

The Role of Intelligence in Tackling the Spread and Abuse of Hard Drugs in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Drug abuse in Indonesia continues to increase, especially among adolescents and young adults in medium-sized urban areas. This study aims to analyze the dynamics of distribution and evaluate the role of strategic intelligence in handling it. The method used is a qualitative literature study from scientific journals, policy reports, and secondary data. The main factors of abuse include socio-economic pressures, weak pharmaceutical supervision, and misuse of digital technology by illegal networks. Regions such as West Java, East Kalimantan, and South Sulawesi recorded a significant spike in cases. The impacts include health problems, increased crime, and economic burdens. Government policies have been directed at strengthening regulations and cross-agency cooperation, but still face obstacles such as limited technology and sector coordination. This study recommends the use of strategic intelligence based on big data and geospatial data to detect distribution patterns and support prevention and rehabilitation. The conclusion emphasizes the need for a cross-sectoral and evidence-based approach to formulate more adaptive and sustainable policies.

INTRODUCTION

The spread and abuse of hard drugs is a serious threat that requires urgent attention from various parties, including the government, law enforcement, and the community. Hard drugs, which should be used for medical purposes, are often abused, threatening individual health, as well as social and economic stability (Anggraini, 2016).

At the individual level, drug abuse causes physical and psychological dependence, damage to vital organs, mental disorders, and the risk of fatal overdose. BNN data from 2021 shows that more than 60% of drug users in Indonesia are aged 15-35 years, making young people the most vulnerable group (Wulandari et al., 2024).

From a law enforcement perspective, the distribution of hard drugs often involves organized criminal syndicates that utilize modern technology, such as the darknet and encrypted messaging applications, making it difficult to eradicate. This situation is increasingly concerning, with a significant increase in cases of hard drug abuse in Indonesia in recent years.

The graph above shows the number of cases of distribution and abuse of hard drugs in Indonesia for 2022 and 2023 taken from the National Police Education Center. The data is presented in the form of a line that illustrates the monthly trend for the two years. In 2022, it can be seen that the number of cases tends to be stable with some minor fluctuations. This trend continues to show fluctuations with a peak in August of 330 cases, before falling again and experiencing a steady decline until December, which recorded 194 cases (National Police Education Center, 2023).



Figure 1. Number of Cases of Distribution and Abuse of Hard Drugs in Indonesia

Source: National Police Education Center, 2023

Meanwhile, in 2023, the number of cases showed a more fluctuating trend. The number of cases remained high until mid-year, peaking again in August with 378 cases. From the comparison of the two years, it can be seen that the number of cases in 2023 was generally higher than in 2022, especially at the beginning of

the year and the middle of the year. The big spike in February and March 2023 indicates a significant increase in the distribution and abuse of hard drugs.

The abuse of hard drugs such as narcotics, psychotropics, and drugs with similar effects shows a complex trend despite increasingly strict supervision. According to BPOM, the abuse of pharmaceutical precursor drugs has decreased, but some drugs such as dextromethorphan and carisoprodol are now of concern because they have similar effects to narcotics and psychotropics. Hard drugs such as trihexyphenidyl, tramadol, chlorpromazine, and amitriptyline, which work on the central nervous system, if used outside of therapeutic doses can cause dependence and mental and behavioral disorders, such as hallucinations, paranoia, and euphoria.

The prevalence of narcotic-psychotropic drug abuse among students reached 3.4%, with 22% of them using hard drugs that have narcotic effects.(Ningrum et al., 2016). In 2023, cases of drug abuse in Indonesia increased by 10% from the previous year, reaching more than 1.5 million cases. Drugs such as methamphetamine, ecstasy, and opioids are often found in arrest operations, with increasingly sophisticated distribution methods, including through digital platforms.

