

The Dynamics of Social Life of Former Drug Addicts

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Key words: Social life dynamics, former drug addicts, rehabilitation, qualitative, phenomenon

Abstract: The aim of this study was to obtain in-depth information about the analysis why the former drug addicts who have been rehabilitated relapse. This study was a qualitative study using the phenomenological approach in which this approach derived from the philosophy of Edmund Husserl who believes that the starting point of a person's knowledge is the experience of a phenomenon or symptom. The key issue of this phenomenological research was how the social life of former drug addicts after they are rehabilitated is formed. The phenomenological study is also called social definition approach in this research in which there is a treatment given to former drug addicts who have been rehabilitated because they are people who can create a social life creatively by interpreting their actions. They are not passive individuals and they have the chance and the opportunity to be free based on the experience and knowledge that already exist in their thoughts. In collecting the data, researchers acted as a research instrument. The data were obtained from the two data sources, the documents and information. The data were gathered through passive participant observation in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. The data were then analyzed using the techniques of exploratory analysis or analysis of field data. The results showed that the concept of the dynamics of former drug addicts after they are rehabilitated is that internal factor such as motivation and external factors consisting of family, social environment and friends can contribute to the recurrence of former drug addicts after they do social interaction and social action in social life. The natural treatments that are synergized with religion and education skills are the solution for the former drug addicts to change their mindset and behavior to be recovered or clean (no relapse).

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INTRODUCTION

The issue of drugs is a social problem that has become an issue in international and national levels. Internationally, drug users have been coloring the world, particularly in Asia such as China, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand. Currently, the drug is getting a hot issue and receives serious attention of many people because it has been consumed by almost all segments of society, regardless of social status, occupation and age^[1].

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that about 149-272 million people, or 3.3-6.1% of the population aged 16-64 years in the world have used drugs once in their life. This number has increased over time^[2]. Likewise, it is endemic to the country of Indonesia including South Sulawesi province, especially in the city of Makassar.

In this era of globalization, drug abuse has become a reality in the society of Makassar that is unavoidable. Moreover, human life has been decorated with the rampant of drug abuse that does not consider the age and class both children and adults. The drug or in Indonesia it is called Narkoba is commonly known as NAPZA namely narcotics, alcohol, psychotropic and other addictive substances.

Before researchers discuss this research, the in-depth introduction of the drug needs to be explained including the definition of the drug, the characteristics of the drug, the impact of the drug and recovery for people who use drugs. Based on the Act No. 35 of 2009, Chapter I Article 1, Narcotics are substances or drugs derived from plants or not a plant, either the synthesis or semi-synthesis which can lead to reduction or alteration of consciousness, can get rid of a taste can reduce pain and can lead to dependence such as heroin, morphine, marijuana, meth and ecstasy. Then these types of drugs that are often used by the Act No. 22 1997 are heroin, morphine, cocaine and marijuana. The dangers of drugs are influencing the psychology of someone such as feelings, thoughts, mood, behavior and it also can damage the health and decrease the productivity of the user.

There are some assumptions that former drug addicts who have been rehabilitated are difficult to be recovered due to several factors. First, it is assumed that their motivation is low so that the surrounding environment easily influences them. Motivation is the encouragement that comes from inside to do something or to move their consciences in accordance with her abilities. If the former drug addicts do not have a high motivation, then they will easily do things without thinking about the consequences as well as using drugs. Second, it is

assumed that there is a lack of family support. Furthermore, the influence of social environment is still not conducive including the influence of their peers or fellow. Based on the above assumptions, the former drug addicts need to be given motivation, support and attention from their families, so that, they feel that they are appreciated and feel that they are the part of their extended family. Therefore, the awareness to change and recover because of the attention becomes the encouragement to do something in the recovery process. Likewise, the role of the family becomes the center of respects for former drug addicts because the family is the primary socialization for individuals. The family is the place to seek, receive and gain knowledge and experience ranging from early growth until the formed individual self-reliance.

