

DRUG ABUSE IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF UNDERSTANDING STUDENTS IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Septya Suarja¹, Dosi Juliawati², Hengki Yandri², Rasmita², Randi Saputra³

¹Universitas Muhammadiyah Palopo; ²Institut Agama Islam Negeri Kerinci; ³Institut Agama Islam Negeri Pontianak

dosijuliawati88@gmail.com

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Abstract. *Drug abuse is a serious social problem in Indonesia. One of the factors that can influence the occurrence of drug abuse is the lack of understanding of students about the dangers of drugs. Therefore, this study explores students' understanding of drug abuse in junior high school. The research method used was quantitative, and the sample consisted of 100 junior high school students in Kerinci, which were taken using convenience sampling. The data were collected using a scale of students' understanding of drugs that had been tested for validity and reliability. The results showed that most students had a relatively good understanding of the dangers of drugs. However, there are still some students who do not understand the dangers of drugs, especially regarding the long-term impacts and legal consequences that can be obtained due to drug abuse. From the results of this study, it can be concluded that more intensive efforts are still needed to improve students' understanding of the dangers of drugs. Schools can develop more active and creative educational programs to improve students' understanding of the dangers of drugs and invite parents and the community to get involved in efforts to prevent drug abuse among adolescents. This conclusion can be used as a reference for developing programs and policies to combat drug abuse in Indonesia, especially among junior high school students.*

Keywords: *drug abuse, student understanding, junior high school*

PENYALAHGUNAAN NARKOBA DALAM PERSPEKTIF PEMAHAMAN SISWA DI SEKOLAH MENENGAH PERTAMA

Abstrak. *Penyalahgunaan narkoba merupakan masalah sosial yang cukup serius di Indonesia. Salah satu faktor yang dapat mempengaruhi terjadinya penyalahgunaan narkoba adalah kurangnya pemahaman siswa tentang bahaya narkoba. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menggali pemahaman siswa di sekolah menengah pertama terkait penyalahgunaan narkoba. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah kuantitatif dan sampel penelitian terdiri dari 100 siswa Sekolah Menengah Pertama di Kerinci yang di ambil dengan menggunakan convenience sampling. Data dikumpulkan menggunakan skala*

pemahaman siswa tentang narkoba yang telah di uji validitas dan reliabilitas. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa mayoritas siswa memiliki pemahaman yang cukup baik tentang bahaya narkoba. Namun, masih ada sebagian siswa yang kurang memahami bahaya narkoba, terutama terkait dampak jangka panjang dan akibat hukum yang bisa didapat akibat penyalahgunaan narkoba. Dari hasil penelitian ini, dapat disimpulkan bahwa masih diperlukan upaya yang lebih intensif dalam meningkatkan pemahaman siswa tentang bahaya narkoba. Sekolah dapat mengembangkan program edukasi yang lebih aktif dan kreatif untuk meningkatkan pemahaman siswa tentang bahaya narkoba, serta mengajak orang tua dan masyarakat untuk terlibat dalam upaya pencegahan penyalahgunaan narkoba di kalangan remaja. Kesimpulan ini dapat dijadikan acuan untuk pengembangan program dan kebijakan penanggulangan penyalahgunaan narkoba di Indonesia, khususnya di kalangan siswa Sekolah Menengah Pertama.

Kata Kunci: *penyalahgunaan narkoba, pemahaman siswa, Sekolah Menengah Pertama*

A. INTRODUCTION

Drug abuse is a severe problem of great concern worldwide, including in Indonesia. Data from the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) shows that drug abuse continues to increase yearly; during the 2019-2021 period, the prevalence rate of drug abuse a year of use increased by 0.15% from 1.80% in 2019 to 1.95% in 2021. This increase is relatively significant when viewed from the absolute number of residents, drug abuse which is estimated at 3,662,646 people aged 15-64 years over the past year, an increase of 243,458 people compared to 2019 (3,419,188 people). Meanwhile, the prevalence rate of drug abuse has increased by 0.17% from 2.4% in 2019 to 2.57%. If you look at the absolute value, in 2021, it is estimated that as many as 4,827,616 people aged 15-64 years have used drugs; this number is 292,872 more people than in 2019 (4,534,744 people). The increase in the prevalence rate also reflects an increase in drug trafficking in the community which causes the number of drug users to increase in just two years (Golose et al., 2021).

