

The Support System and Hope of Women Inmate of Human Trafficking Perpetrators (A Phenomenology Study at Women Correctional Institution Class III of Kupang)

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Abstract

East Nusa Tenggara Province is a province with the highest human trafficking cases in Indonesia. There were 137 cases of human trafficking in 2017 which were successfully revealed to public that caused human trafficking perpetrators were caught and prisoned including women. Correctional institute is stressful place that can affect the physical and psychological health of inmates, and it is a place that can cause various problems, especially for psychological problems of women inmate. Various stressors received can cause inmates to lose realistic expectations about their future life. Support is needed to help inmates face the stress in prison. This study aimed to explore the support system and hope of women inmates of human trafficking perpetrators. The research method used was qualitative research with interpretive phenomenology approach. Participants were selected using purposive sampling technique assisted by wardens. Data was obtained through in-depth interviews with five participants. Data was analyzed by using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) and found the results that women inmates of human trafficking perpetrators obtained support system, that was social support and moral support while in prison. Finally, the inmates had good hope, they would not want to be involved again in the activity of sending Indonesian workers illegally. Support received by inmates was motivation for serving the punishment in prison and made the inmates had realistic hope for their future life.

Keywords: *Women Inmates of Human Trafficking Perpetrators, Social Support, Moral Support, Hope*

Introduction

Nowadays, crimes which committed by women is becoming a social phenomenon that is interesting to be studied in depth. The quantity of women who commit crimes is increasing, which ultimately lead women to experience punishment in prison.

According to the data base system of directorate-general of correctional year of 2018, the number of women inmate in Indonesia since March 2018 are 9322 people, and East Nusa Tenggara province is one of provinces with the number of women inmates that quite

a lot that numbered of 128 people with the most cases is human trafficking case.⁽¹⁾

East Nusa Tenggara is a province that includes in 3T area category, that are underdeveloped, frontier, and outermost area with low economic growth and very high life needed. It became one of factors that affects the crime rates, especially human trafficking that carried out by society including women.⁽²⁾ According to data of Criminal Investigation Police, East Nusa Tenggara is the province with the highest cases of human trafficking in Indonesia. In 2015, there were 1,667 migrant workers from East Nusa Tenggara who were victims of human trafficking.⁽³⁾ In 2017 there were 137 cases of human trafficking that were successfully revealed to the public.⁽⁴⁾ According to these victims, many human trafficking perpetrators arrested and got the punishment in the

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prison. This is in accordance with the Law of Crime of Human Trafficking contained in Law No. 21 year of 2017 about Eradication of Human Trafficking.⁽⁵⁾

Prison is a place with stressfull that affects the physical and mental of inmates, prison is also place that causes various problems, especially psychiatric problems on women inmate.⁽⁶⁾ Prisoned and has the status of inmate is condition that causes stress on women inmates. Stress does not just come from the inmates themselves, but also from the family and the environment of prison.⁽⁷⁾

Some problems that cause stress (stressors) experienced by women inmates during serving their punishment are separated from their families, loss of role as wife and mother, loss of job, loss of support, loss of the right to own property, loss of relationship. In addition, the rules and conditions of prison also caused the inmates loss the autonomy and freedom to the outside world because of limited space and isolated from the society because of all the activities carried out in the Correctional Institution. The factors that cause mental problems in which the density prisoners in a detention room, inter-prisoner violence, loneliness, lack of meaningful activity, lack of privacy, and insecurity future prospects such as work, relationships, and health services are inadequate, especially mental health services. In addition, the stigma of society about women inmates is also being stressor for women inmates.⁽⁸⁾

Problems and difficulties that faced by inmates as form of stress in prison is an event that should be faced during their prison terms. Support from various parties, both the relatives, wardens, and friends of inmates in prison would have implications during inmates serving their punishment in prison. Sarafino & Smith (2011) explained that the appropriate support would greatly help individuals to meet current needs in difficult condition, the individual can find an effective way to get out of problems, feeling appreciated and loved that will encourage their confidence to be able to live life better. But when the individual doesn't see the assistance as support, and the provided support is not appropriate, it is unlikely that individuals can reduce the stress.⁽⁹⁾

Research Purposes

The purpose of this study was to explore the support system and hope of women inmates of human trafficking perpetrators.

