Societal Conflict Among Relapsing Male Drug Addicts in Cure and Care Service Centre, Kuala Pilah, Negeri Sembilan

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Abstract

This social psychology study sought to understand how the inability of former drug addicts controlling interpersonal conflict that occurs in the community resulted in relapse or back to their addiction. A qualitative phenomenological approach was taken to conduct interviews with former drug addicts that are participating in a rehab program in Cure and Care Service Centre, Kuala Pilah, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia. Eight informants were consented and interviewed. Purposive sampling was used and responses were analyzed thematically. These themes included the issue of labeling drug addicts as convicts, isolation from the community and restricted from participating in community-based programs. Researcher suggests related agencies to work with rehabilitation officers in restructuring the rehabilitation learning module and improve the interpersonal conflict management module. Therefore, it is hoped that in the future, former drug addicts would be capable to manage interpersonal conflict and simultaneously avoid from recidivism in addiction.

Key words: addiction, drug addicts, interpersonal conflict, society, relapse addiction

Introduction

The phenomenon of drug abuse has been declared by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a chronic repetitive disease as well as a global issue. Until now, there is still no solution to eradicate this phenomenon from growing. According to the drug report by United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2016, there are 247 million individuals all over the world that are involved in drug abuse problems. In Malaysia, the issue of drug abuse is considered as a grave offense. According to Mahmood Nazar (1996), drug addicts are categorized into two which are major drug addicts and minor drug addicts. Major drug addicts are those that have been using drugs for a time period of 10 years and had received treatment more than twice in rehabilitation centers, meanwhile minor drug addicts have only abused drugs for short period and had only received treatment once. Withdrawal symptoms are known as one of the reasons why drug addicts are having difficulties in leaving this habit of addiction. Withdrawal symptom is a physical and mental effect that is resulted when one stops taking drugs which have become a necessity for these drug addicts. Physical and mental repercussions that occur for instance are a weakness of the body and intense stress and dependency towards a type of drug that had been taken, during their period of drug abuse. In order to overcome the problems of withdrawal symptoms, the drug addicts had to take drugs continuously to calm themselves.
Relapse is considered as a normal phenomenon that occurs among addicts that had gone through treatment processes and rehabilitation. Rasmussen (2000) defined relapse as re-using drugs after halting use for a certain period of time that depends on the resilience of the individual to resist withdrawal symptoms. According to Mahmood (1996), relapse addiction involves psychoactive drug abuse when one has completed a treatment in a drug rehabilitation program that focuses on physical and psychological dependency towards drugs. A research by Marlatt and Gordon (1985) stated that relapse begin with a factor known as High-Risk Situations. High-Risk Situations are conditions that have the potential to result in a former drug addict to fall back to their addiction. High-Risk Situations occur when a drug addict which had commenced to change of behavior such as reducing alcohol intake faces difficulty to maintain that changed behavior. Some of the situations that may result to the relapse are the situations of negative emotions such as anger and worry, situations of interpersonal conflict such as misunderstanding within the family and society and social stress such as pressure peer pressure to take drugs. Hence, this research aims to examine how interpersonal conflict with a society that occurs among former drug addicts may result in a relapse.

**Existence of Conflict**

The existence of conflict is a condition that is inevitable towards an individual in an organization or between two countries. Conflict is the process whereby one side exhibits their importance that is opposed by another group. The root of the matter of conflict is found mostly in the business field, sociology, and psychology (Borisoff & Victor, 1998). Instruments measures conflict styles were mostly established in the 1960s and early 1970s when the dominant paradigms of social psychology that are personality traits were studied in laboratories using questionnaires to obtain individual differences within interest, traits and behavior (Higbee & Wells, 1972). The word conflict originates from the Latin word configurare that means hitting each other. The sociological approach to conflict is a social process between two or more people and groups when one side works to eliminate the other by diminishing their determination to fight. Other than that, it also means a relationship between two or more people that has a different purpose. According to Taquiri in Newstorm & Davis (1977), conflict is a social legacy that could occur in varied situations due to disagreements and dispute between two sites or more continuously. Thomas (1984) defined conflict as a process that is initiated when one side assumed that the other had denied their importance.

