

Efforts to Countermeasure Corruption by the Police to Enhance Public Trust

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Abstract. Law enforcement against corruption is one of the critical tests for the police force in maintaining integrity and transparency. The level of corruption cases resolved by the police is a primary indicator for evaluating the effectiveness of law enforcement against corruption. The analysis in this study involves monitoring the number of corruption cases successfully handled, factors influencing the prosecution process, and the quality of police investigations. Internal factors such as leadership, resource allocation, and training impact the police's ability to handle corruption cases. On the other hand, external factors such as collaboration with other institutions, public oversight, and political pressure also affect the integrity and transparency of the police force. Improving the management of these internal and external factors is key to building public trust in the police force and ensuring effective law enforcement in combating corruption.

Keywords: Corruption; Police; Public Trust

1 Introduction

Corruption is a problem that troubles many countries in the earth and can be considered a serious systemic threat to the economy and the continuity of fair and efficient government. The negative impact of corruption can spread to various sectors of society, including the social, economic, and political development of a country. Economically, corruption hinders economic growth and investment in various ways. Corrupt practices often give rise to inefficient additional costs in business and investment, slow down the infrastructure development process, and create an environment where small and medium businesses find it difficult to compete fairly. Corruption also damages market integrity and increases economic uncertainty, reducing the confidence of both domestic and foreign investors. [1]

The impact of corruption on social development is also highly significant. Public funds misappropriated due to corruption can lead to imbalances in resource allocation for education, healthcare, and other essential services. Corruption can also result in a decline in the quality of public services, causing dissatisfaction and mistrust among the public towards the government, and exacerbating social and economic disparities. In the political sphere, corruption undermines the principles of democracy and justice. Widespread corruption practices can erode government legitimacy, reduce public political participation, and foster a corrupt political elite.[2] Corruption can also result in abuse of power, provide unfair advantages to certain groups or individuals, and suppress the voices and aspirations of citizens.

Thus, corruption is not only detrimental economically but also deeply threatens the principles of democracy, justice, and the sustainability of a country's development. Therefore, handling corruption is very important to ensure the creation of a clean, efficient, and just government, so that society can benefit equally from development and public services. So, the role of law enforcement is needed in eradicating and dealing with criminal acts of corruption, one of which is the police.[3] The public's perception of the police force often reflects a level of trust and belief that remains deficient in its integrity and effectiveness, particularly in handling corruption crimes. The multitude of corruption cases involving police officers or instances where law enforcement against corrupt individuals is not carried out decisively has eroded public trust in the police force. This perception is exacerbated by the lack of transparency in the legal process and allegations of political intervention or other interests that may hinder the police from effectively carrying out their duties. [4]

To enhance public trust in the police force in combating corruption crimes (corruption), more effective and transparent countermeasures are required. Concrete steps such as strengthening internal police integrity through rigorous enforcement of ethical codes, eradicating nepotism and collusion practices within the police force, and enhancing capacity in the investigation and prosecution of corruption matters need to be taken. Additionally, the police also need to commit to principles of accountability and transparency by involving the community in monitoring and reporting corruption cases. Through these efforts, it is aimed that the police can rebuild public trust as the frontline guardians in combating corruption crimes and realizing clean and accountable governance.

2 Library Review

2.1 Corruption Crime

According to the Indonesian Anti-Corruption Encyclopedia, "Corruption" refers to behavior in which state officials or institutions abuse their power or authority by accepting bribes, committing forgery, or carrying out other inappropriate actions. Corruption involves the misuse of state funds or a company for which someone works for personal gain or that of another person.[5] According to Lubis and Scott, corruption is behavior in which government officials use their power for personal gain by directly harming others, which violates the legal limits on such behavior. [6]

The elements of the crime of corruption are regulated in Article 2 paragraph (1) of Law Number 31 of 1999 Jo. Law Number 20 of 2001 concerning Corruption Crimes stipulates that anyone who enriches themselves or others unlawfully, causing financial or economic harm to the state, shall be subject to life imprisonment or imprisonment ranging from 4 to 20 years, and a fine varying from Rp. 200,000,000.00 to Rp. 1,000,000,000.00.[7] Corruption is a criminal act involving personal gain obtained through unlawful means, ultimately causing harm to the financial and economic interests of a country. Corruption, also known as corruption crimes (Tipikor), violates the rights of society, both economically and socially. It is no longer viewed as an ordinary crime, but rather an extraordinary offense. The impact of corruption results in suffering for communities, particularly those living below the poverty line.[8]

In the definition, there are three elements of corruption definition:

- a. Authority abuse.

