Factors Associated with Narcotics Trafficking in Swamp Environment of Palembang City

Abdul Rahman[1], Amin Rejo[2], Dadang Hikmah Purnama[2], and Mada Apriadi Zuhir[2]

[1] Program Doktor Ilmu Lingkungan, Universitas Sriwijaya, Indonesia
[2] Universitas Sriwijaya, Indonesia
rahman790927@gmail.com

Abstract. Narcotics trafficking is a serious problem that has a far-reaching negative impact on societies and states. People who live around swamps tend to have relatively higher rates of narcotics trafficking when compared to people living on land. This study aims to analyze between narcotic circulation factors and swamp environments. The method used is a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach in Palembang City and a literature review. The results show that narcotics trafficking is influenced by a number of complex factors include social, economic, cultural, policy, and environmental aspects. Social aspects include peer influence, social pressure, and social isolation that can influence a person to engage in narcotics trafficking. Economic aspects include the problem of unemployment, economic instability, and financial motivation to engage in narcotics trafficking. Cultural aspects include norms that support the use of narcotics and a misconception of narcotics. In addition, government policies in handling narcotics also affect the circulation of narcotics in the community. Environmental aspects include geographical isolation, where large and hard-to-reach swampy areas can become safe places for the manufacture, storage, or trafficking of narcotics. Surveillance and limited accessibility because the swamp environment is in a remote environment so it is less supervised, and makes it difficult for law enforcement to patrol. Social livelihoods are limited because swamps often have minimal populations and limited access to educational programs. Low knowledge and awareness about the dangers of narcotics due to the lack of anti-narcotics campaigns among residents of swampy areas can make them more vulnerable to narcotics circulation.

Keywords: social economic, cultural, government policy, swamp environment, narcotics trafficking.

1   Introduction

A swamp environment is an ecosystem consisting of watery land that undergoes periodic or constant water immersion. The main feature of the swamp environment is the presence of water that affects the condition of the soil, vegetation and ecosystem in general. Some characteristic of swamp environments are the presence of standing water that can be temporary or permanent [1]. This puddle can arise due to rain, tides, or overflowing rivers. Swamp environments are often overgrown by plants that have special adaptations for growing in water or soil that is always wet. Although swamps often look flat and monotonous, they have a high level of biodiversity. Many species of animals and plants live in this environment, including water birds, amphibians, fish, insects, and other creatures. Swamps have an important role in maintaining the balance of the ecosystem. They can filter water, provide habitat for wildlife, store carbon, and serve as natural flood barriers. Swamp environments often provide benefits to humans, such as water sources for agricultural irrigation, rich fish habitats, recreational areas, and even as a source of raw materials for various products, such as rattan and medicinal herbs [2].

The phenomenon of a higher incidence of narcotics trafficking among people living around swamp environments compared to people living in land areas is a complex and worrying social problem. Narcotics trafficking is a serious and complex issue that has far-reaching negative impacts on individuals, societies, and countries. This phenomenon not only threatens individual health but also disrupts social stability and national security. In this context, narcotics trafficking has serious impacts on health, security, and social welfare.

In addition, the circulation of narcotics also damages social relations in society. Drug use often triggers conflict in family and interpersonal relationships [3]. People exposed to drug trafficking also often experience insecurity and feelings of discomfort in their environment. On a broader scale, narcotics trafficking can disrupt social stability and national security. Organized crime associated with narcotics trafficking can weaken the country's security structure and have a negative impact on the economy.

The circulation of narcotics is a serious issue that poses significant challenges to the well-being of communities worldwide. However, factors related to narcotics circulation, especially in swamp environments, have not been comprehensively discussed. Narcotics circulation has become a profound and complex issue affecting many communities, including in the city of Palembang, located in Indonesia. Palembang City, with its rich swamp environment, provides an intriguing context for further exploration of narcotics circulation. The swamp environment not only serves as a geographical identity for the city but also indicates potential risks associated with narcotics circulation within it. This research aims to analyze and provide in-depth insights into the factors related to narcotics circulation,

particularly in the swamp environment of Palembang. The study will contribute to optimizing a comprehensive and integrated approach to addressing the issue of narcotics circulation.

