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IMPLEMENTATION OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE TOWARD THE PURPOSE OF PUNISHMENT IN THE HANDLING OF CRIMINAL CASES BY INVESTIGATORS OF WEST LOMBOK POLICE RESORT

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Abstract

The reform of national criminal law through Law Number 1 of 2023 concerning the Indonesian Criminal Code (National Criminal Code) demonstrates a shift in the paradigm of punishment objectives from a retributive approach toward a more humane, rehabilitative, and restorative approach. One implementation of this transformation is the application of restorative justice, which aims to resolve conflicts, restore victims' losses, rehabilitate offenders, and create social balance within society. This study aims to analyze the implementation of restorative justice toward the objectives of punishment in criminal case handling by investigators at West Lombok Police Resort and to identify the obstacles encountered in its implementation. This study employs an empirical legal research method using statutory, conceptual, and sociological approaches. The findings indicate that the implementation of restorative justice in criminal case handling by investigators at West Lombok Police Resort has been carried out and substantively aligns with the objectives of punishment in modern criminal law, which are not solely focused on punishing offenders but also on conflict resolution, victim restoration, offender accountability, and the creation of social balance. Based on research data from January to June 2026, out of a total of 49 cases handled, nine met the criteria and were successfully resolved through the restorative justice mechanism. These comprised seven cases from the General Crimes Unit (100%) and two from the Women and Children Protection Unit (100%), while the Special Crimes Unit had no cases meeting the restorative justice criteria (0%). However, implementation still faces various obstacles, including the absence of new technical guidelines following the enactment of the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP) No. 20 of 2025, a shortage of investigative personnel, limited public understanding of the restorative justice mechanism, and difficulties regarding the fulfillment of victims' rights by perpetrators.

Keywords: Restorative Justice, Purpose of Punishment, Investigators, National Criminal Code, West Lombok Police Resort.

INTRODUCTION

As part of the national legal system, criminal law serves not only a repressive function through the imposition of punishment but also encompasses preventive, corrective, and rehabilitative dimensions. Consequently, the objective of sentencing constitutes a fundamental element that shapes the direction, character, and nature of the criminal justice system as a whole. The formulation of sentencing objectives cannot be divorced from social values, legal policy, and the evolution of public legal consciousness.¹

For over a century, Indonesia's criminal justice system has relied on the Criminal Code (Wetboek van Strafrecht) inherited from the Dutch colonial era. Philosophically, the old Criminal Code was grounded in a classical criminal law framework that viewed punishment as a means of retribution for the offender's wrongdoing. This retributive orientation is reflected in the predominance of imprisonment as the primary sanction, as well as the lack of attention paid to victim restitution, the social reintegration of offenders, and the broader social impact of punishment on the community.²

Developments in modern criminal legal thought indicate a paradigm shift from retributive justice toward a more humanistic and restoration-oriented approach (restorative justice), which seeks to restore relationships among the offender, the victim, and the community following a criminal act.³ This paradigm emphasizes that a criminal act should not be understood merely as an offense against the state, but also as a social conflict that inflicts tangible harm upon victims and the community. Consequently, sentencing should aim not only to punish the offender but also to repair the damage caused, restore social balance, and prevent future criminal acts.

In this context, the enactment of Law Number 1 of 2023 concerning the National Criminal Code represents a significant milestone in the history of Indonesian criminal law reform. The National Criminal Code explicitly shifts the orientation of sentencing objectives from a purely retributive approach toward a more comprehensive one—encompassing public protection, offender rehabilitation, victim restitution, and the restoration of social harmony. This reorientation signifies a shift in national criminal law policy that seeks to balance legal certainty, justice, and utility.

The reorientation of sentencing objectives within the National Criminal Code is not merely declarative; it is also realized through more progressive normative provisions, such as expanding the range of non-custodial penalties, introducing supervision orders and community service sentences, and providing greater scope for the application of restorative justice. The concept of restorative justice is rooted in the values of *Pancasila*—specifically the principles of deliberation for consensus and a just and civilized humanity—and plays a role in alleviating the burden on the judicial

and correctional systems while enhancing public trust through a fairer and more humane legal process.⁴ These regulations implicitly require a shift in the mindset of law enforcement officials regarding the handling of criminal cases, particularly during the initial stage of the criminal justice process: the investigation phase.

