# Holistic Approach to Strengthening Social Resilience in Drug-Prone Areas : A Case Study in Pulau Negara

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Pulau Negara is known as one of the drug-prone areas with recurring cases of drug abuse and illicit trafficking each year. This study aims to analyze the state of social resilience, identify multilevel vulnerability factors, and formulate strategies for strengthening social resilience. Using a qualitative approach, data were collected through in-depth interviews with purposively selected informants, including government officials, law enforcement officers, community members, and ex-illegal drug dealer. Thematic analysis, guided by Keck & Sakdapolrak's social resilience framework and the Multilevel Social Epidemiological approach, was employed to understand social resilience conditions and vulnerability factors. The findings indicate that the community's coping capacity remains predominantly passive in addressing drug threats, although some members have initiated persuasive approaches and religious activities as adaptive capacity. Transformative capacity through collaboration with various stakeholders has been initiated but remains suboptimal. Vulnerability factors include economic pressures, unstable family structures, and limited public facilities. The holistic strategy at three levels: individual (drug education, entrepreneurship training, and post-rehabilitation support), family (empowerment and access to microfinance), and community (strengthening anti-drug volunteers and public facility development). These strategies are expected to provide practical contributions to enhancing social resilience in drugprone communities through multi-stakeholder collaboration, fostering stronger and sustainable social resilience.

**Keywords:** Community Vulnerability; Drug Threat; Drug-Prone Areas; Holistic Approach; Social Resilience.

# **INTRODUCTION**

Drug trafficking and substance abuse are significant challenges in Indonesia. Hulu Sungai Selatan Regency, which is a part of South Kalimantan Province, is also affected by issues related to drug misuse and illegal trafficking. The existence of drug abuse and trafficking activities in an area can make the area vulnerable to drug problems. Based on a study conducted by the Deputy for Community Empowerment of BNN RI (2019), the presence of drug abusers and criminal cases are some of the main indicators that a village can be categorized as a drug-prone area. These vulnerable areas are often the main targets of drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking activities due to various factors, including socioeconomic conditions (Stephenson et al., 2023), low knowledge of the dangers of drugs (Pranawa et al., 2020), permissive societal norms (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2017), high crime (Bichler et al., 2017), and the lack of involvement of community participation in drug prevention efforts (Wake Forest University, 2023). The existence of drug-prone areas can have various negative impacts on the health, social, security, and economic aspects of the community.

From the health aspect, especially for abusers, drug trafficking and abuse can cause various health problems (Boden & Day, 2023), such as physical injury (Pedersen et al., 2016), mental health disorders (Pedersen et al., 2016), and overdose and death (Spencer et al., 2023). Socially, drug trafficking and abuse can damage social relationships (Hamel et al., 2020), increase crime rates (Andell & Pitts, 2018), and cause neighborhood insecurity (Gutiérrez-Romero & Oviedo, 2017). In addition to these two aspects, the economic condition of the area is also affected by reduced labor productivity (Gondré-Lewis et al., 2023), increased healthcare expenditure (Blackaby et al., 2023), and a decline in investment due to the negative stigma attached to the region (Daniels et al., 2021). All this creates a continuous cycle that further worsens the socioeconomic conditions of local communities. The existence of drug-prone areas has a negative impact on the community and even the state because they can threaten the human security of the community and the state (Hidayat, 2021).

Based on mapping data conducted by the National Narcotics Board Regecy of Hulu Sungai Selatan (BNNK HSS) from 2020 to 2023, 17 areas equivalent to villages/sub-districts are categorized as drug-prone. According to BNN RI (2019), drug-prone areas are areas identified from the community with a drug culture, drug markets, evidence of drug trafficking from the results of operations by law enforcement officials such as: Crime scenes or loci, modes and routes of drug distribution and drug crimes in the area, both in urban, rural, river routes, coastal and border areas. The drug-prone areas are divided into 4 categories, starting from the most vulnerable level to the safe level, namely "danger" then "alert", then "vigilant", and finally "safe". Of the 17 vulnerable areas, there is 1 striking village, namely Jambu Hilir Village, where every year there is always data on drug cases in the form of abuse and trafficking of narcotics. In the Jambu Hilir Village area, there is an area /various village prone to drugs known as the "Pulau Negara" area. Based on data on case exposures conducted by the Hulu Sungai Selatan Police, most cases of drug abuse and illicit trafficking occurred in the Pulau Negara area. Since 2021-2023, BNNK Hulu Sungai Selatan has intervened in 7 drug-prone areas with the Desa Bersinar (Drug-Free Village) program, including Jambu Hilir Village (BNNK Hulu Sungai Selatan, 2023).

