

PRISON OVERCROWDING AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF FIQH SIYASAH

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Abstract

Prison overcrowding has become a major challenge to the effectiveness of correctional institutions and the protection of inmates' rights. This study analyzes the impact of overcrowding on sexual misconduct among female inmates and examines the issue from the perspective of *Fiqh Siyasah*, particularly the principle of *Hifz al-Nasl*. A descriptive qualitative method with a socio-legal approach was employed. Data were collected through interviews, observation, and documentation and analyzed qualitatively. Findings indicate that overcrowded prison conditions, loss of privacy, and prolonged physical proximity contributed to the emergence of inappropriate emotional relationships, including lesbian behavior (*musāḥabah*), as a response to unmet emotional needs. Analysis from the perspective of *Fiqh Siyasah* shows that these conditions are inconsistent with the principles of *maṣlahah 'ammah*, *Hifz al-Nasl*, and *Karāmah al-Insān*, which emphasize the protection of human dignity and public welfare. Strengthening restorative justice, decarceration policies, rehabilitation programs, and prison management is essential to restoring the rehabilitative function of correctional institutions in accordance with Islamic governance principles.

Keywords: *Prison Overcrowding, Sexual Misconduct, Fiqh Siyasah, Hifz al-Nasl, Correctional Institutions.*

INTRODUCTION

Correctional institutions constitute an integral component of Indonesia's criminal justice system with the primary objective of rehabilitating offenders and facilitating their social reintegration. Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections redefines imprisonment as a correctional process that emphasizes rehabilitation, personal development, and the restoration of social responsibility rather than punishment alone. Correctional institutions are therefore expected to provide an environment that supports behavioral transformation while protecting the dignity and fundamental rights of inmates. Achievement of these objectives depends on adequate institutional capacity, effective correctional programs, and living conditions that enable inmates to participate in rehabilitation activities under humane circumstances. Persistent structural problems within Indonesian correctional institutions have substantially weakened the realization of these objectives, particularly the continuing problem of prison overcrowding (Mahfuzah & Putri, 2024).

Prison overcrowding has developed into one of the most critical challenges facing Indonesia's correctional system. National correctional statistics demonstrate that inmate populations have consistently exceeded institutional capacity during the past several years, resulting in occupancy rates exceeding two hundred percent in many correctional facilities. Extreme overcrowding has reduced access to health services, sanitation, education,

counseling, and rehabilitation programs while simultaneously increasing psychological stress, interpersonal conflict, and institutional security risks. Limited living space also diminishes privacy and intensifies physical interaction among inmates, creating an environment that adversely affects psychological well-being and social behavior. Female correctional institutions experience additional vulnerabilities because prolonged confinement within overcrowded housing units frequently increases emotional dependence among inmates and alters patterns of interpersonal relationships (Nurhidaya, 2016).

The Class IIA Women's Correctional Institution in Medan represents one of the most significant examples of severe prison overcrowding in Indonesia. Institutional capacity designed for approximately 200 inmates currently accommodates several times that number, creating an environment characterized by limited personal space and excessive physical proximity. Field observations and interviews conducted during this research indicate that overcrowding has generated social and psychological pressures that extend beyond ordinary institutional challenges. Correctional officers reported the emergence of inappropriate emotional relationships among several female inmates, accompanied by changes in behavioral patterns, gender expression, and interpersonal interaction. Routine inspections also identified indications requiring further institutional monitoring and counseling. These findings suggest that overcrowding affects not only institutional management but also the psychological adaptation and social conduct of inmates within correctional facilities.

