YOUTH VOLUNTEERS OF ANTI-DRUG PROGRAM: INITIAL ASSESSMENT IN KUALA TERENGGANU, TERENGGANU, MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

Youth volunteers of Anti-Drug Program is a public program that aims to provide technical knowledge and awareness pertaining to drug addictions, ensure drug-free families, help organizations to mobilize efforts for a drug-free workplace and drug-free community. This study seeks to find out the possible problems pertaining to this voluntary program as youth in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia were found to be the target group. This study aims to identify the factors that cause the problems faced by the volunteers in this program. A total of 245 volunteers were involved in this Youth Anti-Drug Voluntary Program, based in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia. This study is a descriptive study, using questionnaire as an instrument in the data collection procedure, which consists of three sections including respondents’ background, factors that cause members to be involved with the program and ways to overcome problems in this voluntary youth program. Data were analyzed using the Statistical Packages for the Social Science (SPSS) software, and is discussed in terms of percentages, frequencies and mean. The findings show that participants’ lack of participation, no post-mortem meetings between members of the organization, lack of systematic management skills and diverse activities are among the factors that cause such problems in making this Youth Anti-Drug Voluntary Program a success. Most participants agreed that factors like education, experience, passion, and talent can be listed as a few of the key factors in the success of the program. It was also recommend that meeting with new people, visits, social service, programs with drug addicts should be held and organized in order to make this voluntary program a success. Besides that, the main factors required of participants in this program are spiritual awareness through education, motivational camps, as well as outdoor anti-drug camps like camping, and cooperative work.

Key Words: Evaluation, Anti-Drugs Youth Program, Prevention, Volunteers, Drug addictions

INTRODUCTION

Adolescents account for 1.2 billion of the world’s population. However, there is no accepted definition of adolescents and they are most often subsumed with youth or with children or with young adults. The United Nations and most UN agencies like WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA etc. consider adolescents as individuals between 10-19 years of age. Adolescence is a vital stage of growth and development and marks the period of transition from childhood to adulthood. It is characterized by rapid physical, physiological and psychological changes. It is a period which requires attention, protection and meeting of the special needs of adolescents as the unmet needs during this phase affects the individual, family, community, society and nation at large.¹

This study is to discuss the performance of the Youth Anti-Drug Program, a program implemented by the Malaysian government in recent years. The performance of this program was found to be well-connected with the public policies and administrations. Public administration in this study refers to a body that is very influential in one’s country, responsible in
the implementation of societal development policies enacted by the government. Such policies were implemented into community development strategies and programs. One of the programs that has been enacted by the government includes programs in eradicating drug intake and addictions. The justification of this program aims to provide technical knowledge and awareness on drug problems, ensure a drug-free family, help organizations to ensure a drug-free workplace, as well as to make sure that the community is moving towards a drug-free community. Its main objective is to help community volunteers in educating youth on how to eradicate drug intake and addictions, which is more to Community Oriented Policy and Smart Partnership comprised of teenagers and youths who could be the ‘eyes and ears’ for the Youth Volunteers Anti-Drug Program.

The Voluntary Youth Anti-Drug Program in Terengganu has had problems in attracting participants since 2009. This problem is faced by almost all, either those in secondary schools or in the Higher Educational Institutions (HEI) of Malaysia in Terengganu. The success of the Voluntary Youth Anti-Drug Program is expected to be achieved because youth are seen to have a high tendency to be involved in drug intake and addictions. This is proved by the statistical numbers of drug addicts where a majority of those addicted to drugs between January-June 2011 were youth, with a total of 4,925 individuals (79%). A total of 1,779 youth aged between 19-24 years old (28.5%) recorded the highest number of addicts. A total of 974 individuals (15.6%) were adults, and 323 individuals (5.2%) were teenagers.33

**Problem statements**

Lack of interest in volunteerism among youth in making the Voluntary Youth Anti-Drug Program succeed is a problem that often arouses students in various levels ranging from secondary schools to the tertiary level in Higher Educational Institutions (HEI). It is believed that there are some factors that affect students’ inactiveness or lack of interest in participating in voluntary activities.

