



IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 127 OF LAW NO. 35 OF 2009 ON NARCOTIC ABUSE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EARLY DETECTION OF URINE TESTS CASE STUDY OF NORTH SUMATERA PROVINCE BNN

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Article Info	Abstract
Article History Received : 2024-09-03 Revised: 2024-09-05 Published: 2024-10-01 Keywords: Implementation, Drug Abusers, National Narcotics Agency Urine Test	<i>This study examines the implementation of Article 127 of Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, especially in North Sumatra Province, with a focus on the use of urine tests as an early detection tool for drug abuse. Through doctrinal and qualitative research methods, this study integrates field data obtained from direct visits to the National Narcotics Agency of North Sumatra Province (BNNP Sumut). The results of the study indicate that urine tests have a significant role in early detection, but there are limitations in their effectiveness due to low sensitivity and specificity, as well as variability in results influenced by various factors. This study also explores the implementation of the rehabilitative approach regulated in the same article, finding that despite infrastructure and budget challenges, the rehabilitative approach is more effective in the long term compared to the criminal approach which often does not address addiction problems holistically. Recommendations from this study are the expansion of rehabilitation facilities, increasing budget allocation for rehabilitation, and developing a more comprehensive preventive approach involving education and public awareness about the dangers of drug abuse to reduce the prevalence of drug abuse in the community.</i>

I. INTRODUCTION

Article 1 In Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, the term Narcotics means:

- (1) Narcotics are substances or drugs derived from plants or non-plants, either synthetic or semi-synthetic, which can cause a decrease or change in consciousness, loss of feeling, reduce or eliminate pain, and can cause dependency, which are divided into groups as attached to this Law.

Narcotics have long been recognized as substances that have significant impacts both medically and socially. In general, narcotics are substances or drugs derived from plants or synthetically that can cause changes in thoughts, moods, and perceptions and can cause physical or psychological dependence if used excessively or not in accordance with medical provisions. Narcotics are classified into three groups based on their potential for abuse, where Group I is considered the most dangerous and has a very high potential for abuse and is not used in therapy in Indonesia, while Groups II and III have medical benefits but remain high risk if abused.

Uncontrolled drug use and drug abuse have become serious global problems due to their damaging effects on individuals and society at large. For individuals, drug abuse can cause a

variety of health, psychological, and social problems; while at the societal level, it can increase crime rates, reduce productivity, and burden health systems and law enforcement.

In Indonesia, the issue of narcotics is strictly regulated through Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics (hereinafter referred to as the Narcotics Law). This law provides a legal framework for the prevention and handling of narcotics abuse as well as rehabilitation for abusers. One of the crucial articles in this law is Article 127 of Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, which stipulates penalties for narcotics abusers with the intention of using it for themselves, which are differentiated based on the class of narcotics used.

Article 127

- (1) Any Abuser:
 - a. Class I narcotics for personal use are punishable by a maximum prison sentence of 4 (four) years;
 - b. Class II narcotics for oneself are punishable by a maximum imprisonment of 2 (two) years; and
 - c. Class III narcotics for personal use are punishable by a maximum prison sentence of 1 (one) year.

- (2) *In deciding a case as referred to in paragraph (1), the judge must pay attention to the provisions as referred to in Article 54, Article 55, and Article 103.*
- (3) *In the event that the Abuser as referred to in paragraph (1) can be proven or proven to be a victim of Narcotics abuse, the Abuser is required to undergo medical rehabilitation and social rehabilitation.*

Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics also includes rehabilitation aspects in handling drug abusers, recognizing that drug abuse is also a health problem that requires a medical and social approach, not just punishment. This is a paradigm shift from a punishment-focused approach to a more humanistic and rehabilitative approach, reflecting global trends in drug abuse management.

However, in practice, the implementation of these articles, especially Article 127 of Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics relating to the use of narcotics for oneself and the emphasis on rehabilitation, often encounters various challenges. These challenges can be in the form of a lack of rehabilitation facilities, a still high social stigma against drug abusers, and law enforcement policies that still tend to fluctuate and sometimes contradictory.