The investigation phase holds a strategic position, as it is at this stage that the direction of a criminal case is determined. Investigators play a role not only in uncovering criminal events and gathering evidence but also possess significant discretion in deciding whether a case warrants proceeding to prosecution or should be resolved through alternative mechanisms in accordance with statutory provisions. Consequently, the successful reorientation of sentencing objectives hinges heavily on the extent to which investigators understand and internalize the new values embodied in the National Criminal Code.

In practice, however, the implementation of sentencing objectives oriented toward restoration and humanity continues to face various challenges, as sentencing is often perceived merely as the state's response to a legal violation—aimed at imposing consequences in the form of suffering upon the offender for their actions.⁵ This retributive mindset shapes a deeply rooted legal culture characterized by a legalistic and repressive orientation, often leading law enforcement officials to continue relying on imprisonment as the primary solution.⁶ Furthermore, factors such as performance pressure, public demands for firm law enforcement, and concerns regarding allegations of abuse of authority influence how officers make decisions. This situation reveals a potential gap between the sentencing objectives normatively defined in the National Criminal Code and the actual handling of criminal cases in the field.

The West Lombok District Police (Polres Lombok Barat)—a unit of the Indonesian National Police—possesses distinct social and cultural characteristics. The community's diverse social backgrounds, the prevailing types of criminal offenses, and the dynamics of the relationship between law enforcement officers and local residents make this unit a relevant research site for examining the implementation of the reoriented sentencing objectives. In this context, it is compelling to analyze the extent to which sentencing values centered on rehabilitation and restoration have been internalized within the investigative practices at the West Lombok District Police.

Handling criminal cases at the police level often involves balancing the demand for legal certainty against the need for substantive justice. On one hand, investigators are required to enforce the law firmly and professionally in accordance with criminal procedural law. On the other hand, they face social realities that call for case resolutions that are wiser, proportionate, and just—aligning with the sentencing objectives of the National Criminal Code. Meanwhile, practical challenges persist, including

¹ Noveria Devy Irmawanti & Barda Nawawi Arief. (2021). *Urgensi Tujuan Dan Pedoman Pemidanaan Dalam Rangka Pembaharuan Sistem Pemidanaan Hukum Pidana*. Jurnal Pembangunan Hukum Indonesia Volume 3, Nomor 2, Tahun 2021, halaman 217-227.

² W.P.J. Pompe. *Pengantar Hukum Pidana*. (Jakarta: Ghalia Indonesia, 1995). Hlm. 12.

³ Heni Ariyanto. *Restorative Justice dalam Perspektif KUHP Baru*. (Jakarta: Rajawali Pers, 2023). Hlm. 27.

⁴ Warzuk, Dadang Suprijatna, Muhamad Aminulloh. 2023. *Penerapan Restorative Justice dalam Sistem Hukum Pidana Indonesia*. Karimah Tauhid, Vol. 3 No.4.

⁵ Andi Hamzah. *KUHP Baru dan Pembaruan Hukum Pidana Nasional*. (Jakarta: Sinar Grafika, 2023). Hlm. 4

⁶ Dimas Ady Putranto. 2025. *Restorative Justice Untuk Tindak Pidana Ringan: Teori dan Praktik di Pengadilan Indonesia*. HARISA: Jurnal Hukum, Syariah, dan Sosial, Vol. 2No.1, hlm. 140-153

limited officer understanding of restorative justice concepts, resistance to the paradigm shift in sentencing, and a need for clearer, more comprehensive technical guidelines for implementation.⁷

However, there is a lack of empirical studies specifically examining how the reorientation of sentencing objectives within the National Criminal Code is understood and applied by investigators during criminal case handling, particularly at the regional police level. Most prior research has focused on a normative analysis of the changes to sentencing objectives in the National Criminal Code without directly linking them to actual law enforcement practices in the field. This absence of empirical study creates a significant scholarly gap that needs to be addressed, especially when evaluating the effectiveness of national criminal law reform.

Given this context, this study aims to conduct an in-depth examination of the "Implementation of Restorative Justice regarding Sentencing Objectives in the Handling of Criminal Offenses by Investigators at the West Lombok District Police." The research seeks not only to assess the alignment between legal norms and actual practice but also to identify the factors influencing the implementation of sentencing objectives at the investigation stage. Through this approach, the study is expected to contribute academically to the development of criminal law scholarship while offering practical recommendations for law enforcement officials on implementing sentencing objectives that are more humane, equitable, and restoration-oriented—in line with the spirit of national criminal law reform.

