

## **A Criminological Review of The Role of Village Heads in Crime Prevention and Control (A Study in Kapringan Village, Indramayu Regency)**

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**Keywords:**

Crime; Community; Village Head; Criminology; Rehabilitation

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**Abstract**

Kapringan Village, Krangkeng District, Indramayu Regency, as part of a rural community subject to ongoing social and economic dynamics, is not insulated from the problem of crime. Crime in rural areas is a social phenomenon influenced by various factors and requires an active role from the village government — particularly the village head — in maintaining public order and security. This research aims to determine the role of the village head from a criminological perspective in the prevention and control of criminal acts in Kapringan Village, Krangkeng District, Indramayu Regency. The issues examined include the factors that cause crime and the efforts made by the village head in preventing and addressing crime within the area, viewed through a criminological lens. The research employs a qualitative approach that describes the reality of crime in Kapringan Village, utilizing an empirical legal research framework from a criminological perspective, with data gathered through interviews and field observations as well as relevant laws, regulations, and literature. The findings reveal that the factors contributing to crime in Kapringan Village include economic hardship, low levels of education, unemployment, the influence of the social environment, and weak legal awareness within the community. The village head's efforts in preventing and addressing crime encompass coordination with security forces (TNI, Polri) and community leaders, environmental security coaching, legal counseling, and community empowerment through social and economic activities. This research is expected to offer insights for village heads and government officials in fostering public security and order in a sustainable manner

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Public security and order are among the primary prerequisites for creating a harmonious social life and supporting the implementation of development at the village level. In the context of village governance in Indonesia, village heads not only serve as administrative leaders but also bear important responsibilities in maintaining social stability, including efforts to prevent and address criminal acts. This role is consistent with Law No. 6 of 2024 concerning Villages, which emphasizes that the village is obliged to maintain order and peace within the community through institutional mechanisms and community empowerment (Hirschi, 1969; Sanusi & Nurhaqi, 2026; Situmeang, 2021).

Kapringan Village, located in Indramayu Regency, is among those villages that face various forms of crime, including motor vehicle theft, youth brawls, drinking, and other potential social conflicts. This situation requires the active role of the village head in carrying out social, coordinative, and preventive functions to reduce the crime rate. As a local figure, the village head exerts significant influence in mobilizing the community, coordinating with security forces, and formulating policies and programs capable of strengthening village resilience (Abraham & Ceccato, 2022; Jabar, 2023; Merton, 1968; Siswanti et al., 2024).

As the village head, one is also tasked with safeguarding the security and welfare of the community. It is alleged that within this village there are not only victims of crime but also criminal perpetrators. As reported in the West Java Tribune, on Tuesday, 30 January 2023, the Indramayu Police succeeded in arresting a begal from Kapringan Village, Krangkeng District, Indramayu Regency. The perpetrator carried out the act using a motorcycle, accompanied by an accomplice named Ucup who remained at large. The perpetrator was apprehended after bystanders shouted "jambret," and his accomplice's motorcycle collided with another vehicle, causing him to fall and be caught by the public (Prasetyo et al., 2024; Ramadhuan et al., 2024; Sobri, 2023). The perpetrator admitted to having committed the act of snatching on five previous occasions. In addition, numerous cases of motor vehicle theft have also been reported by residents, and when motorcycles go missing in surrounding areas, Kapringan Village is frequently identified as a location connected to the perpetrators. In 2020–2021, brawls among youth also occurred within the village, resulting in numerous injuries and damage to residents' homes (Zaliaokta & Arifin, 2023).

From a criminological perspective, crime is not merely understood as a violation of legal norms, but as the product of various interrelated factors, including economic conditions, education, the social environment, weak social control, and low public legal awareness. Countering crime by relying solely on repressive law enforcement by the police is therefore insufficient; it also requires an active role from the lowest level of government, namely the village government. Crime does not arise from a single factor but is the result of the interaction of various conditions — including socioeconomic circumstances, weak social supervision, family environment, and opportunity. Efforts to prevent and control crime must therefore involve the surrounding community, which understands the dynamics at play, including the village head as the highest authority at the village level. The village head's role is significant in implementing prevention strategies encompassing social, educational, situational, and collaborative approaches involving various relevant parties.

However, the effectiveness of this role does not always operate optimally. Various obstacles are frequently encountered, such as limited human resources, low public awareness regarding environmental security, insufficient coordination between village officials and law enforcement, and the absence of systematic and sustainable prevention programs. The central problems addressed in this research are therefore: what causes crime in Kapringan Village, and how does the village head endeavor to prevent and address crime within the village? Criminologically, the village head functions as a social control agent at the community level.

