



## **Empowering Youth: Socializing Drug Abuse Dangers in SMP Negeri 55 Makassar**

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### **Abstract**

Sifat penyalahgunaan narkoba yang meluas di berbagai tingkat masyarakat sangat meresahkan, terutama dampaknya terhadap siswa. Obat-obatan, ketika dimasukkan ke dalam tubuh, memiliki kemampuan untuk mengubah kognisi dan perilaku seseorang. Inisiatif ini diarahkan untuk meningkatkan pemahaman siswa tentang varietas obat, risiko terkait, dan tindakan pencegahan yang efektif. Program ini berlangsung di SMP Negeri 55 Makassar, memanfaatkan ceramah, diskusi, dan sesi tanya jawab interaktif sebagai metodologinya. Melibatkan 58 siswa dari kelas VIII dan IX, inisiatif ini didanai sendiri. Kegiatan ini dilaksanakan dengan sukses, menimbulkan respon positif, dan mencapai tujuan yang dimaksudkan. Ada rencana untuk implementasi berkelanjutan di lokasi yang sama dan berbeda untuk mempertahankan layanan yang berdampak ini di masa depan.

**Keywords: Penyalagunaan Narkoba, Anak Muda, Pemberdayaan**

The pervasive nature of drug abuse across various societal levels is deeply troubling, particularly its impact on students. Drugs, when introduced into the body, possess the ability to alter one's cognition and behaviour. This initiative is geared towards augmenting students' comprehension of drug varieties, associated risks, and effective preventive measures. The program took place at SMP Negeri 55 Makassar, utilizing lectures, discussions, and interactive Q&A sessions as its methodology. Engaging 58 students from the VIII and IX grades, this initiative was self-funded. The activity was executed successfully, eliciting a positive response, and achieving its intended objectives. There are plans for continual implementation in both the same and different locations to sustain this impactful service in the future.

**Keywords: Drug abuse, Young, Empowerment**

### **1. Introduction**

With the evolution of information technology in today's modern era, society has undergone intricate transformations. Modernization significantly influences various aspects, notably impacting adolescents through socio-economic factors, contributing to heightened instances of alcohol and drug abuse. These socio-economic elements serve as precursors to detrimental behaviours and occurrences within the community, encompassing domestic instability, juvenile delinquency, child abuse, parental smoking and drinking, environmental degradation, limited healthcare access, and adolescent substance abuse involving alcohol and drugs.

Socioeconomic factors wield considerable influence over adolescent drug use. Several of these elements encompass: firstly, economic disparities: Individuals with lower incomes often confront restricted access to quality education, sufficient healthcare, and viable job prospects. This scarcity of resources can breed feelings of despair, leading some to resort to drugs as a coping mechanism or means of evasion. Secondly, family dynamics: Imbalanced family structures, such as parental substance abuse, neglect, or abandonment, significantly impact an adolescent's susceptibility to drug abuse. A volatile household or absence of parental guidance can heighten the inclination toward experimenting with drugs. Thirdly, peer pressure and social surroundings: adolescents, particularly in economically underprivileged regions, may encounter peer pressure or social contexts that encourage drug abuse. This influence can be profoundly influential, especially in the absence of positive role models or robust community support systems. Lastly, drug

accessibility: Within economically strained areas, drug availability may be more prevalent due to lax monitoring, scarce community resources, or the proximity of drug dealers.

Numerous endeavours have been undertaken to curb drug abuse, particularly among teenagers. Among these efforts is the escalation of religious activities, counseling sessions, and raising awareness about the perils of drug abuse among students. Establishing communication with parents, coupled with a resolute response to address drug-related issues, stands as pivotal in prevention. Presently, the grasp of drug abuse extends beyond adults, encompassing teenagers and even elementary or junior high school students. The most impactful preventive measure for curtailing drug abuse among junior high school students remains family education. The family, being the closest educational environment, plays a paramount role in educating children about the hazards and repercussions of drug abuse.

