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Drug Smuggling Within Correctional Facilities: Modus Operandi, Regulatory Gaps, and Legal Reform

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ABSTRACT

Drug smuggling in Indonesian correctional institutions remains a complex issue caused by multidimensional factors, hindering the goal of rehabilitation. Despite strict regulations, the involvement of officers and external networks persists. This study aims to identify smuggling modus operandi, assess the impact of weak supervision and officer integrity, and formulate legal solutions. Using a normative juridical method with statute and conceptual approaches, this research reveals that smuggling commonly occurs through family visits, couriers, and illegal communication devices. This study contributes novelty by integrating modus operandi analysis with the gap between legal norms (das sollen) and institutional practice (das sein) in Indonesian correctional law. The findings highlight that current regulations lose effectiveness due to a lack of legal culture and integrity. Consequently, proposed solutions include strengthening internal supervision, enforcing strict sanctions for involved officers, and reforming the correctional legal culture.

Keywords: *Drug Smuggling, Correctional Institutions, Modus Operandi, Legal Reform, Officer Integrity.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Drug smuggling in Indonesian correctional institutions remains a serious and persistent problem. The continued involvement of inmates in drug distribution points to weaknesses in supervision and control within institutions that are meant to function as spaces for rehabilitation and social reintegration. In practice, smuggling methods continue to adapt to existing control mechanisms. These methods range from the misuse of family visits and courier

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services to the use of illegal communication devices to coordinate distribution networks from inside prison. Data from the Directorate General of Corrections shows a marked increase in cases over the past five years, although many incidents remain undetected due to monitoring constraints and, in some cases, the involvement of correctional officers who abuse their authority.

This problem can be examined using Lawrence M. Friedman's legal system framework, which consists of legal structure, legal substance, and legal culture (Arifin et al., 2024). From a structural perspective, the integrity of law enforcement officers, particularly prison guards, represents major vulnerability. Although regulations governing supervision are in place, their implementation is often constrained by problems related to integrity, limited human resources, and inadequate infrastructure. From the perspective of legal substance, laws such as the Narcotics Law (Law No. 35 of 2009) and the Correctional Law (Law No. 22 of 2022) provide a normative basis for control and supervision. However, several research indicate that the enforcement of these laws faces obstacles, especially due to shortages in facilities and personnel which reduce the effectiveness of supervision.

Legal culture further shapes how these rules operate in practice (Yustia & Arifin, 2023). When the professional values and integrity of correctional officers are weak, even well-designed regulations fail to function as intended. Although various efforts have been made to strengthen legal awareness, problems such as poor discipline and limited competence among officers suggest that a supportive legal culture has not yet been firmly established. As a result, a clear gap emerges between what correctional institutions are expected to be (das sollen), and what occurs in reality (das sein). In this context, prison should serve as places of strict supervision and rehabilitation, yet it currently becomes safe spaces for drug trafficking.

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This situation surely undermines institutional authority and weakens the effectiveness of the criminal justice system (Sulastri et al., 2025). Correctional institutions are designed to correct and rehabilitate, but it is now risking in becoming nodes within drug distribution networks. To address this problem, authorities need complete understanding of smuggling method used and critical assessment of how existing legal rules are implemented and enforced.

Although numerous studies have examined narcotics crimes and prison governance in Indonesia, only a limited number have combined an analysis of smuggling methods by discussing normative gaps and weaknesses in legal culture. Many literatures tend to concentrates either on formal regulatory frameworks or on descriptive criminological accounts (Purnomo, 2016; Monalisa et al., 2020). This study seeks to contribute to correctional law scholarship by focusing on the relationship between regulatory design, institutional integrity, and failures in implementation that depart from legal ideals (das sollen). By identifying concrete smuggling practices and specific regulatory weaknesses, this study aims to propose more targeted legal responses to restore the proper function of correctional institutions.

