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LEGAL PROTECTION FOR THE PROVISION OF PROPER FOOD FOR PRISONERS (A STUDY AT CLASS IIA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION LHOKSEUMAWE)

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Abstract

Legal protection for prisoners in the context of providing proper food at the Class IIA Correctional Institution in Lhokseumawe is based on Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections. The background of this study lies in the importance of fulfilling the basic rights of prisoners. The purpose of this research is to identify the forms of legal protection provided to prisoners, examine the implementation of the right to proper food at Class IIA Lhokseumawe Prison, and identify the challenges and efforts undertaken to realize such protection. This research employs an empirical juridical method with a descriptive qualitative approach, utilizing data collection techniques such as interviews, observations, and document studies. The collected data were then analyzed through a process of conclusion drawing. The results indicate that Class IIA Lhokseumawe Prison has implemented legal protection for prisoners by providing three daily meals in accordance with the *Standard Food Menu Book 2020*. However, several obstacles persist, including limited budget, inconsistent availability of food ingredients, and inadequate kitchen facilities. Prisoners reported that while the quantity of food was sufficient, issues regarding quality, menu variation, and taste remained their main concerns. In terms of implementation, the supervision and complaint mechanisms have not been fully optimized. This shows that legal protection has not yet been substantively effective. The study concludes that legal protection of the right to proper food for prisoners still faces implementation challenges in practice. Efforts such as budget increases, kitchen staff training, involving prisoners in satisfaction surveys, and enhancing external supervision are necessary to ensure the comprehensive and humane fulfillment of prisoners' rights.

Keywords:Legal Protection, Proper Food, Prisoners, Class IIA Correctional Institution Lhokseumawe.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the Indonesian criminal justice system, a prisoner is an individual who has been declared guilty through a court decision with permanent legal force and is serving a prison sentence in a correctional institution. Although they have lost part of their freedom as a legal consequence, prisoners remain legal subjects who possess fundamental human rights that must be respected, protected, and fulfilled by the state. Conversely, the state bears both a legal and moral obligation to ensure that these rights are fulfilled in a proper and humane manner.[1]

The fulfillment of proper food for prisoners is not merely an administrative responsibility but constitutes part of their fundamental right to a decent and healthy life, as guaranteed in Article 28H paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, which states that: *"Every person shall have the right to live in physical and spiritual prosperity, to have a home, and to enjoy a good and healthy environment, and shall have the right to obtain health care."* This article affirms the basic rights of citizens in the fields of welfare, housing, environmental quality, and health.

Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections emphasizes that the correctional system aims to provide rehabilitation and social reintegration, rather than merely serving as an instrument of punishment. Article 4 of this law outlines the functions of corrections, which include services, guidance, community supervision, care, security, and observation. Within this framework, the state is obligated to provide adequate facilities for prisoners, including the fulfillment of basic needs such as food that meets nutritional and health standards.[2]

Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections, Article 9 on the Rights of Prisoners, stipulates that prisoners are entitled to the following rights: a. to practice worship according to their religion or belief; b. to receive physical and spiritual care; c. to obtain education, instruction, and recreational activities, as well as opportunities to develop their potential; d. to receive health services and proper food in accordance with nutritional needs; e. to obtain access to information services; f. to receive legal counseling and legal assistance; g. to submit complaints and/or grievances; h. to obtain reading materials and access to mass

[1] Hendra Fitrianto, Syaiful Saleh dan Jamaluddin, "Pola Pemberdayaan Narapidana", *Jurnal Equilibrium Pendidikan Sosiologi*, Vol. 3. No. 2. 2016. Halaman 12.

[2] Jumarni, Peran Lembaga Pemasyarakatan Kelas II A Watampone Dalam Pembinaan Narapidana Penyalahgunaan Narkotika Berdasarkan Undang-undang Nomor 12 Tahun 1995 tentang Pemasyarakatan, *Jurnal Al – Dustur* : Vol. 2, Nomor 2, Desember 2019. Halaman 10.

media broadcasts that are not prohibited; i. to receive humane treatment and protection from acts of torture, exploitation, neglect, violence, and all actions that endanger physical and mental well-being; j. to receive occupational safety guarantees, wages, or work-related bonuses; k. to receive social services; and l. to accept or refuse visits from family members, lawyers, companions, and the public.