As per Law No. 35 of 2009 on Narcotics, Article 1, Paragraph 1 defines narcotics as substances, whether derived from plants or not, encompassing synthetic and semi-synthetic elements, capable of inducing altered consciousness, loss of sensation, pain reduction, and potential dependency. A longstanding societal issue necessitating focused attention is drug abuse. Drugs, comprising Narcotics, Psychotropic Substances, and Other Dangerous Addictive Substances, are substances that, when ingested orally, inhaled, or injected, have the capacity to alter an individual's cognition, emotions, and behavior. They can lead to both physical and psychological dependence, known as addiction.

Enhancing counselling and guidance on the repercussions of drug abuse within the community, in accordance with Law Number 35 of 2009 regarding Narcotics, is crucial for safeguarding the younger generation. Furthermore, advocating for awareness regarding the consequences of drug abuse through a legal lens, specifically referencing Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning narcotics, is essential for fostering understanding among individuals about the implications and legal procedures associated with drug-related cases in society (Zainuri & Novita, 2021; Mardin et al., 2022). Undoubtedly, drug abuse constitutes a legal offense and significantly deteriorates the medical and psychological well-being of its users (Salatun & Mina, 2019; Widayati & Winanto, 2021).

Several detrimental effects of drug abuse on children encompass physical health implications, social consequences, psychological distress, and the potential compromise of children's educational and legal rights as drug users (Marpaung, 2019; Pusparini et al., 2022). Addressing drug abuse among children and adolescents necessitates collaborative efforts from various stakeholders, including parents, educators, the community, and support systems to aid children ensnared in drug abuse (Esther et al., 2021; Melati, 2017). Adolescents and children often fall prey to drug dealers due to their lack of awareness and resistance, rendering them susceptible. Empowering adolescents and children with knowledge about the perils of narcotics equips them with the ability to cultivate a negative stance and reject narcotics (Rumkel & Arsyad, 2019; Soewita, 2020).

From the preceding depiction, it's imperative to engage in community service initiatives aimed at curbing and eliminating drug abuse among adolescents. The intent behind organizing sessions to raise awareness about the perils of drug abuse at SMP Negeri 55 Makassar is to foster an understanding among students—targets of these sessions—regarding the multifaceted impacts of drug use: physical, psychological, and socio-economic. Thus, by imparting knowledge through these awareness campaigns, the aspiration is to fortify the younger generation, positioning them as the stalwarts of the nation's future.

## **2. Method of Service**

This community service initiative took the shape of a socialization program employing a blend of lectures and discussions. The lectures, facilitated through PowerPoint presentations, were followed by interactive discussion sessions featuring questions and answers. To conclude, an online quiz was administered via a shared Google link. The content encompassed drug classifications, identification of drug users, dealer targets, the repercussions of drug usage, and preventive strategies. Engaging a total of 58 participants, this activity involved students from both the VIII and IX grades at SMP Negeri 55 Makassar.

The community service initiative titled "Efforts to Safeguard the Youth: Socializing Drug Abuse Hazards" at SMP Negeri 55 Makassar took place on Sunday, September 24, 2023, and attracted 58 students from grades VIII and IX. The activity successfully aligned with its intended objectives, fostering awareness and comprehension among students regarding the socialization material. This was evidenced by their performance on the online quizzes shared through Google links.

Preparation for the service involved conducting a survey at SMP Negeri 55 Makassar to identify the service locations, seeking permission for the activity from the Head of the institution, and assembling the necessary materials for the socialization sessions. The service implementation included an opening statement by a teacher representative, followed by a 30-minute delivery of socialization material covering drug classifications, identification methods for drug users, dealer targets, the impact of drug use, and preventive measures. This was succeeded by a 15-minute discussion and question-and-answer session. Concluding the session, an online quiz was administered via a Google link to assess the students' comprehension of the socialization material. This quiz, lasting approximately 10 minutes, yielded highly satisfactory results in evaluating their knowledge and understanding.