The distribution of hard drugs is not only concentrated in DKI Jakarta, but also evenly distributed in various regions in Indonesia, such as Sumatra (15% increase) and East Java (12%) in 2023. This problem burdens the country financially, with billions of rupiah spent annually to handle it. According to the Coordinator of Indonesia Narcotics Watch (INW), this threat is even considered a form of non-military war against Indonesia. The impacts include increased crime rates, the destruction of family relationships, and heavy economic burdens, including medical costs, rehabilitation, and decreased work productivity.

The government has issued policies, such as Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, and BPOM Regulation No. 10 of 2019, to regulate and supervise the production and distribution of hard drugs. However, the main challenges in eradicating its distribution include limited resources, inadequate infrastructure, and weak data integration and communication between related institutions such as the Police, BNN, and BPOM.

The use of strategic intelligence is one of the main solutions. This strategy includes collecting, analyzing, and utilizing information to support law enforcement, understand the modus operandi of perpetrators, and plan more effective prevention and operations. With this approach, authorities can proactively identify threats and improve cross-agency coordination.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Strategic Intelligence

Intelligence plays a crucial role in supporting government and organizational decision-making through investigation, securing, and gathering information. According to Prunckun (2010) and McDowell (2008), intelligence involves collecting, analyzing, and presenting confidential information to provide early warnings and support quick, accurate decisions. Intelligence encompasses an information cycle process, including planning, collection,

examination, analysis, and dissemination, resulting in detailed reports or strategic analyses.

Strategic intelligence goes beyond mere data; it generates deep insights to support long-term strategies. This process requires a comprehensive understanding of internal and external factors, such as industry trends and competitive dynamics, to ensure business success or national security. Sahron (2019) emphasizes the importance of analyst integrity and objectivity in producing accurate intelligence products, while Supono (2009) highlights four main elements in the intelligence cycle: planning, collection, analysis, and policy-making.

According to the US Department (2005), the intelligence process consists of three main stages: (1) decision-making, relying on analytical information; (2) efficient planning to understand strategic issues; and (3) targeting strategies to wisely use resources. In business contexts, strategic intelligence is an essential tool to handle uncertainty, focusing on developing relevant long-term strategies. Its effectiveness depends on cross-divisional collaboration, access to relevant information, and applying insights to achieve organizational goals.

According to BPPI 2015 (Kemhan, 2015), threats are defined as any efforts or activities that endanger sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national safety, from both internal and external sources. These threats may be real or potential and form the basis for national security deterrence.

Henry Prunckun (2019), in *Counter Intelligence Theory and Practice*, defines threats as the determination or intent of individuals, groups, or states to cause harm to other entities. Threat analysis involves identifying "threat intent" and "threat capability." The goal is to recognize problems that might affect assets or personnel targeted by threats.

Concept of National Resilience

Resilience is the ability to face challenges, overcome obstacles, and recover from pressures, applicable at individual, community, and national levels. This concept covers various perspectives. Van Holk (2008) explains resilience as a complex process where a person not only overcomes difficulties but also creates and maintains a meaningful life. Resilience involves not just enduring challenges but actively growing and developing through difficult experiences.

Cutter et al. (2008) define resilience as a social system's capacity to respond and recover from disasters. This includes the system's ability to absorb impacts, reorganize, adapt, and learn from threats faced.

Fraser, Kirby, and Smoskouski (2004) classify resilience into three main types:

1. The ability to overcome obstacles by effectively facing and evaluating barriers with strategies.
2. The ability to maintain emotional balance under stress by staying focused and managing stress constructively.
3. The ability to recover from trauma by healing and returning to normal life with optimal physical and mental health.

Usman (2003) views resilience as the ability to remain stable across all life aspects amid change and instability. In a national context, resilience means the nation's capacity to endure various internal and external challenges and threats.

Armawi (2011) states that the concept of national resilience derives from "resilience," meaning strength, endurance, self-control, and firmness, and "national," referring to a population within a territory with governance and unity as a nation. Hence, national resilience is the ability of a country to maintain its survival despite disturbances, obstacles, and threats.

