



## The Role of Social Actors in the Character Resilience of Former Drug Offenders in Surakarta City, Central Java

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### ABSTRACT

*The role of social actors is crucial in building the character resilience of former drug offenders in Surakarta, a city marked by its diversity and progress. Social actors must support the reintegration of ex-drug offenders, who often experience feelings of inferiority and face difficulties reintegrating into society after their release from prison. This support can be provided through various means, including moral and emotional support, social and life skills training, and assistance in finding employment or developing entrepreneurial ventures. This research aims to examine the role of social actors—comprising family and friends, government, the private sector, and civil society organizations—in fostering the character resilience of former drug offenders in Surakarta, Central Java. The study employs social roles and actors as analytical tools to understand these phenomena. In essence, qualitative research is used to explain how individuals perceive, describe, or interpret their social world, drawing meaning from their interactions. The findings reveal that the role of social actors in enhancing the character resilience of former drug offenders remains suboptimal. Rehabilitation and reintegration efforts led by these social actors have not been effectively implemented to build self-confidence among former drug offenders. There is a clear need for continued assistance and supervision, education and training, and personal engagement from community or religious leaders to combat negative societal stigma. Strategies to improve the effectiveness of social actors in building character resilience have not been thoroughly developed, such as organizing mental resilience training integrated with spiritual guidance. The rehabilitation process should involve families through education and assistance to provide emotional support. Several social and environmental barriers to build the character resilience of former drug offenders persist, such as the enduring negative stigma of being labeled as an addict, which hampers support for the rehabilitation process. Former offenders frequently face social rejection and discriminatory attitudes, particularly in employment contexts, which diminishes their self-esteem and motivation. However, social support from families and the community can offer an essential sense of security for former drug offenders. Encouragement from the social environment has not been fully realized; many families fail to provide the emotional support necessary for community acceptance, and effective communication to resolve issues remains lacking. Meanwhile, close friends play a role in promoting societal acceptance and providing positive oversight. Additionally, social media can be a powerful tool in educating the public about the dangers of drug abuse and supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of former drug offenders.*

**Keywords:** Character Resilience, Former Drug Offenders, Social Actors.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

The high-risk and high-profit nature of drug trafficking is widely known. The global increase in the problem of illegal drugs has reflected and contributed to international tensions and become a form of crime with behavior that violates social rules imposed by legal bodies (Siegel, 2010). This form of crime can be committed by anyone, both rich and poor, which means that this drug crime can be committed by anyone, women or men, children, teenagers, adults and even the elderly can be directly trapped in drugs (Kartono, 2011)

Contextualization of the conditions of such tension clearly occurs, such as rapid changes in political alignment, reduced cohesion in families and communities, or broken home, increasing unemployment, economic problems, social marginalization and increasing crime. The impact on social life related to drug abuse and its consequences has affected family life, health, education, crime and work which ultimately leads to the degradation of the nation's generation.

Drug abuse and illicit trafficking are complex problems, both in terms of causes and impacts (Azhar, et al. 2021). Drug abuse is still a chronic problem that affects Indonesia.

The cases of crystal methamphetamine distribution and the arrest of many international drug dealers in recent years are evidence that Indonesia is in a state of drug emergency (Hariyanto, 2018). In the world drug trade map, Indonesia's position has shifted from a "transit country" to a "destination country" for illegal drug trafficking. In the midst of a "drug emergency" and the ideals of achieving "Drug Free ASEAN 2025" at the regional level, together with ASEAN member countries, Indonesia is challenged to find effective and efficient methods of overcoming drug abuse. The social maturity of the community regarding drugs also needs attention so that the policies implemented are right on target. The priority focus on "eradication" efforts by various parties (officials and the community) is considered more appropriate in Indonesia's "drug emergency" (Herindrasti, 2018).