**Conflict as a Part of Interpersonal Conflict**

There are four factors that influence the existence of interpersonal conflict directly and indirectly claimed by Luthans (2005) which is traits, perception, instable willpower and outcomes importance. The trait factor can be seen when a conflicting side tries to avoid them from solving the conflict that occurred and when this happens the conflict is lengthened leading to intensive dissatisfaction. Lulofs (1994) mentioned that the second factor which is perception is a process of assuming that the views of an individual are based on what they see and what they hear determines and influences the interpersonal conflict itself. When one puts forwards a biased perception towards the matter, it may cause a prolonged duration of the interpersonal conflict. The third factor is unstable willpower. The instability of willpower occurs when an individual that is conflicting is not able to control the friction that is happening due to the lack of social support. The lack of food social support from the society, peers, family, and others may be due to the negative perceptions of the friction. Hence, the conflicting party tries to solve the conflict alone. The fourth factor is the outcome importance. This outcome importance refers to the lost control of a person towards the occurring conflict which due to the presence of higher status, position and rights of the other party. This leads to the party to experience inferiority due to the lack of status, position, and rights. Therefore, all the opinions and views of the lower position will not be heard by the party with the higher position which affects the control of this conflict.

A few other major determinants of interpersonal conflict was found to be differences in personality, lack of information access, the role of incompatibility and social pressure ( Whetten & Cameron, 1991). Past research found that conflict between colleagues emerged due to the changes in the
organization, value differences, different status, lack of belief, confusing personality and low morale (Newstrom, 2007). In order to support that statement, James (2000) found other contributing to interpersonal conflict. The first factor is limited resources. In general, all individuals have the walks the same direction to achieve success. However, due to the lacking and competition to utilize major resources such as money time energy and social support attention organizational attention and technology may lead to an unavoidable conflict. The second factor is differences of goals. Conflicts may happen when the individual personal goals and differs with others. This can be seen when an individual has a goal to improve their life but was prevented by others due to disbelief in the possibility hence discriminating, committing violence and neglect moral support towards that individual. The third factor is the lack of effective communication. Sometimes lacking effective communication may produce immense interpersonal conflict. Obstacles in communication such as gender differences, individual abilities to understand conversations, the difference in culture, misinterpreting language, lack of understanding of body language and such are some the factors that may bring about the occurrence of interpersonal conflict.

The fourth factor is the difference in traits, values, and perception. Opposing values, different religious beliefs, family values and work ethics are one of the known major resources of interpersonal differences. Thus, a perception of fear, confusion, worry, and animosity occurs among individuals and groups on an everyday basis. For instance, when a convict who is released from prison become a peer supporter and assists in campaigning to eradicate social problems, he tends to receive negative perception from the society. Therefore, when there is a continuous difference in traits, values, and perception, an interpersonal conflict will follow suit. The final factor is the difference of personalities between the two parties. The difference in personality may produce unproductive behavior in life such as jealousy, incriminating behavior, cliques of a group with the same personality of people and recidivism towards their previous negative behavior. For instance, when the village head has a stern personality and had to settle a theft case, he may sentence a grave punishment towards the accused, when the punishment could actually lessen. Situations such as this lead to dissatisfaction hence may cause interpersonal conflict with the village head.

Conflict among drug addicts and the society occurs due to the negative social support (Cummings, Gordon, & Marlatt, 1980). A former drug addict’s social network and quality of social support could be one of the factors that influence the relapse behavior (McMahon, 2001). The stigma and society’s negative perception towards former drug addict’s weakens their resilience and increases their tendency to relapse. Uncomfortable relationship and how other individual’s perceptions towards the relationship may also influence the adult drug addict to relax (Leary, Tambor, Terdal, & Downs, 1995; Murray, Holmes, & Griffin, 2000). Furthermore, when the individual is isolated from the society, they have hope for an opportunity to mingle back into the society (Maner et al., 2007). However, when this interaction fails to be realized, they may start behaving anti-socially, which then leads to their downfall towards addiction (Alterman & Cacciola, 1991; Fals-Stewart, 1992; Longabaugh, Rubin, Malloy, Beattie, Clifford, & Noel, 1994). On the other hand, positive social support had to be established to prevent interpersonal conflict events (Barber & Crisp, 1995; Beattie & Longabaugh, 1997, 1999; Dobkin, Civita, Pararerkis, & Gill, 2002; Gordon & Zrull, 1991; Havassy, Hall, & Wasserman, 1991; Humphreys, Moos, & Finney, 1996; McMahon, 2001; Noone, Dua, & Markham, 1999; Rosenberg, 1983).

