

CHAPTER 5

DISCUSSION, RECOMMENDATION, REFLECTION AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Introduction

This is the last chapter for the writing of a research thesis that studies the understanding of the perception of the Imam on drug addiction in Kuala Lumpur. In this chapter, the researcher will provide a conclusion of the study based on the data collection and findings and suggests recommendations for several research topics that need to be done in the future to improve the findings of this study. In this chapter, the researcher will begin with a discussion based on the data collection obtained through the interview. Then, the researcher will share in relation the topics that the study needs to do to improve the existing study. Finally, the researcher will make the conclusion of the research process.

5.2 Discussion of Findings

The purpose of this study is to look at the Imam's perception of drug addiction in Kuala Lumpur. This study aims to explore in-depth and identify an Imam's perception of drug addiction among their community, then understand factors that contribute to the formation of the Imam's attitude toward drug addicts, and finally, to explore the experience of Imam handling drug addicts at their respective mosques.

5.2.1 Overview of Findings

The overview of findings is based on the research questions stated in chapter 1 of this study. The following is an overview of the findings:

a. Perceptions of Imam on drug addiction

The main discussion is to identify the perception of Imam on drug addiction in Kuala Lumpur, highlighting four themes which were: (1) self-harm, (2) bad behaviour, (3) broken family, and (4) helplessness.

In this study, data gathered and analyzed, as in chapter 4, focused on Imam's perception of drug addiction; there haven't similarities with the past study, like in chapter 2. This is because, in chapter 2, the study focuses on adolescent perception and the factors that influence it. There were seven questions asked to respondents to explore their perceptions of drug addiction which were:

1. Can you share your perception of drug addiction?
2. What influences your perception of drug addiction?
3. Can you share any drug addiction issue that is happening in your *qaryah*?
4. What have community services been provided by the mosque to combat drug addiction?
5. What are some of the challenges you have faced while combating the drug addict in your community?
6. In your opinion, what is the best solution to combat drug addiction?
7. In your opinion, as an Imam, what is the best way to help those involved with drug addiction?

As mentioned in the section above, since this is a qualitative study, the focus will be on the respondent's meaning of how Imams describe their perceptions of drug addiction in Kuala Lumpur.

b. Factors that formed Imam's attitude toward drug addiction

There have four themes which became the foundation of Imam's attitude on drug addiction in this study. The four themes are (1) responsibility of the Imam, (2) religious decree, (3) humanity, and (4) close persons. These themes show the factors how Imam's attitude toward drug addiction in Kuala Lumpur.

There were four questions asked to respondents to explore the factors that became the foundation of attitude on drug addiction as below:

1. What factors contribute to your attitude on drug addiction?
2. What is the Imam's responsibility to reduce drug addiction in the community?
3. How do you see drug addicts? Are they patients or criminals of the law?
4. Do you think jailing them helps to reduce drug addiction? Please explain your answer.

As mentioned in the section above, the focus will be on the respondent's meaning of how they define the factors that form their attitude toward drug addiction.

c. Experiences by Imam in handling drug addiction

On the experience side, there have three themes that became highpoint in this study. The three themes that finding in this research are (1) family problems, (2) aggressive attitude, and (3) menace to the community. All these themes become an experience for Imams while they are handled and faced with a drug addict and their family.

On this side, there have four questions asked to respondents to explore their experiences of Imams in handling drug addicts, as below:

1. Can you describe your experience handling drug addiction problems?
2. How do you feel when handling the drug addiction problem?
3. What is the experience that has given effect and shaped your perception of drug addiction?
4. Do you agree if your mosque becomes one of the centres for drug rehabilitation?

Explain your answer

As stated in the section above, the focus will be on the respondent's meaning of what is their experience in handling the drug addict in the mosque.

5.2.2 Discussion

As mentioned before, this research is a qualitative study to explore the in-depth perception of Imams on drug addiction in Kuala Lumpur. This part shows the discussion of findings from this study and highlights important issues as discussed below:

Firstly, the discussion focus on the perceptions of Imams on drug addiction. As we know that this study concentrates on three questions in terms of perception's Imams toward drug addiction, the attitude of Imams toward drug addiction, and last but not least, is experiences of Imam in handling drug addicts at mosques.

For the first question, the result shows that have four themes from data analysis through interviews with seven respondents, namely (1) self-harm, (2) bad behaviour, (3) broken family, and (4) helplessness. These themes indicate what Imams perceive those drug addicts. Most research studied the perception of drugs or alcohol, for example, Students' Perceptions of Substance Abuse Among Secondary School Students in Malaysia and Perception and Views of Medical Students Regarding the extent of

Alcohol and Substance Abuse in the Community. These studies focus more on the perception of the drug itself, not on drug addiction. However, the study conducted by this researcher focuses more on the Imam's perception of those involved in drug addiction.

However, there are also studies on the perceptions of addicts, parents or families and society on drugs (Baik et al., 2004) and this study is conducted through quantitative methods. In this study, there are also studies on parents' perceptions and society on drug addiction. The study involved 500 parents or family members of addicts in serial centres in Johor. The findings of this study show that the level of relationship between parents and children before finding out that their children are involved in drug addiction is at a moderate level (77.8%), where parents or families do not love their children. They, no matter what, care and perhaps have a divorce problem between parents. Meanwhile, the findings also showed that the majority of society (69.5%) had a positive perception of drug addicts. Therefore, it is denied that there are still many in the community who still have prejudice toward drug addicts, including mosque Imams, which causes a gap between addicts and society. This indicates that there are similarities in that both samples show a bad perception of drug addiction.

