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## Social Impact and Challenges of Rehabilitation in Combating Drug Abuse in Indonesia

Vivi Riska Ramadani<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>University of Lampung, Lampung, Indonesia, [viviriska04@icloud.com](mailto:viviriska04@icloud.com)

Corresponding Author: [viviriska04@icloud.com](mailto:viviriska04@icloud.com)<sup>1</sup>

**Abstract:** The issue of narcotics in Indonesia is increasing, even though various prevention and enforcement efforts have been made, drug abuse is increasingly worrying, especially among the younger generation, this is due to easy access to obtain these illicit goods, in this article the aim is to discuss the effectiveness of the law, social impacts, rehabilitation and challenges in law enforcement in narcotics cases.

**Keyword:** Narcotics Abuse, Effectiveness of Law Enforcement, Rehabilitation Program.

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### INTRODUCTION

Drug abuse is a serious problem in many countries around the world, including Indonesia, drugs not only cause physical and mental damage, but also have an impact on social, economic, and national security. The government has made various prevention efforts by giving punishment through law enforcement and rehabilitation programs, but the spread and use of drugs in society continues to expand. The young generation should be the future of the country, but in fact they are the main victims of drug trafficking, as a result their future is threatened by addiction and crime.

Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics was drafted as the main regulation governing the handling of narcotics cases in Indonesia. In the legal field, the government has implemented various steps to combat drug addiction, both by criminalizing the behavior of addicts and dealers, and by offering rehabilitation programs for users. Although these regulations have previously existed, their implementation has often encountered various problems in the field, including a lack of coordination between law enforcement agencies, corruption, and a lack of awareness and education among the public.

Drug addiction is very detrimental, especially among young people, teenagers who are addicted to drugs are very vulnerable to mental health problems, loss of education, and crime, in addition, families consisting of drug users often have heavy emotional and financial burdens, while the wider community must face the increasing prevalence of crime related to drug addiction. As reported on the BNN website, the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking tends to increase every year, based on the results of a national survey on the

prevalence of drug abuse in 2023, the prevalence rate was 1.73% or equivalent to 3.3 million Indonesians aged 15-64 years.

The above data shows a significant increase in drug abuse among the 15-24 age group, so based on this background, this article aims to examine the issue of narcotics from several aspects starting from the effectiveness of the law, the social impact of drug abuse, rehabilitation programs, and challenges in law enforcement. Through this analysis, it is hoped that recommendations can be produced that can help improve the handling of drug problems in Indonesia.

## **METHOD**

The method used in this article is a qualitative study using a descriptive approach, collecting data from related literature. The focus of this article is to analyze the effectiveness of legal regulations in dealing with drug trafficking and to look at the social impact of drug abuse from a legal and social perspective.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Effectiveness of Applicable Laws**

Based on Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, the distribution and abuse of narcotics is categorized as a serious crime, according to Article 127 of Law No. 35 of 2009 stating that "drug users who have been caught can be subject to criminal sanctions in the form of imprisonment, rehabilitation or fines depending on the type and amount of narcotics used." Criminal sanctions contained in the provisions of Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics are a form of legal certainty that is realized in law enforcement against perpetrators of criminal acts of narcotics abuse. These criminal sanctions aim to guarantee legal certainty, order and legal protection in today's modernization and globalization can be implemented, if various dimensions of legal life always maintain harmony, balance and harmony between civil morality based on actual values in a civilized society, Although this regulation is quite strict, effectiveness in the field is still a challenge, law enforcement is often hampered by several factors, such as corruption in law enforcement and weak synergy between law enforcement agencies and lack of legal awareness in society.

The author found that, although prison sentences and fines have been imposed, in the case of narcotics, rehabilitation for drug users is the main focus to reduce recidivism rates, effective rehabilitation is expected to help drug users recover physically, mentally and socially so that they do not fall back into narcotics after leaving prison. As regulated in Article 54 of Law No. 35 of 2009, drug users who are caught in legal cases must be rehabilitated with a holistic approach that includes medical, psychological and social aspects.

### **Social Impact of Narcotics Abuse**

The social impacts related to drug abuse are very broad, especially among teenagers, teenagers involved in drug abuse tend to lose direction in their lives, their education is neglected and they are often involved in criminal acts, this has a direct impact on families who have to bear the emotional and financial burden due to drug abuse by one of its members, society is also affected by the increase in crime rates caused by drug users.

