

Mobilizing Foster Parents and Developing Positive Activities to Prevent Drug Abuse for Teenagers in Bandar Baru Village

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ABSTRACT

This service activity highlights the critical role of parenting in shaping children's character, including in preventing drug abuse and other deviant behaviours. Bandar Baru Village in Sibolangit Sub-district, Deli Serdang Regency, is an area with a high level of vulnerability to social problems among teenagers, such as promiscuity and drug abuse. Through a foster parent development program and the development of positive activities, this research offers a solution to prevent social deviance among adolescents in the village. The service methods used include preparing and implementing a foster parent program and developing extracurricular activities, such as Quran memorization and sewing skills. The program was designed to increase adolescents' involvement in valuable activities and support their positive character development. The results of the service showed that the program received a positive response from the community and contributed significantly to reducing the risk of drug abuse among adolescents. The active participation of foster parents and the involvement of adolescents in extracurricular activities strengthen relationships between individuals in the community and the commitment to positive values that can prevent deviant behaviour. Thus, this approach becomes an effective model for building safer and healthier communities for the younger generation.

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INTRODUCTION

Parenting plays a vital role in developing children's character and behaviour. Previous research has shown that parental involvement in children's lives is highly influential in the avoidance of negative behaviours, including drug abuse and other deviant behaviours (Sibuea & Ritonga, 2024; Mahmud et al., 2023). In Bandar Baru Village, Sibolangit Sub-district, Deli Serdang Regency, social problems among teenagers, such as drug abuse and free sex, are a significant concern. This area is known as a tourist area. However, it is also a location that is vulnerable to harmful activities due to the prostitution localization that the government has been trying to curb (Tribunnews, 2016).

Adolescents growing up in this environment are often exposed to behaviours that do not follow social norms. This condition is exacerbated by the low level of education and parental supervision and the lack of positive activities that can channel their energy and creativity. According to Bronfenbrenner (2013), a poor social environment can hurt children's development, especially during adolescence, a crucial period in forming self-identity. In addition, children from underprivileged families often experience difficulties in continuing their education, which in turn increases their risk of engaging in harmful activities.

To overcome these problems, a comprehensive approach is needed through the support of various parties, including the community and educational institutions. One effective strategy is mobilizing foster parents and developing positive activities that can provide alternative activities for adolescents. The foster parent program aims to provide financial and moral support for children in need so that they can continue their education and avoid deviant behaviour. In addition, extracurricular activities such as Quran memorization and sewing skills are designed to develop soft skills and distract adolescents from harmful activities (Purba & Sudarwati, 2024).

Implementing the foster parent support model and positive activities is based on community empowerment theory, emphasizing the importance of active community participation in overcoming social problems (Zimmerman, 2000). Through empowerment, communities are expected to be more independent and empowered in facing existing social challenges, including educating their younger generation (Thamrin et al., 2017). This study aims to identify the impact of the foster parent program and positive activities on the prevention of drug abuse among adolescents in Bandar Baru Village.

METHODOLOGY

The implementation of this service uses several strategic approaches:

1. Program Preparation and Socialization

The first stage is program socialization, which involves explaining the objectives and benefits of community service to the community and partners, namely the Al Hilal Bandar Baru Islamic Education Foundation. This socialization aims to build a shared understanding and commitment to program

2. Potential Mapping and Foster Parent Program Design

The next step is mapping the potential and designing the foster parent program. This activity involves identifying the problem, the target audience, and the approach strategy to garner support from foster parents. This process involves participatory discussions with partners and the local community to ensure the program is on target.

3. Development of Extracurricular Activities

The extracurricular program was designed to develop the skills of the youth, including a Quran memorization program and sewing skills. These activities aim to provide soft skills and divert teenagers' attention from harmful activities to more productive and valuable activities.

4. Providing Power and Stimulus

The last stage is providing power and stimulus through tools and materials to support implementing extracurricular activities. For example, sewing machines can be given to students taking sewing training. This provision is expected to increase the enthusiasm and commitment of adolescents to participate in the program.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

This Results and Discussion aims to provide a comprehensive overview of implementing a community service program that focuses on the role of foster parents and the development of positive activities to prevent drug abuse among adolescents in Bandar Baru Village, Sibolangit District, Deli Serdang Regency. Taking into account the social conditions and challenges teenagers face in the area, the program is designed to provide financial assistance through foster parents and empower teenagers through involvement in various activities that support the development of their skills and character.

This activity begins by outlining the implementation of the foster parent program, including the socialization process, the challenges faced, and the impact on the learning motivation of the children involved. Next, it discusses the development of extracurricular activities focused on Quran memorization and sewing skills, which aim to fill adolescents' free time with positive activities. The program is expected to be an alternative for teenagers to avoid risky environmental influences and nurture their potential.



