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## A Philosophical Study of The Existence of A Restorative Justice House As A Forum For Resolving Minor Criminal Cases In The Jurisdiction of The Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office

Kiki Kristanto<sup>1</sup>, Fransisco<sup>2</sup>, Tomy Alfarizy<sup>3</sup>, Fandra Saputra<sup>4</sup>, Mira Mawarni<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Faculty of Law, University of Palangka Raya, Indonesia, [kikikristanto@law.upr.ac.id](mailto:kikikristanto@law.upr.ac.id)

<sup>2</sup> Faculty of Law, University of Palangka Raya, Indonesia, [frans.ugm2010@gmail.com](mailto:frans.ugm2010@gmail.com)

<sup>3</sup> Faculty of Law, University of Palangka Raya, Indonesia, [tomyalfarizy29@gmail.com](mailto:tomyalfarizy29@gmail.com)

<sup>4</sup> Faculty of Law, University of Palangka Raya, Indonesia, [fandractivac@gmail.com](mailto:fandractivac@gmail.com)

<sup>5</sup> Faculty of Law, University of Palangka Raya, Indonesia, [byunmirae14@gmail.com](mailto:byunmirae14@gmail.com)

Corresponding Author: [kikikristanto@law.upr.ac.id](mailto:kikikristanto@law.upr.ac.id)

**Abstract:** This study analyzes the existence of Restorative Justice House (Rumah Restoratif Justice) as a mechanism for resolving minor criminal cases in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office. The background of the problem shows an increase in the number of minor criminal cases resulting in excessive court workload and ineffective handling of conflicts in the society. In this context, Restorative Justice House emerges as an alternative solution that emphasizes restorative justice, where the main focus is the restoration of relationships between perpetrators, victims and the community. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the philosophical and practical role of Restorative Justice House in supporting the criminal justice system in Palangka Raya. This research seeks to answer the questions: What is the philosophical basis or main principle of the restorative justice house concept established by the Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office? What is the urgency of the existence of restorative justice houses in handling minor criminal cases in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office? The research method used was a qualitative approach with literature analysis and in-depth interviews with legal practitioners and communities involved in Restorative Justice House. The results of this study indicate that Restorative Justice House provides a practical solution to reduce the burden on the courts and strengthens the principles of restorative justice that are more inclusive and adaptive to local needs. The philosophical implications of Restorative Justice House underscore the importance of a restorative and rehabilitation-oriented approach, as opposed to a traditional retributive approach.

**Keyword:** Alternative Resolution, Minor Criminal Cases, Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office Restorative Justice House.

## INTRODUCTION

In the criminal justice system, especially in Indonesia, there are various approaches to handling criminal cases, including cases that are considered minor. Problems arise when the handling of minor cases is often inefficient and does not provide adequate satisfaction for all parties involved, including perpetrators, victims, and the general public when the settlement is carried out through penal means. To overcome this problem, other instruments other than penal means are raised to handle criminal cases with a restorative justice approach.

In recent years, the concept and practice of restorative justice has gained increasing attention as a promising alternative in dealing with minor criminal cases (Hidayat, 2022). Restorative justice emphasizes efforts to repair the damage caused by crime by strengthening recovery and reconciliation between perpetrators, victims, and society, rather than just providing traditional punishment. The objective of restorative justice (Rengganis, 2022) is to resolve criminal cases by involving the perpetrator, victim, the perpetrator's or victim's family, and other related parties to jointly seek a fair settlement by emphasizing restoration to the initial state, and not on retaliation by the victim.

Its implementation requires the values of justice and local wisdom that grow and develop in the local community. The Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Indonesia sees the need for community space to be able to meet and absorb aspirations directly from religious leaders, traditional leaders and community leaders. To harmonize these values with positive law that can be used to make decisions in the restorative justice process. Based on these reasons, the Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Indonesia then took the initiative to form a forum to carry out the restorative justice process for people who want to resolve their criminal cases with non-punitive means. Then, the forum was named Restorative Justice House by the Attorney General's Office of the Republic of Indonesia.

