



Application of Strain Criminology Theory in Analysing The Motives and Driving Factors of Perpetrators of Administrative Document Forgery

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Abstract: *The criminal act of falsifying administrative documents related to civil registration is a form of crime that has serious implications for the order of state administration, public trust, and the validity of civil registration data. This study aims to analyse the motives and driving factors of perpetrators in falsifying administrative documents related to civil registration through the application of strain criminology theory. The research method used is normative legal research with a criminological approach, supported by a literature study of relevant laws, regulations, doctrines, literature, and court decisions. The results show that the falsification of administrative documents is influenced by the gap between the cultural goals of society—such as obtaining employment, education, and social status—and the limitations of available legal means. Social pressure, economic conditions, and negative experiences such as frustration and bureaucratic obstacles encourage individuals to commit illegal acts as a form of adaptation. In addition, other contributing factors include weak social control, opportunities created by an ineffective administrative system, and the influence of a permissive social environment on forgery practices. The conclusion of this study confirms that the crime of falsifying administrative documents is not solely an individual problem, but also a structural and systemic one. Therefore, prevention efforts must be comprehensive, not only through strict law enforcement, but also by improving the administrative system, strengthening bureaucratic oversight, and reducing the socio-economic pressures faced by the community.*

Keywords: *Document Forgery, Driving Factors., Motive, Population Administration, Strain Criminology Theory*

1. BACKGROUND

Criminal acts involving the falsification of administrative documents related to civil registration are one of the most common types of crime in society. Civil registration documents such as identity cards (KTP), family cards (, KK), birth certificates and marriage certificates play a vital role in various aspects of life, from access to public services, education and health care to banking. Therefore, the validity of population documents is very important, because the falsification of these documents can cause losses for both individuals and the state, including weakening the legitimacy of the government administration system.

The phenomenon of falsifying identity documents is generally not only caused by economic motives, but also by social pressure, livelihood needs, and even opportunities that arise due to weak supervision and bureaucratic systems. In the context of criminology, deviant behaviour such as document falsification can be explained through various theories, one of which is the *strain* theory or *General Strain Theory* (GST) developed by Robert Agnew. This theory is based on the idea that individuals who experience strain, or a gap between their desired goals and the means available to achieve them, tend to be driven to engage in deviant or criminal behaviour as a form of adaptation.

In cases of identity document forgery, pressure can arise when individuals need documents for urgent purposes, such as obtaining employment, accessing government assistance, or other administrative needs, but face obstacles because they do not have official documents or because of complicated and lengthy procedures. This pressure drives some people to choose illegal means, namely falsifying identity documents. In addition, external factors such as environmental influences, weak social control systems, and opportunities provided by unscrupulous officials or intermediaries also contribute to this crime.

The application of strain theory in analysing the crime of falsifying identity documents is important because it can explain the underlying motives and driving factors behind the perpetrator's behaviour. This analysis does not only focus on the formal legal aspects that view document falsification as a criminal act, but also provides a criminological perspective on the structural and personal causes behind it. Thus, this study is expected to contribute to the formulation of more effective prevention and law enforcement policies, particularly in strengthening the population administration system and minimising the opportunities for similar crimes to occur in the future.

2. THEORETICAL STUDY

Criminological analysis of the crime of falsifying administrative documents can be explained through various criminological theories that provide different perspectives. Strain theory, as formulated by Robert K. Merton, explains that crime arises from the gap between culturally legitimate goals and the legal means available to achieve them. When legal means are considered limited, individuals are driven to seek alternative ways, including document forgery. Robert Agnew later expanded this theory by incorporating psychological factors such as frustration and negative pressure experienced by individuals.

However, strain theory does not stand alone. Travis Hirschi, through *Social Control Theory*, argues that individuals commit crimes due to weak social ties with society. In the context of document forgery, weak bureaucratic control, lack of supervision by authorities, and a permissive culture within society can weaken social control, making individuals more likely to break the law.

In addition, the rational choice theory developed by Ronald V. Clarke and Derek Cornish views crime as the result of rational individual considerations. Perpetrators weigh the benefits gained against the risks faced. In the case of document forgery, the benefits in the form of easier access to public services or economic opportunities are considered greater than the risk of being caught, especially if the supervisory apparatus is considered weak. Edwin H.