Fauziah (2012) researched on 400 relapsing drug addicts from 8 PUSPEN within Peninsular Malaysia and found that 72% respondents experience depression, sadness, gloominess, and cry often. The findings of the study concluded that a relapsing drug addict has less matured personality, lack of willpower and high dependence on society to control the societal conflict that occurs. When a former drug addict is alienated due to the ill relationship with the society, they may be inclined to experience cognitive distortion. Cognitive distortion is a condition whereby they will self-blame, self-criticize, easily give up and ruminate on the fear of their behavior. Usually, when this happens, they spontaneously associate the negative influence of their disruptive environment that is imminent in their social organization (Leahy, 2015). Effects of cognitive distortions lead to their negative thoughts, thus resulting in falling to drug abuse.
Statement of Problem

There are a few critical evidences that supported the significance of this research. Statistic show that there is an inconsistency of relapse cases in 5 years from 2012 to 2016 as reported in National Anti-Drug Agency (NADA) that shows an increment of 4,800 (31.79%) case in 2012 to 7,406 (35.46%) case and 8,172 (37.53%) case in the year 2013 and 2014 respectively. Although there was a decline of relapse in 2015 with 6,379 cases (23.92%), the case increased again in 2016 with 7,921 (25.68%) cases. It is crystal clear from the statistics that relapse among former drug addicts inconsistent throughout the 5 years. Obviously, the statistics show inconsistent recurring billing cases over the period. Interpersonal conflicts are also part of the major contributors to the statistics of the relapse according to the discussion and research by the National Anti-Drug Agency.

Other than that, an interpersonal conflict has become the main issue by contemporary researchers and previous researchers to explain how interpersonal conflicts result societal problems in organizations and society. Interpersonal conflicts are a well-known issue that had been focused by researchers in the field of organizational behavior (Bao, Zhu, Hu, & Cui, 2016). Interpersonal conflicts also an important matter of discussion for someone who manages an organization and as a social scientist in understanding traits and behaviors. Conflicts do not only happen in a business organization but it also exist and those that are non-business organization. Numerous research claims this condition known as high-risk situation relapsed is mainly due to the interpersonal conflict which leads to the relapsed of addiction to occur. One of them is a research done by Johnson (1998) that studied the relationship between drug abuse and recidivism among juvenile in America. The research finding states 75% of teenagers that are in the high-risk situation a group relapsed due to experiencing interpersonal conflict other than social pressure and emotional situation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>4,800 (31.79%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>7,406 (35.46%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>8,172 (37.53%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>6,379 (23.92%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>7,921 (25.68%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research Questions

How the interpersonal conflict with the society influence male former drug addicts to relapse?

Research Objective

The main objective of this research is to investigate the interpersonal conflict that influences male former drug addicts to relapse.

Methodology

This research employed the qualitative research method via phenomenological approach. According to Taylor & Bogdan (1997), a phenomenological approach comprised of the human behavior, their speech, and acts as a product as well as the meaning of the world for them.

The population of Cure and Care Service Centre, Kuala Pilah, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia is 27 people. 13 of them are Malays, 7 Chinese and the rest are Indians. The majority of the clients that were interviewed were outpatients that came for their rehabilitation needs. The sampling method of informants for the research is done using purposive sampling. The research informants were chosen
based on the criteria such as male drug addicts aged 25 to 45 years old, has experienced a few treatment sessions in the rehabilitation center and is undergoing a rehabilitation program in Cure and Care Service Centre, Kuala Pilah, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia only.

The semi-structured interview was used as the main instruments for this research. Face-to-face interview questions were used due to the similarity of the previous research on relapsing smokers in a study by Vangeli et. al (2013). Semi-structured interview questions are divided into three parts. Part A consists of their demographic information, Part B is regarding the types of conflict that are experienced by relapsing former adult male drug addicts and lastly, Part C is the analysis of the situation that may lead to the interpersonal conflict which leads to relapse. Epoche or bracketing method is a procedure that requires the researcher to listen to all the informants' experience without being influenced or researcher bias. This face-to-face interview was conducted twice on six informants for this research. The first phase of the interview, rapport building is done with the informants as well as some research information of the research to gain a more viable data. After that, when the rapport formed, participants will undergo a second phase which is the in-depth interview. The second interview aimed to get a clearer understanding and in-depth understanding of the informants. Informed consent will be obtained before the research is conducted. The interview is done in the days where the participants have their treatment. Researchers took the initiative to go to the Cure and Care Service Centre, Kuala Pilah, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia to get closer to the informants while understanding the types of the treatments that are offered. Researchers will also get the chance to be involved in their counseling classes, guidance, religious and spiritual activities as well as life skills as a step to build rapport to ensure a smooth process of the research. To ensure the validity and reliability, two expert staff from Cure and Care Service Centre, Kuala Pilah, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia was selected in peer check review by assisting data collection and data checking.

