VICTIMLESS CRIMINAL ARRANGEMENTS: A REVIEW OF MORALITY CRIMES
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Abstract

Criminal law without victims is a legal concept that focuses on the restoration of social harm and the protection of societal values, rather than solely addressing individual harm. Acts of indecency involve behaviors that violate social norms without directly affecting physical or economic victims. The regulation of victimless crimes in the context of decency laws is relevant to changes in societal behavior and modern technology, but it also raises questions about the balance between protecting societal values and individual freedoms. This research aims to evaluate the regulation of victimless crimes in the context of decency laws in Indonesia and analyze the impact of implementing these regulations on modern society. The study employs normative research methods to analyze the relevant legal regulations concerning victimless crimes in the context of decency. Data will be collected through literature reviews, including online and printed legal sources, with the goal of providing valuable recommendations for policymakers and legal practitioners addressing issues related to victimless crimes in decency. The research findings highlight that in Indonesia, the regulation of victimless crimes in the context of decency includes laws aimed at preserving the morality and decency of society as a whole without requiring individual victims who feel harmed. Examples of such laws include the Pornography Law, Gambling Regulation, and Child Protection Law. While these laws protect moral values, they can also pose threats to individual freedoms, necessitating ongoing evaluation to strike the right balance. The implementation of these regulations in modern society has complex impacts, including on individual human rights, legal effectiveness, social norms, culture, and government-citizen relations. Achieving a balance between safeguarding individual human rights and regulating behavior perceived as harmful to society is crucial in the development of modern society.

Keywords: Victimless, Criminal Law, Morality Crimes

PENDAHULUAN

Victimless crime is a criminal law concept that is increasingly receiving attention in various legal systems throughout the world. This is primarily due to a paradigm shift in the understanding of criminal law, where the focus is not only placed on the recovery
of personal losses, but also on the recovery of social losses and the protection of societal values. This concept reflects an important evolution in the view of criminal law, which increasingly recognizes that criminal acts do not always result in clear physical or economic victims. Moreover, criminal acts can damage the social and moral order of a society, and therefore, efforts need to be made to protect these values.¹

Morality crime is an important domain in criminal law which specifically considers behavior that is considered to violate the moral or ethical norms of society. What differentiates morality crimes from other types of crimes is that these actions are considered to violate social norms without involving victims who physically or economically suffer as a result of the behavior.² This field includes various actions that are considered a violation of the moral and ethical values that apply in a society. Examples include pornography, sexual harassment, gambling, as well as various other acts that, without harming the individual physically or economically, are considered to violate the moral and ethical order prevailing in society.

Victimless criminal regulations in the context of morality crime have significant relevance to the development of modern society and technology. Changes in societal behavior patterns, especially through the use of the internet and social media, have brought new challenges in dealing with the increasing number of victimless violations of morality.³ Apart from that, a criminal law approach that is more oriented towards protecting the social and moral values of society has also raised questions about the limits and balance between protecting moral values and individual freedom. In an era where information and communication are becoming more easily accessible via online platforms, regulations governing behavior that is considered to violate moral norms without involving physical or economic victims are becoming increasingly important. While protecting social and moral values is the duty of the state, it is also important to ensure that individual human rights, especially in terms of freedom of expression, remain the main basis in efforts to regulate victimless crimes, especially in the context of morality crimes in Indonesia.

Law Number 44 of 2008 concerning Pornography is one of the relevant laws and regulations which provides a legal basis for regulating actions that are considered to violate the norms of decency. Although this law aims to protect the moral values of society, it also pays attention to the importance of maintaining individual freedom of expression.⁴ In addition, in the context of information and technology law, Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Information and Electronic Transactions (ITE) plays an important role in

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regulating actions that occur in cyberspace, including actions that violate moral norms. In this case, ITE combines the protection of moral values with freedom of expression, creating a delicate balance between these two interests.\(^5\)

However, efforts to regulate victimless crime in the context of morality do not always gain approval and often give rise to debates about the extent to which the state should intervene in individual affairs and how to ensure that individual human rights remain protected. This debate reflects the tension between protecting moral values and individual freedom, which is a fundamental aspect of a democratic society. On the one hand, there is the argument that decency regulations that are too strict could be considered a form of excessive government interference in individuals’ private lives, and could threaten freedom of speech and expression. On the other hand, there is a view that the state has a role and responsibility to maintain morality and social norms which are considered important for the welfare of society as a whole.