As a result of this activity, students at SMP Negeri 55 Makassar have gained knowledge and understanding regarding how to address drug-related issues, empowering them to take proactive measures against circumstances that might lead to drug abuse.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The follow-up recommendation stemming from this activity suggests the sustainable implementation of similar initiatives, involving local stakeholders. This approach aims to empower students to actively engage in preventive measures against drug abuse while garnering support for such endeavours from community stakeholders. The community service, titled "Increasing the knowledge of the younger generation through counselling on the dangers' impact at SMP Negeri 55 Makassar," was executed successfully, aligning with its intended objectives. As a result, students from SMP Negeri 55 Makassar have acquired the knowledge and understanding necessary to address drug-related issues, enabling them to proactively safeguard themselves against potential drug abuse.

This initiative represents a collaboration between the Sociology Study Program team of the Faculty of Social and Law Sciences, University of Negeri Makassar and various stakeholders, particularly SMP Negeri 55 Makassar under the purview of the Makassar City Education Office. The program's execution garnered warm reception and support from the school's administration, including the principal, guidance and counselling teachers, other educators, and the student body organisation. Their active participation and backing encompassed providing essential resources such as venue facilities, LCD equipment, tables, whiteboards, printers, and practical tools. The individuals facilitating the program activities comprise expert resource persons and members of the Sociology Study Program's socialization team, chosen to align with the specific field of study being addressed. The documentation of the PKM program activities by the resource persons includes the following:



Picture 1 and 2. The participants were actively engaged in the program

The participants, students from SMP Negeri 55 Makassar, appeared at ease while receiving the material, displaying enthusiasm and keen interest as they engaged visually with the displayed content. The program facilitated student participation through a question-and-answer session, enabling them to address any uncertainties regarding the material. The speaker adeptly responded to inquiries in a straightforward manner, maintaining the substance and essence of the presentation message. Documentation of the program activities by the participants includes the following:



Picture 3. Colourful notes stamped by the participants written their commitments to obey drug abuse

Above is a "prevention paper" outlining students' commitment to abstain from drug consumption. This document also details precautionary measures for students to take if they encounter drug use within their surroundings or at school. Several participants are proactive in preventing drug use, intervening directly by reprimanding users, informing teachers, and, in some cases, reporting perpetrators to the authorities, specifically the police.



The image captures a photo session featuring the school staff and the PKM Sociology FIS-H UNM team following the conclusion of the socialization presentation. Subsequent to the closure of the session, the school extended appreciation and gratitude to the PKM team for selecting UPT SPF SMP Negeri 55 Makassar as the service location.

The outcomes from the PKM program activities include heightened knowledge and proactive measures to prevent drug usage within the school premises and its vicinity. This encompasses an increase in students'

willingness to take preventive actions. Additionally, participants from the PKM program are empowered to further disseminate information and actively engage as proactive students in curbing drug use within the school environment. The outcomes of the PKM activities comprise (1) an augmented understanding among participants concerning the activity materials, (2) the dissemination of scientific articles in national seminars, and (3) the publication of the PKM implementation in online media.

#### 4. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The community service implementation leads to two main conclusions. Firstly, preventive measures to deter adolescent involvement in drug abuse involve legal counselling, communicative supervision, guidance from parents and teachers, and repressive actions against dealers and victims. Secondly, the prevention of drug use among younger generations, particularly students at SMP Negeri 55 Makassar, necessitates continuous efforts in socializing the hazards of drug abuse. Sustained regularity of this service, both within and beyond the current location, is crucial to establish a drug-free environment within the school premises. Suggestions for implementing the PKM program highlight the significance of ensuring its sustainability across other schools and collaborating with ongoing literacy efforts to actively address bullying, aiming to establish a secure and supportive learning environment, particularly for students.

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