Effectiveness of Registration Standards in the Classification of Inmates

Wilson Santoso Tambun[1], Rahul Ardian Fikri[2], Hasdiana Juwita Bintang[3]

E-mail: santosowilson92@gmail.com, rahulardian@dosen.pancabudi.ac.id,
hasdiana@dosen.pancabudi.ac.id
Universitas Pembangunan Panca Budi

ABSTRACT

The registration and classification of inmates constitute a fundamental initial stage in the administration of the correctional system, as they form the basis for placement decisions, security management, and individualized rehabilitation programs. Registration standards, as regulated through technical guidelines and administrative instruments within correctional units, are intended to ensure accurate data recording, risk identification, and the formulation of effective treatment and development programs. However, their implementation continues to face various challenges that affect the overall effectiveness of inmate classification. Empirical studies conducted across several correctional institutions indicate that limitations in human resources, infrastructure constraints, and insufficient training of assessment officers hinder the consistent application of registration standards in accordance with established guidelines. As a result, the objective of achieving appropriate inmate grouping and the optimal design of individualized correctional programs has not been uniformly realized. At the normative level, the enactment of Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections has renewed the legal framework previously governed by Law Number 12 of 1995. The new statute reinforces the principles of individualization, continuity, and the protection of inmates' rights as integral components of a modern correctional system oriented toward rehabilitation and social reintegration. Although this updated legal framework strengthens the rights-based and evidence-based orientation of correctional administration, the technical regulation of registration and classification procedures remains largely dependent on guidelines issued by the Directorate General of Corrections. Consequently, further harmonization between statutory provisions and technical instruments is necessary to enhance legal certainty and operational effectiveness. These findings demonstrate that the effectiveness of registration standards in inmate classification is determined not solely by the quality of written regulations, but also by institutional capacity, administrative coherence, and the availability of adequate resources to ensure accurate and sustainable implementation.

Keywords: Registration Standards, Classification, Inmates

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia's correctional system has undergone a paradigmatic transformation from a prison model oriented toward retribution to a rehabilitative framework emphasizing social reintegration. Inmates are no longer regarded merely as objects of punishment, but as subjects of correctional development who must be prepared to return to society as responsible individuals. This shift necessitates a more scientific, measurable, and needs-based management mechanism. The initial stage in correctional administration is inmate registration and classification. Registration extends beyond administrative documentation of identity and sentence duration; it encompasses the systematic collection of comprehensive information concerning social background, criminal history, psychological condition, educational level, and security risk. Such information constitutes the foundation for classification, determining housing placement, security level, and the nature of rehabilitation programs throughout the sentence. Consequently, inaccuracies in registration may lead to misplacement and ineffective correctional treatment from the outset.

Legal reform through Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections reinforces the principle of individualized sentencing. Each inmate must be managed according to assessed risk levels and rehabilitation needs rather than through a uniform approach. The effectiveness of correctional treatment therefore depends significantly on the accuracy of initial assessments. Previous research indicates that failures in early inmate management also affect institutional security, including incidents of escape linked to weak supervision and inadequate rehabilitation management (Ginting, Fikri, & Nasution, 2025).

In practice, the implementation of registration standards continues to encounter obstacles. Overcrowding, limited numbers of trained assessment officers, and suboptimal risk assessment instruments often result in classification processes that are largely administrative rather than analytical. Such conditions influence inmate discipline and the overall effectiveness of sentence implementation. Empirical findings on disciplinary enforcement within detention centers reveal that the success of rehabilitation management is closely tied to accurate initial placement (Tarigan, Fikri, & Bintang, 2025).

To address these challenges, the Directorate General of Corrections has developed a digital correctional database system aimed at enhancing registration accuracy and monitoring rehabilitation processes. This digitalization initiative seeks to integrate inmate data from admission through conditional release. Nevertheless, its effectiveness remains contingent upon the quality of initial assessments conducted by field officers and the adequacy of supporting infrastructure. An empirical illustration of these challenges can be observed at the Class IIA Narcotics Correctional Institution in Langkat, North Sumatra. This specialized institution manages both correctional development and rehabilitation for narcotics offenders. Research in the Langkat region demonstrates that successful behavioral transformation is strongly influenced by targeted, needs-based rehabilitation systems (Febyola, Siregar, & Nasution, 2025).

Upon inmate admission, the Langkat Narcotics Institution conducts registration procedures that include identity documentation, medical examination, background interviews, and preliminary security risk assessment. Ideally, these data form the basis for classification and determination of appropriate rehabilitation programs. However, overcrowding and limited personnel often prevent in-depth assessments, resulting in classifications primarily based on offense type and sentence length rather than individualized rehabilitative needs. Consequently, users, distributors, and traffickers may be placed within relatively similar environments. This practice contradicts the principle of individualized correctional treatment, as rehabilitation needs differ significantly among these categories. Studies on narcotics rehabilitation indicate that therapeutic interventions must be tailored to levels of dependency and the offender's role in the criminal offense (Sihombing, Siregar, & Zarzani, 2025).

