



Law Enforcement for Misuse of the Distribution of the Smart Indonesia Program (PIP) in One of the Cirebon City High Schools

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Abstract

Background. Indonesia Pintar Program (PIP) is a government program to minimize the drop-out rate and to increase the access to education for kids from impoverished backgrounds. But there are still numerous problems in the implementation of it, such as the abuse of the funds of help.

Purpose. By conducting a case study at a high school in Cirebon City, this study examines law enforcement efforts against the misuse of PIP funds.

Method. The research method used is normative legal research with a literature study approach, through analysis of laws and regulations, legal literature, and secondary data in the form of reports and news related to cases.

Results. The results of the study show that the misuse of PIP funds in this case meets the elements of corruption. The modus operandi involved cutting aid funds, controlling student accounts, and diverting funds for personal interests and certain parties. Law enforcement has been carried out through the processes of investigation, prosecution, and trial, with criminal penalties including imprisonment, fines, and payment of compensation to the defendants.

Conclusion. Law enforcement against the misuse of PIP funds has been carried out in accordance with applicable law, but it is still necessary to strengthen supervision, transparency, and accountability in the management of education assistance funds to prevent a recurrence of similar practices.

Keywords: law enforcement, corruption, Smart Indonesia Program, education fund, accountability



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INTRODUCTION

The Indonesia Pintar Program is a government policy aimed at improving the quality of education and reducing dropout rates among underprivileged students by providing financial

assistance.¹ PIP is designed to help school-age children from poor/vulnerable poor/priority families continue to receive education services until they finish secondary education, both through the formal pathway of elementary school to high school/vocational school and the non-formal pathway of package A to package C and special education. Through this program, the government seeks to prevent students from dropping out of school and to attract students who have dropped out to continue their education. PIP is also expected to ease the personal costs of students' education, both direct and indirect costs.

The PIP regulation is comprehensively set out in the Regulation of the Minister of Education and Culture Number 10 of 2020, which emphasizes that its implementation must prioritize efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, accountability, and the accuracy of targets.² However, in practice, various studies and monitoring reports indicate that the implementation of PIP in educational institutions has not fully aligned with the established guidelines. Some of the findings point to irregularities, such as school-level funding cuts, lack of transparency in management, disbursements that do not follow procedures, and inaccuracies in beneficiary selection. This irregularity not only harms students who are entitled to receive aid but also violates the principles of justice and accountability in education. Previous studies in some areas have shown that contributing factors include weak internal control systems in schools, a lack of parental understanding, and minimal supervision. The large budget allocation allocated to the education sector attracts the attention of corrupt actors. Acts of corruption, whether targeting the education sector or other fields, are absolutely unjustifiable from any perspective.

On July 22, 2025, the Cirebon City District Attorney's Office (Kejari) named four people as suspects in the alleged corruption case involving Smart Indonesia Program (PIP) funds at SMAN 7 Cirebon City for the 2024 fiscal year. The four suspects are RN (49), who claimed to be a delegate of one of the political parties; IS (59), the Principal; T (50), the Deputy Principal; and RA (43), a student staff member. The Head of Intelligence of the Cirebon City Kejari, Slamet Haryadi, SH, MH, in his statement, said that this case began with an RN initiative that brought a list of students receiving PIP assistance to schools and agreed with T to cut aid of Rp 200,000 per student. Although he had refused, the Principal of IS finally agreed to the scheme. After the PIP funds are disbursed through account activation, the students'

¹Dewi Suprobawati Benedikta Luruk, 'Implementation Of The Smart Indonesia Program (Pip) Case Study Of SMA Negeri 2 Elar Wukir Kec. *Journal of Public Sector Innovation*, 2.15 (2022), 1–12.

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passbooks and ATMs are taken by the school. The money of Rp 1.8 million, which should have been fully received by each student, was transferred to the RA's personal account.

"The aid funds were then cut and diverted for the benefit of the party with a total value of Rp 100 million," said Slamet. Of that amount, RN received IDR 52 million and T received IDR 48 million. The funds were then redistributed among several internal school parties, including the IS Principal, who received Rp 5 million. The rest is said to be used to meet various school needs, without clarity on legality and accountability.