In the realm of criminal law, the phenomenon of recidivism highlights a major challenge in the effectiveness of the justice system in providing a deterrent effect and the success of rehabilitation and social reintegration programs for former offenders. Specifically, in the context of narcotics law, a drug recidivist is someone who has received a criminal sentence related to a narcotics offense, such as possession, trafficking, or abuse, and then re-engages in a similar crime. Cases of drug recidivism raise serious concerns, because they involve complex aspects of addiction, social environmental pressures, and the limitations of rehabilitation programs that are able to restore addicts sustainably. This pattern shows the need for a legal approach that does not only focus on punishment, but also a comprehensive strategy that includes effective rehabilitation, social support, and innovative prevention policies to prevent re-offending.

Meanwhile, Article 127 ensnares drug users and users with the meaning of drug abuse in which in this article the approach to overcoming the problem of drug abuse, law enforcement is rehabilitative. As for recidivists who are again entangled in Article 114 and Article 112 as the distributor article and also Article 127 as drug users since 2018-2020 and 2022-2023 can be presented in the table below:

**Table 1. Number of Drug Cases in Surakarta City 2018-2022**

No	Year	Article Description	Number of Recidivists
1	2018	Article 112 (Criminal Code)	139 people
		Article 114 (Criminal Code)	139 people
		Article 127 (Criminal Code)	112 people
		Article 132 (Criminal Code)	18 people
2	2019	Article 112 (Criminal Code)	140 people
		Article 114 (Criminal Code)	134 people
		Article 127 (Criminal Code)	134 people
		Article 132 (Criminal Code)	25 people
3	2020	Article 112 (Criminal Code)	167 people
		Article 114 (Criminal Code)	167 people
		Article 127 (Criminal Code)	152 people
		Article 132 (Criminal Code)	37 people
4	2022	Article 112 (Criminal Code)	136 people
		Article 114 (Criminal Code)	134 people
		Article 127 (Criminal Code)	124 people
		Article 132 (Criminal Code)	97 people
5	2023	Article 112 (Criminal Code)	89 people
		Article 114 (Criminal Code)	84 people

	Article 127 (Criminal Code)	84 people
	Article 132 (Criminal Code)	28 people

Source: Surakarta City Police Department Data (2023)

The table above shows that the high number of recidivists with the highest spike in tension in 2019, 2020 and 2021 as the data released shows that in 2020 to 2021 there was an economic crisis because of inflation which caused an economic depression due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has become historical motivational problems for recidivists to return to criminal acts. Although in detention, the majority in 2022 are still in the active process or undergoing the detention process. However, in 2023 there were 89 drug cases, but the calculation system was from January to July 2023. However, in mass media reports, the high rate of drug trafficking in Surakarta City is very high.

The rampant circulation of drugs in the city of Surakarta is due to recidivists who are still operational in the drug business, as data from drug recidivists who have been caught and are again trapped in the drug business in the problem of drugs and the business world as seen from year to year will be the high number of cases of violations in Article 112 and Article 114 concerning drug abuse, possessing, trading drugs and using them. So this can be seen in table 1.1 as data from the Surakarta City Police, drug dealer suspects are caught in Article 112 and 114 subsidiary to Article 127 concerning users who are proven to be victims of drug abuse are required to undergo medical and social rehabilitation or 132 concerning narcotics crimes committed by 2 or more people who have committed completed crimes.

After serving their prison term for recidivists, the regional government also prepares prevention through the family as the family actor, community environment, education unit, education unit, community organization (ORMAS), regional government agency, regional government agency and DPRD, business entity, business place, hotel/lodging and entertainment venue, boarding house/dormitory, place of worship and mass media to always provide education for recidivists to always participate in tertiary programs such as providing religious education containing the dangers of narcotics; improving communication with family members, especially with children or family members who live in the same house; providing assistance to family members so that they have mental strength and courage to reject narcotics abuse; providing education and correct information to family members regarding the dangers of narcotics abuse; and reporting the families of narcotics addicts to IPWL.

Feeling inferior like a prisoner after the detention process experiences difficulties and problems with experiencing inner conflict, trauma, personality disorders due to stress, sexual deviations, withdrawing, having unstable emotions, being suspicious/sensitive, boredom with routine activities and food, longing for family, not ready to face reality, problems with friends and anxiety about the future after leaving prison, suicide, loss of self-confidence and even committing crimes that are much worse than before. In addition, public perception of prisoners can have a negative effect on them (Raisa, 2016).