These findings demonstrate that registration standards have not fully functioned as effective risk management instruments. Registration remains predominantly administrative rather than criminological. Yet narcotics rehabilitation requires specialized approaches, such as the therapeutic community method, which has been shown to reduce inmate conflict and enhance rehabilitation outcomes when participants are selected through proper assessment (Aspan et al., 2023). Inaccurate classification has far-reaching implications: rehabilitation programs become misaligned, the potential for internal conflict increases, and recidivism risks remain elevated upon release. Thus, the quality of registration determines the integrity of the entire correctional process.

Beyond technical limitations, a gap persists between normative legal principles and practical implementation. Although the law mandates a risk- and needs-based approach, operational practice remains focused primarily on physical security and administrative compliance. This indicates that legal reform has not yet been fully accompanied by managerial reform within the correctional system.

Given these conditions, a systematic evaluation of the effectiveness of registration standards in inmate classification particularly within narcotics correctional institutions characterized by high-risk profiles is essential. Such research is necessary to assess the extent to which legal reforms have been operationalized and to identify structural and institutional barriers. Ultimately, this study seeks to contribute to strengthening an assessment-based correctional system, improving inmate classification mechanisms, and supporting the achievement of correctional objectives centered on rehabilitation and social reintegration.

METHODS

Indonesia's correctional system has undergone a paradigmatic transformation from a prison model oriented toward retribution to a rehabilitative framework emphasizing social reintegration. Inmates are no longer regarded merely as objects of punishment, but as subjects of correctional development who must be prepared to return to society as responsible individuals. This shift necessitates a more scientific, measurable, and needs-based management mechanism. The initial stage in correctional administration is inmate registration and classification. Registration extends beyond administrative documentation of identity and sentence duration; it encompasses the systematic collection of comprehensive information concerning social background, criminal history, psychological condition, educational level, and security risk. Such information constitutes the foundation for classification, determining housing placement, security level, and the nature of rehabilitation programs throughout the sentence. Consequently, inaccuracies in registration may lead to misplacement and ineffective correctional treatment from the outset.

Legal reform through Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections reinforces the principle of individualized sentencing. Each inmate must be managed according to assessed risk levels and rehabilitation needs rather than through a uniform approach. The effectiveness of correctional treatment therefore depends significantly on the accuracy of initial assessments. Previous research indicates that failures in early inmate management also affect institutional security, including incidents of escape linked to weak supervision and inadequate rehabilitation management (Ginting, Fikri, & Nasution, 2025).

In practice, the implementation of registration standards continues to encounter obstacles. Overcrowding, limited numbers of trained assessment officers, and suboptimal risk assessment instruments often result in classification processes that are largely administrative rather than analytical. Such conditions influence inmate discipline and the overall effectiveness of sentence implementation. Empirical findings on disciplinary enforcement within detention centers reveal that the success of rehabilitation management is closely tied to accurate initial placement (Tarigan, Fikri, & Bintang, 2025).

To address these challenges, the Directorate General of Corrections has developed a digital correctional database system aimed at enhancing registration accuracy and monitoring rehabilitation processes. This digitalization initiative seeks to integrate inmate data from admission

through conditional release. Nevertheless, its effectiveness remains contingent upon the quality of initial assessments conducted by field officers and the adequacy of supporting infrastructure. An empirical illustration of these challenges can be observed at the Class IIA Narcotics Correctional Institution in Langkat, North Sumatra. This specialized institution manages both correctional development and rehabilitation for narcotics offenders. Research in the Langkat region demonstrates that successful behavioral transformation is strongly influenced by targeted, needs-based rehabilitation systems (Febyola, Siregar, & Nasution, 2025).

Upon inmate admission, the Langkat Narcotics Institution conducts registration procedures that include identity documentation, medical examination, background interviews, and preliminary security risk assessment. Ideally, these data form the basis for classification and determination of appropriate rehabilitation programs. However, overcrowding and limited personnel often prevent in-depth assessments, resulting in classifications primarily based on offense type and sentence length rather than individualized rehabilitative needs. Consequently, users, distributors, and traffickers may be placed within relatively similar environments. This practice contradicts the principle of individualized correctional treatment, as rehabilitation needs differ significantly among these categories. Studies on narcotics rehabilitation indicate that therapeutic interventions must be tailored to levels of dependency and the offender's role in the criminal offense (Sihombing, Siregar, & Zarzani, 2025).

