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Mira Hasti Hasmira and Suhai Ratu Rahmi

The 1st International Conference on Education, Sociology, Anthropology, and Communication (ICESAC) 2022

Delmira Syafrini, Reno Fernandes, Lia Amelia, Nurlizawati, Khairul Fahmi
(eds)

Community Labeling: Former Drug Convicts Become Drug Convicts Again

Mira Hasti Hasmira*, Suhai Ratu Rahmi

Departement Sociology, Faculty of Social Science, Universitas Negeri Padang, Padang, Indonesia

*e-mail: mirahhasti@fis.unp.ac.id

Abstract

This research was motivated by the discovery of information about ex-drug convicts at Class IIB Padang prison who returned to drug convicts after repeating the same incident. The purpose of this study was to analyze the influence of labels on the behavior of ex-convicts in drug cases. This study uses Howard Becker's stigma theory. The approach used is qualitative according to the type of case study. Research informants were identified through a purposive sampling method with the following criteria: Class IIB Padang prison, former drug convicts, families of ex-drug convicts, and communities where former drug convicts live. Data was collected through observation, interviews and document study. Data validity test includes reliability, transferability, reliability and control tests. Miles and Huberman's interactive analytical model was used for data analysis. The results showed that social stigma influenced the behavior of ex-drug convicts, such as feelings of fear of conforming, drug abuse and uncontrollable emotions.

Keywords:

Labeling, Former Convicts, Drugs

1 Introduction

In people's lives, all actions are limited by rules in acting and behaving in accordance with what is considered good by society. However, in the midst of community life, it is undeniable that there will be actions that are not in accordance with the rules that apply in society. The norms that apply in a particular society will become a habit, especially if it is supported by an environment that provides examples every day. Consciously or not, other groups will imitate these habits.

Perpetrators who violate values and norms will be given social sanctions and stigma by the community in the environment where the perpetrators live. Society often gives a negative stigma to perpetrators of deviance without exploring the truth. Stigma itself is defined in environmental assessment of certain individuals or groups. The ratings given are often negative. Stigma attached to a particular person or group often makes stigma recipients receive various discriminatory treatment from the majority group so that they feel rejected by their environment (Wijaya & Ananda, 2021). Like the label given by the community to former drug convicts in Lubuk Buaya Village, Koto Tengah District, Padang City.

The label given by society to ex-drug convicts is not without reason, but the labeling is given based on what society sees from the behavior of ex-drug convicts. Guidance for drug case convicts in Correctional Institutions is considered less effective because many convicts commit other crimes or are called recidivists (Kristianingsih et al., 2020).

So it is not too surprising that this has made it difficult for most ex-drug convicts to reintegrate into society. In addition, of course, the issue of negative stigma attached to the "label" of ex-drug convicts makes it difficult to get a job. If ex-convicts are not treated fairly as ordinary citizens who have made amends, then the worst result is that they will be able to repeat their crimes against the law.



Discussion of drug addiction can be found in some existing literature. Among them is Anjar Izzulhaq's study (2019) on the stigma of ex-convicts for cannabis abuse in the Serangi environment. The results of the study show that ex-convicts and their families receive unfavorable treatment from society and are labeled as people with social disabilities because of their criminal behavior (Izzulhaq, 2019). There are similarities between the research conducted by Anjar Izzulhaq and the research conducted by researchers, namely they both examined ex-convicts about drug addiction, but there were also differences in the subjects studied. Anjar Izzulhaq's research includes ex-convicts of all ages, while the research only targets the teenage age group.

In addition, research by I Kadek Adi Surya and Putu Eka Pitriyantini (2020) is entitled *The Role of Traditional Villages in Handling Drugs among Adolescents in Kediri Regency, Tabanan, Bali*. The results of the study show family or preventive (Surya & Pitriyantini, 2020), the similarity of the research conducted by I Kadek Adi Surya and Putu Eka Pitriyantini is that they both study drug addiction among young people. The difference in research problem I is about the role of the villages of Kadek Adi Surya and Putu Eka Pitriyantini Pakraman in overcoming drug addiction, but the research problem is about the stigmatization of the youth community of former drug addicts.