Therefore, this study aims to evaluate the implementation of Article 127 of Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics in North Sumatra Province, especially in the context of the use of urine tests as an early detection tool for drug abuse. This study is important because by understanding the implementation and effectiveness of this article, better policies and programs can be made to overcome drug problems. North Sumatra, as one of the provinces with quite high drug cases, is a strategic location to see how this article is implemented in practice and to what extent its effectiveness is within the framework of law enforcement and rehabilitation.

This study is expected to provide insight into the dynamics and complexity of drug abuse management in Indonesia, as well as identify strengths and weaknesses in current policies. Through an in-depth analysis of cases at the North Sumatra BNN, this study will contribute evidence-based recommendations for the formulation of more effective and responsive drug policies to the needs of drug abusers and the community in general. With two main questions, namely: To what extent is the effectiveness of urine testing as an early detection tool in identifying drug abuse

by the North Sumatra BNN? And How is the implementation of a rehabilitative approach in overcoming drug abuse compared to a criminal approach based on Article 127 of Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics in North Sumatra Province?

II. RESEARCH METHODS

This study adopts a doctrinal method, which in the legal context is often referred to as "legal research" or normative research. This method focuses on the analysis of primary legal materials such as laws, regulations, and jurisprudence, as well as secondary legal materials such as textbooks, journal articles, and others that are relevant to Article 127 of Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics. In order to increase the depth of the analysis, this study also integrates field data obtained through direct visits to the office of the National Narcotics Agency of North Sumatra Province (BNNP Sumut). Observations and interviews with officers and drug users undergoing rehabilitation will be conducted to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the implementation and challenges of existing legal provisions. The data collected will be analyzed using a qualitative approach to interpret the observed phenomena and draw conclusions regarding the effectiveness of the implementation of Article 127 in the context of rehabilitation and law enforcement. This analysis aims to provide evidence-based recommendations on improving policies and practices for handling drug abuse in North Sumatra

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. The Effectiveness of Urine Tests as an Early Detection Tool in Identifying Drug Abuse by the North Sumatra Province National Narcotics Agency

The National Narcotics Agency (BNN) of North Sumatra Province utilizes urine tests as one of the main strategies in early detection of drug abuse. In accordance with the Regulation of the National Narcotics Agency of the Republic of Indonesia Number 11 of 2018 concerning the Implementation of Urine Narcotics Tests for Early Detection, the main purpose of this test is to early identify the content of narcotics in a person's body, provide education, and increase public awareness and vigilance against the dangers of narcotics. However, the effectiveness of this method in legal practice and prevention of drug

abuse is often debated for various technical and legal reasons which will be explained further.

Urine tests are defined in BNN regulations as a testing method to determine whether someone has used narcotics. "Article 1 Paragraph (5)

Urine Narcotics Test is one of the Testing methods For know someone uses narcotics". This test is conducted not only as evidence in the legal process, but is more focused on Non Pro Justisia purposes, such as for internal company or agency needs in creating a work environment free from drug abuse.

Although urine tests are widely used, there are several significant limitations that affect their reliability as an early detection tool:

1. Sensitivity and Specificity: Urine tests rely on detecting drug metabolites that can persist in the body for a period of time after consumption. This means that the test may not identify very recent or very recent drug use, resulting in false positive or false negative results.
2. Variability of Results: Test results can be affected by a variety of factors, including dehydration, diet, use of certain medications, and individual health conditions that can alter the body's metabolism and urine excretion.
3. Substance Abuse: Reliance on urine testing alone without additional confirmation may lead to misinterpretation of chronic versus incidental drug use.

Research on the implementation of urine tests in North Sumatra shows that this test is often used in a series of socialization and training activities. However, there are concerns that without a more comprehensive approach, urine tests alone are not effective enough to prevent or take serious action against drug abuse.

The National Narcotics Agency (BNN) of North Sumatra Province utilizes urine tests as one of the main strategies in early detection of drug abuse. In accordance with the Regulation of the National Narcotics Agency of the Republic of Indonesia Number 11 of 2018 concerning the Implementation of Urine Narcotics Tests for Early Detection, the main purpose of this test is to early identify the narcotics content in a person's body, provide education, and increase public awareness and vigilance against the dangers of narcotics. However, the effectiveness of this method in legal practice and prevention of drug abuse is often debated for various technical and legal reasons.

