

## **Criminological Analysis of Women's Involvement in Class I Narcotics Trafficking Crimes (Empirical Study in the Jurisdiction of the Tanah Datar Police)**

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### **Abstract**

Class I narcotics trafficking constitutes a serious crime with far-reaching impacts on public health, social stability, and national security. In recent years, the jurisdiction of the Tanah Datar Police has shown an increasing involvement of women as perpetrators of narcotics trafficking, indicating a shift in crime patterns as well as the presence of gender-specific vulnerabilities. This study aims to analyze the criminological factors underlying women's involvement in Class I narcotics trafficking and to examine the countermeasures implemented by law enforcement authorities. This research employs an empirical juridical method with a qualitative approach. Data were collected through in-depth interviews with police officers from the narcotics investigation unit of the Tanah Datar Police and a female convicted offender, and were analyzed by relating criminological theories to the local social context. The findings indicate that women's involvement in narcotics trafficking is influenced by a combination of economic pressure, unequal social relations, and weak social control within their living environments. The countermeasures implemented have included repressive, preventive, and rehabilitative measures; however, they have not yet fully integrated a gender perspective. This study emphasizes that women's involvement in narcotics trafficking cannot be understood merely as individual legal violations, but rather as a criminological phenomenon shaped by structural and relational conditions. These findings contribute academically to the development of gender-based criminological studies and serve as a reference for the formulation of more comprehensive and gender-sensitive narcotics control policies.

**Keywords: Criminology; Criminal Offenses; Narcotics**

### **Abstrak**

*Tindak pidana peredaran narkotika golongan I merupakan kejahatan serius yang berdampak luas terhadap kesehatan masyarakat, stabilitas sosial, dan keamanan negara. Dalam beberapa tahun terakhir, wilayah hukum Polres Tanah Datar menunjukkan peningkatan keterlibatan perempuan sebagai pelaku peredaran narkotika, yang mengindikasikan pergeseran pola kejahatan sekaligus adanya kerentanan yang bersifat spesifik gender. Penelitian ini bertujuan menganalisis faktor-faktor kriminologis yang melatarbelakangi keterlibatan perempuan dalam peredaran narkotika golongan I serta menelaah strategi penanggulangan yang diterapkan oleh aparat penegak hukum. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode yuridis empiris dengan pendekatan kualitatif. Data diperoleh melalui wawancara mendalam dengan aparat kepolisian pada satuan reserse narkoba Polres Tanah Datar dan seorang terpidana perempuan, yang dianalisis dengan mengaitkan teori kriminologi dan konteks sosial lokal. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa keterlibatan perempuan dalam peredaran narkotika dipengaruhi oleh kombinasi tekanan ekonomi, relasi sosial yang tidak setara, serta lemahnya kontrol sosial di lingkungan tempat tinggal mereka. Strategi penanggulangan yang telah dilakukan mencakup langkah represif, preventif, dan rehabilitatif, namun belum sepenuhnya*

*mengintegrasikan perspektif gender. Penelitian ini menegaskan bahwa keterlibatan perempuan dalam peredaran narkoba tidak dapat dipahami semata-mata sebagai pelanggaran hukum individual, melainkan sebagai fenomena kriminologis yang dipengaruhi oleh kondisi struktural dan relasional. Temuan ini memberikan kontribusi akademik dalam pengembangan kajian kriminologi berbasis gender serta menjadi rujukan bagi perumusan kebijakan penanggulangan narkoba yang lebih komprehensif dan sensitif gender.*

**Kata Kunci: Kriminologi; Tindak Pidana; Narkoba**

## **Introduction**

Narcotics addiction and trafficking are a kind of transnational crime that is on the rise and significantly affects the nation's health, social fabric, economy, and security. Illicit and organised drug trafficking establishes a distribution network that permeates several societal strata, including vulnerable demographics such as teenagers, students, and women (Badan Narkotika Nasional RI, 2023). The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reported that in 2020, there were around 275 million drugs users globally, with an anticipated growth of 11% by 2030 (Alunaza et al., 2025).