RESEARCH METHODS

The research method employed in this study is the empirical legal research method. This approach focuses on the use of empirical data derived from human behavior—whether expressed verbally through interviews or demonstrated through tangible actions observed directly in the field. In the context of this study, interviews and data collection were conducted directly at the West Lombok District Police (Polres Lombok Barat), which served as the primary site for gathering the information necessary to support the empirical legal analysis.⁸

The proposed research employs a sociology of law approach; from this perspective, law is formed and derives its legitimacy from the collective behavior of a society that is organized, compliant, and consciously acknowledges the validity of these norms in daily life.⁹

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Application of Restorative Justice in Relation to Sentencing Objectives in Case Handling by West Lombok Resort Police Investigators

⁷ Agus Raharjo. 2023. *Tantangan Implementasi Keadilan Restoratif dalam KUHP Baru*. Jurnal Hukum Ius Quia Iustum, Vol. 30 No. 2. Hlm. 280
⁸ Mukti Fajar dan Yulianto Achmad, *Dualisme Penelitian Hukum Empiris & Normatif*, (Jakarta : Pustaka Pelajar, 2010), Hlm.280.
⁹ Salim dan Erlies Septiana Nurbani, *Penerapan Teori Hukum Pada Penelitian Tesis dan Disertasi*, (Jakarta : Rajawali Pers, 2014), Hlm. 23.

Research conducted at the West Lombok Resort Police (Polres Lombok Barat) indicates that investigators have implemented restorative justice as a case-resolution mechanism aimed at restoring the situation of parties affected by criminal offenses. This implementation adheres to the provisions of Police Regulation Number 8 of 2021 concerning the Handling of Criminal Acts Based on Restorative Justice and the regulations governing the restorative justice mechanism. In practice, investigators use this mechanism to determine whether a case can be resolved through a restorative justice approach or must proceed through the formal criminal justice process.

Case data obtained from the West Lombok Resort Police for the period of January–June 2026 shows a total of 49 cases received across all case-handling units. Of these, 9 cases met the criteria and were successfully resolved through the restorative justice mechanism. The General Crimes Unit (Pidum) received 35 cases, with 7 cases meeting the criteria and being successfully resolved via restorative justice; these involved offenses such as theft, receiving stolen goods, and assault. Meanwhile, the Women and Children Protection Unit (PPA) received 10 cases, with 2 meeting the criteria and being successfully resolved through restorative justice. In contrast, the Special Crimes Unit (Pidsus) handled 4 cases, none of which were resolved through the restorative justice mechanism as they did not meet the necessary criteria. The following table provides a summary for easier reference:

NO	1	2	3
Units	Pidum	PPA	Pidsus
Cases Quantity	35 case	10 case	4 case
Qualify	7 case	2 case	-
RJ Quantity	7 case	2 case	-
Success rate	100 %	100%	0 %

In addition to the case data, interviews with the Head of the Criminal Investigation Unit (Kasat Reskrim) of the West Lombok Resort Police indicate that since the implementation of the new Criminal Code (KUHP), several cases have been resolved using a restorative justice approach. This was conveyed by the Head of the Criminal Investigation Unit, who stated: ¹⁰ "There are nine cases that have been resolved through restorative justice since the new Criminal Code came into effect."

The implementation of restorative justice in handling criminal cases begins upon the police's receipt of a report. Investigators first carry out preliminary investigation administrative procedures, obtain statements from the complainant, witnesses, and the reported party, and subsequently conduct a clarification process with the involved parties. During this process, investigators may also propose a resolution via the restorative justice mechanism if the case meets the requirements stipulated in applicable regulations. Regarding this matter, the Head of the General Crimes Unit (Kanit Pidum) of the West Lombok Resort Police stated: ¹¹

¹⁰ Wawancara pada hari Rabu tanggal 24 Juni 2026 dengan Kasat Reskrim Polres Lombok Barat IPTU HEDDY PERMANA PUTRA, S.TR.K., S.I.K.
¹¹ Wawancara pada hari Kamis Tanggal 25 Juni 2026 dengan Kanit Pidum IPDA ARSYAN KELVIN SUKMANA, S.TR.K.

