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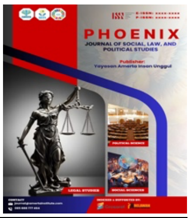

Factors Influencing the Occurrence of Criminal Offenses in Society

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ABSTRACT

Criminal offenses are a persistent social phenomenon that cannot be separated from the dynamics of community life. Although criminal behavior may arise from various economic, social, cultural, and psychological conditions, a comprehensive understanding of the factors contributing to crime and appropriate prevention strategies remains important for strengthening social order and justice. This study aimed to analyze the factors contributing to the occurrence of criminal offenses in society and examine efforts to prevent and address such offenses. The study employed a normative juridical research design using conceptual and sociological approaches. The analysis examined relevant legal principles, regulations, and conceptual perspectives concerning the causes of criminal behavior and its prevention, while considering the social conditions associated with criminal offenses. The findings indicated that economic difficulties, low levels of education, unfavorable social environments, and weak law enforcement were the major factors contributing to the occurrence of criminal offenses in society. These factors interacted with broader social conditions and created circumstances that could increase the likelihood of criminal behavior. The study therefore highlights the need for a comprehensive crime-prevention approach that combines legal measures with social and preventive interventions. Improving community welfare and access to education, strengthening the social environment, and enhancing the effectiveness of the legal system are essential for reducing criminal offenses. These findings contribute to a broader understanding of crime prevention by emphasizing the importance of integrating legal enforcement with socioeconomic and educational strategies.

1. Introduction

Criminal offenses constitute a persistent social problem that cannot be separated from the dynamics of community life. As societies become increasingly complex, patterns of criminal behavior also evolve in terms of forms, perpetrators, motivations, and methods. Crime is therefore not merely a matter of violating legal norms but also reflects broader socioeconomic and social conditions. Recent studies indicate that crime is associated with multiple structural and contextual factors, including unemployment, poverty, educational conditions, population characteristics, and the social environment. Evidence from different settings shows that economic disadvantage and limited employment opportunities can increase exposure to criminal behavior, although the strength and direction of these relationships may vary across types of crime and local contexts (Altindag, 2021; Henderson et al., 2024). This multidimensional nature of crime underscores the importance of examining its causes beyond individual intention alone.

The economic dimension is particularly relevant in understanding criminal behavior. Economic hardship, unemployment, poverty, and limited access to legitimate economic opportunities may create pressures that increase the incentives or vulnerabilities associated with criminal activity. Altindag (2021), for example, found a significant positive relationship between unemployment shocks and crime in both France and the United Kingdom, particularly during periods of economic contraction. More recent evidence similarly demonstrates that unemployment and poverty are associated with different forms of crime at the neighborhood level

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(Henderson et al., 2024). Moreover, poverty-reduction policies have been shown to contribute to reductions in criminal offenses, partly through improvements in income and employment opportunities (Li et al., 2024). These findings suggest that crime prevention cannot be separated from policies aimed at improving socioeconomic welfare.

Education represents another important factor. Low educational attainment may restrict employment opportunities, weaken individuals' access to legitimate sources of income, and limit their understanding of legal norms and social responsibilities. Recent evidence shows that public investment in education can have crime-reducing effects, including reductions in both violent and property crime (Machin et al., 2021). Similarly, policies that increase educational participation have been associated with reductions in certain forms of criminal behavior among young people (Evans et al., 2024). Education should therefore be understood not only as a mechanism for developing human capital but also as an important component of long-term crime prevention.

Beyond economic and educational conditions, the social environment plays an important role in shaping individual behavior. Social relationships, peer influence, community norms, and the strength of informal social control can affect whether individuals are exposed to or encouraged toward deviant behavior. Research on social environments emphasizes that criminal behavior is embedded in broader patterns of social interaction and community conditions rather than occurring independently of the surrounding environment. Zlokazov (2022) demonstrates the relevance of the social environment to criminal behavior and highlights its importance for the prevention of deviant and delinquent conduct. Accordingly, unfavorable social environments, negative peer associations, weak community control, and declining social cohesion may increase the risk of criminal behavior.

The effectiveness of the legal system is also essential in addressing criminal offenses. The existence of criminal law does not automatically guarantee effective crime prevention when law enforcement is perceived as weak, inconsistent, or ineffective. Public trust and perceptions of police legitimacy are particularly important because they influence citizens' willingness to recognize legal authority and cooperate with law enforcement institutions. Oliveira and Jackson (2021) emphasize that legitimacy, trust, and legal cynicism are closely connected to perceptions of legal authority and public-police relations. Similarly, Schaap and Saarikkomäki (2022) argue that procedural justice and police–citizen relations are important dimensions of police legitimacy. These findings indicate that effective crime prevention requires not only punishment after offenses occur but also credible, fair, and trusted law enforcement.