In addition, previous research has shown that it focuses on adolescent perceptions of the use of substances and the factors that influence the use of these substances. There are as many as three themes that have been found in this study, namely: (1) adolescents' awareness of substance uses and associated harm; (2) gender role and image and (3) perceived factors affecting substance use among adolescents (Alhyas et al., 2015).

These three themes reflect adolescents' perceptions of drug use, for which this study was conducted in Abu Dhabi. Based on the results of this study, there are few

similarities between the findings in chapter 4, where adolescent realizes that the use of this drug will give a bad impression and self-harm.

Meanwhile, according to the question, which explores the factors that formed of Imam's attitude toward drug addiction, there has four themes, namely, (1) responsibility of the Imam, (2) religious decree, (3) humanity, and (4) close persons. All of these findings are factors that influence priests to help drug addicts coming to their mosque. Most of the studies found were studies related to factors that influence drug abuse, such as studies conducted in Saudi Arabia (Al-Haqwi, 2010). Therefore, the findings of the study in chapter 4 are new findings, which look at the factors that influence the attitude of helping the mosque Imams towards drug addicts, despite their perceptions, seeing these drug addicts have bad behaviour, but at the same time, the value and attitude of the humanitarian and the responsibility of the Imam made them help drug addicts in their area.

However, the researcher did not find any studies that discussed experiences in dealing with drug addicts and perhaps more research should be identified. Most studies focus on perceptions, factors, and effects of drug abuse in the community, such as studies conducted in Saudi Arabia about the perception among medical students in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, regarding alcohol and substance abuse in the community. Therefore, the Researcher thinks that the finding, as discussed in chapter 4, is a new finding which is seen from the perspective of the Imam's experience when dealing with drug addicts.

5.3 The implication of the Findings

Here, the researcher listed several of implication from this study:

- a. This study will be a reference for future studies to explore more deeply the role of mosques in assisting the recovery of drugs in the community.
- b. This study provides information to researchers about the extent of the views of the Imams toward drug addicts.
- c. This study raises the importance of mosque institutions and imams in helping the problem of drug recovery.
- d. This study helps researchers find out the reality of imams in mosques dealing with drug addicts.
- e. This study serves as a guide for developing a module for mosque committees to provide skills training to help with drug addiction problems in the community.

5.4 Recommendations for Future Research

This research focuses the discussion on the perception of Imam on drug addiction, and these recommendations are to improve and add the information in the future as below:

1. JAKIM has the Division of the Family, Social and Community; they should be leading the development of drug prevention and treatment manual and modules in line with Imams' roles. These manuals and modules can be used to train Imams and officers at mosques to educate the skills in implementing drug prevention and treatment programs in mosques.
2. The respondents of this study should be extended to all Imams of mosques in Malaysia, using quantitative research to obtain more detailed data on the perceptions

of Imams on drug addiction. This study is very necessary to strengthen the institution of the mosque, which has a big role in Islam.

3. JAKIM and JAIN need to establish strategic cooperation with relevant agencies such as AADK, KKM, and NGOs such as MADAC, and PEMADAM, to hold programs and make the mosque a centre for prevention and treatment for drug addicts around their particular mosques- respectively.
4. Imams and mosque committees need to strengthen awareness programs and change perceptions of the community so that the community can play their role in providing support in helping drug addicts go through their recovery process.

5.5 Researcher's Reflection

Research requires a lot of reference material to achieve the objectives of the research. This experience has built a strength in me to put this research as an important thing in my future career. Why do I mention that? When the research is carried out, we get a wide range of side information, not only the title information we want but much other information we will find when we read and refer to the resources we need.

It is undeniable that in order to address drug problems, it requires cooperation from all parties, including mosques agencies located at every location of community in Malaysia. Therefore, I see that the mosque has a vital role in Islam, as happened in the time of the Prophet SAW. The mosque is not only a place for prayer, but the mosque is also a centre of education and culture for the local community. From here, I think those mosque institutions need to be empowered to help address drug problems in their respective locations.

Therefore, to strengthen the mosque institution, imams and mosque committee members need to be given modular training and skills to ensure that prevention and

treatment programs are implemented at the mosque level. I am very confident that if the role of the mosque is strengthened, it can help drug addicts to recover, and at the same time, the local community will also be more aware of the dangers of drugs.

For me, the process of completing a study is not easy, and it requires a high level of sacrifice and commitment to complete it. Thanks also, I say to my supervisor, who always gave words of encouragement and the one I remember the most was being very tolerant as well as helping to provide guidance to complete this study.

In conclusion, finalizing this dissertation as a part of my master's study at USIM has improved the level of my English language skills, especially my writing and reading skills. This study also gave me a new experience in thesis methodology because of never known before. It also shows me how to apply my knowledge gained in counselling skills through the data collection method for this research study.

5.6 Conclusion

This chapter discusses overviewing of the finding in chapter four, the implications of the findings, the recommendations for future research, and the reflection of the researcher. It also includes the objectives and big why of the research also included in the discussion, in which to explore in-depth the Imams' perception of drug addiction. What I would like to mention here is that studies related to the role of mosques in the community are very important because mosques are the lifeblood of the Muslim community in managing their daily affairs. Most drug addicts are Malays, of which almost 100% are Muslims. Therefore, this study should be carried out on a larger scale to elevate the role of the mosque as a centre for drug prevention and rehabilitation. Hence, Imams and all mosque staff should be given relevant skills training to provide continuous programs to the local community.