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**THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY, FAMILY AND LOVED ONES IN PREVENTING OF
DRUG ABUSE AND IN REDUCING RECIDIVISM:**

Brunei Darussalam's perspectives

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The total population of Brunei Darussalam, in 2005 was 370,000. The multi-ethnic population is predominantly made up of Malays (66.7%). A majority of the population live in extended family system with an average household size of 6 people per household.

In Brunei Darussalam, apart from Drug Prevention program in school, the government has also made an effort for community and family in preventing drug abuse and other social illness, as we believes that they are less accessible than the school. Besides, family and community at large also exert powerful social influences on our young generations.

2.0 ROLE OF FAMILY AND LOVED ONES

In Brunei Darussalam, the system of extended family structure is still widely practiced whereby parents, grandparents and others still lives together under one roof. This system has enhanced the caring values among our Bruneian community. Its help in sustaining each member to uphold moral and spiritual values by respecting, supporting and caring for each others.

A family member is an important source of support for ex-drug abuser in the community. In such cases where drug abusers are released from rehabilitation centre or prisons, the related government agencies will works very closely with their family during the probation period. The ex-drug abusers also usually get support from villagers, members of the mosque, Islamic Religious Council and Community Development Department, to reintegrate back to the society. Hence, caring for each member of the family, regardless their problems deem as the responsibility of the family.

3.0 ROLES OF COMMUNITY

Brunei government realizes the important of community roles in preventing drug abuse and has taken a few initiatives in preventing drug abuses through community involvement. The government initiatives includes provisions of social services and promoting drug free environment

3.1 Provisions of Social Services

The government recognizes the underlying needs and problems that are related to drug abuse. Lack of support from the community and family also economic constraint are among the main contribution to the drug abuse. In addressing these problems, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport through Community Development Department has a main role in helping and supporting the community, particularly those families who are facing problems and conflicts, through provisions of social services.

Community Development Department has 4 types of services in supporting and helping family's problems and conflicts. Those services are social support services, counselling, advice and guidance services, institutional services, and supervision program.

3.1.1 Social Support Services

These include assistance in financial, housing, and assistive devices. Through this assistance, it could support the needy people and sustain the family institutions from becoming broken and dysfunctional.

3.1.2 Counselling, advice and guidance services

The services are aimed to support those people who are facing problems, conflicts and crises, by offering services to solve their problems. In most cases, drug abusers are usually due to dysfunctional and broken families involving problem with the relationships, lack of guidance, support, love, care and attention, as consequences, they turn to misuse of drugs and find other

attention to get support and care. The cases that related to ex-drug abusers are usually involved with financial problems and employment searching.

3.1.3 Institutional Services

The services are for rehabilitation and protection of children and young people. With regard to rehabilitation program, Community Development Department has provided Rehabilitation Centre, known as Taman Noor Hidayah 1, under The Women and Girls Protection Act, 1972. It is a place of safety for rehabilitation of young girls who are in moral dangers and beyond parental control.

There are 3 shelter homes provide for protection program, which include

- Taman Noor Hidayah 2 is also under The Women and Girls Protection Act, 1972 but this shelter home is a place of safety for protection for women and girls who are victims of domestic violence, neglect, sexual abuse or other family problems cases.
- Rumah Darussakinah 1, is under Children Act 2000, it is a place of safety for boys below 18 years old who need protection due to neglect, abuse or abandonment
- Rumah Darussakinah 2, , is under Children Act 2000, it is a place of safety for girls below 18 years old who need protection due to neglect, abuse or abandonment

Some of the programmes in this institutional include;

- Advice and counselling
- Moral and religious education
- Skills and vocational training
- Academics classes
- Sports and recreational program

The objectives of the institutional services are;

- To rehabilitate the morale of young generation who have been involved in negative social activities
- To engage these young people in task oriented learning and skills development and divert their deviance behavioural problems towards productive members of society.

- To provide a temporary shelter for victims of domestic violence, neglect, sexual abuse or other family problems cases.

3.1.4 Supervision Program

Community Development Department also provide supervision program especially for those who had been released from rehabilitation centre and shelter homes. The objectives of the program is not only to monitor the development of the victims but also to strengthen the family institution by guiding them towards better family communication, appropriate disciplines styles and other family management approaches.

Apart from that, we also conduct young persons support group which aim to enhance their pro-social behaviours, share problems, built confidents and others self- help and self development approaches.

3.2 Promoting Drug Free Environment

Apart from helping and supporting the families, promoting drug free environment activities through a few programs are also the main agenda of the Ministry. Those programs are:

- Youth Development Program
- Youth Program
- Sport Program
- Outward Bound Brunei Darussalam Program

3.2.1 Youth Development Program

This program is under the management of Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport and has been established since 1996. The main aims of the program are to provide skills training and self-development. This 2 years program is designed especially for those young people who cannot continue their formal academic education or those who are still unemployed.

The objectives include,

- To train the young person about the basic skills needed prior to their employment and entrepreneurship
- To enhance their self-development
- To continue to support them in their job
- To provide opportunities to gain experiences and establish their own business
- To provide information about job placement and job vacancies
- To liaise with employers regarding their job placement.

The provided programmes are:

- Computer skills and office management classes
- Making cakes and pastries classes
- Catering and cooking classes
- Saloon and grooming classes
- Knitting and sewing classes
- Plumbing and pipe fitting skills
- Vehicle body repair skills
- Air conditioning and refrigerator maintenance skills

3.2.2 Youth Program

Youth program is under the management of Youth Section in the Youth and Sport Department. The main aim of Youth Section is to strengthen youth development programmes and projects in producing motivated youth generation by involving them in positive and beneficial programmes for nation development. The services include:

- To plan youth activities and programs in objectives to train them to become a good citizen
- To provide advice regarding youth affair
- To support their activities by providing financial assistance
- To plan courses and training for country development

Youth programs are organized and implemented in three ways, which is organized by the Department or cooperation with other government agencies or youth organizations.

The department also provides training courses, such as leadership skills, volunteerism, motivational course and other related courses.

Currently, there are about 94 youth organizations in the country. Facilities that are available for the youths include hostel, sport hall, libraries multipurpose halls etc

3.2.3 Sport Program

This program is under the management of sport section in the Youth and Sport Department. The section is responsible to plan and monitor the implementation of sport development programmes in the country. A lot of programmes, activities and national sport competitions had been implemented through the cooperation of this Department with other organizations, such as

- National Sport Festival
- Youth Sport Festival
- Youth Sport Schemes
- Sport competition among government agencies
- Technical and financial assistance to NGOs for programmes and activities

3.2.4 Outward Bound Brunei Darussalam Program (OBBD)

The program is under the management of Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport which began in 1992. The mission is to help people to discover and develop their potential to care for themselves, others and the people around them through challenging and shared experiences in unfamiliar settings and changing environment.

The philosophy of OBBD is intended to be catalytic to encourage change and to help each participant more fully to achieve self knowledge and understanding of others. It is both about self development and also about citizenship by exploring the natural tension that exist between each individual and the group or community of which he is necessarily a part.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Brunei's government believes that the role of community and family are vital in preventing of drug abuse and in reducing recidivism. The government's effort in strengthening family institution, by improving family relationships, decreasing conflicts, increasing parents-child time together and upgrading family approaches skill, could reduce drug abuse in the country.

Furthermore, through different types of programs has helped to enhance our young people's psychological development in general, as well as indirectly develop positive alternatives activities, by which divert their attitudes and behaviours towards productive members of society.