The Indonesian context further demonstrates the importance of examining the multidimensional causes of crime. Empirical research in Indonesia has identified socioeconomic and demographic factors as relevant to variations in crime across regions. Sukarna et al. (2022), for instance, found that population, education, poverty, and unemployment were associated with crime in South Sulawesi, with population showing the strongest direct effect and education the smallest direct effect within their model. More recent Indonesian evidence also indicates that poverty, unemployment, education, and income inequality remain relevant variables in explaining regional differences in crime rates (Kurniasih et al., 2025). These findings reinforce the argument that criminal offenses in Indonesian communities should be examined through an integrated perspective rather than attributed exclusively to individual motives.

Despite the growing body of research, an important gap remains. Much of the recent empirical literature examines individual socioeconomic determinants of crime quantitatively or focuses on specific categories of offenses, while fewer studies provide an integrated legal and sociological analysis connecting economic conditions, education, social environment, and law enforcement within a broader framework of crime prevention. Existing studies also produce varying findings regarding the relative importance of particular factors across geographic and social contexts. For example, empirical studies demonstrate that unemployment, poverty, education, and population may have different relationships with crime depending on the location and type of offense examined (Sukarna et al., 2022; Henderson et al., 2024). This variation indicates the need for a contextual analysis that considers the

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interaction between structural conditions, social influences, and the effectiveness of the legal system.

Based on this gap, the research problem addressed in this study is twofold: (1) what factors contribute to the occurrence of criminal offenses in society, and (2) what measures can be undertaken to prevent and address such offenses effectively? Accordingly, this study aimed to identify the principal factors contributing to criminal offenses in society and to analyze appropriate approaches to crime prevention and control. The study employed a normative juridical perspective supported by conceptual and sociological approaches, enabling the analysis to connect legal principles with the social conditions underlying criminal behavior.

Theoretically, this study contributes to the understanding of crime causation by integrating legal, socioeconomic, educational, and social-environment perspectives rather than treating criminal behavior as solely an individual or legal phenomenon. Practically, the study provides a basis for policymakers, law enforcement institutions, and community stakeholders to develop more comprehensive crime-prevention strategies that combine legal enforcement with improvements in socioeconomic welfare, education, social control, and public trust. The novelty of the study lies in its integrated analysis of the factors underlying criminal offenses and its emphasis on combining preventive, repressive, and rehabilitative approaches within a broader legal and sociological framework. Such an approach is expected to strengthen both the development of criminal law scholarship and the formulation of more responsive strategies for reducing criminality in society.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual and Theoretical Foundations

2.1.1 The Concept of Criminal Offenses

A criminal offense refers to an act that is prohibited by law and subject to criminal sanctions when committed by an individual. In Indonesian criminal law, the concept is commonly associated with the term *delict*, derived from the Dutch term *delict*. Moeljatno (2008) explains that a criminal offense constitutes an act prohibited by a legal rule, accompanied by a threat of punishment for those who violate the prohibition. Similarly, Simons conceptualizes a criminal offense as an unlawful act committed with culpability and subject to criminal punishment. These classical legal perspectives remain relevant because they establish the fundamental relationship between prohibited conduct, unlawfulness, culpability, and criminal liability.

From a legal perspective, an act can be categorized as a criminal offense when several fundamental elements are present. First, there must be an act or conduct (*actus reus*) attributable to an individual. Second, the conduct must be prohibited by a legal provision. Third, the applicable law must provide a criminal sanction for the prohibited conduct. Fourth, the offender must possess culpability (*mens rea*), which may take the form of intention or negligence. Thus, criminal liability requires more than the occurrence of harmful conduct; it also requires an assessment of the legal prohibition and the culpability of the person responsible.

In the Indonesian legal system, criminal offenses have traditionally been regulated through the Criminal Code and various sector-specific criminal statutes. The enactment of Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 1 of 2023 concerning the Criminal Code further demonstrates the continuing development of Indonesian criminal law. Criminal offenses encompass conduct directed against individuals, communities, and the state, and consequently have broader implications for social order and public security. The legal concept of a criminal offense therefore provides the normative foundation for examining why prohibited conduct occurs and how society and the legal system should respond to it.

Recent criminological scholarship reinforces the view that crime should not be reduced to a purely legal phenomenon. Hai (2021) argues that crime causation involves multidimensional influences encompassing environmental, biological, sociocultural, and psychological factors. This perspective is important for the present study because the identification of criminal offenses must be connected with an examination of the social conditions that may facilitate or encourage offending behavior.