This research aims to explain the legal framework that regulates victimless crimes in the context of morality crimes, as well as analyzing the impacts and challenges associated with the implementation of this regulation. Apart from that, this research will also look at legal practices from various countries that have experience in regulating victimless crimes in the context of morality. This research is important because exploring a deeper understanding of victimless criminal arrangements in the context of morality crimes can help in formulating more effective and balanced policies in maintaining moral values while safeguarding individual freedom. In addition, this research can provide valuable insights for legal practitioners, policy makers and the general public regarding the development of criminal law in facing the challenges that arise in the modern era.

Thus, this research will make a significant contribution to the development of criminal law in Indonesia, especially in the regulation of victimless crimes in the context of morality crimes. Apart from that, this research can also be an important reference for researchers and legal practitioners who are interested in the study of criminal law, human rights, and legal developments in an increasingly complex society. The problem formulation in this research is as follows:

1. How are victimless criminal regulations implemented in the context of morality crimes in Indonesia?
2. What is the impact of the implementation of victimless criminal regulations on acts of decency on the development of modern society?

This research will use normative research methods as the main approach. Normative research methods are used to analyze laws and regulations relating to the regulation of victimless crimes in the context of morality crimes. In the context of this research, normative research methods will allow researchers to explore relevant laws and regulations, such as the Pornography Law and the ITE Law, as well as international regulations relating to the protection of decency and human rights. Sources of research

material that will be used include legal documents, namely legal texts, government regulations, court decisions, and international regulations related to victimless crimes in the context of morality. The sources of this research material will provide a strong basis for normative analysis in this research. For data collection, this research will use literature study techniques to identify, collect and analyze relevant legal materials. This research will utilize legal sources available online and in print, including legal databases, law libraries, and official government documents.

Data analysis techniques in this research will include content analysis, where the legal material collected will be analyzed in detail to identify the legal framework that regulates victimless crimes in the context of morality, as well as to identify the impacts and challenges associated with the implementation of these regulations. This analysis will provide a deeper understanding of the extent to which current regulations reflect social values and the extent to which they ensure the protection of individual human rights. In addition, comparisons with legal practices in other countries that have experience in regulating victimless crimes in the context of morality will also be carried out to provide a broader perspective in this research. The results of the data analysis will be used to formulate findings and recommendations in this research, which are expected to provide valuable guidance for policy makers and legal practitioners in dealing with issues related to victimless crimes in the context of morality.

PEMBAHASAN
The Criminal Regulations without Victims in the Context of Moral Crimes Applied in Indonesia

The regulation of victimless crime in the context of morality crime in Indonesia is a complex issue. Victimless crime refers to criminal acts that do not involve individual victims who feel directly harmed. On the contrary, the crime is based on legal and moral principles that involve the decency and morality of society in general. In Indonesia, victimless criminal regulations in the context of morality crimes are mainly related to acts such as pornography, gambling and several other forms of immoral acts. In order to provide a more comprehensive understanding of this topic, we will explore relevant legislation and its social and legal impact on society.

