International Journal of Education, Vocational and Social Science
https://e-journal.citakonsulindo.or.id/index.php/IJEVSS
E-ISSN : 2963 4954
IJEVSS

Implementation *Of Restorative Justice* In The Settlement Of Minute Crimes By The Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Office (Study at Tulang Bawang Police)

Zainab Ompu Jainah[1]
[1,]University of Bandar Lampung, Indonesia
Ahmad Amiruddin S[2]
[2,]University of Bandar Lampung, Indonesia
Oman Ardinata.[3]
[3]University of Bandar Lampung, Indonesia

Email: [1]zainab@ubl.ac.id, [2]Ahmad.amiruddin64@gmail.com, [3]omanardinata@gmail.com

Abstract

Based on data on minor crimes in Tulang Bawang Regency, it is clear that cases of minor theft, minor assault, and disputes between residents still frequently occur, although the number is relatively small, namely a total of 30 cases in 2025. Of these, most cases were successfully resolved through the application of restorative justice by the Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit, with a total of 21 cases or around 70%. Minor theft cases have the highest resolution rate through RJ, namely 75%, followed by disputes between residents at 70%, and minor assault at 62.5%. This shows that the restorative justice approach is effective in reducing the burden on the courts and law enforcement officers. The formulation of the problem in this study is how is the implementation of restorative justice in resolving minor crimes by the Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit ? and what are the inhibiting factors in the implementation of restorative justice in resolving minor crimes by the Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit ? The research method uses a normative and empirical juridical approach. The types of data used are secondary data and primary data. Data collection was conducted through library research and field research. The data analysis used was qualitative juridical. Based on the research results and discussion, the following conclusions can be drawn: The implementation of restorative justice *in resolving minor crimes by the Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit is running well, although not yet optimal. Through* penal mediation *involving the perpetrator, victim, and family,*

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the settlement is carried out voluntarily and a peaceful agreement is reached. *This implementation provides a positive contribution by reducing the caseload and restoring social relations between parties. Inhibiting factors in the implementation of* restorative justice *in resolving minor crimes by the Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit come from internal and external factors. Internally, limited investigator resources, high workloads, and lack of supporting facilities affect the effectiveness of implementation. Externally, obstacles arise from the unpreparedness of victims or perpetrators to reconcile, third-party intervention, low public understanding, and the uneven dissemination of* restorative justice policies. *These obstacles mean that the* restorative justice process *cannot always be applied to all cases. The research suggests that the Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit should improve the quality of* restorative justice implementation *by strengthening investigator capacity with ongoing training related to* penal mediation *and empathetic communication. Provision of appropriate mediation space, clear technical guidelines, and regular documentation and evaluation are necessary to ensure a transparent, accountable, and consistent* restorative justice process. The Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit should expand the socialization of restorative justice *to the community so that victims and perpetrators understand its benefits and mechanisms. Collaboration with community leaders, local governments, and traditional institutions needs to be improved to minimize external obstacles. Strengthening internal coordination is also necessary so that the implementation of* restorative justice *runs more quickly, effectively, and in accordance with statutory provisions.*

Keywords: Implementation; Restorative Justice ; Minor Crimes; Criminal Investigation Unit.

INTRODUCTION

Criminal case resolution in Indonesia has been dominated by a retributive approach that emphasizes punishment for perpetrators, with the criminal justice system oriented more toward state revenge for unlawful acts committed by perpetrators. This orientation prioritizes punishment in the form of imprisonment without considering the needs of victims or broader social interests. As a result, the case resolution process often creates new problems such as a backlog of cases in court, overcrowding in correctional institutions, and the neglect of reparation for victims. Retributive settlement models also fail to address the root causes of crime, thus maintaining a high potential for recidivism. There is a growing need for more humane, equitable, and recovery-oriented alternative solutions, one of which is through restorative justice

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mechanisms.

