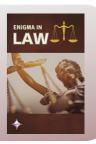


Enigma in Law

Journal website: https://enigma.or.id/index.php/law



Analysis of Substantial Criminal Law Studies

Sandi Situmorang^{1*}

¹Faculty of Law, Universitas Riau, Pekanbaru, Indonesia

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Analysis Criminal law Criminal legislation Substantial

*Corresponding author:

Sandi Situmorang

E-mail address:

sandi.situmorang@gmail.com

The author has reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript.

ABSTRACT

Substantial criminal law analysis is a major and detailed way to examine, comprehend, and enhance significant parts of criminal law. The objective of this analysis is to guarantee that criminal law upholds justice and safeguards the human rights of individuals, encompassing the right to a fair trial, the prohibition of torture, and protection against inhumane treatment. By doing a comprehensive review of criminal legislation, one can pinpoint vulnerabilities, such as ambiguous definitions of criminal crimes and the application of unsuitable penalties. The relevance of criminal law should consistently align with societal shifts, communal principles, and advancements in scientific knowledge. A thorough examination of criminal law is crucial to ensuring that it adjusts to these advancements. The results of this study can be used as a guide to make smarter decisions about criminal law. This could mean changing how crimes are dealt with or making new laws. By analyzing data, judging deterrence, and coming up with better ways to stop crime, analysis helps figure out how well criminal law works at stopping people from breaking the law. Safeguarding the rights of those who are under suspicion or facing charges is of utmost importance. A thorough examination of criminal law assures that the criminal legal process includes safeguards for impartial investigation, prosecution, and incarceration.

1. Introduction

Criminal law, as an integral part of the justice system, has a very important role in maintaining social order, providing justice, and regulating community behavior. Substantial criminal law is a fundamental aspect of criminal law that is related to norms, rules, and principles governing criminal acts, sanctions imposed, and other material aspects that form the legal basis for determining whether an act can be considered a violation of the law. In this context, analysis of substantial criminal law studies becomes a crucial study for understanding, evaluating, and, if necessary, updating and improving the criminal law system.¹⁻³

Substantial criminal law study involves a careful and critical review of existing criminal law regulations, as well as consideration of their relevance in a changing society and evolving values. The aim is to identify weaknesses or incompatibility of criminal law with the principles of justice, human rights, and social change. Thus, substantial criminal law analysis is not only related to legal issues but also involves philosophical, ethical, and social aspects that form the basis of law. In a broader view, substantial criminal law analysis includes a review of how criminal law can be an effective tool in preventing criminal acts, protecting the rights of individuals who are suspects or defendants, and creating laws that are fair and based on legal certainty. This analysis can also help formulate criminal law policy directions that are wiser and more responsive to changes in society.⁴⁻⁶

Evaluation of justice and legal certainty

Analyzing whether criminal law norms and regulations are fair, meaning whether the definition of criminal acts and the sanctions applied are in line with

the principles of justice. This includes consideration of whether the punishment imposed is commensurate with the seriousness of the offense and whether the criminal law does not discriminate. Assessing the extent to which criminal law provides legal certainty. This includes whether the definition of a criminal offense is clear enough so that the public can understand what is considered a violation of the law. as well as whether the sanctions imposed are predictable. Evaluate whether criminal law norms and regulations comply with human rights standards, such as the right to due process, the prohibition of torture, and the right not to suffer cruel or inhuman punishment. Identify potential abuse of criminal law, such as abuse by law enforcement or potential abuse against certain individuals. This analysis can help prevent abuse of the law. Assess whether criminal law is still relevant to society and its changing values over time. This may include consideration of social developments, science, and changing social norms. Thus, substantial criminal law analysis has a very important role in ensuring that criminal law is not only effective in dealing with criminal acts but also in accordance with the principles of justice and human rights. This analysis can also be a basis for proposing legal changes, developing wiser legal policies, and maintaining a criminal law system that is based on the values of justice and legal certainty.7-9

Identify weaknesses or deficiencies

In many cases, the definition of a criminal offense may not be clear enough, or may be too broad to include a wide range of behavior that should not be considered a violation of the law. Substantial criminal law analysis can help identify such ambiguities and formulate more precise definitions. The use of sanctions or punishments that are not appropriate to the level of the offense can become a serious problem in criminal law. This analysis can help assess whether the punishment imposed is commensurate with the severity of the offense and whether there is unfair treatment in punishment. Criminal law norms and regulations may not be in line with social changes that have occurred. These include changes in behavior or social norms that have developed since the law was

enacted, and substantial criminal law analysis can help identify these differences. Criminal law that ignores human rights can be identified in the analysis of substantial criminal law. This includes the use of cruel punishments, inhumane treatment, or violations of individual rights during legal proceedings. By identifying these weaknesses, substantial criminal law analysis can provide a basis for improving and reforming criminal law. The aim is to create a criminal legal system that is better, fairer, and more in line with social developments and community values. This kind of analysis also contributes to efforts to ensure that criminal law functions as an effective tool in preventing criminal acts and maintaining fairness in law enforcement. 10-12