Social support as a tertiary program is generally conceptualized as a social resource that an individual can rely on when dealing with life problems and stress (Thoits, 1995) when recidivists post-sentence and. Social support has direct and indirect effects on delinquency and other indicators of well-being (Kort-Butler, 2018). Social support has a positive effect on the adjustment of incarcerated offenders because, in the majority of society, they will have a negative view, as former inmates have bad character, repeat criminal behavior. Therefore, support from the community / actors in society is needed to accept former inmates in living a normal life and support their existence positively.

Support provided by actors in society consists of three types of social support providers (family, friends, and closest people), perpetrators/offenders receive the most support from family, followed by closest people including prison officers and social volunteers, and finally support from friends, especially fellow prisoners (Liu, L., & Chui, W, 2014).

Social support for drug addicts in Surakarta city is categorized as good, as this support is manifested in the technical guidance program through the Desa Bersinar (Clean from Drugs) Program which is a leading program by actively involving the community to implement prevention programs by drafting the P4GN Regional Regulation (mentoring and coaching for the prevention and eradication of abuse and illicit trafficking and precursors of narcotics), as in 2021 it was implemented as one of the Surakarta City Regional Action Plans. The program targets mapping Areas Prone to Abuse and Illicit Trafficking of Narcotics and Narcotics Precursors in collaboration with the Surakarta

City Government, Police, Detention Centers and Bapas as a form of Data mapping of drug-prone areas in Surakarta City (Drug Crime Data, Narcotics Prisoner Data, and Narcotics Recidivist Data).

Good social support is not enough to help former drug addicts to completely break away from drugs and need reinforcement from other external factors. Social support is one of the protective factors in the process of forming resilience (Permana et al., 2021). The results of a study in China showed that the dual mediation of social support and resilience in the relationship between stress and life satisfaction is important (Yang et al., 2018). As existing sources, the behavior of society towards former drug prisoners is actually a trigger for drug prisoners to return to the dark world of drugs which begins with instability in individual behavior in aggressive social relationships as a result of frustration that arises due to dissatisfaction within oneself (Dollard in Ridwan and Kadir, 2019) which is a result of the nature of despair in individuals which will encourage personal decision making to choose criminal acts.

In the social support obtained by individuals from the surrounding environment, both family and the surrounding environment, it will affect how individuals deal with stressors and anxiety in living life. This will help individuals to be calm, grow self-confidence, and feel loved. Social support according to Sarafino & Smith (2011), is a comfort of care, appreciation, or assistance that individuals get from other individuals or groups. While social support can come from parents, partners or lovers, siblings, social contacts or communities or even from loyal pets (Reitschlin et al. in Taylor, 2015). Taylor (2015), said that individuals with high social support have low stress levels, are more successful in coping and experience positive things in life more positively.

Resilience Theory provides a conceptual framework for considering a strengths-based approach to understanding behavioral development for recidivists that seeks to inform data through the design of interventions that can be measured using questionnaires (Zimmerman, 2013). Increasing resilience in communities or individuals to stress through facilitating social interactions and increasing social support can be very effective in helping people cope with stress and prevent substance use problems or relapse (Rawas, et al. 2020).

The concept of resilience is a useful way to understand the impact of repressive policies on illicit drug markets (Bouchard, 2007). The concept of resilience has become increasingly popular in research on how individuals, families, and communities recover from trauma, such as trauma from disasters, war, or the loss of a family member (Mawarpury & Mirza, 2017). Community involvement in the process of social life for former prisoners is expected to have a positive impact on the implementation of social reintegration, especially in minimizing the impact of imprisonment including community stigma against lawbreakers (Nugraha, 2020).

The prison system becomes a correctional system that is a turning point in the treatment of lawbreakers. Prison sentences that were initially cruel in nature with the aim of providing a deterrent effect for lawbreakers have changed to a more humane direction known as the correctional system that aims for prisoners to be accepted in society (social reintegration).

Anxiety can happen to anyone, including criminals approaching release. This is related to the stigma of being a former convict, which until now is still viewed negatively by society. It seems to have become an ineradicable stigma in society that people who are sentenced to prison cannot change and have bad behavior.