Based on this background, this study formulates the following research questions:

1. What forms of modus operandi are used in drug smuggling within correctional institutions?
2. How do weaknesses in supervision and low levels of officer integrity contribute to the persistence of these practices?
3. What legal measures, both normative and practical, can be adopted to reduce the gap between regulation and reality in combating drug smuggling?

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II. RESEARCH METHODS

The research uses a normative juridical method. A statute approach is applied to examine the Narcotics Law and the Correctional Law, while a conceptual approach is used to analyse legal principles related to officer integrity and gaps in supervision. This methodology focuses on analyzing positive legal provisions governing drug smuggling within correctional institutions.

The research employs the qualitative approach with a descriptive-analytical nature. This approach was chosen because it allows the author to systematically and comprehensively describe legal issues by describing applicable legal provisions and then analysing them in relation to the reality of drug smuggling practices in correctional institutions. Normative legal research itself is based on deductive reasoning, namely, assessing specific phenomena based on general rules applicable within the legal system. Therefore, the analysis in this study is directed not only at describing legal regulations but also at evaluating the gap between *das sollen* (what should apply according to the law) and *das sein* (the reality of drug smuggling practices in prisons) (Soekanto & Mamudji, 2015).

The data sources in this study are divided into two categories. First, primary legal sources in the form of relevant laws and regulations, including L(Undang-Undang Republik Indonesia Nomor 35 Tahun 2009 Tentang Narkotika, 2009), (Undang-Undang Republik Indonesia Nomor 22 Tahun 2022 Tentang Pemasyarakatan, 2022), and their implementing regulations, including (Peraturan Menteri Hukum Dan HAM Nomor 8 Tahun 2024 Tentang Penyelenggaraan Keamanan Dan Ketertiban Pada Satuan Kerja Pemasyarakatan, 2024). These regulations serve as an important legal basis in analysing the control and supervision mechanisms for drug smuggling in

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prisons. Second, secondary legal sources, namely legal literature, scientific journals, criminal and correctional law textbooks, and relevant previous research results. In addition, tertiary legal sources such as legal dictionaries and encyclopedias are also used to strengthen the understanding of legal terms used in the analysis.

The legal material collection technique was conducted through library research, which involved searching relevant literature, journals, and court decisions. The search was conducted through both printed collections and electronic databases, such as online journals, that address correctional and narcotics issues. The data obtained was then analysed using a descriptive-analytical method, namely by describing applicable legal norms and then analysing their conformity with drug smuggling practices found in various studies, reports, and court decisions. This analysis enabled the author to assess the strengths and weaknesses of existing legal instruments and formulate more effective legal solutions.

The legal issue analysis mechanism in this study was conducted through two main stages. First, the legal interpretation stage, which interprets positive legal provisions related to drug smuggling in prisons, including the principles and norms contained therein. Second, the legal construction stage, which develops legal arguments based on the interpretation results to answer the formulated research questions. With this mechanism, this study is expected to present a comprehensive legal analysis, explain the roots of the problem of drug smuggling in correctional institutions, and provide appropriate alternative legal solutions.

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III. RESEARCH RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Based on the description in the introduction and the framework of the research method used, this section will present the research results and an in-depth analysis of the issue of drug smuggling in correctional institutions. This research stems from the apparent gap between the legal norms stipulated in the Narcotics Law, correctional regulations, and existing legal doctrine, and field practice, which demonstrates the continued prevalence of drug smuggling behind bars. This situation indicates that this problem is not simply a technical issue of supervision, but also a structural issue related to the integrity of the apparatus, legal culture, and the effectiveness of existing regulations. The analysis and result section thus are far more than just descriptive. It will explain why these phenomena occur and how they can be addressed within a stronger legal framework.

The discussion is organized into three main parts. First, it outlines the modus operandi of drug smuggling in correctional institutions, including the roles of external networks, inmates, and individual officers. Second, it examines how weak supervision and low officer integrity contribute to the persistence of these practices, showing the link between ineffective internal control and drug trafficking within prisons. Third, it explores possible legal responses, including regulatory reform, more consistent law enforcement, stronger supervisory mechanisms, and the development of a sound legal culture among both officers and inmates. This structure is intended to ensure that the analysis remains focused and that the findings directly address the research questions while contributing to the development of correctional law in Indonesia.