Despite its limitations, urine testing has shown significant benefits in preventing the spread of drug abuse in the workplace. For example, several years ago, company "X" in North Sumatra conducted urine tests after experiencing a decline in crop production. The test results showed that 25% of employees tested positive for drug use. After routine early detection of urine tests, crop production began to recover, and the percentage of drug abuse decreased significantly.

The case of company "X" shows that although urine testing is not the most effective solution to prevent drug use as a whole, this method has a positive impact on reducing abuse in the workplace. By identifying drug users and providing early intervention, either through work discipline or rehabilitation, companies can restore productivity and reduce drug-related risks.

One of the biggest challenges in implementing urine testing is the limited budget for rehabilitation. According to data, around 50% of Indonesian prison inmates are related to drug cases, indicating an urgent need for effective rehabilitation. However, the budget allocated for rehabilitation is often insufficient, causing facilities to be unable to accommodate all those in need.

Urine testing, as an early detection tool, plays an important role in the drug abuse prevention strategy of the North Sumatra BNN. Despite its limitations, the use of this test has been proven to help reduce the incidence of drug abuse in several cases. It is important for the BNN and other stakeholders to continue to develop and improve this strategy, including ensuring sufficient budget for effective rehabilitation programs, so that it can further reduce the prevalence of drug abuse in the community.

B. Implementation of Article 127 of Law No. 35 of 2009 Against Narcotics Abusers in the Implementation of Early Detection of Urine Tests Case Study of the North Sumatra Province National Narcotics Agency

Handling of drug abuse in Indonesia, especially in North Sumatra Province, has involved various strategies, one of which is through a rehabilitative approach regulated in Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics. This approach is different from the criminal approach which focuses more on punishment. Article 127 of Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics specifically provides a legal framework for

handling individuals involved in drug abuse, directing them to medical and social rehabilitation rather than imprisonment. Article 123 Paragraph (3) In the event that the Abuser as referred to in paragraph (1) can be proven or proven to be a victim of Narcotics abuse, the Abuser is required to undergo medical rehabilitation and social rehabilitation.

Article 127 of Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics stipulates that drug abusers, especially those involved due to addiction, must undergo medical and social rehabilitation. This is a paradigm shift from punitive measures to more restorative and medical ones. This approach is based on the recognition that addiction is a disease that requires medical intervention, not just punishment.

Article 127

- (1) *Any Abuser:*
 - a. *Class I narcotics for personal use are punishable by a maximum prison sentence of 4 (four) years;*
 - b. *Class II narcotics for oneself are punishable by a maximum imprisonment of 2 (two) years; and*
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- (3) *In the event that the Abuser as referred to in paragraph (1) can be proven or proven to be a victim of Narcotics abuse, the Abuser is required to undergo medical rehabilitation and social rehabilitation.*

This rehabilitative approach is in line with the principles of restorative justice, which emphasizes restoration and healing rather than just punishment. According to Howard Zehr, restorative justice is a model that aims to restore relationships damaged by violations of the law, where perpetrators are given the opportunity to correct their mistakes through self-recovery and community recovery. In the context of drug abusers, rehabilitation provides an opportunity for them to recover from addiction and return to functioning productively in society.

In implementing Article 127 of Law No. 35 of 2009 in North Sumatra Province, the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) faces various challenges. One of the main challenges is the implementation of the early detection program of urine tests

which are an important part of the process of identifying drug abusers. This urine test is not only used to detect drug abuse but also as a preventive effort in detecting potential addiction early. The BNN of North Sumatra Province has attempted to develop this early detection program within a rehabilitative framework, where individuals who are indicated to be using narcotics are directed to undergo medical and social rehabilitation in accordance with the provisions of Article 127.

However, implementation in the field does not always run smoothly. The main challenges faced by the North Sumatra BNN include limited rehabilitation facilities, lack of trained human resources, and inadequate funding. For example, many individuals identified as drug abusers through urine tests cannot be immediately directed to rehabilitation centers due to the limited capacity of available rehabilitation centers. This results in a gap between the need for rehabilitation and the availability of services that can be provided.