Pornography and Law Number 44 of 2008

Law Number 44 of 2008 concerning Pornography in Indonesia is one of the most striking examples of victimless criminal regulations in the context of morality crimes. This law is designed to strictly regulate various forms of pornographic acts and criminalize them without requiring individual victims to report such acts. The main focus of these laws is to maintain the morality of society in general, not to protect individuals who may be disturbed by pornographic material. The definition of pornography in this law is very broad, including all forms of expression such as images, writing, sound, moving images,

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6 Krismanto, **PENERAPAN RESTITUSI SEBAGAI BENTUK PERLINDUNGAN HUKUM TERHADAP ANAK KORBAN TINDAK PIDANA KESUSILAAN DI PENGADILAN NEGERI TANJUNG JABUNG TIMUR** (Jambi: Universitas Batanghari, 2019).
animations, cartoons, conversations, body movements, or other forms of communication that contain pornographic elements.

Under this law, there is no requirement for individual victims to report acts of pornography. Law enforcement is aimed at maintaining the decency of society as a whole and protecting the younger generation from exposure to pornographic material which is considered to damage morals and social values. In other words, this law reflects a paternalistic approach in criminal law, where the government plays an active role in regulating individual behavior to maintain social morality, even if it is done without complaints or reports from parties who feel aggrieved.

In its implementation, Law Number 44 of 2008 concerning Pornography can become a source of debate related to individual rights and freedom of expression. Some see it as a positive step to protect society from unwanted exposure to pornographic material, while others criticize it as excessive government interference in private lives and as a potential risk to freedom of speech and expression. However, this law remains a clear example of how criminal law can be used to regulate behavior deemed detrimental to societal morality, even without individual victims coming forward.

**Gambling and Law Number 7 of 1974**

Law Number 7 of 1974 concerning Controlling Gambling is an example of legal regulation in Indonesia which confirms gambling as an illegal activity. The main focus of this law is not only limited to the financial aspects that may arise as a result of gambling, but more on the social and moral impacts that can damage society. Overall, this law aims to maintain public morality and decency. In Indonesian law, gambling is seen as an activity that can damage the social and moral order of society. Law Number 7 of 1974 aims to prevent gambling and protect society from the potential social damage it can cause. In this case, this law is similar to the Law on Pornography which also focuses on maintaining public morality.

When someone engages in gambling, financial losses usually result, but these laws are more oriented towards the concept of social and moral harm than individual financial losses. This reflects the government’s awareness of the wider impacts of gambling, including the potential for addiction, which can destroy individual lives, as well as the destruction of family relationships. Therefore, this law is designed with a strong criminal aspect to provide a deterrent effect to gambling perpetrators. By prioritizing strict regulations on gambling, Law Number 7 of 1974 plays a role in maintaining morality, social and societal order as a whole. The government is committed to protecting its citizens from the negative impacts of gambling by implementing this law, and through the penalties given to perpetrators, it is hoped that it will create a deterrent effect that will help control illegal gambling practices in Indonesia.

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Child Protection in Law Number 35 of 2014: Criticism, Controversy, and Consequences

Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection is an important step taken by the Indonesian government to protect children from various forms of exploitation that can damage their morality. This law, enacted in 2014, has a strong focus on protecting morality and protecting children as a vulnerable group in society. One aspect that is highly emphasized in the Child Protection Law is the prohibition against exploitation of children in any form. This includes sexual exploitation and other forms of abuse. This protection not only applies to situations where an individual victim reports the criminal act, but also generally focuses on preventing immoral acts that could damage the morality of children.9

The Indonesian government firmly views children as a group that needs to be protected, and this law reflects their serious commitment to this issue. This means that the government not only responds to reports of individual victims, but also takes a proactive approach to maintaining overall social morality. The aim is to prevent potential damage that could be caused by immoral acts against children, who are an important pillar in the development of morals and decency in Indonesian society.10 Victimless criminal arrangements, especially in the context of morality crimes, have become a controversial topic in Indonesia. Some parties, including community groups and human rights activists, have voiced criticism of this approach, arguing that it could open the door to abuse of power by authorities.

