

## Original Article

# The Experiences of Former Injection Drug Users in Palembang City, Indonesia: A Phenomenology Study

**Budi Santoso, RN, PHN**

Polytechnic Health Science, Ministry of Health, Palembang, Indonesia

**Junaiti Sahar, RN, M.AppSC, PhD**

Department of Community Health Nursing, University of Indonesia, Depok, Indonesia

**Wiwin Wiarsih, RN, MN**

Department of Community Health Nursing, University of Indonesia, Depok, Indonesia

**Tantut Susanto, RN, PHN, PhD**

Department of Family and Community Health Nursing, School of Nursing, University of Jember, Jember, Indonesia

**Correspondence:** Tantut Susanto, RN, PHN, PhD, Department of Family and Community Health Nursing, School of Nursing, University of Jember. Jl. Kalimantan 37 Jember, Jawa Timur, 68121 Indonesia. Email: tantut\_s.psic@unej.ac.id

### Abstract

**Background:** Injection drug users have a high risk of various health problems, both physical and psychological, including HIV/AIDS infection. Problems experienced by this group do not only affect the members, but also the surrounding community. This study explored the experiences of former injection drug users in Palembang City of Indonesia.

**Method:** The study employed a descriptive phenomenological qualitative design. The participants were recruited using the purposive sampling technique. Research data were collected using open-ended questions and field notes. The interview guidelines were prepared based on the research objectives. They were further translated into a number of questions to explore the experiences of former injection drug users. The collected research data were transcribed and analyzed by using Colaizzi method (1978).

**Results:** This study identified nine experience themes, which are: the first reason of using drugs, reasons of continuing drug use, personal responses, parent responses, the values, bad impacts, meanings when using drugs, meaning after recovery, support from related parties.

**Conclusion and Recommendation:** Injection drug abuse is a habit that must be immediately prevented and overcome. It is suggested that the Government should conduct prevention efforts and eradicate drug abuse by involving the society.

**Keywords:** Injection drug, Drug users, Drug abuse; Phenomenology study

### Introduction

Injection drug users have a high risk of various health problems, both physical and psychological (Ritanti, 2010), including HIV/AIDS infection (NIDA, 2012). Problems experienced by this group do not only affect the members, but also the surrounding community (Ritanti et al. 2017). This issue poses a serious threat to the future of drug users and endangers the survival of the nation and state. In the city of Palembang, the number of injection drug users increases every

year. There has been no previous research focusing on the increasing trend. With regard to the phenomenon, it is necessary to explore the experience of former injection drug users the city of Palembang.

Health Data and Information from the 2016 Indonesian Health Profile indicate that the number of new AIDS patients in the Province of South Sumatra from 2014 to 2015 increased (Ministry of Health Indonesia, 2017). In 2014, there were 87 new cases; in 2015, there were 175

cases. Meanwhile, in 2016, the number decreased to 115 new cases. With regard to HIV cases, from 2014 to 2016, the number increased. In 2014, there were 252 new cases; in 2015, there were 265 new cases, and in 2016, there were 346 new cases (Ministry of Health Indonesia, 2017). In 2016, the number of AIDS cases in IDUs in South Sumatera was 2.6% (Ministry of Health Indonesia, 2017). According to data of the Control and Eradication of Diseases Division of Palembang City Health Office, the number of HIV cases in Palembang City in 2014 was 50 cases, while AIDS cases were 89 cases (Department of Health South Sumatera, 2014). This figure shows that the high rate of HIV/AIDS is induced by injecting drug use, so this requires serious management in reducing health problems in the community.

Injection drug users or IDUs (men and women) are prone to HIV infection. Based on the 2010 National AIDS Commission Report, there were ten regions that received the Harm Reduction/HR Bad Impact Reduction Program (Ritanti et al. 2017). One of them is South Sumatera Province where the number of IDUs is estimated to be 2033 to 8241 people (Department of Health South Sumatera, 2014). In 2010, cities which are strategic for monitoring the change of IDU behavior were also determined, consisting of eight cities namely Medan, Palembang, DKI Jakarta, Bandung, Semarang, Surabaya, Denpasar and Makassar (Ritanti et al. 2017). For this reason, the population of injection syringe users requires thorough attention in an effort to establish a form of health and nursing services in the community with a holistic and holistic approach.