Several studies have examined the role of village heads in crime prevention and control, providing a foundation for the present research. Siswanti, Dahlan, and Dharma (2024) analyzed the role of the village head in eradicating cockfighting gambling in Nijang Village, finding that village heads play an important role through coordination with security forces and persuasive engagement with the community. However, this research focused exclusively on a single type of criminal act and did not comprehensively examine the village head's role in general crime prevention from a criminological perspective. Other relevant studies include research by (Putri et al., 2022) on the role of village governments in preventing theft in rural areas, which emphasized the importance of community-based security systems and routine patrols, as well as research by (Rahmawati, 2021) on social control mechanisms in villages, which highlighted the significance of traditional institutions and local wisdom in maintaining public order.

The novelty of this research lies in its comprehensive criminological analysis of the village head's role in addressing various forms of crime — including theft, brawls, and juvenile delinquency — within a single village context. Unlike previous studies that focused on specific types of crime or isolated aspects of crime prevention, this research examines the multifaceted role of the village head through the lens of criminological theories, including strain theory (Merton, 1968), differential association theory (Sutherland, 1947), and social control theory (Hirschi, 1969). This approach provides a more holistic understanding of crime phenomena and prevention strategies at the village level.

Based on the foregoing background, this study aims to comprehensively analyze the factors that cause criminal acts to occur in Kapringan Village, Krangkeng District, Indramayu Regency, and to examine and describe the efforts that have been and may be made by the village head in preventing and addressing such acts, all reviewed from a criminological perspective. This is intended to produce a thorough understanding of the dynamics of crime at the rural level and the strategic role of village government in creating security and order in a sustainable manner. This research is expected to provide a comprehensive account of the forms of crime that occur, the village head's role in responding to them, and the obstacles encountered, so that it may serve as a basis for evaluation and recommendation for the village government and related parties. Beyond its academic contribution as an application of criminological theories in the context of village governance, it also offers practical value for village government in formulating effective and sustainable security strategies and policies for the community.

## **METHOD**

This research employs a qualitative approach with an analytical descriptive method, describing the events that occur in relation to crime in Kapringan Village — encompassing both the forms of crime and the efforts undertaken to address them.

The research method adopted is empirical legal research, also referred to as the sociological law research method. This approach is grounded in primary data obtained directly from village heads, village officials, and community members as first-hand sources through field research conducted via observation and interviews. The research examines the actual behavior and conduct

of the community in Kapringan Village, Indramayu Regency, as well as legal phenomena — that is, social phenomena pertaining to law, specifically criminal behavior.

Data used in this research are of two types: primary and secondary. Primary data were gathered through direct interviews with the village head, village officials, community members, and relevant agencies connected to the research theme, including the Police (Polri) and the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI). Secondary data consist of laws and regulations — including the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Law No. 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, and the Criminal Code — as well as books, journals, documents, and other related materials.

Data obtained through interviews, observations, and documentation were analyzed against existing theories to determine the forms of crime occurring in Kapringan Village and the role of the village head in the prevention and control of crime from a criminological perspective.

This research is distinguished from prior work conducted by Siswanti, Syarif Dahlan, and Muhammad Panji Prabu Dharma, whose study on the role of the village head in the eradication of cockfighting gambling in Nijang Village found that the village head plays an important role through coordination with security forces and a persuasive approach to the community. That research focused exclusively on a single type of criminal act — gambling — and therefore did not comprehensively examine the role of village heads in crime prevention in general from a criminological perspective.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Kapringan Village, which is located in Krangkengan District, Cirebon Regency, is an area that has a rice field area of 684 ha, and an area consisting of 4 hamlets, namely: Dolog hamlet, Islamic Boarding School Hamlet, Telaga Hamlet and Menggerjati Hamlet, 4 RWs and 14 RTs. With the number of families as many: 3630 consisting of 9940 men and women, 4904 men and 5036 women. Kapringan Village is led by a village head who is elected through the election of the village head.

Based on Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, it is stated that "The Village Head is the leader of the implementation of the Village Government assisted by the village apparatus. The village head has strategic authority in regulating and managing the interests of the village community based on local origins and customs."

According to Tahmit, the village head is the leader of the village in Indonesia, the village head is the leader of the village government, the term of office of the village head is 8 years, and can be extended again for one next term. Meanwhile, according to Talizidhuhu Ndraha, the village head is the leader in the village, all matters about prosperity, community welfare, development and others are the obligations of the village head as a formal leader appointed by the government. The village head is an element of the village government organizer who plays a central role in regulating and managing the interests of the village community. The village head is also a coach, a mentor and community service plays a very important role in encouraging the community to participate in village development. In addition to carrying out their duties in the field of government and development, the village head also carries out the government in the field of

community. Village heads and village officials participate in fostering village communities so that order, security and welfare of village communities can be fulfilled. In addition, the task of the village head is to assist the government in enforcing laws and regulations.