Materials and Method

The method used was qualitative research with interpretive phenomenological approach. In this study, researcher explored how women inmates of human trafficking perpetrators coped their stress and then interpreted the meaning to find a deep essence.

The participant selection in this study used sampling purposive technique assisted by wardens in accordance with the inclusion criteria: (1) already married, (2) first entered prison, (3) has been living a life in prison for ≥ 6 months, (4) willing to be participant by signing an agreement as participant, (5) willing to be interviewed and recorded during the research process.

Data was obtained through in-depth interviews with based on semi-structured interview guidelines. During the interview process, all conversations were recorded using recorders(HP). The recording process using HP had obtained approval from Correctional Institution and had been giving licenses to record the sound recording from the Women Correctional Institution Class III of Kupang, Regional Office of East Nusa Tenggara.

Data analysis process was using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA). The process started with reading and re-reading the verbatim transcript of interview results, finding the keywords, classifying the categories, establishing the theme for each participant, and then combining all the themes found on each participants into three (3) themes.

Results

The results of this study were themes that would be interpreted according to what was expressed by participants to find the meaning of words and speech of women inmate of human trafficking perpetrators in prison. The themes were social support, moral support, and hope not to involve in illegal work.

Theme 1. Social Support

In the prison, participants felt the support of the wardens, ministers, friends, their families and relatives. That supports made the participant being strong in facing the life in prison, realizing the mistake and wishing to be better after getting out of prison. The theme was taken from several sub-themes as follows:

Getting coaching from wardens. Participants told that they received guidance from the wardens. The meaning of coaching in this term was an effort, action, and activity that carried out by the wardens efficiently and effectively for life change of participants into better direction. The following were an interview quote from participants:

“Here, the officers guide us for the best. Giving lessons and feedback for us. The study of Bible provided by the Religion Office of City, Province, to guide us in coaching.”(P2)

“... They also guide us in incredible way...” (P3)

The guidance of the wardens was a kind of support received by inmates to change to be better.

Getting the attention of the family

Participants mentioned that, despite of being in prison, they still got the attention and cared for by family who always visited participants. The following were an interview quote from participants:

“... Thank God, my family still cares for me, my friends, too. Maybe because of they are busy, sometimes they visit me.” (P4)

2. Moral Support

Moral support obtained by participants was assistance in the form of inner support that made participant became strong in serving punishment in prison, in continuing the life to survive. The support was in the form of counseling, deepening of faith, served by the minister, spiritual guidance from former inmates who had been acquitted, encouragement among friends in prison, and also their families and relatives who frequently visit. The following were an interview quote from participants:

“... But there is encouragement in the block. The friends give support, encouragement, even though we are from different ethnic and religion but we are encourage each other”(P2)

“The God servants come to guide us, give me strength, give me way out, so I can face this.” (P2)

“... a lot of coaching. There is counseling time every day, there is deepening of faith ... Because there is a former inmates that come to give the serve. She serves,

she went into the prisons to give spiritual guidance, there is a worship once a month with the inmates.”(P4)

3. Hope not to be involved in the work related to illegal Indonesian worker

All the participants told that they “do not want to be involved again in the work of illegal Indonesian worker”. This is shown that participant did not want to participate, and also get carried away in sending workers to the procedure unlawful or unauthorized. The theme came from several sub-themes as follows:

The desire to quit from the work of illegal Indonesian workers. Two participants stated that they did not want to do anymore or did not want to continue anymore the work of illegal Indonesian worker that had been hailed by the participants. Participants sworn they no longer wanted to work in sending Indonesian workers illegally. The following were an interview quote from participants:

“Well ... due to this condition, in the deepest of my heart for next stop illegal Indonesian worker.”(P1)

“... And I've promised, Kupang people said titi batu., Ha'ah. The outsider said it as oath, when Kupang people said titi batu it means do not want to work that things again. Wants to bargain how much Billion, I'm enough.” (P3)