The existence of restorative justice houses was officially introduced on March 16, 2022 by Burhanuddin as the Attorney General of the Republic of Indonesia. Initially, there were 9 (Nine) Provincial Attorney's Office areas that formed and inaugurated their restorative justice houses, which included the Provincial Attorney's Office of North Sumatra, Aceh, South Sulawesi, West Sulawesi, West Java, East Java, Central Java, Riau Islands, and Banten High Prosecutor's Office. The existence of restorative justice houses can be an option for litigants as an alternative choice in court. In addition, the restorative justice house functions as a place to absorb local wisdom values, an effort to revive the role of community, religious and traditional leaders to work together with prosecutors in the process of resolving cases oriented towards the realization of substantive justice.

Fundamentally, substantive justice refers to a concept of justice that focuses more on fair and equitable outcomes, rather than simply complying with formal legal procedures. In the context of the legal system, substantive justice emphasizes the importance of achieving outcomes that deliver true justice, which can be measured from a moral, ethical or policy perspective. Compared to procedural justice, which focuses on the legal process being fair and equitable for all parties involved in a case, substantive justice emphasizes the need to consider and evaluate the consequences of legal decisions on all parties involved. It includes ensuring that the outcome is fair and considering the needs, rights, and well-being of individuals as well as society as a whole.

Substantive justice is also often related to the concepts of equality and redistribution of resources. In this case, the substantive justice approach can involve active intervention from the government or other institutions to correct structural inequalities or injustices in society, for example through restorative justice policies in solving minor criminal cases.

In general, substantive justice highlights the importance of considering the needs, values, and interests that underlie the law in determining actual justice. It emphasizes that justice should not only be seen as a formal process, but also as a goal to be achieved within

the legal system to create a more just and equal society. It means that good law ideally provides something more than just legal procedures.

Currently, restorative justice houses have been established by the Provincial Attorney's Office in all provinces in Indonesia, including the Central Kalimantan Provincial Attorney's Office which oversees 14 (fourteen) District Attorney's Offices. The Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office, as part of the criminal justice system in Indonesia and under the Central Kalimantan Provincial Attorney's Office, also realizes the importance of applying the concept of restorative justice, especially in processing minor criminal cases in its jurisdiction. Currently, the Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office has established restorative justice houses in each sub-district in Palangka Raya City as an alternative to resolving criminal cases with a non-punitive approach.

Empirically, the restorative justice house established by the Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office has a strong urgency in the context of law enforcement and justice in the Palangka Raya City area. Starting from the urgency that is very important for the existence of the restorative justice house, it is necessary to conduct an in-depth philosophical study to understand the existence, principles, and implications of the application of restorative justice houses. Philosophical study is a process of in-depth analysis and reflection on philosophical concepts, principles, or ideas that underlie a particular phenomenon or topic. Therefore, in the context of the title "Philosophical Study Of The Existence Of Restorative Justice House As A Forum For Resolving Minor Criminal Cases In The Jurisdiction Of The Palangka Raya District Attorney' Office", the philosophical study aims to explore a deeper understanding of the philosophical foundation that serves as the basis or main principle behind the concept of restorative justice house. It involves an analysis of the values, moral principles and philosophical views that inform the restorative justice approach in resolving minor criminal cases.

This philosophical study is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the concept of restorative justice and its relevance in the context of criminal justice in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office. Thus, this research will serve as a foundation for the development of more effective strategies and policies in solving minor criminal cases, so as to increase justice, reconciliation, and overall community satisfaction. Based on the background above, the problems can be formulated as follows: what is the philosophical foundation or main principle of the restorative justice house concept established by the Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office? and what is the urgency of the establishment of a restorative justice house in solving minor criminal cases in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office?

## **METHOD**

The research method in this research was Empirical Legal Research. According to Soerjono Soekanto and Sri Mamudji, empirical legal research is "an approach carried out by field research by seeing and observing what is happening in the field, the application of the regulations in practice in society". Empirical legal research is legal research that uses primary data sources, which is data obtained from observations in the field and interviews with sources.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Philosophical Foundation as the Basis/Principle of the Restorative Justice House Concept Established by the Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office**

#### **1. Definition of Restorative Justice**

The term restorative justice is a foreign terminology that has only been recognized in Indonesia since the 1960s. In several developed countries, restorative justice is not just a discourse by criminal law and criminology academics. In North America, Australia and

several countries in Europe, restorative justice has been applied in conventional stages of the criminal justice process, starting from the investigation, prosecution, adjudication and execution stages. In its development, there are many definitions of restorative justice theory, as stated by L. Wargave, that: "restorative justice theory is any action that is oriented towards upholding justice by repairing the harm caused by a criminal offense. This theory states that the victim or his/her family can return to the initial state as it was before the crime occurred".