The number of Narcotics Cases in Indonesia from 2009 to 2021 can be seen in the following chart.

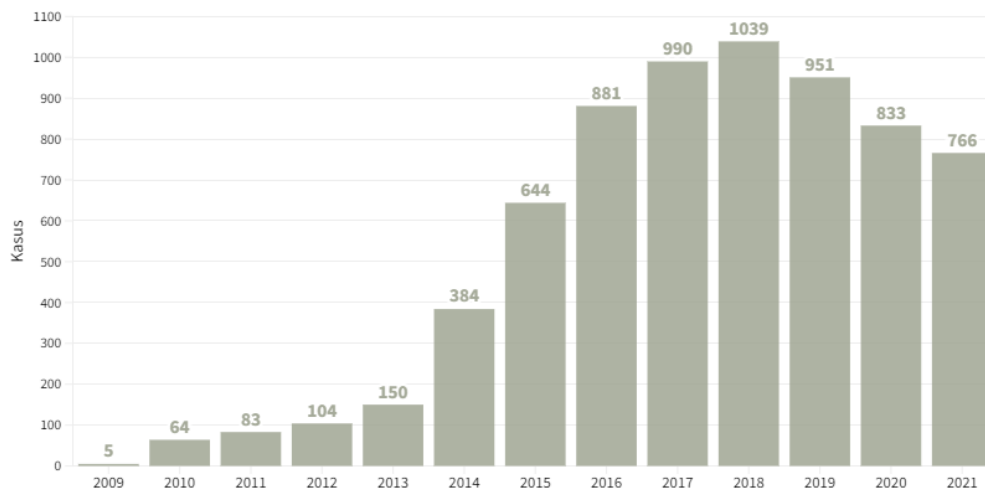


Chart 1. Number of Narcotics Cases in Indonesia (2009-2021)

Based on data from the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), there were 766 drug and drug abuse cases in Indonesia throughout 2021. This number is down 8.04% compared to the previous year, which was 833 cases. Meanwhile, the number of suspects in drug cases was 1,184 during the past year. This number also decreased by 9.41% compared to 1,307 people in 2020. The decline in the number of drug cases and suspects continued the trend for the third year in a row. Previously the number of drug cases and suspects has increased since 2009. The number of drug cases and suspects peaked in 2018. At that time, there were 1,039 drug abuse cases with 1,545 suspects. Cumulatively, North Sumatra has the highest number of drug abuse cases since 2009-2021, with 520 cases. East Java occupies the following position with 454 cases. Then, there have been 441 drug abuse cases in East Kalimantan in the last 12 years. In South Sumatra and West Java, drug abuse was 336 cases and 259 cases, respectively (Mahmudan, 2022).

Then data from the Directorate General of Corrections of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights explains the number of correctional-assisted citizens based on the type of crime as shown in the following graph.

