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**PREVENTIVE MEASURES BY THE POLICE IN HANDLING MOTORCYCLE  
GANG CRIME IN THE CITY OF JAMBI IN 2024 (CASE STUDY OF THE  
TELANAIPURA POLICE STATION IN THE CITY OF JAMBI)**

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**Abstract**

*This study aims to determine the preventive measures taken by the Telanaipura Police Station in handling motorcycle gang crime in Jambi City. Crimes committed by motorcycle gangs often cause unrest among the community, especially among teenagers who are the main perpetrators. The research approach used is descriptive qualitative, with data collection techniques through interviews, observation, and documentation. The results of the study show that the police have made various preventive efforts, such as providing guidance to schools, coaching juvenile offenders, and conducting routine patrols. However, the effectiveness of these efforts is still hampered by several factors, such as the young age of the perpetrators, the lack of involvement of parents, and the fact that motorcycle gangs do not have a fixed structure. This study uses social control theory as the basis for analysis, which emphasises the importance of social bonds in preventing deviant behaviour. With collaboration between the police, the community, and educational institutions, it is hoped that the prevention of motorcycle gang crime can be optimised.*

*Keywords: Preventive Measures, Motorcycle Gangs, Police, Social Control Theory, Adolescents*

**INTRODUCTION**

The period of growth from childhood to adolescence is a time when a person searches for their identity. It is commonly believed that adolescence is a transitional period between childhood and adulthood (Ramot, 2015). They move from dependence on their parents to independence. There are two characteristics that can be observed when a child enters adolescence, namely physical and psychological changes (Surbakti, 2008). The physical characteristics that appear to change in adolescent boys are marked by

muscle changes, deepening of the voice, growth of the Adam's apple, and growth of facial hair. Meanwhile, in adolescent girls, these characteristics are marked by breast development and menstruation. In addition, development based on psychological characteristics is difficult to observe with the naked eye. Broadly speaking, physical development in adolescents can be seen in their intellectual, emotional, and behavioural characteristics.

Errors in processing emotions can cause unusual turmoil in adolescents. This makes adolescents vulnerable to negative influences such as illegal drug use, promiscuity, access to pornographic websites, drunkenness, and even motorcycle gangs, whose presence often causes concern among the surrounding community. These behaviours can be exacerbated if the environment in which they grow and develop does not prohibit or even encourages such negative activities. All of these adolescent misbehaviours go through stages that are processed by the adolescent themselves, starting with curiosity that is not guided by the role of parents in the family, until the adolescent tries to engage in these negative activities. The family is the first social experience that a child has. Within the family, children begin to form perceptions, both about the outside world and about themselves. As the smallest social unit, the family provides the main foundation for a child's growth and development. Meanwhile, the surrounding environment and school also influence this development process (Andriyani, 2020).

One form of delinquency and even crime among adolescents that continues to occur year after year is the existence of motorcycle gangs. Motorcycle gangs are groups of people who share the same interest or hobby in riding motorcycles, and usually ride in groups, either in convoys or on tours (Jauhar, 2018).

The phenomenon of motorcycle gangs in the city of Jambi, particularly in the Telanaipura Police jurisdiction, cannot be separated from the characteristics of adolescent and youth development, which is a phase of identity search, the need for peer recognition, and the desire to show one's existence in public spaces. In this context, motor vehicles often serve as a medium for self-expression and a symbol of status; however, when this expression interacts with social patterns that are permissive towards violence, deviant behaviour emerges that impacts public order. This framework aligns with the understanding that peer groups have a strong influence in shaping conformity in behaviour, including the urge to commit offences in exchange for social acceptance from the group.

A number of reports on the negative behaviour of motorcycle gangs in Jambi Province illustrate that this issue is not incidental, but rather recurrent

and widespread in certain locations. Therefore, its handling requires an approach that is not only oriented towards post-incident enforcement, but also early prevention at vulnerable points. In the context of the Telanaipura Police Station in Jambi City, effective prevention will start from mapping the situation—who the perpetrators are, when the vulnerable hours are, where the gathering points are, and the common patterns of behaviour—so that the interventions carried out are on target.