Data analysis was done based on the themes of the common issues that were detected and categorized. Researchers arrange and analyze the data according to the main themes. The researchers analyze the transcript by reading the interview transcript twice and interpret the informants' data. After the completion of the transcript interview analysis, the main idea is deduced from the inductive approach to produce the main themes.

**Result and Discussion**

Table 3.1 contained the background of the respondents, which is described as follows. There are eight informants that participated in this study that are undergoing the treatment program in Cure and Care Service Centre, Kuala Pilah, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia. Each informant is given a pseudonym in the form of alphabets to protect their identity. The age of these informants are 25 years old, 31 years old, 32 years old, 34 years old, 39 years old, 40 years old, 43 years old, dan 45 years old. The level of education these informants are one completed Ujian Pencapaian Sekolah Rendah (UPSR). Meanwhile, six completed their primary school, Penilaian Menengah Rendah (PMR), 6 informants complete their high school and a single informant with a diploma. The majority of these informants are residents of Negeri Sembilan which are three people, two from Perak, and two from Kuala Lumpur and one from the state of Selangor. In terms of marital status, six of the informants are single and two divorces. The layout of the previous occupations of these informants, five were factory workers, while two were self-employed and one truck driver. In terms of the specific abused drug, five of the participants took heroin, 2 Syabu addicts, and one who took marijuana. The longest duration of their addiction period for a participant is 50 years. While the other informants are 22 years, 20 years, 11 years, 10 years, 9 years, 6 years and 5 years. Referring to the number of rehabilitation centers assigned for treatments, only one mentioned three centers. Meanwhile the other had been receiving treatment in 4, 6, 8, and 9 centers for rehabilitation.
Table 3.1 Background of the Respondents (n=8)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name (Pseudonym)</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Level of Education</th>
<th>Marriage Status</th>
<th>Previous Occupation</th>
<th>Drug Type</th>
<th>Addiction Period</th>
<th>Number of rehabilitation center received treatments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>Factory Worker</td>
<td>Syabu</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>High School</td>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>Factory Worker</td>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>High School</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>Factory Worker</td>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>High School</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>Self-employed</td>
<td>Marijuana</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>High School</td>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>Self-employed</td>
<td>Syabu</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Diploma</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>Truck Driver</td>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>High School</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>Factory Worker</td>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>H</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>High School</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>Factory Worker</td>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Under the theme of conflict with the society, the labeling issue of criminal, isolation by the society and barred from getting involved in social programs may be initiating factors of interpersonal conflict among informants in the society.

**Labeling former drug addicts as criminals**

The negative stigmatization of the society is the reason why interpersonal conflict occurs among informants and the society that leads to the relapsing phenomenon. It is inevitable that there is a negative stigma on the mind of the society. According to the informants' information, when a new individual is released from the rehabilitation center, the society would immediately label them as bad addicts. Moreover, when there are theft cases that occur in the residence area, the community would accuse the informant as the main suspect as they had broken the law. For instance, when one of the informants was released from Kajang Prison, he was accused of stealing property and domestic animals in his village. As an act of revenge, the informant confessed that he then stole the neighbors’ domestic animal and sold it for Syabu. Other than that, an informant also stated that they had been beaten up by a convenience store owner as he is accused of stealing rice. The informants stated that:

“If there are any theft case, I’m the one blamed...Why am I the suspect? I remember there were two times, I was accused of breaking into the house not far from my house. I know nothing of the case... I was accused so badly till I was sent to Seremban Jail... Last time, I was so mad, that I stole a goat in that orchard and then sold meds... I don’t care if I was an addict or not, people will always see me a bad addict” (Informant A)

“Till now, the neighbors are not okay with me... but I can’t accept the act that they blame me for things I did not do. I was beaten up by a store owner in town when I did not steal the rice at all... Sometimes, I am hurt by these people... Might as well I start taking drugs if it’s like this” (Informant F)

Under the issue of labeling former drug addicts as criminals in the society, there are also being labeled as the cause of social problem in their residence. This means that if there is any rape or harassments that occur, they are the first to be accused. The informants stated:
“Not just that, I was once kicked out cause I was accused of bothering someone’s girlfriend...when I was actually asking for old newspapers...I was lucky then the headman was there at the time...or else, I do not know what else to say” (Informant B)