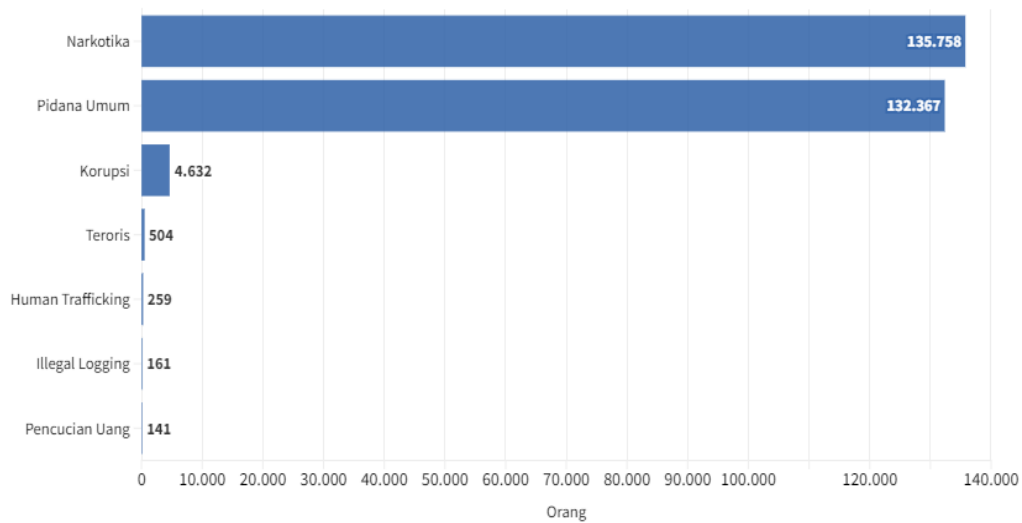


Chart 2. Number of Correctional Assisted Citizens By Criminal Type (as of April 27, 2022)

The Directorate General of Corrections of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights reported that the number of correctional-assisted persons (WBP) in Indonesia was 273,822 as of April 27, 2022. Of these, the majority are languishing in prison for drug cases. In detail, there are 135,758 WBP drug cases. They have 120,042 users and 15,176 dealers and drug Manufacturers (Karnadi, 2022).

Looking at the previous data exposure, drug abuse is still a severe problem in society, especially among teenagers. In recent years, drug use has significantly increased among junior high school students in Indonesia. Drug abuse among middle school students is a concern because adolescence is a vulnerable time to engage in unhealthy and dangerous behaviours. The head of the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) said that adolescent drug abuse is increasing. There was an increase of 24 to 28 per cent of adolescents who used narcotics. Then the rate of drug abuse among students in 2018 (from 13 provincial capitals in Indonesia) reached 2.29 million people. One of the groups of people who are prone to exposure to drug abuse is those in the age range of 15-35 years or the millennial generation (Puslitdatin, 2019).

Drug abuse is a behaviour that negatively affects individuals and society. Its impact is not only limited to the physical and mental health of the individual but can also affect social relationships, work, and daily activities. Drug abuse can have a very negative impact on student's physical and mental health. Drug use can cause disorders of the central nervous system and affect the functioning of body organs such as the liver and

kidneys. In addition, drug use can also trigger psychiatric disorders such as depression, anxiety, and psychosis (Adam, 2012; Wulandari et al., 2015).

In addition to the impact on health, drug abuse can also affect students' academic and social performance. Drug use can affect students' learning ability and concentration, reducing academic performance. In addition, drug use can also affect a student's social relationships with peers and family (Nurmaya, 2016; Sartika & Yandri, 2019).

The impact of drugs is very detrimental to health and threatens the wearer's life. However, not all junior high school students understand drug abuse enough. Many of them only know that drugs are prohibited items, but do not know in detail about the types of drugs, their negative impact on health, and their danger to oneself and others.

Therefore, efforts are needed to uncover students' understanding of drug abuse. Such understanding should include information about the types of drugs commonly used, how drugs work in the body, the adverse effects of drugs on health, and the dangers and risks that may occur due to drug abuse.

B. METHOD

The research method used in this scientific article is a survey method that aims to uncover junior high school student's understanding of drugs. The research sample consisted of 100 junior high school students in Kerinci, which were taken using convenience sampling (Saunders et al., 2009) by distributing questionnaires to Junior High School students willing to participate as respondents. The data were revealed using the Student Understanding of Drugs Scale, which has been tested for validity and reliability. The data obtained were analyzed descriptively and statistically using the SPSS program.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results showed that the majority of students have a relatively good understanding of the dangers of drugs; however, there are still some students who do not understand the dangers of drugs, especially regarding the long-term impacts and legal consequences that can be obtained due to drug abuse this can be seen in the following chart.