Table 1: Desa Bersinar Interventions in Hulu Sungai Selatan Regency, Indonesia

| Villago namos  | Year of      | Category of Vulnerable Areas |          |          |
|----------------|--------------|------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Village names  | Intervention | 2021                         | 2022     | 2023     |
| Jambu Hilir    | 2021         | Alert                        | Alert    | Alert    |
| Lungau         | 2021         | Alert                        | Vigilant | Safe     |
| Karasikan      | 2022         | Alert                        | Alert    | Alert    |
| Jembatan Merah | 2022         | Alert                        | Alert    | Vigilant |
| Balimau        | 2022         | Alert                        | Alert    | Vigilant |
| Sungai Mandala | 2023         | Alert                        | Alert    | Vigilant |
| Samuda         | 2023         | Alert                        | Alert    | Alert    |

Source: Processed by researchers at BNNK HSS (2021; 20222022; 2023)

From these data, it can be seen that in three consecutive years, Jambu Hilir Village has not shown a decrease in vulnerability status despite the intervention of the Desa Bersinar program. This is reinforced by the fact that there have been reports of the number of criminal drug cases and drug abusers in Jambu Hilir Village in the last 3 years. This condition contrasts with Lungau Village, which was intervened with the Desa Bersinar program in 2021, which showed a gradual change from year to year, from the "alert" category to "vigilant", and finally in 2023 to the "safe" category. Referring to the technical guidelines for the implementation of Desa Bersinar, the success of the program intervention should be projected to reduce vulnerabilities in a village, as was the case in Lungau Village. Based on several previous studies that also examined the evaluation of the implementation of Desa Bersinar in a number of regions in Indonesia, it shows that, in general, program has been implemented quite effectively, although not optimally. This is due to various factors, both internal and external. (Nataludin et al., 2023; Nurul Mardhiyah & RFS, 2022). Based on Rahmawati et al. (2021), conducted in the drug-prone area of Muara Bahari Village, it was found that drug-prone areas such as Muara Bahari Village have weak social resilience, making the area vulnerable to external threats. This social vulnerability triggers the emergence of drug crimes and makes people in the area vulnerable to drug abuse and drug trafficking.

According to Hanita (2020), vulnerability is the condition of a certain area related to hazards, exposure, preparedness, prevention, and response characteristics to overcome certain hazards. An almost similar definition also comes from Adger (2006) in Hanita (2020), which defines vulnerability as a state of susceptibility to hazards from exposure to pressures associated with environmental and social change and from the absence of capacity to adapt. From these two definitions, it can be concluded that vulnerability relates to the conditions/characteristics of individuals/groups that affect their capacity to anticipate, overcome, resist, and recover from the impact of hazards. Social resilience is closely related to the community's ability to overcome various threats so that it can face various threats (Ghafur, 2016). In this context, drugs are a dangerous threat to society, especially in drug-prone areas. In their study, EL Rawas et al. (2020) mentioned that interventions with a resilience approach through increased social interaction and social support can be very effective in preventing drug use problems or relapse. The results also show that strengthening resilience aspects act as protective factors that are essential in reducing the impact of risk factors (vulnerability) in drug abuse. From these two findings, it can be concluded that to overcome the vulnerability of the community to drug abuse, strengthening social resilience is necessary.

Based on the findings above, it is important to understand the condition of social resilience in drug-prone communities while identifying factors that influence community vulnerability to drug threats. From these two aspects (resilience and vulnerability), a strategy can be designed to strengthen community resilience to overcome the impact of community vulnerability to drug problems. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to analyze the condition of social resilience in Pulau Negara and to identify factors of social vulnerability to the threat of drugs. From the results of the analysis and identification, a strategy to strengthen social resilience that can be used to deal with drug threats in vulnerable areas was designed. This strategy is expected to be a reference when designing programs/activities that can reduce the vulnerability of communities in Pulau Negara and other drug-prone areas to drug threats.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

This research uses the social resilience framework of Markus Keck and Patrick Sakdapolrak (2013) which includes 3 dimensions of social resilience: (1) coping capacity; (2) adaptive capacity; and (3) transformative capacity. Coping capacity denotes the ability of social actors to overcome all types of misfortune. Adaptive capacity is the ability of social actors to learn from past experiences and adjust to new challenges and risks in their daily lives. Meanwhile, transformative capacity is the ability of social actors to organize institutions that foster individual welfare and sustainable social resilience in the event of present and future crises. (Saja et al., 2021). This framework is used to analyze the conditions of social resilience in Pulau Negara.