- b. The power granted, both in the public and private sectors, is utilized for business interests or material gain.
- c. Obtain personal benefits, not only for oneself but also for family members or friends.[9]

Factors that cause acts of corruption in Indonesia include:

- a. Political factors or those related to power

This includes the abuse of power which was popularly proposed by Lord Acton, who stated that power tends to corrupt, and absolute power tends to cause absolute corruption.
- b. Juridical factors or those related to law

Weak punitive sanctions related to provisions in the law regarding criminal acts of corruption can be a trigger for corruption.
- c. Cultural factors

Corruption is influenced by feudal views which result in conflicts of loyalty between family obligations and obligations to the state, related to aspects of personality, including a person's mentality and morals. [10]

2.2 Polices

According to Satjipto Raharjo, the police are a state instrument tasked with maintaining public order and security, providing protection, and offering assistance to the community. He believes that if the goal of the law is to create order in society by combating crime, then it is the police who will concretely enforce that order. Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the Republic of Indonesia National Police defines the police as everything related to the functions and institutions of the police by the legislation. The term "police" in this law refers to two things: police functions and police institutions. Police functions are part of the state government's responsibilities in maintaining public order and security, law enforcement, protection, assistance, and service to the community. The police institution is a government body officially designated and empowered to carry out these functions by the legislation. [11]

Article 5 Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the State Police of the Republic of Indonesia explains that the State Police of the Republic of Indonesia plays a role as a state tool in maintaining security and public order, enforcing the law, and providing protection, protection, and services to the community to maintain domestic security. The National Police of the Republic of Indonesia is also the National Police which is a unit in carrying out this part.[12] The meaning of "police" has evolved since ancient times. The term was first encountered in Greek before the Common Era as "Politea," referring to the entire governance of city-states. Later, this meaning expanded to include all urban activities, including governmental and religious affairs. However, in the 14th and 15th centuries, with the increasing complexity of religious matters, the term "politea" shifted its focus to worldly affairs. From the terms "politea" and "polis," other terms emerged such as "police" (French), "politeia" (Dutch), "police" (English), "polizei" (German), and "Polisi" (Indonesian). [13]

In the Republic of Indonesia State Police Law, the main duties of the Republic of Indonesia State Police are:

- 1) Maintain security and public order

- 2) Enforce the law
- 3) Providing protection, protection, and service to the community.

2.3 Society

Society is a group of individuals who interact both individually and collectively, aiming to achieve common or conflicting interests, within specific contexts of space, time, and events involving shared and underlying interests. Society is a living entity composed of humans bound by certain customs and traditions. According to Syani, the term "society" originates from the Arabic word "musyarakat," meaning living together, which later evolved into "masyarakat" referring to collective life, interaction, and mutual influence within a collective agreement. [14]

Society is a social entity consisting of a group of individuals who live together in a certain area or environment. Members of society interact with each other and form complex relationships based on collectively recognized norms, values, and rules. The concept of society goes beyond a mere collection of individuals, as it involves patterns of interaction, organization, and structure that regulate behavior and relationships between individuals. One of the main characteristics of society is the existence of a collective consciousness or shared identity that differentiates members of society from people outside that society. This awareness is formed through a socialization process in which individuals internalize the social norms and cultural values that apply in that society. [15]

Society also involves a division of labor where members of society have different roles and functions according to their specialization. The division of labor allows society to function efficiently by utilizing the skills and abilities possessed by individuals in society. Apart from that, society has a social structure consisting of various groups and institutions such as family, school, religion, government, and others. The social structure provides a framework that regulates social interactions, distribution of power, and decision making in society. [16]

Society has several characteristics that define the structure and dynamics of social life within it. [17]