This reflects an approach that is not solely punishment-oriented but also emphasizes rehabilitation and reformation. Within this system, prisoners are regarded as individuals undergoing guidance who are entitled to humane treatment, opportunities for self-improvement, and support to reintegrate into society as productive individuals. This includes the fulfillment of basic needs such as food, healthcare, housing, as well as spiritual and vocational development. However, in reality, the conditions of prisoners in various correctional institutions are often far from ideal. Challenges such as overcrowding, inadequate facilities, and limited budget allocations frequently result in discrepancies between the prisoners' rights and the actual conditions on the ground.[3]

One of the issues that often draws public attention is the provision of improper or inadequate food. As a basic need, food plays a crucial role in maintaining the physical and mental health of prisoners, which directly affects the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs. Such conditions can have serious implications for the health of prisoners and the reputation of correctional institutions, which are supposed to support rehabilitation and individual recovery. Therefore, the treatment of prisoners must be continuously improved to align with legal standards and humanitarian principles. One of the key aspects of fulfilling these rights is the provision of proper food, both in terms of quantity and quality. The food served to prisoners must meet health and nutritional standards to ensure it does not endanger their well-being and to support their rehabilitation process[4]

In response to this situation, the Directorate General of Corrections formulated the *Standard Food Menu Book for Detainees, Juveniles, and Prisoners* as a form of responsibility to provide nutritious food in accordance with calorie requirements and local dietary habits. This book was developed based on the Regulation of the Minister of Law and Human Rights Number 40 of 2017 and serves as a technical guideline for preparing appropriate, equitable, and standardized menus. However, challenges such as food

[3] Nur Indah Setiyani, Pemenuhan Hak Narapidana Dalam Masa Pembinaan di Lembaga Pemasyarakatan Perempuan Kelas II A Semarang, Universitas Negeri Semarang, http://lib.unnes.ac.id, diakses tanggal 04 Desember 2024, Pukul 10.00 WIB.

[4] Widya Islamiyah, Analisis Yuriidis Dalam Pembinaan Narapidana di Lembaga Pemasyarakatan Kelas II B Barru, Universitas Hasanuddin Makassaar, https://core.ac.uk/, diakses tanggal 04 Desember 2024, Pukul 10.00 WIB.

ingredient shortages, limited budgets, and the prisoners' acceptance of the provided meals remain serious issues.[5]

Although prisoners are serving sentences in correctional institutions, they still possess fundamental rights that must be respected and protected. One of their fundamental rights is the right to receive proper food that meets health standards. The provision of food that does not comply with nutritional, hygiene, and health standards can have negative effects on the physical and mental well-being of prisoners, which in turn affects the rehabilitation efforts carried out within the correctional institution.[6]

For instance, the Class IIA Correctional Institution in Lhokseumawe experiences overcapacity reaching 300 percent and has received complaints regarding the food standards provided to inmates. This issue was addressed by Mashudi, the Director General of Corrections, in response to concerns about the quality of food services for prisoners. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the legal protection in the provision of food for prisoners. Based on the aforementioned background, the author is interested in conducting research entitled "Legal Protection for the Provision of Proper Food for Prisoners (A Study at Class IIA Correctional Institution Lhokseumawe)."

The research conducted by Bismar Saragi, titled "Implementation of the Minister of Law and Human Rights Regulation (Permenkumham) Number 40 of 2017 concerning Guidelines for Food Provision for Detainees and Prisoners from the Perspective of Fiqh Siyasah: A Study at Class IIA Correctional Institution of Pekanbaru City," shows that the implementation of Permenkumham Number 40 of 2017 regarding food provision for detainees and prisoners at Class IIA Correctional Institution reflects the relationship between the government (the correctional institution) and its people (the inmates). The government's goal in enforcing the regulation is to fulfill the rights and health of the inmates, which can be categorized as Maslahah Mursalah (public interest). The correctional institution has made various efforts to provide proper food for inmates, despite certain challenges. Overall, the institution has implemented Permenkumham Number 40 of 2017 in accordance with the principles of Fiqh Siyasah.

In contrast, the current research emphasizes the aspect of legal protection regarding the provision of proper food for prisoners, based on Law Number 22 of 2022 on Corrections. This analysis focuses on the state's obligation to ensure the quality of food through existing regulations and the rights of prisoners as consumers. Both studies address the same issue

[5] Direktorat Jenderal Pemasyarakatan. *Makanan Bagi Tahanan Anak dan Narapidana*. Reformasi Hukum, Jakarta, 2020. Halaman. 20.

