



## Trainees 'Perception of the Role of Community Service Programs for Behavior Formation

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### **Abstract**

This study aimed to explore trainees' perceptions of the role of community service programs for behavior formation. This study used a qualitative approach. To explore the issues of this study, the researcher chose a case study design. A total of 6 study respondents underwent community service order (PKM) and during that period they were known as (active) trainees. Through this study, the researcher used the interview method to collect data and the method was chosen because it coincided with this study. Overall, all respondents implemented punishment programs in PKMD 2, 3, 4 and 5 such as sewing, cleaning inside and outside PKMD 2 and watering flowers. The involvement of trainees in carrying out punishment program activities can bind the trainees' free time by contributing energy, skills and service to the community.

**Keywords:** *Community Service Program; Behavior Formation; Trainee*

### **Introduction**

The community service order (PKM) sentence is imposed on teenagers who commit criminal behavior until they are found convicted by the Court and is an alternative or optional punishment. According to Siti Zubaidah (2011), PKM punishment is an alternative punishment and can be understood as one form of substitute punishment or optional punishment. To reduce the problems faced by adolescents involved in criminal behavior, PKM has been implemented in Western countries since time immemorial. Ching (2014) explains that the PKM sentence was first formally introduced by the Alameda County Court, a district in California, USA in 1966. After seeing the development of the sentence, the PKM began to be a pioneer and reference to the Courts around California in 1970, as an alternative punishment to fines and imprisonment (Arifah Rahimah & Mohd. Al-Adib, 2015). The implementation of the PKM has been previously stated by Ivey, Ivey and Zalaquett (2010), and Jung and Choi (2017) that the PKM is becoming increasingly popular implemented in Western countries such as Denmark, Germany

and France. This shows that the PKM has long been implemented in Western countries and is a reference to the Courts in other countries to sentence the PKM to adolescents involved in criminal behavior. Meanwhile, according to Norazla et al., (2015), support the statement that PKM is an alternative form of punishment that has been implemented by most countries around the world since the 1970s. However, Hudson and Galaway (1990) have stated earlier that PKM was implemented in several European countries including Denmark, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Norway and Portugal around 1980.

Adolescents who convicted of criminal behavior until they were sentenced by the PKM are expected to return to the arms of their families and society. This is because the PKM punishment can be ordered on juveniles who commit criminal offenses until convicted by the Court (Sheikh Abd. Rahman, 2013). However, according to Nurbazla and Mohd. Al-Adib (2014), PKM is specifically ordered to juvenile offenders only to form good values but the community service performed by offenders is for the community as well. Thus, in Malaysia, enforcing the PKM's punishment contributes a lot of noble values and should be given the opportunity to offenders to be re-socialized in the PKM to be a useful person to themselves, family, society and keep themselves away from criminal behavior.

The resocialization through the PKM required the trainees to implement and attend the programs. Therefore, the causes of crime, the form of PKM program activities that the trainees have followed, the trainees' views on the PKM program and the implications of the PKM program should be studied and known. Therefore, this study is necessary to reveal the views of selected trainees because trainees resocialize themselves by performing community work in the District Social Welfare Office (PKMD) and attend PKM programs determined by the organizers BPKM, JKM Malaysia, Putrajaya. The purpose of this study is to explore the ability of the PKM for the formation of trainee behavior as one of the functions and responsibilities of the Ministry of Women Development, Family and Society (KPWK) especially the agencies under it, namely the Department of Social Welfare (JKM) Malaysia, Putrajaya, JKM Perak and PKMD are directly involved in this study. Therefore, the main focus of PKM punishment is to educate trainees so that they do not get caught up in criminal behavior again in the future. According to Arifah Rahimah and Mohd. Al-Adib (2014), PKM punishment is the basis of punishment so that offenders do not commit repeated criminal behavior in the future.

