

Building Legal Awareness among the Younger Generation through Preventive Education on the Dangers of Drugs

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Keywords <i>legal awareness, adolescents, drugs, education, community service</i>	This community service activity addresses the issue of students' limited understanding regarding the risks and legal consequences of drug abuse, requiring early preventive efforts through an educational approach. This activity aimed to improve students' knowledge, understanding, and awareness regarding the dangers of drugs through an educational seminar. The method used was a participatory approach through the Desa BERSINAR (Clean from Drugs) Seminar, which was conducted at SMPN 5 Banjarharjo. The activity was carried out through interactive lectures, the use of presentation media, and question-and-answer sessions to encourage active participant involvement. The materials presented included types of drugs, their impacts on health and social life, as well as legal aspects related to drug abuse. The results of the activity showed an increase in students' understanding regarding the dangers of drugs and the development of awareness to avoid risky behaviors. Students also demonstrated active participation throughout the activity through discussions and questions raised. Overall, this activity contributed to strengthening adolescents' legal awareness as a preventive effort against drug abuse in the school environment.

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Introduction

Drug abuse is one of the social problems that can have broad impacts on individuals and the surrounding community. Adolescents are among the groups vulnerable to the influence of illegal substance abuse because they are in a developmental phase characterized by high curiosity, identity exploration, and strong social environmental influences (Isvany et al., 2024). Therefore, efforts to prevent drug abuse should not only be carried out through a legal approach but also through increasing understanding and awareness from an early age regarding the risks and consequences that may arise.

Sindangheula Village is a rural area with community characteristics that maintain strong social values and togetherness. In village communities, social norms and local values play an important role in shaping individual behavior. However, the development of information technology and open access to various external influences have also created new challenges, particularly for the younger generation. Adolescents not only need an understanding of social norms but also knowledge of formal legal regulations related to risky behaviors, including drug abuse (Hayun et al., 2024).

Legal awareness is one of the important aspects in shaping orderly and responsible community behavior. Legal awareness is not only related to knowing the existence of certain regulations but also includes individuals' understanding, attitudes, and behavior in complying with applicable provisions (Navisa, 2020). Among adolescents, strengthening legal awareness can serve as a preventive measure to develop the ability to make appropriate decisions and avoid actions that may harm themselves and their social environment.

Based on this condition, an educational activity is needed that can provide legal understanding through an approach appropriate to adolescent characteristics. Education regarding the dangers of drugs is one form of intervention that can be implemented to improve students' knowledge about the types, impacts, and consequences of drug abuse. Through interactive seminars, students are expected not only to receive information but also to develop awareness and preventive attitudes toward the threat of drug abuse (Tamza et al., 2024).

This community service activity focuses on strengthening students' legal awareness through education on the dangers of drugs in the school environment. The selection of junior high school students as the subject of this activity is based on the importance of building understanding during adolescence as a group that has a strategic role in creating a healthy and law-aware generation (Tohawi & Ubaidillah, 2022). The expected changes from this activity are increased student knowledge regarding the dangers of drugs, the development of rejection attitudes toward illegal substance abuse, and the formation of legal awareness as part of daily behavior.

Method

This community service activity used a participatory educational approach aimed at increasing adolescents' legal awareness regarding the dangers of drug abuse. The subjects of the activity were students of SMPN 5 Banjarharjo, with the implementation location being the school environment in Sindangheula Village. The activity stages began with the identification of needs and coordination with the school to determine an educational approach that was appropriate to the students' conditions. Based on the identification results, the activity was carried out through an educational seminar regarding the dangers of drugs, including the introduction of drug types, the impacts of abuse on adolescents' health and future, as well as legal consequences related to drugs (Sitompul et al., 2024).

The activity was implemented through the delivery of materials using an interactive lecture method supported by presentation media and visual materials. In addition to the presentation of materials, students were also involved through question-and-answer sessions to increase participant engagement and understanding. The evaluation of the activity was conducted through observations of students' responses during the activity and participant involvement in discussions. Through these stages, the activity was expected to improve knowledge, develop preventive attitudes, and strengthen students' legal awareness regarding the dangers of drug abuse (Marcello & Hasan, 2024).

