

The Paradigm Shift in Corruption Case Resolution in Indonesia: A Study on the Progressive Legal Approach

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Abstract

The handling of corruption cases in Indonesia has undergone significant changes, particularly in the application of criminal procedural law aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of corruption eradication. One of the important developments is the implementation of a progressive legal approach that is more adaptive to socio-political dynamics and aims to create substantive justice. However, there is a gap in the consistent application of the *lex specialis* principle, which has led to legal uncertainty and regulatory loopholes exploited by corrupt actors. This research employs a qualitative descriptive method with in-depth interviews and legal document analysis to explore the paradigm shifts in the enforcement of corruption cases in Indonesia. The findings indicate that the progressive legal approach has succeeded in addressing inconsistencies in the application of *lex specialis*, increasing legal flexibility through the practice of discretion, and leveraging collaboration with whistleblowers to uncover major corruption cases. The results also show a significant decrease in the number of corruption cases following the implementation of this new paradigm. This approach allows the law to be more responsive to social changes, creates more sustainable justice, and strengthens efforts to eradicate corruption. The implications of this research provide new insights for legal reform in Indonesia, particularly in enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement against corruption.

Keywords: progressive law; *lex specialis*; legal paradigm; corruption; whistleblower.

The handling of corruption cases in Indonesia has undergone significant changes in recent years, particularly in the application of criminal procedural law (Hessert & Goh, 2022). Corruption, long considered one of the biggest problems in the government system and public services, has triggered various legal reforms aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of handling and enforcing the law against corrupt actors (Agbor, 2023). Alongside the increasing number of corruption cases addressed by law enforcement agencies, there is an urgent need to

adapt a more progressive and responsive legal approach.

One of the important developments in handling corruption cases in Indonesia is the implementation of a progressive legal approach, which emphasizes flexibility and substantive justice in law enforcement (Anggraeny, 2020). This approach shifts the focus from rigid and formalistic law application towards law enforcement that is more oriented towards social justice and public welfare (Abishev et al., 2024). In this context, the paradigm of criminal

procedural law has also undergone transformation, where principles of justice are viewed not only from the perspective of state interests but also considering moral, social, and victims' rights aspects.

This progressive legal approach is expected to strengthen efforts to combat corruption by not only punishing the perpetrators but also promoting structural changes within the legal system (Ali et al., 2022). Through the implementation of this new paradigm, the judicial process in corruption cases is no longer merely repressive but also seeks to restore social order and prevent future corruption (Bray et al., 2022). Therefore, the paradigm shift in law enforcement is a crucial step to enhance the effectiveness of criminal procedural law in dealing with the complexities of corruption crimes in Indonesia.

The identification of problems in handling corruption cases in Indonesia can be observed from the inconsistency in applying the *lex specialis* principle (Fajrin et al., 2023). This principle, which should serve as a guideline in prioritizing specific laws over general laws, is often not applied consistently (Wahyuni & Irawan, 2021). As a result, confusion arises in some cases regarding the appropriate legal rules to apply, especially when there is an overlap between general and specific regulations governing corruption crimes (Mandasari, 2021). This leads to legal uncertainty, both for law enforcement officers and for the parties involved in corruption cases.

Moreover, there are numerous regulatory loopholes that allow corrupt actors to exploit the legal system (Barafi et al., 2022). These loopholes are often utilized by perpetrators to evade legal responsibility, either through manipulation of legal procedures or through varying interpretations of anti-corruption laws (Auriol et al., 2023). For instance, complex evidentiary procedures or ambiguous rules regarding the handling of cases involving high-ranking state officials often provide

opportunities for corrupt individuals to seek legal loopholes that can be exploited.

In addition, the lack of synergy among law enforcement agencies is another obstacle in handling corruption cases (Karibayeva et al., 2021). The lack of alignment between the police, the prosecutor's office, and the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) often results in slow and ineffective legal processes. Moreover, the inability of these institutions to collaborate optimally leads to suboptimal law enforcement against corrupt actors.