Based on the observation results that the dual mediation of social support and resilience in the relationship between stress and life satisfaction is important. Furthermore, the findings strengthen the important role of support related to social perception and resilience in reducing stress. The research findings also explain three important things, namely: i) the occurrence of stigma by society towards former prisoners there are two, namely First the attitude of former prisoners who tend to be closed, ii) the social interaction that is built between the community and former prisoners is still well maintained, but a sense of alertness remains because they have committed criminal acts, and iii) former prisoners who are released from detention are not easy to return and mingle with society, even though they are free, former prisoners are still considered socially disabled (Rahmi, et al. 2021).

Based on local media reports in the city of Surakarta about drug trafficking is very high and several times reported the arrest of drug dealers. In 2021, the Head of the Surakarta City Regency Narcotics Agency (BNK) once said that Surakarta City was the second most vulnerable area in Central Java and was the easiest route for access to trafficking through the airport and Surakarta City had become a route for drug trafficking and a supporter of the Drug chain troops in the surrounding areas.

The rampant drug cases in the Surakarta city area prove that the reality of social life has affected the joints of life in society. Drug abuse sometimes does not look at age and also education level. Various methods and demonstrations have been carried out by the government and related agencies to provide counseling about the side effects of drugs, but humans as social creatures can change to deviant things.

Surakarta city area is the center of government, economic center and tourism location and population mobility is very high. Land use change is an important aspect that affects environmental change both spatially and temporally (Turner, Meyer, & Skole, 1994). Monitoring land use change is very important for local and regional planning studies to assess city growth trends. Mobilization and increase in population are very high, coming from various regions for tourism and trade purposes. Affecting the high level of diversity in terms of regional origin, ethnicity, culture, and religion. Based on this unique phenomenon, the phenomena related to this study can be described, namely:

- 1) The city of Surakarta has a social civilization with a high level of development with a high level of social diversity and relatively high drug trafficking.
- 2) Surakarta City plays a role as the National Activity Center (PKN) in the Central Java Provincial RTRW. In the Central Java Provincial RTRW 2009-2029, it is stated that Surakarta City is designated as a Strategic Area from an economic growth perspective.
- 3) Since 2020, the population of Surakarta has reached 522,364 people, making it a metropolitan city.
- 4) Prison sentences for drug convicts in the city of Surakarta have not been able to provide a deterrent effect or minimize drug trafficking and former drug convicts have been proven to have re-committed the crime of trading and consuming narcotics and narcotic precursors.

Based on the background and research topic that is in accordance with the focus, the novelty or newness in this study is: it is the first research or there has been no similar research that has ever been conducted in Surakarta City. Then the application and approach of the theory of social support and social reality related to former convicts/recidivist drug dealers has never been done in the study area and literature related to this is very difficult to find.

The role of social actors is very important in building the resilience of the character of former drug convicts in the city of Surakarta with its diversity and progress, so this requires social actors to be able to help rebuild the self-confidence and self-confidence of former drug convicts who often feel inferior and find it difficult to reintegrate into society after leaving prison. Social actors can help in various ways, including by providing moral and emotional support, providing social skills and life skills training, and helping them find jobs or develop independent businesses.

In addition, social actors can also help former drug convicts to build positive and healthy social networks. This can help them avoid the temptation to return to drug use and strengthen their relationships with family, friends, and the community. With the help of social actors, former drug convicts can learn how to face life's challenges and develop positive attitudes that allow them to rise from failure and become stronger and better. In the long run, this can help them to contribute positively to society and avoid falling back into behaviors that are detrimental to themselves and the community.

Context This research focuses on the provisions stipulated in Article 127 of the Narcotics Law, which specifically discusses drug abuse for personal gain. This article is designed with a more humanistic approach compared to retributive criminal sanctions. Article 127 emphasizes that perpetrators of drug abuse, who are proven to have used narcotics for themselves, are prioritized to undergo rehabilitation rather than imprisonment. Rehabilitation here is not only an effort for medical and psychological recovery, but also includes aspects of social recovery that aim to return individuals to a productive and healthy community life.