These findings demonstrate that registration standards have not fully functioned as effective risk management instruments. Registration remains predominantly administrative rather than criminological. Yet narcotics rehabilitation requires specialized approaches, such as the therapeutic community method, which has been shown to reduce inmate conflict and enhance rehabilitation outcomes when participants are selected through proper assessment (Aspan et al., 2023). Inaccurate classification has far-reaching implications: rehabilitation programs become misaligned, the potential for internal conflict increases, and recidivism risks remain elevated upon release. Thus, the quality of registration determines the integrity of the entire correctional process. Beyond technical limitations, a gap persists between normative legal principles and practical implementation. Although the law mandates a risk- and needs-based approach, operational practice remains focused primarily on physical security and administrative compliance. This indicates that legal reform has not yet been fully accompanied by managerial reform within the correctional system.

Given these conditions, a systematic evaluation of the effectiveness of registration standards in inmate classification particularly within narcotics correctional institutions characterized by high-risk profiles is essential. Such research is necessary to assess the extent to which legal reforms have been operationalized and to identify structural and institutional barriers. Ultimately, this study seeks to contribute to strengthening an assessment-based correctional system, improving inmate classification mechanisms, and supporting the achievement of correctional objectives centered on rehabilitation and social reintegration.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
RESULT
Implementation of Registration Standards in Inmate Classification

The findings indicate that the admission process at the Class IIA Narcotics Correctional Institution in Langkat begins with administrative verification, medical examination, and an initial interview. Although these stages are formally aligned with correctional registration guidelines, their practical implementation remains predominantly focused on documenting identity and sentencing status. Criminogenic factors—such as social background, level of dependency, behavioral tendencies, and security risk are not consistently subjected to in-depth analysis. As a result, inmate classification does not fully reflect individualized rehabilitation needs.

In practice, registration officers generally determine classification based on the type of offense, sentence length, and violation category. This approach is primarily administrative rather than risk-assessment-oriented. Yet the principle of individualized correctional treatment under the Corrections Law requires behavioral analysis and needs-based evaluation. This discrepancy demonstrates that registration standards have not fully functioned as effective risk management instruments. Interviews reveal that limited numbers of trained assessors constitute a major constraint. Officers must process a high volume of inmates within a limited timeframe, resulting in abbreviated assessments. This finding aligns with prior research identifying institutional supervision weaknesses affecting inmate management (Ginting, Fikri, & Nasution, 2025). When initial assessment is suboptimal, subsequent supervision and rehabilitation become less effective.

Overcrowding further constrains the registration process by limiting examination time. Newly admitted inmates are frequently placed in temporary housing blocks without comprehensive classification. Such conditions have implications for inmate discipline, as individuals with differing risk levels are housed together (Tarigan, Fikri, & Bintang, 2025). In this context, registration has not yet functioned as an effective security filter. Moreover, narcotics rehabilitation needs assessments are conducted only for a portion of inmates, despite the necessity of accurately mapping levels of dependency. Misidentification results in some inmates not receiving appropriate therapeutic intervention (Sihombing, Siregar, & Zarzani, 2025), indicating that registration standards remain insufficiently grounded in rehabilitative needs.

Additionally, registration data are often recorded manually prior to digital entry into the Directorate General of Corrections' database. This dual process increases the risk of recording errors. When initial data lack accuracy, subsequent stages of rehabilitation planning become misdirected. Several officers acknowledged that while registration guidelines are substantively comprehensive, effective implementation depends upon available time and institutional resources. This confirms that regulatory effectiveness is determined not solely by normative clarity, but also by institutional capacity. Empirical research in Langkat further demonstrates that successful behavioral transformation is closely linked to accurate initial assessment (Febyola, Siregar, & Nasution, 2025). These findings reveal a gap between normative standards and operational practice. Registration continues to be perceived primarily as an administrative intake procedure rather than as a risk-analysis instrument, resulting in classifications that fail to fully reflect inmates' individual profiles and consequently undermine the precision of rehabilitation programs.

Effectiveness of Classification on Rehabilitation and Development Programs

Inmate classification directly influences the type of rehabilitation implemented within correctional institutions. In narcotics facilities, classification ideally distinguishes between users,

distributors, and traffickers. However, research findings indicate that these categories frequently coexist within the same housing environment. Such conditions diminish rehabilitation effectiveness because each category requires distinct correctional interventions. Group-based therapeutic programs require participants with relatively comparable levels of dependency. When classification lacks accuracy, group dynamics become unstable, and therapeutic community methods cannot function optimally without participant selection grounded in proper assessment (Aspan et al., 2023). This underscores the foundational role of registration in rehabilitation success.