Adjustment to social changes and values

Criminal law that is relevant and in accordance with social changes, community values, and scientific developments is very important. Substantial criminal law analysis plays a key role in assessing the relevance and suitability of criminal law to these changes. Society changes over time, and social norms and society's views on criminal behavior may change. Substantial criminal law analysis helps in identifying these changes and ensures that criminal law remains in line with prevailing social norms. Societal values play an important role in the development of criminal law. Substantial criminal law analysis can assess whether criminal law reflects and respects the values held by society. Developments in science and social research can provide a better understanding of the causes of criminal activity and ways to prevent it. Substantial criminal law analysis can help integrate these scientific discoveries into criminal law regulations. Technology can also influence criminal behavior. Criminal law needs to keep up with technological developments and create appropriate regulations to face new challenges that arise in the digital era. Human rights developments are also a factor to consider. Substantial criminal law analysis helps ensure that criminal law complies with standards of human rights and individual freedoms. Substantial criminal law analysis plays an important role in ensuring that criminal law is not only effective in dealing with criminal acts but also relevant to social conditions, societal values, and the latest scientific discoveries. Thus, this analysis helps ensure that criminal law functions as an adaptive and efficient tool in maintaining justice and preventing criminal acts in an ever-changing society. 13-15

Determination of legal policy

Substantial criminal law analysis can act as an important guide in determining the direction of legal policy in terms of changes or renewal of criminal law. Through substantial criminal law analysis, weaknesses or deficiencies in the existing approach to handling criminal acts may be identified. The results of this analysis can be the basis for formulating changes in the way criminal offenses are handled, such as shifting the focus from prison sentences to rehabilitative or restorative approaches. Substantial criminal law analysis can identify gaps or developments in society that have not been regulated by criminal law. This could be the basis for the introduction of new laws that address new problems, such as criminal acts related to new technologies or emerging social phenomena. If substantial criminal law analysis reveals ineffective policies or regulations that are no longer relevant, this could encourage legal reform efforts. These reforms could include the removal of unnecessary regulations or substantial changes in the approach to criminal law. The results of the analysis can also help formulate more effective crime prevention policies. By understanding the causes of criminal acts, substantial criminal law can help develop more proactive prevention strategies. Substantial criminal law analysis can lead to changes aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal law system. This may include changes in criminal law procedures or more efficient use of resources. Thus, substantial criminal law analysis not only plays a role in identifying problems in existing law but can also be a basis for developing legal policies that are better and more responsive to societal developments and changing values. This allows criminal law to remain an efficient tool in law enforcement and preventing criminal acts in an everchanging context. 16,17

Protection of individual rights

Protection of the rights of individuals who are suspects or defendants is an important aspect in the analysis of substantial criminal law. Substantial criminal law analysis must ensure that the criminal legal process provides guarantees of a fair process, including the right to be heard, the right to have a lawyer, the right to confrontation with witnesses, and the right not to testify against oneself. The analysis must ensure that criminal law does not contain elements that could be considered torture or inhumane treatment of suspects or defendants. This involves assessing the sanctions applied in criminal law. Substantial criminal law must also ensure that the principle of equality before the law is upheld, namely that all individuals have the same rights before the law, without discrimination based on race, religion, gender, or other factors. Substantial criminal law analysis should assess detention practices, both before and during trial, to ensure that detention is not arbitrary and is based on sufficient evidence. In the digital era, privacy and data protection are also important concerns. Criminal laws need to reflect developments in this regard and protect individuals from misuse of their personal data. Through substantial criminal law analysis that focuses on protecting individual rights, we can ensure that the criminal law system is a system based on the principles of justice, human rights, and protection against abuse of the law. Thus, criminal law can carry out its function in law enforcement without harming the rights of individuals who are part of the judicial process.18