The elevated demand and the proliferation of illegal distribution networks have rendered opioids more accessible, thereby increasing the potential for misuse. In Indonesia, drugs control is governed by Law Number 35 of 2009, which explicitly outlaws all kinds of manufacturing, distribution, and circulation of narcotics without a licence. Article 114, paragraphs (1) and (2) of the drugs Law provide severe criminal penalties for those engaged in the unlawful trafficking of Class I drugs, including lengthy imprisonment and the death penalty.

In law enforcement, differentiating the roles of users, dealers, and producers is crucial for determining criminal accountability and appropriate intervention strategies, particularly in distinguishing between perpetrators who are victims of abuse and those actively involved in narcotics trafficking networks (Anam et al., 2021). Narcotics users are individuals who use narcotics either voluntarily or out of dependence, and in certain cases can be categorized as victims of abuse (Johardi, 2021). Dealers are those who intentionally distribute, sell, or disseminate drugs unlawfully. The producer is an entity that manufactures or processes drugs, derived from both natural and synthetic substances, intended for distribution.

This difference is crucial as it dictates the nature of criminal responsibility and the law enforcement strategy towards each offender (Arief, 2018). In many circumstances, abusers and narcotics traffickers have a strong association. Abusers start as consumers but become serious addicts and part of the circulation chain owing to their affiliation to dealers or syndicates (Astawa, 2021). Drugs trafficking not only facilitates misuse but also amplifies the extent and severity of drugs' detrimental effects on individuals' lives. Narcotics offences, despite stringent regulation, continue to pose a significant judicial challenge and are classified as unusual crimes.

This crime has traits of being organised, methodical, involving cross-regional networks, and exerting a long-term influence on state resilience. Consequently, its management necessitates an all-encompassing strategy that incorporates repressive, preventative, and social methodologies engaging several sectors (Fikri et al., 2022). Narcotics trafficking has intricate societal ramifications. Narcotics addiction may result in organ damage, mental illnesses including despair and paranoia, and an increased chance of fatal overdose (Zahantoro et al., 2023). The influence is experienced not just by individuals but also by families and society as a whole.

Narcotics users may encounter familial discord, diminished productivity, loss of employment, and engage in criminal activities to satisfy their consumption requirements. At the macroeconomic level, the nation's financial strain escalates owing to rehabilitation expenses, law enforcement expenditures, and diminished labour output (Soekanto, 2019). In recent years, drugs trafficking in Indonesia has shown an upward trend, with women increasingly participating as offenders. BNN statistics indicates that in 2022, 10 housewives were identified as drugs suspects among a total of 1,181 suspects. This number rises to 36 women in 2023 and 39 women in 2024. While the figure is not as substantial as that of male criminals, the rise indicates a novel trend in the dynamics of drugs trafficking that warrants scrutiny from both legal and criminological viewpoints (BBC News Indonesia, 2025). A comparable scenario also occurred in West Sumatra. According to statistics from the West Sumatra Police, there were 485 drug charges involving 637 people during January to April 2025. In comparison to the 2023 statistics, which documented 1,256 occurrences, there will be an 8.36 percent rise in cases in 2024. Tanah Datar Regency is a region that has shown a persistent rise in drugs incidents.

According to data from the Ministry of Health as of January 2025, out of the 75 nagari in Tanah Datar, 5 nagari are classified as being in the drug danger category, while 33 nagari are categorised as alert, indicating a systematic proliferation of drugs trafficking throughout several locations (Kementerian Kesehatan RI, 2025). The data indicates that the distribution and misuse of drugs in Tanah Datar have proliferated extensively and methodically. This status indicates that addressing drugs offences in the area need swift, accurate, and coordinated actions across all sectors. The need of addressing drugs offences necessitates a thorough reaction, as their detrimental effects jeopardise not only the youth but also societal stability, security, and order at both local and national scales.

Table 1. Data on Narcotics Trafficking Crimes in 2022-2024 In The Jurisdiction Of the Tanah Datar Police

No	Year	Types of Narcotics		Number of Cases	Female Perpetrator
		<i>Sabu</i>	<i>Ganja</i>		
1.	2022	29	16	45	2 Orang
2.	2023	36	11	47	1 Orang
3.	2024	34	15	49	3 Orang

Source: Tanah Datar Police Narcotics Task Force, May 15 (2025)

The evidence indicates that particular focus should be directed on the role of women as perpetrators of illegal activities, notably as Class I drugs traffickers. According to the statistics shown in Table 1.1, although the number of female criminals is quantitatively lower than that of males, their involvement in the drugs trafficking network exhibits a constant trend annually.

