Positive Growth Dynamics of People Live with HIV AIDS (PLWHA)-Injection Drug User (IDU) in Surabaya, East Java

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ABSTRACT

In the past ten years, the number of HIV transmission caused by drug injection had increased from 0.65% to 35.87% (Indonesian Health Department, 2005). Mental health issue frequently occurs in people live with HIV AIDS (PLWHA) Injection Drug User (IDU) are poor self-acceptance, easily depressed, future worrying. Recent studies almost never put the point of view on positive things about PLWHA-IDU. The objective of this study is to discover any positive growth processes in PLWHA-IDU and how the positive growth dynamics process in facing HIV AIDS.

This is qualitative descriptive study. Participants (N=2) were adults whose diagnosed HIV-AIDS because of drug injection in Surabaya. The sampling applied was snowball sampling and analyse used thematic analysis.

The result showed the common background between two participants are: (1) neglectful parenting in their childhood, (2) started using drug in their early adolescence, and periodically raised the dosage, (3) jailed because of drug abuse and other criminal activities. Those experiences never made them intimidated, but infected by HIV AIDS was their existential crisis, and pushed them to the process of positive growth. The positive growth process are: (1) high motivation to stop the addiction, (2) looked for support from NGO, (3) became a volunteer or educator in NGO, (4) working normally to support their own life, (5) more concern about family

This study reflected the positive growth experience of people with HIV-AIDS. The output will be constructive for development of NGO programs with the similar objectives.

Key words: Existential crisis, growth, PLWHA, IDU

Introduction
HIV, AIDS and The Transmission

There are some differences between HIV and AIDS. HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is a virus, if left untreated it can take around 8-10 years before HIV has damaged the immune system enough for AIDS to develop. The characteristic of HIV infected person is the deficiency of their immune system because the HIV damages a type of blood cell (CD4 or helper T cells), the cells those play a crucial role in immune system. HIV progresses to a diagnosis of AIDS if: (a) the occurrence of opportunistic infection, the symptoms or some illnesses that occur as the result of the immune system