The criminal justice system tends to prioritize punishment as a form of retribution for crimes committed, thus primarily focusing on sentencing perpetrators to imprisonment without regard for the needs of victims or the interests of society as a whole. However, in practice, this purely retributive approach often gives rise to various new problems, such as the backlog of cases in court, overcrowding in correctional institutions, and increased costs of administering justice. This situation also reduces the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in realizing the goals of the law, namely justice, certainty, and benefit. Therefore, demands have arisen that the resolution of criminal cases should not only be oriented towards punishment, but also pay attention to restoring the relationship between perpetrators, victims, and society. Restorative justice mechanisms exist as an alternative case resolution that is more humane, participatory, and substantively just.[1]

Restorative justice is an approach that emphasizes restoring the original situation by bringing together the perpetrator, victim, and community in resolving the crime. This principle emphasizes restoring social relationships rather than simply retaliation. In the context of minor crimes, the application of restorative justice is considered more relevant because not all cases must be resolved through formal litigation. This also aligns with the spirit of progressive law, which prioritizes substantive justice.[2]

The Indonesian National Police, as the vanguard of law enforcement, has been authorized to implement restorative justice in certain cases. This aligns with the National Police Chief's policy of issuing Police Regulation (Perpol) Number 8 of 2021 concerning Handling Criminal Offenses Based on Restorative Justice. This regulation serves as the legal basis for police officers to prioritize non-litigation resolution in minor criminal cases. Restorative justice is not merely an option but a policy that must be consistently implemented.

The problem of minor crimes in society remains quite common and involves various social strata, from both lower and middle economic classes. The cases that arise generally involve minor theft, minor assault, and disputes between residents, which, if processed through the courts, would place an excessive burden on both law enforcement officers and the community. To address this, the implementation of restorative justice by the Criminal Investigation Unit is one solution expected to resolve cases more quickly, affordably, and fairly. This approach emphasizes not only the aspect of punishment but also the restoration of social relations between

[1] Muladi. 2020. *Selected Chapters on the Criminal Justice System* , Alumni, Bandung, p. 112.
[2] Satjipto Rahardjo. 2019. *Progressive Law: A Synthesis of Indonesian Law* , Kompas, Jakarta, p. 45.

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perpetrators and victims and community involvement in conflict resolution. Restorative justice can be an effective alternative in handling minor crimes, while reducing pressure on the formal justice system. The success of this model will depend heavily on the understanding of law enforcement officers and public awareness of the importance of resolving disputes through deliberation and fairness.[3]

The implementation of restorative justice also has social benefits, including restoring relationships between perpetrators and victims, reducing stigma against perpetrators, and increasing a sense of justice in society. In many cases, victims actually need reparation and an apology more than simply seeing the perpetrator imprisoned. The success of restorative justice depends heavily on the willingness of both parties to reconcile and reach an agreement. With mediation facilitated by the police, it is hoped that conflicts can be resolved without causing lasting social harm.[4]

The implementation of restorative justice in resolving minor crimes in Indonesia shows great potential in shifting the paradigm of justice from a retributive approach to a more restorative and humane one. However, its implementation in practice has not always run smoothly. Various challenges arise, such as limited understanding among law enforcement officials, resistance from some members of the public who still believe that criminal cases must be resolved through the courts, and the potential for abuse of authority by officials. Furthermore, the legal culture of the community also influences the effectiveness of restorative justice implementation. This is one reason why research on the implementation of this policy in cases of minor crimes is important.

Research by Faisal Hadi Pramono and Laras Astuti revealed that the application of restorative justice to minor crimes at the Yogyakarta District Attorney's Office can be an effective alternative solution for resolving cases. Through this mechanism, cases with minor losses do not need to proceed to formal trials but can instead be resolved through a mediation approach between the perpetrator and the victim. This process has been proven to accelerate case resolution times while reducing the burden on judicial administration, thus aligning with the principles of simple, expeditious, and low-cost justice. Moreover, restorative justice encourages the restoration of social relationships disrupted by criminal acts, where victims receive more humane justice and perpetrators are given the opportunity to take responsibility for their actions. These findings demonstrate that the restorative approach not only reduces the number of cases

[3] Budi Santoso. 2021. *Burden of the Justice System on Minor Cases* , Indonesian Journal of Criminology, 12(1), p. 32.

[4] Marlina. 2018. *Victim Protection through Restorative Justice* , Refika Aditama, Bandung, p. 87.