[6] Harsono, C.I, *Sistem Baru Pembinaan Narapidana*, Djambatan, Jakarta, 2010. Halaman 44.

food provision for prisoners but differ in their approaches, with one focusing on religious-political jurisprudence (Fiqh Siyasah) and the other on a legal-regulatory perspective.[7]

The research conducted by Riska, titled "Overcrowding of Prisoners in Class IIB Correctional Institution of Parepare City from the Perspective of Fiqh Jinayah," shows that the main factors causing overcrowding in Parepare City are criminal acts, the ease of detaining individuals suspected or accused of crimes, as well as corruption and narcotics abuse cases, in addition to issues related to standard operating procedures (SOPs). Efforts to address overcrowding in Parepare include implementing a social reintegration program as a long-term strategy to reduce overcapacity and to maintain and protect the physical and mental health of inmates.

In contrast, the present research focuses on the quality and appropriateness of food provided to prisoners. This study adopts a positive legal approach based on two key Indonesian regulations: the Consumer Protection Law and the Correctional System Law. Thus, the main difference lies in the subject matter the first study addresses prison overcrowding within the framework of Islamic criminal law (Fiqh Jinayah), while the second examines the rights of prisoners to proper and adequate food from the perspective of national law.[8]

The research conducted by Ruhul Mufthi Islami, titled "Standards of Prisoner Guidance at Class IIA State Detention Center of Jantho, Aceh Besar Regency," shows that the standard of prisoner guidance consists of two stages: the initial guidance stage and the advanced guidance stage. Prisoners are allowed to engage in various activities within the detention center, including those that help them develop their potential, and there is a need for continued guidance to achieve optimal rehabilitation outcomes.[9]

In contrast, the present research focuses on a specific issue concerning the provision of proper and adequate food for prisoners. This study is more directed toward the rights of prisoners as consumers of food, accompanied by a legal analysis based on the Consumer

[7] Bismar Saragi. "Implementasi Permenkumham Nomor 40 Tahun 2017 Tentang Pedoman Penyelenggaraan Makanan Bagi Tahanan Dan Narapidana Perspektif Fiqih Siyasah: Studi Di Lapas Kelas Ii A Kota Pekanbaru." Fakultas Syariah dan Hukum, Universitas UIN Suska Riau, *Skripsi*, Riau Pekanbaru, 2023. Halaman 1.

[8] Riska. "*Over Crowding* Narapidana Di Lembaga Pemasyarakatan Kelas Ii B Kota Parepare Dalam Perspektif Fiqh Jinayah, Fakultas Syariah dan Hukum Islam, Institut Agama Islam Negeri Pare Pare, *Skripsi*, 2023. Halaman 8.

[9] Ruhul Mufthi Islami. "Standar Pembinaan Narapidana Di Rumah Tahanan Negara Kelas II B Jantho Kabupaten Aceh Besar." Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Pemerintah, Universitas Islam Negeri Ar-Raniry, *Skripsi*, 2022. Halaman 4.

Protection Law and the Correctional System Law. Thus, it concentrates on a specific issue related to food adequacy, which forms part of the fundamental rights of prisoners. The approaches also differ Ruhul Mufthi Islami's study emphasizes operational standards of prisoner guidance, while the current research highlights legal protection analysis.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

Based on the background described above, the formulation of the research problems is as follows: (a) What is the form of legal protection for prisoners in Class IIA Correctional Institution of Lhokseumawe? (b) How is the implementation of the right to proper food for prisoners in Class IIA Correctional Institution of Lhokseumawe carried out? (c) What are the obstacles and efforts in realizing legal protection for the right to food for prisoners in Class IIA Correctional Institution of Lhokseumawe?

This research employs an empirical juridical approach, which is a type of legal research that examines the implementation of legal norms in practice within society through interviews and observations related to "Legal Protection of Proper Food Provision for Prisoners in Class IIA Correctional Institution of Lhokseumawe."[10]

The research approach used is qualitative descriptive, aiming to provide an in-depth description of legal phenomena through non-statistical data analysis to understand meanings, patterns, and existing issues. The research location is Class IIA Correctional Institution in Lhokseumawe City, chosen due to the importance of ensuring legal protection for prisoners in accordance with Law Number 22 of 2022 on Corrections.