The multilevel social epidemiological approach was used to identify vulnerability factors in drugprone communities. The framework which consists of 3 focal points: individual circumstances, family conditions, and the community environment (Dew et al., 2007). Individual circumstances include knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, values, perceptions, and matters relating to a person's vulnerability to drugabuse behavior. Furthermore, it is important to explore family conditions to determine the influence of family conditions on encouraging individuals to become involved in drug problems. Finally, the condition of the community environment needs to be explored to identify the physical and social environmental conditions that can trigger drug problems in the community, such as the availability of rehabilitation facilities and access, security conditions, community participation in drug prevention, and so on.

#### **METHODS**

This study employs a qualitative research approach combined with descriptive analysis. This approach was selected to allow researchers to gain an in-depth understanding of social resilience in areas vulnerable to drug issues and to identify factors contributing to community susceptibility to drug threats. Following the analysis of social resilience and the identification of vulnerability factors, a strategy was developed that focused on strengthening social resilience to mitigate the effects of these vulnerabilities. The social resilience analysis in this paper uses the framework of Markus Keck and Patrick Sakdapolrak (2013). To identify vulnerability factors in drug-prone communities, the multilevel social epidemiological approach was used (Dew et al., 2007).

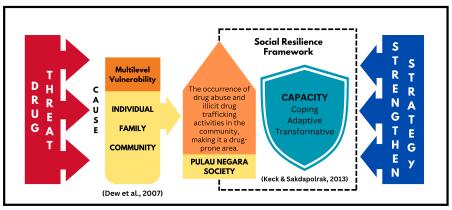


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework

Source: Processing results from Dew et al. (2007) and Keck and Sakdapolrak (2013)

The participants were selected using a purposive sampling technique, which allowed the researcher to explore the participants' specific perspectives. They were chosen as informants because they were considered to have experienced and felt first-hand the events or drug-prone situations in Pulau Negara and were involved in handling drug problems in their area. The data collection techniques used in this research are as follows: (1) in-depth interviews to explore the opinions and experiences of the community and security forces about drug trafficking and abuse on Pulau Negara, as well as the efforts that have been made by the community in dealing with the threat of drugs around them; and (2) document review, which aims to obtain secondary data that supports the analysis of the findings from the interviews.

The data from the in-depth interviews will be analyzed using the thematic analysis method. The main themes emerging from the data will be identified and analyzed to understand the social resilience and factors of vulnerability to drug threats. The results of the analysis and identification are then used to design a strategy to strengthen social resilience and overcome vulnerability in drug-prone areas. To ensure data validity and reliability, this research will use the triangulation method, which combines several data collection techniques (interviews and document review). In addition, the researcher will conduct member checking by asking participants to confirm the findings to ensure the accuracy of data interpretation.

Table 2: List of research informants.

| Informant  | Description                |  |  |
|--|----------------------------|--|--|
| Head of BNNK Hulu Sungai Selatan                   | -                          |  |  |
| Team Leader of the Eradication Section of BNNK HSS | -                          |  |  |
| Head of Jambu Hilir Village                        | -                          |  |  |
| Neighborhood Head 1                                | Volunteers in Pulau Negara |  |  |
| Neighborhood Head 2                                | Community Leaders          |  |  |
| Informant YN                                       | An ex-illegal drug dealer  |  |  |
| Informant MR                                       | Informant YN's child       |  |  |
| Informant ND                                       | Local youth                |  |  |

Source: Processed by researchers

# **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### Overview of the Drug Prone Areas of Pulau Negara

Pulau Negara refers to the area surrounding Los Batu Market in Kandangan, Indonesia. This region is administratively located between two villages, Kandangan Kota Village and Jambu Hilir Village, within Kandangan District. The area lacks agricultural land, forcing most of the Pulau Negara population to rely heavily on trading activities at Los Batu Market or become daily laborers. Based on observations, Pulau Negara is categorized as a densely populated area with closely built houses connected by narrow roads and small alleys, accessible only by two-wheeled vehicles. Additionally, its location along the Amandit River contributes to its slum-like environment.