Evaluation of prison overcrowding requires broader analysis than administrative or criminological perspectives alone. *Fiqh Siyasah* provides an important analytical framework for assessing governmental responsibility in managing public institutions and protecting fundamental human interests. Islamic governance emphasizes that every public policy should promote justice, prevent harm, and realize public welfare through the principles of *maṣlaḥah 'āmmah*. Protection of human dignity, morality, and family values constitutes an essential objective of *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah*, particularly through the principle of *Hifẓ al-Naṣl*. Correctional environments that facilitate harmful social behavior because of inadequate institutional management may therefore indicate deficiencies in the implementation of governmental responsibilities entrusted to public authorities. Assessment through the perspective of *Fiqh Siyasah* enables evaluation of whether correctional policies have fulfilled both legal obligations and ethical responsibilities toward inmates (Febriana & Pratiwi, 2022).

Previous studies have primarily examined prison overcrowding from the perspectives of correctional management, criminal justice policy, prison health, and inmate rehabilitation. Existing research generally focuses on institutional effectiveness, correctional services, or psychological consequences of overcrowding while providing limited discussion regarding its relationship with sexual misconduct among female inmates. Scholarly attention integrating empirical correctional conditions with the principles of *Fiqh Siyasah* also remains limited. Research specifically investigating the impact of overcrowding on inappropriate sexual behavior within women's correctional institutions through the framework of Islamic political jurisprudence has received little academic attention. This limitation demonstrates the need for a more comprehensive analysis combining empirical evidence, correctional policy, and Islamic legal principles within a single analytical framework (Martiasari, 2019).

This study analyzes the impact of prison overcrowding on sexual misconduct among female inmates at the Class IIA Women's Correctional Institution in Medan and evaluates the phenomenon from the perspective of *Fiqh Siyasah*, particularly the principle of *Hifz al-Nasl*. The study also examines the extent to which correctional policies have fulfilled governmental responsibilities in protecting human dignity, morality, and public welfare within correctional institutions. Findings from this research are expected to contribute to the development of correctional policy, strengthen prison management strategies, and provide recommendations for reducing prison overcrowding while restoring the rehabilitative function of correctional institutions in accordance with the principles of Islamic governance.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employed an empirical legal research design using a socio-legal approach to examine the implementation of correctional policies within the social reality of the Class IIA Women's Correctional Institution in Medan. The research analyzed the disparity between the normative framework established by Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections and the actual conditions resulting from severe prison overcrowding, particularly its influence on the emergence of sexual misconduct among female inmates. The analysis was further strengthened through the perspective of *Fiqh Siyasah*, which served as the theoretical framework for evaluating governmental responsibility in protecting human dignity, preventing moral harm, and ensuring public welfare within correctional institutions. The research was conducted at the Class IIA Women's Correctional Institution in Medan because the institution experiences a high level of overcrowding and presents significant empirical evidence regarding the relationship between limited living space, psychological pressure, and inmate behavior. Primary data were obtained through field observations, in-depth interviews, and institutional documentation involving correctional officers, female inmates, and experts in *Fiqh Siyasah*. Secondary data consisted of statutory regulations, correctional policy documents, official institutional reports, and relevant scholarly literature addressing correctional law, prison overcrowding, criminal justice, and Islamic political jurisprudence.

Data collection was carried out through direct observation of prison conditions, semi-structured interviews with selected informants, and analysis of official documents related to institutional management and correctional policies. Informants were selected purposively based on their direct involvement in prison administration, inmate supervision, correctional programs, and expertise in Islamic legal studies. Data analysis followed an interactive qualitative model consisting of data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing to identify patterns linking prison overcrowding with the emergence of sexual misconduct. Empirical findings were subsequently interpreted using the principles of *Fiqh Siyasah*, particularly *maṣlaḥah 'ummah*, *Hifz al-Nasl*, *Hifz al-Nafs*, and *Karāmah al-Insān*, to evaluate whether existing correctional policies fulfilled the state's responsibility to protect morality, human dignity, and the fundamental rights of inmates. Research validity was ensured through source triangulation, methodological triangulation, prolonged engagement in the field, document verification, and cross-validation of interview findings with institutional records to enhance the credibility, dependability, and confirmability of the research results.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Impact of Prison Overcrowding on Living Conditions and Behavioral Changes among Female Inmates

