

ABSTRACT

East Java, a province predominantly consisting of rural areas, is among the regions with the highest levels of crime in Indonesia. Rural crime is often triggered by poverty and limited access, reflecting weak development and unequal local welfare distribution. As part of the effort to improve local welfare and development, the government initiated the Village Cash-for-Work Program (Padat Karya Tunai Desa/PKTD), which creates temporary job opportunities through the utilization of Village Funds. This study aims to analyze the impact of PKTD and other factors such as the number of poor households, the number of micro-industries, the number of schools, road conditions, and the number of security personnel on rural crime.

The method used is Difference-in-Differences (DiD), employing data from the Village Potential Survey (PODES) 2018 as the pre-program period and PODES 2021 as the post-program period. The research sample covers all villages in East Java, amounting to 7,721 villages. The analysis was conducted through three models based on different crime outcomes: the total number of crime types, the tendency of theft cases, and the tendency of violence cases, with the aim of comprehensively examining the impact of PKTD on different forms of crime.

The results show that PKTD did not affect the reduction of total crime types; however, it indicates a potential reduction in theft, although the effect is not statistically significant, and it significantly increases violence. These findings suggest that PKTD may suppress economically motivated crimes such as theft, but it does not contribute to reducing overall crime or violence. In addition, the controlled variables show that the number of poor households has a positive effect, while the number of micro-industries has a significant negative effect on crime. Meanwhile, other variables such as the number of schools, road conditions, and the number of security personnel do not show any significant influence on crime reduction.

Keywords: Crime, Padat Karya Tunai Desa Program, Cash for Work (CfW), Rural Development