Previous studies on corruption eradication in Indonesia have highlighted various approaches and differing focuses. For instance, Najih & Wiryani's (2020) research examines the legal foundations of anti-corruption efforts in Indonesia and Malaysia, as well as the law enforcement mechanisms employed to prevent corruption in both countries. Despite many similarities in their social, cultural, and historical contexts, this research emphasizes that the application of anti-corruption laws has different impacts in each country. This study utilizes a historical and comparative approach to explore the role of law in curbing corruption and concludes that the success of corruption prevention is greatly influenced by the effectiveness of law enforcement, both through legal and non-legal approaches.

Meanwhile, Purba et al. (2020) explore the application of the death penalty in Indonesia, particularly concerning serious crimes such as corruption. This research emphasizes that the application of the death penalty in Indonesia, although often debated, is not considered a violation of human rights as long as it is conducted in accordance with procedures established by national and international law. The focus of this research is on the legal justification for the application of the death penalty within the context of Indonesian law, including in corruption cases.

Subsequently, Wahyudi's (2019) research provides a different focus by discussing criminal law policies related to asset recovery in

corruption cases. Wahyudi highlights that criminal law policies in Indonesia have not been fully effective in recovering state losses due to corruption. He identifies the need for policy reforms to enhance the effectiveness of recovering assets from corrupt actors and suggests simplifying regulations to prevent corruption from the outset.

Alam et al. (2022), on the other hand, examine the relevance of Islamic criminal law in the context of asset confiscation from corrupt individuals. Using a normative approach, this research compares punishments in Islamic criminal law, such as fines and exile, with those in Indonesia's positive criminal law. The goal is to find the relevance between these two legal systems in efforts to eradicate corruption in Indonesia, particularly from the perspective of Islamic criminal law.

Meanwhile, Pane and Pudjiastuti (2020) highlight legal aspects in the context of combating corruption during the Covid-19 pandemic. This research discusses how changes in social policies, including social assistance programs, have the potential to generate corruption cases and the need for legal reforms to combat corruption in the new normal era. They argue that anti-corruption efforts must include a more stringent legal reformulation, including the imposition of harsher sanctions, even to the point of impoverishing corrupt individuals.

When compared to this study, there are several key similarities and differences. The primary similarity between previous research and this study is the focus on combating corruption and the importance of legal reform in that process. However, the main difference lies in the approach used. While previous studies have primarily focused on conventional criminal law approaches, this study aims to explore paradigm shifts in resolving corruption cases with a more progressive legal approach. This progressive approach potentially includes innovations in handling corruption cases, which may not have been addressed in earlier studies,

thereby contributing new insights to the discourse on corruption eradication in Indonesia.

It is undeniable that despite various legal efforts, corruption in Indonesia remains a serious problem that is difficult to eradicate. Although many studies have highlighted anti-corruption efforts, the approaches used often fail to yield significant results. This indicates that the existing legal approaches have not been fully effective in reducing the rate of corruption, which continues to be a major challenge for the Indonesian government.

Moreover, in the context of criminal sanctions, although the death penalty is legally sanctioned for serious crimes such as corruption, in reality, corruption continues to be rampant. Harsh law enforcement does not automatically lead to improvements in curbing corruption, indicating that such punitive strategies have not been able to produce substantial impact in preventing corruption crimes.

Asset recovery from corruption crimes has also failed to show satisfactory results. Complex regulations and slow law enforcement have exacerbated this situation. In this context, combating corruption is not only about punishing the perpetrators but also about recovering state losses, which has yet to achieve adequate results. Anti-corruption efforts during crises have revealed unresolved structural weaknesses, worsening the situation and increasing the potential for corruption. Therefore, it is clear that conventional approaches to combating corruption are insufficient to address new challenges, making a paradigm shift in handling corruption cases in Indonesia necessary.

