

# Interaction, Changes, and Impacts of The Adaptation Process of Ex- Convict

Wahyu Dwi Lestari, C. Widaty and A. Purwasih

Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, Jl. Dr. Setiabudhi No. 229, Bandung, Indonesia  
wahyudwi@student.upi.edu

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Abstract: This research was motivated by negative stigma that is given to ex-convict and that has caused them to feel awkward when living in a society. In order to be accepted again, ex-convict need to undergo the process of adaptation in their environment. This study aims to discover the interaction, changes, and impacts of the adaptation process of ex-convict. This study used qualitative approach. Data collection technique was conducted through observation, interview and documentation study. The findings of this study are: social interaction of ex-convict to change the stigma is achieved by being friendly and actively participating in community activities, positive changes after the period of custody is gaining increasing faith, being more sensitive to the community and staying away from bad habits. The impacts of adaptation include the changes of responses from families and neighbors, the loss of negative stigma, the emergence of roles in the society, and peaceful feeling in life.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The ex-convict is a person who has committed a crime and caused harm to the community, both economic, psychological and social damages. Correctional Institution is a form of imprisonment that serves as a place for re-learning (resocialization) for prisoners to prepare themselves both physically and mentally to plunge back into society well and can play a fair role with other communities. (Laminatang, 1984) states that Penitentiary is not a place to punish a person, but a place to educate and nurture ex-convicts to be able to behave well in society.

Ex-convicts have hope to be able to interact and live a better life with the community after incarceration. However, the acceptance of ex-convict by the community is not an easy matter. As a person who once committed a crime, certainly a negative stigma from society, raises fear for ex-convict to blend back in the community.

Ex-convict as people who have committed violations of the norm certainly can not be separated from the public's attention. The community still keeps the question of whether the ex-convict has really changed from all his past mistakes. Such questions will create a negative view or stigma from

the society in which the ex-convict lives. Negative stigma will be given by people who are still afraid and do not believe in the change of ex-convicts after leaving the penitentiary.

The negative stigma of the community against ex-convict resulted in a pessimistic attitude for ex-convict. As described Lebel (2011) which shows that hundreds of prisoners are released each year and they find that they are discriminated against. The situation raises concern about the difficulty of adaptation by ex-convict after leaving the penitentiary.

The adaptation model was first developed by Sister Calista Roy who developed the concept of individuals and processes. Roy in Rasmun (2004) argued that human adaptability differs from one to another, influenced by physical factors, self-concept, role function and independence.

Adaptation to social and culture is one of the social processes necessary in social life. It allows for the social interaction of ex-convicts both with other individuals and with other groups. Social adaptation is one form of adjustment in the social environment. (Gerungan, 2009) reveals that adjustments can be meaningful changing oneself to adjust to the circumstances surrounding the new environment.

In line with the opinion of the Gerungan, Azani (2012) about the six dimensions in the psychology

of ex-convict after leaving the penitentiary (Azani, 2012) explains that "any ex-convicts who escaped in detention will get psychological pressure and force them to change and better adapt as a society".

Concerning the image of anxiety levels in prisoners by (Indriani, 2015) that almost some prisoners have a 38% weight anxiety level that is affected by emotional intelligence (Martha and Annatagia, 2014). The most serious anxiety is the anxiety facing the community and the uncertainty of self-acceptance of the ex-convicts after leaving the Penitentiary, based on the source of the Penitentiary, Women Class II A, Bandung.

Having a harmonious life and connecting well with the community are a dream for everyone, especially ex-convict. It is coveted because in truth as a social being, ex-convicts also need recognition of its existence in society. Therefore, a good adaptation process in the community that will be able to change the negative stigma of society against ex-convict.

Many crime cases exist in the community. Some cases are considered very unsettling. Such as murder, robbery and narcotics. These cases are cases that are considered very dangerous and often occur in the midst of society. The involvement of individuals into the case may allow the rejection and negative outlook of the community. Because of the heavier crimes committed by individuals, the greater the acceptance in society. In addition, differences in the background of life and cases of crime from individuals will greatly affect them in adapting.