"Investigators prepare preliminary investigation documentation and obtain clarification statements from the complainant, witnesses, and the reported party; referring to Article 81 paragraph (1) letter b of the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP)—specifically Law Number 20 of 2025—investigators offer restorative justice from the preliminary investigation stage through to the formal investigation stage, ensuring the process is conducted without pressure, coercion, intimidation, deception, or threats of violence." The research findings also indicate that the restorative justice mechanism can be initiated as early as the preliminary inquiry or the formal investigation stage. Investigators have the authority to offer this mechanism to the parties involved, provided the established criteria are met. Interview results reveal that, in practice, the implementation of restorative justice is most often initiated at the request of the reported party. This was stated by the Head of the General Crimes Unit (Kanit Pidum) of the West Lombok Resort Police as follows:¹²

"Usually, the initiative for restorative justice comes from the reported party."

Before restorative justice is implemented, investigators examine the backgrounds of the perpetrator and the victim and assess the case's suitability based on applicable internal regulations. The findings show that investigators consider not only the type of criminal offense committed but also administrative requirements and the willingness of the parties to resolve the case through a peace-building mechanism. Regarding this, the Head of the General Crimes Unit of the West Lombok Resort Police stated:¹³

"The assessment is conducted based on internal references, such as National Police Regulation (Perpol) Number 8 of 2021 and the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP)—specifically Articles 79 through 84—regarding the restorative justice mechanism."

Once the parties express their willingness to resolve the case through restorative justice, investigators summon them to participate in a deliberation or mediation process. The research indicates that during mediation, investigators involve community elements to strengthen the legitimacy of the resolution reached. The parties involved include community leaders, village officials, and the Bhabinkamtibmas (Community Police Officer). This aligns with the interview with the Head of the General Crimes Unit, who stated:¹⁴

"The complainant and the reported party are summoned, involving community leaders, local village officials, and the Bhabinkamtibmas."

Mediation takes place in the mediation room of the West Lombok Resort Police Criminal Investigation Unit, with all interested parties in attendance. If the parties reach an agreement, a statement of peace is drafted and signed by the parties and the witnesses present. Additionally, proof of the fulfillment of the victim's rights is attached as an administrative requirement for the implementation

of restorative justice. Regarding this matter, the Head of the General Crimes Unit of the West Lombok Police stated:¹⁵

"A peace agreement was drawn up and signed by both parties as well as the witnesses present."

Upon reaching a peace agreement, investigators do not immediately terminate the case; instead, the matter must undergo a special case review process (*gelar perkara*) dedicated to restorative justice. Research findings indicate that every instance of restorative justice implementation requires approval obtained through a case review led by the Head of the Criminal Investigation Unit (Kasat Reskrim), involving both internal and external supervisory elements. This procedure was outlined by the Head of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the West Lombok Resort Police:¹⁶

"Every proposal for restorative justice must undergo a case review in accordance with the technical guidelines set forth in National Police Regulation (Perpol) Number 8 of 2021."

The research also reveals that the termination of a case through restorative justice involves several administrative stages of investigation, including supplementary examinations, clarification from the parties involved, submission of a request for a case review, conduct of the special case review, issuance of an investigation termination order, notification to the public prosecutor, and submission of a request for a court ruling. For ease of reference, this process is illustrated in the following table:

Restorative Justice Mechanism	
No	Stages
1	Receipt of reports, administration of investigations, and clarification from the complainant, witnesses, and the reported party.
2	Offer of restorative justice starting from the preliminary inquiry or investigation stage.
3	The initiation of restorative justice generally comes from the reported party.
4	Assessment of case suitability based on National Police Regulation No. 8 of 2021 and the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP).
5	Mediation involving the complainant, the reported party, community leaders, village officials, and the Bhabinkamtibmas (community police officer).
6	Drafting a settlement agreement
7	Special case review prior to the termination of the investigation
* Based on the summary of the interview with the Head of the General Crimes Unit, Second Police Inspector (IPDA) Arsyhan Kelvin Sukmana, S.Tr.K., on Thursday, June 25, 2026.	