Cutting and using aid funds without the students' permission has directly harmed them. Assistance that should ease the burden of education is actually misused. For their actions, the four suspects were charged under Article 2, paragraph (1), Jo. Article 18 of Law Number 31 of 1999 concerning the Eradication of Corruption, as amended by Law Number 20 of 2001, Jo. Article 55 paragraph (1) 1 of the Criminal Code. On the other hand, the suspects are also subject to Article 3 of the same law. The Cirebon City Police Department emphasized that the investigation of this case is part of law enforcement's commitment to the misuse of social and educational assistance funds.³

This case involves several corruption crimes that can ensnare the perpetrators. Because corruption is *lex specialis*, we will refer to Law No. 31 of 2001 (Corruption Law), while keeping in mind that the general principles in Book I of the Criminal Code-2023 serve as the legal umbrella.⁴ Based on the above background, the author's purpose in this study is to examine in depth how law enforcement for the abuse of the Smart Indonesia program in a case study of one of the high schools in Cirebon City. Thus, this research is expected to be able to provide an academic basis for strengthening supervision mechanisms, increasing accountability, and improving the governance of educational assistance within the education unit.

Research on the Smart Indonesia Program (PIP) has so far focused primarily on policy implementation, the effectiveness of the distribution of educational aid, and the evaluation of program governance. Research by Dewi Suprobawati Benedikta Luruk (2022) shows that PIP plays a role in increasing access to education for underprivileged students, but administrative obstacles and inaccuracies in targeting aid recipients persist. Meanwhile, the research by

³ Cirebon City District Attorney's Office, 'Determination of Suspects for Corruption Crimes of Misuse of the Budget Use of the Smart Indonesia Program (PIP) at SMAN 7 Cirebon City in 2024', 2025 <<https://kejari-kotacirebon.kejaksaan.go.id/intelijen-2/press-release-pip/>>.

⁴ use Rasta, *Implementation Of The Criminal Code -2023, KUHP, and Jurisprudence in Practice*, Ed. By Suriyati (Bone Regency, South Sulawesi: Alinea Indonesia, 2025).

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Septiawati, Prasetijowati, and Nurany (2022) examined the implementation of PIP from a good governance perspective and found that transparency and accountability are important factors in the program's success.

On the other hand, research on corruption in the education sector generally focuses on the misuse of the School Operational Assistance Fund (BOS), the procurement of educational facilities, and the management of regional education budgets. Ali's study (2024), for example, discusses aspects of the investigation into the corruption of BOS funds and the role of law enforcement officials in uncovering state losses. However, research specifically examining the misuse of Smart Indonesia Program (PIP) funds as a crime of corruption remains very limited.

The latest developments indicate the emergence of cases of misuse of PIP funds across several areas, involving schools, external individuals, and program organizers. This phenomenon underscores the need to examine not only the administrative aspects of the program but also criminal law enforcement against perpetrators of the misuse of education assistance funds. Therefore, this research is at the intersection between the study of criminal law on corruption, education administration law, and governance of social assistance education.

Although various studies have examined the implementation of the Smart Indonesia Program (PIP) and its effectiveness in improving access to education for students from underprivileged families, most research still focuses on administrative aspects, program governance, and good governance principles. Studies that specifically examine the misuse of PIP funds as a criminal act of corruption remain very limited, especially those that analyze the law enforcement process against perpetrators of such misuse. Therefore, there is a research gap, both empirical, theoretical, and practical, regarding the effectiveness of law enforcement in dealing with corruption in education aid funds. This research offers novelty by in-depth analyzing the case of misuse of funds of the Smart Indonesia Program at SMAN 7 Cirebon City through the perspective of corruption criminal law and law enforcement theory, thereby producing recommendations to strengthen accountability, transparency, and protection of students' educational rights

METHODS

This study uses a normative legal research method to analyze law enforcement against the misuse of Smart Indonesia Program (PIP) funds at one of the high schools in Cirebon City, based on applicable laws and regulations. Normative legal research was chosen because the

study focuses on legal norms, legal principles, and the application of laws and regulations in cases of alleged criminal acts of corruption involving education aid funds.