Various efforts have been made by the city government of Palembang to overcome cases of drug abuse and minimize cases of HIV/AIDS infection among injection drug users. However, from year to year, cases of drug abuse, especially drug injection still increase (Department of Health South Sumatera, 2014). This condition is exacerbated by the behavior of risky groups of teenagers in Palembang City who still have a misconception about drugs such as using drugs as a medium of association (Dewi et al. 2014). This unique phenomenon has not been studied to reveal the root of the problem based on the experiences of participant to explore their experiences (Creswell, 2003), in particularly injection drug users in Palembang.

Community nurses, as part of the health profession, have a responsibility to play an active role in improving people's healthy living behavior (WHO, 2017). Community nurses have a role to help injection drug users gradually stop taking drugs through health promotion efforts (Royal College of Nursing, 2017). Community nurses play a role as educators, collaborators, advocates, and coordinators in helping the injection drug users (Royal College of Nursing, 2017). The results of his research indicate that the role of nurses, based on the five aspects, was seen as less dominant (Nafiaty, 2014).

The experience of injection drug users is explored using qualitative method, because experience is unique and certainly different from each individual (Stuebert & Carpenter, 1999). Therefore, the participants' experiences could not be quantitatively researched. A qualitative study is a study to investigate, discover, describe, and explain the qualities or features of unexplained social influences (Creswell, 2003), which cannot be measured or illustrated by quantitative approaches (Stuebert & Carpenter, 1999). Based on the phenomenon, the following research question is formulated: what is the meaning of the former users' experience in drug abuse in Palembang City?

## Methods

**Study design:** The approach used in this research is descriptive phenomenology based on Husserl philosophy used to express the meaning of human life experience based on the participants' perspective (Struebert & Carpenter, 1999). This research uses qualitative research method, that is a research procedure which intends to understand a phenomenon about what is experienced by research subjects, such as behavior, perception, motivation, and action holistically by a way of descriptions in the form of words and language (Creswell, 2003).

In seeing this essence with intuition, Husserl introduces a reduction approach, namely delaying all existing knowledge about objects before they are carried out. This reduction can also be interpreted as filtering or reduction. This reduction is one of the basic principles of phenomenological attitude, wherein to know something a phenomenologist is neutral by not using theories or understandings that exist so that the object is given the opportunity to talk about himself (Struebert & Carpenter, 1999); (Creswell, 2003).

Phenomenology is the science of the essence of the ideal consciousness and essence of objects as a correlation of consciousness. The question is how to keep these essences in their purity, because phenomenology really requires knowledge to consciously direct to pay attention to certain examples without theoretical prejudice through different experiences (Struebert & Carpenter, 1999); (Creswell, 2003). Therefore, phenomenology descriptive would be used to identify the experience of injection drug formers in Palembang city.

**Participants:** This study involved seven former injection drug users from Palembang city. They met the following criteria: (1) injection drug users who have followed the rehabilitation program at the time of the study, with the consideration of obtaining short-term educational process (minimum 3 months) to overcome recurrence; (2) they understand and are able to communicate in Indonesian language; and (3) they are willing to participate in the research, proven by a signed letter of approval. From the seven participants, 3 people were from Ar-rahman Drug Rehabilitation Institution and 4 people were recruited from the network of former injection drug users in Palembang City.

**Instruments:** This study uses the researcher himself as the main instrument of data collection. Other tools used to support the data collection process are interview guides, field notes, and tape recorders. The interview was conducted by asking the core question, "How is your experience as a former injection drug user?" The sub questions developed from the core question include: (1) what are the reasons underlying your experience as injection drug users?; (2) how do the former users respond to injection drug abuse?; (3) what are perceptions of former injection drug users related to the side effects and hazard/risks?; (4) what is the meaning of the former users' experience?; (5) what are the expectations of former injection drug users against the support of health workers, community leaders and local government in handling injection drug cases?

**Procedure:** The researcher obtained the research approval from the Faculty of Nursing, the University of Indonesia, which was addressed to the Head of the Narcotics Agency of Palembang City. Then, he requested a letter of introduction from from the Narcotics Agency of Palembang City addressed to the Drug Rehabilitation Nur

Ar-Rahman of Palembang City. After getting permission from the Head of Drug Rehabilitation Institution Ar-Rahman of Palembang City, the researcher selected prospective participants based on the criteria.