A. Modus operandi employed in drug smuggling in correctional institutions

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Smuggling comes from the word *to smuggle*. In the Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI, 1988), the word *to smuggle* is defined as sneaking in, or *entering secretly or illegally*. Meanwhile, *smuggling* is defined as the illegal entry of goods to avoid import duties or to smuggle prohibited goods (Hutasoit, 2020). *Smuggling* means the act (thing, method, etc.) of smuggling or smuggling (entering secretly or illicitly) (Poerwadarminta, 2007). Based on this definition, *smuggling* is defined as the act or method of bringing something in illegally or against the law. Therefore, the meaning of narcotics smuggling mode is the method of bringing narcotics into certain places illegally or secretly.

Drug smuggling in correctional institutions is a serious problem that affects both the correctional system and law enforcement (Akbar et al., 2024). Facilities that are intended to provide guidance and rehabilitation often become sites for drug distribution. This situation shows a clear contradiction between the formal function of prisons and their actual use in practice. Smuggling methods continue to change by adapting to the needs of the networks involved and to weaknesses in existing supervision. These conditions indicate that written regulations alone are insufficient, as effective control depends on consistent oversight and the integrity of correctional officers.

The smuggling chain involves multiple actors. Inmates may act as users as well as coordinators, families or visitors can function as intermediaries, certain officers abuse their authority, and external couriers take advantage of security gaps. This pattern shows that prison drug trafficking operates as an organised network rather than as isolated individual acts (Kristanto et al., 2024). Each method relies on specific points of vulnerability, whether at entry gates, during visiting hours, or through communication channels that are difficult to monitor. For that reason, identifying the forms of modus operandi in detail is necessary to map the overall pattern of smuggling. This analysis therefore

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describes how these methods work and evaluates their direct impact on the effectiveness of supervision, as well as on the legitimacy of law enforcement in correctional institutions (see Table 1).

Table 1. Modus Operandi Used in Drug Smuggling in Correctional Institutions

Modus Operandi	Description	Risk and Impact
Employing inmates' family or relatives	Drugs are smuggled through visits by inmates' families or relatives, hidden in belongings such as food or clothing.	It happens due to decreased supervision at entry points and potentially involves inmates' families or relatives.
Employing couriers	External couriers or officers bring drugs into prisons through packages delivered or concealed on their bodies.	The use of couriers to conceal the sender's true identity often involves prison officers.
Employing communication devices	Inmates use smuggled cell phones or other communication devices to communicate with external networks to organize drug smuggling.	It is difficult to detect by conventional surveillance systems, making smuggling easier to coordinate.
Employing delivery services	Goods sent through delivery services contain drugs hidden in legitimate items such as books or stationery.	The lack of supervision of delivery increases the risk of misuse by couriers.
Employing victims of other crimes	People arrested in other cases are used to smuggle drugs into prisons, concealed in their bodies or belongings.	This exploits the negligence of officers or limitations in screening new visitors.
Employing prison officers	Officers are directly involved in drug smuggling, exploiting gaps in surveillance, or bringing drugs in for compensation.	It damages the integrity of the correctional system, increasing the opportunity for abuse of power.
Employing liquid or gaseous forms	Drugs are smuggled in liquid or gaseous forms, concealed in bottles or other products that are difficult to detect.	It is difficult to detect using standard inspection methods, increasing the challenge of supervision.

Source: Secondary data, processed by the author from a literature review.

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Based on Table 1, the modus operandi of drug smuggling in correctional institutions ranges from relatively simple practices to more organized and complex methods. This variation shows that perpetrators continuously look for gaps in the existing supervision system, whether through visitation procedures, courier services, or weaknesses in the system for controlling goods entering and leaving the prison. Each method used poses serious risks, as it threatens the integrity of correctional institutions and weakens the credibility of the legal system that should maintain order.