The research approaches used include:

1. **The Statute Approach**, which examines various regulations related to the Smart Indonesia Program and corruption crimes, including Law Number 31 of 1999 concerning the Eradication of Corruption as amended by Law Number 20 of 2001, the Criminal Code (KUHP), Regulation of the Minister of Education and Culture Number 10 of 2020 concerning the Smart Indonesia Program, as well as other relevant regulations.
2. **Case Approach**, which is an in-depth review of the alleged misuse of Smart Indonesia Program (PIP) funds that occurred at SMAN 7 Cirebon City, including the investigation, prosecution, and trial process carried out by law enforcement officials.
3. **Conceptual Approach**, which examines various legal theories and doctrines related to the concept of law enforcement, corruption, abuse of authority, public accountability, and the principles of good governance in the management of education funds.

The legal materials used in this study consist of:

1. **Primary legal materials**, including Law Number 31 of 1999 jo. Law Number 20 of 2001 concerning the Eradication of Corruption Crimes, the Criminal Code, Regulation of the Minister of Education and Culture Number 10 of 2020 concerning the Smart Indonesia Program, as well as official documents of the Cirebon City District Attorney's Office related to the handling of cases of misuse of PIP funds.
2. **Secondary legal materials** are in the form of law books, scientific journal articles, results of previous research, academic works, and publications that discuss law enforcement, corruption in the education sector, and governance of social assistance education.
3. **Tertiary legal materials**, in the form of legal dictionaries, legal encyclopedias, and other reference sources that support the interpretation of primary and secondary legal materials.

The technique of collecting legal materials is carried out through library research, namely by inventorying, identifying, and reviewing various legal documents, scientific literature, court decisions, official news of government agencies, and sources of information relevant to the object of research.

The analysis of legal materials is carried out in a qualitative descriptive manner using the legal interpretation method. All legal materials obtained are systematically analyzed to assess the compatibility between the legal facts in the case of misuse of PIP funds and the elements of corruption crimes as regulated by laws and regulations. The results of the analysis were then used to assess the effectiveness of law enforcement in line with Soerjono Soekanto's law enforcement theory, which encompasses legal factors, law enforcement officials, facilities, society, and legal culture. With this method, the research is expected to be able to provide a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of law enforcement against the misuse of funds from the Smart Indonesia Program as well as recommendations for improving the governance of education assistance that is more transparent, accountable, and fair.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement encompasses efforts to implement or operationalize legal norms as standards of behavior in the affairs of society and the state. From the subject's point of view, law enforcement can be carried out by various bodies and can also be understood as an attempt by the subject to enforce the law in a more limited or specialized context.⁵

Law enforcement is an effort to put ideas and concepts into practice. Law enforcement is the process of making the law's wishes come true. The so-called legal desires here are none other than the thoughts of making laws, as formulated in legal regulations. The discussion about the law enforcement process also extends to law-making. The lawmakers' mindset, as outlined in the legal regulations, will also determine how law enforcement is carried out.⁶

Definition of Corruption

Corruption is a crime committed with full calculation by those who actually feel that they are educated and educated. Corruption can also occur when a person holds a position that involves sharing funds and has the opportunity to misuse them for personal gain. Nye defines

⁵ Sufiarina Okky Irawan, Saverius Nahat, Tetty Nababan, Syafrida, 'Law Enforcement in the Republic of Indonesia', *Federalism: Journal of Legal and Communication Studies*, 2 (2025).

⁶ Zainab ompu Jainah, 'LAW ENFORCEMENT IN SOCIETY', *Journal of Rural and Development*, 3 (2012), 165.

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corruption as behavior that deviates from formal duties as a public servant in order to gain financial gain or improve status. In addition, it can also be obtained materially, emotionally, or symbolically.⁷

Corruption is a general problem, because acts of corruption can be said to be a threat that can have an impact on the collapse of the stability and security of the community, all public sectors, such as State institutions, hindering the sustainable development of a State and fragile law enforcement.⁸

Law Enforcement Analysis on the Misuse of the Smart Indonesia Program (PIP)

The Indonesia Pintar Program (PIP) is a government program that helps ease educational costs and aims to ensure the sustainability of children from underprivileged families in pursuing their education. To improve assistance for poor students, the Smart Indonesia Program was created.⁹

