



THE PERCEIVED EFFECTS OF THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUG CAMPAIGN

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ABSTRACT: *Addiction is a chronic disease characterized by drug seeking and use that is compulsive, or difficult to control, despite harmful consequences. During the initial decision to take drugs, the brain changes can be persistent, which is why drug addiction is considered a “relapsing” disease. People in recovery from drug use disorders are at increased risk for returning to drug use even after years of not taking the drugs. It is common for a person to relapse, but relapse does not mean that treatment does not work. As with other chronic health conditions, treatment should be ongoing and should be adjusted based on how the patient responds. Treatment plans need to be reviewed often and modified to fit the patient’s changing needs. Generally, this study aimed to determine the perceived effects of the President’s anti-illegal drug campaign in the municipality of Tuao. This study used the descriptive – correlational research design. Respondents of the study were the barangay officials of the different barangays of Tuao. From the total number of barangays in the municipality, only 8 barangays were randomly picked as the respondents of the study. Total enumeration was used in selecting the barangay officials. The main instrument used to gather information and data was a self-administered questionnaire. Interview was also conducted to verify and clarify some information taken from the respondents. The data were analyzed using frequency counts and percentages. To determine the difference on the perception of the respondents when grouped according to their profile, the Analysis of Variance was used. From the findings of this study, it is concluded that most of the respondents favor the program of the government to stop the proliferation of illegal drugs and support the move of the government to stop this problem. From the above findings of the study, it is strongly recommended that in spite of the support of the people on the government, the government should consider the rights of the suspected users and pushers in its campaign by giving due process for every arrested suspect. Further, rehabilitation programs of the government should become accessible to all parts of the country.*

KEYWORDS: *Illegal drugs, Opium, Pusher, drug user, Shabu, Perception, anti-illegal drug campaign, drug rehabilitation*

INTRODUCTION

Drugs have been part of our culture since the middle of the last century. Popularized in the 1960’s by music and mass media, they invade all aspects of society. An estimated 208



million people internationally consume illegal drugs. The illegal drug trade in the Philippines remains a serious national concern. Two of the most used and valuable illegal drugs in the country are Methamphetamine Hydrochloride (Shabu) and Marijuana. Ephedrine and Methylenedioxy Methamphetamine are also among the list of illegal drugs that are a great concern to the authorities. According to Reuters, the President-elect of the Philippines Rodrigo Duterte has predicted the country could become a “narco-state” if the country’s tide of drug addiction is not pushed back. In 2012, the United Nations said the Philippine had the highest rate of Shabu used in East Asia, and according to a U.S. State Department report, 2.1 percent of Filipinos aged 16 to 64 use the drug. In Metro Manila, most barangays are being affected by illegal drugs. According to 2011 UN Drug Report, the Philippines has the highest Shabu abuse rate.

Many people do not understand why or how other people become addicted to drugs. They may mistakenly think that those who use drugs lack moral principles or will power and that they could stop their drug use simply by choosing too. In reality, drug addiction is a complex disease, and quitting usually takes more than good intentions or a strong will. Drugs change the brain in ways that make quitting hard, even for those who want to. Fortunately, researchers know more than ever about how drugs affect the brain and have found treatments that can help people recover from drug addiction and lead productive lives.

Addiction is a chronic disease characterized by drug seeking and use that is compulsive, or difficult to control, despite harmful consequences. During the initial decision to take drugs, the brain changes can be persistent, which is why drug addiction is considered a “relapsing” disease. People in recovery from drug use disorders are at increased risk for returning to drug use even after years of not taking the drugs. It is common for a person to relapse, but relapse does not mean that treatment does not work. As with other chronic health conditions, treatment should be ongoing and should be adjusted based on how the patient responds. Treatment plans need to be reviewed often and modified to fit the patient’s changing needs.