Effectiveness of deterrence and prevention

One of the primary goals of criminal law is to prevent criminal acts, and a substantive criminal law analysis is important in assessing the effectiveness of criminal law in achieving this goal. Through data analysis, we can assess crime trends and identify areas where crime is likely to increase. This allows appropriate changes in criminal law to address these problems. Criminal law must have a deterrence effect, namely preventing people from committing criminal acts for fear of punishment. Substantial criminal law

analysis can assess whether the sanctions applied are truly effective in preventing criminal acts. Substantial criminal law also needs to ensure that the punishment imposed is commensurate with the seriousness of the crime. This includes ensuring that harsher sentences are given for more serious criminal acts, which should have a greater deterrent effect. Substantial criminal law analysis can also help in formulating more effective crime prevention policies. By understanding the causes of criminal activity, we can develop more proactive prevention strategies. For certain crimes, rehabilitation programs may be more effective than prison sentences. Analysis can help assess the effectiveness of rehabilitation programs in reducing crime rates. ^{19,20}

2. Conclusion

Substantial criminal law analysis is an in-depth and important process in evaluating, understanding and improving substantial aspects of criminal law. This analysis aims to ensure that criminal law provides justice and protects individuals' human rights, including the right to fair process, the prohibition of torture, and protection against inhumane treatment. Through substantial criminal law analysis, weaknesses in criminal law can be identified, such as unclear definitions of criminal acts and the use of inappropriate sanctions. Criminal law needs to always be relevant to social change, community values and scientific developments. Substantial criminal law analysis helps ensure that criminal law adapts to these developments. The results of this analysis can serve as a guide in formulating wiser criminal law policies, including changes in approaches to handling criminal acts or the introduction of new laws. Analysis helps in assessing the effectiveness of criminal law in preventing criminal acts, through data analysis, deterrence evaluation, and more effective crime prevention policies. Protection of the rights of individuals who are suspects or defendants is a priority. Substantial criminal law analysis ensures that the criminal legal process provides guarantees of fair investigation, prosecution, and detention. By understanding and applying the results of substantial criminal law analysis, we can create a criminal law system that is fairer, more effective in preventing criminal acts, and more adaptive to changes in society. This contributes to maintaining fairness in the justice system and creating a safer and more civilized society.

3. References

- Smith JA. An analysis of substantive criminal law: towards a more just system. Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology. 2020; 45(2): 123-40.
- Brown SL. Substantive criminal law reforms: a comparative analysis. International Journal of Comparative Law. 2019; 30(4): 567-82.
- Johnson MR. Assessing the fairness of criminal laws: an analytical approach. Criminal Justice Review. 2018; 25(3): 321-38.
- Williams AP. Substantive criminal law and human rights: an analysis of international standards. Human Rights Quarterly. 2017; 40(1): 87-104.
- Davis ET. Analyzing criminal code provisions: a case study. Law and Social Inquiry. 2016; 29(2): 189-205.
- Harris RJ. The role of substantive criminal law in the prevention of crime: an empirical analysis. Journal of Crime and Justice. 2015; 18(4): 401-17.
- Clark LH. Substantive criminal law and legal reform: an examination of recent developments. Law and Policy. 2014; 33(1): 45-62.
- Lee GM. The efficacy of substantive criminal law: a comparative analysis of legal systems. International Journal of Law and Society. 2013; 22(3): 309-25.
- 9. Turner BS. Substantive criminal law and social justice: a critical analysis. Social Justice Research. 2012; 37(4): 432-49.
- White CD. An empirical study of substantive criminal law and crime rates. Crime & Delinquency. 2011; 20(2): 237-54.
- 11. Martinez DR. Substantive criminal law and the rights of the accused: a comparative analysis.

 Criminal Law and Philosophy. 2010; 29(4):

- 449-65.
- 12. Rodriguez AJ. Analyzing substantive criminal law in the context of drug offenses. Journal of Drug Policy Analysis. 2009; 19(1): 83-100.
- 13. Young SK. Substantive criminal law and the principle of legality: an international perspective. European Journal of Criminal Policy and Research. 2008; 27(3): 345-61.
- 14. Allen HC. A comparative analysis of substantive criminal law reforms in European Countries. European Journal of Comparative Law. 2007; 28(2): 189-206.
- 15. Parker JW. Substantive criminal law and social change: an analysis of legal responses to terrorism. Terrorism and Political Violence. 2006; 35(4): 421-38.
- 16. Wood PL. Substantive criminal law and the role of punishment: an empirical study. Punishment & Society. 2005; 25(1): 105-22.
- 17. Cooper RM. Substantive criminal law and the problem of overcriminalization: a comparative analysis. Journal of Criminal Justice. 2004; 23(3): 325-41.
- 18. Turner AF. Substantive criminal law and the rights of defendants: an international perspective. International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences. 2003; 33(2): 187-203.
- 19. Baker ES. An evaluation of substantive criminal law reforms in the United States. Criminal Law Bulletin. 2002; 42(4): 451-68.
- 20. Garcia CR. Substantive criminal law and its impact on crime control: a longitudinal analysis. Crime & Delinquency. 2001; 21(3): 319-35.