2 Method

The method used is a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach in Palembang City. The 11 informants in this research were police detainees for drug use and distribution who lived in Subdistrict 35-36 Ilir, Gandus District, which is a swamp area in Palembang City. Data collection was conducted through in-depth interviews with respondents to understand their experiences and views related to narcotics trafficking in swamplands. Researchers ask open-ended questions to explore the informant's thoughts, feelings, and experiences in more detail. Literature studies are also conducted to look for factors related to narcotics trafficking through scientific journals, books, research reports, and electronic sources. The term used for search keywords is narcotics trafficking. Studies from online databases are selected based on inclusion and exclusion criteria, i.e. identifying studies that display social, economic, cultural, knowledge, and educational factors. Non-case report studies such as reviews and open inaccessible studies are excluded.

3 Results and Discussion

One of the main impacts of narcotics trafficking is health problems. The use of narcotics can cause a strong addiction, which leads to excessive and repeated consumption. This can result in deteriorating physical and mental health, as well as a high death rate from overdose. Previous research has suggested that there is a positive and significant relationship between psychiatric, occupational, health, and family problems on the severity of drug abuse in Indonesia [4]. The severity of moderate to very severe narcotic abuse is greatest in the age group of 16-25 years [5]. Most of those affected are still classified as adolescents and young adults, therefore this mass concern is of concern to the government and public concern in various countries, especially among parents, educators and youth coaches. Drug use can cause damaging psychological effects, such as psychiatric disorders, anxiety, and depression. Narcotics trafficking also contributes significantly to crime. Offenders involved in narcotics trafficking are often involved in other crimes, such as robbery, theft, and human trafficking. Attempts to financially satisfy the need to obtain narcotics often push individuals down criminal paths.

A swamp is a type of land formed from silt or soil that contains a lot of water making it difficult to access and utilize. Swamplands can be found in various regions of Indonesia, including in the city of Palembang and the province of South Sumatra. Swampland in the city of Palembang or South Sumatra is generally formed from overflowing rivers and depositing soil and mud material in low areas. Palembang City

has several areas consisting of swampland. Swampland in the city of Palembang has an important role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem and the survival of flora and fauna around the area.

Some characteristics of people living in swampland include: dependence on agriculture or fisheries because swampland is suitable for agriculture and fisheries, so most people in swampland rely on this sector as a source of income. The availability of clean water and poor sanitation, as well as the easier spread of disease in humid and wet environments can affect public health. Some swampy areas may be difficult to access due to poor road conditions. This can affect people's access to health facilities, education, and the supply of daily necessities.

The proliferation of narcotics within swamp environments is a multifaceted phenomenon shaped by a myriad of intricate factors. In essence, the social structure of swamp communities plays an important role in the dynamics of narcotics trafficking. Economic factors further emphasize this challenge, with problems such as unemployment, economic instability, and the lure of financial gain being the driving factors behind involvement in narcotics-related activities. Cultural nuances are closely woven into the narrative, as prevailing norms that support narcotic use and misunderstandings surrounding these substances contribute to the persistence of this problem. Government policy is the determining factor that determines the contours of narcotics dynamics. Environmental aspects, particularly the swamp's unique geographic and ecological characteristics, create an environment conducive to narcotics activity. The circulation of narcotics is influenced by a number of complex factors including social, economic, cultural, government policy and swamp environmental aspects which will be explained as follows.

3.1 Social factors

Social factors include peer influence, social pressure, and social isolation that can predispose a person to engage in narcotics trafficking. Peer influence is one of the most powerful factors in influencing a person's decision regarding drug use. There is no difference between women and men when it comes to drug users or dealers [6]. Human beings naturally have a desire to be accepted and approved by others, especially by peers. When peers engage in drug use, individuals tend to feel that they need to partake in these activities to maintain or gain social acceptance from their group [7]. When someone is in a group of friends who use drugs, there is strong social pressure to follow what the group is doing. Fear of being different or alienated from the group can drive a person to try drugs or engage in drug trafficking. Before falling into drugs, it begins with a friendship that invites alcohol consumption [8].

