

CHAPTER I:

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher will discuss the basic idea underlining the study namely: background research, problem statement, purpose of the study, research questions, research hypotheses, operational definitions, significance of the study and limitation of the study.

1.2 Background Research

This study discusses the level of acceptance of the Drug Prevention Education Program (PPDa) and attitudes towards illicit drugs among secondary school students. The story of acceptance of the Drug Prevention Education Program (PPDa) and attitude towards illicit drugs is closely related. This study was conducted to determine the level of acceptance of the Drug Prevention Education Program and attitude towards illicit drugs among secondary school students.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2007), teenage involvement in drug abuse continues to be widespread throughout the world. As a result of the general use of recreational drugs, the desire to live independently, and the

pleasure derived from drug acquisition, teenagers in Western countries are increasingly vulnerable to the abuse of illicit substances. According to the study's findings conducted by Mahmood Nazar Mohamed et al. (2008), a similar trend is occurring in Malaysia.

Based on information obtained from the official website of the National Anti-Drug Agency (AADK, 2020), in 2019, the number of adolescents (13-18 years old) involved in drug abuse was only 431 people. The number seems to be small compared to the total number of addicts, in 20157 people. Nevertheless, the number of youths (19-39 years old) is astonishing as it is as many as 15033 people. However, these youths are former school students. The 34-fold increase in the number of addicts is an indication that there is a possibility that many cases of drug abuse in school are not reported. The school and parents refused to report matters involving students because of embarrassment or fear that the action might affect the future of the students. Thus, the actual case may be much higher than the official data available on the AADK. But the denial of the school and the parents will give a false picture of the harms of addiction among school students. It will also affect efforts to combat these symptoms among students.

Statistical data from AADK as of May 2016 showed that most of the school students detected with drug abuses were those from drug risk areas. The AADK has seen a total of 178 locations throughout Malaysia identified as high-risk areas involved with drugs, namely in the states of Perak (30), Johor (23), Negeri Sembilan (16), Selangor (15), Kedah (13), Kelantan (13), Pahang (12), Penang (11), WP Kuala Lumpur (10), Terengganu (10), Melaka (7), Sarawak (7) Sabah (7) and Perlis (4). The AADK also revealed that 1,017 (42%) out of 2,408 secondary schools in Malaysia had been identified as drug risk schools. In total, it was found that a total of 913,576 (41%) out of 2,188,525 secondary school students from all over Malaysia were identified as

having taken drugs or tested positive in urine. Most of those involved were from four and five students.

A survey study conducted in the Czech Republic found that as many as 37% of drug users are adolescents aged 15 to 19 years and are expected to record an increase every year (Abur, 2014). Drug abuses among adolescents have been a significant health and safety problem based on studies conducted among school students, college students, and adult adolescents over the past 25 years (Monti, Colby & O'Leary, 2001).

In this context, various efforts have been undertaken by multiple parties, especially the government, to address drug abuse. On 28th February 1983, the Cabinet Committee on Anti-Drugs declared 'Drugs the Main Enemy of the Nation'. The Ministry of Education Malaysia has been responsible for planning and implementing Drug Education and Prevention (PPDa) programs in schools. The task of planning and implementing PPDa programs occur at the Ministry level and the State Education Department, and District Education Office. Together they hope to mobilize all their energies so that the aspirations of the Ministry of Education Malaysia, namely Drug-Free Schools 2012, can be achieved (*Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia, 2003*). However, as shown in the AADK statistics above, that desire has not been fulfilled. The actual number of drug abuse cases among students may be much higher than reported. Hence, we should all be asking, "Where lies the source of the problem?"

1.3 Problem Statement

The Drug Prevention Education Program (PPDa) is an ongoing effort to disseminate information and raise awareness on the dangers of drug abuse in schools. The Drug Prevention Education Program (PPDa) is focused on schools because the results of studies show that drug addicts started trying drugs when they were still in

school. The student's ages range from 13 to 17 years (Ais, 2013). Although the government and non-government agencies have arranged various programs to address this problem, it remains challenging to contain and is getting worse. Among the three social issues considered one of the country's number one enemies are drug abuse (Mohd Noorazam et al., 2009). Jones and colleagues (2007) and Morgan and colleagues (2002) mentioned that even though various prevention programs have existed, they seem to have little impact on society. This condition is very worrying because, without effective prevention programs, it is feared that the number of new addicts will increase day by day.