Furthermore, based on interviews with investigators, the application of restorative justice is considered capable of

¹² Wawancara pada hari Kamis Tanggal 25 Juni 2026 dengan Kanit Pidum IPDA ARSYAN KELVIN SUKMANA, S.TR.K.

¹³ Wawancara pada hari Kamis Tanggal 25 Juni 2026 dengan Kanit Pidum IPDA ARSYAN KELVIN SUKMANA, S.TR.K.

¹⁴ Wawancara pada hari Kamis Tanggal 25 Juni 2026 dengan Kanit Pidum IPDA ARSYAN KELVIN SUKMANA, S.TR.K.

¹⁵ Wawancara pada hari Kamis Tanggal 25 Juni 2026 dengan Kanit Pidum IPDA ARSYAN KELVIN SUKMANA, S.TR.K.

¹⁶ Wawancara pada hari Rabu tanggal 24 Juni 2026 dengan Kasat Reskrim Polres Lombok Barat IPTU HEDDY PERMANA PUTRA, S.Tr.K., S.I.K.

accelerating case resolution and providing redress for the parties involved. Regarding this, the Head of the General Crimes Unit at the West Lombok Resort Police stated: ¹⁷

"Restorative justice is more effective and aligns with the reorientation of sentencing objectives in the new Criminal Code—specifically, the paradigm shift from pure retribution to a more rehabilitative and restorative approach."

Additionally, research findings indicate that resolving cases through restorative justice benefits victims, as they are spared the lengthy legal proceedings typical of the standard criminal justice process. Interview results revealed the following:

"In most cases, the use of restorative justice means victims do not have to undergo a protracted legal process to seek justice in a criminal matter."

The successful implementation of restorative justice at the West Lombok Resort Police is measured by the absence of further issues following case resolution and the restoration of positive relationships between the parties. As noted in the interview results:

"No further issues arise after a criminal case is handled via restorative justice, and the parties are able to coexist once again in safety and harmony."

B. Factors Influencing the Application of Restorative Justice in Relation to Sentencing Objectives During Case Handling by West Lombok Resort Police Investigators

Research conducted at the West Lombok Resort Police (Polres Lombok Barat*) indicates that restorative justice has been implemented by investigators as a recovery-oriented mechanism for resolving criminal cases. However, the implementation process involves both supporting and hindering factors that influence the application of restorative justice in achieving the objectives of sentencing.

One supporting factor for the application of restorative justice in criminal case handling at the West Lombok Resort Police is the existence of a legal basis supporting its implementation. Although new technical guidelines following the enactment of Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP) Number 20 of 2025 have not yet been issued, investigators continue to rely on the implementation guidelines provided by Police Regulation Number 8 of 2021.

In this regard, the Head of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the West Lombok Resort Police, First Inspector (IPTU) Heddy Permana Putra, S.Tr.K., S.I.K., ¹⁸ stated: "Currently, we still refer to Police Regulation Number 8 of 2021 concerning the Handling of Criminal Acts Based on Restorative Justice, because no new derivative technical guidelines have been issued following the enactment of Criminal Procedure Code Number 20 of 2025." This demonstrates that the existing guidelines continue to provide certainty for investigators in the implementation of restorative justice.

¹⁷ Wawancara pada hari Kamis Tanggal 25 Juni 2026 dengan Kanit Pidum IPDA ARSYAN KELVIN SUKMANA, S.TR.K.

¹⁸ Wawancara pada hari Rabu tanggal 24 Juni 2026 dengan Kasat Reskrim Polres Lombok Barat IPTU HEDDY PERMANA PUTRA, S.Tr.K., S.I.K.

Another supporting factor relates to the backing of law enforcement officials and community involvement in the implementation of restorative justice. Regarding this, First Inspector (IPDA) Arsyian Kelvin Sukmana, S.Tr.K., ¹⁹ Head of the General Crimes Unit at the West Lombok Resort Police, stated: "Restorative justice is more effective and aligns with the reorientation of sentencing objectives in the new Criminal Code, shifting toward a more rehabilitative and restorative approach." Furthermore, he noted that "the parties involved—the complainant and the reported party—are summoned, with the participation of community leaders, local village officials, and the Bhabinkamtibmas (community police officer)." This demonstrates that support from authorities and the social environment can help foster a more conducive resolution to cases.