Source: Google Maps

Criminal activities, including violence, are common in Pulau Negara. Many such incidents occur when both perpetrators and victims are under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs. Commonly abused substances in the area include Gaduk (a form of illegal alcohol), Carnophen, and crystal meth. Drug abuse in this community is often linked to individuals seeking increased stamina for their work as day laborers in the market. Since 2024, the number of drug abusers and cases of illicit drug trafficking in Pulau Negara has declined. This is evident from the absence of criminal drug-related reports in the area since 2023, following the arrest of a major drug dealer. However, according to Jambu Hilir Village (Lurah), some residents in Pulau Negara continue to engage in drug use. Despite the reduction in illicit drug trafficking, the area remains a vulnerable zone. This longstanding reputation is due to its history of frequent criminal activities, including gambling, violence, public drunkenness, and drug abuse, which persists to this day.

## Social Resilience against Drug Threats in Pulau Negara

# a. Coping Capacity

The residents of Pulau Negara can generally be classified into three groups based on their responses to the drug threat: First, those who are apathetic; Second, those who are passive and focused on protecting their own families; and Third, those who take the initiative to engage with drug abusers through a persuasive approach. The apathetic group is largely influenced by the negative stigma attached to Pulau Negara as a "drug village." They perceive drug abuse and trafficking as common occurrences and remain indifferent as long as it does not directly affect their personal interests. The second group comprises individuals who are internally distressed by the presence of drugs on the island, despite appearing passive. They are unsure of how to address the issue and are reluctant to report to authorities because of their own safety concerns. Fear of retaliation discourages them from taking action, and their primary focus becomes protecting their immediate families from drug-related problems. The third group consisted of respected figures in the community, such as the Lurah, and other well-regarded individuals. This group opts for a more personal, persuasive approach, slowly influencing drug abusers to move away from drug use and

trafficking. This method is considered more effective than a direct approach, such as reporting offenders to authorities.

#### b. Adaptive Capacity

Being personally accepted into the social circle of the Pulau Negara community is challenging, especially for those who are not originally from the area. A key social actor who played a significant role in adapting to this environment was the Lurah. Initially, the Lurah experienced difficulty integrating with the local population. To overcome this, she employed a persuasive approach, organizing positive community events such as sports competitions and religious activities. This method proved effective, and over time, Lurah's presence was warmly accepted by the community. Gradually, her advice and appeals gained traction among some members of the Pulau Negara community. Most of these at-risk communities are economically disadvantaged. The temptation to get big profits instantly makes illicit drug trafficking a profitable business. Therefore, Lurah focuses on providing government social aid programs to these vulnerable groups. This social aid aims to reduce vulnerability to drug trafficking for reasons of economic fulfillment. These adaptive efforts are at least quite effective, one of which was felt by informant YN who used to work as a seller of illegal alcohol. After she became a recipient of social aid, she turned to be a street food seller and stopped being an illegal alcohol seller. Another adaptive effort was to organize positive activities focused on children and adolescents in the Pulau Negara, for example, by forming a Habsy group. This activity was motivated by the anxiety of some people who saw young people on the Pulau Negara lacking positive activities. Most of the time young people spend on Pulau Negara is idle, hanging out, or just playing online games.