Peers often act as role models, meaning their behavior can be perceived as a norm or example followed by other individuals. If a person sees their peers using narcotics and does not seem to experience serious negative consequences, the

individual may be inclined to believe that drug use is acceptable behavior [9]. Some individuals may lack information or awareness about the risks and consequences associated with narcotics use. They may be more likely to try drugs if they only hear advice or inaccurate information from their friends. In some situations, peers may also give direct pressure to the individual to try narcotics. This insistence can take the form of a challenge, a game, or even the threat of losing status in a group if someone refuses [10]. It is important to remember that peer influence can have a negative impact on a person's decisions regarding drugs. Therefore, prevention and education efforts aimed at young individuals and peer groups can help reduce these negative influences and promote healthier and safer behaviors [11].

Social pressure is a factor that can have a significant effect on a person's behavior related to drugs. Social pressure can come from a variety of sources, including the neighborhood, family, and mass media [12]. As mentioned earlier, peers can put direct pressure on individuals to try narcotics [10]. They may engage the individual for a reason, consider it an exciting experience or "obligation" in the group, or even use psychological pressure to influence decisions.

Families can also exert pressure on individuals in many forms. There may be families involved in drug trafficking, or there may be pressure from family members to try drugs as a way to "get together" or follow certain traditions. On the other hand, there are families who exert strong moral and normative pressure not to use narcotics. Environmental factors such as pressure from neighbors, schoolmates, or work can also influence a person's decisions regarding drugs [13]. For example, if a person lives in an environment that is affected by drug use or drug-related criminality, there is a high chance that the individual will be more exposed to pressure to engage in such activities. Mass media, such as film, television, and social media, can influence perceptions about drug use. When the media portrays drug use as cool or entertaining, it can put indirect pressure on individuals to try drugs to feel more "sociable" or fit into ongoing trends.

Some individuals may feel distress from personal or emotional issues they are facing. They may use narcotics as an escape or stress reliever because they feel they have no other way to cope with their social pressures or problems. It is important to remember that social pressure can have a major impact on a person's drug-related behavior, both positively and negatively [14]. Therefore, it is important to be aware of the influence of these social pressures and develop social skills and support that enable individuals to make better decisions regarding narcotics, especially in environments that support healthy and safe behaviors.

People who feel socially isolated or lack strong social support tend to have a higher risk of engaging in narcotics use. Narcotics can be a way to escape feelings of isolation or loneliness. Social isolation or loneliness can be significant risk factors in engaging in narcotics use. Individuals who feel lonely or socially isolated tend to look for ways to cope with these negative feelings. Narcotic use can be seen as a way to

temporarily escape loneliness or other uncomfortable feelings. Narcotics can provide a momentary feeling of euphoria or comfort that individuals who feel lonely crave.

People who feel socially isolated may also have a lack of social support. Social support is an important factor in helping individuals cope with stress, pressure, or emotional difficulties. When someone feels they don't have a strong support network, they may be more vulnerable to drug use as a way to fill the void. Socially isolated individuals tend to have less healthy social patterns. They may be more likely to associate with people who engage in narcotic use or other risky activities. This can increase their chances of engaging in narcotics use.

The use of narcotics in an attempt to cope with loneliness can trigger a dangerous cycle in which the use of narcotics precisely deepens social isolation. People who use drugs may neglect lingering social relationships or even create conflicts with friends and family who disagree with their use. In some cases, drug use can make individuals increasingly isolated. They may start to drift away from people who care about their well-being, and this could have a devastating impact on a brand's mental and physical health [12]. Effective prevention and intervention need to pay attention to the relationship between social isolation and drug use. This could include efforts to strengthen social support, provide psychological support, and identify alternative ways to cope with feelings of loneliness or isolation, such as engaging in healthy social activities or seeking help from a mental health professional.