Table 2. Sample of Narcotics Trafficking Crimes in 2022-2024 with Female Perpetrators in the Jurisdiction of the Tanah Datar Police

No	Year	Name	Age	Jobs	Address
1.	2022	Wulandari	26	Self-employed	Jorong Simpuruik, Nagari Simpuruik, Sungai Tarab District
2.	2023	Resi Primadonna	44	Taking Care of the Household	Jorong Nusa Indah, Nagari Lubuak Jantan, North Lintau Buo District
3.	2024	Vera Arisandi	30	Taking Care of the Household	Jorong Ampalu Ketek, Nagari Labuah, Lima Kaum District

The aforementioned occurrence indicates that the distribution of drugs is no longer confined to male offenders, but has now included women into an organised criminal framework. The participation of women in drugs trafficking warrants examination due to their distinct social standings, family responsibilities, and economic circumstances compared to males. In several criminological studies, women's involvement in crime is often attributed not to elevated criminal motive, but rather to economic dependency, relational pressures, exploitation by partners, or societal circumstances that restrict life options.

This event demonstrates the presence of systemic weaknesses that may incentivise women to engage in drugs trafficking networks. The importance of this research stems from the need for a more thorough knowledge of the variables influencing women's participation in drugs trafficking, to develop more effective preventative and countermeasure methods informed by gender-sensitive approaches. The data in the preceding table indicates that drugs trafficking remains a significant issue within the authority of the Tanah Datar Police, warranting thorough examination in legal and criminological studies.

The legal provisions for the prohibition of drugs trafficking are explicitly delineated in the statute. The presence of positive legislation has not sufficiently reduced the incidence of drugs trafficking offences. Criminologically, basic questions need additional investigation about the persistence of drugs trafficking despite stringent legal consequences Atmasasmita (2010) and potential impediments in law enforcement activities in this domain. Narcotics trafficking is often conducted clandestinely, using contemporary communication technologies, and entails a systematic network that spans from national to worldwide dimensions.

Consequently, law enforcement personnel must use specialised tactics and techniques to combat the increasingly intricate and clandestine ways of drugs trafficking (Albar, 2022). This study is grounded in criminological analysis to examine the underlying factors contributing to women's involvement in Class I narcotics trafficking within the jurisdiction of the Tanah Datar Police. By employing an empirical juridical method with a qualitative approach, this research seeks to bridge the gap between normative legal regulation and empirical social realities.

The study aims to contribute to the development of gender-based criminological perspectives and to inform the formulation of more comprehensive and gender-sensitive narcotics control policies. The issue statement in this research is: (1) What variables contribute to the participation of women as offenders of Class I narcotics trafficking offences under the jurisdiction of the Tanah Datar Police? What measures are implemented by women to combat class I drugs trafficking under the jurisdiction of the Tanah Datar Police?.

## **Method**

This study employs descriptive research aimed at comprehensively explaining the phenomenon of women's involvement in Class I narcotics trafficking offences within the jurisdiction of the Tanah Datar Police. The research uses an empirical juridical approach with a qualitative framework, which examines law not only as written norms but also as a social practice implemented by law enforcement officers and experienced by legal subjects in society (Suyanto, 2023). The data sources consist of primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained through unstructured interviews conducted with selected informants, namely the Head of the Narcotics Investigation Unit of the Tanah Datar Police as the key resource person and a female former inmate convicted of narcotics trafficking as the main informant. Informant selection was carried out purposively based

on their relevance and direct involvement in narcotics law enforcement and criminal experience. Secondary data were collected through document analysis, including primary legal materials such as laws and regulations on narcotics and criminal law, secondary legal materials comprising books, journal articles, and scholarly works on criminology and narcotics control, as well as tertiary legal materials such as legal dictionaries and encyclopaedias. The research instruments consisted of interview guidelines and document review checklists. Data collection techniques included in-depth interviews and document study. Data processing was conducted through editing and coding to ensure data accuracy, consistency, and thematic organization. The data were then analyzed using qualitative descriptive analysis by interpreting empirical findings through criminological theories and relevant conceptual frameworks, and the results are presented in narrative form to explain the relationship between legal norms, law enforcement practices, and social factors influencing women's participation in narcotics trafficking.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **1. Factors Causing the Involvement of Women as Perpetrators of Class I Narcotics Trafficking Crimes in the Jurisdiction of the Tanah Datar Police**