According to Kent Roach, "restorative justice is part of a theory of justice that must be reconciled with the theory of distributive justice. Restorative justice is a useful complement to the theory of attributive justice" (Roach, 2000). The Utilitarianism view combined with Roach's view is in accordance with the aim of restoring the cosmic balance that occurs in indigenous communities because the offense or customary violation contains elements, both according to the theory of restorative justice and attributive justice, and restoring the cosmic balance is a repair of the harm caused by the customary violation (containing restorative principles). Restoring the cosmic balance by the perpetrator results in the disruption of the cosmic balance and the loss of opportunities for individuals and communities to live properly in achieving goals.

In addition to western figures who provide a definition of restorative justice, there are several experts from Indonesia who provide their definition of restorative justice. According to Eva Achjani Zulfa, restorative justice is: "A concept of thought that responds to the development of the criminal justice system by emphasizing the need for community involvement and victims who feel excluded by the mechanisms that work in the current criminal justice system" (Zulfa, 2009). Furthermore, Bagir Manan, in general, provides a definition of restorative justice, which states that "a rearrangement of the punishment system that is more just, both for the perpetrator, victim and society" (Aries, 2006).

Restorative justice theory, according to Romli, is a restorative approach, which is "a new model and is expected to be included as one of the settlement models in the criminal law system, in addition to the preventive and repressive settlement models (Atmasasmita, 2010). The restorative approach aims to restore a problematic or imbalanced situation, to become unproblematic or achieve harmony in certain lives or can provide input for the nation and state. The restorative-rehabilitative settlement model has actually taken the spirit of dispute resolution according to customary law, namely restoring balance in the cosmos, or is a modernized customary law settlement model".

Restorative justice is further defined as "restorative justice is a theory of justice that emphasizes repairing the harm caused or inflicted by the criminal, which is best done through a cooperative process that includes all stakeholders" (Djatkika, 2008). Practices and programs that reflect restorative aims will respond to crime with:

- a. Identifying and taking steps to repair harms;
- b. Involving all stakeholders;
- c. Transforming the traditional relationship between communities and the government in responding to crime.

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that restorative justice is a theory that states that victims or their families have the right to treat victims the same as before the offense occurred.

## 2. Approaches in Restorative Justice

Van Ness suggests that restorative justice is characterized by several prepositions (Widiartana, 2014), namely:

- a. Crime is a conflict between individuals that results in harm to victims, society and the perpetrators themselves;
- b. The objective of the criminal justice process is to achieve reconciliation between the parties while repairing the harm caused by the crime;

- c. The criminal justice process must facilitate the active participation of victims, perpetrators and the community. Criminal justice should not be dominated by the state to the exclusion of others.

Restorative justice will contradict the principles of legality and legal certainty (*rechtzakerheid*). It is because restorative justice does not focus on imprisonment, but on how to repair or restore the victim's condition after a criminal offense. In this case, the perpetrator may be required to pay compensation, perform social work, or other reasonable actions ordered by law enforcement or the court.

Restorative justice approach in criminal law has the power to restore the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. It also has the power to prevent further hostility between the parties and encourage voluntary reconciliation between perpetrators and victims. It also encourages the participation of other members of the community, such as family members or neighbors, and emphasizes the importance of the victim's role in the process of justice.

On the victim's side, restorative justice provides the power to give the perpetrator the opportunity to express remorse to the victim and it is better if it is facilitated in a meeting conducted in a professional manner. This restorative justice perspective is a result of a legal shift from *lex talionis* or retributive justice to emphasize restorative efforts. It is difficult to recover victims' harm if a more retributive and legalistic approach is applied. Thus, restorative justice seeks to emphasize the responsibility of the perpetrator for his or her behavior that causes harm to others (Sunarso, 2022).

