
POLICE PROFESSIONAL ETHICS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT IN INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the significance of professional ethics in fostering professionalism, integrity, and credibility within the Indonesian National Police as a law enforcement institution. The research highlights the persistent issues of ethical misconduct and abuse of power, which have contributed to the decline of public trust toward the police. The study is grounded in the urgency to strengthen the enforcement of the professional code of ethics as a means to develop an integrity-based, human-oriented police institution that gains public confidence. Using a normative legal approach, this research analyzes various legal frameworks, academic literature, and secondary data related to the implementation of professional ethics within the police force. The findings indicate that professional ethics play a vital role in aligning police conduct with the values of justice, accountability, and humanity. Both internal factors, such as leadership and organizational culture, and external influences, including public oversight and media involvement, significantly affect the effectiveness of ethical enforcement. Furthermore, consistent moral development, ethical education, and fair disciplinary measures have been shown to enhance public trust in the police. In ethics conclusion, reinforcing professionals is essential for establishing a competent and integrity driven police institution. Sustained leadership commitment, proportional sanctions, and transparency to public scrutiny are key to ensuring accountability and fairness in Indonesia's law.

Keywords: Professional Ethics. Law_Enforcement. Indonesia

1. Introduction

In the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, law enforcement is a crucial part of the reform process aimed at creating a just society. According to Warasih, discussing law enforcement is inseparable from the question of how the law can function properly. Essentially, law enforcement is a process of adapting values, rules, and customs to achieve harmony.²Law enforcement

¹ **Submission:** 17 November 2025 | **Review-1:** 1 January 2026 | **Publish:** 20 January 2026

²Fauziah Lubis et al, "The Role and Function of Advocates as Law Enforcers," Jurnal On Education, Vol. 05, No. 02, 2023, p. 3958

in Indonesia can help resolve current problems. The parties that help resolve these problems, especially within society, are the police.

The Indonesian National Police is one of the main pillars in the national law enforcement system which has a central role in maintaining security, public order, and upholding justice. In carrying out these functions, every member of the Polri is required to not only master the technical aspects of the police, but also uphold the values of ethics, morality, and professionalism. This demand is increasingly prominent amidst social dynamics and increasing public scrutiny of the behavior of law enforcement officers.³Police professional ethics serve as moral guidelines and standards of behavior for all members of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) in carrying out their duties and responsibilities. Based on National Police Chief Regulation No. 14 of 2011 and Police Regulation No. 7 of 2022 concerning the Police Professional Code of Ethics, the code of ethics regulates moral norms relating to the behavior, speech, and actions of Polri members in carrying out state, institutional, social, and personal duties.⁴This code of ethics not only functions as a behavioral regulator, but also as an instrument to maintain the dignity of the police profession and public trust in the Indonesian National Police institution.

However, the reality on the ground shows that violations of the code of ethics and professional values are still common. Various studies show that abuse of authority, acts of violence during investigations, and unprofessional behavior often damage the image of the Indonesian National Police as protectors, guardians, and servants of the public. Cases such as the involvement of Indonesian National Police members in criminal acts or ethical violations, including the case of Bharada Richard Eliezer which has attracted public attention, show that moral and ethical issues remain a serious challenge within the police force. The main problem in this context is not only

³B. Achmad Asfi, *The Role of Legal Ethics as an Effort to Enforce Good Law*, *El-Faqih Journal*, Kediri, Vol. 4, No. 2, 2018, pp. 132-145

⁴H. Rahardi, Pudi, "Police Law (Professionalism and Police Reform)" *Laksbang Mediatama*, Surabaya, 2007, p. 56

individual violations, but also the weakness of the internal oversight system and organizational culture that has not fully internalized the values of professional ethics. In many cases, the command hierarchy, structural pressures, and weak transparency have exacerbated ethical violations within the Indonesian National Police. This condition has given rise to a crisis of public trust in the police institution, even though public trust is a fundamental element for the legitimacy of law enforcement.

Therefore, strengthening the professional ethics of the police is an urgent need to realize a professional, integrity-based, and humanistic Polri. Enforcement of the code of ethics should not stop at the normative level, but must be implemented consistently through a mechanism of guidance, supervision, and the imposition of firm and fair sanctions. From a legal perspective, the professional ethics of the Polri are not only related to personal morality, but also to legal responsibility and public accountability. Therefore, it is important for every Polri member to understand and uphold ethical values as an integral part of the professionalism of law enforcement in Indonesia.