The emphasis on rehabilitation reflects the understanding that drug abuse is often rooted in deeper problems, such as dependency, unstable mental conditions, or negative social influences. Therefore, this approach places the aspect of recovery as a top priority to prevent the repetition of similar crimes in the future. The context of this study explores the extent to which rehabilitation policies are effective in reducing recidivism rates, as well as the challenges faced in implementing such rehabilitation programs in Indonesia. This study also assesses how these regulations can be further optimized to create positive long-term effects for individuals and the wider community.

Thus, this study explores how social support can help former drug offenders, including those who may have previously been caught under Article 127, to rebuild their self-confidence and integrate into society. The focus on rehabilitative approaches is particularly relevant, as the study emphasizes the importance of moral, emotional, and social support to prevent reoffending and aid effective reintegration.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1. The Role of Social Actors**

Role literally is part of the activity of an individual who occupies a certain position related to his/her work, someone who is expected to be able to carry out obligations related to the role as a recidivist prisoner who in their social context often gets a more negative social status, therefore social roles become the determinant of social status. This understanding means that if an individual does work that is in line with his/her status or position in society, then the individual is playing his/her social role. Social roles are more dynamic than social status. In practice, social roles often take the form of conflict, this is because individuals have more than one status so that they demand to play more than one role (Syamsuddin AB, 2016: 177).

Role in social roles by Taufiq Rohman (2006: 60) means a behavior expected from a person or group according to the status or position they have or hold, the behavior expected from a person who occupies a certain social status in society, a person's social role in society is very much determined by the social status they have, social roles are the implementation of a person's rights and obligations according to their social status. This makes each individual have done and carried out an obligation and asked for their rights. As the social status he holds he has carried out the right and proper role.

### **2.2. Social Actor Support**

In the study of crime and delinquency, what came to be called social support theory had its origins in Cullen's (1994) presidential address regarding Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. In the speech, entitled "Social Support as an Organizing Concept for Criminology," Cullen argued that the idea of social support is woven through many theories of crime and delinquency. Cullen distinguished between macro-level and interpersonal-level effects of social support, emphasizing how supportive communities and supportive relationships can each reduce an individual's crime rate. He also implicated social support in processes of social control and criminal justice, arguing that

Effective social control and rehabilitation must be based on support (Kort- Butler, 2018). Finally, social support theory points the way to social and cultural reform. Policies that invest in the instrumental and informational needs and well-being of individuals, families, and the community as a whole are likely to have an effect on reducing individual offending or crime rates. In addition, encouraging altruism, volunteerism, and generosity as important cultural values can reduce the impact of social conditions that contribute to crime and delinquency (Kort-Butler, 2018).

### **2.3. Social Behavior in Social Change**

Humans behave based on experiences from human interactions with their environment, Seleebeey (2001: 1) explains that a person's limitations are limited by an understanding of social construction that empirically focuses on the interaction between individuals, groups, communities, and economic systems and includes multidisciplinary knowledge of biological, sociological, cultural, psychological, and spiritual development throughout the life span; the various social systems in which people live (individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities); and how social systems promote or hinder people from entering to maintain or achieve personal interests.

Interaction is part of the results of all kinds of human experiences with their environment that are manifested in the form of knowledge, attitudes and actions or in other words, there is a response behavior and reaction of an individual to stimuli that come from outside (environment and or within the individual). In other words, behavior is the response/reaction of an individual to stimuli that come from outside or from within themselves. This response can be passive (without action: thinking, having an opinion, behaving) and or active (taking action).

The fact in the behavioral approach regarding social reality is that only individual behavior is real. overt behavior as a characteristic pattern of social behavior paradigm (Anwar and Adang, 2008: 79). The social behavior paradigm emphasizes an empirical objective approach to social reality that identifies the characteristics of society to become a social construction (Anwar and Adang, 2013: 73) which shows a theory about the concept of behavior

(Psychology) and then becomes a sociological concept which means that real behavior/behavior in the past and can be interpreted as behavior in the present (Ritzer, 2014: 73).