Based on the observations, it was found that there are many factors that affect volunteers in their lack of participation in the Voluntary Youth Anti-Drug Program. For example; attitudes, poor management in the implementation of the program in terms of requirements and needs of such a program, as well as the weak implementation level of accountability in the management and organization of the Youths Anti-Drug Program. Another factor consists of the dissemination of information pertaining to this program, youths’ character building, services system, management in schools and universities as well as their needs in the program implementation — in order to raise awareness among youths pertaining to drugs. In this study, the researchers aim to identify the significant attitudinal factors of these youths towards the implementation of the program activities. This study also aims to identify which factors are more significant in encouraging youth participating in this program.

Most participants involved in this program are secondary school and university students. 69% of the participants are males and 32% are females. Most of the participants are Malays with a total percentage of 99%, where 56% of them are aged between 19 years old and below. The groups of 19 years and below surpass the percentage of 38% of the 20-25 years of age group. The participants of this program when sorted based on their level of education, consist of 49% certificate holders, 44% diploma holders, and 7% of bachelor’s degree holders.

Most of the participants agreed that they have passion and intention in participating in this program. However, they found it difficult to contribute due to the issue related to implementation of this program. Some of the important issues include; no regular meetings, a lack of dissemination of information on the implementation of program activities, less knowledge on how to access websites, and no supervision on volunteers’ budding and soft skill activities. Based on the data collected through interviews, most participants agreed that they were never involved in any activities after they become volunteers for this Youth Anti-Drug Program.

The participants require for changes where their needs can be fulfilled. Volunteers’ needs, in this context refers to the implementation of motivational camps, religious courses through spiritual approaches, a joint program between volunteers and drug addicts, as well as social
service programs. Such activities, camps and courses should also be supervised by an expert facilitator who would supervise the volunteers, such supervision in this study is called ‘monitoring.’ Besides that, it is also suggested that the management factors should also be improved because efficient management skills from the organizers would attract participants to portray their in depth passion in voluntary activities as well as help to improve this program.

It can be said that the main problem that should be improved and enhanced for this program is the communication tools to raise awareness and curiosity of volunteer’s new membership. Problems such as lack of information, skills and implementation guidelines for this program as well as promotion should be solved in order to attract the new members. Findings gathered from this study are hoped to shed some light for members to provide training modules for buddy building for the sake of making this program a success. It is also hoped that the formulation of policies pertaining to this program and its implementation would be accountable and are effectively practical throughout this program. Such weaknesses in terms of management and supervision should be solved as soon as possible in order to prevent various other disadvantages caused by it, as it will affect volunteers’ spirit and passion in volunteering. In order to help decrease these problems, organizers should have a checklist of the reasons and factors that might affect volunteers in their participation, and they should find solutions to attend to this. Thus, this study is carried out in order to find out whether such factors have a significant relationship with participants’ sense of participation and awareness, and to identify which of the many factors affects participant volunteers the most when they participate in the Voluntary Youth Anti-Drug Program in Kuala Terengganu. Factors studied include the factor of participants themselves, program guidelines, the accountability of the program implementation, organizers as well as managers at the program location.

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

This study was conducted to obtain results in addressing the problem of low awareness among the participants in the Youth Volunteerism of Anti-Drug Program. In particular, the objectives of this study include:

To identify the factors that drive or the main cause for youth involvement in the management of Youth Volunteerism of Anti-Drug Program,

To identify youths’ perceptions on the factors that lead to less successful Youth Volunteerism of Anti-Drug Program, and

To identify youths’ perceptions on the possible ways to overcome problems that occur throughout the program.

**Significance of the study**

Questions were raised pertaining to the agencies weak management of coordination - Agencies who were involved with the implementation of the Anti Drug Program either in the state, district, school or higher educational levels, participants’ low sense of awareness towards volunteerism, and exposure provided by schools and agencies towards volunteers in understanding and identifying possible factors that might affect difficulties in volunteerisms.