2. Research Method

This research uses normative juridical, a legal research approach based on previous literature. This method focuses on the analysis of secondary data and written sources as the basis for the research. During the research process, various literature related to the legal topic under study is thoroughly reviewed. This method examines applicable laws. All laws and regulations related to the law under discussion are examined using the statute approach, also known as the statute approach.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. The Role of Professional Ethics in Supporting the Professionalism of the Indonesian National Police as Law Enforcers in Indonesia

The police force is a crucial organization that supports just law enforcement and acts as the vanguard in this process. As a police force in

Indonesia, the Indonesian National Police must adhere to professional ethics when carrying out its functions to achieve the goals and functions of the government within the institution. The purpose of these ethics is to create a police force that is not only professional and credible, but also ethical. According to Article 34 paragraph 1 of Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Republic of Indonesia Police, the actions and attitudes of state officials must comply with professional ethical standards. Therefore, to be able to independently meet the demands of society, police personnel are required not only to possess technical skills but also to act in accordance with the code of ethics.⁵

The police, as a law enforcement agency, are crucial for maintaining social order due to their role as public servants, enforcing the law and promoting prosperity. Furthermore, the goals and obligations of the state, as outlined in the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, are also assigned to the Indonesian National Police (Polri) as a state institution, namely to "protect the entire nation and its entire homeland." Therefore, the Tri Brata and Catur Prasetya were established as Work Guidelines, which were later transformed into the Indonesian National Police Code of Professional Ethics.⁶

For law enforcers, professional ethics are very important to carry out their professional responsibilities. Members of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) must carry out their duties based on high ethical and professional values as part of an institution that has the authority and power to maintain security, enforce the law, and provide protection to the community. These ethical values are regulated in the basic ethics of the Indonesian National Police, Tri Barata and Catur Prasetya, and are further regulated in other norms.⁷ Not only are police officers expected to behave in accordance with applicable regulations, but they must also adhere to moral principles that are the basis of their professional ethics.

⁵Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Republic of Indonesia National Police

⁶I Ketut Astawa, *Police Professional Ethics*, Jakarta: PTIK, 2016, pp. 1-2.

⁷Ibid, p.7

This is necessary to maintain public trust in the Indonesian National Police as an agency that plays an important role in community life.

The professional ethics of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) are rooted in the principle that law enforcement is not only legal and formal, but also moral and substantive. According to Kutarto and Sadjijono, police ethics are norms of police behavior that serve as guidelines for the proper implementation of duties for law enforcement, public order, and public safety.⁸ Professional ethics within the Indonesian National Police have a strong legal basis, both in Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police and the Chief of Police Regulation Number 14 of 2011 concerning the Indonesian National Police Code of Professional Ethics (KEPP).⁹

To ensure that every member of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) carries out their law enforcement duties ethically, fairly, and responsibly, a code of ethics serves as the primary guideline for action. This code ensures that every legal action taken by officers is not only in line with laws and regulations but also respects human rights values. To ensure the proper implementation of these ethical rules, the Indonesian National Police (Polri) has established an internal oversight mechanism under the Indonesian National Police Professional Code of Ethics Commission. This commission is empowered to assess, investigate, and even impose sanctions on personnel suspected of committing violations. Violations of the code of ethics by members of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) are essentially seen as a violation of the law, as such actions constitute a disregard for the obligations and authority inherent in their role as protectors, servants, and guardians of the public. Given that the provisions of the Indonesian National Police's professional ethics are officially outlined in the Chief of Police Regulation, non-compliance with them is automatically treated as a violation of applicable legal

⁸Kunarto, *Police Ethics*, Cipta Manunggal, Jakarta, p. 97.

