

# Community-based Anti-Drug Efforts: Leveraging Local Wisdom for Prevention

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## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Drug abuse prevention in the community based on local culture, specifically "Pageu Gampong," involves legal aspects related to drugs and the management of drug prevention in the community. This study examines the influence of local culture, "Pageu Gampong," as a preventive measure against drug use among ninety in Aceh Besar district. **Materials and Methods:** In this study, a quasi-experimental pre-post test design was utilized to investigate the effectiveness of drug abuse prevention training that incorporated local culture, specifically, "Pageu Gampong"; the research was conducted in seven phases and yielded promising results, including the establishment of an anti-drug task force team aimed at sustaining drug control efforts at the village level. To ensure data accuracy, the researcher designed and tested a self-administered questionnaire for validity and reliability. **Results:** The research showed increased general knowledge about drugs, legal aspects related to drugs, and drug prevention procedures with a p-value of 0.000. The results of this study are expected to be used for screening and early detection of the risk of drug abuse in the community through various culturally-based programs implemented by task force team members. **Conclusion:** This study can be used for screening and early detection of the risk of drug abuse in the community through various culturally-based programs implemented by task force team members.

**Keywords:** Drug prevention; Local culture; Anti-drug task force; Community-based programs; Risk detection.

## INTRODUCTION

Drug abuse is a health and social problem with local variations in its conditions and issues. The use of psychoactive substances among teenagers and young adults has become a global concern<sup>1</sup>. Drug abuse occurs when an individual seeks to enjoy the drug's effects, which can eventually lead to addiction<sup>2,3</sup>

In 2014, the number of drug abusers in Aceh reached 80,179 people, and the prevalence of drug use in Aceh Province ranked sixth in Indonesia. The number of drug cases in Aceh Province also increased from 943 in 2014 to 1,170 in 2015. The number of drug addicts in Aceh requiring rehabilitation reached approximately 6,000 to 7,000 people. In 2019, the prevalence of drug abuse in Aceh Province was 56,192 people or 1.30% in one year, and in 2021, it increased to 56,276 people or 1.45%<sup>4</sup>.

Drug abuse among teenagers is on the rise, and they are vulnerable to addictive substances that damage nerves, preventing them from thinking clearly. As a result, the nation's solid and intelligent gene of hope only remains a hope without being realized<sup>5</sup>. Drug use is hazardous for anyone who abuses it and can damage the physical and mental health of the abuser<sup>6</sup>

In Aceh, cultural values are derived from Islamic and traditional values integrated with Acehese customs<sup>7</sup>. One example of an Acehese social institution that reflects this is "Pageu Gampoeng." "Pageu Gampoeng" is one of the regional cultures in Aceh that has been established as a norm for people living in that area to follow.

Previous studies have shown that some villages in Aceh have taken preventive measures by creating "Qanun gampong," or comprehensive village regulations and repressive measures to pursue sexual crimes against children in the village area to the local police<sup>8</sup>. This implementation is based on Special Autonomy Law No. 18 of 2001, and the Aceh government has restructured the structure of village and community institutions. Rules set in a village become a tool for creating a harmonious and balanced community order in Aceh, where regional culture is derived from Islamic and traditional values integrated with Acehese customs<sup>7</sup>. One example of a social institution that reflects these values is "Pageu Gampong." Previous research has shown that implementing the Village Regulation through "page gampong" has included preventive and repressive measures to address drug abuse and sexual crimes against children in the area<sup>9</sup>.

Holistic and integrated preventive and repressive measures are needed to combat drug abuse. Handling drug abuse involves various parties, including the community, government, and health institutions, and be carried out holistically, covering aspects of education, health, and law. To create a harmonious and balanced community, a regional culture that reflects positive values, such as solidarity, cooperation, and tolerance, needs to be supported<sup>9,10</sup>.

In this regard, "Pageu gampong" is a successful example of implementing Village Regulations that involve the community in efforts to prevent drug abuse and sexual crimes against children in their area<sup>12</sup>. This demonstrates that a holistic approach involving the community can positively combat drug

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abuse. Therefore, active support and participation from the community are needed to prevent and address drug abuse to create a healthy, harmonious, and prosperous society.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### Study Design

This study is quantitative research conducted using a quasi-experimental method. The intervention used is a training activity using local culture called "Pageu Gampong."