Agencies, school authorities, as well as higher level institution authorities who are in-charge in the implementation of this program should also find some alternatives to overcome such problems raised by the participants. Success in finding solutions to these problems could help produce future leaders who are drug-free, consistent with the government’s policy in creating society with morals and ethics, portraying strong religious and spiritual values, as well as practicing the highest ethical standard.

**Achievement assessment program : Theory perspective**

In theory, the achievement of the program can be assessed based on the product of the program. Products also may indicate the stage of targeting objective achievement. Any product produced through the processing of various program input and application processes. Achievement of the program, especially those carried out by lay organizations, essentially influenced by various factors inputs and processes. Factors’ affecting the achievement of the program outcomes and insert includes; environment of organization, controlling structures and programs related to organizational cycle life, goals and organizational culture. This factor affects each organization, decision makers, decisions that have to be taken and the expected outcome of
program. Achievement program is also intended as a product rather than the process in any planned organization. Income product rather than the process involves all sorts of elements contained in the organizational that system. These include the handling service qualities and service lay provided in respect of implementing the program.\textsuperscript{4}

According to Murphy and Cleveland, there are several other factors next to external environment and internal organizational that can influence the performance of the organization. These factors are the characteristics of the organization, employees, policies and management practices. One of the methods to increase the organizational performance is through the transfer of organizational training. The transfer of training is whereby trainee usage of knowledge, skills and behavior that are formed by the organizational environment and technology.\textsuperscript{5} The organizational performance is a result of the purpose, structure, and management actions at all levels of performance, the level of organization, processes and employees. Brache and Madron support the view above. So, based on the description it can be concluded that in order to produce valid outputs and outcomes, then the organization should be properly designed to ensure a smooth and good working relationship between the leaders and staff, nor each other administrators.

Several theories have been put forward by scholars to measure the performance of public policy. Some of most commonly used theory is an approach to the efficiency and effectiveness of public policy. Each organization that operates has a vision, mission, goals and specific targets. Organization to identify what clients expect in a certain period as reflected in the vision and mission of the organization. According to this theory, the performance of a public service organization can be measured comprehensively by using the annual indicators efficiency, effectiveness and quality of the product. Other indicators including economic, stability, sustainability, relevance, no response, accountability and control.\textsuperscript{5} Performance measurement approaches normally uses two approaches is whether financial or non-financial. Financial approaches were typical use as an indicator of the value of output. Meanwhile non-monetary approach is to use customer satisfaction as the measurement criteria. Hence, a number of performance indicators accountability have not been could developed, efficiency, effectiveness, and equitable. There are some conventional measurements can be used to assess performance. These include profitability, satisfaction various stakeholders (stakeholders), and customer satisfaction. In addition, there are also researchers who use productivity as an indicator. Productivity is the ratio of input to output. Productivity concept can be extended to cover not only the effectiveness but also rates the self-efficacy measure of the percentages revealed to the desired of South result is achieved.

Another theory is often used to measure performance is through program evaluation. In general, this theoretical measure performance two aspects: first, the process of achieving such results raised output by institutions, secondly, the performance of the institution evaluated based on the effectiveness of all activities performed to achieve the mission and vision of the institution in implementing the program. There are also opinions that directly link between performance and factors influencing program. These factors include the external environment and internal organization such as organizational structure and life cycle, as well as the organization's goals and culture of the organization. This factor is influenced by the organization, the officer who made the decision, decision making, and ultimately yield the desired policy. This is consistent with the opinion Steer, which suggested that organizational effectiveness is influenced by the characteristics of the organization, the environment, workers, policies and management practices.