3.2 Economic factors

Economic factors include unemployment problems, economic instability, and financial motivation to engage in narcotics trafficking [15]. High unemployment rates can create conditions that make individuals more vulnerable to engaging in narcotics trafficking. When unemployment is high, competition for decent jobs becomes fiercer. Many unemployed individuals may have difficulty in finding jobs that can meet their economic needs. The limited employment options available may force some people to look for alternative sources of income [16].

If a person manages to get a job, but the salary they receive is low, then they may still face difficulties in meeting their daily needs and family needs. In such a situation, one may be looking for ways to make more money, and narcotics trafficking can be one of the attractive options due to its huge profit potential. When a person sees that many people around him are involved in narcotics trafficking and seem to be financially successful, they may feel compelled to try their luck in the same. The perception that narcotics can be a quick and significant source of income can be a strong attraction, especially for individuals experiencing economic hardship.

In communities where narcotics are a common problem, unemployed individuals may be more likely to be exposed to peers or social networks involved in narcotics trafficking. This can facilitate their entry into such illegal activities. It is

important to remember that engaging in narcotics trafficking is illegal and dangerous. Adequate unemployment prevention and social assistance measures, as well as rehabilitation programs for individuals involved in narcotics, are some of the steps that can be taken to reduce the negative impact of unemployment on the drug problem. In addition, a broader approach to addressing this problem should include education, mental health care, and drug policy reform [17].

Economic instability, including economic recession or high inflation, can have serious impacts on individuals and society as a whole, including when it comes to narcotics problems. When the economy experiences instability, many individuals and families can face difficulties in meeting basic needs such as food, housing, and education [18]. Rising prices of goods and services, especially during periods of high inflation, can reduce people's purchasing power. This can make some people look for ways to earn extra income.

During an economic recession, many jobs can be lost or become unstable. People who have lost their jobs or are forced to work in uncertain conditions may seek alternative sources of income. Narcotics trafficking can be an option because of its high profit potential and flexibility. Economic instability can create significant stress and psychological stress on individuals [19]. Some people may seek an escape from this stress by using narcotics or illegal drugs as a form of coping. When people feel trapped in a difficult economic situation, the demand for narcotics can also increase. Individuals seeking an escape from their economic problems may be more likely to try narcotics or become more frequent consumers.

During economic instability, there may be an increase in narcotics use in certain communities. This can influence individuals not previously involved in narcotics to become further involved as a result of social influence and pressure from friends or family members. To address the impact of economic instability on the narcotics problem, it is important to implement sustainable economic policies, provide strong social safety nets, and provide access to education and skills training to help individuals get decent jobs [20]. In addition, narcotics prevention and treatment programs for individuals involved in narcotics are also important to help address this problem in society.

Financial motivation can indeed be one of the main factors that drive individuals to engage in narcotics trafficking. Illegal narcotics trafficking often has enormous profit potential. The selling price of narcotics is often much higher than the cost of production or acquisition. Individuals involved in narcotics trafficking may see it as an opportunity to make money quickly and in significant amounts.

For some individuals, engaging in narcotics trafficking is a response to difficult personal economic conditions. They may face unemployment, financial hardship, or lack of decent job opportunities. In situations like these, some people may see narcotics trafficking as the only way to improve their financial situation. For some individuals, the illegal narcotics trade can provide a lavish lifestyle and luxuries

that they do not get through employment or other legal businesses. This could include owning a luxury car, mansion, or other luxury items that may be difficult for many people to access.

Some people may be affected by the high level of risk associated with narcotics trafficking. They see the potential for huge profits as rewards commensurate with the legal risks they face. However, it is important to remember that engaging in illegal narcotics trafficking is also at high risk in terms of legal action and violence. It is important to note that engaging in narcotics trafficking is a dangerous illegal act, and its impact is not only limited to the individuals involved, but also to society as a whole. Law enforcement and narcotics prevention efforts are important to reduce the financial motivation for individuals to engage in narcotics trafficking. In addition, providing better economic opportunities, education, and social support can also help reduce the financial motivation that drives engaging in drugs.