An additional supporting factor is the positive impact observed following the application of restorative justice. Interview findings indicate that "no further issues arose after the criminal case was handled via restorative justice, and the parties involved were able to coexist peacefully and securely." This illustrates that restorative justice not only resolves cases legally but also restores social relationships within the community.

Furthermore, several obstacles were identified stemming from regulatory aspects, factors involving the disputing parties, limited human resources, and public understanding of restorative justice mechanisms. The first obstacle identified in this study relates to the absence of new technical guidelines specifically governing the implementation of restorative justice following the enactment of the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP) Number 20 of 2025. Research findings indicate that, in practice, investigators still rely on Police Regulation Number 8 of 2021 concerning the Handling of Criminal Acts Based on Restorative Justice as a guideline for field operations. Regarding this matter, the Head of the Criminal Investigation Unit (Kasat Reskrim) of the West Lombok Resort Police stated: ²⁰

"For the time being, we still refer to Police Regulation Number 8 of 2021 concerning the Handling of Criminal Acts Based on Restorative Justice, because following the enactment of KUHP Number 20 of 2025, there are no new derivative technical guidelines yet."

Similar information was obtained from interviews regarding obstacles to restorative justice implementation, which noted: ²¹

"There is still no internal technical derivative to replace Police Regulation Number 8 of 2021 concerning the Handling of Criminal Acts Based on Restorative Justice; although KUHP Number 20 of 2025 includes Articles 79 through 84 regarding restorative justice, no new derivative technical guidelines have been issued."

Based on these research findings, it is evident that changes in legal regulations have not yet been fully matched by implementing technical instruments at the institutional level. This situation results

¹⁹ Wawancara pada hari Kamis Tanggal 25 Juni 2026 dengan Kanit Pidum IPDA ARSYAN KELVIN SUKMANA, S.TR.K.

²⁰ Wawancara pada hari Rabu tanggal 24 Juni 2026 dengan Kasat Reskrim Polres Lombok Barat IPTU HEDDY PERMANA PUTRA, S.Tr.K., S.I.K.

²¹ Wawancara pada hari Rabu tanggal 24 Juni 2026 dengan Kasat Reskrim Polres Lombok Barat IPTU HEDDY PERMANA PUTRA, S.Tr.K., S.I.K.

in investigators continuing to apply previous provisions when implementing restorative justice.

The second obstacle identified in this study relates to the requirements for restorative justice implementation, which cannot always be met by the disputing parties. Research findings show that not all cases handled can be resolved through restorative justice mechanisms due to limitations regarding potential criminal penalties and administrative requirements that the parties must fulfill.

Regarding this matter, the Head of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the West Lombok Resort Police stated:²²

"The complainant and the reported party cannot always fully meet the requirements for restorative justice."

Furthermore, the Head of the General Crimes Unit at the West Lombok Resort Police stated:²³

"In every case, not all requests for reconciliation and the fulfillment of victims' rights can be met by the perpetrator."

The research findings indicate that a frequently encountered obstacle stems from the perpetrator's inability to fulfill the victim's rights—a prerequisite for implementing restorative justice. Additionally, statutory limitations regarding potential criminal penalties mean that not all cases meet the criteria for resolution through this mechanism.

A third obstacle identified relates to the perpetrator's capacity to meet obligations regarding victim restitution. Research results show that perpetrators often struggle to satisfy the restitution demands made by victims, whether in the form of financial compensation or other restorative measures agreed upon by the parties involved.

This aligns with the interview conducted with the Head of the General Crimes Unit at the West Lombok Resort Police, who stated:²⁴

"For cases where restorative justice is sought, perpetrators are not always capable of fulfilling the victim's rights; furthermore, they may face obstacles regarding criminal penalties that do not fall within the eligibility criteria of the new Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP)."

Based on these findings, it is evident that a peace agreement between the complainant and the accused cannot always be optimally realized due to the perpetrator's limited capacity to fulfill the victim's rights.

Another obstacle identified in this study concerns the limited human resources among investigators. The research indicates that the volume of cases being handled is disproportionate to the number of available investigators. Consequently, the implementation of restorative justice demands additional time and attention, as the resolution process extends beyond standard

investigative stages to include mediation and other administrative procedures.

This was highlighted by the Head of the General Crimes Unit at the West Lombok Resort Police:²⁵

"Yes, given the high volume of cases and the limited number of investigative personnel."