PIP Recipient

- Students who hold KIP
- Students from poor/vulnerable families and/or with special considerations such as:
- Students from poor/vulnerable families and/or with special considerations such as:
- Students from families participating in the Family Hope Program
- Students from families of KartuKeluarga Sejahtera holders
- Students who are orphans/orphans/orphans from schools/social institutions/orphanages
- Students affected by natural disasters
- Students who do not go to school (drop out), who are expected to return to school
- Students who experience physical disorders, victims of disasters, from parents who have been terminated from their jobs, in conflict areas, from convict families, are in Correctional Institutions, have more than 3 (three) siblings who live in the same house
- Participants in course institutions or other non-formal educational units.¹⁰

⁷ Aris Prio Agus Santoso, *SPECIAL CRIMES* (Yogyakarta: PUSTAKABARUPRESS, 2023).

⁸ Khaidir Ali, 'Investigation into the Crime of Corruption of School Operational Assistance Funds (BOS) in Bireuen Regency', 2.1 (2024), 456–64.

⁹ Siti Erfina Septiawati, Tri Prasetyowati, and Fierda Nurany, 'Analysis of the Implementation of the Smart Indonesia Program (PIP) Perspective of Good Governance in the Madrasah Environment', *Journal of Social and Political Sciences (JISIP)*, 11.3 (2022), 267–74 <<https://doi.org/10.33366/jisip.v11i3.2556>>.

¹⁰ 'SMART INDONESIA PROGRAM' <https://pip.kemendikdasmen.go.id/home_v1>.

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Based on the results of the investigation, SMAN 7 Cirebon received aspirational PIP funds totaling IDR 955.8 million, intended for approximately 500 students. However, in practice, it was found that funds were cut of IDR 467 million.

The PIP fund is an education assistance program from the central government that aims to help underprivileged students continue accessing education without cost barriers. Therefore, the alleged misuse of these funds has triggered widespread concern, especially among students' parents. From the total alleged losses, investigators recovered IDR 368 million. Meanwhile, some of the other funds have been returned by one of the defendants.

This case is a reminder of the importance of strict supervision of education aid funds. Transparency and accountability in school budget management are in the spotlight to prevent similar incidents from recurring.

Based on the follow-up hearing at the Bandung Industrial Relations Court, Tuesday (24/2/2026) In the hearing, four defendants were officially charged with prison sentences by the Cirebon City District Prosecutor's Office. The trial, which began at around 13.00 WIB, was led by the Chairman of the Panel of Judges, Alex Tahi, accompanied by member judges Gunawan Tri Budiono and Jefry Yefta Sinaga. The main agenda of the trial was the reading of the letters of demand against the defendants. The four defendants who are undergoing legal proceedings are R (former deputy principal of SMAN 7), T (former student staff), IS (former principal of SMAN 7), and RA, who is referred to as a political party envoy.

In his demands, the prosecutor stated that the defendants were legally and convincingly proven to have committed corruption crimes as stipulated in the subsidiary indictment Article 3 juncto Article 18 of Law Number 31 of 1999 concerning the Eradication of Corruption Crimes as amended by Law Number 20 of 2001 in conjunction with Article 55 of the Criminal Code.

Topik bin Tambjid and Rachmasari were each sentenced to 1 year and 4 months in prison and a fine of Rp50 million. Iman Setiawan was sentenced to 1 year in prison, a fine of IDR 50 million, and payment of compensation of IDR 467 million. Of that amount, IDR 402 million has been returned. Rony Aryanto was charged with the most severe penalty: 2 years in prison, a fine of IDR 50 million, and compensation of IDR 52 million.¹¹

¹¹ Abdullah, 'PIP Corruption Trial of SMAN 7 Cirebon, 4 Defendants Sentenced to Prison, Losses of Hundreds of Millions' <<https://radarcirebon.disway.id/kota-cirebon/read/216365/sidang-korupsi-pip-sman-7-cirebon-4-terdakwa-dituntut-penjara-kerugian-ratusan-juta/15>>.

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Juridically, the misuse of Smart Indonesia Program (PIP) funds at SMAN 7 Cirebon is not only an administrative violation; it also falls under the category of corruption crimes that meet the elements of delinquency under Article 3 jo.

