Factors Affecting the Spread of Narcotics in Simpang Dolok Village, Datuk Fifty District, Batubara Regency

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ABSTRACT
Narcotics abuse is a serious problem that affects society in various countries. This research focuses on identifying factors that contribute to the spread of narcotics in Simpang Dolok Village, a rural area in Batu Bara Regency. The research results highlight the importance of social and economic inequality, high levels of poverty, and the easy availability of narcotics in driving the spread of narcotics. Social factors, including peer pressure, also influence young people in this village to try narcotics. Apart from that, low public awareness about the dangers of narcotics, especially among the less educated, also supports the situation. Handling the problem of the spread of narcotics in Simpang Dolok Village requires a holistic approach that includes economic empowerment, stronger law enforcement, and better education programs about the risks of narcotics. Close cooperation between government, society, and other stakeholders is needed to overcome this problem. This research provides an in-depth understanding of the factors that influence the spread of narcotics at the village level, guiding more effective prevention and control efforts in Simpang Dolok Village and the surrounding area.

INTRODUCTION
The problem of drug abuse has become one of the main challenges faced by many countries around the world. Its damaging impact on society and the economy, as well as security threats, make the drug problem a top priority for governments, social institutions, and local communities. Batu Bara Regency, especially in Simpang Dolok Village located in Datuk Fifpuluh District, is no exception from the serious threat caused by the spread of narcotics.

This study aims to examine the factors that influence the spread of narcotics in Simpang Dolok Village. As a rural area, Simpang Dolok Village may have different characteristics and social dynamics compared to urban areas, which can affect the pattern of narcotics distribution specifically. A deep understanding of these factors will provide a solid foundation for designing more targeted prevention and coping strategies.

Factors influencing the spread of narcotics at the village level can include various aspects, such as the economic condition of the community, accessibility to education and employment, social dynamics within the community, as well as the role of narcotics distribution networks that may exist in the region. In addition, the active role of security forces and local government policies also play an important role in controlling the narcotics problem.
By understanding these factors, we can identify concrete steps that can be taken to address the narcotics problem in Simpang Dolok Village. These efforts should involve close collaboration between governments, social institutions, local communities, and various other stakeholders. With a focus on this region, this study hopes to provide valuable insights for efforts to prevent and control the spread of narcotics at the village level, which in turn can make a positive contribution to the welfare and security of the people of Simpang Dolok Village and Batu Bara Regency as a whole.

**RESEARCH METHOD**

Qualitative research methods that can be used to understand the factors that influence the occurrence of narcotics distribution in Simpang Dolok Village, Datuk Fifpuluh District, Batu Bara Regency can involve various approaches, such as in-depth interviews, participatory observation, and document analysis. First, in-depth interviews will be conducted involving villagers, community leaders, or individuals who have a deep understanding of the narcotics issue in the region. This interview will focus on their experiences, perceptions of the causes and effects of drug spread, as well as the efforts that have been made in addressing the problem.

Furthermore, participatory observation will be used to understand the social and cultural context in Simpang Dolok Village that can affect the spread of narcotics. Researchers will interact with local communities, observe daily activities, and record social dynamics that occur. In addition, document analysis will involve collecting data from sources such as police reports, health records, or local government data relevant to the spread of narcotics in the area. The collected qualitative data will be analyzed thematically to identify patterns, trends, and main factors affecting the problem of narcotics distribution in Simpang Dolok Village. This qualitative research method will help gain a deep understanding of the local context and the factors that influence the situation holistically.

**Location and Time of Implementation**

The service was held in Simpang Dolok Village, Datuk Fifty District, Batu Bara Regency. The time for the implementation of this service is for one month starting from July 18, 2023, to August 18, 2023.