Prison overcrowding has become one of the most significant structural challenges affecting the effectiveness of correctional institutions in Indonesia. Findings from this research indicate that the Class IIA Women's Correctional Institution in Medan experiences an occupancy rate far exceeding its intended capacity, creating substantial pressure on institutional management and inmate welfare. Housing units originally designed to accommodate a limited number of inmates are occupied by considerably larger populations, resulting in inadequate living space and limited access to basic facilities. The imbalance between institutional capacity and the number of inmates has diminished the quality of correctional services, reduced opportunities for individualized rehabilitation, and weakened the institution's ability to maintain a healthy and secure living environment. These conditions demonstrate that overcrowding is no longer merely an administrative concern but has evolved into a fundamental obstacle affecting the implementation of correctional objectives established under Law Number 22 of 2022 concerning Corrections.

Research findings reveal that overcrowding has substantially reduced personal privacy within correctional housing units. Female inmates are required to share limited sleeping areas, sanitation facilities, and common spaces with a large number of individuals over prolonged periods. Personal boundaries gradually disappear because daily activities, including resting, eating, praying, and personal hygiene, are carried out within the same confined environment. Limited opportunities for solitude increase psychological fatigue and reduce the ability of inmates to regulate emotional responses independently. Continuous exposure to crowded conditions creates an environment in which interpersonal interaction becomes unavoidable, allowing emotional dependence and group attachment to develop more rapidly than under normal living conditions (Mukminun, 2022).

Psychological consequences constitute another significant impact of prolonged overcrowding. Interviews conducted during this research indicate that many inmates experience emotional instability, persistent stress, anxiety, loneliness, and feelings of isolation despite living in densely populated housing units. Emotional distress is intensified by separation from family members, uncertainty regarding legal status, and limited opportunities for meaningful social support. Several correctional officers explained that inmates frequently seek emotional comfort from fellow prisoners because professional counseling services remain insufficient compared with the growing inmate population. Emotional vulnerability consequently becomes one of the dominant characteristics shaping interpersonal relationships inside overcrowded correctional facilities.

Field observations further demonstrate that overcrowding has altered patterns of social interaction among female inmates. Close physical proximity encourages the formation of informal social groups based on emotional attachment, mutual protection, and shared daily experiences. Relationships among inmates frequently extend beyond ordinary friendship because individuals spend nearly all daily activities together within confined spaces. Emotional dependence gradually develops as inmates seek security, companionship, and

psychological stability from those living in the same housing unit. Social adaptation under these circumstances reflects a survival strategy adopted by inmates attempting to cope with prolonged confinement and restricted personal freedom (Harningrum & Purnomo, 2014).

Institutional management also faces increasing difficulties in maintaining effective supervision under overcrowded conditions. Correctional officers remain responsible for monitoring inmate activities, maintaining security, implementing rehabilitation programs, and preventing disciplinary violations despite limited personnel and increasing institutional workloads. Intensive supervision becomes considerably more difficult because the ratio between correctional staff and inmates no longer supports continuous observation of daily interactions. Opportunities for inappropriate interpersonal relationships consequently become more difficult to detect during their early stages. Preventive interventions are therefore often implemented only after behavioral changes have become clearly visible within the correctional environment.

Interviews with correctional officers indicate that behavioral changes among female inmates have become increasingly noticeable as overcrowding persists. Officers reported that several inmates developed unusually intense emotional attachments characterized by excessive possessiveness, exclusive companionship, and emotional dependency. Changes in appearance, communication patterns, and daily interaction were also observed among certain inmates who gradually distanced themselves from broader social groups. Institutional responses primarily consisted of counseling, religious guidance, behavioral monitoring, and reassignment of housing units when necessary. These preventive measures demonstrate institutional awareness of the behavioral consequences associated with prolonged overcrowding, although available resources remain insufficient to address the broader structural problem.