#### **2.4. Recidivism Decision Making in Resilience Behavior**

The word "decision" means to determine, end, complete, overcome. While the word "decision making" means an action taken to complete something (Russell-Jones, 2000). Making a decision talks about the action to be taken in facing a problem that is often faced with two or even more choices. A decision is an action to overcome chaos, able to see every aspect objectively, and thus can make effective decisions (Adair, 2007). According to Salusu (2006) defines that decision making is a process of choosing alternative ways of acting with methods that are appropriate to the situation. While Jannis & Mann (1977) state that decision making is problem solving and avoids situational factors.

#### **2.5. Social Interaction Theory**

According to Soerjono Soekanto (2002) social interaction is a general form of social processes, namely ways of relationships that can be seen when individuals from human groups meet and determine the system and form of the relationship, or if there are changes in the existing way of life, thus social interaction will only occur if there is a reaction between the parties involved. Walgito (2007) states that social interaction is a relationship between one individual and another, one individual can influence another individual or vice versa, so that there is a reciprocal relationship. This relationship can occur between individuals and individuals, individuals and groups or groups and groups. According to Partowisastro (2003) social interaction is a social relationship that functions to establish various types of dynamic social relations, whether the relationship is in the form of between individuals, groups and groups, or individuals and groups. Sarwono and Meinarno (2009) explain that social interaction is a reciprocal relationship that influences each other between individuals and other individuals, individuals and groups, and groups and other groups.

#### **2.6. Social Value Exchange Theory**

The Theoretical Basis for Social Exchange The theoretical basis for this research is social exchange theory (Social Exchange Theory) explained by Blau (1986). Blau explains that social exchange theory is a theory that explains how individuals complement each other. In other words, the exchange relationship with others will produce a reward for us. Like the theory of social learning, social transformation, the theory of social exchange also sees that between behavior and the environment there is a relationship that influences each other and is reciprocal (reciprocal). A famous American sociologist PA Sorokin (Social and Cultural Dynamics, 1941), known as the "theory of social change". He considered the course of history to be continuous, though irregular, fluctuating between two basic types of culture: 'sensational' and 'ideational' through 'idealist'. According to him, culture oscillates like a clock pendulum between two points.

#### **2.7. Social Conflict Theory**

The theory of social conflict that emerged in the 18th and 19th centuries can be understood as a response to the birth of a revolution, democratization and industrialization. The sociological theory of conflict is an alternative to dissatisfaction with the structural functionalism of Talcot Parsons and Robert K. Merton, who assess society with their consensus and integralist understanding. And the perspective of conflict in viewing society can be seen in classical figures such as Karl Marx, Max Weber, and George Simmel. Conflict theory emerged as a form of reaction to the growth of structural functionalism theory which was considered to pay less attention to the phenomenon of conflict as one of the symptoms in society that needed attention. "The most influential thought or the basis of this conflict theory is the thought of Karl Marx and in the 1950s, the conflict theory that began to spread. This theory aims to analyze the origin of an incident of a violation of the rules or the background of someone who behaves deviantly. Conflict here emphasizes the pluralistic nature of society and the imbalance in the distribution of power that occurs among various groups, because of the power held by elite groups, these groups also have the power to create regulations, especially laws that can serve their interests. "Conflict comes from the Latin verb "Configere" which means "to hit each other".

#### **2.8. Social Attitude Theory**

Attitude is related to psychology related to perception and behavior. The term attitude in English is called attitude. Attitude is a way of reacting to a stimulus with various approaches, this is like Allport's (1935) definition of attitude which uses two components, namely mental and neural conditions about readiness, organized through experiences that influence dynamically. In Allport's understanding, the attitude is explained as a feeling or general evaluation, either

positive or negative, which is based on generality which in reality is also applied to society for the existence of recidivists after serving a prison term in the community.

Attitudes have been the focus of much research in the social sciences. In particular, attitudes themselves have been the primary explanatory variables in social psychology more than in any other academic discipline. Despite some fluctuations in popularity, research on attitudes has been conducted by social psychologists since the 1920s and has undergone extensive theoretical and empirical development since then. Indeed, Edwards (1999, in McKenZie, 2010: 19-20), describes the importance of perception (i.e., attitudes) as the most pervasive theme in modern social psychology.