### c. Transformative Capacity

The Lurah recognized that addressing the drug problem in Pulau Negara requires collaboration with other institutions. Two key institutions involved in drug prevention efforts in the area are the Hulu Sungai Selatan Police Station (Polres HSS) and the National Narcotics Board of Hulu Sungai Selatan (BNNK HSS). In 2021, BNNK HSS implemented the Drug-Free Village (Desa Bersinar) program in Jambu Hilir Village, focusing on drug prevention and community empowerment. This program included activities such as raising awareness about the dangers of drugs, establishing Anti-Drug Peer Teens to engage local teenagers, and strengthening Anti-Drug Family Resilience to help families resist drug-related issues. Additionally, Anti-Drug Volunteers were trained to support BNNK's efforts in community outreach and empowerment in Pulau Negara. However, the program lasted until 2021 due to a lack of a budget to sustain it in the following year. Polres HSS also initiated a similar program called Anti-Drug Resilient Village (Kampung Tangguh Anti Narkoba) aimed at preventing and eradicating drug abuse in Pulau Negara. This program engaged various segments of the community, including religious leaders, community figures, youth, and students. However, this initiative was discontinued shortly after its launch because of a change in leadership, which halted its continuation. Although these programs were not fully effective in significantly reducing the drug-related vulnerabilities in Pulau Negara, their impact was still noticeable. According to Lurah, the involvement of both BNNK and Polres HSS reduced open drug abuse and illicit sales. Prior to these interventions, drug users were commonly permitted to openly consume drugs in public spaces, and illegal alcohol sellers operated freely in front of their homes. The presence of BNNK and Polres HSS, however, instilled fear among drug abusers and sellers, leading to a decline in public drug use and illicit sales.

Table 3. Social Resilience against Drug Threats in Pulau Negara **Social Resilience Condition Dimensions** • The community's response to drug threats can be divided into three main Coping groups: apathy, passive silence, and a persuasive approach. Capacity • Key figures in Pulau Negara adopted a persuasive approach to integrate into the community, enabling them to establish communication with vulnerable groups. Adaptive • Government social aid was focused on vulnerable groups to help reduce Capacity their involvement in drug trafficking. • Positive initiatives, such as forming Habsyi groups for teenagers, were created to prevent youth unemployment and reduce the likelihood of engaging in negative activities, including drug abuse. • Collaboration with external agencies, such as BNN and Polres HSS, to work on drug prevention and eradication efforts. • The Drug-free Village program, initiated by BNN, was an intervention for Transformative drug prevention but was discontinued in subsequent years due to a lack Capacity of funding. • The Anti-Drug Resilient Village Program, initiated by the Polres HSS, was also halted midway due to a leadership change.

Source: Researcher's processing of interview results

### Vulnerability Factors to Drug Threats in Pulau Negara

### a. Individual Conditions

Individual vulnerability to drug abuse in Pulau Negara is not an isolated problem. Vulnerability at the individual level results from various interrelated factors. Each individual in Pulau Negara faces different challenges, from the family environment, economy, or education.

### 1) Economic and educational pressures

Economic factors are a primary driver behind the involvement of people on Pulau Negara in drug trafficking, as exemplified by the case of Informant YN and her family. YN, a single mother of six, turned to selling illegal alcohol in front of her house after the death of her husband. This decision was driven by financial necessity because selling illegal alcohol provided higher profits than selling small items from her stall. YN's eldest son, Informant RM, also assisted his mother in selling illegal alcohol to buyers. On occasion, RM would consume illegal alcohol himself. With only a primary school education, RM struggled to find stable employment that could meaningfully contribute to the family's economic situation. The loss of his father had a profound impact on RM's behavior, as he explained that during his father's lifetime, he was afraid to engage in negative activities, such as drinking alcohol. Without his father's presence, RM felt freer to indulge in alcohol. Informan RM stated:

"When I still had my father, if I was caught drinking, he scolded me, so I didn't dare." When there was no father, I dared to drink alcohol." (Informant RM).

Despite their previous involvement in the sale and use of illegal alcohol, YN and her family decided to cease their activities. YN's decision was motivated by the fear of legal repercussions and the anxiety of being arrested by authorities. She now prefers to eat on the street, even though the profits are significantly lower than those she earned from selling illegal alcohol.

### 2) Influence of peer environment

The environment of Pulau Negara is closely associated with crime, including gambling, fighting, drunkenness, and drug abuse. This social atmosphere significantly influences the behavior of local youth. Informant ND, a young man born and raised in Pulau Negara, shared his experience of being exposed to negative influences at an early age. He recounted how his friends often invited him to smoke and drink alcohol, even during his elementary school years. Informan ND said, "...Since elementary school, I was invited to drink and smoke. They used to say that if you don't smoke, you are not a man." (Informant ND).

For those who receive consistent guidance and reprimands from their parents or family members, resisting peer pressure is somewhat easier. However, many young people succumb to the influence of their peers. Social gatherings among friends often involve activities like drinking, and this peer-driven behavior reinforces the risky behavior cycle in the community.

