The purpose of a literature review is to gather information through previous scientific studies but interviews are considered an opportunity to find new information from individuals (Djaelani et al., 2013). The advantage of the literature review in this study is that it produces broad information, insights, and ideas about the meaning of life and can cover topics flexibly, while the disadvantage is that the lack of structure can make the results depend on the influence of the interviewer. Semi-structured questions are designed in this study for interview purposes. Participants were asked about the services they saw, knew and received, at the Sleman Class IIB Prison. The interview was conducted in October 2022. Participants in this study are Officials, Implementers and Assisted Citizens in Sleman Class IIB Prison. The method used is the 'convenience sampling method' which is carried out by contacting the authorized officials to select and prepare informants. From the information gathered, most of it is based on its own assessment. The resource persons consisted of two officials, two implementers and 15 Fostered Residents. The average duration of most interviews is 30 minutes. Some demographic information is also collected. The digital recording of the interview is converted into text. The data is compiled to facilitate systematic categorization and analysis of data.

The data of the informant is as follows:

No	Informant	Age	Status
1.	Informant 1	50-60	Officer
2.	Informant 2	30-40	Officer
3.	Informant 3	30-40	Officer
4.	Informant 4	30-40	Officer
5.	Informant 5	30-40	Officer
6.	Informant 6	60-70	Citizen
7.	Informant 7	40-50	Citizen
8.	Informant 8	40-50	Citizen
9.	Informant 9	50-60	Citizen
10.	Informant 10	40-50	Citizen
11.	Informant 11	40-50	Citizen
12.	Informant 12	20-30	Citizen
13.	Informant 13	20-30	Citizen
14.	Informant 14	20-30	Citizen
15.	Informant 15	40-50	Citizen
16.	Informant 16	40-50	Citizen
17.	Informant 17	50-60	Citizen
18.	Informant 18	40-50	Citizen
19.	Informant 19	20-30	Citizen
20.	Informant 20	50-60	Citizen

*Source: Data Processing*

### 3. Results and Discussion

The Dynamics of Governance of Class IIB Sleman Correctional Institution in Improving the Meaning of Life of Assisted Residents with a Comprehensive Rehabilitation Approach and has been implemented by implementing various rehabilitation programs that include aspects of informal education through package pursuits, skills training, and psychological and spiritual counseling. These programs are designed to meet the individual needs of inmates and have shown a positive impact in reducing stress levels and improving their skills. Although there are

still challenges related to excess capacity, the Sleman Class IIB Prison has taken several steps to reduce its impact. These measures include adding facilities and implementing an effective parole program, especially during the pandemic by implementing Home Assimilation. As a result, the living conditions of the Assisted Residents become more humane, which is contributing to the environment. In carrying out coaching programs, both personality development and independence development, it has collaborated with local educational institutions and industries so as to provide opportunities for Assisted Residents to participate in informal education programs and skills training. Assisted residents are given the opportunity to participate in productive activities, such as working in workshops in prisons or through cooperation with local industries. This activity not only provides inmates with work skills but also gives them a sense of self-esteem and objectives. This program has helped inmates to develop skills that are practical in nature and can be used later after completing their sentences, and are very useful in social reintegration. To improve the Health of the Assisted Citizens, the Sleman Class IIB Prison has improved physical and mental health services, these services include regular health checkups, medical treatment, and psychological counseling, all of which contribute to the general well-being of the Assisted Citizens and the awareness to participate in coaching programs. In the implementation of policies and transparency of prison management has involved the active participation of inmates in the decision-making process, this is reflected in the assessment of the risks and needs of each inmate at the beginning of serving his sentence, this step has increased the sense of belonging and responsibility among the inmates, thereby helping to create a more inclusive environment and support effective rehabilitation. As the subject of coaching and rehabilitation, Sleman Class IIB Prison Officers have received tiered and continuous training that focuses on a humanist and effective approach in handling inmates. This training improves the ability of officers to support the rehabilitation of inmates and create a more positive environment in prisons.

However, the Sleman Class IIB Prison faces challenges related to excess capacity. To address this problem, several steps have been taken, such as the addition of facilities and the implementation of parole programs, especially during the pandemic through Home Assimilation, which allows inmates to serve part of their sentences at home with strict supervision. These measures aim to reduce overcrowding and improve the living conditions of prisoners, making them more humane and supporting a better environment in prisons.

In a coaching effort, Sleman Class IIB Prison has collaborated with local educational and industrial institutions, providing inmates with the opportunity to participate in informal education programs and skills training. Productive activities such as working in prison workshops or through partnerships with local industries not only provide practical skills but also improve inmates' self-esteem and life goals. This program is invaluable for the social reintegration process of inmates after they have completed their sentences. In addition, to improve the health of inmates, Sleman Class IIB Prison has improved physical and mental health services. These services include regular health checkups, medical treatment, and psychological counseling. All these efforts aim to improve the general welfare of inmates and encourage them to actively participate in coaching programs, thereby supporting a more effective rehabilitation and reintegration process.

Although measures to address overcrowding have already begun to be taken, this challenge remains one of the main issues. The addition of facilities and the implementation of the parole program are positive steps, but further efforts are still needed to manage the inmates effectively. A holistic approach to rehabilitation that covers various aspects of the lives of inmates is key to increasing the meaning of their lives. Comprehensive programs such as education, skills training, and psychological counseling have proven effective in helping inmates to develop positive skills and attitudes towards social reintegration. Education and skills training programs play an important role in preparing inmates to return to the community. Cooperation with local educational institutions and industries needs to be continuously improved to ensure that these programs remain relevant and beneficial to the assisted communities. Access to adequate health services makes inmates more able to participate in

rehabilitation programs and show improvements in general well-being. Better access to health services, including mental health care. Involvement in productive activities provides a sense of pride and self-esteem for the inmates, which will be capital in developing useful skills after the inmates have completed their sentences and are released. It is an important note, it must be ensured that the activities are not only monotonous but also provide opportunities for self-development and even professionally. Policy transparency and active participation of assisted citizens in decision-making will create a more inclusive environment, supporting coaching and rehabilitation programs. Ongoing training for prison officers is essential to ensure that they have the skills and knowledge to be able to interact with a humane approach in handling inmates, helping to create a more positive environment and supporting the rehabilitation process.

#### 4. Conclusion

The dynamics of governance of Sleman Class IIB Correctional Institution show that a comprehensive and holistic approach is needed to improve the meaning of life of inmates. Based on the data analysis that has been carried out, it can be concluded that the Class IIB Sleman Prison has shown that with good governance and a holistic approach, the meaning of life of the inmates can be significantly improved. The implementation of comprehensive programs, the handling of overcrowding issues, skills development and education, the provision of health services, productive activities, transparency, participation, and officer training all contribute to more effective rehabilitation of inmates. By continuing to improve and develop this strategy, Sleman Class IIB Prison can be a model for other correctional institutions in creating a more humane and productive system, as well as supporting successful social reintegration for inmates.

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