The Drug Demand Reduction pillar is geared toward reducing the consumers' demand for drugs and other substances. This is done through programs on Preventive Education, Treatment and Rehabilitation and Researches. Along with its partner agencies, the DDB continues to formulate policies on drug prevention and control, develop and implement preventive education programs, adopt and utilize effective treatment and rehabilitation programs and conduct research on vital aspects of the drug abuse problem

This is an act instituting the Comprehensive Dangerous Drug Act of 2002, repealing Republic Act No. 6425, otherwise known as the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972, as amended, providing funds thereof, and for other purposes. This act was conceived because of the policy of the state to safeguard the integrity of its territory and the well-being, and to defend the same against acts or omissions detrimental to their development and preservation. In view of the foregoing, the state needs to enhance further the efficacy of the law against dangerous drugs, it being one of today's more serious social ills.

The Dangerous Drug Board continues to implement activities and programs that encourage individuals to avoid substance abuse. Recognizing the diversity of the Philippine society, the board has a range of educational programs designed to address the needs of every sector of the society, from the youth to parents, employers, educators, health professional and policy – makers. As an important face drug demand reduction, the DDB with the DOH continually monitors trend in treatment and rehabilitation as well as issues and concerns that of families in recovering drug dependents face during the process.

Strategies under this pillar aims to stimulate discussions and generate public opinion that lead to participation. The DDB utilizes different forms of media to spread the anti – drug advocacy and enlist more and more Filipinos in the fight against drugs. The different sectors of the society are encouraged to participate in programs through increasing awareness and enhancing public understanding of drug dependence. To reach out to a greater majority, cooperation and coordination with media organization is also maintained. The regional and international cooperation pillar places emphasis on cross – border strategy – sharing and



regional activities while enriching the existing national responses and capacity - building programs which represent the foundation of the national anti – drug abuse advocacy. There is a great deal of complementarities between the national and regional response as would be seen in the conferences, symposia and for a participated in by country. This demonstrates that the Philippine advocacy against drug dependency shares the same overall regional approach to program development while making the contextual and cultural requirements for our own country's need.

In Europe, recent studies among 15 and 16 years old suggest that use of Marijuana varies from under 10% to over 40% , with the highest rates reported by teens and in the Czech Republic (44%), followed by Ireland (39%), the UK (38%). Exasperated by the illegal drugs menace in the country, President Duterte has waged an all-out campaign against it since he assumed office.

From July 1 till the 2nd week of September 2016, there have been over 3,500 deaths attributed to the “war on drugs” – both from legitimate police operations and extra judicial killings.

Alternative Development is among the multi – pronged drug control strategies being undertaken by the DDB, through which prevention, reduction and elimination of illicit cultivation of Marijuana plants are achieved by specifically designed rural development measures that are aimed at providing lawful, economically viable and sustainable means of income as well as an improved livelihood of people in known Marijuana cultivation areas, specifically targeting those involved in the illicit activities.

Towards this end the government shall pursue an intensive and unrelenting campaign against the trafficking and use of dangerous drugs and other similar substances through an integrated system planning, implementation and enforcement of anti – drug abuse policies, programs and projects. The government shall however aim to achieve a balance in the national drug control program so that people with legitimate medical needs are not prevented from being treated with adequate amounts of appropriate medications, which



include the use of dangerous drugs. It further declared the policy of the state to provide effective mechanisms or measures to re-integrate into society individuals who have fallen victims to drug abuse or dangerous drug dependence through sustainable programs of treatment and rehabilitation.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Generally, this study aimed to determine the perceived effects of the President's anti-illegal drug campaign in the municipality of Tuao. Specially, it sought the answer the following questions.

1. What is the profile of the respondents as to:
 - 1.1. Age
 - 1.2. Sex
 - 1.3. Educational Attainment
2. What is the perception of the respondents on the effects of the President Duterte's campaign against illegal drugs?
3. Is there a significant difference in the perception of the respondents when grouped according to their profile?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study used the descriptive – correlational research design. Respondents of the study were the barangay officials of the different barangays of Tuao. From the total number of barangays in the municipality, only 8 barangays were randomly picked as the respondents of the study. Total enumeration was used in selecting the barangay officials. The main instrument used to gather information and data was a self-administered questionnaire. Interview was also conducted to verify and clarify some information taken from the respondents.

