

The Participation of Legal Community in Crime Prevention Based on Anomie Theory in Batang Batang District

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Abstract

The occurrence of crime or criminal acts in a region is not solely because someone simply wants to commit evil or accidentally commits a crime. Beyond that, the crimes that occur can be related to various elements of community life, such as education, population, economy, politics, social, and culture. Every region in Indonesia certainly has different characteristics of these elements, so the tendency and types of crime vary in each area. This research was conducted to identify the factors contributing to criminality in society, enabling the community to participate in the efforts to combat crime, both through general and specific preventive measures. The method used in this study is Socio-Legal, which examines crime based on the Anomie theory of criminology to help society recognize and prevent crime. Anomie theory correlates anomie with crime rates in society, where, when social rules and values are no longer consistently applied, individuals are more likely to break rules and engage in criminal behavior. This is due to the inability of individuals or society to provide clear recognition and guidance, including the failure of social institutions to implement effective policies in crime prevention. Therefore, based on the perspective of Anomie Theory, further study of crime factors and the active participation of the legal community in crime prevention can be a resolution for the state of anomie.

Keywords: *Anomie, crime, prevention, society.*

INTRODUCTION

The Batang Batang District is currently a focal point as one of the subdistricts in the Sumenep region of East Java, experiencing a surge in tourism development in recent years, which has impacted socio-economic life. Along with infrastructure improvements and the ongoing promotion of superior tourism, the area has attracted many domestic and international tourists. However, behind the progress in development and growth in the superior tourism sector, challenges have emerged that must be addressed by both the community and the government of Batang Batang, particularly due to the erosion of socio-economic conditions. There are legal issues, especially concerning safety and order, with a notable increase in criminal acts or deviant behavior, such as theft, robbery, and burglary of homes or businesses, assaults, and murders. This phenomenon not only harms the local community, the government, and industry players but also damages the image of the Batang Batang District. Crimes such as theft, robbery, looting, and others are becoming increasingly common in areas experiencing socio-economic development, including tourism that is being developed towards excellence.

Based on crime data, the Sumenep Regency area from 2019 to 2022, according to

data from the East Java Provincial Statistics Agency, shows a rising trend: 342 (2019), 538 (2020), 198 (2021), and 759 (2022). The crimes occurring in the Batang Batang area are not a sudden phenomenon. Instead, these crimes result from complex social dynamics where significant development and progress create economic and social disparities within the community. The presence of inequality and gaps in the distribution of economic benefits between more affluent groups and marginalized groups is one of the triggering factors, supported by economic issues, livelihood needs, access to education, and employment opportunities that do not match achievements, as well as low per capita income. As a result, individuals or communities may engage in criminal activities because the satisfaction gained from committing crimes (Illegitimate Means) is perceived to be greater than what can be achieved through legal means (Legitimate Means).

This condition demands an in-depth study of the factors causing crime. One relevant theory for analyzing this phenomenon is Emile Durkheim's Anomie Theory. Anomie Theory posits that crime can arise from the tension between the goals desired by individuals or society and the means available to achieve them. In the context of the Batang Batang District, significant tourism development and other socio-economic movements can cause social and economic imbalances, where not all individuals are able or have equal opportunities to benefit from the development. This mismatch between expectations and reality can trigger deviant behavior or crime. In situations where a community undergoes significant changes, such as the impact of tourism development or other socio-economic factors in Batang Batang, individuals or groups unable to adapt to these changes or feeling excluded from economic opportunities may experience social strain, ultimately stimulating them to engage in criminal activities.

Therefore, this research will focus on analyzing property crime in the Batang Batang District through the perspective of Anomie Theory. The study is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the relationship between significant tourism development and the increase in crime, based on Anomie Theory, and to offer resolutions for local governments and other stakeholders, particularly the community and social institutions, in formulating more effective and responsive crime prevention policies that address existing social and legal realities.

