

Drug Prevention Among Youth in Wael Village

Arman Anwar*, Leja Ishak La Uri, Muhamad Eksal Gailea, Nurul Katima

Faculty of Law, Universitas Pattimura, Ambon, Indonesia.

@ : arman.mances.1970@gmail.com

Corresponding Author*



Abstract

Introduction: The issue of narcotics or drugs in developing countries goes hand in hand with changes in the global order. Because drugs are an urgent problem, their distribution must be stopped. To combat drug distribution, the process must be carried out systematically and in a planned manner. The handling of this issue must be carried out from the central to regional levels.

Purposes of The Devotion: To provide young people with an understanding and knowledge of the dangers of drugs and their consequences, both in terms of the law and health.

Method of The Devotion: Based on the community service paradigm, the study on the socialization carried out in Wael Hamlet used the Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach, which is an approach that aims to learn how to overcome problems and fulfill the practical needs of the community.

Results Main Findings of the Devotion: Through the theme of the dangers of drug abuse, the youth listened very seriously to the presentations given by the speakers. The issue of the dangers of drugs not only aroused a serious attitude but also built a critical attitude among the youth of Wael Hamlet towards the impact of drugs on their future. Discourse clearly emerged during the speaker's presentation and the question and answer session.

Keywords: Narcotics; Drug Abuse; Youth Awareness; Participatory Action Research.

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INTRODUCTION

Narcotics or drug policies in developing countries have evolved in line with changes in the global order. Policies on narcotics are heavily influenced by the dynamics of colonial politics, international relations between countries, and global interests in the opium trade in its early stages, which later expanded to include various other narcotic substances. The highly profitable narcotics trade on one hand and the difficulty of controlling its distribution on the other have created a new dichotomy that has stimulated international regulation.¹ According to Richard Lines, various reasons and global situations in the past have given rise to the contemporary global narcotics policy that exists today.² Citing Quincy Wright's *Three Stages of Drug Control* theory, Richard Lines further explains that efforts to control the circulation of narcotics have long been undertaken by various countries around the world, giving rise to a number of regulations governing the circulation of narcotics at the national and regional levels.³ In our current context, as a legacy of past policies, the existence of drugs, which are abbreviated as Narkoba (narcotics, psychotropic substances, and other addictive substances), remains a very complex issue. This is because their circulation is

¹ Asmin Fransiska, et al. *Anomaly in Narcotics Policy*, (Jakarta: Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia, 2019), p. 1.

² Richard Lines, *Drug Control and Human Rights in International Law*, (Cambridge University Press, 2017), p. 1-4

³ Ibid.

difficult to control and their impact or destructive power is very high on the younger generation, especially in terms of mental, psychological, social, and economic damage. Because of these impacts, serious efforts are needed to address the problem. In this situation, the government took full attention by forming an institution to handle drug circulation, known as the National Narcotics Agency of the Republic of Indonesia.⁴

After its establishment on March 22, 2002, based on Law Number 35 of 2009, this agency immediately took decisive action as a sign of its seriousness by issuing Regulation Number 5 of 2021. This regulation clearly gives the National Narcotics Agency the authority to prevent or combat drug circulation in various regions of Indonesia. The establishment of National Narcotics Agency representatives in various provinces and districts/cities is a strong indication that the issue of narcotics has become a national issue that must be addressed seriously and thoroughly.

Because drugs are an urgent problem, efforts are being made to stop drug circulation nationwide. Although the issue of drug circulation is very complicated for the National Narcotics Agency or related government agencies to overcome, for the sake of the nation's safety, especially the younger generation, it is important to be optimistic about achieving maximum results in tackling drug circulation.

Trends in the world of drugs or narcotics have given rise to many terms, especially those closely related to the types of narcotics used. These varied terms can sometimes be quite complicated for us to understand. However, the terminology for the various types of narcotics that are prohibited or targeted for eradication has been formulated by the National Narcotics Agency, which specifically consists of 14 types of narcotics, namely: Amphetamine, Codeine, Crack, Diazepam, Ecstasy, Marijuana, Heroin, Morphine, Cocaine, Hallucinogens, MDMA, Nitrazepam, Putauw, and Shabu.⁵

To combat drug trafficking, the process must be carried out systematically and in a planned manner. The response is carried out from the central to regional levels. Government institutions and academics are important pillars in the eradication of drugs. Complexity is certain to arise in this situation, but optimism remains in order to free the younger generation from the dangers of drugs.

The government, in collaboration with academics, has made various efforts to specifically address drugs in Eastern Indonesia, especially in the West Seram region. The three pillars of higher education also place drug control as an agenda or clause in community service activities. The dissemination of information about the dangers of drugs carried out in Wael Hamlet by students participating in the Pattimura University Community Service Program Batch II Wave I is a small example of the involvement of academics in combating drug trafficking, even in areas that have not been identified as being affected by drugs. The socialization of the dangers of drugs involving academics, in this case lecturers from the Faculty of Law, Pattimura University Ambon, has had a positive impact on broadening the horizons of the younger generation in Wael Hamlet. Thus, the younger generation will understand that drugs will only harm themselves.