**Data analysis:** The data analysis of this study employed the steps of Colaizzi (1978 in Creswell, 2003), which are (1) describing the life experience studied (the researcher did it by compiling literature/studies related to the experience of former injection drug users; (2) collecting participants' descriptions of life experiences by conducting in-depth interviews and recording field notes from the seven participants; (3) reading all participants' descriptions of life experiences based on the interviews; (4) choosing significant statements by reading the transcripts, then selecting meaningful statements related to the research objectives; (5) articulating the meaning of each significant statement by selecting keywords, then composing it into a category of the participants' statements; (6) grouping meanings into theme groups by arranging the theme grid tables containing categories into sub-themes, and themes; (7) writing a deep picture/description; (8) validating the description by checking with the seven participants. Validation was done by returning the interview transcripts to each participant and asking the participants to check the accuracy of the transcripts; they were asked to give a check mark (v) if they agree with the quotes in the transcript; (9) incorporating the data that appeared during the validation into a final description. Finally, the researcher drew conclusions based on the themes. The conclusion of this study is not in the form of sentences, but in the form of themes that match the phenomenon of former injection drug users' experiences.

## Results

The participants of this study were seven former injection drug users. Each participant followed a one-time in-depth interview and data validation using Bahasa Indonesia as the language of instruction. All participants were men between 19 and 34 years old and lived in Palembang City. The levels of the participants' education varied from senior high school to undergraduate. Three participants were married and four others were single. Some of the participants had worked in the private sector. The first age of drug abuse varies from 13 to 17 years. 4 participants were

previous users of marijuana; 2 participants were users of *putaw*; and 1 participant was *inex* users. The duration of injection drug use varies from 2 months to 10 years. The results of this study

address the focus of the research, that is the exploration of the experiences of former injection drug users in the city of Palembang, which described in Table 1.

**Table 1. Themes identified based on the experiences of injection drugs users**

Significant Statements	Categorized	Themes
"... The first reason for using injecting drugs initially can be from friends at school ..." (P.1) "When I was graduated from high school, I moved to Jakarta, lived with my sister, made plan to continue college, in Jakarta I had taken lecture D.III of hospitality at Trisakti Tourism. At that time ..., well ... from there I started to know putaw, I know from friends at campus and also, that time it is very booming ..... "(P.3) "The first reason was ... .... at that time ... the driving factor was trial and error, I tried because of my friend ...." (P.4)	Influence of friends	The reason of using injection drug use
"... I do not understand, so there is an interest too ..." (P.4)	Curiosity	
"... Do not try drugs ... do not try drugs ... rich challenge, so ya ... (P.4) "... The information is not complete .. What is a drug? Just it... Do not try drugs ... Well, this is not complete ... "(P.4) "Do not try drugs ... well this is not complete, in the perspective of young people ... the impact is very varied, the impact on me ... I want to try ... I am challenged to try ...." (P.4)	Information challenging to try and incomplete information	
"... maybe it was because the need to increased the dose, make ordinary enough packet, this continues to increase, not enough, I end up using a syringe" (P.2)	boredom	
"... I start using injected drugs from grade 1 of high school, because the others (drugs) are not excited ..." (P.1) ".... At that time I live with my brother in Jakarta, ... ask for pocket money, tuition, given not in accordance with the needs that I want so you know, I really remember that time given ten thousand, because want to drunk, want to be relax ... what can be bought with ten thousand? Cannabis is boring, ineks, ecstasy not enough with ten thousand, and D,my friend said, his name putaw ... the way to use is injected "(P.3) "... because at that time, my position should be home continuously, from there I choose injection, why? Because the syringe is the most comfortable at home, while lying down ... "(P.7)		
"... it was in high school first, the stuff is available, marijuana, putaw, shabu, ... choose what is suitable." (P.4) "Information about how the user's use is available ... so I were given know how to inject it" (P.4)	Accessibility	
"When grade 3 high school there was a new item ... heroin ... putaw yaa ... who was just entering in Palembang .... nah ... finally I want to try the new stuff ..." ( P.4)	Trial and error	
"... I try to inject, Actually it's true ... until the stuff was a little felt ... well from there I continue to use syringes .." (P.2) "... the truth of the family condition is broken again." (P.2)	Family problems	