The 2021–2024 crime data presented in the introduction shows that the dynamics of public order disturbances in the Telanaipura Police Station area of Jambi City do not exist in isolation but are influenced by social factors (social circles, parental supervision), situational factors (public spaces with minimal supervision), and instrumental factors (easy access to facilities that can be misused). By reading the data proportionally, researchers position motorcycle gangs as one of the contributors to disturbances of order that require preventive management rather than merely responding after an incident has occurred.

Upon closer examination, the emergence of motorcycle gangs in Jambi City cannot be separated from weak environmental supervision, a lack of positive activities for teenagers, and a lack of legal awareness among the younger generation. Therefore, the role of the police through preventive efforts is very important. Preventive measures are considered more effective because they attempt to address the causes of deviant behaviour before it develops into more serious crimes. Through preventive measures, the police can collaborate with families, schools, and the community to supervise and guide young people so that they do not fall into motorcycle gang activities.

Considering these conditions, this research is of high urgency. The results of this study are expected to provide a comprehensive overview of the preventive strategies that have been implemented by the Telanaipura Police Station in Jambi City, the obstacles encountered in their implementation, and solutions that can be applied to minimise motorcycle gang crime. In addition to being academically beneficial as a contribution to the fields of law and criminology, this research also has practical value for the police and the wider community in creating a safe, orderly, and conducive situation in Jambi City.

## **THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

The theory used in this study is social control theory. Social control theory explains that individuals in society have the same tendency to be good or bad. Whether someone is good or bad depends entirely on the individual's social environment (Anarta, 2021). This occurs when bonds with family and

society weaken or break, which is where the participation of parents and the surrounding community is needed to help create public order (Leonardus Andrew Pramono & Amrizal Siagian, 2024).

Social control theory explains that there are three main components that form the basis for understanding the causes of deviant behaviour. These three components include: first, a lack of adequate self-control (internal control) during childhood; second, the loss of this control over time; and third, the absence of clear social norms or the occurrence of conflicts between norms, as found in school, family, or neighbourhood environments. These three factors are important in weakening social control over individuals.

Furthermore, there are two types of control, namely personal control and social control (Abdul Muin, 2022). Personal control, also known as internal control, refers to an individual's ability to control themselves and resist the urge to fulfil their needs through means that violate the norms and laws that apply in society. Meanwhile, social control, also known as external control, refers to the ability of social groups and institutions in society to enforce norms and regulations so that they can function effectively (Romli Atmasasmita, 1992).

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study uses a qualitative approach as the main method for exploring and understanding the phenomena that are the focus of the study. According to Wiratna Sujarweni (year), qualitative research is a type of research that aims to produce findings that cannot be obtained through statistical procedures or other quantitative methods that are numerical and measurable. In other words, this approach emphasises a deeper understanding of social reality, values, meanings, and the subjective experiences of individuals or groups in a particular context.

In general, the qualitative approach is a scientific research procedure that produces descriptive data, both in the form of written and spoken words from the people or actors being observed, as well as behaviours that can be traced directly through observation. This approach allows researchers to understand the subjects' perspectives on their social world, as well as how they give meaning to events, actions, and social relationships around them.

Therefore, in the context of this study, the data collected is not in the form of numbers, tables, or statistics, but rather narratives, direct quotations, descriptive sentences, and visual documentation such as images or photographs related to the phenomenon being studied. All of this data was obtained through data collection techniques such as in-depth interviews,

participatory observation, document studies, and behavioural recording, which were then analysed interpretively to draw meaning and conclusions based on the existing social context.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The theory used by researchers to analyse the phenomenon in this study is Social Control Theory. This theory views the control of human behaviour as the centre of attention, particularly in the context of delinquency and crime, which is associated with sociological factors such as family structure, education level, and the influence of dominant groups. Therefore, the approach in Social Control Theory has fundamental differences compared to other control theories.

Social control theory does not view individuals as naturally law-abiding, but rather emphasises the antithetical view that people need to learn not to break the law or commit crimes.