METHOD

The method used in this research is socio-legal (socio-legal research), which analyzes and examines the operation of law in society and the real conditions of society concerning law. Socio-legal research studies law as a social phenomenon, which is often unwritten and experienced by individuals in their societal life. Socio-legal research employs an interdisciplinary approach that combines legal perspectives with social sciences, meaning it explores how law functions within society and how society operates within the framework of law. Considering the sub-theme “the role of social institutions and inclusive communities in social policy,” socio-legal methods can assess the impact of legal policies on society and societal policies on law, where social aspects influence the existence of law, making it highly relevant in promoting societal roles for better policy changes.

This research is conducted in the Batang Batang District, Sumenep Regency, East Java Province, based on the high crime rates influenced by socio-economic tensions and the availability of crime data as explained in the background. Batang Batang is one of the districts consistently contributing to crime. Therefore, it is necessary to examine social

tensions in the community as an alternative approach to crime prevention by society and social institutions.

This study uses thematic analysis techniques, which is a method for identifying, analyzing, and presenting facts and field data related to crime resulting from anomie.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Social Influence on Law

Law is not merely viewed as norms or rules; it also manifests as behavior. Legal behavior is undoubtedly influenced by the community, driven by various interests, especially those based on subjectivity. Therefore, humans are the source of legal policies. Social behavior is always changing due to social backgrounds, influencing factors, and so on, so existing laws may not effectively address crime if they only focus on “what the law is and how to apply it.” The Batang Batang District, located in Sumenep Regency, East Java, is a region with a long history and rich social, economic, and cultural diversity, particularly with advancements in the tourism sector. Donald Black argues that in reality, social control can diverge from its pure style, combining with one another in a variety of ways [1]. The interdisciplinary diversity in Batang Batang can create social tensions that potentially lead to deviant behavior or crime. Crimes arising from complex issues must be addressed by starting with the “root problem,” meaning that all elements of the Batang Batang community should not only accept the law but also recognize whether the existing laws can tackle crimes caused by social tensions among the community and the role of the community in addressing these social tensions.

Basic Concepts of Anomie theory and its Application

Anomie Theory is highly relevant in analyzing crime by examining social tensions within a community, which necessarily involves community participation in crime prevention. Anomie Theory is a sociological concept first introduced by Emile Durkheim, a French sociologist, in his work “The Division of Labor in Society” (1893) and later developed in his book “Suicide” (1897). This theory focuses on situations where social norms in a society become unclear or absent, leading to social disorganization and disorientation. Durkheim used the term “anomie” to describe the uncertainty and confusion that arise when a society undergoes drastic changes or when social and economic norms and values begin to fade. In a state of anomie, individuals feel detached from the social rules that usually guide their behavior. According to Durkheim, anomie often occurs in modern societies where social and economic changes occur rapidly, causing the disintegration of traditional norms and leading to deviant behavior [2].

Thus, Anomie Theory offers an alternative solution to the “root problem,” highlighting how rapid societal changes due to diversity—such as modernization, urbanization, economic crises, educational issues, and political and cultural impacts—can disrupt existing norms and values. When the Batang Batang community’s expectations for social and economic goals (such as welfare) are unmet or difficult to achieve, individuals may turn to deviant means to reach their objectives. This explains why crime may emerge and increase in the Batang Batang District due to interdisciplinary social tensions. In summary, Anomie Theory is a key framework for understanding how changes in social structure can influence individuals and groups in a society to engage in crime or deviant behavior.