In terms of legal aid, it is generally not always available or even if available, the cost of legal institutions is not cheap and awareness of the role of the parties themselves in determining decisions still requires experience and consistency. The implications of restorative justice are expected to reduce the number of people entering the criminal justice process, especially in correctional institutions, reduce the burden on the criminal justice system and increase public participation in helping to resolve legal cases (Sunarso, 2022).

The principles of restorative justice according to Adrinus Meliala are as follows (Sunarso, 2022):

- a. Making the perpetrator of a criminal offense responsible for repairing the harm caused by his or her crime;
  - b. Providing opportunities for the perpetrator to prove his/her capacity and quality while addressing his/her guilt in a constructive manner;
  - c. Involving victims, families and other parties in resolving problems;
  - d. Providing a forum to work together to solve the problems;
  - e. Establishing a direct and tangible relationship between an action deemed wrong or evil and a formal social reaction.
3. The Significance of Restorative Justice House

The restorative justice house is a place to solve problems with the concept of peace through consensus, before the case enters the realm of law enforcement. It also encourages the role of community leaders, religious leaders, and traditional leaders to work together with law enforcement. The existence of the restorative justice house was introduced and inaugurated on March 16, 2022 by Burhanuddin as the Attorney General of the Republic of Indonesia.

The restorative justice approach promoted by the Attorney General's Office in handling criminal cases continues to be carried out. The objective is to prioritize peace as methods in the application of law that are less retributive. For this reason, the Attorney General's Office launched restorative justice houses in nine Provincial Attorney's Office jurisdictions, which include the Provincial Attorney's Office of North Sumatra, Aceh, South Sulawesi, West Sulawesi, West Java, East Java, Central Java, Riau Islands, and

Banten. The existence of restorative justice houses can be an option for litigants as an alternative option in court.

The establishment of restorative justice houses is one of the objectives of legal development in Indonesia relating to the implementation of restorative justice. It is stipulated in the 2020-2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) which is focused on the policy direction and strategy of the national law enforcement sector to improve the criminal and civil law systems, which strategy specifically involves the implementation of restorative justice.

#### 4. The Attorney General's Regulations in the Implementation of Restorative Justice

In order to implement the application of restorative justice, the Attorney General's Office has issued three norms that serve as a legal umbrella and guidelines for prosecutors in applying restorative justice in handling cases. The three norms are:

##### a. The Attorney General's Regulation No. 15/2020 on Prosecution Termination Based on Restorative Justice;

The regulation is a form of prosecutorial discretion in handling cases by applying restorative justice. Through these internal rules, prosecutors are expected to use them as guidelines and balance the applicable rules with the principle of expediency to be achieved.

The Attorney General's Office also established a restorative justice house as a form of follow-up to the involvement of elements from the community in every peaceful case settlement effort by involving victims, suspects, community leaders or representatives, and other related parties. Thus, the restorative justice house functions as a place to absorb local wisdom values. In addition, it is an effort to rejuvenate the participation of community, religious and customary leaders to work together with prosecutors in the process of resolving cases that are oriented towards the implementation of substantive justice.

##### b. Prosecutor's Guidelines Number 1 of 2021 concerning Access to Justice for Women and Children in the Handling of Criminal Cases;

The guidelines are a guide for prosecutors in handling every criminal case involving legal subjects who are women and children. It even optimizes the fulfillment of access to justice for women and children in conflict against the law.

The prosecutor's guideline No. 1 of 2021 is a breakthrough in answering various legal issues, as well as to overcome obstacles in the implementation of a number of existing laws and regulations. These include obstacles to case proof procedures and confusion in determining the position of victims and perpetrators. Then, there are coordination barriers with other related parties. There are also constraints on the human resources of prosecutors who do not yet understand gender and children's perspectives.

##### c. Prosecutor's Guidelines Number 18 of 2021 concerning the Settlement of Handling Criminal Cases of Narcotics Abuse through Rehabilitation with a Restorative Justice Approach as an Implementation of the Dominus Litis Principle of Prosecutors;

Through these guidelines, regulations prioritize a restorative justice approach in resolving drug abuse cases by treating addicts and victims of drug abuse.