The fact that must be accepted is that every offender of various ethnicities and criminal behavior, will also have different views on the PKM program that has been followed. Study of Mohd. Al-Adib (2012) found and views that the PKM is important because it can contribute to the construction of the legal framework of the PKM against offenders in conflict with the law in Malaysia. Such differences of opinion often lead to misunderstandings among trainees, especially when asked what is the meaning of PKM (Cywinska, 2010). In this regard, the PKMD as a social institution acts as an agent for the re-socialization of trainees. Therefore, PKM through PKM programs in PKMD should be seen as a way for trainees to be re-socialized by educating social values in the process of shaping their behavior. For example, rehabilitate offenders by depriving them of their free time to perform community work in the PKMD. Mohd. Al-Adib et al. (2009), have previously argued that PMs performing community work are expected to rehabilitate them.

Based on the issue of criminal behavior involving adolescents should be studied and the focus of the study location in the PKMD because the trainee had been involved in criminal behavior, convicted by the Court to be sentenced by the PKM. Although there are previous studies on PKM or criminal behavior involving adolescents or PM, but the study uses different research approaches, different respondents, locations do not involve the PKMD and the causes of crime are different.

## **Literature Review**

Mohamad Nazrin (2018) had conducted a study entitled "Students' Perceptions of Factors Influencing Student Involvement in Social Problems". The study involved form 3, 4 and 5 students of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan, Kampung Perak, Perak and according to Mohamad Nazri (2018), in the past, teenagers were involved in serious criminal cases only a small number. However, he further explained that the sharp increase in the number not only worries parents but has implications for society and the credibility of the school which serves as the moral and behavioral formation of the younger generation.

Study of Mohd. Al-Adib (2012) in his journal article entitled 'Community Service Orders for Young Offenders: Theory in Malaysia'. He stated that there are still not many studies that discuss the PKM in terms of theory. This prompted Mohd. Al-Adib (2012) conducted a study aimed at debating the PKM in terms of theoretical aspects of the PM in Malaysia. Mohd Al-Adib (2012) stated that the use of appropriate theory is a priority and found that rehabilitation theory is appropriate for PMs who are in conflict with the law because PMs are a different group of adult criminals.

Arifah Rahimah et al. (2015) found that PKM was first formally introduced by Alameda County Court, a district in California, USA in 1966. However, PKM punishment was basically applied to female offenders convicted of traffic offenses and could be sentenced to imprisonment if they could not pay fine. Imprisonment is seen as quite harsh and burdensome for poor offenders, so the Court sees the PKM sentence as an alternative and best punishment to replace the imprisonment sentence.

## **Research Methodology**

This study used a qualitative approach. Qualitative approaches are more appropriately used to study and give meaning to social phenomena that occur in a natural background (Fraenkel, Wallen & Hyun, 2012). Thus, the researcher also looked at the social phenomena that occurred in PKMD 2, 3, 4 and 5 to shape the trainee's behavior. The interview questions regarding the resocialization of the PM through the PKM in the formation of behavior in the PKMD can be answered comprehensively.

To explore the issues of this study, the researcher chose a case study design. Indeed, the case study design is a study design that is considered more appropriate to be used by the researcher in this study. This is because as stated by sociological figures, case studies are able to help researchers understand the issues of this study in depth.

## **Findings**

The results of the interviews found that there were various views of the trainees on the activities of the punishment program. The trainees' views are seen in terms of sewing, cleaning inside and outside PKMD 2 as well as watering the flowers.

### **Sewing**

According to R1 while giving an explanation regarding the activities of the punishment program.

*"Actually, I don't know how to sew, in addition to sewing women's handbags. I have no direct experience in my life. In the early stages, I felt very awkward. I have been taught how to operate*

*an electronic sewing machine and sew women's handbags systematically. At first my stitches were messy and didn't follow the lines. After practice after practice I went through, I felt I could do it but it wasn't like the teacher was teaching because he was already skilled. From there I felt sewing women's handbags was important because I was able to learn new experiences in the field of sewing. In addition, what is more important is to be able to help people with disabilities in PDK, District 2 to produce handbag products for sale to increase their source of income".*

(R1, interviewed on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017, (R1 b. 85-96))

### **Cleaning Inside and Outside the District Social Welfare Office**

The results of the trainee interviews from PKMD 3, also provided insights on important punishment program activities. Here are the results of an interview with R2 from PKMD 3.