In Article 26 paragraph 1 of Law Number 6 of 2014 concerning Villages, it states that:

"The Head organizes Village Government, implements Village Development, Village Community Development, and Village Community Empowerment."

Furthermore, Article 26 paragraph 2 letters n and o of the aquo Law regulates that in carrying out his duties, the Village Head has authority related to crime, namely:"

n) represent the Village inside and outside the court, appoint a legal representative to represent it in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations.

o) and exercise other authorities in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations."

Crime is a social phenomenon that arises as a result of the interaction of various individual, social, economic, and environmental factors. At the village level, crime not only has an impact on security, but also disrupts social order and the development of village communities. The village head as the leading government leader in the village has a strategic role in maintaining public order and security. Although the village is synonymous with a relatively safe and harmonious life, in reality Kapringan Village is not completely free from various forms of crime.

Criminal behavior is inseparable from various influences, both internal and external. The influences that shape these actions include:

1. Education or coaching in the family.
2. Habits instilled in kinship organizations
3. Impact of the social environment
4. The influence of the place of school
5. The influence of teachers who educate in formal or informal schools
6. Economic, social, political and cultural influences
7. The influence of ideology, religion, or beliefs on the value system adopted
8. The influence of leadership in the life of the nation and state
9. Influence of certain doctrines that arouse a spirit of sacrifice
10. Influence of personality, mentality, interests and talents.

Crime in the village is a form of social deviation that is influenced by various factors both from within the individual and from the social environment. Crime in Kapringan Village is deviant behavior that not only violates the rule of law, but also disrupts the order and security stability of the village community.

## **1. Causes of Crime**

Criminality that occurs in Kapringan village is generally conventional crime, including: theft (agricultural products, livestock, motor vehicles), fights or persecution, juvenile delinquency, consumption of hard muniman, conflicts between residents with the potential for criminal acts. This type of crime is classified as a minor crime until now, but it still causes insecurity and unrest in the community.

This research departs from the community's assumption that there are criminals in Kapringan village. Especially motor vehicle theft, if there has been a theft of a motor vehicle, people have directly gone to the village of Kapringan. This impression is what makes Kapringan village, especially the village head, try to change the image of people so that Kapringan village does not become a nest of criminals. For this reason, direct interviews are conducted with the perpetrators of the crime to find out the factors that cause them to commit the crime.

Actually, the perpetrators only consisted of 6 people, all of whom knew each other, and they committed theft under article 362 of the old Criminal Code (Article 476. Law No.1 of 2023).

"Whoever takes the goods of something that wholly or partially belongs to another person, with the intention of unlawful possession, is threatened with theft, with imprisonment for a maximum of 5 years or a maximum fine of Rp. 900,000,-

Experiencing changes in the sound of the article:

"Any person who takes an item that partially or wholly belongs to another person, with the intention of unlawfully possessing, is convicted of theft, with a maximum prison sentence of 5 years or a maximum fine of category V, namely. Rp. 500,000,000,-"

In addition, they also carried out an investigation, Article 480 of the Criminal Code (Article 591 of Law No. 1 of 2023).

"threatened with imprisonment for a maximum of 4 years or a maximum fine of Rp. 900,000,-

- a. "Whoever buys, rents, exchanges, accepts pawns, accepts gifts, or to withdraw profits, sells, rents, exchanges, mortgages, transports, stores or conceals any thing, which is known or ought to be suspected to have been obtained from the crime of extortion."
- b. "Whoever draws profit from something that he knows or ought to be suspected of being obtained from evil."

"convicted of imprisonment with a maximum prison sentence of 4 (four) years or a maximum fine of category V which is Rp. 500,000,000, each person who" :

- 1) "Buying, offering, renting, exchanging, accepting collateral or pawning, receiving gifts or to withdraw profits from selling, renting, exchanging, pawning, transporting, storing or concealing an object that is known or reasonably suspected to be obtained from a Criminal Act; or"
- 2) "Withdrawing profits from the proceeds of an object, which is known or reasonably suspected that the object was obtained in a criminal act."

The causes of these crimes are:

- a) Economic factors

Limited employment or the number of unemployment, poverty and social inequality are the dominant factors that encourage the occurrence of crime. According to Mustofa, (2021), crime is often driven by the desire to acquire wealth because the perpetrator does not have an adequate source of income. The strain theory put forward by Robert K Merton states that individuals are more likely to commit crimes when there is a gap between the expected social goals and the legally available means of achieving them. The economic conditions of the village community that are

not completely stable can trigger the occurrence of crime such as theft and other conventional crimes. Although there are still many jobs in Kapringan village, such as farming, it is not in accordance with the wishes of actors who want to find a job with a large income. Curanmor is often carried out by individuals who are experiencing economic stress, such as unemployment or poverty. Motor vehicles have high economic value and are easy to trade, so they are the main target to meet financial needs instantly.

b) Environmental and Social Factors.