Sutherland, through his *Differential Association Theory*, asserts that criminal behaviour is learned through interaction with the social environment. If a person is in an environment where document forgery is considered normal, or is even guided by experienced individuals, then they are more likely to internalise this deviant behaviour. Thus, the falsification of administrative documents is a complex phenomenon that is not only explained by social pressure (strain), but also by weak social control, the rational considerations of the perpetrator, and the learning process from the environment. These four theories complement each other as an analytical framework for understanding the motives and driving factors of perpetrators, as well as a basis for formulating prevention strategies.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a normative legal research method with a criminological approach. The normative method was chosen because this study focuses on examining legislation, doctrine, and legal theories related to the criminal act of falsifying administrative documents. In addition, a criminological approach is used to analyse the phenomenon of crime from the perspective of strain criminology theory, which emphasises the motives, social pressures, and individual driving factors in committing criminal acts.

The data sources in this study were derived from primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials. Primary legal materials included relevant legislation, such as the Criminal Code (KUHP) and Law No. 24 of 2013 on Population Administration. Secondary legal materials consist of literature, journals, and research results discussing strain criminology theory and studies on document forgery. Tertiary legal materials include legal dictionaries, encyclopaedias, and other supporting sources that help clarify terms and concepts.

Data collection techniques were carried out through library research, by reviewing relevant books, journals, and court decisions. The data obtained was then analysed qualitatively, by linking strain criminology theory with the facts that occurred in cases of falsification of administrative documents. Qualitative analysis was chosen because this study was not oriented towards numbers, but rather towards a deep understanding of the motives and driving factors of the perpetrators.

With this method, the study is expected to provide a comprehensive overview of the relevance of applying strain criminology theory in explaining the phenomenon of falsification of administrative documents, as well as contributing to the development of criminal law and criminology in Indonesia.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Criminal acts of falsifying administrative documents related to civil registration are a phenomenon that cannot be separated from the social and legal dynamics in Indonesia. Document falsification not only reflects a violation of criminal law provisions, but also indicates an imbalance between the needs of the community and the existing administrative mechanisms. According to Muladi, crime is essentially a social phenomenon that cannot be separated from the structure of the society in which it arises. Therefore, understanding crime must go beyond legal aspects and involve criminological analysis.

The strain theory of criminology provides a relevant framework for analysing document forgery. Strain arises when individuals encounter structural barriers in achieving goals that are considered legitimate, prompting them to seek shortcuts. Document forgery becomes a form of adaptation to bureaucratic pressure, economic needs, or the desire to obtain public facilities that should only be obtained legally. Romli Atmasasmita asserts that criminal acts often stem from social inequality and weak control systems within society. In this case, weak supervision by the population authorities and the existence of brokering practices increase the likelihood of document falsification. Such crimes arise not only from personal motives, but also because of opportunities left open in the system.

From a legal methodology perspective, Soerjono Soekanto emphasises the importance of viewing law as a social system influenced by values, culture and social structures. Therefore, falsification of identity documents cannot be viewed solely as an individual offence, but also as a reflection of the inability of the legal and administrative systems to meet the needs of society fairly and effectively.

Thus, analysis of document forgery from the perspective of strain criminology theory, supported by the views of Indonesian criminal law experts, shows that this phenomenon is complex. The motives and driving factors do not only stem from individual pressure, but also from social structures, weak controls, and criminal opportunities created by the system itself.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis that has been conducted, it can be concluded that the crime of falsifying administrative documents is a complex social phenomenon, which is triggered not only by individual motives, but also by structural and systemic factors. Criminological strain theory explains that such actions arise from the gap between the cultural goals of society, such as obtaining employment, social status, and access to public services, and the limited legal means available to achieve them. Social pressure, frustration, and negative experiences

experienced by individuals further increase the urge to commit forgery as a form of adaptation to conditions that are considered oppressive. In addition, this crime is also influenced by weak social control, opportunities arising from ineffective administrative systems, and an environment that is permissive towards forgery. In some cases, perpetrators even weigh the pros and cons rationally and choose the illegal route because it is considered faster and more profitable than the legal route. Thus, the application of strain criminology theory in this analysis proves that the falsification of administrative documents is not only a legal issue, but also a reflection of social and economic problems and bureaucratic weaknesses. Preventing such crimes requires a comprehensive strategy, not only through strict law enforcement, but also through improvements to the population administration system, strengthening social control, and reducing socio-economic pressures on the community.

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