Each form of smuggling also has different implications for prison security and institutional functioning. Drug delivery through family visits, for example, can create problematic dependency and coordination between inmates and visitors. The use of external couriers extends trafficking networks beyond the prison walls, and along with illegal communication, it enables inmates to control distribution of drug from the prison facility. These conditions show that control at entry points, effective internal supervision, and the detection of prohibited communication devices are key elements to prevent the spread of drug trafficking within correctional institutions.

The modus operandi of drug smuggling in correctional institution also reveals structural weaknesses in the internal system of supervision and control. One of the central problems is the integrity of prison officers. In a number of cases, officers who are responsible for maintaining security are involved in smuggling, either by facilitating the entry of prohibited items or by deliberately ignoring violations. This condition shows that regulations and supervisory mechanisms cannot function effectively without professionalism and ethical commitment. In this context, the legal culture within the institution does not operate as expected, since the law remains at the level of formal rules but loses

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its practical force. For that reason, technical supervision is not sufficient without strengthening the ethical foundation of correctional officers.

The use of mobile phones as communication technology inside prisons should also be prohibited as it intensifies the smuggling practices even further. These devices enable inmates to coordinate with external actors, arrange transactions, and control drug distribution networks from inside the prison. It indicates that, despite strict regulatory provisions, implementation is still constrained by limited monitoring and inspection capacity (Muhammad Yunus, 2020). Weak internal control and low officer integrity therefore become the main factors that allow drug smuggling to continue.

Drug smuggling through external couriers and delivery services also shows the growing role in third parties in prison drug trafficking networks. Perpetrators no longer depend solely on family visits but make use of courier and formally legal delivery services. This reflects a more organized and layered network designed to reduce the risk of detection. As a result, supervision becomes more complex, since officers must monitor inmates, visitors, and also external actors who operate beyond the immediate reach of the prison's internal control system.

The success of drug smuggling cases in liquid and gas form further demonstrates the weakness of inspection mechanisms for goods entering correctional institutions. These forms are more difficult to detect and require more advanced technology to identify the narcotic content. This indicates that conventional inspection methods are no longer adequate to prevent the entry of illicit substances. For this reason, the oversight system needs comprehensive reform through stricter standard operating procedures and the use of modern detection technologies capable of responding to increasingly complex smuggling methods (Hakim & Subroto, 2023; Manullang & Esther, 2023).

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Therefore, reform of the prison supervision system is an urgent necessity. This effort must address the integrity of officers involved in inspections and their capacity, which particularly can be done through continuous training on drug smuggling patterns used. Officers need sufficient knowledge and technical skills to respond to more sophisticated methods. Studies on the concept of 'smart prisons' highlight the importance of advanced technologies, such as drone-based surveillance and automated monitoring systems to strengthen internal control (Imandeka et al., 2024). In addition, the use of scanners, chemical detectors, and digital surveillance can significantly reduce drugs entry through delivery channels.

Although the regulatory framework for drug control in correctional institutions is quite strict, its implementation remains inconsistent. The main obstacles include weak law enforcement, the absence of layered control mechanisms, and limited human resources. A multinational survey on prison contraband shows that correctional institutions seize an average of 28 types of controlled substances each year, with staff members and visitors frequently acting as entry points (Peterson et al., 2023). These findings confirm that strengthening monitoring and control systems must become a primary priority. Without comprehensive reform, correctional institutions will continue to face the same pattern of smuggling and risk and becoming centers for more organized drug networks.

Based on the analysis presented above, drug smuggling in correctional institutions reflects a clear gap between legal norms (das sollen) and their implementation in practice (das sein). From a normative perspective, the Indonesian legal system has established a comprehensive framework for combating drug trafficking, including within correctional settings. This is evident

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in Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 35 of 2009 on Narcotics, which provides a firm legal basis for addressing all forms of drug abuse.

