

NARCOTICS ARE NOT AN OPTION: EDUCATION ON THE DANGERS AND LEGAL RULES FOR STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT Narcotics abuse among students and adolescents continues to increase, threatening the health, social stability, and future of the younger generation, especially due to low literacy about the dangers and legal aspects. As for the data on drug abuse in Indonesia in 2023, there was a significant increase in the category of used among 15–24 years old, from 1.44% in 2021 to 1.52%. Likewise in Malaysia, a report by the National Anti-Drug Agency recorded that in 2023 there were 145,526 drug users and addicts, while in 2024 there was a surge of 32.5% in the number of reported cases. This service activity aims to educate students about the dangers of narcotics and their legal rules through educational-preventive counseling methods. The title of the material presented was related to Narcotics Not an Option: Danger Education and Legal Rules for Students. The implementation was carried out in a hybrid manner at the Muhammadiyah Guidance Studio in Kampung Baru, Malaysia. The results showed the high enthusiasm of the participants, as seen from their active participation in the discussion. This activity is expected to be able to reduce the number of narcotics abuse among students. It is recommended that the government strengthen rehabilitation policies for students who are victims of narcotics and that schools implement an integrated education and prevention system on a regular basis.

KEYWORDS: *Narcotics, Legal Education, Students, Counseling, Prevention.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Etymologically, the term "narcotics" comes from the Greek word, namely "*narke*" or "*narkam*" which means a state of numbness. Narcotics comes from the word *narcotic* which means something that can relieve pain and can cause a *stupor* effect, quoted from B.A Sitanggang (1999). The term *drug* refers to three types of substances that have high addictive potential, namely narcotics, psychotropics, and other addictive substances (Greer & Gold, 2010). Initially, substances

that are now classified as drugs were developed for medical purposes. Over time and social development, the initial function of drugs is abused for non-medical purposes (D'Aprile, 2022). Such abuse is generally carried out in doses that exceed the provisions, thus causing dangerous side effects (Ciucă Anghel et al., 2023). According to Lisa & Sutrisna (2013) In the long term, drug consumption can cause dependence, behavioral changes, and permanent damage to the central nervous system.

Narcotics abuse among Indonesian students is an increasingly worrying problem and threatens the future of the nation's generation. Based on data released by the National Narcotics Agency, in 2023, there will be a significant increase in the abuse of narcotics in the once-used category in the age group of 15–24 years, from 1.44% in 2021 to 1.52% (Laporan BNN Tahun 2023, n.d.). This figure indicates that almost one-third of drug users come from the productive age group who should be agents of change.

Drug abuse among students is a serious problem that has a wide impact, not only on physical and mental health, but also on academic life and social behavior (Young et al., 2011). Many students are caught in drug use without knowing that these actions are not only physically and psychologically damaged, but can also be subject to severe criminal sanctions under Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics.

Departing from these concerns, the paper aims to juridically examine the impact and its handling, as well as assess the extent to which the national legal system is able to provide protection, guidance, and law enforcement for students involved in narcotics cases. Through this study, it is hoped that awareness will emerge that this problem is not enough to be solved with a repressive approach alone, but also requires integrated preventive and educational measures.

2. METHOD

This service activity was carried out in the form of counseling which was carried out at the Muhammadiyah Guidance Studio Kampung Baru, Malaysia. Counseling material with the title "Narcotics Are Not an Option: Education on the Dangers and Legal Rules for Students". This activity involved student participants from the Guidance Studio. This activity received a positive response from counseling participants, this can be seen from the question and answer discussion session. The implementation method uses an educational-preventive approach that prioritizes education as a preventive effort against narcotics abuse.



Figure 1. Student Participants of the Muhammadiyah Guidance Studio Kampung Baru, Malaysia

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the literature, victims of narcotics abuse among students are quite concerning, in Indonesia as data from the National Narcotics Agency in 2023 shows an increase in the prevalence of users aged 15–24 years, from 1.44% (2021) to 1.52% (2023), while in Malaysia according to the National Anti-Drug Agency (NADA) Report, in 2023 there were 145,526 drug users and addicts, while in 2024 there was a surge of 32.5% in the number of reported cases.

3.1 Types of Drugs

In an effort to understand the dangers of drugs as a whole, it is necessary to have an understanding that is not only conceptual, but also practical regarding the variety of substances that fall into the category of narcotics, psychotropics, and other addictive substances.