A study by Ayu Siti Marlina et al entitled "Experience of Juvenile Recidivists in Committing Crime in Kiaracandong District, Bandung" (2014). The results of the study show that the psychological and social effects of drug addicts include the tendency to commit crimes which can prevent the individual from repeating his actions and repeated punishments known as relapse (Marlina et al., 2014). This research is similar to research conducted by researchers, the same thing makes adolescents as objects of the difference also lies in the research subject Ayu Siti Marlina who examines the experiences of recidivist youth when committing crimes, while the researcher examines societal labeling of adolescent ex-convicts in drug cases.

Former convicts usually have good efforts to re-enter the environment, but good efforts do not necessarily produce good results. Accepting the existence of ex-convicts in their environment, society still considers ex-convicts to be bad people and always do bad things, so this assumption prevents ex-convicts from being accepted (Akhyar et al., 2014).

At first, the stigmatization of former drug addicts in society made many of them want to adapt and not be accepted by society. This sign is so powerful that it is difficult for them to stand a chance at being a good citizen. If the situation continues and ex-drug convicts feel they do not have support from the community to stop using drugs, it is very likely that they will repeat the same or even more serious mistakes (Rahmi, 2022).

This is what is interesting for this study: ex-convicts in drug cases who have done good in their environment have neglected their human rights, ex-convicts in drug cases should receive good acceptance by society but receive labeling and prejudice from society. Based on this description, the research on "Societal Labeling: Former Drug Convicts returns to Drug Convicts".

2 Method

This study uses a qualitative method. The choice of this method is because the phenomenon being investigated is a case that requires a thorough descriptive investigation. Qualitative research refers to research in which results are not obtained through numerical or statistical analysis of data, but through why those data emerge, such as drug addiction, a growing trend. Moleong, 2006, (Prastowo, 2011) explains that qualitative research is research that prioritizes research quality over quantity. Qualitative research with a case study approach is carried out by carefully examining individual interpretations of experience and understanding its meaning from the participant's perspective (Ezmir, 2010). The data collection technique used in this study was to obtain data in the form of primary data and secondary data through observation, interviews and documentary research. The research informants were selected using a purposive sampling technique, in which the researchers themselves identified the informants. In this research, I want to know about community labeling: former drug convicts return to drug convicts.

3. Results And Discussion

A former drug convict who initially tries to adjust to his environment. However, most people think that ex-convicts in drug cases are seen as troublemakers, so most people reject them and often discriminate against them. The community highlights from a negative perspective all forms of behavior and daily activities of ex-drug convicts who have been released from the Padang Class IIB State Detention Center, so that ex-drug convicts feel ostracized, or ostracized from society which has an impact on the behavior of ex-drug convicts who are considered as perpetrators of deviance. The impact of labeling on the behavior of ex-convicts in drug cases, among others:

3.1 Fear of Adapting.

Convicts in drug cases in Lubuk Buaya Village, Koto Tangah District, Padang City must be able to adapt again, and have the strength to survive difficulties in social life. Society has given a negative label to ex-convicts of drug cases. This is one of the factors that causes ex-convicts in drug cases to have fear in themselves to adapt when they return to the environment where they live. Thomas P. Lebel stated that "there are social problems regarding stigma, and discrimination against ex-convicts, namely when individual categories try to adapt, what they encounter is discrimination, and the result they face is distrust, hatred, and enmity. The impact of the labeling given by society to ex-convicts of drug cases makes ex-convicts of drug cases haunted by fear. Fear of not being accepted in society even though ex-convicts in drug cases have tried to be better, but these changes are not appreciated by the community, instead the community mocks, isolates, hates and even insults ex-convicts of narcotics as if ex-convicts are imprisoned for crimes that cannot be tolerated again. The results of this study indicate that every year hundreds of prisoners are released, and they find themselves discriminated against. The impact of the labeling given by society to ex-convicts of drug cases makes ex-convicts of drug cases haunted by fear. Fear of not being accepted in society even though ex-convicts in drug cases have tried to be better, but these changes are not appreciated by the community, instead the community mocks, isolates, hates and even insults ex-convicts of narcotics as if ex-convicts are imprisoned for crimes that cannot be tolerated again. The results of this study indicate that every year hundreds of prisoners are released, and they find themselves discriminated against. The impact of the labeling given by society to ex-convicts of drug cases makes ex-convicts of drug cases haunted by fear. Fear of not being accepted in society even though ex-convicts in drug cases have tried to be better, but these changes are not appreciated by the community, instead the community mocks, isolates, hates and even insults ex-convicts of narcotics as if ex-convicts are imprisoned for crimes that cannot be tolerated anymore. The results of this study indicate that every year hundreds of prisoners are released, and they find themselves discriminated against. However, this change was not appreciated by the community, instead the community mocked, ostracized, hated and even insulted ex-drug convicts as if ex-convicts were imprisoned for crimes that could no longer be tolerated. The results of this study indicate that every year hundreds of prisoners are released, and they find themselves discriminated against. However, this change was not appreciated by the community, instead the community mocked, ostracized, hated and even insulted ex-drug convicts as if ex-convicts were imprisoned for crimes that could no longer be tolerated. The results of this study indicate that every year hundreds of prisoners are released, and they find themselves discriminated against.