Discussion

Social Support and Moral Support

Prison was a place for inmates to receive guidance from the correctional officer/wardens. Inmates were controlled to be discipline person through all the guidance and regulations which were applied in prison. Moreover, the prison made in circular shape that allowed the wardens to observe and supervise inmates constantly and continuously⁽¹⁰⁾, Purnomo (1985) explained that coaching aimed to change inmates into good person, developing a sense of responsibility to adapt themselves in society life with peace and prosperity, and also being human who were virtuous and moral.⁽⁷⁾

The inmates as prisoners were expected to change to be better person with assistance of wardens/correctional officers through coaching and education. Coaching received by inmates was not only coaching the independence and skills but also spiritual and personality.

This had become a support that motivated the inmates to change for the better. Moreover, family and relatives often visited inmates, thus, inmates still felt to be cared for and meaningful.

Most of inmates expressed that friends of inmates in prison always gave support each other and provided encouragement and motivation in serving their punishment in prison. According to Yanita (2001), social support included emotional support (care and concern, expressions of empathy, positive tribute to build the feeling), informative support (advice, information, guidance, suggestions), and instrumental support in the form of direct assistance such as the provision of money or belongings items needed.⁽¹¹⁾ Individuals with high social support had lower stress levels, more successfully in coping their stress and experienced the positive things in life more positively.⁽¹²⁾ Social support was the ability/social skills that involved others in solving problems, improving the ability to work together and get support from others such as families or people nearby⁽¹³⁾ This was consistent with the previous study by Pratt, et al (2017) in his research shown that environment could be motivation for person to remain the healthy.⁽¹⁴⁾

Nur & Santi (2010) proved that social support helped the inmates to feel being cared for and loved, thus, inmates felt calmer and more confident.⁽¹¹⁾ Social support obtained from the surrounding environment would affect the way inmates facing stressors in prison life. Moreover, a person with high level of social support possessed a lower stress levels and solved many things happen in life more positively.

In addition to social support, inmates also got moral support that encourage the inmates in order to withstand various problems in prison life. This was strengthened by the research result that conducted by Wiseno, et al (2017) found moral support from family, friends and the environmental affected the inmates to change for the better. Azani (2012) argued that moral support could increase feelings of self-esteem, self-identity, and control of environmental influential person in a better health condition.⁽¹⁵⁾

Social support and moral support received by other inmates inmates resilient in serving punishment in prison. Moreover, it was becoming one of the driving factors for inmates to have realistic hope about their future.

Hope not to be involved in the work related to illegal Indonesian worker

Every human being naturally had hopes to do and achieve in the future. Carr (2004) defined hope as the ability to plan a way out as an effort to achieve the goal.⁽¹⁶⁾ Inmates serving punishment in prison would have a hope that listed in the list of life plans that wished to be realized after getting out of the prison.

Research conducted by Andriany (2008) found plans of women inmates after getting out of the prison, which included a plan to apply the skills obtained from Correctional Institutional, plans to keep reporting to the Correctional Institutional, a plan to restore the physical condition, plan for social interaction, fulfilled the life needs, mental, spiritual, namely worship, and live life the same way.⁽¹⁷⁾ But in this study, inmates expressed the hope not to be involved in the work related to illegal Indonesian worker that was defined as human trafficking.

The hopes could be used by inmates as an effort to decrease the risk to do the same crime.⁽¹⁸⁾ It affected the confidence of inmates in carrying the life while in prison and after they getting out of prison. The hope associated with happiness, energy for positive action and self-confidence that had positive effect on inmates. Assessment of hope and opportunity to make someone staring at their world better, felt to be treated fairly and reduced the frustration potential.⁽¹⁶⁾

The hopes could be positive motivation for inmates to follow each guideline in prison, changed the inmates' thoughts and behavior, and prepared inmates to get better, and did not do crimes after leaving prison.

Conclusion

The women inmate of human trafficking perpetrators in Women Correctional Institution Class III of Kupang got good support, both social support and moral support from the prison party, in this case, the wardens, inmates' friends, family and relatives. This support made the prisoners were able to cope various stress conditions in prison and made inmates to had a hope in the future that inmates did not want to carry out human trafficking actions.

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