Based on the assumptions above, there is a possibility that former addicts relapse after the rehabilitation period. Therefore, the researchers conducted research on the dynamics of social life of former drug addicts. It was a sociological study on former drug addicts in Makassar. Researchers conducted this study because no single person had carried out research on this issue. This research was conducted because there is a gap in the field that causes a problem that former addicts relapse after the rehabilitation period. Based on this problem, the researchers conducted this study with the aim to find information by analyzing why the former addicts relapse after rehabilitation. Similarly, this study is important to confirm the existing theory to be new findings that are useful to science. The phenomenon of former drug addicts who have been rehabilitated as victims of drug abuse should require attention and support to recover and to improve their living conditions normally. Thus, they do not relapse after they interact with their social environment and the public can accept them as the members of society.

This research would theoretically useful as enrichment to the development of social sciences in general and in particular in the field of sociology. This research is also expected to be an input for government policy makers, legislators and agencies in the response to the recovery program of former drug addicts in Makassar.

Literature review: The theories used this research are the social interaction theory and social action theory. George Simmel advanced the social interaction theory. He is known as his social phenomenon in which former drug addicts in their lives interact and form groups because they have the same aims and motives. Weber proposed the social action theory. It is a rational action that is easily understood in the action and other actors who assess also

determine the value and the objectives. Likewise, the former drug addicts can be affected according to the action that they understand only when they interact with their social environment.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study applied social definition paradigm approach with a phenomenological study. It was a qualitative research method. Phenomenology was derived from the philosophy of Edmund Husserl who believes that the starting point of knowledge is the experience of a person toward the phenomenon or symptom. The key issue in this phenomenological study was how the social life of former drug addicts is formed.

This research was conducted in the city of Makassar. The reason why the researchers chose Makassar as the research location because it is the largest port city in eastern Indonesia and it has an international airport which facilitates the drug trafficker to do their action in Makassar. It is also a drug transit town in eastern Indonesia, so that, former drug addicts spread throughout the community of Makassar.

This research focused on how the former drug addicts relapse after rehabilitation process. Then, the researchers describe the focus of the study that the former drug addicts relapse because of several factors. The first is motivation. There no encouragement and self-awareness. The second is the family factor. There is no unity or compactness in the family. The family is not intact or disorganization. There is a lack of discipline of the family. The third is friends of the same age who has a significant influence on their association.

Then the data that were explored in this study were primary data and secondary data. Primary data was the main data sources used to collect various data and information related to the focus of research being studied. These data came from some informants such as former drug addicts who have been rehabilitated, NGO activists, National Narcotics Agency in the province of South Sulawesi, National Narcotics Agency in Makassar, police and Indonesian Council of Ulama in the province of South Sulawesi. Secondary data were supporting data required to complete the primary data collected from several government agencies such as the Department of Health, Department of Industry, Department of Transportation, Department of Manpower and Transmigration and Hospital and Health Center.

The data were collected by using passive participant observation, structured interview techniques, in-depth interview, Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and technical documentation.

The instrument of this study was the researchers themselves who explored every phenomenon by using the

field documents in the form of guiding questions. Then the research data were analyzed through the process of data reduction, data categorization and data interpretation. The data were presented by thoroughly elaborating any findings associated with the background of the event where these results occur. To get supporting information as strength analysis, elaboration of facts included excerpts from the statement of the informants. Then to get information with high validity, the researchers used data triangulation technique, sources and methods.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study indicate that the dynamics of the former drug addicts who have been rehabilitated are influenced by several factors namely motivation, family, social environment and friends with the same age. These factors provide an important role in the process of relapse of the former drug addicts after they interact and socialize in the community. All components are interlinked to the same system that is set up and is integrated with society, namely the norms and values.