- 1) Society involves interactions between individuals. It means that members of society relate to each other in various ways, both directly and indirectly. This interaction includes communication, collaboration, conflict, and integration between individuals that form a complex network of social relationships.
- 2) Society has social norms that are collectively recognized. These norms include the rules that regulate the behavior of members of society in various life contexts, such as moral, legal, ethical, and social norms. These norms are important for maintaining order and stability in society.
- 3) There is a social structure consisting of groups and institutions. This social structure divides society into smaller units with specific functions, such as family, school, religion, government, and economy. These institutions provide the organizational and normative framework that regulates societal life.
- 4) Society involves the division of labor. This division of labor refers to the distribution of tasks and roles based on the specialization and expertise of each individual in society. The division of labor allows efficiency in meeting needs and producing various goods and services.

- 5) Society has a collective identity. Community members have an awareness of a shared identity as part of a particular group or community. This collective identity is usually based on factors such as culture, language, history, and values that are jointly recognized and lived by community members.
- 6) Society is dynamic and continues to develop. Changes in society can occur through social, political, economic, technological, and cultural processes that influence the social order and behavioral patterns in society. The transition can be slow or fast depending on the conditions and context of the community.

3 Research Method

Research methodologies that can be used to examine efforts to combat corruption by the police to increase public trust may include a qualitative approach using in-depth interviews and case studies. In-depth interview techniques can be employed to gain a profound understanding of the views and experiences of stakeholders, including police officers, community leaders, and corruption victims. Case studies can help analyze in detail the concrete efforts made by the police in handling corruption cases and their impact on public trust. Additionally, quantitative data analysis such as surveys or statistical analysis can also be used to measure the level of public trust in the police before and after the implementation of anti-corruption efforts. The combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches is expected to provide a comprehensive overview of the effectiveness of police efforts to combat corruption in enhancing public trust.

4 Result and Discussion

4.1. Effectiveness of Law Enforcement Efforts by the Police in Handling Corruption Crime Cases

The rate of corruption case resolution by the police is an important indicator for assessing the effectiveness of law enforcement against corrupt practices. Analysis of the success rate in resolving these cases encompasses several aspects that provide deep insights into the police performance in addressing corruption. Evaluation can be conducted by examining the number of corruption cases successfully handled by the police within a specific period. It includes cases that have been successfully uncovered, thoroughly investigated, and subsequently brought to legal prosecution. The number of successfully concluded cases serves as a concrete depiction of the productivity and effectiveness of the police in combating corruption. Additionally, it is essential to analyze the factors influencing the prosecution process of corruption cases by the police. These factors encompass various aspects such as the availability of sufficient evidence, collaboration with other law enforcement agencies (such as the prosecution), as well as the capability and integrity of investigators and law enforcers in handling corruption cases. Moreover, political, administrative, and organizational cultural factors can also influence the prosecution process of corruption cases.

In reviewing the quality of police investigations into corruption cases, there are several notes indicating deficiencies in this regard. One critical aspect is modern investigative techniques and collaboration with other law enforcement agencies. Unfortunately, in some

cases, the police may underutilize sophisticated and up-to-date investigation techniques to gather strong evidence in corruption cases. The utilization of forensic technology, data analysis, and electronic surveillance is crucial in compiling strong evidence in corruption cases. The lack of resources and adequate training in modern investigative technology could be one of the reasons for the lack of quality in investigations.

Separated from that, collaboration with other law enforcement agencies such as prosecutors and financial supervisory agencies is also important to increase the effectiveness of investigations into corruption. However, there are still obstacles to coordination and collaboration between these institutions. For example, a lack of effective communication or differences in priorities and approaches in handling corruption cases can hinder effective collaboration between institutions. Apart from technical and administrative factors, other aspects that influence the quality of police inquiries and investigations are organizational culture and ethical factors. The involvement of police officers in corrupt practices or collusion may compromise the integrity of the investigation. Lack of adherence to codes of ethics and professional standards can also undermine the credibility of police investigations. Therefore, there is a need to increase internal monitoring and enforcement of discipline within police agencies to ensure better quality investigations in corruption cases.

Lack of effectiveness in law enforcement against corruption can harm the level of public trust in police institutions. When corruption cases are not handled well or there are leaks of information and questionable interventions, the public tends to lose trust in the police as clean and transparent law enforcers. The low trust can result in the public being reluctant to report corruption cases or cooperate with the police in eradicating this crime.