Research findings and interviews with the Head of drugs Investigation of the Tanah Datar Police and a female inmate reveal that women's participation in drugs trafficking is not isolated, but rather shaped by intricate structural and relational elements. The primary elements that mostly influence outcomes are economic conditions, social environment, and interpersonal interactions. Initially, economic considerations. The participation of women in the drugs trafficking network under the jurisdiction of the Tanah Datar Police is substantially influenced by structural economic factors. The Head of Drug Investigation said that the majority of the women engaged were from lower middle-class economic origins, had little education, and lacked stable employment (Muhammad Arvi, personal communication, 26 September 2025).

This circumstance puts pressure on them to fulfil their everyday requirements. This aligns with the results from interviews with female inmates, including Wulandari, 26, who disclosed her involvement in drugs trafficking due to challenges in fulfilling her family's requirements and the absence of a regular revenue source. He engages in various temporary employment, although his earnings are inadequate; hence, when presented with an opportunity to participate in drugs trafficking, he perceives it as his one option (Wulandari, personal communication, 26 September 2025).

From an economic perspective, most female offenders originate from lower-middle socio-economic backgrounds, possess limited educational attainment, and lack stable employment. These structural conditions generate persistent pressure to meet basic family needs, which in turn encourages the pursuit of alternative income sources, including illicit activities. Statements from both law enforcement officials and female inmates confirm that economic necessity functions as a primary catalyst for involvement in narcotics trafficking.

This finding corresponds with Robert K. Merton's Strain Theory, which explains criminal behavior as an adaptive response to structural pressure arising from the gap between legitimate goals and limited lawful means (Merton, 2004). The female offenders in this research exhibited an adaptive pattern characterised by creativity; they continue to pursue the objective of economic success but resort to unlawful methods due to the unavailability or inaccessibility of legal avenues, such as steady work (Purba, 2025). One informant said that the primary motivation for his participation in drugs trafficking was the economic necessities of his family. Initially, he assisted his companion; nevertheless, as economic constraints intensified, he persisted in the activity while acknowledging its



illegality. This acknowledgement shows just how Strain The economy significantly influences the prevalence of criminal activities. Consequently, field evidence substantiates that economic concerns constitute a sort of strain that elucidates women's participation in drugs trafficking in Tanah Datar Regency (Wulandari, personal communication, 26 September 2025). The offenders' poor educational attainment further exacerbates this position, fundamentally limiting their possibilities for upward mobility in the formal work market. Insufficient education constrains potential work opportunities, rendering illicit activities a sensible choice in circumstances of economic desperation.

Consequently, women's participation in drugs trafficking under this category should not be seen just as a global crime, but also as a pragmatic reaction to systemic economic marginalisation. In actuality, women often occupy precarious professions as couriers or middlemen, positions characterised by significant legal dangers and little economic benefits, which are disproportionate to the criminal threats encountered. This indicates the presence of an imbalanced power dynamic inside the drugs trafficking network, whereby women constitute the most susceptible demographic to exploitation by the organised criminal apparatus.

Secondly, the social milieu plays a crucial role in promoting women's participation in drugs trafficking networks. The study's results indicate that the majority of female offenders originate from a familial context characterised by disharmony or a strong association with drugs misuse. Social circles influenced by deviant ideals create environments that facilitate women's engagement in criminal activities. The Head of drugs Investigation at the Tanah Datar Police highlighted that women often engage in drugs trafficking owing to the influence of their immediate surroundings, including partners, close acquaintances, or family members who were previously engaged.

These personal interactions function as the primary conduit for women to acquire knowledge, comprehend, and eventually engage actively in drugs networks (Muhammad Arvi, personal communication, 26 September 2025). This finding aligns with the admissions of female inmates acquired from field interviews. One informant said that his participation started as an attempt to assist his spouse after persuasion and emotional coercion. Initially, he had neither the goal nor the awareness of drugs trafficking. The discomfort of declining a partner's invitation and the heightened connection in an unconventional setting lead to a steady escalation of their engagement, particularly when the family's financial demands intensify.