Travis Hirschi mapped out four main elements of internal social control. These four main elements in Hirschi's framework are called *social bonds*, which serve to control individual behaviour. There are four key elements in the theory of social control regarding criminal behaviour, which include:

1. Attachment: This element refers to the strength of emotional bonds between individuals and key socialisation agents, such as parents, teachers, and community leaders. Strong relationships with these parties are usually a source of positive influence that encourages individuals to obey the law.
2. Commitment: This describes the extent to which a person has invested in conventional activities and life goals. The greater the commitment to a structured and successful future, the less likely an individual is to engage in deviant behaviour.
3. Involvement: Indicates the level of a person's participation in positive and beneficial activities that are recognised by society. The higher their involvement in such activities, the less time and opportunity they have to commit offences.
4. Belief: Refers to an individual's acceptance of society's moral values and norms as legitimate and worthy of respect. The stronger an individual's belief in the legitimacy of social rules, the greater the tendency to behave in accordance with the norms.

Reiss classifies control into two types, namely personal control and social control. Personal control, also known as internal control, refers to an

individual's ability to resist their inner urges so as not to fulfil their needs in ways that conflict with the social norms that apply in society.

*Social control*, or external control, refers to the ability of social groups or institutions in society to effectively enforce norms or regulations. In this study, the researcher will describe the role of the Telanaipura Police Station in Jambi City in carrying out preventive efforts against delinquency or crimes committed by motorcycle gangs. The police are an institution that has the authority to carry out external social control.

This is evident in the phenomenon occurring in the Telanaipura sub-district, where there has been a rise in cases of delinquency/crime committed by teenagers in the form of motorcycle gangs. If left unchecked, such activities will become part of the solution to alleviate the antisocial activities that occur. However, the phenomenon of motorcycle gangs can be reduced through collective awareness. This awareness can take the form of control exercised by families, the community, and, most importantly, community and religious leaders. In addition, the role of authorised state institutions, one of which is the police, is also important. With this interconnection, control can be exercised jointly and orderly conditions can be created.

The researcher used social control theory to analyse the social control that has been carried out by the authorities on the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency/crime by motorcycle gangs in Telanaipura District. Prevention is a form of external control. This theory states that imposing appropriate sanctions is a useful control mechanism. In a heterogeneous society, crime is normal and can only be prevented by eliminating opportunities to commit it. In practice, the Telanaipura Police Station in Jambi City has taken several preventive measures, such as:

- a. Educating the community about the dangers of motorcycle gangs. This education is carried out by Bhabinkamtibmas Telanaipura Police Station, Jambi City.
- b. Routine patrols by the Telanaipura Police Station in Jambi City, which are carried out regularly around the jurisdiction of the Telanaipura Police Station in Jambi City.
- c. An operation called "Strong Point" implemented by the Telanaipura Police Station in Jambi City, where all personnel of the Telanaipura Police Station in Jambi City are ordered to stand guard in front of the fountain at the Jambi City Governor's Office in an effort to prevent illegal racing at night and motorcycle gangs.

However, in its implementation, there are still several obstacles that hinder the effectiveness of the preventive measures taken by the Telanaipura Police Station in Jambi City.

The obstacles faced in preventive efforts against motorcycle gang crime are quite complex and multidimensional. One of the main obstacles faced is the fact that the youths involved in these actions often do not identify themselves as part of a formal motorcycle gang with a specific name or organisational structure. They only form groups based on their region or village of origin, without mentioning specific gang names. They also tend to gather spontaneously, quickly and suddenly, mainly through informal communication or social media, making it difficult for the police to monitor and map them systematically.

The absence of a clear group name and a fixed meeting place, such as a headquarters or base camp, makes it difficult for the police to take direct preventive action, as they do not have a location that can be targeted for regular patrols or community outreach. This is in stark contrast to conventional motorcycle gangs, which have symbols, attributes, structures, and specific locations that can be monitored more easily.

The next obstacle is the age of the perpetrators, most of whom are minors and still active students at school. This adolescent age is a limitation for law enforcement officials, because under the applicable legal system, children and adolescents receive special protection, so that legal action cannot be taken in a repressive manner or with harsh measures that are usually applied to adult perpetrators. The handling of perpetrators who are still minors must consider a more humanistic, rehabilitative, and educational approach in accordance with the principles of child protection.