At the end of the 1980s public sector reforms carried out in developed countries in response to the various criticisms leveled to existing theories and approaches. Numerous changes were made. This includes implementing the New Public Management approach (New Public Management - NPM) and government reforms (reinventing government) in many countries, particularly the countries of the Anglo-Saxon. New Public Management Theory all stem from the management theory. This theory assumed that private sector management is better than management and practices in the public sector.
The influence of this theory spread to many developing countries, including Indonesia. New Public Management theory emerged in the decade of the 1990s. The emergence of a wave of critical-thinking public sector performance, offering recommendations that public sector leaders to learn and apply the principles of management in the private sector. This resulted in the corporation and privatization of public sector agencies widespread in developing countries.

Public Management Theory is actually a model of public service management with the more direct the internal matters of an organization, namely: (1) focus on the management of the organization's activities, (2) assessment of the management of public services is measured based on the assessment of the performance and effectiveness, (3) the decentralized management public services to a variety of small and medium-sized departments that is linked directly with customers and (4) the principle of pressure and market demand in order to promote competition, and (5) reduce the activity of high-cost services and replace it with a cheaper service. In general, Vigoda\(^6\) concludes that the New Public Management is an approach in public administration organizations apply their own knowledge and experience to improve the performance of public services at all levels of the bureaucracy.\(^7\)

To measure performance, two approaches are highlighted. Behavioural approach and the result's approach (product) that to learn the behaviour of employment relevant to the performance of a task. This approach emphasized quality oriented task behaviour. Things were observed in this approach is certain behavioural patterns that can provide specific results. Behavioural pattern is then used as an example to be followed for the development of working methods accordingly. Behaviour changes, development of methods and techniques used a key focus within the performance improvement framework. Application of this approach is the result of changes or repair work methods and techniques.

The outcome criteria approach put service products and quality of service as a policy target. Through this approach, the suitability of the product of service to be produced, with the value of the product requiring service, and quality of service of the service, is the fundamental assessed. Recent times, the public policy oriented quality of service really stressed. This is because of the public who wants a product claims services and a better quality of service. Lately there have been efforts to combine the above approach to guide public administration. This is reflected in the principles of excellent governance (good governance) that are now being promoted to be integrated into all forms of government, including local government. Values of governance valid approach incorporates results should be used to evaluate the performance of the government. For that, it takes an effort to incorporate these values into standard good government performance evaluation concerning the officers, nor institutional policies and programs.\(^8,9\)

**METHODOLOGY**

This study was conducted in Kuala Terengganu, one of the districts in the State of Terengganu, Malaysia. In this study, Kuala Terengganu is chosen as the study sample because Terengganu recorded a high number of drug addicts during the first seven months of 2011 with 1,584 addicts compared to 108 for the same period the previous year 2010, an increase of 366.6 percent(http://www.kosmo.com.my). Based on the data obtained, in accordance to the drug addict’s background profile, it was found that 98.2 percent of the addicts were male and 98.5 percent are Malays, while 78.5 percent were youths between the age of 19 and 39 years old. Based on these figures it can be said that most addicts are youth as they are exposed to the risk of addiction slightly higher than the other age groups. This is proved by the statistical number of drug addicts detected between January-June 2011 where a total 4,925 people (78.98%) were youth drug addicts. Youth between the ages of 19-24 years recorded the highest number of addicts which is about 1,779 people (28.53%). Adults, on the other hand accounted for 974 people (15.62%) and adolescents are 323 people (5.18%).\(^2\)

Terengganu is one of the states that organizes and manages the Youth Volunteerism of Anti-Drug Program introduced by the Malaysian government. Based on the largest concentration of population in Terengganu, the district of Kuala
Terengganu scored the highest number of people who are involved in drug-intake and addiction, which is around 361,801 people. Based on this data, out of 346,093 drug addicts found, Malay men are seen to be involved in drugs with a total of 172,641 people in Terengganu besides other races.