They worry that governments or law enforcement agencies could use these decency laws as a tool to suppress individual freedoms and inhibit cultural expression that may be deemed controversial or inconsistent with certain moral views. In addition, legal approaches that focus too much on decency and morality are often considered inadequate in addressing deeper social problems. Problems such as poverty, social inequality, lack of access to education, and other welfare issues are often the root of problems that trigger violations of morality. Therefore, a critical question arises about the extent to which criminal law should be used to overcome these morality problems.11 Criticism and controversy surrounding victimless criminal arrangements in Indonesia create space for deeper discussions about the role of criminal law in regulating individual and societal behavior. During the process of formulating policy and legislation, it is important to consider these diverse views to achieve a fair balance between protecting moral values and addressing deeper social problems without harming individual freedoms.12

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Victimless criminal regulations in the context of morality crimes in Indonesia have a number of significant social and legal consequences. One of the consequences is the protection of public morality and decency. This is important for the majority of Indonesian people who uphold traditional and religious values in their daily lives. In addition, criminal laws such as the Law on Pornography and the Law on Controlling Gambling can function as a tool to control and control behavior that is considered detrimental to public decency and morality. This creates a deterrent effect and can reduce immoral acts. However, there are also negative consequences to be aware of. These victimless criminal arrangements can give authorities great authority to determine what is considered immoral or inconsistent with societal morality. This can lead to abuse of power and violations of human rights, especially in terms of freedom of opinion and expression. Additionally, these arrangements may not always be effective in addressing the deeper root social problems that cause immoral behavior.

To overcome problems such as pornography, gambling or child exploitation, a more holistic approach is needed, involving education, prevention and rehabilitation efforts. Overall, the regulation of victimless crimes in the context of morality crimes in Indonesia reflects the government's attention to the morality and decency of society as a whole. The Law on Pornography, the Law on Controlling Gambling, and the Law on Child Protection are concrete examples of this regulation. Although this approach has benefits in maintaining societal morality, it also invites criticism about the potential for abuse of power and its impact on individual freedom. Therefore, it is important to continually evaluate and update these laws to suit social developments and changing values over time. In addition, it is also necessary to consider a more holistic and integrated approach to address the deeper social problems that underlie immoral behavior. In this way, Indonesia can achieve the right balance between protecting public morality and maintaining individual freedom and justice in its legal system.

The Impact of Implementing Victimless Criminal Regulations on Moral Actions on the Development of Modern Society

The influence of the implementation of victimless criminal regulations on acts of decency on the development of modern society is a complex topic and requires a deep understanding of law, ethics and social development. Victimless criminal regulation refers to a type of regulation involving legal violations where no physical victims or material losses are involved. This kind of regulation is often related to actions that are considered to violate social or ethical norms, but do not directly involve the injured party.

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This is a controversial concept in modern law and society. One clear example of criminal regulation without victims is the regulation of sexual behavior. For example, in some jurisdictions, sexual activity outside of marriage or sexual activity involving prostitution may be considered unlawful, even if there is no physical victim involved in the act. Such laws are often based on ethical and moral considerations that may vary among individuals and societal groups. In Indonesia, the Criminal Code (KUHP) is a regulation that covers various criminal acts, including acts that can be considered a violation of the law without physical victims being involved. An example is Article 296 of the Criminal Code which regulates adultery, which involves sexual relations outside marriage.

The implementation of such articles often sparks debate about whether such acts should be regulated by criminal law and what impact they will have on the development of modern society. The first impact that needs to be considered is the impact on individual human rights. Implementation of victimless criminal regulations can create conflicts with individual human rights, such as the right to privacy and freedom of expression. In the context of adultery, for example, the law may be used to monitor and regulate the private lives of individuals, which could be considered excessive interference by the government in the private affairs of citizens. This can also lead to gender discrimination, where such laws are often applied unfairly against women. Along with the development of modern society, awareness of individual human rights is increasing. Communities have become more sensitive to violations of these rights, and they tend to oppose laws or regulations that are deemed to violate individual human rights. Therefore, the implementation of victimless criminal regulations can create tension between the law and the values of modern society which is more oriented towards individual human rights.