A permissive social environment or indifferent to deviant behaviors such as: gambling, alcohol consumption, and juvenile delinquency (brawls), also affect the crime rate. (*BAB II (Sumber Online, Judul Dan Penulis Lengkap Tidak Tercantum Dalam Sitasi Asli)*, 2018; Efendi & Ibrahim, 2018; Sutherland, 1947) theory of differential association states that criminal behavior is studied through social interaction with a deviant environment. The vastness of the area makes supervision of criminal perpetrators sometimes unmonitored, especially from the family (parents) who have never monitored their children's activities. Such as motor vehicle theft and mass fights.

In this theory it is explained that the patterns of delinquency and crime are studied in a similar way as any office or accession, mainly through imitation or imitation and association with others. It means that the crime committed by a person is the result of imitation of the criminal acts that exist in society and this continues. In the practice of curanmor, the perpetrator often works in a network (group). Individuals learn techniques to steal, dismantle vehicles, and sell stolen goods from their social environment. This shows that curanmor is a learned crime, not solely because of economic encouragement.

c) Weak Social Control Factors

Social change and the weakening of traditional values have led to less effective informal social control in rural communities. Travis Hirschi through social control theory states that crime occurs when the social ties of individuals to family, society and social institutions are weakened. In Kapringan Village, the decrease in community leaders and low participation of residents in social activities contribute to the increase in deviant behavior. The explanation in this theory states that individuals in society have the same tendency to be good or to be evil. A person's good behavior and bad behavior are entirely dependent on the society and the environment. Individuals will be good if the society and environment are good, on the other hand, they will be evil if the society and environment are bad. Curanmor occurs in densely populated areas with low economic levels, high mobility, and weak social control. Such an environment makes it easier for perpetrators to operate without effective supervision from the community.

## **2. The Role of the Village Head in Overcoming Crime.**

The role of the Head of Kapringan Village in tackling crime in his village, especially regarding motor vehicle theft, can be analyzed criminologically by linking the function of the village government to crime theories. The village head not only plays an administrative role, but also as the main actor, in social crime prevention, which is as follows:

a. Strengthening Social Control

Curanmor often occurs in environments with weak social control, the village head plays a role in strengthening social cohesion through: activating night patrols or going around the village to supervise activities at night in collaboration with RT and RW as well as parties from the Police and the TNI. The stronger the social control, the less chance of crime.

b. Reduce economic pressure on the community.

Although it is said that Kapringan village is for many jobs, sometimes people want a greater income and instant / fast to get it. So it is necessary to accelerate business in the economic sector, such as rural or labor-intensive MSMEs and also distribute social assistance for the community.

c. Environment-Based and Opportunity-Based Prevention

The violence that occurred, especially the theft of motor vehicles, occurred because of chance. For this reason, the village head must have advanced in preventing crime, namely by installing CCTV or street lighting. Motorcycles must be fitted with double locks, thereby reducing the occurrence of theft.

d. Coaching and Education to the Community.

Criminals are usually learned from their environment, so the village head must provide guidance, both through legal counseling, and coaching to the youth in addition to providing positive activities, such as sports facilities or joining existing art groups to avoid deviant associations such as drunkenness or mass fights (brawls)

e. Coordination with the Security Forces.

In carrying out their duties, the village head can coordinate with the security apparatus, both the police and the TNI, in maintaining order and security in their village. This role is of course carried out by sending data or reporting crimes, in addition to that the village head can also facilitate the resolution of conflicts between residents and become a mediator.

With this approach, village heads become important actors in creating an effective and sustainable community-based security system.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of the research, it can be concluded that the main factors causing crime in Kapringan Village, Kranggeng District, Indramayu Regency include economic factors, environmental and social factors, as well as weak social control in the community. In tackling this crime, the Village Head has a very important role through strengthening social control, efforts to reduce community economic pressure, implementing environmental and opportunity-based prevention, providing coaching and education to the community, and coordinating well with the security forces to create a safe and conducive environment. Based on the research findings, several suggestions are proposed. The Village Head of Kapringan is advised to enhance community-based security programs by revitalizing night patrols and neighborhood watch systems, while also intensifying legal counseling and skills training for youth to reduce unemployment and prevent deviant behavior. The community is expected to increase participation in social activities and environmental security efforts, as well as strengthen informal social control within families and neighborhoods. Law enforcement officials, particularly the Police and TNI, should improve

coordination and communication with the village government and provide routine security outreach to the community. Finally, future researchers are encouraged to conduct quantitative studies or comparative research across multiple villages to measure the effectiveness of village heads' crime prevention strategies more comprehensively.

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