In addition, there is still a strong social stigma against drug abusers, which often complicates rehabilitation efforts. The public tends to view drug abusers as criminals, rather than as individuals in need of medical and psychological help. This stigma also has an impact on the implementation of early detection programs for urine tests, where many people are reluctant to participate in this program for fear of being labeled as drug users.

Despite facing various challenges, the rehabilitation approach regulated in Article 127 of Law No. 35 of 2009 has shown positive results in several areas in North Sumatra. Based on a case study at one of the rehabilitation institutions in collaboration with the North Sumatra Provincial BNN, it was found that the relapse rate among addicts undergoing rehabilitation programs decreased significantly. This shows that a good rehabilitation program can help reduce drug addiction in a sustainable manner.

In the legal context, the rehabilitative approach also supports broader prevention efforts. Article 127 provides a clear legal basis for the handling of drug abusers through rehabilitation, and this is in line with the principle of restorative justice which is increasingly gaining attention in the modern criminal justice system. Handling drug abusers through medical and social rehabilitation not only provides benefits for the individuals concerned but also reduces the

burden on the criminal justice system and correctional institutions.

The criminal approach that ends with the imprisonment of drug users has shown various weaknesses, especially in terms of long-term effectiveness. Many former drug users, after being released from prison, are again involved in drug trafficking networks. Prisons that should be a place to provide a deterrent effect have instead become a place for the development of wider drug networks.

In the context of North Sumatra, overcapacity of correctional institutions is a serious problem that reflects the ineffectiveness of the criminal approach in dealing with drug abuse cases. As expressed by the Minister of Law and Human Rights, Yasonna Laoly, more than 50% of correctional institution inmates in Indonesia are drug convicts. This shows that the criminal approach has not only failed to address the problem of addiction but has also caused prisons to become overcrowded with drug offenders who should receive medical and social treatment. Richard Posner in his theory "Law and Economics" emphasizes that every legal policy must be supported by adequate resource allocation to achieve its goals. In this case, the rehabilitation policy regulated in Law No. 35 of 2009 requires sufficient budget support in order to be implemented effectively. Without adequate budget support, the rehabilitation program will not be able to accommodate all drug abusers who need help, and this will have an impact on the overall success of the program. In North Sumatra, the implementation of this rehabilitation faces various challenges, including the availability of facilities, trained human resources, and funding. However, there is evidence that this approach has brought positive changes. For example, in a case study at a rehabilitation institution in North Sumatra, it was found that the rehabilitation program had succeeded in reducing the relapse rate among drug addicts.

Research shows that good rehabilitation programs can reduce drug-related crime rates and improve the quality of life for recovering addicts. However, this effectiveness is highly dependent on the quality and consistency of the implementation of existing rehabilitation programs. In a legal context, a rehabilitative approach also supports prevention efforts, by educating the public about the dangers of drug abuse and supporting addicts' recovery.

Compared to the criminal approach that often ends with prison for drug abusers, the

rehabilitative approach offers a more sustainable, long-term solution. Prison may be a deterrent, but it often does not address the root cause of addiction. Rehabilitation, on the other hand, focuses not only on stopping drug use but also on the physical, psychological, and social recovery of the individual.

In practice, the implementation of the rehabilitative approach in North Sumatra requires synergy between the government, non-governmental organizations, and the general public. Programs such as the North Sumatra BNNP have attempted to integrate various resources and cross-sectoral cooperation to optimize rehabilitation outcomes.

The rehabilitative approach to handling drug abuse in North Sumatra offers a more humane and effective perspective in the long term compared to the criminal approach. However, the success of this approach is highly dependent on the full support of various parties, including the government, rehabilitation institutions, and the community. With continuous improvement in implementation and resource allocation, North Sumatra can be an example of how rehabilitation can work effectively in overcoming drug problems. In efforts to overcome drug abuse in Indonesia, especially in North Sumatra Province, the choice between the rehabilitative and criminal approaches has become a serious debate. The criminal approach, which often results in the imprisonment of drug users, has shown its weaknesses, especially when former users who are imprisoned become drug dealers after they are released. Prison, which should be a place to provide a deterrent effect and rehabilitation, often becomes a place for the development of a wider drug network.