Usman (2003) adds that national resilience is framed by key questions about the strength a nation possesses to sustain its survival, the strength needed to withstand threats, and how resilience supports stability while allowing adaptability to change.

National resilience also has practical relevance in strategic intelligence analysis, especially related to threats like illegal drug trafficking. It includes the state's ability to maintain social stability, public security, and the integrity of the legal system against organized crime threats. Strategic intelligence analysis helps proactively identify, evaluate, and respond to such threats to keep the national resilience structure strong.

National resilience is not only a theoretical concept but also a practical foundation for designing effective strategies to protect society from drug abuse threats. These threats can disrupt social stability and national security. With the right strategic approach, a country can prevent organized crime infiltration, mitigate drug impacts, and ensure its socio-political structure remains robust despite major threats. Supported by strategic intelligence analysis, national resilience enables a country to maintain social balance and address changes that may threaten national security.

Prescription Drugs (Obat Keras)

According to Indonesia's Health Law No. 36 of 2009, a drug is defined as a substance or combination of substances, including biological products, used to influence or investigate physiological systems or pathological conditions for diagnosis, prevention, cure, recovery, health improvement, or contraception in humans. Katzung (2007) broadly describes a drug as a substance that chemically alters biological functions in the body.

Drugs have specific physical properties to function effectively, including solid, liquid, or gas forms, which relate to body pH and drug ionization degree. To ensure safety and proper use, drugs are classified by Indonesian Ministry of Health Regulation No. 1010/Menkes/Per/XI/2008 into categories such as over-the-counter drugs, limited over-the-counter drugs, prescription drugs (*obat keras*), psychotropics, narcotics, and mandatory pharmacy drugs (OWA).

Over-the-counter and limited over-the-counter drugs can be purchased without a doctor's prescription and are typically used for mild symptoms through self-medication. In contrast, prescription drugs require a doctor's prescription, except for those in the OWA category, which can be purchased in limited amounts without a prescription.

Prescription drugs are potent medicines marked with a red circle logo with a black border containing the letter "K." Historically, these were known as "G-list drugs" (gevaarlijk in Dutch), meaning dangerous. Prescription drugs are divided into categories:

1. List G: Includes antibiotics, antihypertensives, and antidiabetics.
2. List O: Includes anesthetics or narcotics.
3. Certain Prescription Drugs (OKT): Includes psychotropics like antipsychotics, sedatives, and sleeping pills.
4. Mandatory Pharmacy Drugs (OWA): Prescription drugs that can be purchased without a prescription, such as asthma medications, contraceptive pills, antihistamines, and some skin medications.

According to the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency (BPOM) Regulation No. 10 of 2019, prescription drugs commonly abused are those acting on the central nervous system, excluding narcotics and psychotropics. Overdose or misuse can lead to dependence and changes in mental and behavioral activities. Drugs prone to abuse include tramadol, trihexyphenidyl, chlorpromazine, amitriptyline, and haloperidol.

Supervision and management of prescription drugs are vital because misuse harms individuals and society. Strict regulations and public awareness are necessary to ensure drugs are used according to therapeutic doses recommended by healthcare professionals.

METHODOLOGY

This research is a type of qualitative research. According to Creswell(2018), qualitative methodology is seen as a form of research that produces descriptive data obtained through information obtained from research subjects, supplemented with data sourced from document studies. The data in this study uses the literature study method. Data collection through literature and documentation studies by citing and reading materials obtained directly or indirectly from various sources of literature and research related to the selection of research topics and problems using reciprocal relationships of information categories.(Creswell & Creswell, 2018).

RESEACRH RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Overview of the Distribution and Abuse of Hard Drugs in Indonesia

According to Chan et al.,(2022), Global research shows that the abuse of hard drugs such as opioids, sedatives, and stimulants is a significant public health problem, especially in Asia-Pacific, including Indonesia. The prevalence of prescription drug abuse in several countries in the region is similar to that of developed countries. In Indonesia, the distribution and abuse of hard drugs has become a serious issue that presents challenges for the Indonesian government. Based on data collected by the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), the number of hard drug abuses has continued to show an increasing trend in recent years.