### Sample and Population

The research was conducted in the working area of the Blang Bintang District Health Center, Aceh Besar. It involved 62 representatives from all villages in the working area of the Blang Bintang District Health Center, Aceh Besar. The population in this study is all residents of the village (unnamed), with a sampling technique using probability sampling, precisely simple random sampling. The inclusion criteria are 1). residents of the village in Aceh Besar, 2). willing to be respondents, 3). aged 20 to 40 years old

### Data management and analysis

This research used Quasi-Experimental Research with a one-group pretest-posttest design type. In this design, the research began by

measuring (pre-test) general knowledge about narcotics, legal aspects of narcotics, and drug abuse prevention in the community. After the drug prevention training using the local culture called "Pageu Gampong," the researcher conducted a re-measurement (post-test). The difference between O1 and O2 or O2-O1 is considered the treatment or practical effect. The test was conducted on the same group of communities using the Wilcoxon test.

### Research Stages

This research was conducted by implementing seven stages of activities. 1). Measuring general knowledge (pre-test) about narcotics, legal aspects related to narcotics, and prevention of drug abuse in the community by conducting a pre-test. 2). Drug prevention training using local culture. 3). Re-measurement (post-test). 4). Data analysis: Quasi-Experimental Research, with a one-group pretest-posttest design type. 5). Calculate differences between the pretest and posttest, considered treatment or experimental effects, using the Wilcoxon test. The stages of activities in the field can be seen in the table below:

### Ethical considerations

The statement is, "Ethics clearance has been issued with number: 1585/XI/SP/2018 by the Ethics Commission of the Faculty of Nursing and Health, University of North Sumatra."

**Table 1. Research Stage.**

No	Activity	Population and Intervention Period	Focus	Description	Achievement	Result	
1	Coordination	Related Parties, Health Centers, Districts, Villages,	Drug Abuse Prevention	Coordinating with related parties to carry out cultural-based drug abuse prevention training activities	agreement with related parties regarding the management of drug prevention interventions	Collaboration.	
2	Performing Administrative Preparations	Head of Health Center, Regent, Village Head, and Local Security	Apparatus Administrative Obligations	I am preparing correspondence with assignment letters and permits for community drug abuse prevention training activities.	Fulfillment of administrative requirements.	Permission to conduct activities	
3	Meeting with the Community	Meeting with the district authorities, village officials, and relevant figures to	discuss community service activities.	Conducting a meeting with the district authorities, village officials, and relevant figures to discuss community service activities related to "Local Culture (Pageu Mudah) in Combating Drug Prevention in the Community.	Understanding the community's understanding of the training objectives	understanding	
4	Rule-making	Related sectors	Advocacy	Conducting advocacy discussions with various related sectors to prepare qanun or village regulations for handling drugs in the village.	Legal umbrella so that the training implementation runs by applicable laws and regulations	legality	
5	Formation of Anti-Narcotics Team	Community Members	Selection of team members/leaders	Determining community members involved directly as the work unit for eradicating narcotics in the village	Anti-Narcotics Team Members	Decree	
6	Training Implementation	Anti-Drug Cadre	Measuring the participants' initial knowledge of narcotics	pretest	Measuring participants' initial knowledge about narcotics before the training material is given. Information dissemination about	Knowledge about narcotics	Improving Understanding
			Post-test	I am measuring participants' understanding after being given the training material.			
7	Dissemination of Information to the Community	Public	Dissemination of information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installation of anti-drug posters in public service areas</li> <li>Installation of banners in village alleys</li> </ul>	Dissemination of information about the dangers of drugs in the community	Improving community understanding of the dangers of drugs.	

**Table 2: Characteristics of the Study Participants.**

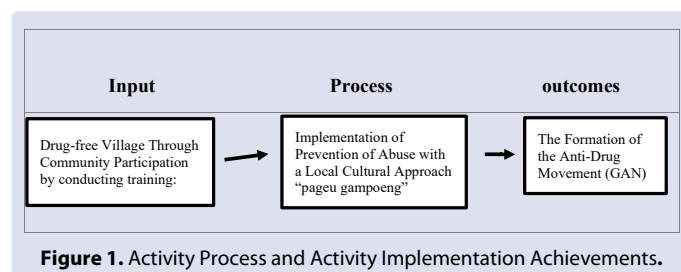
No	Characteristics	Number	Percentage
1	<b>Gender</b>		
	Male	21	33.87%
	Female	41	66.13%
2	<b>Age</b>		
	20-30 years	29	45.77%
	30-40 years	33	53.23%
3	<b>Education</b>		
	High School	11	17.74%
	Bachelor's Degree	51	82.26%
<b>Total</b>		62	100%