This research is important and urgent because, despite the implementation of various policies to combat corruption, the legal approaches used so far have proven incapable of addressing the problem at its root. There is a clear gap between strict law enforcement and its effectiveness in reducing corruption rates in Indonesia. Conventional repressive approaches, such as the death penalty and suboptimal asset

recovery, have not provided comprehensive solutions to the complexity of corruption issues. Therefore, a paradigm shift in resolving corruption cases is urgently needed so that more progressive and comprehensive approaches can be applied. The findings of this research are expected to provide more innovative and targeted solutions for tackling corruption by highlighting aspects that have been overlooked by traditional legal approaches.

Therefore, this research aims to explore the paradigm shift in resolving corruption cases in Indonesia through a progressive legal approach. The study seeks to examine how more innovative approaches can be implemented to strengthen the effectiveness of the law in combating corruption, while also contributing new insights to the discourse on legal reform that better aligns with the social, political, and economic dynamics in Indonesia. This progressive legal approach is expected not only to focus on criminal sanctions but also to integrate more holistic prevention strategies, thereby creating a more just and effective legal system in addressing corruption in the future.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This research employs a descriptive qualitative approach aimed at understanding and analyzing the paradigm shift in criminal procedure law in handling corruption cases in Indonesia, with a focus on the progressive legal approach. The design of this study seeks to explore the perceptions, experiences, and interpretations of legal experts and law enforcement officers regarding the changes occurring during the stages of the paradigm shift, namely anomaly, crisis, and revolution. In this design, analysis is conducted through an in-depth exploration of legal documents and structured interviews (Berg, 2001).

Respondents

The respondents of this study consist of legal experts, academics, and law enforcement

officers who are directly involved in the process of handling corruption cases. Respondents were selected based on purposive sampling criteria, considering their experience and active involvement in progressive legal practices in Indonesia (Bednarek-Gilland, 2016). In addition, representatives from law enforcement institutions such as the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK), the prosecutor's office, and the judiciary are also included as respondents, providing a comprehensive perspective on the paradigm shift in the legal approach to combating corruption.

Instruments

The instruments used in this research include in-depth interviews, documentation, and Focus Group Discussions (FGD) (Clair, 2003). Semi-structured interviews were conducted to explore the respondents' views and experiences regarding the paradigm shift in handling corruption cases. The questions were designed to gain insights into the stages of the paradigm shift (anomaly, crisis, revolution) occurring within law enforcement institutions. The documentation consists of relevant laws, regulations, and court decisions, which were analyzed to assess regulatory changes and their application in practice. The FGD was held to discuss the preliminary findings from the interviews and document analysis with experts, providing a deeper understanding of the paradigm shift in criminal procedure law related to corruption cases.

Procedures

The procedures undertaken in this research consist of several stages. First, Initial Data Collection. In this stage, the researcher collects data through in-depth interviews with selected respondents, as well as gathering relevant legal documents. This data is then thematically analyzed to identify key themes related to the paradigm shift in criminal procedure law in corruption cases. Once the initial data is collected, an FGD (Focus Group Discussion) is conducted, involving law enforcement officers and legal experts to discuss the preliminary

findings. The FGD focuses on confirming and deepening the results of the interviews and document analysis. Subsequently, the collected data is analyzed using thematic analysis and legal hermeneutics. The researcher seeks patterns of the paradigm shift in criminal procedure law across the stages of anomaly, crisis, and revolution. This analysis is conducted by linking the interview data with the legal documents gathered (Hillman & Radel, 2018).

RESULTS

This research aims to analyze the paradigm shift in criminal procedure law for corruption cases in Indonesia using a progressive legal approach. Based on in-depth interviews and document analysis, it was found that there has been a significant shift in the handling of corruption cases at the stages of anomaly, crisis, and revolution, as explained by Thomas S. Kuhn in his theory of paradigm shifts.