"Yes ... cheap ... more economical ... than other drugs... Using drugs only with money ten thousand has no tasted ... but by using injections it's enough." (P.3)	Economic factor	
"... The first time injecting, I do not know the danger, I do not know if there is no benefit at all ... I do not know ..." (P.4)	Knowledge about the drug	Personal response to injection drug use
"First I do not know ... the benefits and the danger ..." (P.3)		
"If I start using injecting drugs first, I do not know the benefits, the danger ..." (P.6)		
"... I do not know at all what risks arise ..." (P.4)		
"... the risk does not yet know that time .." (P.2)		
"... to access that information .... lazy, lazy, because in a position of dependency, the available information is ... small, so lazy" (P.4)		
"E.e ... less know ya ... because lack of information .." (P.5)		
"... because of lack of information, me and my friends so do not know .." (P.6)		
"... my body condition ... thin ... downhill ... so skinny ... I used to be fat, lose weight" (P.4)	physical change	
"... if physical, automatic weight loss ... downhill." (P.3)		
"... if the physical changes .... I used to be fat ... lose weight ..." (P.5)		
"... if the drug is inject, so use, directly lemes, can not do anything ..." (P.6)		
"... physical changes, inevitably decreased, for example easy lemes, thin intestine ..." (P.7)		
"... I am so lazy .." (P.4)	Changes in motivation	
"... lazy bath ... because water is an enemy to us first ... (P.3)		
"... I am so lazy, can not be productive ..." (P.6)		
"... I used to be clean, so ugly so .." (P.4)	Appearance	
".. I was not a person who likes thieves, like stealing .... so like stealing, so like thieves ...." (P.4)	Criminal behavior	
"... stealing, mugging, ever being a bookie ..." (P.2)		
"I ... had an anti-social, .... I relate only with people of the same background (fellow users)" (P.5)	Psychological changes	
"Put putaw it ... we feel have a world of its own, sometimes hyperactive, sometimes silent, labile so ..." (P.6)		
"... irritability, high temperament ..." (P.7)		
"... I am in a position of dependency ... every day waking up, thinking about how I can stuff .. get money .." (P.4)	The effects of dependence	
".... because of that dependency, ... what is in mind, how to get money to buy putaw .." (P.1)		
"... just to meet the needs of make it ... looking for money .." (P.2)		
"I entered rehabilitation .... first rehabilitation was in Inabah Suralaya, second rehabilitation was in Darut Tauhid Abdullah Gymnastiar, third rehabilitation outpatient was in RS. Ernaldi Bahar Palembang .." (P.4)	Efforts undertaken	



"... sent here a rehabilitation." (P.1)

"...try to go to rehabilitatin, taken to rehabilitation orphanage in Bogor area .." (P.2)

"... I was renovated in Bandung, in Sukabumi had also ..." (P.7)

".. i just try ... basically the intention .." (P.4)

"Well ... disappointed, because that time I was so heavy again, so I do not know what they rasain, I realize, a few days later I realized, yaa that .... parents .... disappointed .. cried ... "(P.4)

"I am in a state of dependence, parents finally know I use injecting drugs, and parents ...very hard .." (P.4)

"Parents ... shock ya .." (P.5)

"... Injecting drugs ... more comfortable, more fun, more fun, more fly and more comfortable than other types ..." (P.4)

"... After we use, we can be more fly, more relaxed ..." (P.5)

".. frankly ... much more delicious injections, ... we can be more relaxed, enjoy .." (P.6)

"..but after use it ... feeling more happy ..." (P.2)

"... well also yah ... the mind taste" (P.3)

"If you share it, you have HIV, if you share Hepatitis .." (P.4)

Disappointed

The danger is the adverse effect of injecting drug use

"... I am very sad ..." (P.4)

"..Putaw that hurt my heart ... (P.4)

"... Putaw it ngancurin my life .." (P.4)

"... if you have putaw ... hard to get out of suggestion" (P.4)

"... the injection drug ... I admit to impress ..." (P.1)

Meaning during injecting drug use

The former user's perception of side-effects and injecting drug hazards

The meaning of using injecting drug for former users

"... I can be better at work .. because I know what the feeling is .... people who refuse, families who stay away, in school is drop out ..." (P.4)

Meaning after recovery

"... many actions can be more humane, I know because I have experienced it ..." (P.4)

"I know how the putaw, the danger, ODnya .." (P.1)