3.3 Cultural Factors

Cultural factors include norms that favor the use of narcotics and a misconception of narcotics. Cultural factors have an important role in supporting or inhibiting drug use. Cultural factors include social norms, values, beliefs, and understandings that develop in a society. In the context of drug use, cultural factors can influence the behavior of individuals and society at large [14].

Cultures can have norms that favor or despise drug use. If drug use is considered as something accepted or even considered part of daily life, this can increase the prevalence of narcotic use in that society [21]. If in a culture drug use is considered normal or ordinary behavior, individuals in that society may be more inclined to try drugs or continue their use [22]. This is because they do not feel that drug use violates existing social norms.

The values held by a society can influence the view of drugs. For example, a highly individualistic society may be more inclined to support personal freedom in choosing to use drugs, while a more collective society may have a stricter view of drug use. A culture that accepts and perhaps even promotes drug use can reduce social stigma against drugs [22]. This can make individuals who use drugs feel safer and less exposed to criticism or social punishment [23].

An incorrect understanding or lack of education about narcotics in a culture can lead to irresponsible use. If the public does not understand the risks and consequences associated with narcotic use, they may be more vulnerable to harmful use. In order to address the problem of drug use harming society, it is important to understand the role of cultural factors and how these factors can be changed through education, anti-narcotics campaigns, and other efforts to change the norms and misconceptions associated with narcotics in a culture.

3.4 Government Policy Factors

Government policies in handling narcotics have a major influence on the circulation of narcotics in society. Government policy in this regard includes various measures and strategies established to control, prevent, and reduce narcotics trafficking and its negative impacts. Government policy includes law enforcement efforts to eradicate narcotics trafficking. It involves the arrest, prosecution, and conviction of individuals and groups involved in narcotics trafficking. Strong law enforcement policies can reduce the availability of narcotics in the illegal market [15].

Governments can also take steps to prevent drug abuse, especially among young people. This could involve education programs about the dangers of narcotics, counseling, and support for individuals vulnerable to drug abuse [24]. The government can develop educational programs aimed at students in schools [25]. The program should include information on the dangers of narcotics, the short- and long-term effects of narcotics abuse, as well as how to identify everyday stresses that can lead to drug abuse [26].

Through community and school outreach events, the government can provide additional information to young people and parents about the risks of drug abuse. This can include presentations, workshops, and discussions about narcotics and their effects. Governments can also use social media and awareness campaigns to reach a wider audience, especially the younger generation. These campaigns can focus on real stories from individuals who have experienced the negative effects of drug abuse as a warning [27].

Government policies may include efforts to assist individuals who have been entangled in drug abuse by providing treatment and rehabilitation services. It aims to help them overcome dependence and return to society as productive individuals [28]. Government policies in handling narcotics often involve cooperation with other countries, especially in terms of combating cross-border narcotics trafficking. This can include cooperation in terms of intelligence exchanges, joint operations, and international law enforcement.

Policy choices taken by the government can have a significant impact on the level of drug abuse and drug trafficking in society. Appropriate and comprehensive policies can help reduce the negative impact of drug abuse, while ineffective policies can lead to greater problems. Therefore, prudent and evidence-based planning and implementation of narcotics policies is essential.

3.5 Swamp Environmental Factors

The environmental aspects you mentioned play an important role in influencing the circulation and abuse of narcotics in swampy areas. Large, hard-to-reach swampy areas can provide a relatively safe haven for narcotics-related activities such as

production, storage, or illegal trade. The presence of vast, watery swamps can be places that are not easily visible to authorities, so this illicit activity can be better hidden. There is a clear link between drug use and risk factors that can be exacerbated by the environment.