However, the existence of detailed legal provisions has not automatically ensured their effectiveness in practice (Arifin et al., 2025). Their implementation continues to face serious constraints, particularly regarding weak control mechanisms and the suboptimal integrity of correctional officers. As a result, legal norms that are intended to function as instruments of control often fail to operate as expected within correctional institutions.

One of the key regulations for this analysis is Law Number 22 of 2022 on Corrections. The law emphasizes that the correctional system is aimed at rehabilitating inmates so that they can return to society as responsible and productive individuals. Normatively, this positions correctional institutions as centres of guidance instead of merely places for serving sentences. However, this objective has not been fully realized. Drug abuse and trafficking continue to occur, and it is often through the involvement of certain officers or external networks that take advantage of weaknesses in control management. The system that should restrict access to drugs within prison is repeatedly bypassed, and it indicates unresolved structural problems in supervision.

This condition shows that the issue is not limited to administrative implementation and it requires more fundamental institutional improvement. Reform of the internal supervision system is necessary to ensure that control mechanisms operate effectively (Badu & Kaluku, 2022). Strengthening the integrity of correctional officers is also important, as their involvement in smuggling practices directly undermines public trust. Without strong integrity, legal provisions remain normative and lack practical effect. In this sense, the persistence of drug smuggling is caused by both regulatory

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limitations and weak enforcement by the authorities responsible for implementing the law.

Under the Narcotics Law, drug smuggling, whether carried out by inmates or external actors, is classified as a serious criminal offence subject to severe penalties. Normatively, this reflects the state's strong commitment to combating narcotics crimes. However, these repressive provisions have limited impact when they are not supported by effective internal control. In practice, regulation still tends to focus on punishment after the offence occurs, while preventive measures such as supervision and early detection have not received the same level of attention.

Overall, there is a clear gap between what is prescribed in legislation and what takes place in correctional institutions. In terms of legal substance, the regulatory framework is adequate, but its implementation remains inconsistent and leaves room for repeated violations. Comprehensive reform is strongly required, which can be done by strengthening existing rules and improving supervisory effectiveness and developing a strong legal culture among correctional officers. Through these measures, correctional institutions can fulfil their rehabilitative function while also preventing their use as centres of drug trafficking.

B. The impact of deficient control systems and correctional officer integrity on the rise of drug smuggling within correctional institutions

Drug smuggling in correctional institutions constitutes a complex and systemic problem driven by external narcotics networks as well as internal institutional weaknesses. These weaknesses lie in deficiencies in control systems and the integrity of correctional officers (Muhammad Yunus, 2020). Existing control mechanisms in many correctional facilities have not been able

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to effectively prevent or detect smuggling activities involving inmates, visitors, couriers, and, in certain cases, prison officers themselves. This condition reflects a huge gap between normative policies and their implementation, which ultimately allows drug trafficking to persist despite the existence of strict legal regulations (Darmais et al., 2022).

One of the primary indicators of this weakness is the limited use of modern monitoring technology. Many correctional institutions still rely on manual supervision systems that are highly vulnerable to negligence and manipulation. Conventional inspection methods in physical form are no longer enough to detect increasingly sophisticated smuggling techniques, such as concealment in legitimate goods or the exploitation of surveillance blind spots (Tambunan & Muhammad, 2021; Karianus Zai et al., 2024). As a result, the control system functions in a formal sense but fails in its substantive objective of preventing narcotics entry.

These structural limitations are further aggravated by the disproportionate ratio between correctional officers and inmates. The shortage of personnel, as indicated by data from the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, leads to excessive workloads that reduce the effectiveness of supervision and increase the tendency of security breaches (Indria & Anwar, 2022). Under such conditions, both internal and external drug networks find opportunities to manipulate the system and smuggle narcotics into correctional facilities.