Several inmates reported participation in programs misaligned with their personal conditions. Light users were placed alongside distribution offenders, potentially facilitating the expansion of criminal networks within the institution. In such circumstances, the phenomenon of prisonization may outweigh rehabilitative effects. Inaccurate classification also affects institutional security and supervision. High-risk inmates require stricter monitoring than substance users. When housed together, officers encounter difficulty applying differentiated security measures, thereby reducing overall institutional management effectiveness. Similarly, vocational development programs become less effective when participants possess divergent psychological readiness and backgrounds. Certain inmates may require prior therapeutic stabilization before engaging in advanced skill-building programs. This illustrates the necessity of integrating registration data with rehabilitation planning.

Empirical research on narcotics rehabilitation confirms that behavioral change occurs when programs correspond to levels of dependency (Sihombing, Siregar, & Zarzani, 2025). Thus, classification constitutes a critical determinant of successful social reintegration. Without accurate classification, rehabilitation risks devolving into administrative formality rather than substantive intervention. The consequences are also evident in inmate discipline. Inaccurate classification increases the likelihood of conflict due to heterogeneous group composition. Studies on disciplinary enforcement demonstrate that institutional order is influenced by housing block homogeneity (Tarigan, Fikri, & Bintang, 2025). Hence, registration plays a decisive role in maintaining institutional social stability. Overall, the effectiveness of rehabilitation within narcotics correctional institutions is fundamentally dependent upon the quality of initial registration. Accurate registration produces precise classification, and precise classification enables effective rehabilitation. Conversely, registration limited to administrative formalities leads to suboptimal correctional outcomes. Accordingly, registration standards represent a central pillar of a modern correctional system oriented toward rehabilitation and social reintegration.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, the implementation of inmate registration standards at the Class IIA Narcotics Correctional Institution in Langkat has normatively complied with established correctional admission procedures. However, substantively, it has not yet been fully effective in producing classifications grounded in risk assessment and rehabilitative needs. Registration practices remain predominantly administrative, focusing on identity documentation, type of offense, and sentence length, while criminogenic assessments, levels of narcotics dependency, and individualized rehabilitation needs are not comprehensively evaluated due to limited human resources, overcrowding, and time constraints during intake examinations.

Inaccurate registration directly affects inmate classification, resulting in users, distributors, and traffickers potentially being placed within the same rehabilitative environment. Such conditions diminish rehabilitation effectiveness, increase the likelihood of conflict, and heighten risks of prisonization and recidivism. These findings indicate that registration has not yet functioned as a risk management instrument but continues to be treated primarily as an administrative intake procedure. Accordingly, the effectiveness of the correctional system is fundamentally determined by the quality of initial assessment. Registration standards must be reconceptualized as the foundation for individualized rehabilitation planning rather than mere data recording. Strengthening staff capacity, optimizing needs-based assessment mechanisms, and integrating inmate data within the centralized system managed by the Directorate General of Corrections constitute essential measures to ensure accurate classification and to support the success of rehabilitation and social reintegration processes.

REFERENCES

Aspan, H. H., Siregar, F. R., & Nasution, A. R. (2023). *Metode Therapeutic Community (TC) dalam Menangani Konflik Warga Binaan di Lembaga Pemasyarakatan Narkotika Kelas IIA Langkat*. Repository Universitas Pembangunan Panca Budi.

Febyola, S., Siregar, M. A., & Nasution, A. R. (2025). Optimalisasi pelaksanaan pembinaan narapidana dalam merubah perilaku warga binaan (Studi di Lembaga Pemasyarakatan Pemuda Kelas III Langkat). *Jurnal Riset Rumpun Ilmu Sosial, Politik dan Humaniora*, 4(1).

Ginting, D. T., Fikri, R. A., & Nasution, A. R. (2025). Juridical analysis of civil service punishment for civil servants of correctional institutions for escaping correctional inmates (Case Study of Class IIA Pancur Batu Prison). Dalam *International Conference Epicentrum of Economic Global Framework* (hlm. 490–497).

Sihombing, J., Siregar, M. A., & Zarzani, T. R. (2025). Implementasi rehabilitasi terhadap narapidana narkotika dalam pembinaan di Lembaga Pemasyarakatan Kelas IIB Lubuk Pakam. *Jurnal Riset Rumpun Ilmu Sosial, Politik dan Humaniora*, 4(2), 35–45.

Tarigan, J., Fikri, R. A., & Bintang, H. J. (2025). Analisis penegakan disiplin terhadap warga binaan dalam menjalani masa hukuman di Rutan Klas I Tanjung Gusta Medan. *Jurnal Multidisiplin Dehasen (MUDE)*, 4(4), 713–722.

Undang-Undang Republik Indonesia Nomor 22 Tahun 2022 tentang Pemasyarakatan.

Peraturan Menteri Hukum dan Hak Asasi Manusia Republik Indonesia tentang registrasi dan klasifikasi narapidana serta sistem pembinaan pemasyarakatan.