The research population includes all relevant parties, while the sample is selected using a purposive sampling technique, consisting of five prisoners, two food administration staff members, the Head of the Correctional Institution, and the Head of the Health and Care Division.[11]

The data sources consist of primary data (obtained from interviews and field observations) and secondary data (derived from literature, laws and regulations, and related documents). The data collection techniques include both field research and library research.

The data analysis is carried out qualitatively, starting from data collection, reduction, [12]and presentation, followed by drawing conclusions through the analysis of legal

[10] Buku Panduan Penulisan Tugas Akhir, Fakultas Hukum, Universitas Malikussaleh, Unimal Pres, Lhokseumawe, 2015. Halaman 112.

[11] Amirudin & Zainal Asikin, *Pengantar Metode Penelitian Hukum*. Rajawali Pers, Jakarta, 2013. Halaman 37.

[12] Peter Mahmud Marzuki, *Penelitian Hukum.* Edisi Prenada Media Group, Cet. Ke-7, Jakarta, 2011. Halaman 56.

content, interview results, and field observations to obtain an objective overview of the implementation of legal protection in the provision of food for prisoners.

3. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Forms of Legal Protection for Inmates at the Class IIA Lhokseumawe Penitentiary

Legal protection for inmates is a concrete form of human rights fulfillment within the correctional system. Inmates are citizens who, despite losing their freedom due to criminal penalties, still have basic rights that must be guaranteed and protected by the state, including the right to food, health care, humane treatment, and protection from violence. This research reveals several forms of legal protection for inmates at the Class IIA Lhokseumawe Penitentiary, including:[13]

1. Fulfillment of Basic Needs (Food and Health): Based on interviews with the Head of Prison, officers stated that meals are provided three times a day in accordance with the nutritional standards set by the Directorate General of Corrections. However, some inmates reported that the food quality sometimes declined and lacked variety. Officers acknowledged budgetary constraints and logistical distribution contributed to this situation.
2. Fair and Humane Treatment: Based on interviews with the Head of Prison and the Head of Nursing, inmates are treated equally without discrimination. They have the opportunity to receive guidance, skills training, and religious instruction. However, some inmates complained of occasional unfriendly treatment from officers.
3. Access to Information and Legal Aid: The Head of Prison stated that inmates have access to legal aid, especially if they are still undergoing further legal proceedings such as appeals or cassation. There is cooperation with the local Legal Aid Institute (LBH). However, some inmates were unaware of the procedures for applying for legal aid, indicating a lack of public awareness.

Explanation from Mr. Wahyu Prasetyo, Head of Class IIA Lhokseumawe Prison, during an interview with researchers:

"The legal protection for inmates in Class IIA Prisons, as regulated in the Corrections Law, states that inmates are legal subjects who retain basic rights that must be respected, protected, and fulfilled by the state through correctional institutions. Article 7 of the

[13] Wahyu Prasetyo, Kepala Lapas IIA Kota Lhokseumawe., *Wawancara*, tanggal 24 Agustus 2025.

Corrections Law states that "Every inmate has the right to non-discriminatory treatment and to receive food, health care, education, personality development, and skills training."[14]

This aligns with research findings, which show that the Class IIA Lhokseumawe Penitentiary has made efforts to provide standardized food, provide health services, and organize skills and religious training. However, challenges remain in implementation, such as uneven food quality and limited service facilities.

Article 14 of the Corrections Law emphasizes guaranteed access to basic rights, including the right to adequate and sufficient food and drink. Therefore, when inmates complain about substandard or insufficiently varied food, this should not be considered a mere administrative issue, but rather a potential violation of constitutional rights protected by law. Therefore, the Corrections Service, as the technical implementer of correctional services, is obligated to implement the provisions of this law consistently and accountably. Furthermore, Articles 61 to 63 of the Corrections Law regulate supervision and handling of complaints from the public, as well as disciplinary mechanisms for correctional officers who neglect their duties, including providing services to inmates.[15]

Thus, the Corrections Law not only provides legal legitimacy for prisoners' rights but also establishes a framework for state responsibility in implementing a just and humane correctional system. The relationship of this law to findings at the Class IIA Lhokseumawe Prison demonstrates that legal protection is not merely normative but must be reflected in service practices that meet humanitarian standards, as mandated by national law and human rights principles.