In addition, the lack of effectiveness of law enforcement against corruption can also influence the public's perception of the overall effectiveness of preventing and repressing corruption. The public will tend to doubt the police's ability to prevent and crack down on criminal acts of corruption if they see that corruption cases are rarely resolved or are involved in complicated and slow legal processes. The impact of the lack of effectiveness of law enforcement efforts against corruption can also spread to the political and social arena. People who are disillusioned with law enforcement agencies can become more skeptical of the political system, doubting the government's ability to eradicate corruption and ensure justice.

4.1 Internal and External Factors Affecting the Integrity and Transparency of Police Institutions in Handling Corruption Cases to Enhance Public Trust

Internal factors that influence the integrity and transparency of police institutions in handling corruption cases to increase public trust include:

- 1) Leadership and Organizational Culture

The role of leadership in influencing the integrity and culture of a police organization is very crucial. Strong leadership and integrity can form an organizational culture that is oriented toward public service and justice. Leadership must be a role model in instilling ethical values and integrity throughout the police structure, providing clear direction, and upholding high standards of behavior for police officers.

- 2) Resources and Budget Availability

Resource factors and budget availability also play an important role in the police's ability to investigate and prosecute corruption cases. Limited physical resources such as investigative technology, forensic laboratories, and evidence collection facilities can hinder the effectiveness of case handling. Likewise, there is an available budget for training and capacity building for police officers in the field of corruption investigations. Increasing adequate budget allocation and efficient use of resources will help improve police performance in handling corruption cases.

3) Code of Ethics and Training

The effectiveness of police codes of ethics and training programs in promoting integrity is a key factor in determining transparency and public trust. A clear and consistently enforced code of ethics will help promote clean practices and prevent conflicts of interest within police agencies. Training focused on ethics, law enforcement, and corruption investigations will strengthen the capacity of police officers to face the complex challenges of corruption cases.

External factors affecting the integrity and transparency of police institutions in handling corruption cases to enhance public trust include:

1) Collaboration with External Institutions

Collaboration with external institutions such as the prosecution, financial supervisory bodies, or anti-corruption NGOs is key to ensuring the effectiveness of handling corruption cases. A high level of cooperation and collaboration between the police and these institutions can strengthen investigations, evidence gathering, and prosecution of corruption cases. Close collaboration can also help ensure integrity and transparency in law enforcement, thus instilling confidence in the public that corruption cases are being handled fairly and comprehensively.

2) Public Oversight and Transparency

Public oversight and transparency are crucial in the police law enforcement process against corruption cases. The role of public oversight by the media, anti-corruption activists, and the public can help maintain police accountability and promote transparency in every step of handling corruption cases. Open information and accessibility to the corruption legal process will increase public trust in the police institution.

3) Political and Legal Factors

Political and legal factors can significantly impact the independence of the police in handling corruption cases. Political pressure or interventions from certain parties can disrupt the integrity and transparency of the police force. Therefore, it is important to analyze how political and legal factors affect the freedom and independence of the police in carrying out law enforcement duties against corruption cases. Protecting police independence from political pressure and external interference is crucial in ensuring effective and integrity-based law enforcement.

5 Conclusion

From the analysis of the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts by the police in handling corruption cases, it can be concluded that the rate of resolving corruption cases by the police is a key indicator in assessing the performance of law enforcement agencies regarding corruption cases. Comprehensive evaluation, including the number of successfully resolved cases, factors influencing the prosecution process, and the quality of investigation, is crucial in measuring the effectiveness of the police in combating corruption. The role of leadership with integrity, the availability of adequate resources and budgets, as well as effective ethical codes and training programs, will help strengthen the integrity and transparency of police institutions in handling corruption cases.

Meanwhile, external factors such as collaboration with external institutions, public oversight, and political and legal pressures also play a crucial role in influencing the integrity and transparency of the police. Good collaboration with other law enforcement agencies, active public oversight, and protection of police independence from political pressure will help improve the effectiveness of law enforcement against corruption. In this context, improving the management of these internal and external factors is key to building public trust in the police institution and ensuring effective and integrity-based law enforcement in combating corruption.

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