## **2.9. Social Psychology Theory**

Social Psychology or social psychology is a discipline that has existed for a long time (since Plato and Aristotle), but officially, this discipline has only become an independent science since social psychology could be "claim" as part of psychology, and can also be part of sociology. Social psychology is also a topic in sociology because in sociology there are two main perspectives, namely the macro structural perspective which emphasizes the study of social structure, and the micro perspective which emphasizes the study of individualism and social psychology in explaining variations in human behavior. Gordon Allport (1968) in Hasan (2011) explains that a person can be called a social psychologist if he "tries to understand, explain, and predict how the thoughts, feelings, and actions of individuals are influenced by the thoughts, feelings, and actions of other people that he sees, or even just imagines".

## **3. RESEARCH METHODS**

### **3.1. Research Approach**

The approach method used is qualitative. Qualitative research is needed to explain and describe the phenomena found during the implementation of the research. According to Nanang Martono (2016) Qualitative research is research that attempts to analyze social life by describing the social world from the perspective or interpretation of individuals (informants) using the theory of Social Roles and Actors as Analysis Tool to the phenomenon. In other words, qualitative research attempts to explain how an individual sees, describes, or interprets his social world with the meaning of the results of his social interactions.

### **3.2. Research Focus**

In qualitative research, the focus of the research will not be separated from the formulation of the problem, because this formulation is the main reference. However, the focus can develop or change according to the nature of the qualitative approach which is flexible or flexible following the pattern. "empirical inductive" with the understanding that the final result of field data collection is one that is able to reflect the actual conditions. Thus, determining the focus of research cannot be separated from the concept that it must limit itself to people or groups of people who are truly related and even as perpetrators of the cases being studied.

The focus of this research is on community actors, both community leaders, educational institutions, government, families, neighbors/relatives and also recidivists with the following indicators. Thus, the focus of the research is:

- 1) The role of social actors (family and friends, government, private sector, civil society organizations) in building character resilience of former drug convicts in Surakarta City, Central Java.
  - a. Rebuilding the self-confidence and self-esteem of former drug convicts;
  - b. Helping former drug convicts to reintegrate into society;
  - c. Factors that influence the effectiveness of the role of social actors in helping former drug convicts build character resilience: (1) Communication skills, (2) Knowledge and experience, (3) Self-confidence, and (4) Empathy.
- 2) Strategies to increase the role of social actors in building character resilience of former drug convicts in Surakarta City, Central Java:
  - a. Education and training
  - b. Building networks and providing support



- c. Mentoring
  - d. Increase active participation in community activities
  - e. Access to economic resources.
- 3) Obstacles and encouragement of the social environment in building character resilience of former drug convicts in the metropolitan community of Surakarta City:
- a. Social Stigma
  - b. Social Support
  - c. Finance/Economics
  - d. Psychological
  - e. Environment
- Encouragement:
- a. Family
  - b. Friends / Companions
  - c. Environment
  - d. Public Awareness

### 3.3. Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis is a process of organizing and sorting data into a pattern, category and one basic description so that themes can be found and working hypotheses can be formulated. The data analysis technique used in this study to answer the problems and objectives of the study is interactive analysis. The data obtained is then analyzed inductively to find the data category which is essentially so that temporary conclusions can be drawn to be modified and developed from the cases encountered. The data analysis technique that will be used in this study uses interactive model analysis. According to Miles, Huberman, and Saldana (2014) stated that the research data analysis process is an activity of three research streams simultaneously, namely (1) data condensation, (2) data display (display data), and (3) drawing conclusions/verification.

## 4. DISCUSSION

### 4.1. The Role of Social Actors (Family and Friends, Government, Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations) in Building Resilience in the Character of Former Drug Convicts

#### 1) Rebuilding the self-confidence and self-esteem of former drug convicts.

Social roles are very dynamic compared to social status. Social roles are often in the form of conflict, this is because individuals have more than one status so that they demand to play more than one role (Syamsuddin, 2016: 177). Roles in social roles by Taufiq Rohman (2006: 60) mean a behavior expected from a person or group according to the status or position they have or hold, the behavior expected from someone who occupies a certain social status in society, a person's social role in society is very much determined by the social status they have, social roles are the implementation of a person's rights and obligations according to their social status. This makes each individual have done and carried out an obligation and asked for their rights. As the social status he holds, he has carried out the right and proper role.