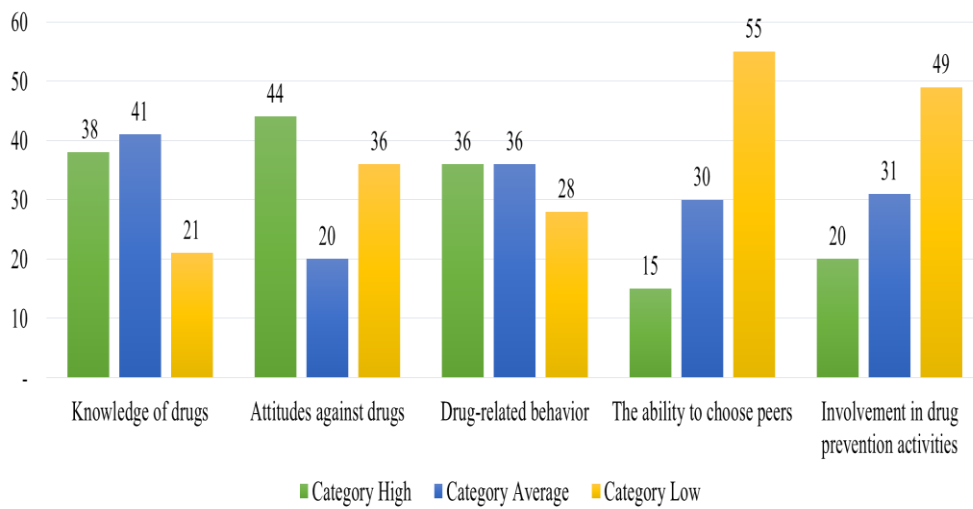


Chart 3. Results of Analysis of Students' Understanding of Drugs

In terms of student knowledge, out of 100 respondents, as many as 41% of respondents know about drugs with a moderate category. Furthermore, 44% of respondents have an apparent attitude towards drugs with a high category. Furthermore, as many as 36% of respondents showed apparent behaviour towards drugs with high and moderate categories. Then as many as 55% of respondents have been unable to choose an exemplary peer with a low category. Finally, 49% of respondents were not involved in low-category drug prevention activities.

From the perspective of students' understanding, many of them realize that drug use can have a very negative impact on their health and life. However, some students still underestimate the dangers of drugs and consider drug use a matter of course. Students also realize that less conducive environments, such as disharmonious families and negative peers, can influence their drug use (Nopiarni et al., 2020; Nurmaya, 2016; Putri et al., 2020).

Environmental factors are the leading cause of drug abuse among junior high school students. Less conducive environments, such as disharmonious families, negative peers, out-of-way school supervision, and lack of parental supervision, can influence a student's decision to try drugs (Nurmaya, 2016; Oktasari et al., 2020). In addition, social pressures such as wanting to look fantastic and hang out with certain groups can also influence a student's decision to use drugs (Amriel, 2008; Sartika & Yandri, 2019; Yandri et al., 2022)

The causes of drug abuse among adolescents can be varied, including peer pressure, disharmonious family environment, emotional problems such as stress and depression, as well as the desire to seek sensations or temporary satisfaction (Adam, 2012; Asti, 2014; Puslitdatin, 2019). In addition, a lack of understanding of the dangers of drugs can also influence drug abuse behaviour in adolescents.

Various factors, including personal experience, knowledge of drugs, and environmental influences, can influence a student's understanding of drug abuse. A study conducted in the United States found that students who had personal experience with drugs tended to have a more accurate understanding of the dangers of drugs (Amriel, 2008). In addition, knowledge about drugs and their effects is also essential in improving students' understanding of drug abuse. Several educational programs aimed at increasing knowledge about drugs and their dangers have been carried out in various countries, including Indonesia (Amriel, 2008; Wulandari et al., 2015). These programs aim to provide information about the dangers of drugs, strengthen anti-drug attitudes, and improve positive decision-making skills.

D. CONCLUSION

The conclusions of this study show that most students have a relatively good understanding of the dangers of drugs. However, there are still some students who do not understand the dangers of drugs, especially regarding the long-term impacts and legal consequences that can be obtained due to drug abuse. In terms of knowledge of drugs, students have good knowledge with moderate categories. Furthermore, students already have an apparent attitude towards drugs with a high category. Furthermore, students have also shown apparent behaviour towards drugs with high and medium categories. Then students have been unable to choose the right peers with low categories. Finally, students have not had involvement in low-category drug prevention activities.

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