⁴ Ardhi Subandri, Toto Widyarsono, Suradi, *Crushing the Drug Lords, Welcoming the Dawn: The History of Drug Control in Indonesia*, (Jakarta: Prenada, 2021), p. 53

⁵ https://www.babesrehab-bnn.info/index_php/artikel/item/147-istilah-istilah-jenis-narkotika-di-kalangan-pecandu

METHOD OF THE DEVOTION

Based on the community service paradigm, the study of the socialization carried out in Wael Hamlet used the *Participatory Action Research* (PAR) approach,⁶ which is an approach whose process aims to learn how to overcome problems and fulfill the practical needs of the community, as well as to produce knowledge and bring about religious social change.⁷ Therefore, this approach is a means to raise the collective critical awareness of the youth of Wael Hamlet to avoid drug abuse through legal counseling activities, which are part of the work program of the Real Work Lecture group of Pattimura University students located in Wael Hamlet, Piru Village, West Seram Regency. The theme of the counseling was the dangers of drug abuse, considering that this issue is of high urgency in efforts to prevent and control its distribution. The activity was carried out through a lecture by an appointed speaker. During the presentation session, the speaker explained the material related to the impact and dangers of drugs. After the presentation session ended, the community was given the opportunity to ask questions about the material that had been presented. All questions were then answered directly by the speaker in accordance with the topic and context of the questions asked.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Government Regulations on Drugs

Indonesian government regulations on narcotics are essentially based on Law Number 35 of 2009 on Narcotics, which serves as the main legal umbrella for the control, supervision, and eradication of narcotics abuse. The most relevant recent regulation is Minister of Health Regulation Number 5 of 2023 on Narcotics, Psychotropic Substances, and Pharmaceutical Precursors, which updates provisions related to the supervision and distribution of these substances, including distribution mechanisms for health services and research purposes. In addition, the government also issued Minister of Health Regulation Number 30 of 2023, which specifically stipulates and updates the classification of narcotics into Groups I, II, and III, adding a number of new types of narcotics (new psychoactive substances/NPS) that were not previously included in the official list. This change is important given the rapid emergence of new synthetic substances on the black market, which requires an adaptive regulatory response.

On the other hand, the psychotropic control framework has also been strengthened through Minister of Health Regulation No. 31 of 2023 concerning the Determination and Change of Psychotropic Classification, which, although focused on psychotropic substances, remains relevant to the overall drug policy ecosystem. In addition to these sectoral regulations, the government has also harmonized regulations by adjusting policies within the framework of Law Number 6 of 2023 (Stipulation of the Job Creation Government Regulation in Lieu of Law), one of which touches on the administrative aspects of narcotics supervision and institutions. Overall, the analysis shows that the government's policy direction is moving towards a more adaptive regulatory model that is responsive to global narcotics threats and emphasizes a balance between repressive, preventive, and public health approaches.

The role of the National Narcotics Agency is very strategic in the implementation of all these regulations. Based on Presidential Regulation Number 23 of 2010 concerning the

⁶ Tiffany Shahnaz Rusli, et al. *Introduction to Community Service Methodology*, (Pidie; Muhammad Zaini Publishing Foundation, 2022), p. 82

⁷ Agus Afandi, et al. *Community Service Methodology*, (Yogyakarta: Directorate of Islamic Higher Education, Directorate General of Islamic Education, Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2022), p. 4

National Narcotics Agency, this institution has operational authority in prevention, eradication, rehabilitation, and narcotics intelligence. The National Narcotics Agency acts as the national coordinator in integrating cross-ministerial/institutional policies, conducting investigations into narcotics crimes, and developing rehabilitation programs in line with a public health approach. Observations show that the existence of the National Narcotics Agency strengthens the execution of government regulations, ensuring that policies do not only remain normative but are also effectively implemented through repressive, preventive, and curative measures throughout Indonesia.



Graph 1. Trends in Drug Cases in Indonesia as of November 2024⁸

Statistical findings from the diagram Trends in the Number of Drug Cases in Indonesia (Jan – Nov 25, 2024) show that the number of cases still fluctuates significantly throughout the year. Data from the Indonesian National Police's Criminal Investigation Unit shows the highest spike in May 2024 with 4,858 cases, marking an increase in illegal distribution activities during that period. Meanwhile, the lowest point occurred in April 2024 with 2,658 cases. This trend illustrates that despite strengthened regulations and law enforcement, drug eradication efforts still face complex dynamics and tend to increase during certain periods. This fluctuating pattern indicates that government policies, including regulatory updates and intensive operations by the National Narcotics Agency and the Indonesian National Police, need to be continuously adjusted in a responsive manner to follow trends in the field. Overall, the integration of regulations, constitutional foundations, and the role of the National Narcotics Agency appear to be highly relevant in addressing the real challenges reflected in the data.⁹