Motivation factor: Alderfer theory is known as the theory of motivation ERG (Existence, Relatedness and Growth). According to Fakhri^[3], this theory is a core group of needs, the existence need, relatedness need, growth need. As an addict said that "My first cause why I use the drug because I cannot control my emotion and I could not control myself (Interview M, 14.01.2015). Psychologically, former drug addicts require confidence and self-esteem in the public eye. They should not be discredited because they are not the perpetrators but they are sick people who need attention and a sense of security.

Family factor: The family is a small community and is the first education and socialization for a child. Therefore, the family environment is a concern to the former drug addicts. If the family environment is not conducive, they will come out to seek compensation against their friends. Therefore, they will be affected again to use the drugs. Modeling and family roles can minimize them to do something related to law and norms such as drug use or other moral issues.

Social environment factor: The social environment plays a major role in the process of the relapse the former drug addicts. If the environmental stimuli constantly provide them a stimulus after the rehabilitation process, then they will follow the expectation of the environment because the standard stimulus is not decreased. The former drug addicts who suffered environmental stimuli continuously will automatically drift environment that will eventually relapse into drug users. Max Weber's theory described

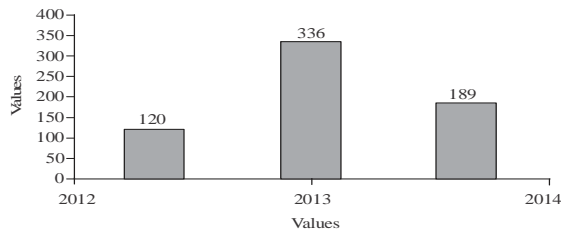


Fig. 1: The development of drug users in the city of Makassar (Jumlah Orang)

that the definition of the social action is the actions of individuals whose actions have a meaning or subjective meaning for him and directed the actions of others^[4, 5]. Therefore, the relapse of former drug addicts after rehabilitation is an act that has a meaning. It means that when they have interacted to other individuals who are in the environment, the individual affects their behavior.

Close friend factor: Friends that are intended in this context are friends for hanging out, friends for playing, friends for sharing, or fellow users. Close friends are required as to share aspirations which reinforce personality elements obtained from the home (family). The close friends certainly tend to provide good influences although it is not impossible that there is a close friend who gives bad influences. However, they always constantly communicate and exchange information in relation to the activities in their lives. If the former drug addicts feel that they want a drug, they will look for fellow users and interact with them. They gave suggestion and sympathy each other and they influence each other to use the drugs. In addition, there are still many elements that affect the establishment of the interaction with social networks. The process of friendship that happens in the former drug addicts forms the social networks as social penetration. The development and improvement of drug users in Makassar can be seen in Fig. 1.

The figure above shows that there is the increasing number of drug rehabilitation participants in Makassar in the period of 2012-2014. There is the growing number of drug rehabilitation participants in 2012 consisting of 120 people. It then increased drastically in 2013. It consisted of 336 people and it decreased in 2014 with 189 people. To reduce the number of victims of drug users who have been rehabilitated, an effort or intervention is required for recovery of former drug addicts through social, medical

rehabilitation, natural circle therapy that is synergized by religion, education skills. They are needed to change the mindset and behavior of former drug addicts to recover or relapse.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion from the above description is that drug abuse is very dangerous because it can affect the organs and the system of the brain so that the factors that can affect the relapse of former drug addicts consist of motivation, family, social environment and close friends. These factors should be considered to overcome the dangers of drugs. In addition, natural circle therapy that is synergized with religious and educational skills is the effort that can be applied to recover the former drug addicts. The other efforts are social and medical rehabilitation. The results of this study are expected to be taken into consideration for policy-makers and government namely National Narcotics Agency of South Sulawesi Makassar and communities in tackling rampant drug users in the city of Makassar.

It is advisable that drug abusers, drug addicts, former drug addicts who have been rehabilitated should be given the program of social rehabilitation and medical rehabilitation. They are not supposed to be in jail because they are not the perpetrators but they are sick people who need healing.

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