Research on the legal protection provided to prisoners at the Class IIA Lhokseumawe Prison indicates that the right to food for inmates has been fulfilled in accordance with applicable regulations. Meals are provided three times a day, referring to standard guidelines established by the Directorate General of Corrections, as outlined in the "Standard Food Menu Book for Detainees, Children, and Inmates 2020."[16]

The book explains that prisoners have the right to adequate food that meets the recommended daily intake (RDA), which is 2,345 calories per day for adult men. However, in practice, several findings in the field indicate that there is still a gap between the rules and their implementation. Based on interviews with several prisoners as respondents, it

[14] Wahyu Prasetyo, Kepala Lapas IIA Kota Lhokseumawe., *Wawancara*, tanggal 24 Agustus 2025.

[15] Wahyu Prasetyo, Kepala Lapas IIA Kota Lhokseumawe., *Wawancara*, tanggal 24 Agustus 2025.

[16] Kementerian Hukum dan Ham. *Buku Standar Menu Makanan Bagi Tahanan Narapidana*. Reformasi Hukum, 2020, hlm. 1-75.

was discovered that the food served sometimes does not meet quality standards, both in terms of taste, freshness, and menu variety. These complaints reflect the suboptimal legal protection received by prisoners in terms of fulfilling their basic rights.[17]

However, in the theory of legal protection put forward by Satjipto Rahardjo, legal protection should provide protection for human rights violated by other parties. In this context, prisoners still have human rights, including the right to adequate and humane food. The state, as the authority over inmates, is obliged to provide this protection comprehensively.[18] Although standards have been formulated in regulations such as Ministerial Regulation No. 40 of 2017 and detailed in the food menu standard book, field findings indicate limitations in oversight and implementation. Several factors influencing this include budget constraints, scarcity of certain food ingredients (BAMA), and the menu's inconsistency with local eating habits. This results in prisoners' satisfaction with the food being less than fully high, even though it is administratively compliant.[19]

Furthermore, according to Mochtar Kusumaatmadja's consumer protection theory, prisoners can be viewed as consumers of public services who are entitled to receive quality services from state administrators. Consumer protection is the legal principle and rule that governs the relationship between service providers and recipients, which in this case is the relationship between the state (through correctional institutions) and prisoners. Therefore, when the food service provided does not meet standards or does not meet the basic expectations of prisoners, it constitutes a violation of the principle of consumer protection. Therefore, the state, through the Correctional UPT, must ensure that the menu provided not only meets calorie and nutritional needs but also takes into account cultural aspects, tastes, and variety, as the purpose of compiling the standard menu book.[20]

The 2020 Food Menu Standards Book itself outlines the menu planning mechanism in detail, from the formation of a work team, food satisfaction surveys, mapping of BAMA availability in the market, and the process of converting food ingredients in the event of a shortage. This demonstrates that institutionally, the state has sufficient legal and administrative instruments to protect prisoners' rights. However, if these instruments are not consistently monitored and evaluated, a gap between norms and reality will arise.

[17] *Ibid,* hlm. 1-75.
[18] Satjipto Raharjo, *Ilmu Hukum*,Bandung: PT. Citra Aditya Bakti, 2000. Halaman 53.
[19] *Ibid,* hlm. 1-75.
[20] Abdul Atsar dan Rani Apriani, *Buku Ajar Hukum Perlindungan Konsumen*, Deepublish, Yogyakarta, 2019. Halaman 78.

Therefore, the role of officers, internal supervisors, and the involvement of prisoners in satisfaction surveys must be strengthened as a form of participatory legal protection.

Therefore, legal protection for prisoners, particularly regarding the fulfillment of the right to food, must not only be achieved through the ratification of regulations or the development of administrative standards, but must also be realized concretely and sustainably through humane service practices that are responsive to prisoners' needs. This aligns with the principles of social justice and respect for human dignity, which are the essence of the law itself.