To provide a clearer picture of the classification of these dangerous substances, the following table is presented that summarizes the types of drugs based on their form, effects, and addictive potential:

Tabel 1. Types of Drugs

Types of Drugs	Group	Examples of Substances	Usage/Status	Main Effects
Drugs	Group I	Ganja, heroin, cocaine	Forbidden, not for treatment	Lowers consciousness, causes severe addiction
	Group II	Morfin, Petidin	Limited to medical and research	Pain relievers, risk of addiction

	Group III	Codeine	Medical use with supervision	Mild pain relievers
Psikotropika	Group I	Ecstasy, LSD	Forbidden, dangerous	Altering perception and awareness
	Group II	Amphetamine, Methamphetamine	Limited to medical, high risk	Stimulation of the central nervous system
	Group III	Tramadol, Diazepam	Medical use	Calms, lowers anxiety
	Group IV	Diazepam, Fenobarbital	Medical use	Sedative, sedative
Other Addictive Substances	-	Alcohol, Nicotine (cigarettes), Aibon Glue	Legal but dangerous if abused	Addiction, health disorders

3.2 The Dangers of Narcotics For Students

Narcotics are very dangerous for students because of their far-reaching and destructive impacts, both health, psychological, social, and legal. During development, the use of narcotics can permanently damage brain function, interfere with learning concentration, and decrease cognitive and emotional abilities which is very important in the educational process (Wheeler & Frankland, 2015).

In addition, the use of narcotics also causes psychiatric disorders such as anxiety, depression, and even hallucinations, which ultimately weaken thinking and self-control according to the opinions of Loff, Steffan, et al. (2019). Socially, students who use narcotics tend to experience isolation from the surrounding environment, face prolonged conflicts in the family, and are often disconnected from the world of education due to decreased achievement and discipline (Henry, 2008).

In the legal context, students who abuse narcotics are also at risk of getting caught up in criminal problems, both as users, illicit drug trafficking, theft, and violence (Barrado et al., 2024). This shows that narcotics abuse not only threatens the health of individuals, but also weakens the social and legal functions that are supposed to protect the younger generation.

From a legal perspective, students who are caught using or possessing narcotics can be subject to criminal sanctions, even if they fall under the category of minors (2016). Although the legal treatment of children is specifically regulated through Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the

Child Criminal Justice System, the fact that students have to deal with legal proceedings still imposes a heavy psychological burden and can hinder their future. Therefore, the danger of narcotics is a major challenge in law enforcement that must be addressed with a preventive, rehabilitative, and proportionate legal protection approach (Zulkarnain et al., 2023).

3.3 Factors Causing Narcotics Use Among Students

The phenomenon of drug abuse among students is becoming an increasingly worrying problem from time to time. The age of a student is a period of self-discovery that is vulnerable to influences from various directions, both from within oneself and from the surrounding environment. In this situation, drugs are often considered a shortcut to overcome psychological distress, family problems, and the need for social acceptance. As mentioned above, drug use not only damages students' health and academic future, but also ensnares them in complex legal issues. Therefore, to comprehensively understand the root causes of this problem, it is important to identify the causative factors that encourage students to engage in narcotics abuse.

3.4 Law and Regulations Related to Narcotics and Students

As explained above, related to the dangers of narcotics abuse to the factors behind the number of students who fall into drug circles, this is a serious problem that threatens the future of the nation, especially if it has touched students.

Realizing the impact caused, the state is present through various laws and regulations to deal with the narcotics problem comprehensively. The main goal is not only to crack down on narcotics crime offenders, but also to provide protection and guidance to children and adolescents who are entangled in the abuse or illicit circulation of narcotics (Laksana et al., 2025).

Drug abuse is a global problem that is not only faced by Indonesia, but also by many countries in the world (D'Aprile, 2022). Its broad impact on the younger generation has made this issue a common concern at the international level (Wilson et al., 2013). This approach is in line with the principle of child protection which is also adopted by various other countries, including Malaysia as a neighboring country that faces similar challenges in dealing with drug abuse among adolescents. Malaysia regulates this through the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, which focuses on the eradication of narcotics, as well as the Child Act 2001, which provides legal protection for children in conflict with the law, including in narcotics cases.

Thus, Indonesia and Malaysia are both facing this complex problem in an ever-evolving way. Both realize that students are a vulnerable group that must be saved, not just punished. This comparison gives an idea that the legal approach to students involved in narcotics cannot only rely on repressive aspects, but must also touch the humanitarian, educational, and rehabilitative sides.