The BNN annual report revealed that in 2021 there were around 4 million narcotics and psychotropic users, most of whom involved hard drugs such as benzodiazepines and tramadol.(National Narcotics Agency, 2021). This figure shows an escalation from previous years, indicating the need for more effective

strategic interventions to suppress the figure. Drug abuse increases every year and is related to the prevalence of mental disorders among users.(Sudarta et al., 2018).

In the last ten years, the pattern of the spread of hard drug abuse cases has also shown an interesting shift. If previously these cases were more commonly found in big cities such as Jakarta, Surabaya, and Medan, now abuse has spread to areas with medium urbanization levels. Regions such as West Java, East Kalimantan, and South Sulawesi have recorded a significant spike, especially among productive age groups, namely teenagers and young adults. This indicates that this problem is no longer concentrated in city centers, but has spread to more remote areas. Research conducted by Khairiyati(2015), found that Gorontalo Province recorded a high proportion of non-prescription drug storage among other provinces in Indonesia.

The problem of drug abuse in Indonesia is also influenced by the access to local pharmacies. Research conducted by Sari et al.,(2019), stated that drug abuse is more common in areas with low levels of pharmacy access. This study was conducted in the Yogyakarta area and found that the implementation of pharmaceutical standards in providing prescription services contained aspects that were not carried out related to data examination (weight, height, family history, medical history, treatment history, and allergies) and providing drug information (drug side effects, storage methods, foods and drinks to avoid). This is also supported by the opinion of Auliani et al.,(2023)which states that the use of hard drugs without a prescription is increasing in rural areas with low public awareness of the risks of these drugs.

The types of hard drugs that are most commonly abused also reflect consumption patterns that are influenced by availability and price. Tramadol, as one of the opioid analgesics that is often sold freely, is one of the most widely used. Khairiyati(2015), revealed that antibiotics and other hard drugs are the types most often stored and used without a prescription in Gorontalo. Meanwhile, research conducted by Janner (2013) stated that hard drugs such as Desperan and Stimulant were often misused in Bali. In addition, tranquilizers such as alprazolam and clonazepam are also often found in raids carried out by law enforcement officers. Both types of drugs are often used without a doctor's prescription, especially by individuals who want to reduce anxiety or experience sleep disorders, but end up with severe dependence.

Research conducted by Chan et al.,(2022), revealed Drugs such as diazepam, codeine, and alprazolam are the most commonly abused in Asian countries, including Indonesia. Most users abuse them for the purpose of relieving pain, helping sleep, or dealing with anxiety.

The relatively affordable price factor compared to other types of narcotics, as well as easy access through illegal pharmacies or online channels, further exacerbates the spread of these drugs. Not only that, changes in consumption patterns also show that groups of users are increasingly mixing hard drugs with other substances such as alcohol, which has the potential to increase the risk of overdose and dangerous side effects.

The ever-growing statistics, the widening geographic distribution patterns, and the prevalence of certain drugs indicate that drug abuse in Indonesia is a multidimensional phenomenon that requires a cross-sectoral approach. A deeper analysis of this data is essential to understand the root of the problem and to map out more targeted intervention steps.

Factors Causing the Spread and Abuse of Hard Drugs

The distribution and abuse of hard drugs in Indonesia does not occur randomly, but is the result of a complex interaction of various interrelated factors. Understanding these factors is essential to designing effective policies to prevent and address this problem.

One of the main causes is social, economic, and cultural factors. In the social aspect, the pressures of life faced by society, especially the productive age group, are often the main drivers for seeking escape through the use of hard drugs. According to Yi et al.,(2017) Social and economic pressures, especially in highly urbanized areas, drive the increase in hard drug use. Yi also said that cultural factors, such as the normalization of hard drug use for medical or recreational purposes, exacerbate the problem, especially among young people. Therefore, a permissive social environment towards the use of illicit substances also increases the risk of individuals falling into abuse.