**RESEARCH RESULTS**

This study aims to identify factors influencing the spread of narcotics in Simpang Dolok Village, a rural area in Batu Bara Regency. The results of this study provide an in-depth picture of the narcotics situation in this village and illustrate the factors that drive the spread of narcotics:

1. **Social and Economic Factors**
   One of the main factors affecting the spread of narcotics in Simpang Dolok Village is social and economic inequality among villagers. In interviews with villagers, it was revealed that economic inequality and opportunity can make some residents vulnerable to drug abuse. Economically disadvantaged individuals are more likely to seek an escape from their difficult reality by taking narcotics. High unemployment rates can also be a contributing factor to the spread of narcotics, as some individuals try to earn extra income by engaging in narcotics trafficking.

   In addition, there is also an important role of social factors in the spread of narcotics. The findings suggest that peer association and social pressure from peers may influence youth in these villages to try drugs. Some respondents stated that pressure from their social environment involved in drug use made them find it difficult to resist.

2. **Accessibility and Provision of Narcotics**
   The second significant factor is the availability and accessibility of narcotics in the region. Based on observations and interviews, it was found that there is a narcotics distribution network that has taken root in this village. This makes it easier for villagers, especially young people, to acquire narcotics with relative ease. The increase in narcotics production in the surrounding area has also increased the availability of narcotics in this village. This creates an environment where youth and other vulnerable individuals have easier access to narcotics.

3. **Education and Awareness**
   In addition to economic and social factors, education and the level of public awareness about the dangers of narcotics also play an important role in the spread of narcotics in Simpang Dolok Village. Respondents who have a higher level of education tend to be more aware of the risks of drug abuse and more likely to try to prevent them. However, there is still a low level of awareness about the dangers of narcotics among some villagers. This may be due to the lack of adequate outreach or education programs on the drug problem at the village level.
DISCUSSION

The discussion of the results of this study illustrates the importance of a deep understanding of the factors that influence the spread of narcotics in Simpang Dolok Village, which is a problem that affects the quality of life of residents and threatens social stability in this rural area. In this context, the factors that have been identified have a significant impact and should form the basis for formulating effective strategies and policies to address the problem of narcotics abuse in this village.

First of all, social and economic factors such as social and economic inequality, as well as high unemployment, play an important role in fueling the spread of narcotics. This inequality can create social and economic instability that becomes the backdrop for drug abuse. Therefore, efforts to combat the spread of narcotics in Simpang Dolok Village need to include components that focus on economic development and community empowerment, especially for those who are in unfavorable socio-economic conditions.

Second, the factor of accessibility and provision of narcotics reinforces the conclusion that tackling this problem must involve stronger law enforcement measures to reduce narcotics trafficking in villages. In addition, this approach should also be supported by rehabilitation and treatment programs for individuals entangled in drug abuse, focusing on their recovery and reintegration into society.

Finally, education and awareness are key factors in preventing the spread of narcotics. Increased awareness about the dangers of narcotics and better education about the negative consequences of drug abuse should be an integral part of this prevention strategy at the village level. Extension programs, awareness campaigns, and community capacity building in identifying and addressing drug problems should also be strengthened.

Overall, the results of this study provide a deeper understanding of the problem of narcotics distribution in Simpang Dolok Village. However, handling this problem is an ongoing effort that requires cooperation between the government, the community, and various related parties. Awareness of the complexity of the factors involved is the first step to formulating effective and sustainable solutions.

CONCLUSION

The distribution of narcotics in Simpang Dolok Village is a complex problem that is influenced by several social, economic, and educational factors. Social and economic inequality, high accessibility of narcotics, and lack of awareness about the dangers of narcotics are the main factors that need to be considered in efforts to overcome this problem. To overcome the spread of narcotics in Simpang Dolok Village, holistic action is needed that includes economic empowerment programs, prevention of narcotics abuse through education and public awareness, and increased law enforcement against narcotics distribution. These measures should be supported by close cooperation between governments, communities, and various relevant parties to achieve significant changes in reducing the spread of narcotics at the village level.

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