"... I really know what HIV / AIDS is, what is stigma, what is discrimination, it takes me more than a year, to join the community again ...." (P.6)

"... Alhamdulillah, grateful also possible, if not ever using NAPZA ya may never know God, yaa ... sometimes take the meaning, maybe I using this is the will above, for my reprimand, maybe if I do not use, I do not know God times .... first of all, before using it also never worship, never ever pray, never ever reading Quran, so with this using, maybe this is my way, given the clue, finally i am be more closer to religion .. to Allah. I can be closer to religion ... to God "(P.2)

".... maybe from me ever use this drug, can make me keep closer to God, wisdom there, from there I can invite family, to close with God, anyway, essentially return to Allah , I keep closer to Allah .. (P.7)

".. i have intentions ... may be applied later ... want to have ... do not have big, want to have a community or community therapy .... special therapy community ... yaa later I can cooperation with the power experts .. (P.5)

"... in my time, the drug victim, blackmailed by the police, by the parties .. what ... apparatus yaa ..., exploited, squeezed, to chase their targets, but that was, the bottom line, that this victim the victim is the same as the bandar, please ... that destroyed the bandar, if this victim, try to be embraced, try in rehab, not imprisoned, because imprisoned it ... his knowledge is increasing in prison, even ... jailed it , goods more available, safer, more secure the safety, ... it's imprisoned there may be raids ..... "(P.4)

Police

Former drug users  
expectations on related party support

"If in my opinion for health services, if children putaw, if "sakau not giving medicine again, let him sakau, sakau also not dead, right now most if sakau in love medicine continue, later instead of his sakaunya, dependence with other drugs the plan to overcome the sakau, just turn around, just aja boong right ..? "(P.1)

Health workers

"... especially the health workers, it's ... still very tilted ... his views on the user, once he knows his former user, start ... his service is indifferent ... so in terms of his acceptance service, that's the outline , that most, ranging from doctors, it's ... it's lazy to take care of Drugs "(P.4)

"... do not be framed ... sometimes how? I never ngerasain in the oper - oper do not want to receive, because it knows the disease impact right ?, he nih use injection, fear spread to other people, whose name the health is already diajarin way do not you? give the right service, the fit, not be given ... dioper - oper like kayak .... "(P.2)

"If ... health care is yes ... this as far as I know myself? at the time we want to seek treatment, we say the same nurse or doctor, we are drug users, e.e ... most of this, I see, this sister always discriminate .... in essence, do not always discriminate against the drug people so .. "(P.7)

"The government is more concerned again, places, rehabilitation centers like this ... the edges, in Jakarta it already exists, because they are more central, marginal-edge of this right, many actually friends - friends who want to recover just because the place is not enough, how they want to get it, it's poor sometimes clay, their intention to recover but the place is not there "(P.2)

Local government

"... we want it, starting from methadone therapy, which is cheap, just under ten thousand, compared to the subokson that is seventy five thousand one seed, that ... how the service is complete, ranging from rehabilitation therapy, community therapy, something like that, komplitlah should be in Palembang yaa ... so, friends who want to treat it there is a choice so ... there is a choice, not just e.e ... just this, there is no other choice ... "( P.4)

Regarding Table 1, five themes that are identified from the first reason to use the drug are included: (1) the reason for using injection drugs; (2) personal response to injecting drug use; (3) the former user's perception of side-effects and injecting drug hazards; (4) the meaning of using

injecting drug for former users; and (5) former drug users expectations on related party support.

**Discussion**

***The reason for using injecting drugs***

Various reasons were put forward by the participants with regard to injection drug use that

influenced by friends in school environment as their peers. This may be explain that the influence of friends raises the desire of individuals rather than users to follow the invitation of friends to use inject drug. Because people who inject drugs (PWID) have never helped with first injections, they need some resources for prevent their using the drugs regarding their reason and perspective (Barnes et al. 2018). Then family factors (such as family economic standing) and peer influence played an important role in an individual's drug abuse habits (Foo, 2012). Therefore, parents should be able to facilitate children in determining relationships with their friends through providing good socialization of the environment around the home and school, so that children can adapt well to the environment so that they are prevented from the influence of drug use.