⁹Regulation of the Chief of Police No. 14 of 2011 concerning the Code of Ethics of the Indonesian National Police Profession.

provisions. Therefore, it can be emphasized that when a member of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) fails to comply with their professional code of ethics, they are deemed to have violated the law and denied their institutional responsibility to provide service and protection to the public.¹⁰

The Indonesian National Police (Polri) has the authority to enforce the law through various approaches, ranging from preemptive, preventive, to repressive measures, in accordance with applicable legal provisions. In its implementation, the police play a role in the realm of penal criminal policy, especially at the application stage, namely the application of repressive criminal law. However, in practice, there is still a tendency for the use of violence by police officers as an effort to overcome obstacles in the investigation process, especially to obtain confessions from suspects or information related to the crimes being investigated.¹¹

The police have a code of ethics that governs how they perform their duties. Three types of codes of ethics are used by the police: ethics of service, institutional ethics, and state ethics. Only ethical aspects related to institutions and service will be discussed in accordance with the theme of this paper. Some ethics included in the ethics of service are as follows: not causing suffering as a result of abuse of authority; intentionally causing anxiety, doubt, and dependency on parties related to the problem; behaving badly towards others and not showing arrogance or arrogance due to power; violating or deviating from official procedures; and demeaning the dignity of others. One of the principles of institutional ethics is that members of the Indonesian National Police are

¹⁰Regulation of the Chief of the Republic of Indonesia National Police Number 14 of 2011 concerning the Code of Ethics of the Indonesian National Police Profession

¹¹K. Bertens, Ethics. Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2005, p. 280

obliged to be accountable to their immediate superiors when carrying out official orders.¹²

Based on this description, it can be emphasized that police officers or investigators are prohibited from using violence during the investigation process, as such actions can be categorized as criminal acts. The use of inappropriate, abusive language, or physical violence in an attempt to obtain information from a suspect constitutes a violation of legal and humanitarian principles. Therefore, investigator ethics need to be re-evaluated and strengthened to prevent such unprofessional behavior from recurring and from developing into a practice considered normal in law enforcement.

In a normative context, professional ethics serves as a guideline for the morals and behavior of Indonesian National Police (Polri) members. Professional ethics plays a crucial role within the Polri institutional system, serving as a norm for controlling behavior, guaranteeing integrity, and establishing moral accountability for all police officers. Factors that can influence the effectiveness of the Polri professional code of ethics in law enforcement include:

3.1.1. External Factors

External factors are crucial components that play a significant role in determining the effectiveness of the implementation and enforcement of the professional code of ethics within the Indonesian National Police (Polri). These factors include forces and obstacles originating from outside the Polri institution but having a significant influence on the integrity and professionalism of police officers. One of the most prominent forces is the increased oversight from various state institutions and civil society such as the House of Representatives (DPR), the National Commission on Human Rights (KOMNAS HAM), and Non-Governmental

¹²Suwarni, Police Behavior, Study of Organizational Culture and Communication Patterns, Nusa Media, Bandung, p. 10.

Organizations (NGOs).¹³ These institutions act as social and political controls that encourage the Indonesian National Police to be more transparent, responsible, and improve its performance in enforcing the law. In addition, the existence of the National Police Commission (Kompolnas) also makes a major contribution by providing advice and considerations to the President in taking strategic policies related to the duties and functions of the Indonesian National Police.¹⁴

In addition, the mass media also plays a vital role as an external force in influencing public opinion on the performance of the Indonesian National Police (Polri). Through widespread reporting and dissemination of information, the media serves as a bridge of communication between the police and the public, as well as a means of evaluating the behavior and professionalism of officers. The public also still shows considerable trust in the Indonesian National Police as law enforcers, although in some cases this trust is fluctuating. The form of public support for reform and the paradigm shift of the Indonesian National Police towards a more humanistic and professional institution is also a positive indicator that there is still hope for the realization of a clean and integrated police force. International cooperation established with various law enforcement agencies from other countries also strengthens the capacity of the Indonesian National Police in adopting global ethical and professional standards.¹⁵

¹³A. Christian, Analysis of Violations of the Indonesian National Police's Professional Code of Ethics as a Legal Institution in Indonesia, *Jural on Lex Administratum*, Vol. 11, No.2, 2023, p. 11

¹⁴M. Arif, Duties and Functions of the Police in Their Role as Law Enforcers According to Law Number 2 of 2002 Concerning the Police, Banjarmasin, 2021, p. 163

¹⁵NS Darmadi, & IP Yustina. A Legal Analysis of the Indonesian National Police Code of Ethics in Law Enforcement in Indonesia. *Sultan Agung Scientific Journal*, Vol. 3, No. 3. 2023, pp. 298–309

However, despite these strengths, a number of external obstacles hinder the process of enforcing the code of ethics within the Indonesian National Police (Polri). One major obstacle is the still-unstable national economy. The slow economic recovery has impacted the welfare of Polri members, potentially leading to deviant behavior or violations of the code of ethics due to economic pressures and a lack of work motivation. Furthermore, skepticism from some legislative circles regarding the Polri's ability to carry out internal reforms also poses a challenge. Intervention from political and state officials often hinders the law enforcement process and makes ethical decisions less objective. This situation demonstrates how vulnerable the Polri institution is to external political influences.¹⁶

