

**THE EXISTENCE OF FORMER FEMALE PRISONERS
CLASS IIA KEROBOKAN WOMEN'S PRISON**
(Study of Craftopia Craft Center & Gift Shop Group)

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ABSTRACT

This research examines the phenomenon of the existence of former prisoners of the Kerobokan Class IIA women's correctional institution (Lapas). Some of the former female prisoners formed an independent business group called Craftopia Craft Center & Gift Shop. Former female prisoners formed a group because they felt they were a minority who found it is difficult to get a job. The method used in this research is a qualitative with the perspective of Heidegger's phenomenology theory. Heidegger's phenomenology is used to learn the meaning of "Being" in humans. To explain the phenomenon of former female prisoners, researchers used Heidegger's existence, namely the concept of *dasein*. This explains the meaning of human existence which has a time dimension. The past relates to the experience of former prisoners in prison as prisoners, then the present as former prisoners who receive negative stigma from society for their future, namely continuing life and showing changes to restore public trust.

Keywords: *existence, former prisoners, women*

INTRODUCTION

As social creatures and individuals, humans naturally form groups. A social group, community, or organization is a place where everyone can achieve their goals. A community or social group also needs public recognition. Such is the case with former female prisoners. A former prisoner often gets a negative stigma from society, but they rise up and want to change. Former female prisoners continue to carry out activities like women in general and try to socialize with the environment (Fristian, 2020: 109). The purpose of this community is to unite the determination to move forward together for a better life.

Through the existence of the group they want to show that women former prisoners can also socialize with the environment. The group of former female prisoners who joined

into a small community is a form of their existence in the midst of community life. Existence is important for a group or community. With existence, a group can be recognized by the surrounding community.

Each group of individuals or social groups certainly has a different existence, depending on how it is used to maintain its existence. To maintain a group also requires support from each member to be able to work together so that the existence of the group remains. Over time, the group of former female prisoners known as craft is increasingly recognized by the community. Where initially marginalized, receiving stigma by the community then able to adapt to the community.

Based on the background described above, it is discussed about how the existence of former female prisoners through the Craftopia Craft Center & Gift Shop Group. The purpose of this research is to find out and identify the forms of existence of former female prisoners of the Craftopia Craft Center & Gift Shop Group. The method used is qualitative with the perspective of Heidegger's phenomenological theory. Data were obtained by interview and observation (Wiranata, 2024: 94) from former female fostered citizens in the independent business place Craftopia Craft Center & Gift Shop.

METHODS

This research is a qualitative research that describes the social reality of society. The focus of this research uses Heidegger's existential phenomenology theory. The object of analysis is individuals (Kumbara, 2023, p. 52). Existential phenomenology is an approach Heidegger used to understand what "Being" means for humans, in addition to Husserl's approach. Heidegger, a student of Husserl, reads the structure of being, which means there is something visible that is not hidden (Biyanto, 2015, p. 271). In this study, a phenomenological perspective is also used to see how former female prisoners as existing.

The object of this research is former female prisoners in the Craftopia Craft Center & Gift Shop group. The selection of this object is based on consideration so that researchers get complete data and can compare the data obtained from informants. Taking objects in this study, purposive techniques were used. Purposive is taking objects selected based on certain considerations. This purposive object retrieval means that the object is taken based on certain criteria. The criteria used in taking subjects are first, as former female prisoners in the Craftopia Craft Center & Gift Shop group. Second, the subject is the originator of the Craftopia Craft Center & Gift Shop group. Third, the subject

knows the journey of the Craftopia Craft Center & Gift Shop group and finally the subject as a source of informants who can be trusted for the information provided.