Continual social engagement in this context establishes a norm of tolerance for aberrant behaviour, making participation in drug offences a routine occurrence (Resi, personal communication, 26 September 2025). This issue may theoretically be elucidated by the Differential Association Theory proposed by Edwin H. Sutherland, which posits that criminal behaviour arises from a learning process via social contact (Cressey, 1978). Individuals engage in criminal behaviour because to their close associations with others who have internalised deviant ideals, norms, and practices.

In this scenario, women who engage closely with partners, acquaintances, or family members engaged in drugs will acquire knowledge of these illegal behaviour patterns via continuous socialisation processes. The admission of an additional female convicted informant corroborates this trend. He said that the couple's influence was the primary catalyst for his entry into the drugs trafficking network. Understanding of the circulatory system, the requisite roles, and the execution of these tasks is progressively attained by direct engagement with one's social network (Arisandi, personal communication, 26 September 2025). This indicates that the social milieu and interpersonal connections significantly impact the development of women's criminal behaviour.

The aforementioned description indicates that the social environment and intimate interactions are essential variables in the learning process of women's criminal behaviour in drugs offences. This engagement is not just the outcome of autonomous individual decisions, but rather a product of an ongoing societal process occurring inside an environment tainted by corrupt activities. The third element significantly influencing women's participation in drugs trafficking is personal connections, particularly reliance on partners. In some instances, women occupy a subordinate role in the relationship, leading them to acquiesce to the demands or pressures exerted by their partners.

This power imbalance renders women susceptible to emotional and economic manipulation. The Head of drugs Investigation at the Tanah Datar Police said that women seldom assume the position of primary controllers in drugs trafficking networks. Conversely, they are often assigned roles as couriers or intermediates, whilst the primary players and strategic decision-makers are mostly male (Muhammad Arvi, personal communication, 26 September 2025). This submissive role exposes women to significant legal dangers while lacking control over the illicit actions they engage in.

The results align with the admissions of female inmates acquired by field interviews. One informant said that his participation in drugs trafficking was motivated by psychological and emotional coercion from his girlfriend. He acknowledged experiencing anxiety, financial reliance, and an inability to decline his partner's request, which led to his continuous involvement until he was ultimately apprehended (Muhammad Arvi, personal communication, 26 September 2025). This circumstance indicates that women's participation is often not a matter of autonomy, but rather a consequence of forced interactions.

This phenomena may be examined using the Social Control Theory proposed by Travis Hirschi. This hypothesis posits that criminal behaviour is more likely to manifest when an individual's connections to family, societal standards, and community are diminished (Hirschi, 2017). The tenuous link facilitates people's engagement in aberrant behaviour. In this research, several female offenders originate from dysfunctional homes characterised by neglect and insufficient moral oversight, resulting in diminished social control over individual behaviour.

This aligns with the statement from the Head of Narcotics Investigation of the Tanah Datar Police, indicating that some female drug offenders originate from incomplete familial backgrounds or lack social oversight (Muhammad Arvi, personal communication, 26 September 2025). This familial situation results in a deficiency of robust moral and emotional regulation, rendering women more susceptible to the influence of proximate individuals previously engaged in the drugs network. The admission of an additional female inmate corroborated this circumstance.

The informant said that he had to assume the majority of family tasks independently and lacked consistent familial assistance. This social status renders him more emotionally and financially reliant on his spouse, thus leading to adverse effects and entangling him in drugs use. This reliance diminishes the individual's capacity to resist solicitation or coercion that results in illegal engagement. Families and inadequate community social control promote women's drugs trafficking. The Head of Narcotics Investigation of the Tanah Datar Police explained that the lack of social activities, weak informal supervision, and high mobility of narcotics trafficking in residential areas foster deviant behaviour. Hirschi believes this situation indicates a loss of connection, commitment, and participation, which weakens societal control over the person (Hirschi, 2017). Attachment of weakness This is evident in the absence of emotional connections between women and their families, as well as their immediate surroundings, resulting in insufficient moral regulation of aberrant behaviour.