B. The Existence of Drug Abuse Prevention

The existence of drug abuse prevention in Indonesia has been strengthened through regulatory updates, law enforcement, and inter-agency coordination. The main legal framework governing narcotics control is based on Law Number 35 of 2009, which is reinforced by derivative regulations, including the update of narcotics classification through the 2023 Minister of Health Regulation. This regulatory strengthening is a form of the state's commitment to maintaining public health, safety, and order by adopting preventive, repressive, and curative approaches. The existence of this policy also reflects the

⁸ <https://goodstats.id/article/polri-tindak-41116-kasus-narkoba-hingga-november-2024-k0YPw>

⁹ Report on the Measurement of the Index for the Prevention and Eradication of Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking of Narcotics and Narcotic Precursors (P4GN) for the Year 2024, (Jakarta: Research, Data, and Information Center of the National Narcotics Agency).

implementation of the constitutional mandate that emphasizes protecting the public from threats that endanger life and health.



Graph 2. Number of Drug Cases in Indonesia as of April 2025¹⁰

Data from early 2025 shows a significant downward trend in the number of drug cases. In January, there were 3,951 cases, rising slightly in February to 4,170 cases, then declining again to 3,662 cases in March, and experiencing a drastic decline in April to 1,359 cases. The downward trend in 2025 indicates that government intervention and intensified law enforcement are beginning to have a positive impact, although the dynamics of cases in previous years show that the threat of drugs remains volatile. Thus, combating the dangers of drugs still requires adaptive policies, consistent enforcement, and inter-agency synergy to maintain its effectiveness.

The existence of drug abuse prevention is increasingly evident through the role of the National Narcotics Agency as a strategic institution in national coordination. The National Narcotics Agency carries out community-based prevention, drug abuse education, capacity building for officials, and rehabilitation for abusers. The National Narcotics Agency collaboration with the Indonesian National Police, health agencies, local governments, and educational institutions helps strengthen demand reduction and *supply reduction* strategies throughout the region. With the rampant circulation of drugs based on transnational networks and the emergence of *new psychoactive substances*, the existence of the National Narcotics Agency and the consistent implementation of regulations are very important to maintain the sustainability of countermeasures.

C. Process of Implementing Drug Abuse Prevention Socialization for Youth in Wael Village

The socialization was conducted by speakers from the Faculty of Law, Dr. Arman Anwar, S.H., M.H.¹¹, who provided a comprehensive understanding of the dangers of drugs and their impact on social life. This socialization focused on the legal, health, and social impacts of narcotics abuse. The participants of the socialization, consisting of young people from Wael Hamlet, showed high enthusiasm, as seen from the sufficient number of participants and the interaction between the speakers and participants.

¹⁰ <https://goodstats.id/article/fluktuasi-tren-kejahatan-narkoba-pada-awal-tahun-2025-februari-tembus-4170-kasus-qKPBn>

¹¹ Arman Anwar is a Lecturer in International Law at the Faculty of Law, Pattimura University.



Figure 1. Documentation Photo of the Socialization Activity

In addition, the speakers emphasized that combating drugs does not only rely on law enforcement officials but also requires the active role of the community as the front line. In his presentation, Dr. Arman Anwar, S.H., M.H. explained about detection, reporting suspicious activities, and the importance of building a safe and supportive social environment for the younger generation. This presentation provided the community with a new understanding of the urgency of establishing community-based surveillance as a preventive measure.

This outreach activity also resulted in increased legal awareness among the Wael Hamlet community regarding the criminal consequences of drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Based on observations during the implementation, participants demonstrated a better understanding of national regulations related to narcotics and procedures for handling cases at the village level. This factor is expected to reduce social tolerance for drug abuse and increase the community's courage in reporting potential violations.

Overall, the outreach by the speakers had a positive impact in strengthening drug prevention efforts in Wael Hamlet. This activity succeeded in fostering a collective understanding that combating narcotics is a shared responsibility that requires collaboration between the community, village officials, and legal institutions. These results also serve as the basis for the formulation of more structured follow-up programs, such as increasing the frequency of legal education for youth and the general public.

CONCLUSION

The socialization activity on the dangers of drugs for the youth of Wael Hamlet, as part of the Real Work Lecture program, ran according to schedule and achieved positive results. With the theme of the dangers of drug abuse, the youth listened to the speakers' presentations with great enthusiasm and seriousness. The issue of the dangers of drugs not only aroused seriousness but also fostered a critical attitude among the youth of Wael Hamlet towards the impact of drugs on their future. Discourse emerged during the speakers' presentations. After the presentation session ended, the youth were given the opportunity to ask questions about the material that had been presented. All questions were then answered directly by the speakers in accordance with the topic and context of the questions asked.

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