The location in this research is at the Craftopia Craft Center & Gift Shop group business place, Jalan Seruni Denpasar. Data collection was carried out by observation and interviews and documentation. Data analysis techniques in this study using data analysis according to Milles and Huberman. Data analysis includes data reduction, data presentation and conclusion drawing. Reducing data means summarizing, identifying themes and patterns, as well as prioritizing the important, and discarding the unnecessary. Therefore, the data that has been reduced will provide a clearer picture. It will also make it easier to collect more data and search for it when needed (Moleong 2015; Sugiyono 2012). In qualitative research, narrative text is the most common way to present data (Moleong 2015; Sugiyono 2012). This research is expected to produce new findings in the form of a picture or description of an object that was previously unclear (Moleong 2015; Sugiyono 2012).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Craftopia Craft Center & Gift Shop group was founded by a former female prisoner of Class IIA Kerobokan Women's Prison. The desire to build an independent business engaged in craft or handicrafts in the form of knitting and weaving. The desire arose from within EY, because "the awareness that the reality of life must continue and for a better future" (interview, March 15, 2024). EY also has great hopes to be able to help prisoners who leave prison and find it difficult to find work. They can work in the Craftopia Craft Center & Gift Shop group so that they can earn income to meet their daily needs.

Based on Heidegger's thoughts on existence, the researcher uses the idea of *dasein*, namely *dasein* = space and time (Watts, 2007: 17). According to Heidegger, existence is explaining the meaning of "being", and *dasein* is human existence. Human is as design, human is not just existing, but existing that is or has meaning. Human existence is the only way to understand the meaning of being, which means that humans have a place or space to hold themselves (Heidegger, 1927: 144). Moreover, being cannot be separated from time, and the only thing that can represent being is man himself. Since self-awareness is the key to self-existence, humans shape themselves consciously.

In addition, Heidegger states that the existence of human self-consciousness is the basis of human existence. Heidegger sees human existence by explaining the meaning of human "being". Only self-consciousness is the key to self-organization

(Heidegger, 1927:235). No time can change the meaning of human existence. For the time in question, Heidegger refers to the meaningful time that has happened or the past, the present, and the future or the future (Watts, 2007:18). Heidegger is more interested in the future because humans are dynamic and the world is rapidly changing.

a. The Past of Former Female Prisoners

According to Heidegger, the past is one of the meanings of a time that has happened. According to Heidegger, a person's experience in the past is the starting point for decision-making for former female prisoners. To see their existence according to Heidegger, we must explain the meaning of their existence. The meaning of human existence can be seen from the past, present and future. The past serves as a waypoint in human life and provides a plan for future life (Watts, 2007:19). The past as one of the times in the journey of human life provides experience and learning for human existence in the future.

The form of the past of women former female prisoners is having been in prison. As a result of the mistakes they made, they had to pay years in prison to make up for their mistakes. Some even experienced injustice, because they felt victimized. As AD, a former female prisoner of a general criminal case, said, "I have not been able to accept why I am the one serving the sentence, while there are others whose mistakes are bigger and greater, but they are safe" (interview, March 20, 2024).

The bitter events that former prisoners recorded throughout their lives. How life in correctional institutions (Lapas) is limited. SI recounted his experience "during the trial everyone cursed at me and I was made a scapegoat". (interview, March 23, 2024). After being released from prison he was still held responsible for actions he did not commit. This reality brings deep regret for a former female prisoner. The past provides a valuable lesson to welcome an active and dynamic future.

The existence of former female prisoners can be understood through Heidegger's concept of "Dasein", which emphasizes that human existence is a unique and meaningful existence (Heidegger, 1927: 53). In this context, former female prisoners involved in the Craftopia Craft Center and Gift Shop business group experience a complex process of existence. They must face a dark past and undergo a transformation process to become independent individuals who have a purpose in life.

As stated by Heidegger, "the past is not something that has passed, but something that is still present in our existence" (Heidegger, 1927: 244). In this context, former female prisoners involved in the Craftopia Craft Center and Gift Shop business group must face

their past and integrate these experiences in their current existence. By doing so, they can achieve a more authentic and meaningful existence.

b. The Present of Former Female Prisoners

The present according to Heidegger is the place where humans are at this time. To see the existence of former female prisoners, according to Heidegger, is to explain the meaning of being. The meaning of the time dimension that has meaning, one of which Heidegger calls the present (Watts, 2007: 28). The present is the place where humans are, namely former female prisoners who currently form independent business groups. Former female prisoners really feel the changes in their lives before becoming prisoners and after becoming former prisoners. The form of existence carried out by former female prisoners is self-reflection, improving relationships with families, building relationships with fellow former prisoners to get a job.