2.1.2 Theories of Crime Causation

Crime causation has been explained through several major criminological perspectives. The biological perspective emphasizes individual characteristics and inherited or physiological

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conditions that may influence behavioral tendencies. Although contemporary criminology generally avoids deterministic explanations of crime based solely on biological characteristics, biological factors remain part of the broader multidimensional discussion of criminal behavior.

The psychological perspective explains criminal behavior through individual psychological conditions, cognitive processes, emotional regulation, personality characteristics, and behavioral development. From this perspective, criminal behavior may emerge when psychological vulnerabilities interact with adverse environmental circumstances. The sociological perspective, in contrast, emphasizes the role of social structures, interpersonal relationships, community conditions, and social control. This perspective is particularly relevant to the present study because the research focuses on criminal offenses as a social phenomenon.

The economic perspective explains crime in relation to material deprivation, unemployment, poverty, inequality, and limited legitimate opportunities. Economic pressure may generate strain and reduce individuals' access to socially acceptable means of achieving desired outcomes. Andini and Manullang (2023), for example, applied strain theory to criminal behavior in Indonesian street-racing cases and demonstrated how economic, social, and emotional pressures can provide a criminological explanation for participation in unlawful activities. Thus, economic conditions should be understood as one component within a broader system of factors rather than as an independent and universal cause of crime.

Contemporary research increasingly supports an integrated approach to crime causation. Hai (2021) emphasizes that no single criminological perspective can comprehensively explain all forms of criminal behavior because crime is influenced by multiple and interacting factors. This multidimensional perspective provides the theoretical basis for examining criminal offenses through the combination of individual, social, economic, and environmental dimensions.

2.1.3 Social Factors and Criminal Behavior

Social factors constitute an important dimension in explaining criminal behavior. Individuals do not develop their attitudes and behavioral patterns independently of their surroundings. Family relationships, peer associations, community conditions, and informal social control can shape norms, opportunities, and behavioral expectations.

Family represents one of the earliest social environments influencing individual development. Family relationships can function as protective mechanisms when they provide supervision, emotional support, social norms, and effective behavioral guidance. Conversely, dysfunctional family relationships, inadequate supervision, or exposure to adverse behavioral models may increase vulnerability to delinquent conduct. Research on the multidimensional roles of family and peers emphasizes that both can exert protective as well as risk-enhancing influences on offending behavior, challenging the simplistic assumption that family is always protective and peers are always criminogenic (Krohn et al., 2021).

Peer association is similarly important because individuals may learn behavioral norms through interaction with others. Association with peers involved in deviant activities can increase exposure to opportunities, rationalizations, and behavioral models associated with offending. A study of Malaysian adolescents using Routine Activity Theory found that peer involvement in deviant activities was an important predictor of self-reported delinquency, demonstrating the relevance of peer relationships in explaining criminal behavior in an Asian context (Ismail et al., 2021).

Community conditions also influence criminal behavior through mechanisms of social control and collective regulation. Social disorganization theory proposes that weakened community organization can reduce the capacity of residents and institutions to maintain informal social control. Recent scholarship, however, also demonstrates that the relationship between community organization and crime is not necessarily uniform. Degan et al. (2022), for example, found limited effects of several measures of social disorganization and collective efficacy on neighborhood exposure to crime, suggesting that the relationship between community characteristics and crime depends on contextual conditions. Similarly, Linning et al. (2022) critically reconsidered conventional assumptions of social disorganization theory and emphasized the role of places, property

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managers, institutions, and formal authority in shaping neighborhood social control.

Therefore, the social environment should be understood as a combination of family structures, peer relationships, community organization, social norms, and mechanisms of formal and informal control. This broader conceptualization is consistent with the present study's focus on family environment, social association, and community conditions.

2.2 Review of Empirical Studies

Recent empirical and theoretical studies demonstrate that criminal behavior results from the interaction of multiple factors. Hai (2021) emphasizes the multidimensional nature of crime causation and argues that biological, psychological, environmental, and sociocultural explanations should be considered together. This perspective supports an integrated approach rather than an exclusive reliance on one criminological theory.

Research on family and peers further indicates that social relationships may function in both protective and risk-enhancing ways. Krohn et al. (2021) show that family and peer influences should not be treated as independent or inherently positive and negative categories, respectively. Their interaction can influence the development of offending behavior in different ways depending on social circumstances.

Empirical evidence also supports the importance of peer environments. Ismail et al. (2021) found that peer involvement in deviant activities was a significant predictor of delinquency among Malaysian adolescents. This finding is particularly relevant for the present study because it demonstrates that social association may influence criminal behavior within an Asian cultural setting.

At the community level, however, empirical findings are less consistent. Degan et al. (2022) reported that several conventional measures of social disorganization and collective efficacy had limited effects on neighborhood exposure to crime in Greater Manchester. Meanwhile, Linning et al. (2022) argued that explanations of neighborhood crime should pay greater attention to place management and institutional actors rather than relying exclusively on resident-based informal control. These differences indicate that social conditions may influence crime through different mechanisms depending on the characteristics of communities and institutions.