Female inmates participating in this research described overcrowding as a condition that generated persistent psychological pressure throughout their period of incarceration. Feelings of boredom, loneliness, frustration, and emotional exhaustion encouraged many inmates to seek companionship from individuals sharing similar experiences. Continuous interaction within limited physical space gradually strengthened interpersonal relationships that initially developed through ordinary friendship. Emotional dependence frequently emerged because inmates perceived fellow prisoners as their primary source of understanding, empathy, and emotional security during imprisonment. These findings suggest that behavioral adaptation within correctional institutions is strongly influenced by environmental conditions rather than individual characteristics alone.

Analysis of the research findings indicates that prison overcrowding functions as an important environmental factor influencing behavioral transformation among inmates. Physical limitations, psychological pressure, reduced privacy, and continuous interpersonal contact collectively create conditions conducive to significant changes in social behavior. Behavioral adaptation should therefore be understood as the product of interaction between institutional conditions and individual psychological responses rather than as an isolated personal choice. Correctional environments characterized by excessive population density

increase the likelihood that inmates will develop coping strategies designed to satisfy unmet emotional and social needs during incarceration.

The rehabilitative function of correctional institutions becomes increasingly difficult to achieve when overcrowding dominates institutional life. Correctional programs intended to promote personal development, education, vocational training, religious guidance, and psychological rehabilitation cannot be implemented optimally because institutional resources are disproportionately distributed among an excessive inmate population. Individualized correctional treatment gradually shifts toward collective management focused primarily on maintaining institutional order and security. This transformation reduces opportunities for early identification of psychological problems and limits the effectiveness of interventions designed to prevent maladaptive behavioral patterns among inmates.

Research findings demonstrate that prison overcrowding has generated multidimensional consequences extending beyond administrative inefficiency. Deterioration of living conditions, loss of personal privacy, psychological distress, weakened institutional supervision, and changes in inmate social behavior collectively indicate that excessive prison population has become a structural factor influencing the correctional environment. Empirical evidence confirms that overcrowding contributes significantly to behavioral transformation among female inmates by creating conditions that intensify emotional dependence, psychological vulnerability, and maladaptive social interaction. These findings establish the empirical foundation for understanding the emergence of same-sex sexual misconduct discussed in the following section while demonstrating that correctional reform must prioritize improvements in institutional capacity alongside rehabilitation programs.

Overcrowding as a Trigger for Same-Sex Sexual Misconduct among Female Inmates

Research findings indicate that same-sex sexual misconduct among female inmates cannot be interpreted solely as an individual moral issue or a matter of personal sexual orientation. Empirical evidence demonstrates that prison overcrowding creates environmental conditions that significantly influence inmates' psychological adaptation and interpersonal relationships. Continuous confinement within overcrowded housing units reduces personal autonomy, limits privacy, and intensifies daily interaction among inmates. Prolonged exposure to these conditions encourages emotional dependence that gradually develops beyond ordinary friendship. Sexual misconduct therefore emerges as a situational response shaped by the correctional environment rather than as an isolated behavioral choice detached from institutional circumstances (Zulhairi, 2025).

Interviews with correctional officers revealed that emotional attachment between certain inmates generally developed through prolonged companionship inside the same housing unit. Daily interaction, mutual assistance, and shared psychological experiences strengthened interpersonal relationships over time. Several officers observed behavioral changes characterized by excessive emotional dependence, exclusive companionship, possessive attitudes, and unusual physical intimacy between inmates. These behavioral patterns differed from ordinary social interaction because they involved emotional commitment resembling intimate relationships. Institutional monitoring identified these

relationships as behavioral deviations requiring counseling and continuous supervision to prevent further development.