Someone who has served a sentence or criminal offense, making him lose time with the family in the end lost his family, with a negative stigma from the extended family, from the community, former prisoners also lost the opportunity to get a job. The existence of former prisoners today is shown by an attitude that is willing to change themselves, be generous in accepting reality, and reclaim the trust of family and society for themselves. Meaning is found when former female prisoners are constructed by the world and at the same time they construct the world from their background and experiences (Lavery, 2003: 8).

The existence of former female prisoners in the present can be understood through Heidegger's concept of "Being-in-the-world", which emphasizes that human existence is an existence connected to the surrounding world (Heidegger, 1927:16). In this context, former female prisoners involved in the Craftopia Craft Center and Gift Shop business group experience a dynamic process of existence that is connected to the surrounding environment. They must adapt to new situations and develop the ability to face challenges in everyday life.

As Heidegger states, "Man is an existence connected to the surrounding world, and this existence cannot be separated from its context" (Heidegger, 1927: 155). In this context, former female prisoners involved in the Craftopia Craft Center and Gift Shop business group must develop the ability to interact with their surrounding environment and develop their existence in a broader context. Thus, they can achieve a more authentic and meaningful process of existence.

c. Future (Hereafter-oriented)

Heidegger emphasizes later or future time because humans are active and dynamic. Humans are able to plan and make decisions about what will be done in the future or the future (Heidegger, 1927: 374-375). The phenomenon of former female prisoners forming groups and independent businesses, of course, has a clear purpose. They want to start a new life and achieve a future like other people in general. They are trying to leave the dark past behind and are oriented towards the future.

Former foster residents formed the Craftopia Craft Center & Gift Shop group as a form of existence towards a better future. With the Craft group they can channel the talents they have and that they get while in the Prison Institution (Lapas). There are many types of crafts that are done, namely sewing, knitting, weaving, painting and producing candle products, herbal soaps, bags, clothes or clothes and dolls. They hope that this business will be more advanced and developed to help former female prisoners who are difficult to find work.

The noble goal conveyed by EY as the pioneer of the Craftopia Craft Center & Gift Shop group "I hope that the former prisoners who gather here, can strengthen each other, build each other and pray for each other" (interview, March 15, 2024). According to Heidegger, the future is the afterlife, meaning that former prisoners choose repentance and their future is God. Their existence is to maintain and improve the life of religiosity and release the bitter and evil worldliness.

The existence of former female prisoners in the future can be understood through Heidegger's concept of "Being-towards-death", which emphasizes that human existence is an existence that is directed towards death and has awareness of the death (Heidegger, 1927: 244). In this context, former female prisoners involved in the Craftopia Craft Center and Gift Shop business group have an awareness that life in the world is only temporary and must face death.

As stated by Heidegger, "Death is the clearest and most certain possibility of human existence, and the awareness of death makes humans have the freedom to choose and determine their own destiny" (Heidegger, 1927: 259). In this context, former female prisoners involved in the Craftopia Craft Center and Gift Shop business group have an awareness of death and have the freedom to choose and determine their own destiny, so that they can achieve a meaningful existence process for their future. A normal life and being accepted back into society.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research entitled existence of former female prisoners to see existence according to Heidegger, the meaning of human existence. The meaning of existence can be obtained from the dimension of time which has three meanings, namely what has happened or the past, then the time where the current human place is and the time to come or the future. The past relates to something or experience that happened in the past as a starting point for someone deciding to form the Craftopia Craft Center and Gift Shop group. The sad existence of the past as a prisoner, experiencing injustice, serving a sentence in iron bars is a lesson. The present, according to Heidegger, is the place where humans are at the moment, the time for former female prisoners to make changes. Former female prisoners can do self-introspection, improve relationships with families, open themselves to society and strive to earn income. The last existence is the future. The future is the ultimate goal of a person to exist. Explanations from former female prisoners of their future are working hard to fulfill the needs of life, restore the trust of family and society and get closer to God. This means that the rest of life that still exists, they use for goodness and glory not transience.

The concepts of dasein and existence according to Heidegger have great relevance in understanding human existence. The need for a deeper understanding of the concept of dasein according to Heidegger in the context of everyday life. The importance of integrating the concept of dasein in self-development to increase self-awareness and human existence. It is also necessary to conduct further research on the application of the concept of dasein in various other fields such as psychology, philosophy, and sociology.

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