**Sampling**
The number of volunteer participants in Terengganu in 2010 was about 927 people. Out of these 927 volunteer participants who were provided by the agency, 703 represent members from Kuala Terengganu. Simple random sampling was used in this study where 300 participants were taken as a sample. 68.5 percent were male respondents and 31.5 percent were female respondents. Most respondents are Malays (99.2%). Respondents aged 19 years and below (56.3 percent) participating in this program are seen to participate more than those aged 20 to 25 year old (38.4 percent), and 26 to 30 years (2 percent). Participants by level of education, consists of 49.4% certificate holders, 44.1% diploma holders and 6.5% Bachelor’s degree holders. Data was analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS 11.5) using descriptive methods.

**Research instruments**
The instrument used in this study is a questionnaire. A total of 300 questionnaire booklets were distributed while only 245 were collected involving respondents from Kuala Terengganu. The study also used the qualitative method where face to face interviews were conducted and transcribed. Interviews were conducted in order to get in-depth answers to a few open questions posed in the questionnaire booklets. Besides the face to face interviews, focus group interviews were also carried out in the data collection procedure. There are two categories of focus group interviews used in this study which includes; i) interview with the volunteer participants, and ii) interviews with representatives from the agencies involved. Interviews were carried out starting from October 15, 2011 until 28 November 2011. Participants of the Youth Volunteers of Anti-Drug Program had interviews done in stages in order to get the data needed to strengthen the findings.

**Research findings**
The finding indicates that a majority or 80% of the youth volunteers in this study showed less participation in the program. This demonstrates that their sense of volunteerism is low, as most volunteer participants in this study seems to lack passion in helping those who are less fortunate and in need. This is the opposite of Malaysian cultural norms, values and lifestyles – as Malaysians are seen to be living in a caring society, that portrays courtesy, respect for elders, and being helpful to each other.

This study was conducted in the district of Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu. A number of 245 participants were randomly selected, which included youth and adults aged between 19 to 36 years old. 150 participants (61.2%) were males, while 95 participants (38.8%) were females. 179 participants (73%) in this study are from Tepoh, because most are currently pursuing their studies in Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin and the Industrial Training Institute (ILP) in Tepoh, Kuala Terengganu.

A total of 243 participants in this study are Malays which is about 99.2%. The number of Chinese and Bumiputra from Sabah is 1% and 0.4% respectively. Those participating in the Youth Volunteers of Anti-Drug Program mostly consist of school students aged 17-18 years old. A total of 121 participants or 49.4% are certificate holders, 108 or 44% are diploma holders, and 16 or 7% of participants are Bachelor’s degree holders. Most of the participant volunteers are students with a total percentage of 91% or 223 individuals, followed by 13 participants or 5% who are unemployed, 7 participants (3%) are government servants and 2 participants (1%) works in the private sector. A number of 137 out of 243 participants (56%) had been volunteering in this program for a year.

The Youth Volunteers of Anti-Drug Program was first established in Kuala Terengganu in 2008. It was implemented in 2009, however there were so many obstacles along the way, both in terms of implementation and management. In 2010, it was fully implemented with the collaboration of those from secondary schools and those in the tertiary level of education. As stated in its program module, there are three main requirements in participating in the program, which include; (i) Malaysian
The membership procedures can be made online through its website or by filling up forms which are available at any district or state office. A membership number and card will be distributed once the membership form is completed. The membership is for life. However, if any member violates the three requirements stated in the modules, their membership will automatically be cancelled and becomes void. There are many benefits that members can achieve while participating in this program which includes; chosen to participate in various programs organized by the agencies, able to access and interact with other members through their website, able to use all the facilities and will be selected to join the Youth Anti-Drugs Concourse organized by the Anti-Drug Agency.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Evaluation of the youth volunteers of anti-drug program**

Assessment from the output of the program found that the implementation has achieved its target goals. This is proved by the number of participants participating in this program. The program funds were allocated to both district and state Agencies for the sake of its effectiveness. The performance of this program is evaluated based on the accountability of the formulation and implementation aspects, as well as the accountability of implementation in terms of structure and constitutional institutions in relation to the International Anti-Drug Agency – at the Main Office (Headquarters), State and district. Elements that are measured in the evaluation process includes performances of the target group, institutions of the participant volunteers in this Anti-Drug Program, level of passion, understanding, capabilities, and awareness in implementing the drug-free activities as well as given appropriateness and necessity of the prevention program. Evaluations were made deductively based on common sense. Agencies who are responsible in the planning and implementation, usually organize programs or activities based on their observations made in the field.