In addition to structural and technological constraints, the integrity of correctional officers represents a crucial determinant of control effectiveness. Empirical findings indicate that officers have been involved in drug smuggling through bribery and collusion with narcotics networks, either by deliberately ignoring violations or by directly facilitating the entry of prohibited goods (Muhammad Yunus, 2020). This phenomenon demonstrates that the problem

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is not merely technical but also moral and institutional. When law enforcement personnel themselves become part of the illicit network, the authority and credibility of the correctional system are fundamentally undermined.

Weak supervision is also closely related to the limited capacity development of officers. Training has been more focused on administrative management and routine inspections, while the development of competencies in detecting organized and technologically supported smuggling methods remains minimal. In fact, studies on the implementation of managed access technology show that advanced monitoring systems can detect hundreds of thousands of illegal communication attempts, when they are also supported by adequate technical preparation and qualified personnel (Grommon, 2018). This indicates that technological reform must be accompanied by human resource development.

The use of illegal mobile phones within correctional institutions further illustrates the failure of existing control mechanisms. These devices enable inmates to maintain communication with external drug networks and coordinate trafficking activities both inside and outside prison. Although regulations prohibit the possession of communication devices, weak detection systems and limited technological support make enforcement ineffective.

The failure of these controls surely creates an unhealthy environment within correctional institutions. Under such conditions, prisons are transformed from places of rehabilitation into nodes of drug distribution that have a direct impact on the wider community. The persistence of drug trafficking in correctional facilities represents a serious challenge to law enforcement in Indonesia, since a number of cases demonstrate the involvement of both inmates and correctional officers in organized narcotics networks (Nugraha & Santoso, 2025).

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In addition to institutional weaknesses, drug smuggling is also influenced by external factors, especially the high demand for narcotics in society. The existence of a large and stable illicit market encourages continuous supply, including through correctional institutions. Consequently, even if internal supervision is strengthened, drug trafficking will remain difficult to eradicate as long as external demand persists (Darmais et al., 2022). This shows that the problem of narcotics circulation in prisons is not an isolated institutional issue. It isa broader systemic chain that connects correctional facilities with transnational and domestic drug networks.

These conditions require a comprehensive response that goes beyond technical improvements. Strengthening control systems and enhancing the integrity of correctional officers must be accompanied by the development of human resource capacity, the utilization of advanced surveillance technology, and closer coordination between correctional institutions and other law enforcement agencies. At the same time, policies aimed at reducing drug demand in the community must be placed as an integral part of narcotics eradication strategies.

From a theoretical perspective, this phenomenon confirms the central argument of legal enforcement theory, which asserts that the effectiveness of law is determined by the existence of normative regulations as well as consistent and credible implementation (Rahardjo, 1995). In the context of correctional institutions, the presence of strict legal provisions which prohibits narcotics circulation is still insufficient to prevent violations. Weak control systems and the low integrity of certain officers have caused legal norms to lose their binding force in practice. Law can only function as an effective instrument of social control when it is supported by reliable institutional structures, professional law enforcement personnel, and adequate technological facilities.

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Furthermore, the persistence of drug smuggling also indicates the failure of correctional institutions to realize their rehabilitative function as stated in restorative justice theory. This theory emphasizes recovery, reintegration, and the transformation of offenders into law-abiding members of society (Lampatta et al., 2024). However, the widespread circulation of narcotics within correctional facilities creates an environment that perpetuates criminal behaviour rather than eliminating it. In this situation, restorative justice cannot be achieved since the institutional setting itself does not support behavioural change. Therefore, strengthening supervision mechanisms, improving the moral integrity of correctional officers, and involving relevant stakeholders in institutional reform are essential steps toward restoring the rehabilitative function of correctional institutions.

In conclusion, the rise of drug smuggling in correctional institutions is closely linked to structural weaknesses in control systems and the integrity of correctional officers. These two factors have reduced the effectiveness of legal enforcement and undermined the rehabilitative purpose of the correctional system. Consequently, there should be comprehensive reform that integrates institutional strengthening, human resource development, technological support, and broader narcotics demand reduction policies, since without all this, correctional institutions will continue to be vulnerable to becoming centres of drug trafficking rather than institutions of rehabilitation.