The economic and strain dimensions also remain relevant. Andini and Manullang (2023) demonstrated the usefulness of strain theory in interpreting criminal behavior in Indonesia by linking unlawful conduct to economic, social, and emotional pressures. Taken together, the literature suggests that crime is best understood through an integrated framework involving individual circumstances, economic pressures, social relationships, community conditions, and legal institutions.

2.3 Identification of the Research Gap

The literature reveals three important gaps. First, previous research has frequently examined individual dimensions of crime causation, such as peer influence, social disorganization, economic strain, or family relationships, rather than integrating these dimensions with the normative legal concept of criminal offenses. Second, empirical findings regarding the influence of social environments are not entirely consistent, indicating that contextual factors influence how social conditions translate into criminal behavior. Third, much recent research focuses on particular populations, age groups, crime categories, or geographic settings, limiting the development of a broader legal-sociological explanation of criminal offenses in society.

The present study addresses these gaps by integrating the normative concept of criminal offenses with criminological explanations of crime causation. Rather than treating criminal behavior solely as an individual's unlawful act, the study examines how economic, educational, social, environmental, and legal dimensions contribute to the emergence and persistence of criminal offenses. This approach is consistent with recent scholarship emphasizing the multidimensional character of crime causation (Hai, 2021) while responding to empirical evidence that relationships between social conditions and crime may vary across contexts.

2.4 Development of the Conceptual Framework

This study does not employ a quantitative conceptual framework based on statistically tested independent and dependent variables. Instead, it adopts a normative-juridical and sociological

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analytical framework. The framework connects two principal analytical dimensions.

The first dimension concerns the factors contributing to criminal offenses, consisting of economic conditions, educational conditions, social environment, family environment, peer association, community conditions, and individual circumstances. The second dimension concerns crime prevention and control**,** consisting of preventive, repressive, and rehabilitative measures.

Conceptually, the relationship can be understood as follows: adverse socioeconomic and social conditions may create circumstances conducive to criminal behavior; these circumstances interact with individual characteristics and opportunities for offending; and the effectiveness of formal and informal social control may determine whether such behavior is prevented, reproduced, or addressed. The framework therefore treats criminal behavior as a multidimensional social and legal phenomenon.

2.5 Hypotheses or Research Propositions

This study does not formulate statistical hypotheses because it is designed as a normative juridical study employing conceptual and sociological approaches rather than a quantitative study testing causal relationships between measurable variables. Consequently, hypotheses requiring statistical verification are not appropriate.

Nevertheless, the analysis is guided by two research propositions derived from the literature. First, criminal offenses are likely to emerge through the interaction of individual, economic, educational, social, and environmental conditions rather than from a single causal factor. Second, effective crime prevention requires an integrated approach combining legal enforcement with socioeconomic improvement, education, family and community strengthening, and rehabilitation.

These propositions serve as analytical directions rather than statistically testable hypotheses. Their purpose is to organize the examination of legal principles and sociological explanations and to connect the identified causes of criminal offenses with appropriate crime-prevention strategies.

3. Research Methods

3.1 Research Design

This study employed a normative juridical research design supported by conceptual and sociological approaches. The normative juridical approach was used to examine legal norms, principles, doctrines, and regulations governing criminal offenses and their prevention. The conceptual approach was employed to analyze relevant legal and criminological concepts concerning criminal offenses, crime causation, and crime prevention. Meanwhile, the sociological approach was used to contextualize criminal offenses within the social conditions that may contribute to their occurrence. This combination of approaches was considered appropriate because the study examined criminal offenses not only as violations of legal norms but also as social phenomena influenced by economic, educational, environmental, and social factors.

3.2 Research Context and Setting

The research was conducted within the context of criminal law and criminological conditions in Indonesian society. The Indonesian context was selected because criminal offenses constitute a continuing social and legal issue requiring both normative legal responses and broader social interventions. The study focused on the general conditions underlying the occurrence of criminal offenses in society rather than on a particular criminal offense, institution, organization, or geographical locality. Accordingly, the findings are intended to provide a broader legal and sociological understanding of the factors contributing to criminal offenses and the approaches that may be used to address them.

3.3 Population and Sample / Research Participants

This study did not employ a population and sample or research participants because it was designed as normative juridical research based on documentary and legal materials. Therefore, statistical sampling techniques and participant inclusion criteria were not applicable. The unit of analysis consisted of relevant legal norms, legal principles, scholarly doctrines, conceptual perspectives, and sociological information concerning criminal offenses and their prevention.