In addition, the lack of firmness and involvement of parents in supervising and guiding their children is also a serious obstacle to prevention efforts. Many parents tend to ignore, tolerate, or even be unaware of their children's deviant behaviour outside the home. When the police try to establish communication or take action, the response from parents is sometimes unsupportive, either due to a lack of understanding, embarrassment, or unpreparedness to face the reality that their child is involved in negative activities.

The combination of no clear group identity, the legal protection afforded to perpetrators due to their age, and the lack of control and assertiveness from the family environment makes the prevention efforts undertaken by the police less effective. Therefore, a more comprehensive and

collaborative approach is needed, involving the community, schools, and especially parents in creating a strong and sustainable social control system.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of research conducted on the preventive efforts of the Telanaipura Police Sector in dealing with motorcycle gang crime in the city of Jambi in 2024, it can be concluded that although various preventive measures have been taken, such as providing information to schools, coaching juvenile offenders, and conducting routine patrols, the effectiveness of these efforts has not been fully optimal. This is due to a number of structural and social constraints.

Conceptually, the results of this study confirm that a successful preventive design always relies on the synchronisation of actors (police station-school-neighbourhood association/parents) and data (citizen reports, field documentation, and maps of vulnerable times/places). At the implementation level, this synchronisation translates into three key practices: (1) dialogue-based patrols at vulnerable times and gathering points, (2) structured guidance for juvenile offenders involving parents and schools, and (3) provision of regular and interesting alternative activities. These three practices reinforce each other; failure in one element is usually followed by an increase in the likelihood of crowds and convoys forming.

The practical implication of these findings is the need for documented collaboration protocols: brief SOPs for citizen reporting, a format for school feedback after outreach, and an agreed-upon schedule for updating hazard maps across stakeholders. With these protocols in place, preventive efforts will not depend on ad hoc moments, but will run as a cycle that can be repeated, evaluated, and improved. Ultimately, it is this sustainability that determines whether prevention can reduce incidents in a stable manner, rather than just temporarily.

Preventive efforts against motorcycle gangs in the Telanaipura Police Station area of Jambi City are still considered ineffective due to several obstacles, namely:

- 1) The perpetrators of motorcycle gang crimes are generally minors who are still in school. This age factor makes it difficult for the police to apply strict legal measures due to child protection regulations. In addition, many of these perpetrators are not members of formal motorcycle gangs, but rather form spontaneous groups based on their neighbourhoods. This makes it difficult for the police to map and carry out specific prevention measures, as there are no fixed headquarters

or group identities.

- 2) The lack of parental involvement and weak family control are contributing factors to the increase in motorcycle gang activity. Many teenagers involved in violence or brawls do not receive adequate supervision at home, making them more susceptible to negative social influences. This is in line with the social control theory used in this study, which states that weak social bonds such as affection, commitment, involvement, and trust in norms can increase an individual's tendency to deviate.
- 3) The police have generally shown considerable effort in carrying out their preventive functions, particularly through Bhabinkamtibmas activities in communities and schools. However, limitations in human resources, time, and the complexity of today's youth make it difficult for preventive measures to significantly reduce the number of motorcycle gang offences.

Based on the results of research on preventive efforts carried out by the Telanaipura Police Sector in dealing with motorcycle gang crime in the city of Jambi, the author offers several suggestions that are expected to be taken into consideration by relevant parties in optimising the prevention of motorcycle gang crime.

#### 1. Recommendations for the Telanaipura Police Sector

The police, as the spearhead in maintaining public security and order, have a very important role. Preventive measures that have been implemented, such as providing guidance to schools, conducting routine patrols, and providing guidance to juvenile motorcycle gang members, need to be improved in terms of both quality and quantity. Guidance should not only focus on legal aspects, but also emphasise character building, strengthening moral values, and developing life skills.

In addition, the Telanaipura Police Station in Jambi City is advised to strengthen its cooperation with other units or agencies, such as the Education Office, Social Services, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in the field of child and youth protection. In this way, the preventive measures taken by the police will not only be repressive or law-based, but will also address psychological, social, and educational aspects in a more comprehensive manner.

The routine patrols that have been carried out need to be scheduled more carefully, taking into account the hours when gangs are most active and the locations that are often used as gathering points. The police station could also form a special team of mentored youths tasked with assisting with the

outreach programme, so that former gang members are directly involved as agents of change.