Tabel 2. Comparison of Narcotics Abuse Treatment Policy by Students between Indonesia and Malaysia

Aspect	Indonesia	Malaysia
Main Legal Basis (Narcotics)	Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System	Dangerous Drugs Act 1952
Legal Basis for Children/Students	Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System	Child Act 2001 (Akta Kanak-Kanak 2001)
Approach to Students	• Rehabilitative and coaching • Different diutamakan • Juvenile justice is special	• Rehabilitative, but there is the potential for severe punishment depending on the role • Children's Court
Sanctions for Student Users	• Medical and social rehabilitation • Diversi • Counstruction	• Rehabilitation Placement in a child rehabilitation center
Sanctions for Student Distributors	Can still be criminally charged, but still in the juvenile justice system	It can be subject to severe punishment, even the death penalty, but special treatment for children is applied
The Role of Related State Institutions	• National Narcotics Agency • Police • Institution	• AADK (Agensi Antidadah Kebangsaan) • Polisi Diraja Malaysia • Institution

3.5 Effort to Prevent Narcotics Abuse in Students

Prevention is a very crucial main step in overcoming the problem of drug abuse among students. This effort aims to avoid students from the risk of being exposed to and using narcotics from an early age by building strong awareness and self-resilience. Here are some preventive steps that can be taken:

a. Education and Counseling in School

Education about the dangers of drugs needs to be integrated through routine counseling programs. Schools should also create a safe learning environment, establish anti-drug organizations, and train teachers to recognize early symptoms of drug abuse. (Jarraya et al., 2025).

b. The Role of the Family in Prevention

The role of parents is very important in building open and intensive communication with children, understanding every problem they face, and providing adequate attention and affection.

c. Strengthening Moral and Religious Values

Character education that instills moral and spiritual values can be a strong fortress for students in facing drug temptations (Umami et al., 2019).

d. Cooperation with the Community and Related Agencies

Through targeted and rehabilitation programs, the community can help build a drug-free environment and provide support for students who need help.

e. The Role of Students as Anti-Drug Agents

1. Be an example to friends
2. Create an anti-drug campaign in schools
3. Report drug abuse to the school

3.6 Analysis of Activity Results

The counseling themed *"Narcotics Is Not an Option: Education on the Dangers and Legal Rules for Students"* made a positive contribution to increasing students' awareness of the dangers of narcotics abuse. This activity was carried out in a hybrid manner at the Muhammadiyah Guidance Studio in Kampung Baru, Malaysia, and succeeded in reaching students from various social and educational backgrounds.

During the implementation, the enthusiasm of the participants was evident, especially in the interactive discussion and question and answer sessions. This shows that the material presented is relevant and needed by students, especially in terms of understanding the negative impact of narcotics and their legal consequences. The high interest in this topic also indicates that there is an information gap that has not been fully conveyed comprehensively in their educational environment.

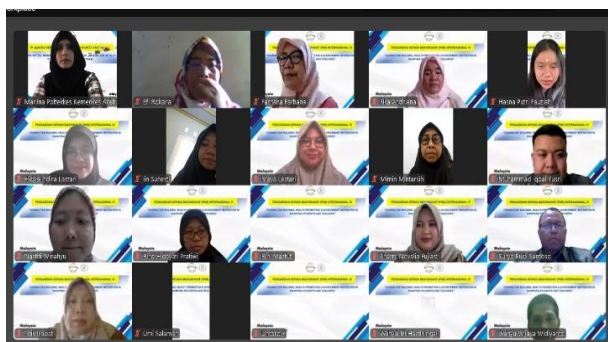


Figure 2. Participants in the Implementation of Activities



Figure 3. Material Presentation

This counseling not only provides an understanding of the dangers of narcotics from a health and social perspective, but also introduces legal aspects that are often overlooked in conventional counseling. The educational-preventive approach used has proven to be effective in conveying messages communicatively and building critical awareness among participants. By seeing positive responses from students, this activity has the potential to become a model of sustainable education, especially for Indonesian students abroad. It is hoped that this kind of counseling can significantly contribute to reducing the number of narcotics abuse among students by encouraging the formation of behavior that is more law-conscious and oriented towards healthy living.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Drug abuse today is very concerning because it does not look at age and background. In fact, students are now the target of drug trafficking. This also has a great effect on the damage to his future. For the reason of finding identity, drugs are often used as a "cool" place for young people or just as an escape from the problems faced without thinking about the impact in the future.
- b. Narcotics is not a solution, but a path to destruction, and recognize the dangers and the rule of law so as not to get entangled.

Recommendations

- a. Families need to create a safe and open environment through communication, supervision, and emotional support approaches so that children avoid drug abuse.
- b. Schools need to build an integrated prevention and handling system through regular education about the dangers of drugs, character development of students, training teachers and counselors in order to be able to detect early, deal wisely, and create a safe and drug-free learning environment.

The government needs to strengthen rehabilitative policies for students by providing child-friendly services, education and social reintegration programs, and strict supervision of drug trafficking around schools, so that students are treated as victims who need to be saved.

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