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3.4 Data Sources and Data Collection

The data sources consisted of primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials**.** Primary legal materials included relevant legislation and other authoritative legal instruments governing criminal offenses and criminal justice in Indonesia. Secondary legal materials consisted of scholarly books, journal articles, legal and criminological literature, and other academic publications that provided theoretical and analytical perspectives on crime causation and prevention. Tertiary legal materials included supporting reference sources used to clarify legal and conceptual terminology.

Data were collected through library research**.** The collection process involved identifying, reviewing, classifying, and documenting relevant legal and scholarly materials related to the research questions. Particular attention was given to materials addressing the concept of criminal offenses, criminological theories, socioeconomic factors, educational conditions, social environments, law enforcement, and crime-prevention strategies.

3.5 Measurement of Variables and Research Instruments

Because this study was normative juridical in nature, it did not measure quantitative variables and did not employ standardized survey instruments or measurement scales. Instead, the principal analytical concepts were criminal offenses, factors contributing to crime, and crime prevention. These concepts were examined through relevant legal norms, criminological theories, scholarly doctrines, and empirical findings reported in previous studies.

The primary research instrument was therefore the researcher as the analytical instrument, supported by systematic document review and legal-material classification. The materials were organized according to the research questions to facilitate the interpretation and synthesis of legal and sociological information.

3.6 Data Analysis Techniques

The collected materials were analyzed using qualitative juridical and descriptive-analytical techniques. The analysis began with the identification and classification of relevant legal and scholarly materials. The materials were then interpreted by examining the relationships between legal norms, criminological theories, social conditions, and crime-prevention measures.

The normative juridical analysis focused on interpreting legal provisions, principles, and doctrines concerning criminal offenses and legal responsibility. The conceptual analysis compared relevant concepts and theories of crime causation, while the sociological analysis examined how economic, educational, family, peer, community, and law-enforcement conditions may contribute to criminal behavior. The findings were subsequently synthesized to identify the principal factors associated with criminal offenses and the appropriate preventive, repressive, and rehabilitative responses.

3.7 Validity, Reliability, and Trustworthiness

As a normative juridical study, the research did not employ statistical validity and reliability tests. Instead, the trustworthiness of the analysis was maintained through source relevance, legal authority, consistency of interpretation, and triangulation of legal and scholarly materials. Primary legal materials were prioritized as authoritative sources, while secondary and tertiary materials were used to provide theoretical, conceptual, and contextual support.

Triangulation was undertaken by comparing legal provisions with relevant scholarly literature and criminological perspectives. Different sources were examined to identify consistency, differences, and contextual explanations regarding the causes of criminal offenses and their prevention. This process was intended to minimize interpretive bias and strengthen the credibility of the conclusions.

3.8 Ethical Considerations

The study did not involve human participants, interviews, surveys, or collection of personal data. Consequently, informed consent and participant confidentiality were not applicable. Nevertheless, the research adhered to principles of academic integrity, accurate attribution, responsible use of sources, and avoidance of plagiarism. Legal and scholarly materials were interpreted in their appropriate context, and sources were cited to acknowledge the intellectual contributions of previous authors.

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3.9 Research Procedure

The research procedure consisted of several sequential stages. First, the research problem concerning the factors contributing to criminal offenses and their prevention was identified. Second, relevant legal, conceptual, criminological, and sociological literature was identified through library research. Third, the collected materials were classified into primary, secondary, and tertiary legal sources. Fourth, the materials were analyzed using normative juridical, conceptual, and sociological approaches. Fifth, the findings concerning the factors contributing to criminal offenses were synthesized and connected with appropriate crime-prevention strategies. Finally, conclusions were formulated based on the results of the legal and sociological analysis.

3.10 Methodological Limitations

This methodological design has several limitations. First, because the study relies on normative juridical analysis and library research, it does not provide statistical estimates of the magnitude or causal effects of particular factors on criminal behavior. Second, the absence of primary field data limits the ability to directly capture the experiences and perceptions of offenders, victims, law-enforcement officers, and community members. Third, the broad focus on criminal offenses in society means that differences among specific types of crime may not be examined in detail. Future research may complement the present approach through empirical qualitative or quantitative studies involving specific populations, geographical areas, or categories of criminal offenses. Nevertheless, the normative juridical and sociological design remains appropriate for establishing a comprehensive legal and conceptual foundation for understanding crime causation and developing integrated crime-prevention strategies.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Research Results

4.1.1 Description and Classification of the Units of Analysis

The legal and scholarly materials examined in this study were classified into three principal categories: primary, secondary, and tertiary materials. Primary legal materials consisted of legislation and other authoritative legal instruments concerning criminal offenses and criminal justice. Secondary materials consisted of legal scholarship, criminological literature, journal articles, and academic publications discussing crime causation and prevention. Tertiary materials consisted of supporting reference materials used to clarify legal and criminological concepts.