Meanwhile, the reasons for the challenging and incomplete nature of the information will have an impact on individuals trying to use drugs. This is because, the availability of appropriate information at the beginning of the dangers of drugs will prevent children from using drugs. This is generally because, children only see inappropriate information that drugs make life comfortable by forgetting temporary problems. The results of the study show that the availability of information resources from healthcare staff can reduce drug abuse (Afshari, 2015). Therefore, the existence of health education in vulnerable and risky populations will be able to prevent the occurrence of drug abuse in the community.

The reason of the need for drug is the increase of dosage. Rosida et al (2015) state that one of the dominant factors of drug use is drug addiction. If users already have physical and psychic dependence, then their body needs an increasing amount of drug (tolerance); if the use is reduced or laid off, it will arise withdrawal symptoms. The reason for the need indicates that using any type of drug also cause addiction effects. The body will adapt by increasing the number of receptors and the nerve cells will work hard. If the drug is stopped, the cells that are still working hard will experience wear and tear, which appear as drug withdrawal symptoms. These drug withdrawal symptoms force a person to repeat the use of the drug. The higher the dose of drug used and the longer its use, the more severe the symptoms of the illness. This is why the drug users are unable to stop using it, because

the users need to keep the normal state of mind while using drugs.

The reason of boredom will make individuals look for alternatives to new things. The financial problems felt by participants that injecting drug-type drugs are cheaper than other types of drugs, this is what makes users continue to use injecting drugs. Likewise, the characteristics of injection drugs that are depressant and cause comfortable effect makes the users more comfortable and safe users use it at home. The reasons for using injection drugs for both primary and additional reasons occur when the user starts injecting drug use, while the reason for continuing the use is a continuous series of user processes using injecting drugs.

The reasons for continued injection drug use identified in this study were drug accessibility, trial and error, family problems, and economics. The reason for drug accessibility is the ease of access to drugs and information. Ease of access occurs because of the lack of selective supervision, letting drug users to circulate in the social environment, especially the school environment. Further, the easy access to information is also the reason of the participants to use drugs. This is in accordance with the opinion of Hikmat (2008) that school environment, such as schools located near the places of entertainment, guidance from less maximal schools such as lack of discipline, schools that give less opportunities to students to develop themselves creatively and positively, is a factor causing the abuse. Agustina (2013) states that extrinsic factors that are dominant factors are family factors. This is supported by Shalatih (2010), who found that a family which does not pay attention to its members, bad communication among family members, and the presence of members who are drug users also become factors which cause individuals to use drugs.

#### ***Personal response to injection drug use***

The personal responses identified were the knowledge of drugs, the changes that occurred, the coping, the relapse, the supporting factors stopped and the value of the drug. The knowledge response on drugs is ignorance about the benefits, dangers and risks of drug abuse. In the initial process of injection drug abuse, almost all participants are unaware of the benefits, dangers and risks. This is due to the limited information about injection drugs.



This is in accordance with the results of research by Rahayuwati (2006) on the knowledge and attitude about the relationship of drugs with the incidence of HIV / AIDS (qualitative study in junior high school in Bandung); the research indicates that almost all respondents do not have adequate information about drugs.

Changes that occur after injection drug use are physical changes, motivation, appearance, criminal behavior, psychological changes, causes, the impact of dependence and efforts made (Ritanti, et al., 2017). Physical changes perceived by the former users after using injection are weight loss and strength. This is in accordance with the opinion of Ardayani, Masri, and Dedi (2013) which conclude that changes that occur among drug users in terms of the physical aspect are low. This is evident as the participants are often sick and it takes a long time for them to recover. Further, they have been exposed to opportunistic infections, seen from the low emotional aspects; they often experience feelings of anger and frustration, seen from the social aspect both marked by the support of family and the environment, and seen from the low spiritual aspect that is marked by the rarity of worship. Wisdom (2008) also added that one of the early symptoms of *putaw* influence is the laziness to move. This is due to the influence of injection drug used. The low motivation will affect users to perform physical activities including maintaining their appearance. This is in accordance with the opinion of Hikmat (2008) that the drug is able to change the users' personality, even causing foolishness of himself; they rarely take a bath so that their appearance is shabby and skinny.