**Table 3: Comparison of Pre- and Post-test Results for Participants.**

No	Questions	Pre-test	Post-test	Mean Difference	Standard Deviation	Std Error mean	T-value	P-value
1	General knowledge of drugs	3	57	54	7.27	0.93	58.20	0.0000
2	Legal aspects of drug use	3	56	53	7.69	0.99	53.87	0.0000
3	Prevention efforts for drug abuse in the community	5	55	50	8.40	1.08	46.24	0.0000
<b>Differensial Mean</b>				81.28%	11.35%	1.46%		

Explanation:

1. In the table, three questions were measured in both pretest and posttest.
  2. Each question was measured using a Likert scale with a range of 1-5.
  3. Mean Pretest and Mean Post-tests are the average values during the pretest and posttest.
  4. Differential Mean is the difference between Mean Posttestes and Mean Pretestes.
  5. Std Deviation is the standard deviation of all data for each question.
  6. Std Error Mean is the standard error of the mean for each question.
  7. t-value is the t-test value obtained from the paired sample t-test for each question.
  8. p-value is the significance value obtained from the paired sample t-test for each question.
  9. The total rows in the table indicate the number of respondents who took both the pretest and posttest.
- In the last section of the table, the Differential Mean is recalculated in percentage scale for ease of interpretation.



**Figure 1. Activity Process and Activity Implementation Achievements.**

## RESULTS

This research was conducted in several stages, including training to increase public knowledge about drugs, legal aspects, and preventive measures for handling drugs in the community.

The paired t-test was used to analyze the data. The mean difference between pre-test and post-test scores was statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) for all questions, indicating an improvement in participants' knowledge.

## DISCUSSION

Implementing community-based drug abuse prevention research with a local cultural approach called “pageu gampong” in the Aceh Besar District was carried out in several activities. The activities in this study also included discussions and material presentations with various parties in the Blang Bintang District. The “pageu gampong” approach in this research process produced several achieved output targets:

Based on Table 3, it can be concluded that there is a significant difference between general knowledge about drugs among the community leaders

of “pageu gampong” with a significance value of 0.000. This finding aligns with a previous study on students' knowledge of drug abuse, which showed a statistically significant difference between their average knowledge before and after the intervention. The students' knowledge increased by 38.33% after the intervention<sup>11</sup>

Furthermore, the results show that there is a difference in the aspect of drug use law among the community leaders of “pageu gampong,” which is consistent with Saragih study on efforts to combat drug abuse by the Indonesian National Police, which divided the efforts into three parts: preemptive, preventive, and repressive<sup>7,12</sup>. These three elements are the main operational functions of the duties of the Indonesian National Police under Article 13 of Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police. Repression is the stage of action against individuals who have abused narcotics, and it is the absolute authority of the police to eradicate all forms of deviation, including drug abuse<sup>11</sup>. Similarly, Rahmanto stated that individuals who use drugs and violate the rules in Articles 7 and 8 of Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning narcotics have no right, or their actions are considered illegal. However, sanctions can be imposed on users or abusers under Article 127 of Law No. 35 of 2009, with punishments appropriate to the type and form of drug use<sup>9</sup>

Moreover, the results indicate a significant difference between efforts to prevent drug abuse among the community leaders of “pageu gampong” with a significance value of 0.000. Prevention and eradication of drug abuse and trafficking must be done comprehensively and multi-dimensionally. It is essential to eliminate the view that drug abuse and trafficking are not just the government's problem but a problem that must be addressed collectively. Prevention and eradication of drug abuse and trafficking are done by building community-based prevention efforts<sup>13</sup>. A similar prevention effort has been implemented in the parikrama of the Buleleng regency, where prevention is carried

out by using traditional law roles (Pararem). This program has been successfully implemented in up to 50 villages in the regency 2.

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION

Alamsyah contributed to developing the research idea and the study design. Muliadi conducted the data collection and analysis. Anwar provided expertise in statistical analysis and interpretation of the results. Khairunnas and Duana provided critical feedback on the manuscript and contributed to its revision. All authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION

We hereby declare that there is no conflict of interest in relation to the publication of this article. All authors have disclosed any financial or personal relationships with other people or organizations that could potentially influence the research findings or interpretation of the data presented in this article. There are no competing interests to declare.

## CONCLUSION

Preventing drug abuse through a local cultural approach, “pageu gampoeng,” can be carried out successfully, as shown by the achievement of the goal of forming an Anti-Drug Task Force team. Additionally, the training provided to the cadres can enhance their knowledge, as demonstrated by the pretest and posttest scores, where scores improved after the training.

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