Female inmates participating in this research described overcrowded living conditions as psychologically exhausting because every aspect of daily life was performed collectively within limited physical space. Opportunities to communicate with family members remained restricted, while emotional support from correctional personnel could not always meet individual psychological needs. Fellow inmates consequently became the primary source of companionship, emotional security, and social acceptance. Emotional relationships initially formed through mutual support gradually evolved into stronger personal attachments among several inmates. Continuous physical proximity accelerated the development of these relationships because individuals spent nearly all daily activities together without meaningful opportunities for personal space or emotional separation (Maharani & Kurniawan, 2024).

Research findings further indicate that unmet emotional needs constitute one of the principal factors contributing to the emergence of same-sex sexual misconduct. Separation from spouses, partners, children, and family members creates emotional deprivation throughout the period of imprisonment. Overcrowded correctional environments intensify these conditions by limiting privacy and increasing dependence on fellow inmates for emotional comfort. Psychological adaptation under these circumstances frequently encourages individuals to seek affection, protection, and emotional intimacy from those sharing similar experiences. Emotional deprivation therefore functions as an important catalyst transforming ordinary companionship into inappropriate intimate relationships within correctional institutions.

Psychological pressure resulting from overcrowding also contributes to changes in inmate behavior. Long periods of confinement, uncertainty regarding future circumstances, institutional stress, and restricted personal freedom generate emotional instability requiring adaptive coping strategies. Several inmates acknowledged that emotional relationships with fellow prisoners provided temporary relief from loneliness, anxiety, and psychological distress experienced during incarceration. These findings demonstrate that same-sex sexual misconduct should be understood within the broader context of environmental adaptation rather than interpreted exclusively through biological or individual psychological perspectives (Farakhiah et al., 2018).

Field observations indicate that limited institutional supervision resulting from overcrowding further increases opportunities for inappropriate interpersonal relationships. Correctional officers remain responsible for supervising a large inmate population despite limited personnel and institutional resources. Continuous monitoring of every housing unit becomes increasingly difficult because overcrowding substantially expands supervisory responsibilities. Behavioral changes frequently remain unnoticed during their initial stages and become apparent only after emotional relationships have become firmly established. Preventive intervention consequently becomes less effective because institutional responses are often implemented after maladaptive behavioral patterns have already developed.

Correctional programs designed to promote rehabilitation have also been affected by excessive inmate populations. Religious guidance, psychological counseling, vocational

training, and individual mentoring cannot be implemented optimally because available facilities and human resources remain insufficient compared with the number of inmates requiring assistance. Limited access to structured rehabilitation activities increases idle time among inmates and reduces opportunities for constructive psychological development. Unstructured daily interaction within overcrowded housing units consequently becomes the dominant social environment influencing behavioral adaptation during imprisonment.

Analysis of these findings demonstrates that prison overcrowding functions as a structural determinant shaping inmate behavior. Physical congestion, emotional deprivation, psychological stress, weakened supervision, and inadequate rehabilitation collectively create an institutional environment conducive to behavioral deviations. Same-sex sexual misconduct should therefore be understood as a multidimensional phenomenon influenced by institutional deficiencies rather than attributed exclusively to individual characteristics. Effective prevention requires improvements in correctional management alongside interventions addressing inmates' psychological and emotional well-being (Cahyadi, 2019).

Existing correctional policies have not fully addressed the behavioral consequences associated with chronic overcrowding. Institutional responses generally emphasize disciplinary measures after inappropriate relationships are identified, while preventive strategies remain relatively limited. Greater attention should be directed toward strengthening psychological counseling, expanding rehabilitation programs, improving classification systems, and reducing excessive inmate populations. Comprehensive policy interventions are essential to minimize environmental factors contributing to maladaptive behavior and to restore correctional institutions as centers of rehabilitation rather than merely places of confinement (Al-Fijawi et al., 2019).