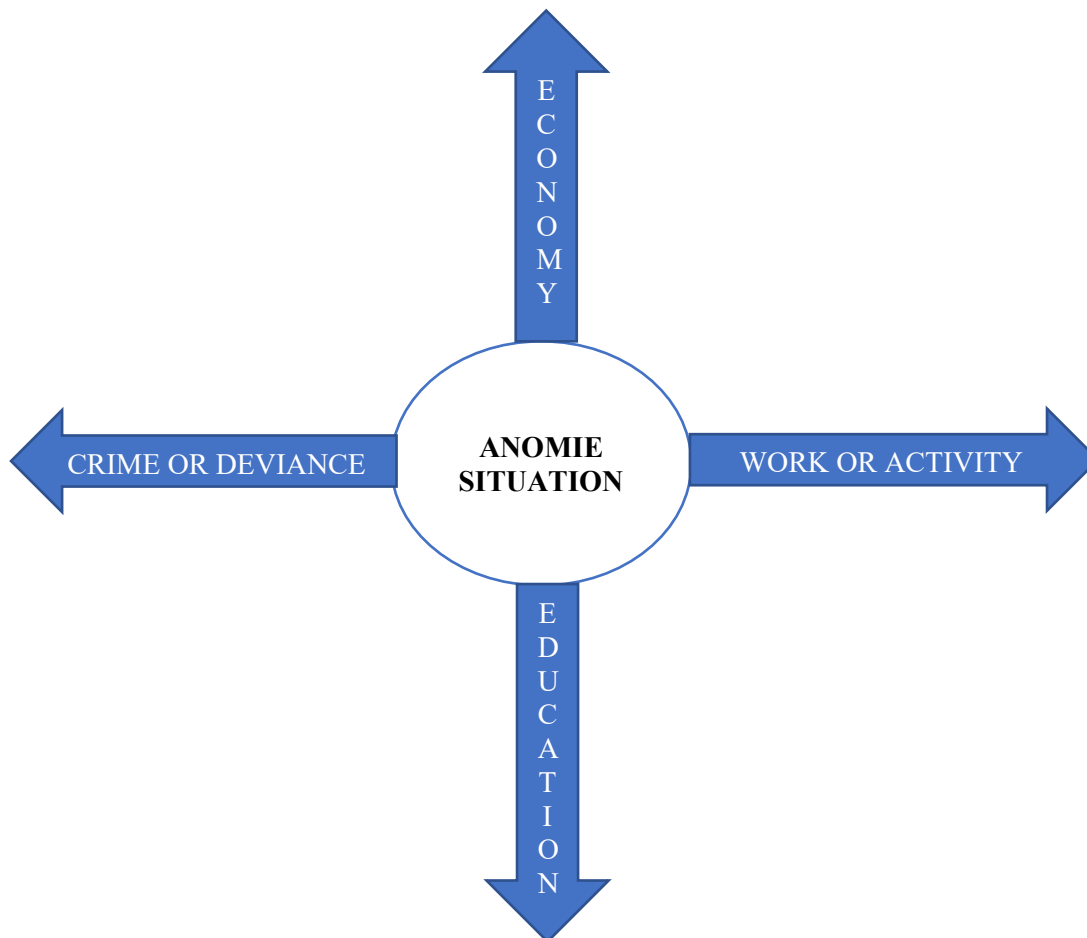
Relationship Between Crime Data and Anomie Theory

Table 1. Table of Crime Case Handling by Batang Batang Police

NO	Type of Criminal Offense	2021	2022	2023	2024	Justifikasi Data
1	Drag Abuse	1	2			
2	Theft	2	4	3	2	
3	Attempted Theft			1		
4	Fraud and Embezzlement			2		
5	Threat of Violence			2		
6	Persecution	1	3	4	4	
TOTAL		4	9	12	6	

(Source: Police Sector Batang Batang)

These are the crimes that the police know about and deal with, not counting the crimes that are not dealt with or are unknown.