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in court but also contributes to a more balanced sense of justice.[5]

Ramlah Yani and Hardianto Djanggih's research on the effectiveness of restorative justice implementation in the Makassar City Police Department shows that successful implementation is heavily influenced by the community's legal culture. The strong values of togetherness and social awareness within the community have been shown to support the resolution of cases through deliberation and peaceful agreements between perpetrators and victims. However, this research also highlights significant obstacles in the legal structure, particularly regulations that are not yet fully uniform, as well as limited human resources in understanding and consistently implementing the concept of restorative justice. These conditions have prevented the implementation of restorative justice from being optimal, despite its significant potential to strengthen the resolution of minor criminal cases. Strengthening the capacity of law enforcement officers and harmonizing regulations are crucial steps to ensure a more effective and sustainable implementation of restorative justice at the police level.[6]

However, numerous obstacles to the implementation of restorative justice have been documented in the literature, indicating that its effectiveness is still heavily influenced by institutional readiness and the existence of supporting regulations. Several studies have found that law enforcement officials' lack of understanding of the concept of restorative justice and differing interpretations of minor crimes often present obstacles in practice. Furthermore, limited human resources, a lack of competent mediators, and weak coordination between legal institutions also hamper smooth implementation. Regulations that are not yet fully integrated and uniform across various levels of law enforcement also hinder the implementation of restorative justice. This indicates that without strengthening the capacity of officials and harmonizing regulations, the primary goal of restorative justice providing just, expeditious, and humane solutions will be difficult to achieve optimally.[7]

Research conducted by Sri Rahayu Lestari Pade, M. Roem Syibly, and Fathul Hidayat on the Legal Analysis of the Implementation of Restorative Justice for Minor Assault Crimes at the Boalemo District Attorney's Office found that although restorative justice mechanisms have begun

[5] Faisal Hadi Pramono and Laras Astuti. 2021. *Implementation of Restorative Justice in Minor Crimes at the Yogyakarta District Attorney's Office* , *Indonesian Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* , 2(1), pp. 1-15.

[6] Ramlah Yani and Hardianto Djanggih. 2022. *Effectiveness of Restorative Justice Implementation in Makassar City Police Resort* , *Postgraduate Scientific Journal* , 6(2), pp. 244-260.

[7] Suhery and Zainab Ompu Jainah. 2022. *Analysis of Handling Narcotics Crimes Through Restorative Justice Based on Police Regulation Number 8 of 2021 (Study on the Metro Police Narcotics Research Unit)* , Journal of Education and Counseling (JPDK), Vol. 4 (4), p. 45.

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to be implemented, their implementation still faces a number of obstacles. These obstacles include a lack of understanding among law enforcement officers and the public regarding the concept of restorative justice , which gives rise to doubts in its implementation. In addition, there are differences in perception regarding the limits of crimes that can be classified as "minor," which has implications for inconsistent implementation in the field. This research also confirms the gap in the availability of competent mediators or facilitators, so that the mediation process does not always run effectively and balanced. These findings show that the success of restorative justice is not only determined by formal regulations, but also by the readiness of human resources and the public's understanding of the concept of more restorative justice.[8]

Minor crimes in Tulang Bawang Regency are quite common and involve people from all walks of life. These cases include minor theft, minor assault, and disputes between residents, as shown in the following table.

Table 1 Data on Minor Crimes in Tulang Bawang Regency in 2025

Case Type	Number of Cases 2025	Number of Cases Handled by Restorative Justice	Restorative Justice Handling (%)
Petty Theft	12	9	75%
Minor Assault	8	5	62.5%
Disputes between residents	10	7	70%
Total	30	21	70%

Source: Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit (2025).