B. Implementation of the Right to Adequate Food for Inmates at the Class IIA Lhokseumawe Penitentiary.

Fulfilling inmates' right to adequate food is an essential part of a humane and just correctional system. According to the Head of the Prison, Mr. Wahyu Prasetyi, the Class IIA Lhokseumawe Penitentiary, as a Technical Implementation Unit under the auspices of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, is committed to fulfilling the statutory mandate to guarantee the basic rights of inmates, one of which is the right to a decent standard of living, including food. However, in its implementation, this right still faces various challenges, both technically, administratively, and culturally.[21]

This was stated by Indra Gunawan, a Class IIA inmate in Lhokseumawe, during an interview with researchers:

"As inmates, we receive three meals a day: morning, noon, and night. The menu is varied and meets the nutritional standards set by the Ministry of Law and Human Rights. However, some fellow inmates find the taste and quality of the food unsatisfactory. However, the portion sizes are sufficient for daily needs, and the prison's overcapacity also makes the space cramped."[22]

Meanwhile, according to statements from Mr. Rahmad Hidayat and Ms. Siti Nurhaliza, Class IIA Lhokseumawe Nursing Section Officers, during interviews with researchers:

"They stated that the food provision mechanism is carried out in a planned manner, from budget planning and food procurement to distribution. They emphasized that every inmate receives an equal share of food without any discrimination. Officers also strive to

[21] Wahyu Prasetyo, Kepala Lapas IIA Kota Lhokseumawe., *Wawancara*, tanggal 24 Agustus 2025.

[22] Indra Gunawan, Narapidan Lapas Kelas IIA Kota Lhokseumawe., *Wawancara*, tanggal 24 Agustus 2025.

maintain the cleanliness and quality of the food, although budget constraints often hinder the provision of a more varied menu."[23]

Meanwhile, Mr. Wahyu Prasetyo, Head of Class IIA Lhokseumawe Prison, explained in an interview with researchers:

"He emphasized that fulfilling the right to adequate food is a top priority. The prison is required to adhere to nutritional standards stipulated in regulations and conduct regular monitoring of the food provision process. The prison head also stated that unannounced inspections are conducted by internal and external parties to ensure that inmates' rights to food are truly met."

Similarly, the Head of Nursing, Ms. Siti Nurhaliza, added that any inmate complaints regarding food are always addressed through the complaint mechanism. This allows the prison to evaluate the quality of service and make improvements if necessary.[24]

Thus, the implementation of the right to adequate food for inmates at the Class IIA Prison in Lhokseumawe City complies with statutory provisions. Inmates receive sufficient and equitable food rations, officers monitor and distribute food fairly, and prison management regularly evaluates the quality of service. Although challenges remain regarding menu variety and food taste, legal protection efforts for inmates' basic rights are well underway and continue to be directed toward fulfilling humanitarian principles and respecting the human rights of every individual.

Based on the research findings above, the author concludes that according to the Corrections Law, specifically Articles 7 and 14, this law affirms that every inmate has the right to humane treatment and basic necessities, including adequate food and drink. The Corrections Law also regulates mechanisms for monitoring, complaints, and disciplinary action against officers who fail to perform their duties according to service standards. Therefore, if there are violations in the provision of food, such as inadequate quality or irregularities in procurement, inmates have the right to file a complaint. Unfortunately, not all inmates at the Class IIA Prison in Lhokseumawe are fully aware of the complaint mechanism. This indicates that socialization and openness in the internal monitoring system are still weak.[25]

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[23] Syamsul Bahari dan Yunita Ramadhani, Petugas Lapas Bagian Kasi Perawatan Kelas IIA Kota Lhokseumawe., *Wawancara*, tanggal 24 Agustus 2025.

[24] Wahyu Prasetyo, Kepala Lapas IIA Kota Lhokseumawe., *Wawancara*, tanggal 24 Agustus 2025.

[25] Samsul Bahari, Petugas Lapas Bagian Kasi Perawatan Kelas IIA Kota Lhokseumawe., *Wawancara*, tanggal 24 Agustus 2025.

According to the author, as stated in the theory of legal protection put forward by Satjipto Rahardjo, legal protection is a form of protection for the rights of disadvantaged individuals, with the goal of ensuring that every individual experiences justice and benefits from the legal system. In the context of prisoners, even though they are serving their sentences, their basic rights remain inherent and must be guaranteed by the state. If the food provided does not meet the requirements of quality, nutritional value, and suitability, the state can be deemed to have failed to optimally protect the prisoners' rights. Legal protection should not stop at the formality of providing food but must address the substantive aspect, namely food that is truly humanly acceptable.