The classification of the analytical materials is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Classification of Research Materials

Category	Type of Material	Analytical Focus
Primary legal materials	Laws, regulations, and other authoritative legal instruments	Criminal offenses, criminal responsibility, sanctions, and law enforcement
Secondary legal materials	Books, journal articles, legal scholarship, and criminological studies	Causes of crime, criminological theories, social factors, and crime prevention
Tertiary legal materials	Supporting reference materials	Legal terminology, concepts, and clarification of relevant issues

Source: by Author

As the research relied on documentary analysis, the number of human participants and sample characteristics were not applicable. The analytical emphasis was placed on the substance, relevance, and consistency of the materials in answering the research questions.

4.1.2 Data Quality and Preliminary Analysis

The quality of the research materials was assessed through source relevance, authority, consistency, and suitability for the research objectives. Primary legal materials were treated as authoritative sources for examining the normative aspects of criminal offenses. Secondary materials were examined to provide theoretical, conceptual, and sociological explanations, while tertiary materials were used only as supporting sources.

Statistical preliminary tests, including normality, multicollinearity, reliability, and model-fit tests, were not conducted because the research did not employ quantitative data or statistical models.

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Instead, preliminary analysis consisted of identifying relevant materials, classifying them according to their analytical function, comparing their substantive content, and determining their relevance to the research questions.

4.1.3 Main Analytical Results

a. Factors Contributing to Criminal Offenses

The analysis identified seven principal factors associated with the occurrence of criminal offenses in society: economic factors, educational factors, social environmental factors, family factors, psychological factors, law-enforcement factors, and technological development factors.

The identified factors are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Factors Contributing to Criminal Offenses

Factor	Main Finding
Economic factors	Poverty, unemployment, economic hardship, and social inequality may create conditions that encourage criminal behavior.
Educational factors	Low educational attainment may limit legal understanding and legitimate socioeconomic opportunities.
Social environmental factors	Negative peer associations, unfavorable social environments, and weak social control may increase exposure to criminal behavior.
Family factors	Lack of parental attention, family conflict, and inappropriate parenting may weaken family-based behavioral control.
Psychological factors	Stress, emotional instability, and psychological vulnerabilities may affect self-control and decision-making.
Law-enforcement factors	Weak, inconsistent, or ineffective law enforcement may reduce deterrence and encourage repeated offending.
Technological development	Internet and social media development may create new opportunities and methods for cyber-related criminal offenses.

Source: by Author

The results demonstrate that criminal offenses cannot be attributed to a single factor. The identified factors consist of both internal and external dimensions and may interact with one another. Economic difficulties, for example, may occur simultaneously with limited educational opportunities and unfavorable social environments. Similarly, psychological vulnerabilities may become more significant when individuals experience adverse family or social conditions.

b. Crime-Prevention Measures

The analysis further identified three principal approaches to addressing criminal offenses: preventive, repressive, and rehabilitative measures. These approaches represent complementary stages of crime control rather than mutually exclusive alternatives.

Table 3. Crime-Prevention and Control Measures

Approach	Main Measures	Intended Function
Preventive	Legal education, improvement of socioeconomic welfare, and social-environment development	Prevent criminal behavior before offenses occur
Repressive	Firm law enforcement and appropriate criminal sanctions	Establish legal accountability and deter criminal conduct
Rehabilitative	Offender development and social reintegration	Reduce repeated offending and facilitate lawful reintegration

Source: by Author

The preventive approach focuses on addressing conditions that may contribute to criminal behavior. The repressive approach addresses criminal conduct after an offense has occurred through the application of criminal law and appropriate sanctions. The rehabilitative

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approach focuses on behavioral development and reintegration so that offenders can return to society and participate in lawful social activities.

4.1.4 Key Findings

The first research question concerned the factors contributing to criminal offenses in society. The analysis identified seven interconnected factors**,** namely economic, educational, social environmental, family, psychological, law-enforcement, and technological factors. The results therefore indicate that criminal offenses constitute a multidimensional phenomenon involving individual, social, economic, institutional, and technological dimensions.

The second research question concerned efforts to prevent and address criminal offenses. The analysis identified three complementary approaches, namely preventive, repressive, and rehabilitative measures. Preventive measures address the conditions preceding criminal behavior, repressive measures establish legal accountability after an offense occurs, and rehabilitative measures address the post-offense process of behavioral development and social reintegration.

Because the study was not designed as a quantitative investigation, no statistical hypotheses were tested. Consequently, the key findings were derived from the systematic analysis and synthesis of legal and scholarly materials rather than from statistical significance, effect sizes, or causal coefficients.