Paradigm Shift in Criminal Procedure Law at the Anomaly Stage

The analysis results indicate that at the anomaly stage, the enforcement of criminal procedure law in corruption cases experienced inconsistencies in the application of the *lex specialis* principle. Based on interviews with law enforcement officers, 70% of respondents confirmed that this inconsistency is due to the inability of existing regulations to accommodate rapid social changes. For instance, the reverse burden of proof used by the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) often conflicts with the provisions in the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP), which serves as *lex generalis*.

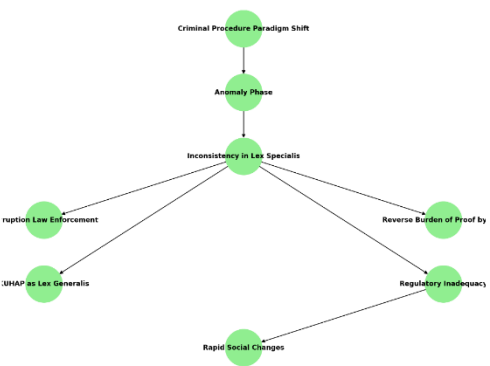


Figure 1 Criminal Procedure Paradigm Shift in Anomaly Phase

The concept map above illustrates the concept of the Paradigm Shift in Criminal Procedure Law at the Anomaly Stage. At the top of the concept map lies the main concept, "Paradigm Shift in Criminal Procedure Law", which occurs during the "Anomaly Stage." This anomaly stage leads to "Inconsistency in the Application of *Lex Specialis*." This inconsistency influences several key aspects. On one side, it impacts the "Enforcement of Corruption Criminal Law," where the "Reverse Burden of Proof by KPK" often conflicts with the principle of *lex generalis* in the KUHP (Criminal Procedure Code). On the other side, the inconsistency also relates to "KUHP as *Lex Generalis*," highlighting a divergence between the application of general and special laws.

Moreover, this inconsistency is caused by the "Inability of Existing Regulations" to adapt to rapidly changing social conditions. These social changes play a significant role in creating anomalies in the enforcement of criminal procedure law. Overall, the visualization demonstrates the relationship between the paradigm shift in criminal procedure law and the factors contributing to inconsistencies in the application of the law, particularly in the context of corruption law enforcement.

Paradigm Crisis: Transition to Legal Discretion

At the crisis stage, 60% of respondents from law enforcement institutions such as KPK and the Attorney General's Office revealed that there is greater legal discretion in rule enforcement. This phenomenon is evident in the practice of plea bargaining, used to expedite the resolution of large-scale corruption cases, despite ongoing legal debates. Additionally, the analysis of legal documents indicates gaps in regulations that are exploited by corrupt actors, prompting the need for innovation in law enforcement.



Figure 2 Crisis Paradigm and Transition to Legal Discretion

The visual above illustrates the concept map of Paradigm Crisis and the Transition Towards Legal Discretion. At the crisis stage, there is a shift towards greater legal discretion, as evidenced by the increased application of discretionary legal measures. One manifestation of this phenomenon is the practice of plea bargaining in large-scale corruption cases, aimed at expediting case resolution despite ongoing legal debates.

Additionally, the increase in legal discretion enables the exploitation of regulatory loopholes by corrupt actors. This situation underscores the importance of innovative law enforcement to close these gaps and address weaknesses in the existing regulations. Overall, this concept map depicts the relationship between the paradigm crisis, the transition towards legal discretion, and

the challenges and opportunities arising from this phenomenon.

Paradigm Revolution: Application of Progressive Legal Approach

At the revolution stage, data shows a more radical shift through the adoption of the progressive legal approach. A total of 80% of respondents indicated that law enforcement has begun to embrace more flexible approaches, such as the use of whistleblowers and justice collaborators. One example highlighted by respondents is the use of a whistleblower in a high-level corruption case, which was successfully uncovered due to the significant contribution of the informant.