#### 5. Philosophical Foundation of Restorative Justice House in Palangka Raya District Attorney Office

The Restorative Justice House established by the Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office is based on the concept of restorative justice which emphasizes restoring relationships and resolving conflicts outside the formal justice process. The philosophical foundation of this concept includes several key principles (Solikhin, 2024):

##### a. Restoration of social relations;

Social relations restoration is the process of restoring and repairing interpersonal relationships that have been damaged or disrupted as a result of conflict, offense, or

crime. The main objective of restoring social relations is to repair social friction caused by harmful actions, such as crime or conflict. The process emphasizes dialogue, understanding, and reconciliation between the parties involved, both victims and perpetrators. Thus, the principles of restoring social relations with the Restorative Justice House formed by the Palangka Raya District Prosecutor's Office, philosophically, essentially are:

- 1) Balance and harmony; Balance and harmony in the context of restorative justice is a concept that emphasizes achieving peace and stability in social relations after an offense or crime. Restorative justice aims to repair the damage done by a criminal offense in a way that supports recovery for all parties involved, including perpetrators, victims, and the community. Thus, the main philosophy of Restorative Justice House is to restore balance in society after the occurrence of a criminal offense. Instead of focusing on punishing the offender, restorative justice aims to repair the harm suffered by the victim, restore the relationship between the parties involved, and restore social harmony. Therefore, balance and harmony in restorative justice is the main foundation that ensures that the process of handling criminal offenses is not only repressive, but also constructive and rehabilitative. It includes restoring social relations and creating conditions that promote sustainable peace and justice for all parties.
  - 2) Reintegration of perpetrators; Reintegration of perpetrators in the context of restorative justice is the process of helping individuals who have committed a criminal offense to return to the community by encouraging positive change, repairing the damage done, and avoiding stigma. The focus of reintegration is to ensure that perpetrators can become fully functioning members of society, with healthy and constructive relationships with victims and the wider community. Referring to this concept, the objectives of offender reintegration are 1) to reduce the risk of reoffending by providing offenders with the support they need to change their behavior; 2) to ensure that victims feel a sense of justice and that perpetrators take concrete steps to repair the damage; 3) to promote harmonization and stability in the community by ensuring that ex-offenders do not become a source of new problems.
- b. Active participation of all parties;

Active participation of all parties in the context of restorative justice refers to the full and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders in the process of restorative resolution of criminal cases. This concept emphasizes that every party affected by criminal acts including victims, perpetrators, their families, and communities have roles and responsibilities in achieving fair outcomes and effective recovery. Thus, the principles of active participation of all parties with the Restorative Justice House formed by the Palangka Raya District Prosecutor's Office, philosophically, essentially are:

- 1) Victim, perpetrator and community involvement; The success of Restorative Justice relies on the active participation of all affected parties. In a restorative process, victims, perpetrators, and communities engage in dialogue and negotiation to reach a mutually agreed resolution. It ensures that the resulting solution is relevant and accepted by all parties involved.
- 2) Problem solving; The restorative justice focuses on direct problem-solving through the active involvement of the parties in formulating the actions needed to restore the situation, whether in the form of compensation, apology, or rehabilitation of the perpetrator. Active participation in restorative justice house ensures that the process of resolving minor criminal cases does not only involve unilateral decisions, but is the result of joint and collaborative involvement of all affected parties. It aims to create a just solution and holistic recovery.