# 3) Lack of employment and positive activities

Many young people in Pulau Negara face unemployment or underemployment, largely due to the lack of decent job opportunities and inadequate education levels. Without stable employment, they spend much of their time playing online games or loitering with peers. These gatherings frequently involve alcohol consumption, leading to drunkenness. The situation is further exacerbated by the absence of public facilities, such as sports fields, which limit the opportunities for youth to engage in positive activities, such as soccer. This lack of constructive outlets leaves young people with few alternatives, increasing their risk of engaging in negative behaviors.

# b. Family Conditions

Family conditions in Pulau Negara are a factor that shape individual vulnerability to drug abuse and trafficking. In several cases that occurred in Pulau Negara, the family played a role as a defense door for someone who chose to get into trouble or not. In some cases, families succeeded in preventing their children from developing drug problems, but there were also several cases in which families played a role in a person's involvement in drug abuse.

### 1) Family background in drug use

In Pulau Negara, several families are involved in illegal drug trafficking, such as the family of Informant YN. Following the death of her husband, YN began sell illegal alcohol to provide for her six children. This decision had a profound impact on her children, particularly her eldest son. Not only did he assist in illegal sales, but he also became involved in consuming the alcohol his mother had sold. The situation was worsened by the lack of oversight from other family members, which allowed RM's behavior to go unchecked.

### 2) Family instability and lack of family supervision

Unstable family structures, such as the loss of parental figures due to death or divorce or ongoing family conflicts, are key vulnerability factors that increase the likelihood of drug involvement, as observed in YN's family. Children growing up in such environments often lack adequate supervision and emotional support, making them more prone to negative external influences. This instability hampers family communication and attention, leading children to seek acceptance and escape outside the home. Without sufficient support, these individuals are more susceptible to drug abuse as a coping mechanism for feelings of loneliness or confusion. Many

families in Pulau Negara face challenges in providing proper supervision for their children. Economic pressures compel parents to work long hours to meet their daily needs, leaving them less time to monitor and support their children. This lack of supervision gives children more freedom to engage in activities outside of home, increasing their exposure to negative environmental influences. The absence of clear family boundaries and attention increases the vulnerability of children to risky behaviors, such as drug use. In some cases, individuals may engage in illegal activities without any reprimand or intervention simply because no one is available to provide supervision or guidance.

### c. Society/Community Linkage

Pulau Negara has long been recognized as a vulnerable area characterized by high crime and drug-related issues. According to the mapping and data, the area was categorized by BNNK HSS as a "Drug Village," indicating its high risk of drug-related activities. This label is not arbitrary; it is the outcome of a combination of socioeconomic factors and long-standing community attitudes that have developed over time. These conditions have contributed to the area's reputation as a crime- and drug-related area.

#### 1) Socioeconomic and environmental conditions

Pulau Negara is a densely populated area centered around a once traditional marketplace. Despite local governments' efforts to modernize the market, persistent issues of poverty and social inequality remain deeply entrenched. Most families in Pulau Negara live in pre-prosperous economic conditions, and with low levels of education, securing decent employment becomes a significant challenge. This environment hinders positive development and fosters conditions that make the area vulnerable to criminal activities, including drug trafficking. The lack of factories or large companies capable of providing substantial employment opportunities further intensifies the situation. The primary source of livelihood for the community is trading in the market or working as daily laborers. However, for those unable to secure sustainable income through these means, drug trafficking becomes an attractive alternative, offering the promise of quick financial gains in economically disadvantaged regions.

### 2) Labeling and normalization of drug problems

For years, Pulau Negara has been a crime-prone area. This is not just a nickname, but it is the result of a long-standing condition that there are criminal activities, such as gambling, fighting, abuse, and drug trafficking, that are considered "normal" here, as expressed by the Head of BNNK HSS.

"Drug trafficking is one of the livelihoods or income of a few people on Pulau Negara, then the community there also abuses it. This is something that is considered normal (by) the community" (Head of BNNK HSS).

This is exacerbated by the fact that the people of Pulau Negara have a habit of getting drunk and causing trouble, making the label of this vulnerable area even more attached and generalizing the area as a dangerous area. This label makes drug problems seem to be an inseparable part of life in Pulau Negara. The community's response to the drug problem varies, ranging from rejection, silence, and apathy.