Another serious obstacle is the persistence of negative views and distrust among some members of the public and NGOs towards the police institution. Many members of the public hesitate to report any deviant behavior by officers, fearing that it will not be followed up or even the potential for intimidation. This public distrust is a major obstacle to the enforcement of the code of ethics because the success of the ethics oversight system within the National Police (Polri) depends heavily on public participation as social monitors. Therefore, strong synergy is needed between external oversight bodies, the media, and the public to ensure that the principles of accountability, honesty, and transparency are truly realized in every action of the police. Therefore, strengthening constructive external factors is a strategic step towards building a professional, integrity-based, and publicly trusted Polri.¹⁷

¹⁶YU Suyono, *Police Law: The Position of the Indonesian National Police in the Indonesian Constitutional System After the Amendment to the 1945 Constitution*. Laksbang Grafika, 2013, p. 164

¹⁷Ibid, p. 164

3.1.2. Internal Factors

Internal factors that influence the enforcement of the Indonesian National Police Code of Professional Ethics include three main aspects, namely strengths, weaknesses, and culture within the police institution itself. In terms of strength, the Indonesian National Police has a number of great potentials that can strengthen the implementation of professional ethics. The new paradigm of the police that positions itself closer to the community is an important foundation in building public trust.¹⁸ In addition, the strong commitment of the National Police leadership to make this institution more professional is the main driving force for positive change. Other strengths also lie in the existence of clear legal regulations, an organized organizational structure starting from the National Police Headquarters to the regional unit level, and the function of the Provos which plays an active role in maintaining discipline and ethics of members. The consistency of the leadership in giving strict sanctions to violators and awards for outstanding members helps create a balance between punishment and reward. The National Police has also implemented a government performance accountability system (LAKIP) as a form of transparency, where every activity of the institution is always monitored and accounted for. This is supported by the enthusiasm and dedication of law enforcement officers who are still high to uphold the code of ethics professionally.¹⁹

However, behind this strength, there are still various internal weaknesses that need to be addressed so that the implementation of the code of ethics runs more effectively. One of the main obstacles

¹⁸NS Darmadi, & Yustina, IP: A Legal Review of the Indonesian Republic Police Code of Ethics in Law Enforcement in Indonesia. Op. cit., 2024, p. 164

¹⁹T. Alhdapassa, Analysis of Handling Disciplinary Violations by POLRI Members in the Implementation of Their Duties and Authorities at the POLRI Traffic Corps. Wahana Pendidikan Scientific Journal, Vol. 9, No. 9, 2023, p. 352–363.

is the implementation of the code of ethics which is sometimes subjective, depending on individual assessments or pressure from certain parties. The lack of attention and supervision from some leaders towards the implementation of ethics also worsens the situation.²⁰ Furthermore, many members of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) still do not fully understand the meaning and importance of the professional code of ethics as a guideline for behavior while on duty. Interference or interference from officials, both internal and external, often results in injustice and reduces the independence of the law enforcement process. The continued occurrence of violations of the code of ethics indicates that ethical awareness has not yet fully instilled in all members. Law enforcement is also sometimes considered less transparent, raising public doubts about fairness within the police force.

In addition to the strengths and weaknesses, the organizational culture of the Indonesian National Police also has a major influence on the enforcement of the code of ethics. Currently, the Indonesian National Police is trying to transform its culture from a militaristic system to a more democratic, humanistic organization that respects legal values and human rights. This change is important to adapt to the demands of society which is increasingly critical of the performance of law enforcement officers. In this context, the Indonesian National Police is required to be able to build healthy partnerships with the community as part of carrying out transparent, orderly, and disciplined duties.