## 2. Recommendations for the Local Government

The Jambi City Local Government is expected to participate in supporting efforts to prevent motorcycle gang crime through policies and programmes oriented towards character building among youth. One such effort is to allocate a budget for positive activities for young people, such as sports tournaments, art festivals, or skills training, which can serve as alternative outlets for youthful energy.

In addition, the Jambi City Government can initiate a law-conscious village or sub-district programme involving the police, schools, and the community. This programme can be used as a forum for discussion and ongoing socialisation about the dangers of motorcycle gangs, so that the community feels involved in creating a safe and conducive environment.

## 3. Advice for Parents and Families

The family is the first and foremost social institution in shaping a child's behaviour. Therefore, parents are expected not only to focus on fulfilling their children's material needs, but also to provide sufficient attention, affection, and supervision. Many cases of juvenile delinquency, including involvement in motorcycle gangs, are influenced by weak communication and emotional relationships between parents and children.

Parents need to establish open communication with their teenage children, set a good example, and pay attention to their children's social environment. Supervision of social media use is also very important, given that many motorcycle gangs are formed and interact through digital platforms. With parental involvement, it is hoped that children will not seek self-recognition through motorcycle gangs.

## 4. Recommendations for Educational Institutions

Schools, as the second home after the family, have a strategic role in preventing teenagers from joining motorcycle gangs. Therefore, schools need to strengthen character education, discipline, and moral values in the learning process. Guidance counsellors can be more proactive in detecting students who are potentially involved in deviant behaviour.

Schools can also establish partnerships with local police through programmes such as *Polisi Sahabat Anak* (Police Friends of Children) or *Polisi Masuk Sekolah* (Police Enter Schools). Such programmes are expected to bring the police closer to students, so that the image of the police in the eyes of teenagers is no longer that of a frightening authority, but rather that of a partner and friend who provides positive guidance.

## 5. Suggestions for Further Research

This study still has limitations, mainly because it only focuses on one research area, namely the Telanaipura Police Station in Jambi City. Therefore, it is recommended that future researchers expand the scope of their research by involving more police stations or even conducting comparisons between regions. In addition, the use of mixed methods (qualitative and quantitative) can enrich the data, thereby providing a more comprehensive picture of the factors causing motorcycle gang crime and strategies for preventing it.

Future research could also explore the role of social media in shaping the identity and networks of motorcycle gangs, as the current phenomenon of digitalisation greatly influences the behaviour of young people.

In addition to the suggestions already mentioned, it is also important to emphasise the sustainability aspect of motorcycle gang prevention programmes. Short-term programmes, such as one-off raids or one-off educational sessions, tend to have less of a significant impact if they are not supported by regular activities. Therefore, it is recommended that the Telanaipura Police Station develop an annual calendar of preventive activities, including a schedule of routine patrols in vulnerable areas, thematic lectures in schools, and youth community development activities. This calendar can be used as a common reference for the police, schools, parents, and neighbourhood associations so that all parties have the same guidelines.

Furthermore, the handling of motorcycle gangs should be strengthened with a data-based approach. The police station can develop a simple recording system that includes the location of the incident, time, number of perpetrators, and type of action taken. This data will assist in mapping trends, determining vulnerable hours, and adjusting prevention strategies from time to time. With a clear database, preventive efforts will not only be reactive but also proactive and evidence-based.

This study also recommends increased collaboration with non-governmental organisations and local communities. For example, involving youth organisations, youth groups, and sports enthusiasts to become partners in providing positive alternative activities for young people. This cross-actor collaboration will expand the reach of prevention without overburdening the police. In this context, the police act as facilitators and supervisors, while the community takes an active role in creating safe spaces.

Finally, there needs to be a mechanism for periodic evaluation of the prevention programmes being implemented. Evaluations can be conducted every six months with the involvement of school representatives, community leaders, and the police. With consistent evaluation, strategies that are proven

to be effective can be strengthened and expanded, while programmes that are less effective can be immediately improved. This will ensure that every preventive effort truly provides tangible benefits for the security and order of the community in Jambi City.

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