Based on the results of an interview with FR (19 years) on September 29, 2021 at 13.37 WIB, who is a former juvenile convict in drug cases, stated:

"... Because I was in prison for too long, when I was released, it felt a little awkward for me, especially when people looked at me with ugly eyes, so I chose to just shut myself up at home, afraid that when I got out, people wouldn't want to be close to me."

This opinion is supported by the results of an interview with RN (20 years) on September 30, 2021 at 15.33 WIB, who is a former juvenile convict in drug cases, stating:

“... I've tried to change my behavior for the better so that people don't think differently of me, but my efforts to change have always been the object of ridicule by people, such as not believing that I can stop using drugs”

This opinion is supported by the results of an interview with K (19 years) on September 29, 2021 at 16.10 WIB, who is a young ex-convict in drug cases, who stated:

“... Sometimes I feel surprised as if my case is very serious, even though it's a drug abuse case but I'm like a criminal, a murderer. He saw me full of hatred and fear even though I didn't interfere with their lives.”

Based on the results of interviews with the three informants, it can be concluded that the impact of labeling given by society to young ex-convicts of drug cases makes ex-convicts of drug cases haunted by a sense of fear. Fear of not being accepted in the community even though ex-convicts in drug cases have tried to be better, but this change is not appreciated by the community, on the contrary, the community ridicules, isolates, hates and even insults ex-convicts in drug cases as if the ex-convicts were imprisoned because of cases that can no longer be tolerated.

3.2 Repetitive Drug Use

There is a negative stigma against ex-convicts because there are still many convicts who always repeat the same mistakes as before, so that society in general looks down on them and has a negative attitude. Former convicts in drug cases in Lubuk Buaya Village, Koto Tengah District, Padang City were branded as heretical actors who tended to have the behavior of using drugs again by the community even though they had felt the cold iron bars while in Class IIB Padang Detention Center. The labeling given by society to ex-convicts of drug cases can have an impact on behavior that cannot change their habit of using drugs because ex-convicts of drug cases do not get support from the community to be able to change the behavior of their ex-convicts. Former convicts of drug cases have a desire to change because ex-convicts also have feelings of fear when imprisoned that they are always treated harshly by fellow inmates. He had hoped that this freedom would make things better, but in reality, that was not what he wanted. The community does not want to mingle with ex-convicts of drug cases, and friends who are always with ex-convicts are still the same friends who have been convicts of drug abuse cases. This is what makes ex-convicts of drug cases continue to use drugs because they are easily influenced if they still hang out with fellow former drug users. He had hoped that this freedom would make things better, but in reality, that was not what he wanted. The community does not want to mingle with ex-convicts of drug cases, and friends who are always with ex-convicts are still the same friends who have been convicts of drug abuse cases. This is what makes ex-convicts of drug cases continue to use drugs because they are easily influenced if they still hang out with fellow former drug users. He had hoped that this freedom would make things better, but in reality, that was not what he wanted. The community does not want to mingle with ex-convicts of drug cases, and friends who are always with ex-convicts are still the same friends who have been convicts of drug abuse cases. This is what makes ex-convicts of drug cases continue to use drugs because they are easily influenced if they still hang out with fellow former drug users.