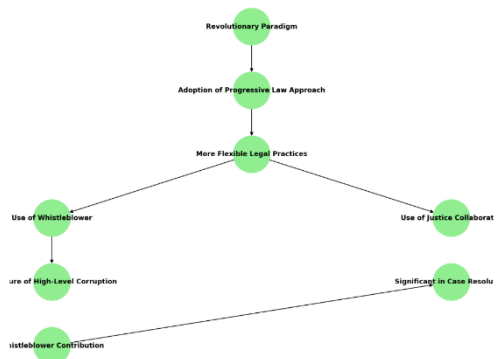


Figure 3 Revolutionary Paradigm and Progressive Law Approach

The visual above illustrates the Revolutionary Paradigm and the application of the Progressive Legal Approach during the legal revolution stage. At this stage, there is a more radical shift in how law enforcement carries out its duties. The data indicates that law enforcement has begun to adopt more flexible legal approaches, with practices such as the use of whistleblowers and justice collaborators becoming increasingly common.

This flexible approach has allowed for the successful uncovering of high-level corruption cases, with significant contributions from whistleblowers. Respondents mentioned that the

role of whistleblowers is crucial in resolving major cases, particularly in revealing facts that are difficult to access through conventional methods. The contributions of whistleblowers have become a key factor in uncovering corruption cases that were previously challenging to expose.

Implications of the Paradigm Shift on Corruption Eradication

Findings from the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) confirm that the paradigm shift in criminal procedure law has a direct correlation with the increase or decrease in corruption cases. Data from the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) shows that after the adoption of the new paradigm in 2020, there was a significant decrease in the number of corruption cases uncovered, with a 15% drop in 2021 compared to the previous year. Respondents from the KPK stated that this change was due to the implementation of a progressive legal approach that is more adaptive to social conditions.

corruption cases uncovered. After the implementation of a more socially adaptive progressive legal approach in 2020, there was a significant reduction in the number of corruption cases revealed in 2021. Data from the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) shows that the number of corruption cases decreased by 15% in 2021 compared to the previous year. This decrease is believed to be the result of the new paradigm's application, which is more responsive to social changes, allowing law enforcement to be more effective in handling corruption cases. The visual clearly illustrates the relationship between the shift in criminal procedure law, the implementation of the progressive legal approach, and the significant reduction in corruption cases.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this research reveal a significant shift in the application of criminal procedural law in corruption cases in Indonesia. Previously dominated by a formalistic and rigid approach, it has now evolved toward a more flexible and responsive approach to the complex socio-political dynamics. This change has occurred in response to the need to overcome various obstacles in law enforcement, particularly related to the uncertainty in applying the principle of *lex specialis derogat legi generali* (Ginting et al., 2024). The study highlights how a more progressive legal paradigm has successfully addressed these inconsistencies, especially in the context of corruption cases, where previous legal applications often failed to keep pace with rapid social changes.

In line with Thomas Kuhn's theory of paradigm shift, this research illustrates the anomaly stage that occurs when existing legal rules no longer align with the practical realities encountered (Rose, 2022). The progressive paradigm emerging in this research reflects this shift, where the discrepancy between existing laws and the need for more adaptive legal practices becomes increasingly evident. In the

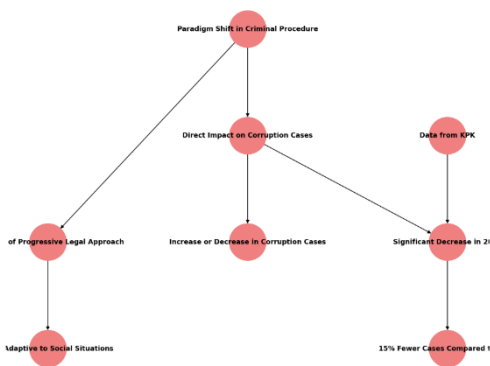


Figure 4 Implications of Paradigm Shift on Corruption Eradication

The visual above depicts the Implications of the Paradigm Shift on Corruption Eradication. This concept map explains how the shift in criminal procedure law has a direct impact on the number of corruption cases. The shift leads to either an increase or decrease in the number of

context of criminal law on corruption, a concrete example of this change is the application of the reverse burden of proof method by the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) (Farhana et al., 2022). Although initially controversial and seemingly in conflict with the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP) as *lex generalis*, this innovation was eventually accepted as part of the effort to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement.