The identified psychological change responses are anti social and unstable emotions. This is consistent with the results of a study by Ardayani, Masri, and Dedi (2013) who found that the four injection drug users with HIV / AIDS involved in their study felt anger when they could not accept the fact knowing that he got infected with HIV / AIDS. He felt the loss of his role from a healthy condition becomes ill and *haurus* is living as a person living with the disease. When they first learned that they were infected with HIV / AIDS, they became frustrated and could not accept the fact that they had been infected with HIV / AIDS. AIDS, according to the participants, is a disease that cannot be cured and can lead to death more quickly.

Attempts made by the participants to overcome various changes are self-motivation, care and intention. Self-motivation and intention are very important basic capitals. Almost everyone cannot solve their own problems, but they need the help of others. Based on the research results, that social support is an important mediator in solving a person's problem. This is because the individual is part of a family, school or colleague, religious activities or part of other groups (Ardayani et al., 2013). Treatment through rehabilitation and treatment is a supportive effort to stop using the drug, since therapy and rehabilitation should be understood as a process over a period of time involving various levels of intensity of care on various aspects of recovery. Basically, the main capital for healing is self-motivation and intention. This is in line with the opinion of Hikmat (2008), that the biggest problem in therapy and rehabilitation services is the high recurrence.

#### ***The former user's perception of side-effects and injecting drug hazards***

Perceptions of side effects perceived by former users are having more value that is feeling, economical and drug work process. Side effects on feeling are improving physical and mind comfort. This is in accordance with the opinion of Joewana (2005) who states the drug injecting type of heroin (*putaw*) is consumed widely for reasons to be enjoyed or to cope with unpleasant feelings (tension, anxiety and sadness). The presence of perceived side effects when using either small or large injection drug, causes the individual will continue to use injecting drug. This is consistent with Becker's Health Belief Model (1977, in Pender, Murdaug, & Parsons, 2010) which suggests that a beneficial side-effect perception will encourage individuals to continue to maintain certain behaviors. In addition to improving physical comfort and mind, the drug also has the economic side effects and the drug work process faster.

Economic side effects identified are more efficient. According Ardayani, Masri, & Dedi (2013) users consider using a sterile needle injection each injection will increase spending money to buy a syringe so that the use of syringes done alternately. Perceptions of perceived perceived by former users are having a negative impact on the physical health of transmitting HIV / AIDS and Hepatitis diseases.

The study found two participants who were already infected with HIV. This is in accordance with the statement Martono (2006) mentions that the most dangerous effect of drug abuse is infected with HIV / AIDS due to the use of unsterile and non-sterile syringes. This is supported by the study of Ardayani, Masri, & Dedi (2013) which states that most of the respondents have perceptions of high HIV-infected vulnerability and only a small percentage of respondents have a perception of vulnerability to HIV infection. Although most respondents have perceptions of susceptibility to contracting. Starting from the perception of side effects and injecting drug hazards above, then the former user will be able to take meaning for his life during the use of injecting drug.

#### ***The meaning of using injecting drug for former users***

This study identifies the significance of injecting drug use that is painful, impressive and causes the feeling to arise. The painful meaning that is identified is feeling sad, hurt, broken and hard. The study reveals that almost all participants said that up to this point there are still many people viewing a user or former drug user with a negative outlook, treating users and former users inhumanely. A participant said that a person abusing drug use should see what the reason, what the background, so as not to make the conclusion that a user is all the same.

The impressive meaning is a very deep impression of injecting drug. This is due to drug dependence that causes craving, despite having stopped using it. One participant revealed that the nostalgia sometimes springs to mind, to encourage her to use the drug again. Meaning after recovering that is identified that influences attitude, knowledge of the drug, as a guide and have ideals. A more humane and empathetic attitude to work is the implicit meaning in participants, so that participants will act and act better than ever. The meaning of knowledge on drugs about side effects and danger is a learning process at the intellectual level (cognitive learning), the information obtained is the basic capital for participants to provide better information. In addition, the meaning as a guide is a means of increasing faith for the participants.

Meaning as a guide that improving faith is a phase that has been passed by the participants. In accordance with his nature, in every human life will pass through the phase of helplessness in the

sense of falling into negative things and the phase of awakening in the sense of realizing what has been done so far is wrong. The role of a person's religion will determine the path, because religion is the most important factor in one's life. Religion determines the orientation of human life, both individual and social life. This is in line with (Latief & Ibrahim, 2016) assertion that human beings have forgetfulness, which makes people do not know what to do, therefore God then decreases His guidance to remind man of his human existence.