Minimal commitment the lack of substantial interest in securing a lawful future such as stable employment, education, or social standing results in the perception that the possibility of legal transgression is not a concern to be evaded. Concurrently, the deficiency of participation the absence of women's participation in social and constructive community activities indicates that their time and energy are not directed towards productive endeavours. Conjunction of deficiencies in attachment, commitment, and engagement This leads to inadequate social control over people, rendering women more susceptible to influence from their relationships and surroundings, particularly those formerly engaged in the drugs trafficking network.

Consequently, it may be inferred that imbalanced personal relationships, fragile familial connections, and insufficient social control within the community are interconnected criminogenic elements that promote women's participation in narcotics offences. This engagement arises not just from individual rational decisions, but from the societal relational framework that subjugates women and exposes them to adverse pressures. Overall, the findings demonstrate that women's participation in narcotics trafficking emerges from the interaction of economic strain, deviant social learning, and weakened social control.

These criminogenic factors do not operate independently but reinforce one another, positioning women simultaneously as offenders and as subjects constrained by structural inequality and relational dependency. The integration of Strain Theory, Differential Association Theory, and Social Control Theory provides a comprehensive explanatory framework, illustrating that women's involvement in narcotics trafficking in Tanah Datar is not merely an individual criminal choice, but a socially conditioned response shaped by economic vulnerability, social relations, and inadequate social control mechanisms.

## **2. Efforts to Counter Class I Narcotics Trafficking Crimes Committed by Women in the Jurisdiction of the Tanah Datar Police**

According to an interview with the Head of Narcotics Investigation at the Tanah Datar Police and the account of a female convict, initiatives to combat narcotics trafficking perpetrated by women have been implemented through four primary strategies: preemptive, preventive, repressive, and rehabilitative. Nevertheless, some obstacles persist, particularly in the post-sentence coaching phase (Muhammad Arvi, personal communication, 26 September 2025). Prior to the preventative and repressive measures, the Tanah Datar Police executed preemptive initiatives as a first strategy to address drugs offences affecting women.

This proactive initiative aims to enhance community values and social resilience via early education, family development, and the promotion of legal literacy. In Field Practice, the Police also refer to Preemptive measures as community coaching or indirect prevention aimed at law-abiding citizens (Bangsa, 2004). The Head of Narcotics Investigation articulated that the proactive strategy involves imparting education from a young age regarding the perils of narcotics through religious initiatives, familial counselling, and collaboration with educational institutions and community leaders to cultivate a more safeguarding environment for women.

Proactive measures are implemented by socialisation and counselling initiatives about the hazards of drugs to the community, students, and indigenous leaders, both directly and via mass media channels. This initiative seeks to avert the development of intents, opportunities, and initial vulnerabilities that may entice women to engage in narcotics networks, particularly those from disadvantaged households or precarious socioeconomic contexts. Following the execution of preventative measures as a first step



in prevention, the Tanah Datar Police subsequently adopted a preventive strategy (Muhammad Arvi, personal communication, 26 September 2025). Preventive efforts are proactive measures performed to avert the emergence of an issue prior to its adverse effects manifesting (Damaryanti and Megawati, 2023). The Head of drugs Investigation said that the Tanah Datar Police partnered with many entities, including BNN, the Social Service, Mother-in-law, Scholar, and state government, to foster collective awareness of the drugs issue. A method of collaboration involves the creation of state-level anti-drug roles that serve as community-based oversight. This instructional program is deemed significant due to the social environment's effect, which is a primary reason motivating women's involvement in drugs.

Female convicted informants also anticipate an expansion of socialisation efforts, since several women involved in drugs cases lack a comprehensive understanding of the punitive dangers and the repercussions of narcotics on families and children. Alongside preventive measures, the Tanah Datar Police implement repressive strategies as part of law enforcement against individuals engaged in narcotics offences. These countermeasures, enacted post-crime, aim to address the perpetrators in accordance with their actions, thereby deterring recidivism and discouraging others due to the severe penalties imposed (Barda, 2018).

The Head of drugs Investigation said that the countermeasures for drugs offences including female offenders, as per Law Number 35 of 2009 about Narcotics, are implemented without regard to the perpetrator's gender. All individuals are equal before the law; thus, women implicated in drugs offences are subject to processing and sentencing in line with relevant rules. Nonetheless, in reality, the authorities continue to regard the humanitarian dimension, particularly for women with young children or other family dependents.