From an economic perspective, poverty and income inequality are factors that worsen this situation. Hanifah(2007), in his research revealed that economic factors contribute to people's behavior, such as dependence on quick fixes (such as drugs) for health or social problems. Many individuals are driven to engage in hard drug distribution as an instant way to earn income, while consumers tend to come from groups who can afford to buy the drugs at affordable prices on the black market. Culturally, the stigma against seeking medical help for mental health disorders often leads people to choose shortcuts by taking hard drugs without a doctor's supervision.

Illegal trafficking networks play an important role in distributing hard drugs in society. The structure of these networks is usually highly organized, utilizing distribution channels that are difficult for law enforcement to reach. In a study conducted by Larance et al.,(2011), Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, is a hotspot for the illegal drug trade. Studies show that regulatory weaknesses and corruption in the pharmaceutical system allow hard drugs to enter the illegal market.

One of its characteristics is the use of digital technology, such as social media and instant messaging applications, to sell hard drugs online. This method not only increases the distribution reach, but also complicates tracking and law enforcement. This opinion is supported by research conducted by Clark et al.,(2021), which states that inconsistent regulations and weak pharmaceutical supervision provide space for the abuse of hard drugs. In several countries, including in Southeast Asia, pharmaceuticals are the main source of illegal distribution.

Weak legal regulations are also a loophole exploited by perpetrators of the distribution of hard drugs. Although there are regulations governing the

distribution of hard drugs, such as Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, implementation in the field often encounters obstacles. Auliani et al., (2023), stated that education about the risks of drug abuse is still very limited in many areas. In addition, the campaign on the dangers of drug abuse has not reached many levels of society, especially in rural areas. Thus, the lack of supervision of pharmacies and health facilities that have permits to sell hard drugs, as well as the lack of strict sanctions for violators, provides opportunities for abuse. In addition, low coordination between law enforcement agencies and weaknesses in the drug distribution recording and tracking system exacerbate this situation.

On the other hand, the low level of public education about the dangers of drug abuse is worsening the situation. Most individuals who consume hard drugs do not fully understand the long-term risks of such actions, including the potential for dependence, organ damage, and even death.

The lack of structured public education programs leaves the public vulnerable to misinformation, including the belief that using hard drugs can help them overcome stress or certain health problems quickly. Young age groups are often the main target because of their lack of understanding of the risks, coupled with their tendency to explore and peer influence. This is supported by research conducted by Sharma & Catterjee(2012), which states that inadequate public health campaigns and lack of access to reliable medical information are important factors in the high rates of drug and narcotic abuse.

The interaction between social, economic, cultural factors, the role of illegal trade networks, weak legal regulations, and low levels of public education illustrate the complexity of the problem of the spread and abuse of hard drugs in Indonesia. Each factor is interrelated and reinforces each other, creating ideal conditions for the spread of hard drug abuse in various levels of society.

Impact of Drug Abuse

Drug abuse not only has negative impacts on the individuals involved, but also has far-reaching consequences for society as a whole. These impacts include health, security, economic, and social aspects, making it a serious issue that requires multidimensional attention.

The impact on individuals, both physically and mentally, is the most immediate. In terms of physical health, the use of hard drugs in inappropriate or excessive doses can cause damage to organs such as the liver, kidneys, and heart. Benotsch et al.,(2014), states that Drug abuse contributes to increased risk of physical health disorders such as organ damage, seizures, and overdose. Mentally, the impacts include anxiety, depression, and increased risk of suicide.

For example, uncontrolled consumption of tramadol can trigger respiratory system disorders, to the risk of respiratory failure leading to death. In addition, some types of hard drugs, such as benzodiazepines, can cause sedative effects that interfere with body coordination and motor responses, increasing the risk of accidents. At a more chronic level, abuse of hard drugs often causes physical dependence, where the body loses the ability to function without the presence of the substance.