As part of the new paradigm of policing, internal reform also includes the formation of character and work culture based on integrity, accountability, transparency, and sustainability. To create a professional police force, it is necessary to develop both

²⁰SND Marwiyah. Implementation of the Code of Professional Ethics in the Era of Rampant Malpractice in the Legal Profession. Bangkalan: UTM Press, 2015, p. 165.

individual and organizational culture. This individual culture development can be carried out through four layers: building a basic mentality that the community is an equal partner in enforcing the law, instilling a moral belief system that regulates interactions between police and citizens, fostering a positive work spirit in the work environment, and forming a professional mindset and behavior that characterizes the police in the field. The diversity of socio-cultural backgrounds of Polri members also demands a harmonization of values so that each personnel has the same vision and direction. Thus, Polri's organizational culture must be directed towards the spirit of democracy, respect for the law, and protection of human rights, accompanied by clear limitations and oversight of the authority of officers.²¹

In building an ideal culture, exemplary behavior is needed from all levels of leadership as moral role models at every level. Leaders are expected to foster a sense of pride in the police profession, so that each member has a high moral awareness and responsibility towards their duties. A good partnership relationship between the police and the community is also an important measure in realizing a civil and democratic police institution. In addition, the Indonesian National Police need to be open to criticism and input from the public, and follow up on every public report transparently. Socialization regarding the internal monitoring system and the mechanism for enforcing the code of ethics needs to be carried out widely so that the public can participate in monitoring and reporting violations that occur. With this synergy, the upholding of the Indonesian National Police professional code

²¹Deu, M. 2015. Code of Ethics for Judges and the Judicial Commission in Indonesia. Lex Et Societatis, p.3.

of ethics can be guaranteed, and public trust in the police institution will also increase.²²

3.2. The Code of Ethics Development and Enforcement Strategy Can Increase Integrity and Public Trust in the Indonesian National Police

As a law enforcement agency, the Indonesian National Police (Polri) has the primary responsibility for maintaining public security, order, and peace. The Indonesian National Police's Code of Professional Ethics serves as a moral and professional guideline for every Polri member in carrying out their duties. This code of ethics instills the values of integrity, responsibility, and accountability, which must be reflected in every attitude, decision, and action of police officers.²³ To maintain institutional integrity, a comprehensive, consistent, and transparent strategy for fostering and enforcing a code of ethics is necessary. This is due to the fact that ethical violations still frequently occur and negatively impact public reputation and trust. Public trust will increase if the Code of Ethics is regularly implemented. The public will feel safer and more comfortable if police officers behave morally. Furthermore, this trust will reduce the negative stigma often associated with the police. Public trust will influence cooperation between the police and the community in addressing criminal and social issues. The police will find it easier to maintain security and order if they work together effectively.

Guidance is the first preventive measure to prevent ethical code violations. This can be achieved through ethics training at all levels of police education, from the Police Academy to continuing officer training.²⁴ Good development not only addresses formal discipline but also fosters cultural and moral values within a public service-oriented

²²*Ibid*, p.3

²³Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia National Police concerning the Code of Professional Ethics and the Indonesian National Police Code of Ethics Commission (PERPOL No. 7 of 2022).

²⁴Regulation of the Chief of Police No. 4 of 2011 concerning the Police Professional Code of Ethics.

organization. In such situations, implementing ethical mentoring and moral supervision programs is crucial. This program involves superiors serving as role models for their subordinates in implementing the principles of integrity and professionalism. In terms of professional ethics development, the Indonesian National Police (Polri) has made significant progress in terms of discipline and work experience within the organization. This is because the development provided throughout the process encompasses not only criminal law and the police's professional code of ethics but also religious perspectives. One of the goals of Polri personnel development is to achieve a balance between the quantity and quality of human resources, which is crucial for the police education and training system. Several key characteristics distinguish personnel development within the Polri institution. First, the principle of competition is used in the Polri member recruitment system to select the best candidates for the required positions or ranks. Second, the police education system is designed professionally, with the educational process structured over a specific period, so that graduates can immediately work in the field with the necessary skills. Third, the Career Services with Reward System is implemented for the assignment, placement, and transfer of Polri members, with policies that ensure that each member's abilities, position, and assignment time are appropriate (the right person is in the right place at the right time). Therefore, Polri personnel development focuses not only on the number of members, but also on professionalism, professional fairness, and optimal operational readiness.

The development of Polri personnel, particularly through the educational process, is intended to produce human resources with technical and professional skills who can work in various police fields. First and foremost, educational institutions must be able to produce employees with professional competencies in police fields, such as Sabhara, Traffic, Polairud (Water and Air), Mobile Brigade, and investigative divisions such as Criminal Investigation, Economics, and

Narcotics. Second, the goal of training is to provide employees with technical skills, such as human resource management, logistics and material management, and financial and administrative management. Therefore, Polri personnel education focuses not only on operational skills in the field but also on internal development skills that will help the police organization run smoothly and professionally.²⁵In addition, job promotions and ethical assessments in the career system can be incentives for members who behave well.²⁶Therefore, coaching is not merely an administrative act; it is a value system integrated into every process of the police organization.