Based on the background that has been described above, the author is interested to conduct research with the title "Pattern of Adaptation The Ex-convicts in Community Life".

## 2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research used descriptive qualitative approach. This approach is used because the research is focused on the social adaptation of ex-convict and data sourced from observations of ex-convict in adjusting in society.

The data is described and described more clearly and more specifically. Because it focuses only on certain aspects, such as the form of interaction, the shape of change, the impact of the adaptation process and the typology of adaptation differences from ex-convict. In addition, qualitative descriptive approach is more effectively used in this study. Because in the technique of data collection effective to get data from participants.

Participants in this study were 10 participants, three ex-convicts, three family members, three neighbors and one child boarding from one of the ex-convict as an additional participant. This research was conducted in Penukal Abab Lematang Ilir District of South Sumatra Province, precisely in Talang Ubi Subdistrict. The selection of research areas because the area is prone to follow-up with crime and community character in the area that tends to be a bit daring and rude.

Data collection techniques used by researcher include observation, interviews and documentation studies. Data analysis techniques use data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing verification. The data obtained will be processed and checked the truth, the researcher checks the truth of the data by extending the time of research, continuous observation, triangulation, as well as using reference materials and performing member check.

## 3 RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

### 3.1 Form of Social Interaction The Ex-convicts As Efforts in Changing Negative Stigma in the Community Environment

The social interactions of ex-convict as an effort to alter the negative stigma within, which includes the *first*, show a friendly attitude, the appointment of a friendly attitude done by an ex-convict by giving a reprimand or greeting when meeting the neighbors and being gentle and respecting the neighbors. *Second*, to help the troubled neighbors. *Third*, establishing good communication with family and neighbors, chatting together, sharing and complaining are the ways in which former ex-convicts in everyday life with family and neighbors. *Fourth*, actively participate in activities in the community, ex-convict tries to interact by mixing and mingling within the community. *Fifth*, responding to negative stigma by being casual, responding to the neighbors' views casually, ignorantly, remain confident, realize mistakes and show them with a positive attitude of every activity that has been undertaken.

Every human being is born to live in a group and society. As Ahmadi (1975) says that the desires that drive people to social life are the social desires, the desire for self-preservation, the desire for struggle, the desire for self-esteem, the desire to imitate, the desire for mingling, the desire for freedom, the

desire to tell, the desire to help and the underlying sympathies of ex-convicts to live in peace and hope to be welcomed back into society

A re-adaptation to clear a good name is not an easy thing for an ex-convict to do. According to (Febriansyah, 2015) that for social adaptation, it can be done with several conditions that must be met, namely realizing the rights of others, building a sense of sympathy and empathy that manifests in friendship, sharing and helping.

Erden (2015) is said if the biggest problem of ex-convict is their attitude towards him who considers himself useless to despair in society. In addition, there is a psycho-social problem in them. Such problems are social exclusion, labeling and loss, such as unemployment, economic problems and housing problems resulting from unemployment. Some ex-convict expressed that after they had entered the prison, their relatives were left with problems and the solution could not be solved because they could not communicate freely.

Furthermore, Wright et al. (2015) states if ex-convicts are willing to change people's views and are eager to spread love to everyone so that the negative stigma that once attached soon disappears.

### 3.2 Forms of Changes That Happen To Ex-convicts After Coming Out of Correctional Institutions

Upon exiting the prison, the ex-convict had a positive change. Positive changes made by ex-convicts after leaving the penitentiary may be the following. *First*, increased faith and piety. Many have gained religious knowledge when spiritual programs within the penitentiary make there a spiritual difference in the ex-convict. *Second*, more sensitive and active in community activities. The indifferent attitude is the attitude that former ex-convicts used to have. However, after ex-convict leave the penitentiary, the ex-convict shows a change in him by being active in community activities, such as always attending weddings, thanksgiving, *tahlilan* and mutual help in the neighborhood. *Third*, stay away from social and habits in the past.

changes in ex-convicts can be regarded as the result of fostering done by prisons while still getting criminal punishment. Changes supported by the police coaching process are also supported by support from various parties such as families and communities where ex-convict live. In line with the understanding of the correctional system as outlined in article 2, paragraph 2 of Law no. 12 of 1995 in

(Nurulaen, 2012) states that Penal system is organized in order to establish prisoners to be fully human, and to live fairly as a good and responsible citizen.