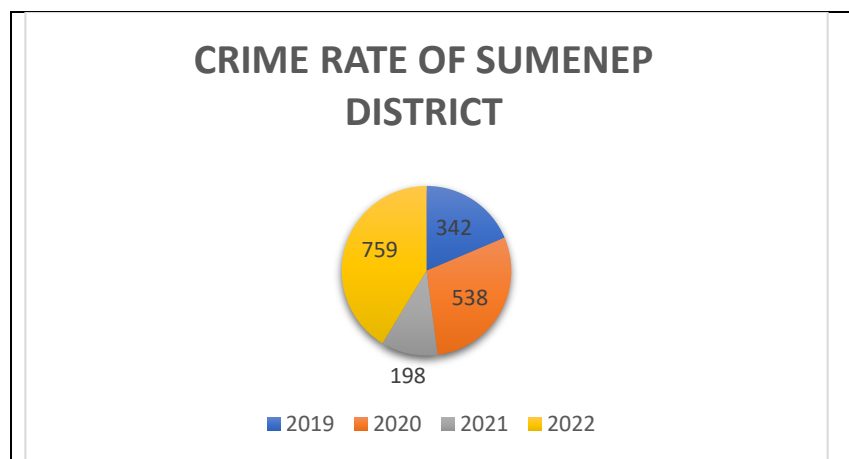


Picture 1. Circle of Anomie

Author Analyst.

The circle of anomie that includes education, work, economy, and crime is the result of the author's analysis which can be described as follows: when the Anomie situation is present in the middle of society, it will have an impact on other important sectors, which consist of: Education; failures or strains in the education system can cause individuals to feel they do not have sufficient skills or qualifications to participate in society productively. This leads to a sense of frustration and loss of direction which increases the risk of deviant behavior. Employment; as a result of educational setbacks, it can be difficult to qualify for employment so lack of access to decent work or unemployment can exacerbate feelings of anomie. The inability to meet economic expectations through legitimate employment can drive individuals to seek alternatives through criminal acts. The result of the inability to work or limited access to employment results in Economic Instability; economies, such as poverty, inequality, or recession, exacerbate social uncertainty and create more anomie situations. Individuals who cannot achieve economic well-being according to accepted norms (Ilegitimate Means) may seek shortcuts through crime. Which culminates in Crime. Crime; emerges as a form of response to the inability to achieve desired goals through conventional means. Crime also exacerbates anomie as people lose faith in the social and legal order.

When these four elements revolve and influence each other, they can create The Devils Circle of Anomie, where the anomie situation continues and causes social disorder or tension to continue, including increased crime rates and social discontent. Therefore, the Author analyzes and develops the concept of the idea of The Devils Circle of Anomie which describes the process in which failed education, inadequate employment, disrupted economic quality, and resulting crime reinforce each other in creating conditions of anomie in society resulting in the loss of order, legal values or norms as proposed by Emile Durkheim on the relationship between law and social change that law is a reflection of social solidarity in society[3].



Picture 2. Crime Graphic of Sumenep District

Source: Badan Pusat Statistics of East Jawa

Community Empowerment Strategy Based on Anomie Theory

In the application of Anomie theory, where crime is considered the result of a mismatch between the goals of society and the means applied to achieve them, it can use community empowerment strategies and social institutions. community empowerment that can be applied by the community itself includes:

- a. **Enforcement of Social Norms:** Communities can strengthen social norms through education and reintegration of positive socio-cultural values. Activities such as family discussions, neighborhood and neighborhood programs can help build a shared understanding of standards of behavior in the face of socio-economic progress or regression.
- b. **Establishment of Social Stimulants:** Communities can form support groups, such as neighborhood watch and protection groups, to provide assistance and guidance to members facing difficulties. This helps to reduce isolation and increase social connectedness.
- c. **Community Awareness and Education:** Communities are educated about the risks of crime and ways to prevent it through socialization activities on the importance of education and skills training to cope with socio-economic turmoil. This education helps people understand the impact of crime and encourages preventive action when anomie occurs.
- d. **Collaborative Law Enforcement Agencies:** Communities can work with law enforcement agencies such as the police, prosecution and judiciary to develop and implement crime prevention programs.
- e. **Local Economic Development and Growth:** Communities can engage in ventures that support local economic development, such as setting up small independent community enterprises (MSMEs) Small economic opportunities can reduce dissatisfaction and motivation rather than nothing in tackling crime.