So, the question is, is it the fault of the school? The Ministry of Education Malaysia has gazette various PPDa programs that must be implemented by schools, among them are:

- a) *Program Skim Lencana Antidadah Pasukan Berpakaian Seragam Sekolah Menengah (SLAD),*
- b) *Program Mesej 5 Minit Antidadah,*
- c) *Program Ujian Urin Pelajar Sekolah*
- d) *Program Sumber dan Sudut atau Lorong PPDa.*

However, did the implementation of these programs receive good responses or acceptance from the students? If schools only implement PPDa programs because they were compelled to do so, in other words, *lepaskan batuk di tangga*, the level of student acceptance may be low. The result is that the program will not have any impact on students. Thus, this study is an effort to identify student acceptance of the PPDa program implemented in schools.

In addition, the researcher will also endeavor to determine the attitude of the respondents toward illicit drugs. The government would want the citizens to hate the

illicit usage of drugs. Thus, the researcher would like to know if implementing the various PPDa has produced the desired effect. What is the relationship between the level of acceptance with PPDa and the attitude towards illicit drugs? The researcher will also endeavor to determine the attitude of the respondents toward illicit drugs. The government would want the citizens to hate illicit drugs usage. Thus, the researcher would like to know if implementing the various PPDa has produced the desired effect. What is the relationship between the level of acceptance with PPDa and the attitude towards illicit drugs?

1.4 Purpose of The Study

- 1.4.1 To identify the level of students' acceptance of the overall PPDa program.
- 1.4.2 To identify student attitudes towards illicit drugs.
- 1.4.3 To determine whether there is a significant difference in the level of acceptance of the overall PPDa program based on the student gender.
- 1.4.4 To determine whether there is a significant difference in student attitudes towards illicit drugs based on the student gender.
- 1.4.5 To determine whether there is a significant difference in the level of acceptance of the overall PPDa program based on the student socioeconomic status.
- 1.4.6 To determine whether there is a significant difference in student attitudes towards illicit drugs based on the student socioeconomic status.
- 1.4.7 To determine the relationship between the level of students' acceptance of the PPDa program with student attitudes towards illicit drugs.

1.5 Research Questions

- 1.5.1 What is the level of student acceptance of the overall PPDa program?
- 1.5.2 What is the student attitude towards illicit drugs?
- 1.5.3 Is there a significant difference in the level of acceptance of the overall PPDa program based on the student gender?
- 1.5.4 Is there a significant difference in student attitude towards illicit drugs based on the student genders?
- 1.5.5 Is there a significant difference in the level of acceptance of the overall PPDa program based on the student socioeconomic status?
- 1.5.6 Is there a significant difference in student attitudes towards illicit drugs based on the student socioeconomic status?
- 1.5.7 What is the relationship between the level of student acceptance of the PPDa program with the student attitude towards illicit drugs?

1.6 Research Hypothesis

The following null hypothesis are formulated from the research questions 1.5.4, 1.5.5 1.5.6 and 1.5.7 above.

- H₀₁ There is no significant difference in the level of acceptance of the overall PPDa program based on the student gender.
- H₀₂ There is no significant difference in student attitude towards illicit drugs based on the student gender.
- H₀₃ There is no significant difference in the level of acceptance of the overall PPDa program based on the student socioeconomic status.
- H₀₄ There is no significant difference in student attitudes towards illicit drugs based on the student socioeconomic status.

H₀₅ There is no significant relationship between the level of students' acceptance of the PPDa program with student attitudes towards illicit drugs.

1.7 Operational Definitions

For the purpose of this study the terms below are defined as follows.

1.7.1 Level of acceptance

The degree of positive acceptance which will include a sense of love, interest and acceptance naturally of the program implemented.

1.7.2 Drug Prevention Education Program (PPDa)

Refers to all drug prevention education programs implemented at the school level inclusive of *Program Skim Lencana Antidadah Pasukan Berpakaian Seragam Sekolah Menengah (SLAD)*, *Program Mesej Lima Minit Antidadah*, *Program Ujian Urin Pelajar Sekolah* dan juga *Program Sumber dan Sudut atau Lorong PPDa*.

1.7.3 *Program Skim Lencana Antidadah Pasukan Berpakaian Seragam Sekolah Menengah (SLAD)*

SLAD is one of the PPDa programs that has been recommended in the National Security Plan, Prime Minister's Department. Students who are members of uniformed teams such as Scouts, Girl Guides, Muslim Women's Movement, St. John Ambulance, and the Red Crescent Society are the main targets of the program. They are required to participate in anti-drug activities such as talks, poster drawing contests, writing anti-drug essays and collecting newspaper clippings. Their involvement is recorded by the students themselves in a Log Book which will be

provided free of charge by the MOE. The advisory teacher or teacher leader of the association will keep the log book. The participation of students in anti-drug activities will be given certain marks as required in the SLAD Log Book. According to Ministry of Education Malaysia, they will also be awarded the Anti -Drug Badge. This badge implies that these students have been actively and effectively involved in PPDa activities (*Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia, 1988*).