**Evaluation on the suitability of guidelines in the youth volunteers anti-drug program**

This study also aims to find out the participants’ views and perceptions on the appropriateness of the key guidelines (requirements, application and benefits) as stipulated by the agency. A total of 142 participants or 56% admit that they are well aware of the requirements of membership, however there are a few who admit that they have no knowledge about the requirements needed in order to become a member. A number of 103 members or 42% said that they had no idea that the membership had its own requirements because they were persuaded by teachers and peers to register as a member, and they registered for membership when they attended open exhibitions without knowing the details. During membership registration, most agreed that they were not introduced to the information pertaining to this program, neither from the agency nor other sources. A number of 212 participants (87%) agreed that they became members voluntarily while 33 other participants (13%) said they were forced to become members. They said that they became members out of respect to their teachers, due to peer influence, and registered through their higher level institutions. 142 participants (58%) said that they believed that there existed a correlation between their membership and program while another 103 participants (42%) said that they were unsure. Clearly, most participants are unsure of the relationship between their membership and the program, due to a lack of information during their registration – no detailed information was provided during membership registration.

Based on the data collected through interviews, regarding student involvement in the program, 99 participants (40.4%) agreed that they were selected to attend courses or programs organized by the Youth Volunteers Anti-Drug Program and the agency. However, a majority or 146 participants (60%) admitted that they were not selected to join any programs as there were no announcements made by the authorities in-charge of this program. Lack of information pertaining to this program also made things hard for the members of this program. It made them feel less interested to join any activities organized by the Youth Anti-Drug Agency.
In this study, most participants – 128 participants (52.2%) said that they were not given any information on any of the Youth Anti-Drug programs, while 117 participants (47.8%) said they did receive information. This is due to the fact that new members did not communicate with the senior members in order to know detailed information pertaining to activities and programs. Besides that, it is believed that both members and organizers (agency) did not contact one another if there was any news. Lack of communication between members and organizers is one of the reasons why such information was not disseminated among members of this program. 77 of the participants (31.4%) were familiar with the facilities provided by the agencies, while another 168 participants (68.6%) were not familiar and never used them due to a lack of exposure as well as still being a rookie (new member).

A number of 128 participants (52%) agreed that they interacted with other members and pointed out the benefits that participants were able to have a good relationship with other members in this program. There were also some who did not communicate with other members, because according to them they were still new and did not know any other members participating in the program. There was also positive feedback from 228 participants (93%) pertaining to the establishment of this program. Only a minority or 7% of the participants portrayed negative feedback because according to them, they had no idea why this program was established and implemented. 147 participants (60%) agreed that they knew the objectives of this program, however 98 (40%) of the participants admitted that they had no idea about the objectives because there was no detailed information pertaining to this program.

Findings show that most participants did not know the membership procedures of this Youth Volunteers of the Anti-Drug Program, because according to them, there was no briefing on the detailed information about this program. During registration, there was no information provided by the agencies involved. Lack of publicity is said to be one of the reasons why participants were not well aware with the program. Besides that, participants themselves were also found to be lacking in terms of curiosity because they did not access the website and were still a beginner in this program. 136 participants (55.6%) agreed that they knew about the programs through various mass media more than any other medium of communication. 55 (22.4%) of the participants found information through friends, 29 (11.8%) knew through courses and seminars, 19 (7.8%) of the participants knew from lecture halls, 13 (5.3%) through the internet, 1 (0.4%) knew through colleagues, and the rest were from other sources, about 6.1%.