Meanwhile, community empowerment that can be implemented by social institutions themselves includes:

- a. **Social, Economic and Legal Policies:** Governments and social institutions can design policies that reduce social and economic tensions, such as increasing access to education, skills training, and employment opportunities in every social, economic, political and legal field. These policies aim to reduce tensions and instability that can trigger deviant behavior.
- b. **Utilization of Community Organization Programs:** Communities to social institutions and social institutions to the government to provide funding for community empowerment programs, such as crime prevention, rehabilitation, and family support programs. This is one of the preventive efforts against crimes that occur. in line with Peter Mahmud Marzuki's view that the law exists as the result of the cooperation of a society[4].
- c. **Reintegration of Law Enforcement:** Improve efficiency and fairness in the justice system. This includes the proper deployment of law enforcement officers, improving arrest and trial procedures, and ensuring that law enforcement is fair and that there are no disparities in the laws of the community. Philipus M Hadjon in his book *Legal Argument* argues that legal practice involves two aspects, namely law formation and law application[5].
- d. **Social Infrastructure Policy:** Developments in social infrastructure, such as

community centers, playgrounds, and sports facilities, that can strengthen social ties and provide positive alternatives for communities mean that people have alternatives to channel social and economic tensions.

- e. Community Engagement Programs: Support programs that involve the community in decision-making and implementation of local policies. Community involvement in this process can increase the sense of collective responsibility and strengthen social norms. Often in practice, governments and social institutions do not bring the community into the policy discussions.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of this research, it can be concluded that the crimes that occur in Batang Batang Sub-district still have a relationship or correlation with the conditions of anomie that occur as a result of social tension. Rapid social change, cultural mixing, the achievement of welfare and what is expected creates an imbalance of norms in society, where traditional values or habits are eroded by modern socio-economic demands. The inability of some people to adapt to the new class or class development leads to feelings of powerlessness and social disintegration, which trigger deviant behavior, including crime.

In particular, the theory of anomie proposed by Émile Durkheim explains that the state of anomie, namely the absence or weakness of social norms that regulate behavior, is one of the main factors that encourage individuals or community groups to commit criminal acts. In the context of Kecamatan Batang Batang, the increase in crime is a manifestation of the inability of most people to achieve the expected socioeconomic status, so they choose the path of crime (Illegitimate means) as a solution to the conditions they experience.

Thus, the anomie theory-based approach provides a deeper understanding of the social and economic dynamics that influence the occurrence of property crime, and provides a basis for formulating more appropriate policies in tackling this problem. Expectations for the basis that is born must look at the circumstances and the ability of the community to achieve social and economic strata by Legitimate Means. The people of Batang Batang must be able to determine their lifestyle in society, relate the norms that govern so that they do not become confused and know their direction (Non Anomie).

ADVICE

To overcome anomie, the role of society and social institutions is crucial. Anomie theory asserts that when social norms and controls are weakened, there is a need to restore social harmonization through strengthening social networks, education, politics and values relevant to modern socio-economic challenges. Society, through families, social groups and communities, must be involved in rebuilding collective values that provide guidance for individuals, so that they have a clear direction in achieving socio-economic goals without resorting to criminal means.

Social institutions, such as the government, educational institutions, legal institutions and community organizations, need to be more active in providing education, skills training, and creating more equitable economic opportunities. With programs that empower communities and support economic inclusion, anomie conditions can be reduced, so that crime or deviant actions are no longer a choice that is considered natural or forced by individuals who feel excluded from the current socio-economic flow.

Suggested solutions to property crime based on anomie theory lie in collaboration between society and social institutions (Law Enforcement) in strengthening the values and norms that govern individual behavior, as well as providing broad avenues for the socio-economic welfare of the community amidst the dynamics of Anomie.

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