1.7.4 *Program Mesej Lima Minit Antidadah*

Program Mesej Lima Minit Antidadah is a program that is implemented twice a year in conjunction with the National Anti-Drug Day on February 19 and the International Anti-Drug Day on June 26 each year. Through this program, the Anti-Drug message can be conveyed to all students in particular and teachers in general quickly and thoroughly. The Five Minute Anti-Drug Message was published together with a module, the Five Minute Anti-Drug Book, which aims to help school teachers to convey information on drug education and prevention through various variations that are easily understood by school students. . In accordance with the method of implementation which is carried out for five minutes during the official assembly session involving all students and school staff. The modules in this Five Minute Anti -Drug Book can be applied to various genres that are sure to attract the attention of students. Materials arranged by week are also simplified with an interesting division of materials. In addition, not only the implementation of this program requires a short and compact time but it is able to provide a positive impact among students. Clear disclosure and

information on the adverse effects of cigarette, inhalant, drug, HIV or AIDS and alcohol addiction are also applied. According to Ministry of Education Malaysia, this module can also be used during co-curricular activities in the afternoon in addition to helping students discover the talents and potential of students in school. (*Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia, 1995*).

1.7.5 *Program Ujian Urin Pelajar Sekolah*

Program Ujian Urin Pelajar Sekolah is a process where the Ministry of Education Malaysia, and AADK conduct urine testing through the Urine Rapid Test method (strip paper) and laboratory methods. This rapid urine test method is a screening test while the laboratory urine test by the Hospital is a confirmation test. This method is a direct and practical initial prevention implemented by the Principal or Headmaster against students who have early signs of drug use. The detection method by using 'strip paper' is only for the purpose of detection so that students who are involved with drug use can be helped and rehabilitated. It should be emphasized that the action of performing the test is done by the AADK. The school only arranges for suspected students to be tested. All test results are confidential and are only communicated to parents so that follow-up action can be taken. (*Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia, 1998*).

1.7.6 *Program Sumber dan Sudut atau Lorong PPDa*

The next PPDa program is *Sumber dan Sudut atau Lorong PPDa* where the Daily School Management Division, Ministry of Education Malaysia has decided that every secondary and primary school create a

PPDa Resource Room or Lorong PPDa to further enhance efforts to disseminate information on drug abuse. This program provides an opportunity for schools to participate in the best Resource Room and Corner Management Award Competition or PPDa Lane held in (Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia, 2008). Several aspects will be evaluated in determining the best Resource Room Management and Corner or PPDa Lane. Among the aspects evaluated are the location aspect which includes the location of the source and the corner or lane of PPDa which is strategic and easily accessible by students. The next aspect evaluated is that the layout that includes the room has an interesting concept, neat furniture layout and creative material layout. Hygiene and safety aspects are also evaluated in determining the best Source Room Management and Corner or PPDa Hallway by having good lighting and ventilation features in the source room, the room has no harmful materials and also room cleanliness is maintained at all times.

1.7.7 Attitudes

An organized and learned set of beliefs and feeling towards some objects or situations. A predisposition to behave towards it in particular way. It consists of an affective, behavioral and cognitive component.

1.7.8 Illicit drugs

Illicit drugs use encompass the non-medical use of a wide range of drugs that are illegal under international law. These substances include amphetamine-type stimulants, cannabis, cocaine, heroin, and other opioids, as well as MDMA (ecstasy).

1.7.9 Secondary school

Secondary school refer to post elementary school that provide five (form 1 – 5) or seven years (form 1 – pre university) of education.

1.7.10 Gender

It refers to the sex of the respondent as stated in the identity card.

1.7.11 Social economic status

The total household monthly income of the respondent.

1.8 Significance of The Study

The result of this study will be useful to The Ministry of Education, especially the Pahang Education Department, District Education Offices, school principals and teachers. The information can be used as a guide in the implimentation of future PPDa programs.

1.9 Limitation of The Study

The result of the study may not be generalized to all secondary school students. This is because the sampling was done in selected schools in Pahang. Besides that, any significant relationship and differences found between variable in this study could not be implied as any causal relationship. Further studies using experimental design may be needed to establish any causal relationship.

1.10 Summary

The researcher admits that a study on level of acceptance of certain programs is not something that is commonly done. Thus, the researcher will have to do it using empirical data based on rather arbitrary values. Likewise, the measure of attitude

towards illicit drugs is also based on arbitrary values. Nevertheless, the researcher hopes that results from this study will open up further fruitful discussion in the field of prevention of drug abuses.