Research findings demonstrate that prison overcrowding constitutes a significant contributing factor to the emergence of same-sex sexual misconduct among female inmates. Extreme population density, prolonged emotional deprivation, inadequate privacy, limited institutional supervision, and restricted access to rehabilitation programs collectively shape behavioral adaptation during incarceration. Empirical evidence indicates that disciplinary measures alone cannot effectively prevent such behavior because the underlying causes originate from structural deficiencies within the correctional system. Sustainable prevention requires comprehensive correctional reform focusing on population reduction, strengthened psychological services, improved rehabilitation programs, and enhanced institutional governance to restore the correctional institution's rehabilitative function (Bahadori et al., 2017).

Analysis of Prison Overcrowding from the Perspective of *Fiqh Siyasah*

Fiqh Siyasah provides a comprehensive framework for evaluating public policies by emphasizing justice, public welfare, and governmental responsibility in protecting fundamental human interests. Correctional administration is not merely a matter of enforcing criminal sanctions but also represents the state's obligation to preserve human dignity and facilitate the rehabilitation of offenders. Public authorities are entrusted with managing correctional institutions in a manner that prevents harm while ensuring that correctional policies contribute to individual reform and social welfare. Prison overcrowding therefore

cannot be viewed solely as an administrative issue because it directly affects the state's capacity to fulfill these responsibilities. Conditions that expose inmates to psychological distress, moral degradation, and inadequate rehabilitation reflect deficiencies in public policy that require immediate institutional attention (Ismail & Nabila, 2024).

Research findings demonstrate that severe overcrowding has transformed the correctional environment into a setting that encourages behavioral adaptation beyond the objectives of the correctional system. Limited personal space, continuous physical interaction, inadequate supervision, and prolonged emotional deprivation collectively create circumstances that facilitate same-sex sexual misconduct among female inmates. These conditions indicate that institutional deficiencies have generated environmental factors contributing to behavioral changes rather than merely reflecting individual choices. Government responsibility consequently extends beyond maintaining institutional security to ensuring that correctional facilities provide conditions compatible with rehabilitation and human development (Pradana et al., 2024).

The principle of *Hifẓ al-Nasl* occupies a central position within *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah* because it seeks to preserve lineage, morality, and ethical social order. Protection of lineage encompasses the prevention of conduct that undermines moral integrity and weakens the social values safeguarded by Islamic law. Correctional institutions are therefore expected to establish an environment that supports moral development through effective supervision, religious guidance, psychological counseling, and rehabilitation programs. Prison conditions that facilitate inappropriate sexual relationships because of structural deficiencies are inconsistent with the objectives of *Hifẓ al-Nasl*. Preservation of morality cannot be achieved when institutional conditions continuously expose inmates to circumstances that encourage behavioral deviation (Khasanah et al., 2026).

The concept of *maṣlaḥah 'āmmah* requires every governmental policy to promote public benefit while preventing social harm. Correctional policies should therefore be designed to achieve rehabilitation, reduce recidivism, and restore inmates' capacity to reintegrate into society. Research findings indicate that excessive prison populations reduce the effectiveness of educational programs, vocational training, psychological services, religious development, and individualized correctional guidance. Declining institutional performance ultimately affects not only inmates but also broader public interests because unsuccessful rehabilitation increases the likelihood of future social problems. Public welfare is therefore closely linked to the government's ability to maintain correctional institutions that function effectively despite increasing inmate populations (Farakhiyah et al., 2018).

The principle of *Karāmah al-Insān* emphasizes respect for human dignity regardless of an individual's legal status. Incarceration removes personal liberty but does not eliminate the inherent dignity possessed by every human being. Female inmates remain entitled to adequate living conditions, privacy, health services, psychological assistance, and opportunities for personal development throughout their period of imprisonment. Research findings reveal that overcrowded housing conditions substantially diminish these rights by reducing personal space, increasing psychological pressure, and limiting access to

institutional services. Protection of human dignity consequently requires correctional policies capable of ensuring humane living conditions for all inmates (Savioli et al., 2022).