Mentally, the impact is no less serious. Abuse of hard drugs can cause mental disorders such as depression, excessive anxiety, and even psychosis. Papp & Blumenstock(2016), in his research stated that individuals who abuse hard drugs tend to have higher levels of psychological stress, as well as a close relationship with high-risk behaviors such as excessive alcohol consumption and unprotected sex. Individuals who experience dependence are often trapped in a cycle of increasingly intense use, accompanied by feelings of hopelessness and social isolation. In many cases, users experience cognitive impairment that affects their ability to make rational decisions, worsening their overall life conditions.

The impact on society also cannot be ignored. From a security perspective, drug abuse contributes to increased crime rates, both directly and indirectly. Ford & Wright(2017), found that there is a direct link between drug abuse and increased risk of involvement in criminal activity, including property and violent crimes. Offenders often use the proceeds of crime to fund their drug abuse habits. Dependent users often engage in criminal activities such as theft, robbery, or drug dealing to finance their habit. Furthermore, conflicts between drug trafficking networks often lead to violence in communities, creating a sense of insecurity.

The economic impact is also very significant. The costs incurred to deal with the problem of drug abuse, both through medical treatment and law enforcement, are enormous. The government allocates a significant budget for prevention and rehabilitation efforts for users, while community productivity decreases due to the loss of work ability of affected individuals. This is supported by the results of research conducted by Dave et al.,(2021), which states that Drug abuse has a significant impact on economic costs, including increased health costs and decreased labor productivity. It also increases the burden on the criminal justice system due to drug abuse cases.

In addition, society also bears an indirect burden in the form of damaged family structures due to destructive user behavior, including domestic violence and neglect of responsibility for children. Ford & Wright(2017), in his research stated that the social impact of drug abuse includes the destruction of family and community relationships. Drug abuse is often associated with increased domestic conflict and social disintegration.

In social aspects, drug abuse destroys harmony and stability of the community. The stigma against users often worsens their social isolation, making it difficult for individuals to get help or reintegrate into society. In the long term, drug abuse can create a generation that loses its maximum potential, considering the high prevalence of cases among productive age groups and adolescents.

The relationship between drug abuse and crime rates is one of the most striking aspects. Studies show that the majority of drug users are involved in criminal acts, either as perpetrators or victims. Addiction to hard drugs often drives individuals to take illegal actions to obtain drug supplies, such as stealing or selling illegal goods. On the other hand, users are also targets of exploitation by criminal syndicates who take advantage of their condition to expand their distribution networks. Data from the police indicate that crimes related to hard

drugs, such as illicit trafficking and violence related to drug debts, continue to increase along with the increasing consumption of hard drugs in society.

Overall, the impact of drug abuse goes beyond individual effects. This problem has broad implications for public health, security, and socio-economic stability. Therefore, handling it requires a comprehensive approach that includes aspects of prevention, law enforcement, and rehabilitation of users to minimize its impact on individuals and society.

The Role of Intelligence in Identifying Threats of Drug Distribution and Abuse

Intelligence plays a central role in identifying and mitigating the threat of drug trafficking and abuse. Through a variety of structured data collection methods, intelligence agencies are tasked with mapping trafficking networks, identifying distribution patterns, and preventing wider abuse. This work involves a variety of technical and collaborative approaches to ensure its effectiveness.

Research conducted by McKetin et al.,(2008), stated that Intelligence in Southeast Asia often uses data from regional drug surveillance networks, such as the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP), to analyze trends in drug trafficking and abuse. This data includes usage trends, trafficking routes, and regional distribution patterns.

Intelligence data collection methods include a variety of sophisticated surveillance and data analysis techniques. Surveillance is often used to monitor suspects' activities, including both physical and digital movements. Monitoring communications through phone tapping or analyzing metadata from instant messaging applications is one of the main tools for tracking hard drug trafficking networks. In addition, intelligence uses big data analysis technology to identify suspicious transaction patterns in online marketplaces, which are often used by syndicates to sell hard drugs illegally.