C. Implementable legal solutions to address drug smuggling in correctional institutions

Drug smuggling into correctional institutions has serious consequences for the legal system and the governance of prisons. This practice reflects weaknesses in supervision and control, while indicates the involvement of

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actors from both inside and outside the institution. From a legal standpoint, it raises serious questions about the effectiveness of existing regulations, because even strict rules have not been able to prevent narcotics from entering prisons. In terms of security, the presence of drugs increases the risk of internal conflict among inmates and strengthens trafficking networks that are difficult to dismantle. From a rehabilitative perspective, it contradicts the fundamental purpose of correctional institutions, which is to prepare inmates to return to society free from drug dependence.

The impact is not limited to the prison environment. Drug circulation within correctional institutions contributes to repeated cycles of abuse among inmates and threatens the wider community through the continuation of distribution networks after release. In the long term, this situation can erode public trust in the criminal justice system, as institutions that are expected to function as centres of rehabilitation instead become associated with ongoing criminal activity. For that reason, the response cannot be partial. What is required is a concrete and implementable legal approach that combines regulatory reform, improvements in supervision and control, and the strengthening of legal culture among both officers and inmates (Amelia & Wibowo, 2023).

1. First, the security of correctional institutions is directly affected by drug smuggling. The entry of narcotics often triggers tension and competition among inmates over access and distribution, which can escalate into open conflict. These conditions also place officers in a difficult position, particularly when there is suspicion of their involvement or when they are perceived as unable to maintain order. At the same time, drug use inside prisons worsens inmates' physical and psychological condition, increases dependency, and disrupts rehabilitation programs that are supposed to

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support their reintegration into society. In this sense, drug smuggling has violated legal provisions and weakened the institutional function of prisons as places of guidance and control.

2. Second, once drugs successfully enter the facility, they tend to circulate continuously and form an internal distribution chain that is difficult to break. This situation deepens inmates' dependence and reduces their motivation to participate in rehabilitation programs. The consequences extend beyond the prison walls, as inmates who remain connected to drug networks are likely to continue these activities after their release. Thus, the problem of smuggling is closely linked to the persistence and expansion of drug crimes in the community.
3. The broader implications are visible in the weakening of law enforcement and the declining effectiveness of the criminal justice system. When drugs can easily enter correctional institutions, the deterrent effect of legal norms is reduced. At the same time, state control over inmates becomes less effective, and opportunities for organized criminal networks to operate become wider. Meanwhile, from a rehabilitation perspective, this phenomenon defeats the primary goal of correctional institutions: to shape inmates into individuals capable of returning to society free from drug addiction. This detrimental impact is felt not only by the inmates themselves but also by the wider community, threatened by the widespread distribution of drugs, as well as by the criminal justice system, whose credibility is at stake. Therefore, legal, security, and rehabilitation aspects must be considered in an integrative manner in formulating legal solutions that can be implemented to address the problem of drug smuggling in correctional institutions.

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When linked to crime prevention efforts, they are essentially an integral part of social defense and social welfare efforts. In general, crime prevention efforts encompass both penal (criminal law) and non-penal (non-criminal law) measures. Penal (criminal) crime prevention efforts emphasize repressive measures (suppression or eradication) after a crime has occurred, while non-penal (preventive) measures emphasize preventive measures (prevention, deterrence, and control) before a crime occurs. (Hoefnagels, 1969), in his crime prevention theory, proposed that crime prevention efforts can be pursued in three ways:

1. Criminal law application;
2. Prevention without punishment;
3. Influencing the views of society on crime and punishment through mass media.