4.1.5 Visual Presentation of Results

The main research findings are presented visually in Table 2 and Table 3**.** Table 2 summarizes the seven factors contributing to criminal offenses, while Table 3 presents the preventive, repressive, and rehabilitative approaches to crime prevention.

4.2 Research Discussion

4.2.1 Interpretation of the Key Findings

The findings answer the first research question by demonstrating that criminal offenses in society arise from an interaction of internal and external conditions rather than from a single cause. Economic, educational, social, family, psychological, legal, and technological factors operate within different contexts and may reinforce one another.

The economic factor is particularly important because limited economic opportunities can create pressure for individuals who lack legitimate means of meeting their needs. However, interpreting poverty or unemployment as a direct and universal cause of crime would be overly simplistic. The findings instead support a conditional understanding in which economic disadvantage becomes criminogenically relevant when combined with other vulnerabilities and limited social protection.

The educational factor complements the economic explanation. Education contributes to human capital, legal awareness, decision-making capacity, and access to legitimate employment. Thus, strengthening education is relevant not only as a long-term socioeconomic policy but also as a component of crime prevention.

Social and family environments provide another important explanatory layer. Criminal behavior can develop within patterns of interaction in which deviant norms, weak supervision, peer influence, and inadequate social control become normalized. This interpretation is consistent with the broader criminological perspective that offending is embedded in social relationships and community contexts.

Psychological conditions add an individual-level dimension to the analysis. Stress, emotional instability, and difficulties in self-regulation may influence how individuals respond to adverse circumstances. Nevertheless, these factors should be interpreted carefully because psychological conditions do not automatically produce criminal behavior. Their relevance lies in their interaction with environmental and social pressures.

Law enforcement operates differently from the other factors because it represents an institutional mechanism of social control. Effective and fair enforcement can increase the perceived certainty and legitimacy of legal sanctions, whereas weak or inconsistent enforcement can undermine deterrence and public confidence. Consequently, crime prevention requires not only stronger sanctions but also credible and procedurally fair legal institutions.

Finally, technological development demonstrates that the structure of criminal opportunities is changing. Digital technologies do not inherently create criminality, but they can alter

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the opportunities, methods, scale, and anonymity associated with offending. Recent scholarship emphasizes that cybercrime requires criminological explanations capable of accounting for the distinctive characteristics of online environments (Holt, 2023). Dearden and Gottschalk (2024) similarly highlight the role of opportunity and convenience in online cyber offending.

4.2.2 Comparison with Previous Studies

The findings are broadly consistent with the multidimensional view of crime causation developed in previous criminological research, but they extend that perspective by bringing together legal and sociological dimensions. Rather than treating economic disadvantage, social relationships, psychological conditions, or technological development as isolated explanatory variables, the present analysis considers them as interconnected dimensions of the criminal phenomenon.

The findings regarding family and social environment are consistent with research emphasizing the multidimensional influence of family and peer relationships. Family can operate as a protective institution through supervision and support, while peer relationships may expose individuals to deviant behavioral models. The present study therefore supports an interactional rather than deterministic interpretation of social influences.

The findings concerning community conditions also support the argument that social control depends on contextual characteristics. Community environments do not uniformly produce or prevent crime; their effects depend on the strength of social relationships, institutional capacity, and mechanisms of formal and informal control.

The technological dimension extends the discussion beyond conventional crime causation. Cybercrime research shows that digital environments introduce new opportunities and forms of anonymity that may alter conventional assumptions about offender-victim interaction. The present study incorporates this transformation into the broader analysis of criminal offenses, demonstrating that contemporary crime prevention must respond to both physical and digital environments.

4.2.3 Theoretical Contribution

The principal theoretical contribution of this study is the integration of normative juridical analysis with multidimensional criminological reasoning**.** Traditional legal analysis establishes whether conduct constitutes a criminal offense and whether legal responsibility can be imposed, whereas criminological analysis seeks to explain why criminal behavior occurs. Combining these perspectives provides a more comprehensive framework for understanding crime.

The findings reinforce the relevance of sociological and economic explanations while demonstrating that they should not be detached from psychological, family, institutional, and technological dimensions. The study therefore extends the conceptual understanding of crime causation from a single-factor explanation toward an integrated legal-sociological perspective.

The technological findings further suggest that contemporary crime theory must remain responsive to changes in the environment in which offenses occur. The development of cyberspace has altered opportunities for offending, requiring criminological analysis to consider digital environments alongside conventional physical settings.

4.2.4 Practical and Policy Implications

The findings have several practical and policy implications. First, crime prevention should be integrated with socioeconomic policies aimed at reducing poverty, unemployment, and economic vulnerability. Second, educational policies should strengthen not only academic achievement but also legal literacy, civic responsibility, and awareness of the consequences of criminal conduct.