Based on the results of an interview with BY (20 years) on October 1, 2021 at 13.21 WIB, who is a former juvenile convict in drug cases, stated:

“... There is an intention to stop, but because of circumstances that force me to keep using it. Yes, how come I don't still use try, my friend is just a friend who was both imprisoned in the same case as me, namely a drug case, other people who are the same age as me are forbidden by their parents to be friends with me. Because my friend is still the same person with the same behavior as me, so of course it's easy to influence me to keep wearing it.”

This opinion is supported by the results of an interview with FR (19 years) on September 29, 2021 at 13.37 WIB, who is a member of the community in the Lubuk Buaya Village, who stated:

“... If you say you're afraid, you're scared if you go to jail again, you're afraid not of being punished by prison officials, but you're afraid of fellow inmates who always treat me roughly when I'm in prison. But I don't know, I thought that when I was free I could be happier, apparently not, how can I be happy and change, while there are no people who remind me, everyone stays away from me”

This opinion is supported by the results of an interview with T (20 years) on September 18, 2021 at 16.20 WIB, who is a member of the community in Lubuk Buaya Village, who stated:

“... I am in the category who rarely leaves the house because of a case that has ensnared me. The problem is that when I leave the house, I'm sure people will look differently. One more thing, people don't even say hello, they don't want to see me, when they see me they pretend they're invisible when I leave the house. It's better if I stay at home

3.3 Uncontrollable Emotions.

Human behavior is essentially an activity rather than the man himself, behavior is also what is done, both that can be observed directly or indirectly. Where this means that behavior occurs when something is needed to cause a reaction, which is called a stimulus, thus a certain stimulus will produce a certain behavioral reaction. Public labeling of ex-drug convicts in Lubuk Buaya Village, Koto Tengah District, Padang City makes ex-drug convicts feel like people who are considered bad and will never change even though ex-drug convicts have the intention to change. This labeling has an impact on the behavior of ex-convicts in drug cases who are easily offended or unable to control their emotions properly. The label given by society to ex-convicts of drug cases makes them unable to control their emotions or feel angry when ex-convicts are gossiped about by the community about cases where they were once convicts. The pressure that ex-convicts experience in drug cases while in detention makes them irritable when they return to their homes. So when he is under pressure again when he is out of control, his emotions become unstable, and he gets angry easily.

Based on the results of an interview with AB (34 years) on October 2, 2021 at 15.11 WIB, who is a family of teenagers who were ex-convicts of drug cases, stated:

“... If my child is reprimanded for what he did wrong, he will immediately get emotional, even though I said it was fine, right? I also understand that maybe it's because he's at home, doesn't have friends. If he goes out he is lazy because society always looks bad at him”

This opinion is supported by the results of an interview with DR (45 years) on September 20, 2021 at 15.02 WIB, who is a family of teenagers who were ex-convicts of drug cases, who stated:

“... I don't know what my son did out there, once he had a fight with a friend his age who was in the same neighborhood, but I don't know what caused it. After that I asked him why he got into fights, then he replied that his friends made fun of him, so he was offended. In fact, his friend was just joking, but my son was involved in a drug case, so his emotions are often unstable.”

This opinion is supported by the results of an interview with EF (40 years) on September 21, 2021 at 13.46 WIB, who is a family of teenagers who were ex-convicts of drug cases, who stated:

“... Yes, the name of a drug user is definitely an empty mind. I also feel that because my son has already been jailed for drug cases, this makes him angry. Plus he also has to listen to gossip about him from society. Whereas I am only a mother whose child has been in prison, I have also become the subject of gossip, my emotions are also the result, especially my child who is being gossiped about, a drug abuser who has been in prison, and I don't know what it's like for people who use it, have been in prison and have suffered various punishments”

4 Conclusion

Based on the research objective with the title Community Labeling: Former Convicts Return to Drug Convicts, the conclusion obtained is that community labeling has an impact on the behavior of ex-convicts in drug cases. The impact is a feeling of fear of adapting to the surrounding environment because the label given by the community is very discriminatory towards ex-convicts of drug cases, they tend to repeat drug use because the label given by the community is seen as a form of indifference so that they assume that the mistakes made are not questioned by society, and Emotional behavior (anger) is out of control because of the labeling shown by society which discriminates against and always makes ex-convicts of drug cases as society's dregs.

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