Participants’ perception and assessment on the needs of program

There are several things that need to be implemented and practiced by members of the Youth Volunteers of Anti-Drug Program, in terms of formal training and effective programs that would help participants improved their soft skills in volunteerism. Results showed that religious knowledge is crucial, for 214 (87.3%), a majority of the participants. Other aspects that needed to be exposed to participants included guidelines to identify drug addicts, how to deal with drug addicts, descriptions on treatments of drug addicts, and the promotions to educate local communities. 201 to 205 (82% - 83.7%) of the participants agreed that the local community should be given exposure pertaining to drug intake and addictions. Besides that, other requirements needed are basic skills in counselling because 197 (80.4%) of the participants agreed that it is very important for them to know how to communicate with drug addicts.

A number of 195 participants (79.6%) agreed that it is very important that they receive up-to-date information pertaining to drug rehabilitation centres and institutions. 193 (78.8%) of the participants said that there should be more programs on drug-free society with the local communities. Besides that, 186 (75.9%) of the participants also suggested that there should be more self-esteem workshops to be held, 183 (74.7%) agreed that participant volunteers should be prepared with self-defense as well as communication classes with the drug addicts.

Evaluation on factors affecting efficiency of the youth volunteers of anti-drug program

There are some unsolved problems faced by members of this program, which include lack of updated information pertaining to the Youth...
Volunteers of Anti-Drug Program. Besides that, it was also found that the local communities’ sense of awareness on this program was still low as there was little promotion or exposure given or provided by the agency. Most Malaysians, particularly those from the East Coast – Terengganu, in this context, still view drug addicts in a negative way. Their perceptions and acceptance towards drug addicts affects the way they treat the drug addicts. They see drug addicts in a negative way probably due to a lack of campaign, exposure and promotion done by the Youth Volunteers of Anti-Drug Program authorities. Members of this program (participants) also lack communication skills. Due to such a lack in terms of communication among members of the program, participants argue that they are often overlooked on current issues and information. This shows that membership alone does not guarantee the effectiveness of this program, particularly when there are no membership cards provided to members of the program. This shows that there is no specific identification that can differentiate between a member and a non-member which makes things difficult when it comes to updating the database of new memberships.

According to the participants, this programs is not needed as there is more harm than benefit. Most participants said that the Youth Volunteers of Anti-Drug Program had been organizing excessive programs that promoted seamless interaction between male and female participants, which has nothing to do with the main objective of its establishment. Activities like dinner for members and visits to the museum surpassed the number of the actual beneficial activities that would give exposure to the local communities. If there were any meetings among members, there were not specifically to discuss the Youth Volunteers of Anti-Drug Program, but just a get together among members of the program. Demonstration, protests, or rebuttal should not be practiced as it would affect the Youth Volunteers of Anti-Drug Program’s image.

Those who were interviewed stated that there should not be any enforcement for members to join in any activities for this program. However, it was found that it is very difficult for the agency to encourage participants to participate in the programs and activities without coercion. However, if the participants are persuaded and encouraged to join programs, it can change participants’ stance and participation. Some of the participants agreed that activities such as talks should not be implemented because to them it was no longer relevant to be applied as it was boring and did not reach any of its goals. This shows that, the way talks are delivered to them are boring. Thus, it is very important that the delivery of talks and workshops on drug intake and addiction should be in accordance with the current appropriateness and audience who are involved in such activities so that they would not feel bored throughout the activities.

A total of 155 participants (63.26%) had met drug addicts. According to those who never met a drug addict, given their reaction to the addict is giving advice and awareness for drug addicts, report to the authorities about their billing activities so that appropriate action can be taken, and give advice and interviewed to some addicts on how they got involved in drug intake and addiction. There are also some who were in charge with distributing pamphlets and flyers to the drug addicts. However, there are also some who were afraid of the addicts and choose to run away every time they approach one. All they have to offer is sympathy.