The consumer protection theory approach developed by Mochtar Kusumaatmadja is also relevant for understanding the position of prisoners as those entitled to quality public services. In this case, prisoners are consumers of state services in the form of meeting basic needs. The state, as the administrator of correctional facilities, has an obligation to ensure that these food services meet nutritional standards, are safe, and are reasonably acceptable. Failure to do so would violate the basic principles of consumer protection, which demand accountability and transparency in all public services.[26]

Therefore, comprehensive improvements are needed in the implementation of the right to adequate food. First, increased budget allocation is needed specifically to ensure nutritional needs and menu diversity. Second, prisons need to conduct regular satisfaction surveys so that inmates' aspirations can be accommodated in service improvements. Third, the involvement of external institutions such as NGOs or ombudsmen can strengthen more objective and independent oversight. Fourth, increasing the capacity of kitchen staff and developing menus based on locally sourced, easily accessible ingredients is expected to maintain the continuity of food services without sacrificing quality. Overall, the results of this study indicate that the implementation of the right to adequate food for inmates at the Class IIA Lhokseumawe Prison has been successful, but still faces challenges in terms of quality and effectiveness. Legal protection for inmates should not stop at the quantity of food, but should also be aimed at protecting their quality of life as human beings. Through a theoretical approach to legal protection and consumer protection, and supported by provisions in the Corrections Law, the state is expected to be able to create a correctional system that is not merely punitive but also humane.

[26] Abdul Atsar dan Rani Apriani, *Buku Ajar Hukum Perlindungan Konsumen*, Deepublish, Yogyakarta, 2019. Halaman 78.

C. Obstacles and Efforts to Realize Legal Protection for the Right to Food for Inmates at the Class IIA Lhokseumawe Prison.

The implementation of legal protection for the right to food for inmates at the Class IIA Lhokseumawe Prison is not without various obstacles, both structural and operational.

1. Obstacles in Fulfilling the Right to Adequate Food

Explanation from Mr. Wahyu Prasetyo, Head of the Class IIA Lhokseumawe Prison, during an interview with researchers: In practice, the implementation of the right to adequate food for inmates at the Class IIA Lhokseumawe City Prison still faces a number of obstacles:[27]

First, budget constraints are a major obstacle. The government's allocation of funds for inmates' dietary needs is often insufficient to provide food with optimal nutritional quality and a diverse menu. As a result, the food served is sometimes monotonous and does not meet inmates' taste standards, despite efforts to meet portion and nutritional needs.

(a) Second, limited kitchen facilities and staff. The limited prison kitchen infrastructure and the relatively small number of food handlers impact the food processing process. In some cases, this results in distribution delays or a decrease in the quality of the food served.

(b) Third, prison overcapacity is also a serious obstacle. The number of inmates exceeding the ideal capacity increases the burden of providing food. This forces prison authorities to strategize to ensure that all inmates receive their rights equitably, even though conditions in the field often present technical challenges.

(c) Fourth, there are subjective obstacles from the inmates themselves, namely related to tastes and eating habits. Inmates from different cultural and regional backgrounds have diverse food preferences, so even though the food rations meet standards, some still feel dissatisfied with the quality and variety of the menu.

1. Efforts to Achieve Legal Protection

Despite facing various obstacles, the Class IIA Prison in Lhokseumawe City continues to strive to ensure legal protection for inmates' right to adequate food. First, the prison strives to optimize the available budget by implementing efficiency in food procurement without compromising on portion sizes or nutritional quality. Furthermore, collaboration with third-party food suppliers is conducted transparently and strictly monitored to prevent any irregularities.

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[27] Wahyu Prasetyo, Kepala Lapas IIA Kota Lhokseumawe., *Wawancara*, tanggal 24 Agustus 2025.

Second, routine internal and external monitoring is carried out. Kitchen staff are always supervised by the Food Administration Division, while the Head of the Prison, along with the Head of Maintenance, periodically evaluate food quality and distribution. The Aceh Regional Office of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights also frequently conducts unannounced inspections to ensure that inmates' basic rights are met according to regulations.

Third, to address limited kitchen facilities, the prison has taken steps to gradually improve facilities and infrastructure, including repairing cooking equipment and increasing food storage capacity. Furthermore, kitchen staff are trained on hygiene standards and food processing to maintain quality.[28]

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Fourth, to address inmate complaints, the prison has established a complaint mechanism, both in person and in writing. Each complaint is followed up with evaluation and improvement, for example, by changing certain menu items or adding a variety of side dishes according to budgetary constraints. This step demonstrates a form of both repressive and preventative legal protection for inmates' rights.

Fifth, to address the impact of overcrowding, the prison has coordinated with the Directorate General of Corrections to ensure more proportional inmate placement, while simultaneously striving to streamline assimilation and integration programs to gradually reduce overcrowding. In this way, the quality of service, including food provision, can be more optimal.