- 3) Stigma avoidance and reformatory punishment; The avoidance of stigma and reformatory punishment in the context of restorative justice has a deep meaning and aims to address the various problems that arise from traditional approaches to punishment. Restorative justice views justice not just as a process of punishing the offender, but as a way of repairing the harm caused by the crime. Thus, the principles of stigma avoidance and reformatory punishment with the Restorative Justice House established by the Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office, philosophically, essentially are:
  - a) Avoidance of stigma; Stigma avoidance means minimizing or preventing the attachment of negative labels or bad marks to perpetrators of criminal acts. Labels such as "criminal" or "perpetrator" can permanently damage a person's reputation and affect their future opportunities, including employment, social relationships, and reintegration into society. Therefore, the philosophy of Restorative Justice House rejects retributive approaches that tend to stigmatize offenders. Conversely, Restorative Justice House seeks to avoid the negative impacts of imprisonment and punishment that may hinder the social reintegration of offenders.
  - b) Reformatory punishment; Reformatory punishment is a punishment that focuses not only on retaliation, but also on guiding and educating the perpetrator in order for them to understand the impact of the criminal offense they committed and take steps to correct it. It aims to change the behavior of the offender so that they do not repeat their mistakes. In other words, punishment in a restorative context is more reformatory in nature, aiming to encourage offenders to improve their behavior rather than simply serving formal sentences, creating a more humane and effective approach in dealing with criminal offenses, emphasizing the importance of recovery and behavior change, not just retaliation, so that offenders can learn from their mistakes and return to contribute positively to society.
- 4) Empowerment and reconciliation; Empowerment and reconciliation in the context of restorative justice are essential concepts to achieve the goal of holistic and inclusive justice. Empowerment and reconciliation in restorative justice are key to achieving justice that focuses on restoration and repair, not just punishment. By empowering victims, perpetrators and communities, and facilitating reconciliation, restorative justice creates a more humane and effective approach to dealing with crime. Thus, the principles of empowerment and reconciliation with the Restorative Justice House formed by the Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office, philosophically, essentially are:
  - a) Victim empowerment; Restorative processes give victims the opportunity to voice their feelings and needs, and get justice that feels more personalized and satisfying than formal justice processes.
  - b) Reconciliation and peace; The philosophical foundation of Restorative Justice House includes the goal of reconciliation between victims and offenders, which promotes peace and reduces the risk of reoffending.
- 5) Humanist justice; Humanist justice in the context of restorative justice is an approach to justice that places human values, restoration, and repair of relationships above the aspect of punishment alone. Thus, the principles of humanist justice with the Restorative Justice House formed by the Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office, philosophically, essentially are:
  - a) Humanist approach; The restorative justice philosophy bases its approach on humanist principles that view each individual as an integral part of the community. It recognizes the dignity of each party involved and seeks to treat them with respect and fairness, while maintaining healthy social relationships.



- b) Humanist justice gives victims, perpetrators and communities an active role in the justice process, so that the parties are not only objects of the legal process but also agents of change.
- c) Humanist justice sees crime as a violation of human relationships and society, and not just a violation of the law. The solution therefore involves a collective approach that repairs social damage.

### **The Urgency of the Restorative Justice House in Handling Minor Criminal Cases in the Jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office**

Restorative Justice House has an important role in handling minor criminal cases in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office. The urgency of the existence of Restorative Justice House (RRJ) can be seen from various perspectives, including social, legal, and rehabilitation of victims and perpetrators. Thus, the urgency of the existence of Restorative Justice House in handling minor criminal cases in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office is described below (Solikhin, 2024).

1. Social relationship restoration; The restoration of social relationships in the context of Restorative Justice House is a key concept that emphasizes the repair and restoration of relationships damaged by criminal acts. It is one of the fundamental reasons behind the existence of Restorative Justice House, as it aims to restore harmony and balance in society following an offense. Thus, the objectives of social relationship restoration are:
  - a. Preventing prolonged conflicts; Restorative Justice House provides a forum for dialogue between victims and perpetrators that helps resolve conflicts directly and quickly. By prioritizing mediation, Restorative Justice House helps avoid prolonged conflicts that often occur in formal justice processes.
  - b. Building social harmony; The resolution of minor criminal cases through a restorative approach helps to rebuild damaged relationships in the community/society, and promotes social harmony and peace in the community.

The restoration of social relationships is the core of the restorative approach implemented in Restorative Justice House. Through dialogue, reconciliation, reintegration, and promotion of justice values, Restorative Justice House plays an important role in repairing and strengthening social relations affected by criminal offenses. It contributes to effective conflict resolution, and supports the establishment of a more harmonious and sustainable community/society.