For the offender functioning just as a user, prioritising the rehabilitation process is essential to re-establish reliance. This aligns with the evidence of the female convicted informant, who said that during the legal proceedings, she was followed by a female officer and received professional treatment devoid of gender-based prejudice (Arisandi, personal communication, 26 September 2025). Female criminals have the opportunity to participate in prison-organized vocational training, religious activities, and psychological coaching alongside their sentences.

This project aids female inmates by imparting essential skills post-release. Regrettably, post-sentencing support remains inadequate. He had little governmental or institutional assistance and social reintegration during his sentence. Employment difficulties may compel female ex-convicts to return to their former areas and relapse into drug usage (Wulandari, personal communication, 26 September 2025). The initiatives undertaken by the Tanah Datar Police to combat crime can be analysed through the lens of crime management theory, as articulated by G. Peter Hoefnagels.

This theory delineates crime prevention into three principal avenues: the enforcement of criminal law, non-criminal preventive measures, and the endeavour to shape public perceptions of crime and criminality via mass media (Kenedi, 2017). Criminal law enforcement, commonly referred to as the "penal" pathway, is executed by repressive measures, specifically the enforcement of laws following the commission of a criminal act. Simultaneously, non-penal prevention measures are manifested in anticipatory, preventive, and rehabilitative initiatives. Initiatives to shape public perceptions via mass media are conducted within a preventative and preventive framework to cultivate legal awareness and societal attitudes against crime (Rizki, 2018). The Tanah Datar Police's actions exemplify an integrative strategy by amalgamating law enforcement, social prevention, and rehabilitation. Nevertheless, the study's findings

indicate that post-sentence coaching remains inadequate. The lack of social reintegration programs and economic empowerment in contemporary criminology hinders the reintegration of former female convicts into society. This study underscores that comprehending women's criminality necessitates consideration of structural and social factors, and that interventions should not solely concentrate on law enforcement, but also on enhancing socio-economic conditions and bolstering familial and communal support. A robust plan that incorporates the involvement of communities, families, and local governments is essential to enhance social control and mitigate the primary causal variables, specifically poverty and inadequate family resilience.

The Head of Narcotics Investigation highlighted that the management of narcotics cases in the Tanah Datar region encounters several problems, including insufficient personnel resources, inadequate operational funding, and minimal public knowledge regarding the drug issue. Moreover, law enforcement officials frequently discover that the apprehended women represent merely a minor segment of the network, complicating efforts to identify the principal perpetrators. The intricacy of the narcotics trafficking network and the susceptibility of women in personal relationships render a solely repressive countermeasure approach insufficient.

Consequently, the police are endeavouring to enhance collaboration with pertinent agencies and fortify community-oriented strategies to diminish women's participation in narcotics trafficking. The involvement of women in narcotics offences within the jurisdiction of the Tanah Datar Police is attributable to harsh socio-economic conditions and inadequate social supervision. The countermeasure approach must recognise women as both offenders and victims of an incomplete social structure. A multidisciplinary strategy encompassing legal, social, economic, and educational dimensions is essential for sustainably addressing this issue.

## **Conclusion**

This study concludes that women's involvement in Class I narcotics trafficking within the jurisdiction of the Tanah Datar Police is not driven by isolated individual criminal intent, but rather emerges from the interaction of economic vulnerability, deviant social environments, and unequal interpersonal relationships that mutually reinforce one another. Women involved in narcotics trafficking generally originate from lower-middle socio-economic backgrounds, lack stable employment, and bear family responsibilities, which create structural pressure that encourages illegal activities as a survival strategy. These conditions are further intensified by close associations with partners, relatives, or social circles previously involved in narcotics trafficking, coupled with weak familial supervision and limited social control, making women more susceptible to deviant influence. From a criminological perspective, these findings are consistent with strain theory, differential association theory, and social control theory. In response, the countermeasures implemented by the Tanah Datar Police have encompassed preemptive, preventive, repressive, and rehabilitative approaches in line with Hoefnagels' criminal policy framework; however, post-incarceration rehabilitation and social reintegration remain insufficient, particularly in addressing women's economic vulnerability after release. Therefore, the study emphasizes that effective responses to women's involvement in narcotics trafficking require a multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive approach that integrates legal enforcement with economic empowerment, strengthened social control, and sustainable reintegration mechanisms to prevent recidivism.

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