

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**EXAMINING THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF DRUG
TREATMENT AND
REHABILITATION
PROGRAMME THROUGH RELAPSE
CASES: A CASE STUDY ON
CURE & CARE 1MALAYSIA
(C&C1M) CLINICS**

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ABSTRACT

Drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes are one of the strategies of the government to combat drug addiction problems particularly in Malaysia. The fast changing trend of addiction in terms of multidrug user, various evidence-based treatment, and rehabilitation implemented in drug treatment centre has raised the issues of the effectiveness of the programmes. This study was designed to examine the effectiveness of the implementation of drug treatment and rehabilitation programme from the perspective of receivers and providers. This study was guided by four research objectives focusing on the relapse cases, issues and challenges, the outcome of effectiveness based on receiver and provider perspective as well as the development of Symmetrical and Flexible Framework to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes in Malaysia. The study has adopted a case study design by using multiple embedded case study by employing a qualitative approach. Four cases were chosen namely Cure & Care 1Malaysia Clinic Sungai Besi, Kota Bharu, Bukit Mertajam and Tampin. In-depth interviews using semi-structured questions were conducted on 37 participants who were selected based on the criteria of the study. Observations were also conducted to support the findings of the study. Thematic analysis was utilised and the data were managed by using NVivo version 12 software. The findings show that the drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes in C&C1M clinics were effective during the period of treatment and relapse cases through relapse prevention has underpinned the effectiveness with four key themes comprising of individual changes, knowledge and life skills learned, staff reception, as well as client acceptance. On the part of the providers, the findings demonstrate six key themes on the issues and challenges – variety of client background, readiness to transform, leadership style, transformation capability, and module implementation. Both the receivers and providers perspectives agreed that the outcome of the effectiveness of the implementation of the programme is reactive and short-term. Lastly, this study developed a Symmetrical and Flexible Framework. In conclusion, the government through its ministry, agency, and treatment as well as rehabilitation centre had implemented many programmes to reduce drug relapse, new drug addiction, and social problems through the initiative of C&C1M clinics. Therefore, evaluation and monitoring process should be undertaken by the providers to ensure that the effort is worthy in dealing with unsolved problems of drug addiction in Malaysia.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

“Overtime drugs rob men, women and children of their dignity and of their character, illegal drugs are enemies of ambition and hope; and when we fight against drugs, we fight for the souls of our fellow nations”

(White House, 2001)

Drug abuse has been a pertinent issue for many centuries in all countries and nations. In early 1600, drug was associated with positive feedback, as it appeared to be useful for medication production as well as for the use of religious activities and recreational use such as trade and social interaction (Crocq, 2007; Stevens, 2011). At that time, no one knew the harm and destruction that drug could cause; hence, neither women nor men expected that drug could turn into the nightmare of the society. Since early 1900 until recent years, issues related to drug have always been linked to its negative effects on human and animal as well as its negative impact- on a particular nation. To be specific, many countries have been experiencing the negative impact of the drug, regardless of whether they are developed or developing countries. They include the United States, Singapore, Sweden, Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia and Cambodia; Malaysia is no exception. Until today, drug remains as an unsolved problem, despite of many efforts done by all countries to minimize and eradicate the problem. The main question to ponder upon is to what extent the efforts, implemented by these countries, is effective in combating drug abuse.

Drug abuse or addiction is part of public health, social issues and security problem which has remained unsolved; that its growing effects continue to become a threat to the society, nation and the world as a whole. Drug abuse and addiction are a chronic relapsing disease as recurring drug-seeking and use can lead to harmful consequences (Erickson, 2009). Among the popular types of drugs abused and addicted to around the world are cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy, heroin, and methamphetamine (UNODC, 2008). In Malaysia, the evolution of drug history started during British colonization and it involved the immigrant community such as the