“In my village, there is this girl...she is kind of pretty... but what is the use of being pretty if she has a bad mouth... I was once punched by her brother because I was accused of doing bad things to her... Don’t you think I have any feelings? at least respect us, it's not like we are bad forever” (Informant C)

“I remember there was a rape case at a house nearby my house in 2009...at 2 o’clock, my door was knocked as the villagers blamed me for raping the girl... Sometimes I am weirded out by these people?” (Informant F)

The negative stigma of the society is causing the uncomfortable feeling of informants which encourages them to try harder to eliminate the bad addict label. However, the informants failed to do so because of difficulty in erasing the labeling stigma of ‘drug addicts are criminals’. The drug addict stigma as a criminal musters dissatisfaction within themselves and weakened the relationships of the informant and the society. The repercussion of the weak relationship causes interpersonal conflict to occur which then leads them to the verge of addiction.

**Isolation from the society**

Alienation from the society culminates interpersonal conflict that influences the informant's tendency to relapse. This interpersonal conflict due to the behavior of the village head prohibiting the informant family from receiving welfare assistance. The village head justified his actions by claiming that the informant’s family is a danger due to having a member who is a drug addict and always receiving ill stories from the community. This situation is upsetting for the informant as his rights were denied as a member of the society. The informant added that people in the society also reminded their children not to mingle with the informant who has the traits of an addict and never provide aid to former drug addicts. This isolation is with the purpose to exclude the society from being influenced towards addiction. The informants stated:

“I just got back from CCSC Tapah, my family started a fight with me. They said that because I was an addict, the family could not apply welfare funds from the village association... At the time, I was angry at them for involving my family... The insolent village head excludes us like this... We never got invited to weddings... If you ask me, I would like to create a ruckus... That’s not all, they also slandered my family... in the end, falling back to drugs is the only thing that calms me, escape from the problems by these villagers” (Informant E)

“My neighbors told me not to be so near to their children as I was “dirty”... I felt challenged at the time... I remember that time when I got into a motorbike accident, nobody helped... but it’s weird why these villagers isolated me when I was the one who assisted them to build the community building... They don’t understand it’s not easy to heal... rather than wasting time, might as well I take drugs” (Informant F)

However, the informant mentioned that society treats people differently depending on the status of the family. According to the informant, his friend has also gone through a relapse, but his family was not isolated from the society. Instead, his friend was given the opportunity to attend weddings and there was no dispute between his friend and the society. It only then did he find out that his friend came from an influential family and news of his conviction was hushed from the society. The informant noted that:

“I was not the only one that relapsed... a friend of mine was the village chief’s soon also relapsed... but he was not harassed by the villagers... In this world
and era, with power you will survive, without it you’ll be suppressed… that is not fair, but that is life” (Informant E)

The isolation issue by the society portrays a biased behavior by the villagers in terms of business opportunities. The informant claims that they were not approved to run a business in Pasar Tani. The informants said that the villagers purposely informed the related authorities of our former conviction status so that other villagers could have the approval instead.

“I felt discriminated when I was applying for the spot at Pasar Tani. I have all the documents, it's just that they were not confident of me running a business...It's not like I have not done it before... they made up stories and in the end, they got the spot!” (Informant B)

“Previously, my late father sold dragon fruits... so I thought maybe I could apply for the spot, and still, I was not approved... There’s someone who told ill stories saying I was dangerous if I was running the business alone... They said I would cause havoc at the site... These people are envious... So, I ended up with no income, when there’s no income, that’s why I started addicting again” (Informant D)

Prohibition from involvement in community programs

Being prevented from joining programs within the society could also influence a relapse by the informants. Societal programs could be cleanup activities, environment preservations, and agriculture business campaign. When they do participate, they are reprimanded by the community and were not allowed to join in. The excuse given was they fear the informant would ruin the program. This emits anger and upset as the informant’s goal was to help out and prove to the community that he is fully healed. The informant was fully disappointed when the community isolated him further by listing out the names of former addicts and handing it over to program organizers to block their right to attend. The informants mentioned in their statement:

“I remember I was beaten up at the time for joining their monthly clean up, the villagers forbid me attending fearing I would cause ruckus...I was all prepped ready with a lawn mower and equipment...I was really mad.. And that's when I started hating them” (Informant A)

“I was not sure about them handing the names of former drug addicts, ex-convicts, to those who were conducting the event, I did not think it was a big program... the agriculture business campaign should take us in as we did not have higher education, but at least we know how to farm... I even thought of moving to another area... If this continues, it’ll cause a huge fight” (Informant E)

Besides that, because of the prohibition from community programs, it also brought about prerequisites to attend these programs. Hence, the informant was then in charge of the cleanliness for free as charity work. If the informant agrees, only then they will allow the informants to socialize with the villagers.