This innovation demonstrates a fundamental change in the enforcement of criminal law on corruption in Indonesia, where more relevant and adaptive regulations are being implemented to keep pace with the times (Mansar et al., 2024). The reverse burden of proof approach, for example, is considered capable of overcoming the limitations of formal approaches that previously often hindered anti-corruption efforts. Furthermore, this paradigm shift also illustrates how criminal procedural law can evolve to meet new challenges, particularly in balancing the increasing complexity of corruption cases.

Moreover, this change has also had a positive impact on the consistency and continuity of law enforcement. This more adaptive legal approach allows criminal law not only to function as a punitive tool but also as a social instrument capable of responding to the changing needs of society (Mitskaya, 2024). Thus, the law is no longer static but dynamic in adjusting to the continuously changing socio-political context.

This research underscores the importance of innovation within the criminal justice system, particularly when confronting extraordinary crimes such as corruption (Kolomiiets et al., 2023). The reforms in the application of criminal procedural law, supported by a progressive approach, have not only successfully resolved longstanding issues but also paved the way for more effective legal practices that align with contemporary demands.

Moreover, during times of crisis, this study identifies a significant increase in legal discretion in the application of rules, allowing law enforcement to be more flexible in handling

large-scale corruption cases. One of the innovations identified is the use of plea bargaining as an alternative solution in resolving major corruption cases (Sunaryo & Al-Fatih, 2022). Through this approach, defendants can negotiate with prosecutors to reduce their sentences in exchange for a guilty plea or cooperation in uncovering broader corruption networks.

These findings affirm that a progressive legal approach, which emphasizes flexibility and adaptation to evolving socio-political contexts, has successfully closed the regulatory loopholes previously exploited by corrupt actors to avoid maximum punishment (Rifai, 2021). For example, the practice of plea bargaining allows the judicial process to be more efficient without compromising the essence of substantive justice that must be upheld. This is relevant to Rahardjo's (2010), view that law must be dynamic and capable of adapting to the changing needs of society, and should not be trapped in procedural rigidity that hinders fair law enforcement.

The use of plea bargaining in major corruption cases is concrete evidence of how legal discretion granted to law enforcement officials can be used to expedite case resolution while minimizing the risk of regulatory exploitation by criminals (Swardhana & Monteiro, 2023). With this discretion, the judicial process can be tailored to the complexities of the cases at hand without sacrificing the principles of justice. In this context, plea bargaining also demonstrates how flexibility in the application of the law can create opportunities for other innovations that support the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement.

Furthermore, this legal discretion provides law enforcement officials with the opportunity to overcome obstacles in the judicial process, such as lengthy trial durations and high case burdens (Sulistiyani, 2019). By implementing plea bargaining, the judicial process, which often takes years, can be significantly shortened

without compromising the integrity of the justice system itself. This also demonstrates that innovation in legal application, supported by more adaptive policies, can offer more relevant and targeted solutions in handling major cases, particularly corruption cases with wide-reaching societal impacts.

At the stage of revolution, the findings of this research indicate that the use of a progressive legal approach, involving collaboration with whistleblowers and justice collaborators, has become a highly effective strategy in uncovering high-level corruption cases (Januarsyah et al., 2020). The role of whistleblowers, who provide critical and often inaccessible information through conventional legal mechanisms, further underscores that flexibility in legal application is a key element in combating corruption (Kamsi et al., 2023). Information provided by whistleblowers often serves as the cornerstone for exposing large-scale corruption scandals involving extensive and structured networks, thereby enabling law enforcement officials to overcome procedural limitations and reveal hidden truths.