Moreover, the research findings indicate that the shortage of investigative personnel impacts the effectiveness of mediation and the completion of administrative tasks within the restorative justice mechanism.

A further obstacle identified in this study relates to the public's limited understanding of the restorative justice mechanism. Research findings show that some members of the public believe that once the parties have reached a peace agreement, the case is automatically considered resolved, without the need for further legal proceedings. However, in the implementation of restorative justice, there are still administrative procedures that must be fulfilled before the case is officially terminated.

Regarding this matter, the following interview findings were obtained:²⁶

"Many members of the public involved in legal proceedings still do not understand the mechanisms and requirements that must be met for restorative justice to be applied under the new Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP)."

It was further noted that:

"When parties involved in legal proceedings reach a settlement—whether through a written statement or evidence of victim restitution—they often consider the case concluded. Failing to understand that specific restorative justice procedural stages must be followed first, they frequently pressure investigators to immediately close the criminal case."

Based on these research findings, it is evident that public understanding of restorative justice mechanisms remains suboptimal. This leads to a disparity in understanding between the public and law enforcement officials regarding the stages of case resolution through restorative justice.

Overall, the research reveals that the obstacles to applying restorative justice—in the context of criminal justice objectives and case handling by West Lombok Police investigators—include regulatory issues, difficulties for the parties in meeting restorative justice requirements, challenges regarding the offender's fulfillment of the victim's rights, limited human resources among investigators, and low public understanding of restorative justice mechanisms.

CONCLUSION

1. Based on the research findings, the author concludes that the application of restorative justice aims to resolve conflicts, redress victims' losses, rehabilitate offenders, and restore social balance within the community. The implementation of restorative justice in handling criminal

²² Wawancara pada hari Rabu tanggal 24 Juni 2026 dengan Kasat Reskrim Polres Lombok Barat IPTU HEDDY PERMANA PUTRA, S.TR.K., S.I.K.

²³ Wawancara pada hari Kamis Tanggal 25 Juni 2026 dengan Kanit Pidum IPDA ARSYAN KELVIN SUKMANA, S.TR.K.

²⁴ Wawancara pada hari Kamis Tanggal 25 Juni 2026 dengan Kanit Pidum IPDA ARSYAN KELVIN SUKMANA, S.TR.K.

²⁵ Wawancara pada hari Kamis Tanggal 25 Juni 2026 dengan Kanit Pidum IPDA ARSYAN KELVIN SUKMANA, S.TR.K.

²⁶ Wawancara pada hari Jumat Tanggal 26 Juni 2026 dengan Kanit PPA IPDA DWI JAYA PANTIKO.

cases at the West Lombok Resort Police (Polres Lombok Barat) serves as a recovery-oriented alternative for case resolution and aligns with modern criminal law developments. Its application reflects a paradigm shift from a retributive approach to a more restorative one, involving the victim, the offender, and community members in the resolution process. The implementation has been highly effective; out of 49 cases handled between January and June 2026, nine met the eligibility criteria and were all successfully resolved through restorative justice mechanisms. The success rate was 100% for the General Crimes Unit (7 out of 7 eligible cases) and 100% for the Women and Children Protection Unit (2 out of 2 eligible cases), whereas the Special Crimes Unit recorded a 0% rate, as no cases met the eligibility criteria.

2. Based on the research findings, the author concludes that the factors influencing the implementation of restorative justice at the West Lombok District Police (Polres Lombok Barat) consist of interconnected supporting and inhibiting factors. Supporting factors include the existence of a legal basis serving as an implementation guideline, support from law enforcement officials, the involvement of community leaders, village officials, and Bhabinkamtibmas (community police officers) in the mediation process, as well as positive outcomes such as the restoration of peace and the prevention of further conflict. Meanwhile, inhibiting factors include the absence of updated technical guidelines, a shortage of investigative personnel, challenges regarding the perpetrator's fulfillment of the victim's rights, and low public understanding of restorative justice mechanisms. Drawing on Soerjono Soekanto's Theory of Legal Effectiveness and Lawrence M. Friedman's Legal System Theory, these factors demonstrate that the successful implementation of restorative justice is influenced by legal substance, legal structure, and legal culture; these elements must operate in balance to ensure effective and optimal implementation.

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