Based on data on minor crimes in Tulang Bawang Regency, it appears that cases of minor theft, minor assault, and disputes between residents still occur frequently, although the number is relatively small, namely a total of 30 cases in 2025. Of these, the majority of cases were successfully resolved through the application of restorative justice by the Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit, with a total of 21 cases or around 70%. Cases of minor theft have the highest resolution rate through RJ, namely 75%, followed by disputes between residents at 70%, and minor assault at 62.5%. This shows that the restorative justice approach is effective in

[8] Sri Rahayu Lestari Pade, M. Roem Syibly and Fathul Hidayat. 2022. *Legal Analysis of the Implementation of Restorative Justice for Minor Assault Crimes at the Boalemo District Attorney's Office* , *Tambusai Education Journal* , 6(3), pp. 16765-16775

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reducing the burden on the courts and law enforcement officials. In addition, resolving cases through RJ also provides a faster, cheaper, and fairer process for the communities involved.

METHOD

The research method uses a normative and empirical legal approach. The data types used are secondary and primary data. Data collection was conducted through library research and field research. The data analysis used is qualitative legal.

DISCUSSION

Implementation of Restorative Justice in the Resolution of Minor Crimes by the Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit

The implementation of restorative justice in the resolution of minor crimes by the Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit is carried out by referring to restorative justice guidelines issued by the Police and the Prosecutor's Office. This mechanism is implemented through stages of clarification, penal mediation, and reaching a peaceful agreement between the perpetrator and victim. The Criminal Investigation Unit's role is to ensure that the process is transparent, voluntary, and does not conflict with applicable legal provisions. Furthermore, every decision to terminate a case must consider aspects of expediency, proportionality, and community response to the resolution. The Tulang Bawang Police strive to maintain consistent implementation of restorative justice to ensure it remains in line with the goals of humanistic and recovery-oriented law enforcement.

Restorative justice approach is implemented as an effort to provide faster, more effective case resolution, and is oriented toward reparation for the losses suffered by victims. Through this mechanism, the law enforcement process focuses not only on punishing the perpetrator but also on restoring social relationships disrupted by the crime. The application of restorative justice allows for dialogue between the perpetrator and the victim, resulting in mutual understanding and resolution. Furthermore, this approach can reduce the workload of law enforcement officers and prevent a backlog of cases in court. Restorative justice is a crucial instrument in realizing a more humane, proportional, and equitable case resolution process.

restorative justice process begins with the initial identification of cases that meet the substantive and administrative requirements for penal mediation in accordance with applicable guidelines. Investigators then assess the readiness of the parties, including ensuring that both the perpetrator and victim are willing to participate in the process voluntarily and without coercion.

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Investigators then bring the perpetrator and victim together in a mediation forum to explore the possibility of reaching a peaceful agreement oriented toward restitution and improved social relations. At this stage, the investigator's role is crucial in facilitating constructive communication so that the resolution process is fair and proportional. By implementing this approach, the Tulang Bawang Police strive to reduce the burden of case handling while maintaining social harmony within the community.

The implementation of restorative justice in minor cases also aims to avoid excessive criminalization of perpetrators, especially first-time offenders. During the process, investigators act as neutral mediators, ensuring that communication between the perpetrator and victim takes place in a conducive atmosphere. Each step is carried out with due regard for the principles of proportionality, voluntariness, and fairness for both parties. If an agreement is reached, the settlement is documented in a peace agreement report as the basis for terminating the investigation. Through this mechanism, the Tulang Bawang Police not only enforce the law but also encourage more humane conflict resolution.

The implementation of restorative justice by the Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit is primarily used in cases such as minor assaults, minor thefts, and disputes between residents. Investigators believe that cases with minimal social impact are more appropriately resolved through dialogue and peaceful agreements. In addition to expediting case resolution, this method also helps prevent broader hostility within the community. Investigators provide space for the parties to express their respective interests in order to find a just solution. Thus, the restorative justice process not only resolves legal cases but also repairs disrupted social relationships.

An interview with Noviarif Kurniawan, Head of Criminal Investigation at the Tulang Bawang Police, stated that the implementation of restorative justice is a strategic step prioritized in resolving minor cases. This approach can reduce the backlog of cases and ensure the legal process runs more efficiently. He believes that restorative justice benefits all parties because victims can receive immediate reparations without waiting for a lengthy court process. Furthermore, perpetrators can also take constructive responsibility without having to bear the consequences of excessive punishment. The Head of Criminal Investigation emphasized that this process remains professional, prioritizing voluntariness and protecting the rights of victims.