Without enforcement, development will be irrelevant. Therefore, procedures for enforcing the code of ethics must be implemented firmly and transparently. The Indonesian National Police Professional Code of Ethics Commission (KKEP) is an internal institution within the Indonesian National Police responsible for investigating and imposing sanctions on members who violate the code of ethics.²⁷This mechanism allows the public to monitor the performance of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) and ensures that the organization does not act without limits. Effective legislation requires a complaints system that is easily accessible to the public, protection for whistleblowers, and open publication of ethics enforcement results.²⁸It is crucial to ensure that sanctions are applied consistently, as disproportionate enforcement can lead to public perceptions of injustice. Studies show that public trust in

²⁵ Ferli Hidayat, *The National Police Reform Pattern as one of the Policies of the Chief of Police*, General Prof. Dr. Awaloedin Djamin, MPA, (22 December 2012 Edition), accessed on 15 May 2022

²⁶WS Nugroho. "Professional Ethics Development in Improving the Professionalism of Indonesian National Police Members," *National Security Journal*, Vol. 8, No. 2, 2023.

²⁷PERPOL No. 7 of 2022, Chapter IV concerning the Professional Code of Ethics Commission.

²⁸UNODC, *Handbook on Police Accountability, Oversight and Integrity* (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2011).

the police increases when there is consistent internal disciplinary enforcement.²⁹

Maintaining the credibility and public trust in the police institution is a crucial aspect in realizing law enforcement with integrity. One strategic step to achieve this goal is through the implementation of the Police Professional Code of Ethics. Enforcing the code of ethics based on the principles of legal certainty, justice, and benefit plays a vital role in strengthening the image and legitimacy of the police institution in the eyes of the public. Consistent application of the code of ethics can minimize violations, improve the behavior of police officers, and increase public trust through the establishment of clear rules, a fair enforcement process, and an orientation towards values of social benefit. With ongoing reforms and a strong commitment and dedication to the principles of professional ethics, the police will be able to build institutional integrity and earn higher respect from the community.

According to Gustav Radbruch, in the hierarchy of legal objectives, justice occupies the primary position, followed by utility, and finally legal certainty. Therefore, the principle of justice must be the primary foundation in enforcing the Police Code of Ethics. The application of this principle will create a sense of fair treatment for every member of the police force, thereby fostering trust and loyalty to the applicable system. Thus, the realized sense of justice will encourage Polri members to be more obedient and consistent in implementing the provisions of the professional code of ethics. Although utility and legal certainty also play an important role, both must be placed within the framework of justice so as not to sacrifice human values. In line with Radbruch's view, the three objectives of the law—justice, certainty, and utility—can only be

²⁹IACP (International Association of Chiefs of Police), Law Enforcement Code of Ethics (IACP, 2020).

achieved through consistent, fair, and effective application of the law, so as to provide real benefits to both the institution and society.³⁰

The National Police's success in maintaining internal integrity has increased public trust in the police institution. This trust is built through ethical behavior, professionalism, and the quality of public services provided by each member.³¹ In the context of public service, the public judges the integrity of police officers based on how they carry out their duties fairly, transparently, and with a focus on the public interest. When ethical violations are handled fairly, openly, and consistently, the legitimacy of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) in the eyes of the public increases, as the public perceives that the institution truly upholds the principles of accountability and moral responsibility.³² Conversely, distrust and negative perceptions can arise from inconsistent or opaque implementation of the code of ethics. These perceptions can undermine credibility and disrupt the institution's overall performance.³³

Research conducted by the Indonesian National Police Research and Development Center (Litbang) in 2023 showed that public perception of the performance of and trust in the Indonesian National Police (Polri) increased along with the implementation of transparency policies in enforcing the code of ethics and strengthening the internal oversight system.³⁴ Research shows that the public supports transparency, such as the regular publication of ethics hearing results and reports of disciplinary violations. These measures are considered to foster trust because the public can see that the organization is genuinely striving to

³⁰Gustav Radbruch, Statutory Lawlessness and Supra-Statutory Law, *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*, Vol. 26, no. 1 (2006), p. 1–11.