Based on the above description, the author finds out that systemic reform is an urgent need to combat drug trafficking in correctional institutions. This reform cannot be implemented partially but must address all relevant aspects, from regulations and control mechanisms to the legal culture prevailing within the correctional environment. The legal solutions offered in this study involve various strategic steps, including expanding supervision at every vulnerable point, increasing transparency in all inspection procedures, and tightening control mechanisms for goods and people entering the prison. A study conducted in Class IIB Narcotics Prison in Purwokerto shows that the implementation of social rehabilitation programs also plays a crucial role to weaken drug trafficking networks and strengthen internal controls within correctional institutions (Warih & Setiawan, 2024). Through these programs, it is expected that the loopholes exploited for smuggling can be significantly minimized.

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Firm law enforcement against all actors involved in smuggling, including inmates, visitors, and correctional officers, is equally essential. Consistent enforcement is intended to create a deterrent effect and restore the credibility of the correctional system, which has been damaged by these practices. In this context, reforms in the criminal justice system and correctional governance are required to ensure consistent sanctions and more effective institutional management. At the same time, the quality of inmate rehabilitation programmes must be improved so that correctional institutions can genuinely function as centres for development and social reintegration. Research on Indonesia's narcotics policy shows that a rehabilitation-oriented approach, rather than one that relies primarily on imprisonment, is more effective to reduce drug-related crimes and ease the burden of prison overcapacity in the long term (Pulungan et al., 2024).

Reform must also focus on strengthening the capacity of correctional officers, particularly through training that emphasizes ethics, integrity, and professionalism. Such training is important for building resilience against bribery, abuse of authority, and other forms of misconduct. Additionally, it can encourage greater discipline in applying institutional rules. A study on the self-legitimacy of prison officers demonstrates that officers who perceive their authority as legitimate tend to show stronger commitment to procedures and greater compliance with institutional norms (Hacin & Meško, 2024). The internalization of ethical values would be strongly relevant for officers and inmates. Increasing inmates' legal awareness regarding the dangers of drug trafficking and its legal consequences can encourage compliance based on an understanding of the importance of rehabilitation.

Efforts to address drug trafficking in correctional institutions cannot just rely on the prison system or law enforcement agencies. It requires the

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involvement of multiple stakeholders through cooperation between correctional institutions, law enforcement bodies, government agencies, and civil society. This collaboration is necessary to build a criminal justice system that is more effective, fair, and responsive in dealing with drug-related crimes. Prior studies have also highlighted that the quality of professional relationships between officers and inmates affects how authority is exercised and how internal control functions within correctional institutions (Crewe, 2015). Through this integrated approach, the incidence of drug smuggling in prisons can be significantly reduced. It will allow correctional institutions to carry out their intended role as centres of rehabilitation and as secure and orderly environments that support the broader objectives of Indonesia's criminal justice system.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the analysis, it is evident that the modes of drug smuggling in correctional institutions are highly diverse and consistently exploit weaknesses in existing control mechanisms. Practices such as using family visit channels, employing intermediaries, and operating illicit communication devices indicate that entry-point supervision and internal monitoring remain the most vulnerable areas. These methods pose serious threats to the integrity of correctional institutions, disrupt public order, and undermine the broader law enforcement system. This situation reflects a clear disparity between the legal framework in place and its ineffective implementation in practice.

Addressing this issue requires comprehensive legal measures, including reform of control systems, greater transparency, and consistent and firm law enforcement against all parties involved. These efforts must be accompanied by broader reforms in the criminal justice and correctional systems, the

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strengthening of rehabilitation programs, and continuous ethics and integrity training for both officers and inmates. Ongoing development of legal awareness regarding the dangers and consequences of narcotics is also essential to prevent the recurrence of similar practices. Moreover, this problem cannot be resolved by correctional institutions alone; it demands active collaboration among law enforcement agencies, correctional authorities, and civil society. Through coordinated and holistic action, Indonesia's criminal justice system can become more resilient, fair, and effective in tackling drug smuggling within correctional facilities. Without such systemic reform, correctional institutions risk losing their rehabilitative function and instead becoming centers of organized crime operated from within prison walls.

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