Perspectives of Addiction Medicine in Malaysia

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Drug Policy in Malaysia: What is its direction?

Dr. Muhammad Mulisn Ahmad Zahari

Many countries around the world are struggling in fighting with the drug-related problems that they are facing. The authority, namely the government has been given responsibility to provide effective control of the problem that encountered in any countries. After there were public outcry on direct and indirect consequences of illicit drugs use problems, some nations have taken serious actions on dealing with drug-related problems. The realization on tackling the issues related to illicit drugs use began with Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961 by the United Nations. Malaysia has adopted this convention which suggested the aspect of early identification, treatment, education, rehabilitation and social re-integration.

In Malaysia, a policy or rather a national target for the so called ‘war on drugs’ have been introduced. For many years, law and order have dominated approaches in dealing with drug-related problems. There are numerous government agencies namely police department has been tasked in exercising the roles of law and order for drug related problems. For the police force the primary focus is to do enforcement on the laws associated with illicit drugs. However, the enforcement can also include those who are using drug. Many of them have been detained for being suspects of drug addicts and subsequently they will be brought before the courts. If they are drug addicts proved by the presence of illicit drugs in their urine, they can be sentenced to either compulsory treatment centers or prison.

Another pattern of sentencing is police surveillance (PS). Under this sentencing the convicted users have to report him to assigned police station. Usually the police station is located nearby the user address. Urine test is usually conducted in random when the convicted users presented himself to the police for reporting. At any stage if urine is positive for illicit drugs he or she will be brought before the court again. The order for PS can be extended by the court if it is justified.

Another sentence which may be passed by the court is the Police Curfew Order (PCO). This is the heavier sentence for drug users. Usually this sentence is associated with drug selling of the convict. They might also have urine positive for illicit drugs and at the same time, possessing higher amount of illicit drugs. For this sentence the convict will usually have to serve the sentence of imprisonment and upon released from prison he or she will be re-located to a district away from where he or she originated. Usually, the relocation is hundred miles away from his or her original location. Under this sentencing the convicted users have to live at the relocated place for a duration of uncertain by the court. Police will ensure that by night time the convict is in his or her house. Any movement beyond the relocated place need to get permission from the court which passed the sentence.

Government of Malaysia has introduced a very tough policy on illicit drug use. “Drug-free society” is the government expression in tackling drug menace.

This objective should be accomplished by the year 2015. This policy has drove Malaysian towards irreconcilable approach where drug use has been assumed inhumane behaviour. Since there are estimated to have resulted in the crime rates have been late childhood, which has created changes that have become lessened.

Although drug problem addressed in Malaysia have tackled primarily to indicate how to reduce the rate of crime rates or reduction in treatment on crime, help people achieve a significant drug burden, which have been raised due to drug use increased in our society. It would not only cost to the society.

Another important factor to control of illicit drugs use is resulted in consecutive social problems. It’s not just a physical or mental health, and so as to determine what coping skills are the factors that determine. These factors are a response to the unique needs of every society.

There have been put to the other country to similar problems particularly in the health and social aspects. This aspect is giving rise to various challenges nationwide.

In examining the drug use that is important to be aware that are important and should have been associated with its public, costs around the end users as well as supply.