*"I view and emphasize cleanliness as the most important activity. This is because Islam attaches importance to cleanliness for example, to oneself, family and the environment. Cleanliness is an integral part of our lives. If we do not practice cleanliness such as cleaning the ceiling and mopping the floor, it means we reject the importance of cleanliness in Islam and our daily lives."*  
(R2, interviewed on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017, (R2 pp. 109-117))

R3 also voiced his view on the importance of cleanliness during the punishment program at PKMD 3. Here is R3 view.

*"I think the punishment program educates me to think long and be more careful in any situation and action. First, to improve my self -skills and that of other trainees especially while undergoing PKM. For example, cleaning toilets until clean but using the least amount of water so that there is no waste in PKMD 3. Waste is prohibited because it harms individuals, organizations and society. Second, to be able to complete my free time such as contributing my energy to perform community service work to the local community such as weeding and cleaning the surrounding area PKMD 3 and PDK 3. This kind of work I rarely do before and I consider the work that I stated earlier is important".*

(R3, interviewed on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017, (R3 b. 211-223))

R4, on the other hand, stated that sweeping garbage and washing drains as the main concern in PKMD 2. According to R4.

*"I put the work of sweeping the garbage and washing the drains in PKMD 2 as the main concern and have an impact because it can prevent aedes mosquitoes from breeding in order to maintain health."*

(R4, interview 22 February 2017, (R4 pp. 223-226))

### **Watering flowers**

Apart from humans and animals needing water, trees also need water to survive in nature. Plants are very important because they supply oxygen to humans. In this case, the respondents were concerned about the flowers being watered every day so that the flowers do not wither and PKMD 3 looks cheerful. According to R4.

*"I like flowers. I can't see the withered flowers due to not enough water. Every time I do community service work, I care and make sure the flowers are watered every morning".*

(R4, interview 18 April 2017, (R4 b. 165-168))

Summary: Overall, all respondents implemented the punishment program in PKMD 2, 3, 4 and 5. Indeed, JKM Malaysia, Putrajaya has delegated the authority to JKM States and all PKMD implemented the punishment of PKM as a legal social control. This social rule has been accepted by the trainees as a rule especially during the PKM sentence as a rule of daily norms of the trainee's internal nature. The involvement of trainees in carrying out punishment program activities can bind the trainees' free time by contributing energy, skills and service to the community. However, there is a distance traveled by the respondents from the place of residence with the PKMD and the selected location. On average, the minimum travel distance of a trainee to and from is about 15 kilometers only. However, there were also trainees who have to commute from home to PKMD which is the maximum of 80 kilometers. The situation, burdens the trainees in terms of petrol expenses and maintenance of their motorcycles.

### **Discussion of Study Findings**

According to Mohammad Nasir (2015), PKM punishment triggers fear, but fear is necessary to change the behavior and personality of adolescents and PMs. Such a view has to do with the theory of preventive punishment because the theory is based on crime can be prevented through society's fear of PKM punishment (Carrabine, 2004). Historically, the theory of preventive punishment has been a major justification in the sentencing system (Champion & Mays, 1991). In the context of this study, the punishment program showed that being able to change the trainees' behavior for the better, making the trainees and the community aware of the fear of committing crimes. In addition, it can reduce the community's fear of crime when the PKM punishment is implemented.

The goal of the punishment program is to carry out community activities by depriving the trainees of free time and giving a social responsibility on them (Asmawati Desa et al., 2013). In this study, trainees have a social responsibility to repay to society in the form of energy performing community work as punishment. This is in line with previous studies by Noor Hafizah (2016) entitled Community service sentencing. Olver and Wong (2013) stated that PKM can benefit the community by performing community work by the offender as symbolic of repayment to the victim. Asmawati Desa et al. (2013) further clarified that the objective of the punishment program is to bind the trainees' leisure time by contributing energy, skills and service to the community. Therefore, all six trainees in this study have performed community work.

### **Conclusion**

Overall, all respondents implemented the punishment program in PKMD 2, 3, 4 and 5. Indeed, JKM Malaysia, Putrajaya has delegated authority to JKM States and all PKMDs implement the punishment of PKM as a legal social control. This social rule has been accepted by the trainees as a rule especially during the PKM sentence as a rule of daily norms of the trainee's internal nature. The involvement of trainees in carrying out punishment program activities can bind the trainees' free time by contributing energy, skills and service to the community.

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