Collaboration with international parties is also a key element in intelligence operations. Given that most hard drugs originate from international sources through cross-border smuggling, cooperation with international agencies such as Interpol and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is essential. In some cases, information exchanges with neighboring countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand have helped dismantle smuggling networks operating in the Southeast Asian region. These efforts include intelligence sharing, joint cross-border operations, and joint training to enhance surveillance capabilities.

One of the prominent case studies regarding the success of intelligence intervention is the disclosure of a hard drug trafficking network in the Yogyakarta region in 2021. A total of eight people were successfully arrested by the ranks of the DIY Regional Police's Drug Investigation Directorate after being involved in an illegal hard drug distribution network across provinces. A total of 1,388,150 illegal hard drug pills were confiscated from all the suspects. From the interrogation carried out, the suspects admitted to having obtained the pills from another suspect in the Langkat area of North Sumatra.

However, while various methods and collaborations have shown positive results, intelligence faces a number of significant obstacles in identifying threats. One major obstacle is the evolution of the operational techniques of hard drug trafficking networks. Syndicates are increasingly relying on technology and trafficking routes often use unconventional methods, such as the use of app-based logistics services or independent couriers, which are difficult to track without direct access to third-party data.

Lack of resources is also a major challenge for intelligence in Indonesia. Limited technological infrastructure, the number of personnel that is not commensurate with the scale of the threat, and budget constraints often hamper the effectiveness of operations. In addition, coordination between law enforcement agencies and intelligence agencies does not always run smoothly, which causes delays in taking action. This is exacerbated by bureaucracy that sometimes complicates the process of sharing data between agencies. The same thing also happened in Vietnam, a study conducted by Vuong et al.,(2017) stated that in Vietnam Intelligence often lacks the technological resources to analyze hard drug trade data in real-time, especially to monitor digital distribution through online platforms.

The role of intelligence in dealing with the threat of the spread and abuse of hard drugs cannot be denied. However, to increase its effectiveness, it is necessary to strengthen technological infrastructure, increase personnel capacity, and better coordination between national and international institutions. With these steps, intelligence operations can be more effective in anticipating and addressing the ever-evolving threat.

Strategy for Prevention and Handling of Threats of Distribution and Abuse of Hard Drugs

Efforts to prevent and handle the threat of the spread and abuse of hard drugs in Indonesia have involved various strategies implemented by law enforcement officers, intelligence agencies, and other stakeholders. The success of these strategies is highly dependent on the effectiveness of their implementation, the use of advanced technology, cross-sector collaboration, and a sustainable educational approach. McKetin et al.,(2008), in his research stated that programs such as the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP) have helped Southeast Asian countries, including Indonesia, monitor and reduce the trade in hard drugs. This program is effective in detecting illegal distribution patterns of hard drugs in the region.

The effectiveness of the strategies implemented by law enforcement and intelligence agencies has shown mixed results. Law enforcement operations conducted by the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) together with the police have succeeded in arresting a number of key perpetrators and confiscating large quantities of hard drugs. For example, in recent years, there has been an increase in the number of disclosures of cross-border smuggling cases thanks to the use of digital surveillance and infiltration of syndicate networks. However, although such operations have succeeded in reducing supply in the market, the sustainability of their impact is still questionable due to high demand at the community level. In addition, handling of addicted users is often less than

optimal due to limited rehabilitation facilities, which should be an integral part of this strategy.

The role of technology in supporting intelligence analysis has become an important element in strengthening prevention strategies. Big data and artificial intelligence-based technologies are used to process large amounts of data, enabling faster and more accurate analysis of the distribution patterns and activities of hard drug trafficking networks. This is supported by the results of research conducted by Chan et al.,(2022), stating that Technologies such as big data analysis and digital tracking have been used to monitor the movement of hard drugs through online and physical networks, which helps speed up the process of detecting illegal trade networks. In addition, the use of geospatial technology helps map distribution routes and identify vulnerable areas. This technology also helps in detecting suspicious transactions conducted through e-commerce platforms or social media, which are increasingly being used as distribution channels for hard drugs.