Based on the follow-up hearing at the Bandung Corruption Court, the Public Prosecutor has read out the charges against the defendants, including imprisonment, fines, and compensation, according to each defendant's level of involvement.

At the time of this research, the case was still in the prosecution stage, so the judge's decision had not yet been handed down. Therefore, the analysis in this study focuses on the law enforcement process up to the prosecution stage. Nevertheless, these stages can still be used to assess the effectiveness of law enforcement against the misuse of Smart Indonesia Program (PIP) funds.

The legal issue in this study is whether the law enforcement process against the misuse of Smart Indonesia Program (PIP) funds at SMAN 7 Cirebon City has been carried out in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and reflects the legal objectives of legal certainty, justice, and utility. Soerjono Soekanto said that the effectiveness of law enforcement is influenced by five factors, namely the law itself, law enforcement officials, facilities or facilities, society, and legal culture.

Based on the literature review, there are three main gaps:

1. Empirical Gap

There is still very little research that raises real cases of misuse of Smart Indonesia Program (PIP) funds as a criminal act of corruption, especially those that occur in the high school environment.

2. Theoretical Gap

Previous research has mostly used the perspectives of public administration, education policy, and good governance, while analysis based on law enforcement theory and corruption criminal law is still limited.

3. Practical Gap

There has been no study that comprehensively assesses the effectiveness of the law enforcement process, from investigation and prosecution to trial, in cases of misuse of PIP funds as an instrument to protect students' educational rights.

Table 1. Research Gap

Previous Research	Study Focus	Limitations (Research Gap)
Luruk (2022)	Implementation of the Smart Indonesia Program	Not examining the misuse of PIP funds as a criminal act of corruption
Septiawati et al. (2022)	PIP in the perspective of Good Governance	Focus on program governance, not criminal law enforcement
Ali (2024)	Investigation of BOS Fund corruption	The object of the research is different, it does not discuss PIP funds
Other research on education corruption law	Corruption in the education sector in general	It has not specifically analyzed PIP abuse cases and its law enforcement process
Education policy research	Effectiveness of educational aid	Lack of discussion of criminal liability of perpetrators of abuse of educational assistance

The novelty of this research lies in the legal analysis of the misuse of Smart Indonesia Program (PIP) funds as a form of corruption through a case study of SMAN 7 Cirebon City by examining the law enforcement process, starting from the stage of investigation, prosecution, and trial, based on the provisions of the Law on the Eradication of Corruption and the theory of law enforcement effectiveness.

Table 2. Novelty

Aspects	Previous Research	This research
Object of Study	Implementation and effectiveness of PIP	Misuse of PIP funds as a crime of corruption
Analytical Perspective	Public administration and education policy	Criminal law, corruption, and law enforcement
Case Location	Various regions in general	Concrete case study of SMAN 7 Cirebon City
Key Focus	Effectiveness of educational aid programs	Criminal liability and law enforcement effectiveness
Contributions	Evaluation of education policy	Model of strengthening supervision and accountability of law enforcement-based education assistance funds

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and discussion, it can be concluded that the misuse of Smart Indonesia Program (PIP) funds at one of the high schools in Cirebon City is a corruption crime that meets the elements as stipulated in Law Number 31 of 1999 jo. Law Number 20 of 2001 concerning the Eradication of Corruption. The modus operandi involves cutting aid funds, controlling student accounts and ATMs, and diverting funds for personal interests and certain parties, which are clearly detrimental to students as beneficiaries. Law enforcement of this case has been carried out through the stages of investigation, prosecution, and trial, with the imposition of criminal charges in the form of imprisonment, fines, and the obligation to pay compensation to the perpetrators. This shows that law enforcement officials have carried out their functions in cracking down on the misuse of education assistance funds in accordance with the applicable legal provisions. However, this case also indicates that there is still a weak system of supervision, transparency, and accountability in the management of education assistance funds at the education unit level. Therefore, improvement efforts are needed through strengthening internal and external supervision mechanisms, increasing public understanding, especially parents and students, and enforcing the principles of good governance so that the misuse of education aid funds will not be repeated in the future.

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