Ex-convict certainly has a habit that is often done while still living freely before entering the penitentiary. Based on data gathered from informants, ex-convicts have bad habits such as drinking, using drugs, stealing, to gather with false associates. With the coaching is expected to create a new energy in the ex-convict to realize these bad habits.

This is in line with Sulhin (2010) stating that the Indonesian penitentiary system embracing reintegrative philosophy is essentially highly adaptive to community-based correction. Correctional view that coaching is not only done within the institution, but requires a certain phase in which inmates interact with the community to be reintegrated, although still in criminal time. Interaction and reintegration are efforts to increase the community's willingness to re-accept prisoners and minimize negative stigma, so that when free, ex-convicts are expected to return to normal life as members of the community.

### 3.3 Impacts Happened To Ex-convicts After Adaptation in the Community Environment

Impacts that occurred after ex-convict's adaptation within the community based on research findings, as follows. *First*, change in response from family. Families who initially feel sad, disappointed and angry when they see cases of crimes committed by ex-convict slowly change as the process of adaptation made by individuals in an effort to change the negative stigma in him. Until now the whole family is very happy to see the changes and self-acceptance made by ex-convict in everyday life. *Second*, the loss of negative stigma from neighbors. After ex-convict have adapted to interact and establish good relationships with neighbors through greetings, courtesy, and help, involvement of ex-convicts in community activities and the appointment of self-change resulting in negative stigma in a strongly starting society slowly begins to disappear. *Third*, ex-convict have a role in society. Ex-convict who were originally considered bad people in today's society after adapt have a change. The change is in the form of ex-convicts as community leaders who are elderly in the local area. Fourth, have the freedom to live in society. Fifth, have a fixed job. Having a job is similar to giving

the trust of the community to ex-convict who are considered to have good behavior after the adaptation process.

Ritzer (2012) argues that there are four subsystems that perform the main functions in social life: *adaptation, goal attainment, intergration, dan latent pattern maintenance*. Based on Parsons theory above, it can be seen if ex-convicts are able to adapt well will continue to maintain patterns that will affect it in taking a social action. The imperative of ex-convict in adapting to have a goal to change the stigma by showing their integrity as citizens. Of course, togetherness to follow or maintain the norms that exist in the local environment will make the process of adaptation and acceptance of himself running quickly.

The results of previous research conducted by Fitriani (2015) on the disclosure of ex-convict stated that the impact of self-disclosure on ex-convict, raising self-awareness, overcoming feelings of fear, building closer and deeper relationships, and resolving conflicts and interpersonal problems. The author agrees with Fitriani's research 2015 which states that self-disclosure can have a good effect in the adaptation of ex-convicts. Therefore, it will make it easier for ex-convict to be accepted by the community where they live, thus impacting the success of ex-convict in adapting.

#### 4 CONCLUSIONS

The social interaction of ex-convict as an attempt to change negative stigma is by interacting with society. This is demonstrated by a friendly attitude by greeting, helping difficulty neighbors, establishing good communication with family and neighbors, actively participating in activities in the community, responding to negative stigma by being casual with confidence and showing a change of attitude to the community.

The positive change of ex-convict after leaving the penitentiary is the increasing faith and piety by practicing worship in the mosque, being more sensitive and active in the social activities that exist in the neighborhood, and away from the association and habits of the past such as drinking, using narcotics, studying black magic, etc.

The impact of the adaptation process undertaken by ex-convict resulted in a change in response from families initially disappointed, angry and sad to being happy, proud and unexpected. Loss of negative stigma from neighbors who used to talk about behind, fearful and rigid. Now it is normal and very familiar. They have a role in the community

such as a mosque board, a teacher of recitation, and community leaders who in essence can be trusted by the community due to reliable changes. They have the freedom to live in society freely mingle with anyone without any sense of awkwardness and no sense of misgivings in traveling because previously ex-convict always worried and anxious when going to leave home. And they have a steady job because the company believes in the potential and changes that the ex-convict has.

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