# 3) Ignorance and closed-mindedness in the community

Ignorance and apathy significantly contribute to drug abuse and illicit trafficking activities in Pulau Negara. Many residents prefer to remain silent and turn a blind eye as long as these issues do not directly impact their lives. Reporting such activities to authorities is uncommon because of widespread fear of retaliation from perpetrators. As a result, most people choose to stay quiet and avoid providing information to law enforcement. This lack of cooperation and closed-mindedness creates significant challenges for authorities in gathering crucial information needed for mapping and conducting further investigations into drug-related activities in the area.

### 4) Infrastructure conditions and lack of public facilities

The infrastructure in Pulau Negara inadvertently supports illegal activities, particularly drug trafficking. The presence of hidden routes, often referred to as "rat roads," allows traffickers to transport drugs discreetly, making it easier for them to evade detection during police raids. This situation is further exacerbated by the community's reluctance to report suspicious activities to the authorities, creating an environment in which illegal operations can continue with little interference. Additionally, the lack of public facilities, such as sports fields or community spaces for positive activities, contributes to the area's vulnerability. Without access to such facilities, young people in Pulau Negara often struggle to find productive ways to spend their time. This absence of public spaces leaves them with limited options, leading many to spend time playing online games or loitering in the neighborhood. Unfortunately, these gatherings frequently involve negative behaviors, such as drug and alcohol abuse. The combination of inadequate infrastructure and the scarcity of public facilities further deepens the vulnerability of Pulau Negara residents to drug trafficking and abuse. Without constructive outlets or activities, the community becomes more susceptible to negative influences, perpetuating the cycle of illicit activities that have become common in the area.

Table 4. Vulnerability factors of Pulau Negara to Drug Threats

| Scope                       | Vulnerability Factors   | Description  |  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|--|
|                             | Economic and educational pressures                            | Families under economic pressure, like YN's, are forced to resort to illegal activities to meet their needs. Their lack of education limits their job prospects.   |  |
| Individual<br>Circumstances | Influence of peer<br>environment                              | Young people are easily swayed by their peers to smoke and drink, which often serves as an entry point for drug abuse.   |  |
|                             | Lack of jobs and positive activities                          | The lack of employment opportunities and public facility forces young people into unproductive activities, increasing their risk of drug abuse.  |  |
|                             | Family background in drug contact                             | Families involved in illegal activities, such as selling illegal alcohol, set negative examples for their children to follow.  |  |
| Family<br>Conditions        | Family instability and<br>lack of family<br>supervision       | The loss of parental figures or family conflict results in poor supervision and emotional support, increasing the vulnerability of family members to drug involvement. Parents who are preoccupied or neglect supervision leave children "free," making them more susceptible to negative influences from their environment. |  |
|                             | Socioeconomic and environmental conditions                    | Poverty and social inequality create an environment that is less conducive to positive development, providing fertile ground for criminal activity.  |  |
| Community                   | Labeling and<br>normalization of<br>drug problems             | Pulau Negara has been labeled a vulnerable area, with drug abuse and illicit trafficking as commonplace.   |  |
| Environment                 | Ignorance and closed-mindedness                               | Apathy and fear of retaliation prevent people from reporting illegal activities, allowing drug trafficking and abuse to remain unchecked.  |  |
|                             | Infrastructure<br>conditions and lack<br>of public facilities | Infrastructure that aids illegal activities, coupled with a lack of public facilities, leaves young people with few options for positive engagement.   |  |

Source: Results of the researchers from the interview

# Strategy for Strengthening Social Resilience

The vulnerability factors in Pulau Negara are deeply interconnected, strengthening each other rather than functioning in isolation. Personal and family challenges, unfavorable socioeconomic conditions, indifferent community attitudes, and inadequate public infrastructure all contribute to an environment that fosters drug abuse and trafficking. Therefore, addressing the drug issue in Pulau Negara requires a comprehensive, multi-stakeholder approach.

At the individual level, strategies should focus on enhancing individuals' capacity to cope with economic pressures and environmental influences. This could involve providing education, vocational training, and economic opportunities to reduce reliance on illegal activities. At the family level, the strategy strengthens the family's ability to supervise and support its members. This may include family counseling, parenting workshops, and programs that encourage stronger family bonds and help members avoid negative behaviors. At the community level, the focus is on engaging the community in challenging and changing the negative label that has long been attached to Pulau Negara. Efforts should be directed toward building a more positive and supportive environment by fostering community involvement in drug prevention, improving public facilities, and promoting positive youth activities. Collaboration between community leaders, local governments, law enforcement, and other organizations is essential for creating a more resilient society.