The second impact is the effectiveness of the law and the use of legal resources. Arranging civility actions without physical casualties can lead to the diversion of valuable legal resources from cases that may be more urgent. Limited legal resources can be used more effectively to deal with criminal acts involving actual harm or other serious crimes. Additionally, modern citizens may be more interested in law enforcement that focuses on issues that have a real impact on their security and well-being, such as cybercrime, terrorism, or economic crime. In this context, victimless criminal law can also make the criminal justice system less efficient. Prosecuting acts that do not actually involve physical casualties or material harm can burden the criminal justice system, cause delays in handling more important cases, and consume resources that could be allocated to more pressing issues.

The third impact is the influence on society’s morals and ethics. The implementation of victimless criminal regulations can form social and ethical norms that encourage people to follow certain rules, regardless of whether these actions actually harm other parties. This can have good or bad impacts depending on the context and values underlying the regulation. On the one hand, this kind of regulation can serve as a means of promoting behavior that society considers ethical. An example of this is

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regulations regarding drug use. Although personal drug use may not involve physical casualties, regulations against it aim to protect individuals and society from the potential health and social harm that can result from drug use. As a result, this kind of regulation can help shape healthier behavior in modern society.\(^\text{18}\) On the other hand, victimless criminal regulations can also be a tool to enforce controversial or discriminatory values. This can lead to the persecution of minorities or individuals who are culturally or socially different. For example, when such regulations are used to criminalize behavior associated with a particular sexual orientation or gender, this can lead to discrimination and violations of individual human rights.

The fourth impact is changes in culture and social norms. The influence of victimless criminal regulations can form a legal culture that encourages individuals to comply with social rules that are considered important by the government. This can have positive impacts in some cases, such as reducing practices that are considered detrimental to society or individuals. For example, when regulations prohibiting smoking in public places are implemented, this can help reduce smoking prevalence and promote public health. However, changes in culture and social norms imposed by victimless criminal regulations can also invite resistance and resistance. When individuals feel that the law is unfair or inconsistent with their values, this can result in resistance to the law, including boycotts and rejection of the rules.\(^\text{19}\) Furthermore, changes in culture and social norms caused by this kind of regulation can also create an imbalance between law and social norms. If the law departs too far from the values held by society, the law can lose legitimacy and encounter greater resistance. On the other hand, if laws too strictly reflect social norms, this can hinder the development of modern society by preventing the changes and innovations necessary in an ever-evolving society.\(^\text{20}\)

In the Indonesian context, the influence of victimless criminal regulations on the development of modern society also needs to be seen from a cultural and religious perspective. Indonesia is a country with strong cultural and religious diversity, and the values underlying such regulations can vary widely across the country.\(^\text{21}\) For example, regulations regarding alcohol are very different in some regions. In some regions, drinking is strictly regulated or completely prohibited based on certain religious or cultural values, while in other areas, drinking is considered part of the local culture. In this case, the implementation of victimless criminal regulations can result in inequality in law enforcement in various regions.

The fifth impact is a change in the way society views authority and government. Implementation of victimless criminal regulations can influence people’s perceptions of the government’s role in their lives. If people perceive that the government is interfering too much in their personal affairs or implementing laws that they consider unfair, this can


reduce their trust in the government and legal institutions. Changes in perceptions of authority can influence political participation and citizen engagement in democratic processes. People who feel that the government is too authoritarian or does not pay attention to their concerns may become more apathetic or tend to oppose the government. This can disrupt the development of modern society which requires active participation from its citizens. On the other hand, victimless criminal regulations can also be seen as a necessary tool to maintain social order which is considered important in modern society. For example, regulations prohibiting discrimination or sexual harassment in the workplace can help create a safer and more inclusive environment. Therefore, the impact on perceptions of authority may vary depending on the implementation and context of the regulation. In the context of modern society, people tend to be more open to government transparency and accountability. They want to know that the policies and regulations implemented by the government are fair and based on strong data and evidence. Therefore, the implementation of victimless criminal regulations must be based on careful consideration, strong research, and consultation with various stakeholders.