The remote and hard-to-reach swamp environment makes law enforcement face obstacles in conducting patrols and surveillance. Limited access can hinder efforts to effectively detect and address narcotics trafficking activities. Swamp areas often have minimal populations, and limited access to educational programs and social resources [29]. This limited social life can make individuals in the area more vulnerable to negative influences, including drug abuse. Lack of access to education and social opportunities can also increase the risk of drug abuse among the communities living there.

The lack of anti-narcotics campaigns among residents of swampy areas can lead to low knowledge and awareness about the dangers of narcotics. Without a sufficient understanding of the risks and consequences of drug abuse, people tend to be more vulnerable to the temptation to engage in narcotics trafficking activities. In this context, steps that can be taken include increasing patrols and surveillance in isolated swampy areas to reduce narcotics trafficking activities. Increase patrols and surveillance in hard-to-reach swamp areas to reduce narcotics trafficking activities. This could involve increased police and law enforcement presence in the area as well as the use of technology such as surveillance cameras or satellites for monitoring.

Close cooperation between various agencies, including the police, local government, health departments, and community organizations, is essential. Collaboration can help devise more effective strategies and allocate resources better. Encourage public participation in anti-narcotics campaigns and raise awareness of the dangers of narcotics. Conduct education and awareness campaigns among locals about the dangers of narcotics and their consequences. These campaigns can take the form of seminars, workshops, or educational programs in local schools. Provide better access to education and social resources to communities in swampy areas to reduce risk factors associated with narcotics abuse.

Rehabilitation Program provides rehabilitation and support programs for individuals caught in drug abuse. This can include counseling, medication, and social reintegration services to help them get out of the drug trafficking cycle [30]. Tightening Narcotics Control Policies can be implemented by tightening policies and penalties related to narcotics trafficking [31]. This includes strict law enforcement against illegal narcotics dealers and producers to reduce incentives for them to operate in swampy areas.

Community Empowerment through the promotion of community empowerment to report suspicious narcotics trafficking activities. The public can play an important role in providing information to law enforcement. Provision of Economic Alternatives for local communities who may be involved in narcotics

trafficking due to lack of economic opportunities. This can involve skills training programs or sustainable agricultural development.

Building community resilience to risk factors such as social and economic pressures that can drive a person to engage in narcotics trafficking. Continuous evaluation and adjustment are carried out to measure the effectiveness of prevention strategies and make adjustments if needed based on periodic data and evaluations. A successful prevention strategy should include a holistic approach, involve multiple parties, and be designed according to local conditions and the unique characteristics of the swamp area that is the focus of attention. It is important to involve governments, law enforcement agencies, community organizations, and local communities in efforts to address the problem of narcotics trafficking in these swampy areas with a holistic and sustainable approach.

4   Conclusion

The circulation of narcotics in swamp environments involves complex and interconnected factors. Social factors, such as peer influence, social pressure, and social isolation, play a significant role in influencing individuals to engage in narcotics trafficking. The presence of challenging economic conditions, such as unemployment, economic instability, and financial motivation, contributes to the allure of narcotics-related activities. Cultural aspects also play a role, with norms that support the use of narcotics and misconceptions about narcotics helping to perpetuate the issue. Government policies have a significant impact, both positively and negatively, on the dynamics of narcotics circulation in society, underscoring the importance of designing effective policies to address this issue. The swamp environment, as an environmental factor, has inevitable consequences. Geographical inaccessibility, limited accessibility, and the difficulty of surveillance in swamp environments create ideal conditions for the production, storage, and trafficking of narcotics. This poses additional challenges for law enforcement and complicates efforts to control narcotics circulation in these areas. With a deep understanding of the complex interactions between social, economic, cultural factors, government policies and the swamp environment, it can provide input for various parties to overcome the circulation of narcotics in the swamp environment through a holistic and coordinated approach. Efforts toward more effective prevention and law enforcement, coupled with sustainable social and economic development, might be the key to reducing the negative impact of narcotics circulation on communities around swamp environments.

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