Based on the interview results, it can be analyzed that the Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit has implemented restorative justice as a key component of its modern law enforcement strategy. The Head of Criminal Investigation's statement demonstrates the

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institution's commitment to resolving cases in a more responsive and adaptive manner to community needs. The implementation, which emphasizes efficiency and recovery, demonstrates that this approach aims not only to reduce the caseload but also to improve the quality of substantive justice. This confirms that the police paradigm has shifted from merely repressive law enforcement to solution-based resolution. The interview reinforces that restorative justice has become an integral part of police practice in the Tulang Bawang area.

An interview with M. Putra Sasono, Head of Unit III of the Tipidter Unit of the Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit, revealed that implementing restorative justice in the field often requires a strong persuasive approach. Not all victims and perpetrators are immediately willing to reconcile, so investigators need to provide an understanding of the benefits of restorative resolution. Penal mediation must be carried out carefully to avoid pressure on either party. Communication, clarity of information, and neutrality of investigators are key to the success of the process. Coordination between investigative units is also necessary for the consistent implementation of restorative justice.

The interview revealed that the success of restorative justice is significantly influenced by the investigator's interpersonal skills. The statement indicates that communication and education for the parties play a crucial role before the mediation process begins. Furthermore, the investigator's neutrality is a key factor in ensuring the parties feel safe and unpressured in reaching an agreement. Implementing restorative justice requires internal coordination to ensure uniform procedures are applied. The interview emphasized that restorative justice requires not only regulations but also technical skills and soft skills from investigators.

Based on the research results, it can be analyzed that the implementation of restorative justice in resolving minor crimes by the Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit has been running well, although not optimally. The implementation is carried out through penal mediation that brings together the perpetrator, victim, and family, facilitated by investigators. The settlement process is carried out based on the voluntary consent of the parties, the achievement of a peaceful agreement, and the fulfillment of the requirements according to restorative justice guidelines. In general, the implementation of restorative justice has made a positive contribution to the resolution of minor cases by reducing the burden of case handling while restoring social relations between parties.

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International Journal of Education, Vocational and Social Science
https://e-journal.citakonsulindo.or.id/index.php/IJEVSS
E-ISSN : 2963 4954
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Factors Inhibiting the Implementation of Restorative Justice in the Resolution of Minor Crimes by the Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit

The implementation of restorative justice at the Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit faces several obstacles that impact its effectiveness. One frequently encountered obstacle is limited human resources, both in terms of number and the ability of investigators to conduct penal mediation. The restorative justice process requires investigators trained in persuasive, empathetic, and neutral communication, so not all investigators are equipped to implement it immediately. Furthermore, investigators' high workloads limit the time available for mediation. This situation hinders the optimal implementation of restorative justice , especially in cases requiring a more intensive approach.

The next obstacle relates to external factors, particularly the parties' unpreparedness to participate in the peace process. Not all victims are willing to give perpetrators the opportunity to correct their mistakes through restorative mechanisms. In some cases, victims' families reject mediation, believing that the perpetrators should still be punished to provide a deterrent effect. Conversely, some perpetrators or their families are unwilling to meet the victims' demands, making it difficult to reach an agreement. This imbalance often leads to restorative justice processes ending without an agreement.

Furthermore, the public's lack of understanding of the concept of restorative justice is also a significant obstacle. Many people still believe that criminal cases must be resolved through court proceedings. This lack of public awareness has prevented the public from fully understanding the benefits of restorative justice , such as rapid recovery and stigma-free resolution. As a result, some people hesitate to engage in penal mediation, even for minor cases. This slows down a resolution process that could otherwise be more streamlined.

An interview with Noviarif Kurniawan, Head of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Tulang Bawang Police, revealed that the main obstacle to implementing restorative justice stems from the awareness and preparedness of the parties involved. Many victims remain reluctant to reconcile because they believe the perpetrator must be held accountable for their actions through formal legal channels. The mediation process is sometimes hampered by intervention from outside parties that influence the victim's decision. Furthermore, time constraints and the high workload of investigators mean that penal mediation cannot always be carried out optimally. This presents a challenge in ensuring that every minor case receives restorative treatment in accordance with applicable guidelines.