The sixth impact is the development of technology and social media. In modern society, technology and social media have changed the way information is disseminated and how society reacts to legal events. The implementation of victimless criminal regulations can invite intense debate and discussion on social media, with varying opinions from individuals and community groups. This can create pressure on governments and criminal justice systems to explain and defend their policies. Additionally, social media can also be used as a tool by individuals and groups who feel that they have been victims of this type of regulation. They can mobilize support, rally public opinion, and pressure the government to change or revoke the regulations. In some cases, pressure from social media can influence changes in legal policy. However, the influence of social media can also result in polarization and radicalization of views. Debates on social media are often black-and-white, and individuals can become trapped in information bubbles where they are only exposed to views that align with their own beliefs. This may complicate efforts to reach consensus and compromise on victimless criminal regulation.

The seventh impact is the relationship between government and society. The implementation of victimless criminal regulations can influence how people view the government and whether they feel they are treated fairly. It is important for the government to communicate with the public openly and transparently regarding regulations like this, as well as seek input from the public in the decision-making process. Governments should listen to people’s concerns and consider whether this kind of

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regulation is truly necessary or whether there are other ways to achieve the desired social or moral goals. If people feel that the government does not heed their concerns or that regulations are implemented arbitrarily, this can result in distrust and tension that can affect social stability.\(^\text{24}\)

Overall, it can be understood that the implementation of victimless criminal regulations can have a complex impact on the development of modern society. The impact depends on various factors, including underlying values, social and cultural context, and how the regulation is implemented. Therefore, there needs to be an in-depth and comprehensive discussion regarding this kind of regulation, involving various stakeholders, legal experts, human rights activists and society as a whole. It is important to find a balance between protecting individual human rights and regulating behavior that is considered detrimental to society, while taking into account the increasingly complex and open development of modern society.

**CONCLUSION**

In Indonesia, victimless criminal regulations in the context of morality crimes include laws designed to maintain the morality and decency of society as a whole without requiring individual victims who feel directly harmed. Concrete examples are Law Number 44 of 2008 concerning Pornography, Law Number 7 of 1974 concerning Controlling Gambling, and Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection. These laws focus on maintaining societal morality, preventing social harm, and protecting children from exploitation, even in the absence of reports of individual victims. Although this regulation has benefits in maintaining morality, it has also received criticism regarding the potential for abuse of power and influence on individual freedoms, so it is important to continue evaluating and updating this law to achieve the right balance between protecting moral values and maintaining individual freedom and justice in the system the law.

The implementation of victimless criminal regulations on acts of decency in the development of modern society has complex impacts. It can impact individual human rights, the effectiveness of laws, social norms, culture, perceptions of government authority, the influence of social media, and the relationship between government and society. The impact varies depending on underlying values, cultural context, and appropriate implementation. Discussion and balance between protecting individual human rights and regulating behavior that is considered detrimental to society is important in the context of a modern society that continues to develop.

Based on this research, it is recommended that the Indonesian government routinely evaluate victimless criminal laws in the context of morality crimes, as stated in Law Number 44 of 2008 concerning Pornography and similar laws. This evaluation must involve various parties, including legal experts, human rights activists, and the public, to ensure that the regulations reflect the values of a more open and inclusive modern society while protecting morality. In this case, the government needs to pay attention to the

principles of individual human rights, transparency and accountability in discussing changes or updates to these regulations. In addition, education and social campaigns that aim to educate the public about the impact of victimless criminal regulations and garner wider support need to be improved to achieve better understanding in modern society.

REFERENCES