³¹WS Nugroho, (2023). Professional Ethics Development in Improving the Professionalism of Indonesian National Police Members. *National Security Journal*, Vol. 8, No. 2. pp. 45–56.

³²Regulation of the Chief of Police No. 14 of 2011 concerning the Code of Ethics of the Indonesian National Police Profession.

³³UNODC. (2011). *Handbook on Police Accountability, Oversight and Integrity*. Vienna: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

³⁴Indonesian National Police Research and Development Center. (2023). *Report on the Results of the 2023 Public Confidence Survey on the Performance of the Indonesian National Police*. Jakarta: Indonesian National Police Research and Development Center.

uphold professional ethics.³⁵ Therefore, the development and enforcement of the code of ethics are two essential, complementary components. Development shapes the personality and moral awareness of members, while enforcement ensures internal justice and accountability. Both elements are crucial for enhancing organizational integrity and maintaining public trust in the Indonesian National Police.

To realize a police force with integrity and professionalism, a comprehensive strategy for fostering and enforcing a code of ethics is crucial. Fostering instills moral values and an ethical culture in everyone, while enforcement ensures that individuals are held accountable when violations occur. By combining these two approaches, the police force gains legal legitimacy and the moral trust of the public. Achieving police ethics reform requires institutional commitment, policy transparency, and ongoing external oversight.

4. Conclusion

Police professional ethics is a set of moral and behavioral guidelines that must be upheld by every member of the Indonesian National Police in carrying out their role as protectors, guardians, and servants of the community. This ethics serves as a foundation so that police officers are not only guided by legal regulations alone, but also uphold the values of justice, responsibility, and humanity in every action. However, in practice, violations of the code of ethics still often occur, which are generally caused by weak internal oversight mechanisms, an organizational culture that is not fully ethically oriented, and the influence or intervention of external parties. Therefore, the enforcement of professional ethics is an urgent need in efforts to build a National Police that is based on professionalism, high integrity, and has legitimacy and public trust. There are factors that can influence the effectiveness of the application of the police professional code of ethics in law enforcement practices. External

³⁵AR Siregar, (2022). The Relationship between Code of Ethics Enforcement and Public Trust in the Indonesian National Police. *Indonesian Journal of Police Science*, 5(1), 22–34.

factors include strengths and obstacles originating from outside the Indonesian National Police (Polri). The main strengths are increased oversight from state institutions (DPR, Komnas HAM, NGOs), mass media support, and international cooperation that encourages transparency and professionalism. However, obstacles such as unstable economic conditions, political intervention, and low public trust are obstacles in implementing the code of ethics. Public participation and the role of external supervisory institutions are essential to maintaining the accountability of the Indonesian National Police (Polri). Internal factors relate to the strengths and weaknesses within the Indonesian National Police itself. Strengths include the leadership's commitment to professionalism, a strong organizational structure, and a reward and punishment system that is beginning to be implemented. However, weaknesses include weak individual ethical awareness, lack of supervision, and a hierarchical and militaristic organizational culture. Cultural transformation towards a humanistic, transparent, and human rights-respecting police force is urgently needed so that professional ethics can be truly internalized in every member.

The strategy of coaching and enforcing the code of ethics is a fundamental aspect in building integrity and public trust in the Indonesian National Police. Coaching plays a preventive role that instills moral values, professionalism, and ethical awareness from the educational stage to the implementation of duties in the field. Through continuous coaching, members of the Indonesian National Police are directed to understand and internalize the values of integrity, responsibility, and accountability in every action. Meanwhile, the enforcement of the code of ethics functions as a corrective measure that ensures the upholding of justice and accountability within the Indonesian National Police. The implementation of firm, transparent, and consistent ethics enforcement through institutions such as the Indonesian National Police Professional Code of Ethics Commission (KKEP) is able to strengthen public trust because it demonstrates the institution's commitment to prosecuting every violation without discrimination. The combination of

coaching that forms ethical character and enforcement that ensures legal responsibility produces a police apparatus that is professional, has integrity, and is oriented towards public service. When ethics are enforced fairly and openly, the legitimacy of the Indonesian National Police increases in the eyes of the public, so that relations between the police and the community become more harmonious. Thus, the strategy of coaching and enforcing the code of ethics not only improves the image of the Indonesian National Police, but also strengthens public trust and creates a police institution that is humanistic, transparent, and just.

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