Table 5. Social Resilience Strengthening Strategy Matrix

| Scope of Vulnerability | Dimensions<br>Social Resilience   | Strengthening Strategy  | Parties Involved   |
|------------------------|---|---|--|
| Individuals            | <ul><li>Coping Capacity</li><li>Adaptive Capacity</li><li>Transformative<br/>Capacity</li></ul> | <ul> <li>Providing education about<br/>the dangers of drugs and<br/>raising legal awareness</li> <li>Soft-skills training for<br/>entrepreneurs/SMEs</li> <li>Strengthen rehabilitation<br/>programs for abusers</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>BNN, APH</li> <li>Local governments,<br/>Disnaker, Baznas,<br/>BLK, business actors</li> <li>BNN</li> </ul> |

| Scope of Vulnerability | Dimensions<br>Social Resilience   | Strengthening Strategy  | Parties Involved   |
|------------------------|---|---|--|
| Family                 | <ul><li>Coping Capacity</li><li>Adaptive Capacity</li><li>Transformative</li><li>Capacity</li></ul> | <ul> <li>Provide antidrug family resilience programs for vulnerable families.</li> <li>strengthening the PKK programme, focusing on vulnerable families</li> <li>Provide small business capital for families</li> </ul>   | <ul> <li>BNN, PPKBP3A, and PKK</li> <li>PKK: Local Government</li> <li>businesses actor</li> </ul> |
| Community              | <ul> <li>Coping Capacity</li> <li>Adaptive Capacity</li> <li>Transformative<br/>Capacity</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Reactivation of Anti-Drug<br/>Volunteers</li> <li>Anti-Drug Peer Formation</li> <li>Public facilities such as<br/>sports fields</li> <li>Regular law enforcement<br/>monitoring</li> <li>Establishing a Community-<br/>Based Neighborhood<br/>Security System</li> </ul> | BNN, local government; village; police; people of Pulau Negara                                     |

# **Description**:

BNN (National Narcotics Board); APH (Law Enforcement Officials); BLK (Vocational Training Center); Disnaker (Employment Agency); PPKBP3A (Population Control, Family Planning, Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Agency); PKK (Family Empowerment and Welfare)

Source: Processed by researchers

### **CONCLUSIONS**

Overall, social resilience in the Pulau Negara region is relatively weak. This is evident from many residents' indifferent or passive responses when confronted with drug-related threats. However, some local leaders have taken adaptive measures, such as engaging vulnerable groups through persuasive approaches and providing social support to families at high risk of drug involvement. Efforts to promote change have been initiated through partnerships with external organizations like the Hulu Sungai Selatan Regency's National Narcotics Board (BNN) under the Drug-free Village (Desa Bersinar) program and the Anti-Drug Resilient Village initiative of Hulu Sungai Selatan Police. Despite these efforts, challenges have hindered the continuity of these programs, leading to their discontinuation.

The low level of social resilience in Pulau Negara is driven by various vulnerability factors at multiple levels. At the individual level, contributing factors include (1) economic and educational challenges; (2) peer pressure and influence; and (3) limited job opportunities and constructive activities. At the family level, vulnerabilities stem from (1) a history of drug involvement within the family; and (2) unstable family dynamics and insufficient parental supervision. At the community level, factors include (1) poor socioeconomic and environmental conditions; (2) stigmatization and normalization of drug issues; (3) a lack of community awareness and openness; and (4) inadequate infrastructure and public facilities.

The approach to strengthening social resilience in Pulau Negara involves interventions at three key levels: individual, family, and community. At the individual level, strategies focus on raising awareness of drug risks, providing vocational training for entrepreneurship, and offering post-rehabilitation support. At the family level, efforts are made to enhance family resilience through antidrug programs, education, and access to microfinance for small businesses. At the community level, the strategy emphasizes empowering anti-drug volunteers, establishing peer support networks, and improving public infrastructure. This comprehensive plan requires collaboration between the National Narcotics Board (BNN), local authorities, law enforcement, and community members to build sustainable social resilience. Future research could explore more effective ways to foster cooperation among stakeholders in addressing drug-vulnerable areas in Pulau Negara, potentially through a collaborative governance model.

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