Third, family and community institutions should be strengthened through social-support mechanisms, community supervision, youth development, and programs that promote positive peer relationships. Fourth, law enforcement agencies should prioritize certainty, fairness, consistency, and proportionality in the application of criminal law. Public trust should be treated as an important component of effective law enforcement.

Fifth, technological development requires strengthened digital legal literacy, cybercrime awareness, digital investigation capacity, and

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cooperation between law enforcement institutions, technology providers, and communities. The changing structure of online crime demonstrates that conventional policing alone may be insufficient to address digitally facilitated offenses.

Finally, crime control should combine preventive, repressive, and rehabilitative measures. Punishment alone may not address the social conditions underlying offending. Rehabilitation and social reintegration are therefore necessary components of a comprehensive strategy for reducing repeated offending.

4.2.5 Integration with the Research Gap

The findings directly address the research gap identified in the literature review. Previous studies have often examined specific dimensions of crime causation, including economic strain, peer influence, family conditions, social disorganization, or cybercrime. The present study integrates these dimensions within a broader normative-juridical and sociological framework.

This integration provides a more comprehensive explanation of criminal offenses by recognizing that crime emerges from interactions among individual circumstances, socioeconomic conditions, social relationships, institutional effectiveness, and technological opportunities. The study therefore responds to the need for an analytical approach that connects the causes of crime with the legal and social mechanisms required for prevention and control.

The study also contributes contextually by examining criminal offenses as a general social and legal phenomenon within Indonesian society rather than restricting the analysis to one specific offender group or one particular category of crime. Its principal novelty consequently lies in the integration of multidimensional crime causation with a three-level prevention strategy consisting of preventive, repressive, and rehabilitative measures.

4.2.6 Acknowledgement of Study Limitations

The findings should be interpreted in light of several limitations. Because the study was based on normative juridical analysis and library research, the identified factors cannot be interpreted as statistically estimated causal effects. The analysis also does not establish the relative magnitude of each factor or determine whether economic, educational, social, psychological, legal, or technological factors are more influential than others in a particular population.

In addition, the broad treatment of criminal offenses means that differences among specific crime categories may not be fully captured. Cybercrime, violent crime, property crime, and other offenses may have different causal mechanisms and prevention requirements. Future studies should therefore complement the present legal and conceptual analysis with empirical field research, including qualitative interviews or quantitative studies examining specific crime categories and geographical contexts.

Nevertheless, these limitations do not diminish the contribution of the study as a normative and sociological analysis. Rather, they indicate opportunities for future empirical research to test and further develop the multidimensional framework identified in this study.

5. Conclusion

5.1 Summary of Key Findings

This study concludes that criminal offenses in society are influenced by multiple interconnected factors, particularly economic conditions, educational conditions, social environment, cultural influences, psychological conditions, and law enforcement. The findings demonstrate that criminal behavior cannot be attributed to a single factor. Effective crime control therefore requires an integrated approach combining preventive, repressive, and rehabilitative measures. These findings address the research objectives by identifying the principal factors associated with criminal offenses and the appropriate approaches to their prevention and control.

5.2 Theoretical Contributions

The study contributes to the understanding of criminal offenses by integrating a normative juridical perspective with social and criminological considerations. It demonstrates that the analysis of criminal behavior should not be limited to legal violations and sanctions but should also consider the socioeconomic, educational, cultural, and social conditions underlying criminal behavior. This integrated perspective strengthens the conceptual understanding of crime as a multidimensional legal and social phenomenon.

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5.3 Practical and Policy Implications

The findings have several practical and policy implications. The government should improve community welfare and economic opportunities to reduce socioeconomic conditions that may contribute to criminal behavior. Legal education and public awareness should also be strengthened to improve understanding of legal norms and their consequences. Furthermore, law enforcement should be implemented firmly, fairly, consistently, and proportionately to strengthen deterrence and public confidence. These measures should be complemented by preventive and rehabilitative programs to support long-term crime reduction.

5.4 Limitations of the Study

This study is limited by its normative juridical design and reliance on legal materials and literature. Therefore, the findings do not provide quantitative estimates of the relative influence of each factor on criminal behavior. In addition, the broad focus on criminal offenses in society does not distinguish systematically among specific types of crime or geographical contexts. These limitations should be considered when applying the findings to specific populations or criminal categories.

5.5 Directions for Future Research

Future research should complement the normative juridical approach with empirical studies involving specific communities, geographical areas, or categories of criminal offenses. Quantitative research may examine the relative influence of economic, educational, social, cultural, psychological, and law-enforcement factors, while qualitative research may explore the experiences of offenders, victims, communities, and law-enforcement institutions. Future studies should also further examine the impact of technological development and digital environments on emerging forms of criminal offenses.

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