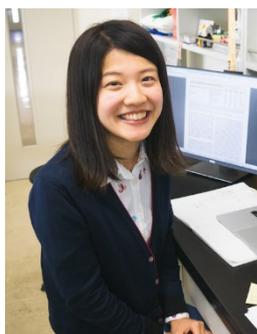


Peer involvement in formal care services for people with substance use disorders in Indonesia

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For a long time, the infringement of autonomy of people who use drugs has been permeated many levels in Indonesia. Drug use has been belittled as a moral issue, marginalised, criminalised, and even exploited for personal gain by authoritative stakeholders. For people who develop substance use disorders (SUD), healthcare services also commonly enact compulsory treatment which disregards the autonomy of clients. However, in recent decades, there has been a growing movement of people who use drugs to regain autonomy in attaining their rights to health. In this chapter, we focus on peer counsellors—people with a history of SUD and now provide professional care to support clients with SUD, in the setting of the capital, Jakarta. We will describe the value and roles held by peers while providing such care services, in a narrative through the author's self-reflection as a peer counsellor, which may positively transform how medical care for SUD is being provided. We will also explore the current positionality of peers within the SUD care environment in Indonesia. This includes the process of how a client becomes a peer, how peers collectively contribute in peer-run organisations, and how power relations are established between peers and surrounding stakeholders, especially healthcare services and the government. Finally, we will outline direct observations of psychotherapy co-provision by both peer counsellors and healthcare workers. It is hoped that via endeavours to further involve peer counsellors in SUD care provision, including the implementation of psychotherapy co-provision such as Indo-DARPP, as well as sufficient support from the surrounding stakeholders, people with SUD and who use drugs in general may regain their autonomy, rights, and status in the Indonesian society.



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