2. Effectiveness in case resolution; Effectiveness in case resolution through Restorative Justice House refers to the ability of this system to resolve conflicts and criminal offenses in a more efficient, faster, and adequate manner compared to the criminal justice system (litigation route). Thus, the urgency of Restorative Justice House as an effective instrument in case settlement aims at:
  - a. Reducing the burden on the judiciary; Restorative Justice House (RRJ) helps reduce the burden on the judiciary by resolving minor criminal cases outside the court (non-litigation track). This allows courts and prosecutors to focus on more serious and complex cases.
  - b. Fast resolution process; Resolutions through Restorative Justice House are usually faster than formal court processes, so justice can be achieved in a shorter time.

Effectiveness in case resolution in Restorative Justice House includes various aspects that make the resolution process faster, more satisfying and efficient compared to the formal justice system. The urgency of Restorative Justice House lies in its ability to reduce costs and time, increase the satisfaction of all parties involved, reduce recidivism rates, be oriented to specific needs, and reduce the burden on the conventional justice system. Through this approach, Restorative Justice House not only resolves conflicts, but also improves social relations and rebuilds harmony in the community.

3. Prevention of Criminal Recidivism; Recidivism prevention is one of the important reasons why Restorative Justice House is an effective tool in the justice system. In this context, Restorative Justice House focuses on the resolution of existing cases, and proactive efforts to prevent similar criminal offenses from occurring in the future. Thus, the urgency of the Restorative Justice House (RRJ) as an effective instrument in preventing criminal recidivism is implemented with the following approaches:
  - a. Educational and reformative approach; Through dialogue and mediation, Restorative Justice House educates offenders about the impact of their actions and the importance of behavior that conforms to social norms. It helps prevent the recurrence of criminal offenses.
  - b. Commitment to change; Perpetrators are often asked to commit to certain restorative measures, such as working in the community or participating in a rehabilitation program, which encourages constructive behavioral change.

The prevention of criminal recidivism as one of the urgencies of Restorative Justice House lies in its ability to offer a more humane and effective alternative to imprisonment. With a focus on restoring social relationships, understanding, reintegration, active participation, and environmental support, Restorative Justice House provides a powerful instrument to prevent offenders from reoffending, while strengthening social structures that encourage cooperative and peaceful behavior.

4. Accessibility and Public Awareness; Accessibility and public awareness are important aspects of the existence of Restorative Justice House. In this context, accessibility refers to the easiness of the community in using and understanding the services offered by the Restorative Justice House, while public awareness refers to the knowledge and awareness of the community about the role, function, and benefits of the Restorative Justice House. Thus, the urgency of the Restorative Justice House relating to accessibility and public awareness aims at:
  - a. Enhancing legal awareness; Restorative Justice House facilitates public awareness of legal and justice processes, encouraging communities to engage constructively in the resolution of legal issues in their communities.
  - b. Better accessibility; Restorative Justice House provides easier access for victims and perpetrators in reaching a just and satisfactory resolution compared to the often complicated and time-consuming judicial process.

Accessibility and public awareness of Restorative Justice House is a vital element to ensure that all parties can utilize the available services effectively. Improving this accessibility and awareness not only strengthens the process of restorative conflict resolution but also serves as an important tool for legal education, crime prevention, and strengthening community participation. Hence, Restorative Justice House can function optimally as an effective restorative tool and as an integral part of the broader justice system.

## CONCLUSION

The existence of Restorative Justice House in the jurisdiction of the Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office is very important in handling minor criminal cases. Restorative Justice House functions as an effective and efficient mechanism in restoring social relations, providing justice that is felt more justly by all parties involved, reducing the burden on the formal justice system, and preventing the recurrence of criminal acts. The restorative approach implemented through Restorative Justice House is in line with the principles of restorative justice that emphasize conflict resolution, victim recovery, and social reintegration of perpetrators. At the Palangka Raya District Attorney's Office, Restorative Justice House is implemented as a forum that facilitates dialogue and mediation between perpetrators, victims, and the community, with the aim of resolving minor criminal cases more effectively and

humanely than the conventional judicial process. Restorative Justice House ensures that victims have an active role in the resolution process, allowing victims to voice their needs and obtain more personalized justice. Similarly, offenders are given the opportunity to correct their mistakes and reintegrate into society without the stigma that formal punishment often brings.

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