Governmental responsibility within *Fiqh Siyasah* is closely associated with the principle of *amānah*, which requires public authorities to exercise power responsibly, transparently, and for the benefit of society. Management of correctional institutions forms part of this public trust because correctional policies directly influence the protection of human rights and the realization of justice. Persistent prison overcrowding indicates that existing correctional policies have not fully addressed the structural imbalance between institutional capacity and inmate populations. Public authorities therefore bear responsibility for developing comprehensive strategies capable of reducing overcrowding while improving institutional management and rehabilitation services (Maharani & Kurniawan, 2024).

Research findings also demonstrate that prison overcrowding cannot be resolved exclusively through internal institutional management. Sustainable solutions require broader criminal justice reform involving sentencing policy, diversion, restorative justice, community-based sanctions, and rehabilitation for drug offenders. Expansion of alternatives to imprisonment may substantially reduce correctional populations while enabling correctional institutions to concentrate available resources on inmates requiring custodial treatment. Population reduction constitutes an essential policy measure for restoring the rehabilitative function envisioned by Indonesian correctional law and supported by Islamic governance principles (Zulhairi, 2025).

The principle of *dar' al-mafāsīd* emphasizes the obligation to prevent harm before pursuing additional public benefits. Prevention of moral degradation within correctional institutions should therefore receive priority because environmental conditions facilitating harmful behavior may generate long-term consequences for inmates and society. Research findings indicate that overcrowding has become a significant source of institutional harm affecting psychological well-being, interpersonal relationships, and rehabilitation outcomes. Preventive correctional policies addressing overcrowding are consequently more consistent with Islamic legal principles than reactive disciplinary measures implemented after behavioral problems have emerged (Ristroph, 2006).

Correctional reform should prioritize improvements in institutional capacity alongside strengthening rehabilitation programs, psychological counseling, religious education, vocational training, and professional supervision. Collaboration among correctional institutions, government agencies, religious organizations, psychologists, and community stakeholders can enhance the effectiveness of rehabilitation while reducing environmental factors contributing to behavioral deviation. Comprehensive correctional management reflects the integrated approach promoted by *Fiqh Siyasah*, which balances legal enforcement with moral development and public welfare (Hilinski-Rosick & Freiburger, 2021).

Research findings confirm that prison overcrowding represents a significant challenge to the realization of the principles of *Hifz al-Nasl*, *maṣlaḥah 'āmmah*, *Karāmah al-Insān*, *amānah*, and *dar' al-mafāsīd*. Structural deficiencies within correctional institutions have contributed to conditions that facilitate sexual misconduct, weaken rehabilitation, and reduce the protection of inmates' fundamental rights. Strengthening correctional governance, reducing excessive

prison populations, and improving institutional services constitute essential measures for ensuring that correctional policies remain consistent with both national correctional law and the principles of *Fiqh Siyasah* (Kupers, 2010).

CONCLUSION

Prison overcrowding has significantly affected the implementation of correctional functions at the Class IIA Women's Correctional Institution in Medan by reducing living quality, limiting personal privacy, weakening institutional supervision, and increasing psychological pressure among female inmates. Research findings demonstrate that these conditions contribute to the emergence of same-sex sexual misconduct as a form of situational adaptation to prolonged emotional deprivation and unfavorable environmental circumstances rather than solely reflecting individual behavior. Analysis from the perspective of *Fiqh Siyasah* indicates that persistent overcrowding is inconsistent with the principles of *Hifz al-Nasl*, *maṣlahah 'āmmah*, *Karāmah al-Insān*, *amānah*, and *dar' al-mafāsīd*, which require the government to protect morality, human dignity, and public welfare through effective public policies. Strengthening restorative justice, expanding non-custodial sentencing, optimizing rehabilitation for drug offenders, improving correctional infrastructure, increasing the number of correctional personnel, and enhancing psychological as well as religious guidance programs are essential policy measures to reduce overcrowding and restore correctional institutions as centers of rehabilitation consistent with both Indonesian correctional law and the principles of Islamic governance.

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