Results and Discussion

The implementation of the community service activity began with a coordination process with the school to adjust the form of activity according to students' needs. Based on the identification results, the issue of drug abuse was considered an important topic to introduce to adolescents as an early prevention effort. During adolescence, high curiosity and environmental influences can become factors affecting behavior; therefore, it is necessary to provide understanding that is not only related to health impacts but also legal aspects and social consequences of drug abuse (Azhari et al., 2023).



Figure 1. Seminar material preparation as the initial stage of educational activities at school

The Desa BERSINAR (Clean from Drugs) Seminar was conducted by involving students of SMPN 5 Banjarharjo as participants. The delivery of materials was

carried out directly through an interactive lecture method using presentation media. The materials provided included an introduction to types of drugs, the impacts of drug use on the body and social life, as well as legal risks that may arise from the abuse of illegal substances. The presentation of materials was carried out using language that was easy to understand so that students could relate the information provided to their daily lives (Kurnia et al., 2024).

During the activity, students showed enthusiasm through their involvement in discussion and question-and-answer sessions. Several students actively raised questions regarding the impacts of drugs, ways to avoid negative environmental influences, and actions that could be taken when encountering drug-related problems around them. This response indicates that educational activities were not only a one-way information delivery process but also became a space for students to build understanding and awareness regarding the importance of protecting themselves from drug abuse (Wahyudi et al., 2024).



Figure 2. Legal awareness education activity through an educational seminar at school

In addition to increasing knowledge, this activity also brought changes to students' perspectives regarding drugs. Before the education was provided, some students may have only understood drugs as something dangerous without knowing the reasons and consequences behind them. Through this seminar, students began to understand that drug abuse has broad impacts, including on health, education, social relationships, and their future. This understanding became the foundation for developing preventive attitudes and the ability to make wiser decisions (Kristianto et al., 2024).

In the context of legal awareness, this activity demonstrates that understanding the law is not only related to knowing applicable regulations but also how individuals are able to apply compliance values in daily life. Legal awareness includes several aspects, namely legal knowledge, legal understanding, legal attitudes, and legal behavior (Adhyaksa et al., 2024). Through this educational activity, students were directed to recognize regulations related to drugs, understand their impacts, and develop attitudes and behaviors that align with applicable legal norms.

From the perspective of sustainability, the involvement of the school in this activity became an important factor in maintaining the educational values that had

been delivered. Teachers and schools play a role as supporters of a learning environment that can continue delivering preventive messages regarding the dangers of drugs to students (Darmin et al., 2023). With this support, legal awareness education does not stop at the seminar activity but can become part of character development and the creation of a healthier school culture.



Figure 3. Synergy with the school in strengthening students' legal awareness activities

Overall, the Desa BERSINAR Seminar provided an impact in the form of increased student understanding regarding the dangers of drugs and the importance of legal awareness from an early age. Although behavioral changes require a continuous process, this activity became an initial step in building a younger generation that is more aware of the risks of drug abuse and capable of making responsible decisions.

Conclusion

The community service activity through the Desa BERSINAR (Clean from Drugs) Seminar became one of the preventive efforts to increase adolescents' legal awareness regarding the dangers of drug abuse. The implementation of the activity shows that legal education for students does not only function as the delivery of information regarding regulations and prohibitions but also as a process of forming understanding, attitudes, and more responsible behaviors.

Through interactive material delivery, discussions, and question-and-answer sessions, students gained an understanding of drug types, the impacts of abuse on health and the future, and the legal consequences that may arise. This activity shows an increase in students' awareness to be more cautious of environmental influences and the importance of protecting themselves from the abuse of illegal substances.

Reflectively, strengthening legal awareness among adolescents requires a sustainable approach involving various parties, particularly schools as the main environment for character formation. Therefore, continued education is needed through the role of teachers and schools in creating an environment that supports positive student behavior. Similar programs can be developed periodically with broader material coverage so that the legal awareness of the younger generation can continue to improve.

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