Imprisoning drug users is not only ineffective, but also counterproductive. Many former users, after leaving prison, turn to drug dealers. This phenomenon reflects the failure of prisons to respond to the rehabilitation needs of drug users. Instead of curing their addiction, prisons deepen their involvement in the world of drugs. Overcrowding prisons with drug offenders only makes the situation worse, creating an environment where users can learn new and more dangerous ways to distribute drugs.

Overcrowded prisons are not just an administrative or logistical problem; they are a sign of the failure of criminal law policies in dealing with drug crimes. Rather than solving the problem, this approach simply moves the problem from one place to another without providing a

sustainable solution. Law No. 35 of 2009 on Narcotics, through Article 127, offers a more humane and sustainable alternative through medical and social rehabilitation for drug users. This approach recognizes that addiction is a disease that requires medical intervention, not just punitive measures. In a legal context, rehabilitation is more in line with the principle of restorative justice, which focuses on recovery rather than punishment.

The rehabilitative approach aims not only to cure addiction, but also to restore individuals physically, mentally, and socially. This is a more effective long-term solution, reducing the likelihood of relapse and reoffending that often occurs with imprisonment alone. However, the implementation of the rehabilitative approach in North Sumatra is not without challenges. Limited rehabilitation facilities, lack of trained human resources, and budget constraints are the main obstacles in implementing this approach. The government, in this case, needs to pay serious attention to the infrastructure and resources needed to support rehabilitation as the main alternative for drug users.

How can the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) be expected to combat drugs if they are not equipped with adequate "weapons"? Current budget and infrastructure limitations make the anti-drug war efforts half-hearted. As expressed by the Law and Economics theory, put forward by Richard Posner, every legal policy must be supported by adequate resource allocation to achieve its goals. Without adequate budget support, any legal efforts will fail to achieve the desired goals.

To truly succeed in the war on drugs, the government must establish a mandatory spending policy that is specifically allocated for drug control. This means that a significant portion of the state budget must be routinely and significantly allocated to strengthen the BNN, develop rehabilitation programs, and provide adequate facilities to accommodate and treat drug users. Only with a structured approach and supported by adequate funding can efforts to reduce drug abuse be effective and sustainable.

Handling drug abuse through a criminal approach has shown its failure, both in rehabilitating users and in preventing wider drug crimes. Rehabilitation, on the other hand, offers a more humane and sustainable solution. However, the success of this approach is highly dependent on full support from the government in the form of adequate infrastructure, human resources, and

budget. Without this support, the war on drugs will only be a half-hearted battle, which will ultimately fail to achieve its main objectives.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A residence permit granted by a country to a foreigner is a form of state sovereignty as a legal state that has full authority to determine and regulate the limitations for foreigners to live in a country. The permit is not a matter of a foreigner, but is a privilege granted by the state to foreigners. In addition, the limitations regarding residence permits are to protect the interests of the nation from various aspects. Efforts need to be made to provide more legal certainty in enforcing immigration law, especially in handling acts that exceed the time limit of a residence permit. Furthermore, it must be carried out by stakeholders.

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Urine testing as an early detection tool by the North Sumatra BNN has become a primary strategy to identify drug abuse. This test is applied not only for law enforcement purposes but also in preventive contexts, such as a drug-free work environment. Although urine testing offers significant benefits, especially in helping companies identify abusers and increase productivity after intervention, technical limitations such as variability of results and sensitivity pose challenges. The success of urine testing is highly dependent on the comprehensiveness of the program and support for the rehabilitation of drug users.

The implementation of Article 127 of Law No. 35 of 2009 in North Sumatra prioritizes a rehabilitative approach for drug abusers, which is recognized as a more humane approach compared to the criminal approach. Although medical and social rehabilitation have proven effective in reducing relapse, implementation in the field faces challenges, including limited rehabilitation facilities and social stigma. The rehabilitative approach requires full support from the government, especially in terms of budget and infrastructure, to ensure effective and comprehensive rehabilitation, as part of a long-term solution to overcoming drug abuse.

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