Article 128 of Law No. 35 of 2009 also emphasizes that drug users who are caught for the first time and voluntarily report themselves or are reported by their families for rehabilitation can avoid criminal penalties, this article is also in line with Article 54 of Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics which regulates rehabilitation, that drug addicts and victims of drug abuse are required to undergo medical rehabilitation and social rehabilitation. However, in practice, the implementation of this article is often less effective

because many drug users are afraid or do not realize that they have the option of rehabilitation before being subject to criminal penalties.

Families of drug users also often do not have sufficient information regarding the reporting process and access to rehabilitation facilities provided by the government, unfortunately, drug abuse and the risks of narcotics among teenagers are common today, there is no drug that almost does not affect the health of future generations, many will die from drug abuse, illegal drugs have changed the mindset and academic performance of students. Drug use among young people must be eliminated for the future of the nation. The impact of drug abuse is not only limited to the physical and mental health of users, but also touches on broader social aspects. Drugs can destroy families, both emotionally and financially, as families have to deal with the burden of treatment, social stigma, and, in many cases, involvement in the legal process, at the community level, drug abuse contributes to increasing crime rates, especially among teenagers who lose their way in life due to drugs, This creates social insecurity and has the potential to create an environment that is not conducive to the development of the younger generation.

### **Rehabilitation Program and Challenges Faced**

Rehabilitation is an important step in dealing with narcotics problems, and in accordance with Article 54 and Article 103 of Law No. 35 of 2009, rehabilitation must involve a holistic approach, in the rehabilitation program covering several things, including detoxification, psychological counseling, group therapy, and skills training aimed at preparing former users to be able to function normally in society. One of the programs that is widely implemented is medical rehabilitation which helps overcome physical addiction, followed by psychosocial rehabilitation to help users manage the psychological and social impacts of drug abuse.

Although various rehabilitation programs have been implemented, the success of these rehabilitation programs is highly dependent on the commitment and active involvement of drug users and family support, many programs have successfully helped users return to society, but many have failed due to the lack of post-rehabilitation assistance and the social stigma that still sticks. Rehabilitated users often have difficulty reintegrating into society because they are considered "former addicts," so they are vulnerable to returning to drug use as an escape due to social pressure.

### **Challenges in Law Enforcement**

The biggest challenge in the process of law enforcement against narcotics crimes is the problem of corruption that weakens the integrity of the legal system in Indonesia. The meaning of corruption here is that corruption can be a major obstacle in handling narcotics cases, corruption in law enforcement institutions causes injustice in the law enforcement process, where the main perpetrators of drug networks who often have great financial power or influence, are difficult to ensnare and punish, but on the contrary, small users or individuals with minimal involvement are often the main targets for arrest because they are easier to prosecute. This creates an imbalance in law enforcement and weakens efforts to eradicate narcotics crimes in Indonesia, in addition, the next challenge is the extensive and organized drug trafficking network, both locally and internationally, is a major challenge for law enforcement officers, then the lack of coordination between institutions such as the police, BNN (National Narcotics Agency) with the judiciary also hampers the effectiveness of law enforcement. Another challenge can also come from the lack of resources, both in terms of manpower and facilities, to handle the increasing number of narcotics cases. These limited resources often cause the legal process to run slowly and case handling to be less than optimal. Articles 113-116 of Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning the illicit trafficking of

narcotics provide severe penalties. However, the implementation of these penalties is not always consistent, especially when drug cases involve large networks or influential perpetrators.

## CONCLUSION

The conclusion that can be drawn from the discussion on "Social Impacts and Challenges of Rehabilitation in Overcoming Drug Abuse in Indonesia" is that the social impacts related to drug abuse are very broad, especially among teenagers, teenagers involved in drug abuse tend to lose direction in their lives, their education is neglected, often involved in criminal acts, in addition it can have a direct impact on families who have to bear the emotional and financial burden due to drug abuse by one of its members, society is also affected by the increase in crime rates caused by drug users. Then related to the effectiveness of the law, although Indonesia has had quite strong regulations through Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, challenges in implementation are still the main obstacle to effective law enforcement, factors such as corruption by law enforcement officers which result in weak integrity of Indonesian law related to law enforcement in narcotics cases, then other challenges are weak coordination between institutions, and lack of public awareness worsens this situation.

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