The importance of collaboration between intelligence, civil society and international agencies cannot be overlooked in this strategy. Cross-sector collaboration is needed to address the complexity of trafficking networks that often involve multiple actors and jurisdictions. At the international level, cooperation with organizations such as Interpol and ASEAN Narcotics Cooperation facilitates the exchange of information and the implementation of joint operations to arrest transnational perpetrators. At the national level, involving communities in prevention plays a critical role, especially through community reporting initiatives that enable early detection of suspicious activity in the surrounding environment. In this regard, educating the community about the signs of drug trafficking and how to report it is an equally important step.

An education-based approach to preventing drug abuse at the community level is strategic in the long term. Stone(2015), in his research revealed that public education through awareness campaigns about the dangers of drug abuse has proven effective in reducing the rate of abuse, especially among teenagers. Libretto et al.,(2005), stated that instilling anti-drug abuse values at school level helps prevent young people from engaging in illegal drug use. This education includes increasing public awareness of the risks and impacts of drug use, both in terms of health and social aspects. Public campaigns targeting vulnerable age groups, such as adolescents and young adults, are essential to building early understanding.

This education can be done through various media, ranging from seminars in schools and universities, television programs, to relevant digital content. In addition, the involvement of community and religious leaders in voicing the dangers of drug abuse can expand the reach of this educational campaign. Beyond education, community-based rehabilitation programs are also an important component. By providing easier and more inclusive access for users who want to get out of dependence, this program focuses not only on physical healing, but also on social reintegration. This aims to break the cycle of abuse and prevent users from falling back into the trafficking network.

The strategy for preventing and handling the threat of the spread and abuse of hard drugs requires a holistic approach that combines technology, cross-sector cooperation, strict law enforcement, and community empowerment through education and rehabilitation. The integration of these elements is expected to create a more significant and sustainable impact in efforts to overcome this problem.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Drug abuse in Indonesia is a complex and growing public health problem, with its spread now extending to areas with medium urbanization levels. This phenomenon is influenced by various factors, ranging from social and economic pressures, limited access to mental health services, to weak regulation and supervision of drug distribution. The impact is not only felt by individuals in the form of physical and mental health damage, but also has significant social and economic consequences, such as increased crime, burden of treatment costs, and decreased community productivity.

Handling efforts must be carried out holistically, integrated, and sustainably through a cross-sectoral and technology-based approach. The government needs to strengthen regulations and supervision of pharmaceutical distribution, utilize big data and geospatial technology to detect distribution patterns, and expand international cooperation to eradicate cross-border trade. At the community level, public education must be increased to build awareness of the dangers of drug abuse, while community-based rehabilitation services need to be expanded and improved so that users can recover and function socially again.

ADVANCED RESEARCH

An advanced research initiative on drug abuse in Indonesia should focus on a multidimensional analysis integrating epidemiological data, socio-economic variables, and geospatial patterns to understand the evolving dynamics of substance use, particularly in semi-urban regions. Utilizing big data analytics and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), the study can map hotspots of drug distribution and consumption, identify socio-demographic vulnerabilities, and detect emerging trends in real time. This data-driven approach should be complemented by qualitative investigations into systemic factors such as gaps in mental health infrastructure, regulatory weaknesses, and community resilience mechanisms. Furthermore, the research should evaluate the effectiveness of current policy interventions, including rehabilitation models, law enforcement strategies, and public awareness campaigns, while exploring innovative, tech-based prevention programs tailored to local contexts. Cross-sectoral collaboration engaging health, education, law enforcement, and civil society would be assessed for synergy and sustainability. By generating evidence-based policy recommendations, the research aims to support the development of a holistic, integrated, and scalable national strategy to reduce the prevalence and impact of drug abuse in Indonesia.

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