Figure 1. Photo of Implementation of Community Service Activities

This activity will highlight the program's overall impact on drug abuse prevention and provide recommendations for its sustainability and future development. This analysis is supported by observational, interview, and survey data and reinforced with references from relevant previous studies. The discussion also emphasizes the importance of continued support from all relevant parties to ensure the program can continue to run and provide optimal benefits for adolescents and communities in Bandar Baru Village.

1. Implementation of the Foster Parent Program

The foster parent program began with socialization with the community and the partner, Al Hilal Islamic Education Foundation Bandar Baru. This socialization is essential to building community awareness and participation in the program. In the process, community enthusiasm was high, but there were challenges in terms of long-term commitment. Research shows that the success of a foster parent program is greatly influenced by the consistency and commitment of the foster parents (Losinski et al., 2013).

Through this program, several children from underprivileged families have been supported to continue their education. Foster parents provide financial and moral support, and they are expected to act as role models. The observation results showed increased learning motivation among the students who received the program. This aligns with the findings of Durlak and Weissberg (2007), who stated

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that positive social support can increase students' academic motivation and emotional well-being.

2. Development of Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular programs such as Quran memorization and sewing skills are implemented to fill adolescents' free time with positive activities. These activities aim to improve technical skills and build strong character and discipline among teenagers. For example, the Quran memorization program is designed to help students develop concentration, memory, and self-discipline, all essential to preventing deviant behaviour (Noddings, 2013).

On the other hand, sewing skills are expected to provide skills that can be utilized as a source of income in the future. The evaluation results showed that students involved in the sewing program improved in terms of technical skills and self-confidence. This supports Bandura's (1997) statement that practical skill development can increase self-efficacy, an essential factor in avoiding risky behaviour.

However, some challenges also arose in implementing this program. One of the biggest challenges is limited funding and the availability of competent instructors. Collaborating with various parties, including the private sector and non-governmental organizations, is crucial to overcome this. Research by Kretzmann and McKnight (1993) shows that effective community development requires the mobilization of local resources and a strong network of partnerships.

3. Impact on Drug Abuse Prevention

The impact of the foster parent program and positive activities on drug abuse prevention among adolescents in Bandar Baru Village is quite significant. Based on surveys and interviews with program participants, most teenagers feel more motivated to participate in positive activities and avoid risky environments. This is consistent with the findings of Hawkins et al. (1992), who stated that participation in positive activities could reduce adolescents' involvement in risky behaviours such as drug abuse.

The decrease in drug abuse cases among adolescents in Bandar Baru Village after the implementation of this program shows that the proper intervention can have a real impact. In addition, the program also helped strengthen the community's social support system, which is very important in creating an environment conducive to adolescent development. According to Sameroff and Fiese (2000), strong social support can buffer against various stressors, including pressure to engage in risky behaviours.

4. Recommendations for Program Sustainability

For program sustainability, efforts are needed to increase support from the local government and expand the network of foster parents and program partners. In addition, continuous evaluation and capacity building for instructors and facilitators of extracurricular activities must be conducted to ensure the program remains relevant and practical. Strengthening community capacity in program management is also essential to ensure the program can continue to run even without external support.

This service also suggests that the approach can be replicated in other areas with similar problems, with adjustments to the local context. Participatory approaches and community empowerment have proven effective in addressing social problems. With the proper support, programs like this can make a real contribution to the prevention of drug abuse among adolescents.

CONCLUSIONS

The community service program implemented in Bandar Baru Village, Sibolangit Sub-district, Deli Serdang Regency, achieved several vital objectives to prevent teenage drug abuse. Through the foster parent program, the learning motivation of adolescents who previously experienced various financial and social limitations increased significantly. The intervention provided not only material assistance but also much-needed moral and emotional support for adolescents facing daily life challenges. These results show that the role of foster parents is vital in building character and strengthening the fighting spirit of adolescents to achieve a better future.

In addition, the development of extracurricular activities such as Quran memorization and sewing skills proved effective in filling adolescents' spare time with valuable and positive activities. These activities provide helpful, practical skills and build the discipline, responsibility, and social skills adolescents need. Thus, the program can distract teenagers from risky environments and encourage them to make the most of their potential. The program shows encouraging results in terms of drug abuse prevention. Adolescents' active involvement in positive activities and consistent support from foster parents and the community are critical factors in building their resilience to adverse external influences. Data showing decreased cases of risky behaviour among adolescents involved in the program reinforce this.

However, long-term commitment from various parties, including the government, educational institutions, and local communities, is required to ensure sustainability and increase the program's impact. Future recommendations include expanding the foster parent program by increasing the number of participants, diversifying extracurricular activities according to adolescents' interests and needs, and increasing facilitators' capacity through ongoing training. With the right strategy and continuous support, this program is expected to become a drug abuse prevention intervention model that can be replicated in other areas with similar challenges.

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In conclusion, the intervention through the role of foster parents and the development of positive activities proved effective in improving the welfare and resilience of adolescents in Bandar Baru Village. This program not only provides a short-term solution but also contributes to building the foundation for a brighter future for adolescents free from the threat of drugs.

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