“I seriously told them that I am not a maid... Maids are paid... I would like to join their program... Through this program, they could see how much I have healed... they never gave us a chance, what do they get from that? Condemning us former drug addicts” (Informant E)

“It’s ridiculous, isn’t it? I had to clean, sweep the floor... are they nuts? I am not getting paid... The more I think about it, I don’t want to care... I will just stay at home and take Syabu quietly, hahaha” (Informant F)

Various issues were found in this research that was due interpersonal conflict in the society. The first issue in this conflict is the societal labeling of drug addicts as criminals. This is in relation to an
element in the labeling theory by Howard Becker (1963) which is the social labeling that is given to certain felonies. Consequently, a society automatically labels the recently released informants from rehabilitation centers as bad addicts. Societal labeling caused drug addicts to mostly be the first person to be suspected for theft due to the law being closely related to the statement by Thomas Scheff (1984) whereby a person acts abnormally due to not understanding the significance of the existing law. The outcome from labeling yields interpersonal conflict between informant and society which then leads to relapse. By and large, the research is similar with Heck and Voliter’s (1998) whereby the interpersonal factor such as school adjustment, juvenile cases, relationship or conflict in the society and family influences the intake of an illegal substance.

The isolation issue by the society is seen as the act of isolation in countless aspects which emerged from stereotyping similar to the labeling theory. Drug addicts are being stereotyped as a danger to society which then gives rise to the social desolation that is akin with the statement by J. L. Simmons (1969) whereby stereotyping relies on the level of acceptance of the behavior in a society which induces societal classification. Other than that, the informant statements of in relation to the refusing to isolate families with higher status are coherent with Chambliss (1973) whereby an individual who is from a family with a higher social status are less affected by labeling and isolation by the society. Moreover, when an individual is ostracized from a society they undergo social pain. Social pain is an emotional reaction through which the individual is cut off from relationships with others and friends which then prompts the downsizing of the individual’s status (Macdonald & Leary, 2005).

The hindrance from participating in community programs is seen as a strict action by the society to prevent drug addicts from getting involved in these programs as well as assuming that the negative behavior of newly released drug addicts hence developing pessimistic deductions in their mind. This statement is consistent with Frank Tannenbaum’s (1971) perspective that states the deviant traits starts off from the labeling of an individual, stigmatization and identifying a seemingly negative behavior. This process emits a permanent negative stigma on the minds of the society. Stigmatization in the society unknowingly precipitates what can and cannot be done by a former drug addict. On this note, drug addicts do not have to be involved in community activities, which then lead to the becoming one of the reason causes of relapse due to the acceptance of the society that induces depression, stress, and unruly worry. Stigmatization and negative views diminish the drug addicts’ self-resistance which then induces a relapse (Idele et al., 2014). In a nutshell, the issues are close to the concept of interpersonal conflict is seen as incomplete behaviors (Shantz, 1987) that cause oppositional behavior (Hay, 1984) that stirs up a misunderstanding (Garvey, 1984).

By virtue of the three issues, it portrays the adverse relationship between an informant and his society. All three issues can be seen as a state of protest by the society towards newly released informants from their rehabilitation programs. It can be clearly seen that the conflict management utilizes the win and lose method proposed by Thomas & Killman (1977). The win and lose conflict management means that the party that is conflicted would do whatever that it takes to achieve their goal. In this research, the society does all sorts of things to ensure the restriction of informants from socializing freely in the community.

**Conclusion and Recommendations**

Inevitably, societal conflict is one of the factors that cause relapse addictions. This research shows that negative behavior and perception of the society towards former drug addicts. Former drug addicts have to learn systematic conflict management techniques during their rehabilitation programs. A team effort of rehabilitation officers and related parties has to work together in improving the rehabilitation learning module by introducing or reconstructing the interpersonal conflict management. Further research has to be done by National Anti-Drug Agency in relation to the evaluation of helpful community programs to reinitialize the relationship between drug addicts and the community. This research results in a focused community program that must be done annually so that interpersonal conflict could be eradicated simultaneously reducing the relapsing addiction statistics.
References