DATA ANALYSIS

The data were analyzed using frequency counts and percentages. For the perception of the respondents on the perceived effects of illegal drug campaign, a 3-points Likert scale was used as follows:



3 – Strongly agree

2 – Agree

1 – Disagree

To determine the difference on the perception of the respondents when grouped according to their profile, the Analysis of Variance was used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1. Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents according to Their Profile

Profile of Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
30-35	2	3.13
36-40	9	14.06
41-45	12	18.75
46-50	12	18.75
51-55	6	9.38
56-60	9	14.06
61-65	11	17.19
66-70	1	1.56
71-75	2	3.12
TOTAL	64	100.00
Mean Age=47.8 SD=5.8		
Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	46	71.90
Female	18	28.10
TOTAL	64	100.00
Educational Attainment	Frequency	Percentage
Elementary level	5	7.81
Elementary graduate	8	12.5
Secondary level	10	15.63
Secondary graduate	12	18.75
College level	15	23.44
College graduate	14	21.87
TOTAL	64	100.00

Table 1 showed the frequency and percentage distribution of the profile of the respondents as to age, sex, and educational attainment. As shown in the table, the highest frequency of



12 or 18.75 percent belonged to the age bracket of 41-50 years of age with a mean age of 47.8 which implies that the respondents are in their mid-adulthood age.

The table further showed the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents as sex. As revealed in the table, majority of the respondents are males with a frequency of 46 or 71.90 percent. The data imply that majority of the barangay officials are males, though the females are also being represented with the frequency of 18 or 28.10 percent.

Furthermore, the table revealed the frequency and percentage distribution of the respondents as educational attainment. As reflected from the table, the highest frequency of 15 or 23.44 percent belonged to college level. This implies that the respondents are aware of the existence of the drug problem in their area of responsibility and they have the capacity to evaluate the effects of drugs on their constituents.

Table 2. Summary of the Item Mean on the Perceived Effects on President Duterte's Anti-illegal Drugs Campaign

Perceived Effects	Weighted Mean	Adjectival Value
1. The anti-illegal drug campaign is a means to clear the community from the dangers brought about by drug addicts.	2.79	Strongly Agree
2. Police operations against illegal drugs would cause deaths of suspected citizens.	2.33	Agree
3. There is no fair trail of suspected pushers.	2.17	Agree
4. It is a means of eradicating corruption among government officials.	2.56	Strongly agree
5. It prevents putting into office narco-politics.	2.52	Strongly agree
6. It fosters the fast development of the community.	2.66	Strongly agree
7. It completely eradicates drug use all over the country.	2.66	Strongly agree
8. It is a means to transform drug users through rehabilitation.	2.66	Strongly agree
9. It is a means to safeguard users from the ill- effects of drugs.	2.61	Strongly agree
10. It enhances participation and cooperation of community residence in solving the problems on illegal drugs.	2.58	Strongly agree
Overall Weighted Mean	2.55	Strongly agree



Table 2 reflected the summary of the item mean on the perceived effects on President Duterte's anti-illegal drugs campaign. The data revealed that except the items "Police operations against illegal drugs would cause deaths of suspected citizens" and "There is no fair trial of suspected pushers" which got the rating of agree, all other items were rated strongly agree with an over-all weighted mean of 2.55 or strongly agree. These data imply that the respondents strongly agree on positive effects of the anti-illegal drug campaign of the President to stop the proliferation of illegal drugs in their area. Further, the data imply that the respondents, who are also the implementers of the campaign strongly agree that it would help the users reform their lives through the rehabilitation programs of the government.

CONCLUSION

From the findings of this study, it is concluded that most of the respondents favor the program of the government to stop the proliferation of illegal drugs and support the move of the government to stop this problem.

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the above findings of the study, it is strongly recommended that in spite of the support of the people on the government, the government should consider the rights of the suspected users and pushers in its campaign by giving due process for every arrested suspect. Further, rehabilitation programs of the government should become accessible to all parts of the country.

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