Based on the statement by the Head of the Criminal Investigation Unit, it appears that

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obstacles to the implementation of restorative justice are influenced by both internal and external factors. Internal factors arise from time constraints and investigators' workloads, which reduce flexibility in mediation. Meanwhile, external factors are evident in the victim's rejection of peace agreements and the influence of third parties that interfere with the mediation process. This demonstrates that the success of restorative justice is not solely determined by formal regulations but is highly dependent on the willingness and understanding of the parties. This also underscores the need to increase the capacity of investigators and strengthen public education regarding the importance of a restorative approach.

An interview with M. Putra Sasono, Head of the Tipidter Unit, revealed that obstacles to implementing restorative justice often stem from communication difficulties between investigators and the parties. Some victims hesitate to participate in mediation due to a lack of understanding of the benefits of a peaceful resolution. Putra also revealed that some perpetrators or their families lack sufficient financial capacity to meet compensation demands, making it difficult to reach an agreement. The lack of supporting facilities, such as a dedicated mediation room, prevents the dialogue process from always proceeding conducively. These factors contribute to the ineffectiveness of the restorative justice process.

The interview results indicate that communication and the economic conditions of the parties are important inhibiting factors in the implementation of restorative justice. The lack of understanding between victims and perpetrators regarding the benefits of a peaceful settlement hinders the penal mediation process. Furthermore, the perpetrators' limited ability to provide compensation to victims is a practical obstacle preventing an agreement from being reached. The constraints on supporting facilities also demonstrate that the success of restorative justice also requires adequate physical facilities. These interviews confirm that the implementation of restorative justice requires the support of human resources, facilities, and community understanding to run optimally.

Based on the research results, it can be analyzed that the inhibiting factors for the implementation of restorative justice in resolving minor crimes by the Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit are both internal and external. Internally, limited investigator resources, high workloads, and a lack of supporting facilities are factors that influence the effectiveness of restorative justice implementation. Externally, obstacles arise from the unpreparedness of victims or perpetrators to reconcile, third-party intervention, and low public understanding of restorative justice mechanisms. In addition, the uneven dissemination of restorative justice policies also affects implementation at the police level. These obstacles mean

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that the restorative justice process cannot always be applied to all cases of minor crimes.

CONCLUSION

1. The implementation of restorative justice in the resolution of minor crimes by the Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit has been successful, although not yet optimal. It is implemented through penal mediation, which brings together the perpetrator, victim, and family, facilitated by investigators. The settlement process is based on the parties' voluntary consent, the achievement of a peace agreement, and the fulfillment of the requirements according to restorative justice guidelines. Overall, the implementation of restorative justice has made a positive contribution to the resolution of minor cases by reducing the burden of case handling while restoring social relations between the parties.
2. Factors inhibiting the implementation of restorative justice in resolving minor crimes by the Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit both internally and externally. Internally, limited investigative resources, high workloads, and a lack of supporting facilities are factors that affect the effectiveness of restorative justice implementation. Externally, obstacles arise from the unpreparedness of victims or perpetrators to reconcile, third-party intervention, and low public understanding of restorative justice mechanisms. In addition, the uneven dissemination of restorative justice policies also affects implementation at the police level. These obstacles mean that the restorative justice process cannot always be applied to all cases of minor crimes.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

1. The Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit is expected to improve the quality of restorative justice implementation by strengthening investigator capacity through ongoing training on penal mediation techniques and empathetic communication. Furthermore, appropriate mediation spaces and more detailed technical guidelines are needed to ensure each stage of restorative justice is carried out according to regulations. Regular documentation and evaluation are also crucial to ensure a more transparent, accountable, and consistent case resolution process.
2. The Tulang Bawang Police Criminal Investigation Unit is expected to expand public awareness campaigns on the importance of restorative justice in resolving minor crimes, ensuring that victims and perpetrators have a shared understanding of its benefits and mechanisms. Law enforcement also needs to increase collaboration with community leaders, local governments,

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and traditional institutions to minimize external obstacles such as rejection of peace settlements or the influence of third parties. Furthermore, internal coordination is needed to ensure that restorative justice can be implemented more quickly, effectively, and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

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