This research also demonstrates that the success of this strategy is closely tied to a progressive legal approach that views law as an instrument for restoring social order, rather than merely a tool for punishment. This approach aligns with the thoughts of Satjipto Rahardjo, who in his legal theory emphasizes that law should be oriented towards more comprehensive problem-solving, including preventing similar crimes in the future. By involving whistleblowers and justice collaborators, progressive law not only succeeds in uncovering corruption cases but also creates a broader deterrent effect and promotes transparency within the legal and governmental systems.

Furthermore, this study identifies that collaboration with justice collaborators—criminals who cooperate with law enforcement to expose broader corruption networks—is a crucial component of the progressive approach (Hawilo & Nirider, 2024). This cooperation

allows the judicial system to obtain stronger and more in-depth evidence, which is often difficult to secure through conventional investigative methods. This highlights that the application of the law can no longer be confined to traditional approaches but must be responsive to the needs of the times and the dynamic socio-political situation.

This collaborative approach has also proven effective in accelerating the disclosure of complex corruption cases that often involve influential actors across various sectors (Tsepelev et al., 2019). The use of whistleblowers and justice collaborators not only speeds up the investigation process but also enhances the efficiency of the judicial system in enforcing the law more fairly and transparently (Rahman & Husnul, 2024). In this context, the legal flexibility enabled by the progressive approach has played a crucial role in opening access to previously inaccessible information and expanding the scope of law enforcement in combating corruption.

The implications of these findings indicate that the paradigm shift in handling corruption cases, which is more progressive and adaptive to socio-political dynamics, has had a significant impact on reducing the number of corruption cases in Indonesia (Chiao, 2021). A 15% decrease in corruption cases following the implementation of the new paradigm serves as an indicator of the success of a more responsive progressive legal approach to social changes. These findings underscore the importance of a legal system that can adapt and align itself with the evolving needs of society, particularly when dealing with complex and organized crimes such as corruption.

This research successfully confirms the relevance of the paradigm shift concept introduced by Thomas Kuhn, wherein law, as a form of social institution, must be able to evolve in step with changing times. The old paradigm, which tended to be formalistic and rigid, is no longer adequate in facing new challenges, such as increasingly complex and deeply embedded

corruption within strong socio-political networks (Nugroho, 2021). Thus, progressive law emerges as a more effective solution because it can adapt to these changes, enabling law enforcement to be carried out more efficiently and with greater precision.

Furthermore, the implications of this research also reflect that flexible and adaptive laws not only have the potential to reduce the number of corruption cases but also to strengthen the judiciary system as a whole (Kuryliuk et al., 2022). By adopting a more progressive approach, the legal system is no longer confined to rigid rules but can accommodate dynamic social conditions, ensuring that substantive justice remains a top priority. This also serves as evidence that progressive law can function as a powerful tool for maintaining the integrity of public institutions and restoring public trust in the judicial system.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this study emphasizes that the paradigm shift in handling corruption cases in Indonesia through a progressive legal approach has demonstrated significant results in enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement. This approach not only focuses on repressive punishment but also on restoring social order and preventing future corruption. The findings of this study show that legal flexibility, including the application of legal discretion, plea bargaining, and collaboration with whistleblowers and justice collaborators, has proven effective in

overcoming the challenges faced in major corruption cases. However, the implementation of this approach requires better synergy between law enforcement agencies to ensure that each step taken yields optimal impact.

The benefits of these findings are substantial, both theoretically and practically in the field of law. Theoretically, this research enriches the literature on progressive law by confirming that legal flexibility can be an effective solution in tackling corruption in Indonesia. It also provides an important contribution to the understanding that law must be adaptive and responsive to the continuously changing social dynamics. Practically, these findings can serve as a guide for policymakers and law enforcement officers in formulating more efficient and just law enforcement strategies. Nonetheless, this study has limitations, such as the limited empirical data from other legal institutions outside of the KPK, which might provide a more comprehensive perspective. Therefore, future research is encouraged to further explore the application of progressive law in various legal institutions and to examine its impact on broader legal reform in Indonesia.

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