1. Analysis of Obstacles and Efforts

[28] Wahyu Prasetyo, Kepala Lapas IIA Kota Lhokseumawe., *Wawancara*, tanggal 24 Agustus 2025.

Based on the research results, it is understood that the main obstacles to fulfilling the right to adequate food are not only technical but also structural, particularly related to budget allocation and inmate capacity. However, the efforts made by the Class IIA Prison in Lhokseumawe City demonstrate a commitment to guaranteeing inmates' basic rights, as mandated by the Corrections Law and Minister of Law and Human Rights Regulation No. 40 of 2017 concerning Guidelines for Food Provision. Through these efforts, legal protection for inmates' right to food can be realized, although greater support from the central government is still needed, both in the form of budget and policy.

Based on information from informants, namely the Head of the Prison and officers from the Head of the Nursing Section, one of the main obstacles is the limited state budget allocated for inmate food needs. Available funds are not always sufficient to ensure the availability of fresh and varied food every day. Furthermore, fluctuating and unstable prices of basic commodities in the Lhokseumawe area also complicate the process of procuring food according to the standards set out in the Food Standards for Prisoners, Children, and Inmates Manual. Food administration officers stated that local procurement of ingredients often cannot meet the needs that have been designed in the 10-day menu cycle, so that ingredient substitutions or adjustments are made that can impact nutritional quality and taste.

On the other hand, from the perspective of respondents, namely five inmates and two kitchen staff, several complaints were found that reflect the suboptimal protection of the right to food. Inmates stated that the food served was often bland, lacked variety, and sometimes insufficient portions. Although quantitatively they did not experience hunger, the quality of the food still did not meet their expectations and needs. Furthermore, the lack of easily accessible complaint channels or regular satisfaction surveys presented a barrier to expressing their concerns regarding food. The kitchen's submodern conditions and limited workforce also hampered optimal food preparation and prompt delivery, while still being hot and clean.

In the face of these challenges, concrete efforts are needed to ensure that legal protection for the right to food is fully implemented. First, there needs to be an increase in the food budget allocation per inmate, adjusted to market conditions and regional inflation. Second, the Class IIA Lhokseumawe Prison must collaborate with local suppliers or assisted cooperatives to ensure the continuous availability of fresh food. Third, special training for kitchen staff on cooking techniques and food sanitation is needed to ensure that the food served is not only nutritious but also aesthetically pleasing and appetizing. Fourth, the prison can develop a mechanism for regular satisfaction surveys and an open complaint

channel so that inmates can provide feedback on food quality without fear of negative consequences.

Another crucial effort is oversight by independent parties, such as the Ombudsman or human rights-focused non-governmental organizations, to ensure accountability and transparency in the provision of food to inmates. Community or third-party involvement can also be achieved through corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs, such as donations of food supplies or modern kitchen equipment, which can improve service quality. Furthermore, integrating consumer protection and human rights principles into correctional officer training will foster awareness that inmates retain inherent rights, including the right to adequate food.

By identifying obstacles and formulating appropriate improvement strategies, legal protection of the right to food for inmates at the Class IIA Lhokseumawe Penitentiary will be more effective and meaningful. This will not only fulfill administrative obligations but also demonstrate the state's commitment to realizing a just, humane, and socially reintegrative correctional system.

4. CONCLUSION

Legal protection for inmates at the Class IIA Lhokseumawe Penitentiary has been implemented based on Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections and the 2020 Food Menu Standards Book, which fulfills the right to adequate food through the provision of three meals a day in accordance with nutritional and calorie standards. However, its implementation still faces obstacles such as limited budget, logistical facilities, and a lack of menu variety, resulting in less than optimal legal protection. Administratively, the mechanism for fulfilling the right to food is well-regulated, but interviews revealed gaps between regulations and practice, such as inmate complaints about food quality, taste, and portion sizes that do not meet consumer protection principles. Obstacles include limited kitchen facilities and manpower, as well as weak supervision and a complaints system. Nevertheless, the prison has implemented various efforts, such as adapting to local ingredients, processing based on menu cycles, and maintaining nutritional balance. Going forward, increased budget allocation, strengthening human resource capacity, and involving external parties are needed to ensure that legal protection for inmates' right to food is fully and equitably fulfilled.

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