Participants were also asked the reasons why they became members of this program. Some of the reasons included the urge to help addicts change and help the authorities to decrease the numbers of addicts in Malaysia, particularly among Malay addicts. Besides helping the addicts and authorities, participants also believed that by joining this program they could help those who were close to them – friends and family, to acknowledge how harmful drug are to them. Participants believed that they feel very satisfied helping family, friends and the community. Passion in volunteerism as well as peer influences the other reasons they choose to register for this program.

Participants expected that there would be more activities with the local community, activities that would not only attract the elders and youth, but all age groups. Activities that can be organized with local communities include ‘gotong-royong,’ camping with local teenagers and youth, expeditions, family day and
tele match with primary school students. This does not only help strengthen the bonds, but is also informative and able to educate local communities about the danger of drug intake and addictions. If there are any drug addicts participating in the activities, members will have a golden opportunity to advice, and learn as much information pertaining to drug addiction as possible. Besides the fun and informative activities, it is also suggested that there should be a drug detection test offered to the community based on the appropriateness and cooperation among agencies involved to ensure that those involved in this unhealthy activity that can be addressed immediately.

The idea of this program was initially to establish and build a sense of awareness among youth in the Youth Volunteers of Anti-Drug Program. After its implementation, the program was strengthened through youths’ character building programs that provided awareness on the harmfulness of drug addictions for the sake of drug prevention. These measures were then improved through many courses, talks and workshops open for everyone in the community, to help raise awareness among local teenagers and youth on social problems that could harm their future.

However, an average number of Malay male participants showed no interest in the program. Most Malays are more interested in sports than volunteerism. There are many members who come from Tepoh, SeberangTakir, Manir and others. Most of the participants are students, only a minority of the participants is government servants and private sector workers. A majority of them are youth aged 19 and had been involved in this program for a year and most are currently pursuing their certificates.

Participants showed a lack of interest in this program as there was no disclosure on any information, with regards to its mission, vision, which made them unclear at their responsibilities and duties. They believe that there is no need for such a program because they do not even take cognizance of the problem and the program. They feel this activity is not necessary. Participants in Kuala Terengganu had many problems, because they were not given guidelines, were never been supervised by the authorities in charge of this program and there was no specific information given to them. After completing the form, they were not given any guidelines or supervision. They choose to be members with the intention of helping fellow Malaysians who consume and addicted to drugs. For the sake of their religious beliefs to help those in need. When their interest and willingness to volunteer was not appreciated, their passion and desire to volunteer decreased. What the volunteers need the most is religious education to help them assist the addicts to change for the better.

CONCLUSION

Youth are Malaysians’ future leaders. Targeting youth in such a program is a great initiative. It is obligatory that once participants registered themselves in the voluntary program, they should be proactive with the responsibilities given to them. All parties should work together to ensure that the goals set for this program are achieved. It is also crucial that there should be continuous supervisions by the agency on the participants’ performances in order to achieve positive contributions to the community in terms of religion, race and nation.

The initial assessments on this program in Kuala Terengganu has listed out many of the difficulties, problems in relation to drug addiction, in terms of its implementation, practices, activities, and the program as a whole. Assessments and evaluation in this study were measured through the implementation mechanism of the organizing committees, cooperation between the organizers (state and district) with the members of program as well as the dissemination of knowledge and information in each location. Improvements are urgently needed in implementing this program and making it a success. Besides promoting and developing awareness among members and communities, other interesting activities should also be implemented in order to attract current and new members to this program to contribute and together achieve its goals in helping to cure and decrease the numbers of drug addicts in Kuala Terengganu. Participants’ skills communication, soft skills, motivation, knowledge and understanding should also be regulated and improved through various activities so that the bonding among members is strengthened. This shows how important organizational
accountability is for the program, either to the agency’s main office (headquarter), state or districts’ organizing committee, particularly in supervising the chairman and participants of this program. In addition, it is also recommended that the dissemination of information pertaining to this program should be enhanced and improved so that not only the participants could have access but also the local community. The success of this program is closely related to the availability of basic facilities, dissemination of information, and religious upbringing in youth character building.

REFERENCES