#### ***Former Drug Users Expectations on Related Party Support***

This study finds the themes of former users' hopes for support from police, health officials and local government. Support the police, the target and the efforts made must be right target and effort. This is in line with the task of the police in collaboration with BNN in carrying out its duties using international cooperation strategies, increasing community participation and law enforcement by developing therapeutic and rehabilitation services and promoting communication, information and education to the public. However, government policies in the prevention and control of the drug still emphasize repressive approach, so that related to prevention of HIV / AIDS transmission in injecting drug user group is a serious problem.

Expectations on health workers reflect the experience of former injecting drug users during interaction with health workers in an effort to deal with injecting drug problems. Support to health workers is a professional service and treatment methods are varied. Former user based on his experience wants to be given optimal service by not discriminating or discriminating drug users with other patients (Latief & Ibrahim, 2016). This is in accordance with the professional oath of a health worker, especially nursing staff that in providing services to patients do not discriminate the rank, position and class. The facts of some participants still complain about the services provided by health workers, let alone services to former drug users.

Other expectations identified are government support in terms of facilities to be more careful and alternative, Former users have hope to government to develop drug abuse prevention programs with various alternative programs, complete facilities so that users who have the desire to stop have the option for treatment. This

is in accordance with Presidential Decree No.3 of 2002 and Presidential Decree No.17 year 2002 concerning BNN's duty is to coordinate related government agencies in the preparation of policies and their implementation in the field of prevention, availability and eradication of illegal abuse and trafficking of narcotics, psychotropics, precursors and other addictive substances.

### **Limitation**

This study has several limitations. First, the researcher's experience in collecting research data with indepth interview method will influence the depth and breadth of information obtained from the participants to explore the phenomenon. The researcher's experience in using the technique is a limitation in this study. Second, the participants in this study were all male. Researchers have limited information to get women participants, so this study has not been able to describe the possible differences in habits for former drug users injecting women.

### **Implication for Practice**

The results of this study have implications on policy making on injecting drug prevention and control. This study provides an in-depth overview of how former users abuse injecting drugs that are reflected in themes. The reason the former user abuses injecting drug is supported by incomplete information and challenging sentences. The first time a former user abuses drug use is adolescence. The impact of incomplete information and challenging sentences makes teens want to try using drugs. In order that the information about the drug delivered does not cause undesirable or even adverse effects, a policy on promotion and prevention media in the prevention and prevention of drug abuse is required. The painful response that emerged in this study illustrates how former users feel the treatment and views of people who still look negative against former drug users, for it needed a more innovative socialization and touch the community level.

This research can also be used in the development of community nursing science related to prevention and control of injecting drug. The results of this study show the first reason and the reasons for using, the perception of side effects and hazards as well as the responses felt by each participant either personal response or parental response in accordance with what is experienced especially the support

received by former drug users. How the expectations of former users on the support of related parties ie health workers, especially community nurses in the prevention and control of the next drug is clearly illustrated. Participants feel that the service has not been optimally given because there is still a lack of understanding of the nurses on the handling of drug abuse and the lack of facilities available. The most important thing from the expectations of former users of health workers, especially nurses is a professional service by not discriminating against former drug users. The results of this study can be used by nurses, especially community nurses as a reference in forming a model of support interventions through empowerment, participation and partnership in handling health problems in the community, especially drug problem resolutions. At the stage of community empowerment, especially family, can be done through parents how to awaken the family, especially adolescents to the problem of drug abuse. Community participation and partnership is needed in the prevention and overcoming of drug abuse. Community special care nurses can play a role in lobbying and negotiation to develop networks with other health professions, inter-related sectors, community organizations and community leaders or religious leaders.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the results of the research and the discussion in the previous chapter, it can be concluded that the meaning and meaning of the former user experience in drug injection in Palembang City is: the first reason to use drugs, the reason for using injecting drug, personal response to injecting drug use, old people against injecting drug use, side effects that have more value than injecting drugs, the danger of adverse drug use, meaning during injecting drug use, meaning after recovery, and hope for support from police, health workers and local government. Suggestions that can be presented to the parties related to the prevention and control of injecting drugs are: The need for media campaigns that can provide comprehensive information and can be understood by the community, especially teenagers, such as drug abuse information accompanied by images due to abuse of the drug. The need for more innovative socialization of drug users such as success story programs to change negative public image of former drug users.

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