The relational pattern for social theory is greatly influenced by the level and role of the actor as the actor's role in social change brings about changes in social conditions as a new social system, new norms driven by the complexity of society which becomes the complexity of social change in general (Slovak, 1979:467) Because the actor himself has a big role in front of the convict as an idea not to return to the role of a drug dealer.

Rebuilding the self-confidence and self-esteem of former drug convicts, as an important step in the process of rehabilitation and reintegration into society as an approach that must be carried out to rebuild self-confidence for former drug convicts, including by providing job training programs, intensive psychological guidance and drug rehabilitation by providing self-management training, emotional and spiritual control. In addition, the importance of a

supportive environment for former convicts and eliminating negative stigma and emphasizing spiritual guidance for former convicts, as well as the need to be involved in social activities in the community. The role of the family is very important to help them find a new purpose in life to grow self-confidence by providing education and training. With the hope of providing job opportunities to grow self-confidence, so that former convicts are able to function well in society.

From the discussion above, the findings of this study are as follows:

- Finding 1** : Family and friends provide much needed emotional support to build self-confidence, creating a safe and loving environment.
- Finding 2** : Job skills training programs are designed to increase economic independence and provide a sense of competence to former prisoners, with training tailored to the needs of the labor market.
- Finding 3** : Intensive psychological counseling helps overcome trauma, social stigma, and feelings of low self-esteem, with support from professional counselors.
- Finding 4** : A supportive social environment is important to remove stigma and provide opportunities for ex-offenders to feel accepted and valued.

## **2) Helping former drug convicts reintegrate into society**

Helping former drug convicts to reintegrate into society in order to run effectively, the police institution works with local governments, especially social services, rehabilitation institutions and non-governmental organizations to handle drug addicts. In addition, the importance of supervision and assistance, as well as eliminating the stigma attached to open up job opportunities and a good social life. In addition, the importance of education and skills training for former convicts, rehabilitation programs are very important to overcome past trauma. Giving them the opportunity to build a career and the biggest challenge is the negative stigma attached to society. In addition, it is necessary to involve former drug convicts in community empowerment programs, so that they are able to develop businesses independently.

Reintegration of former drug convicts into society is a process of complex issues that require multidimensional attention, with various social actors playing a critical role in supporting this transition effectively. The research findings highlight that holistic support from various elements of society, such as family, friends, government, the private sector, and civil society organizations (NGOs), contribute greatly to creating supportive conditions for ex-offenders to lead productive lives. This holistic approach focuses not only on individual recovery but also on the reconstruction of social relationships and the enhancement of economic skills that can help avoid re-engagement in detrimental behavior.

Rehabilitation and vocational training programs are key components in preparing ex-offenders to reintegrate into society. These programs are not only designed to address addiction but also serve as a means to equip them with skills relevant to the job market. According to social recovery theory, the rehabilitation process should encompass physical, emotional and social aspects, meaning that ex-offenders need training that prepares them for the challenges of everyday life. Vocational training allows them to acquire competencies that are relevant to the needs of the local economy, providing opportunities for decent employment and building financial independence. By gaining practical skills, ex-offenders can reduce their dependence on social support systems and become productive members of society.

The government has a central role in providing policies and programs that enable social reintegration to run smoothly. One aspect highlighted is job training provided by the government, which aims to strengthen the competitiveness of ex-convicts in the labor market. Government policies that support social reintegration reflect the theoretical view that the successful integration of ex-convicts into society is highly dependent on structural support. From a public policy perspective, government efforts in providing social assistance are also important to ensure that the basic needs of ex-convicts are met during their transition. This includes access to housing, health care, and psychosocial support, all of which play a vital role in building individual resilience against the temptation to return to a troubled life.

The private sector also makes a significant contribution to this reintegration process by providing inclusive employment opportunities. In the social economics literature, it is recognized that decent employment opportunities are one of the main factors influencing an individual's ability to integrate stably into society. With employment opportunities, ex-offenders can build financial independence that allows them to live more stable and prosperous lives. The role of the private sector in providing employment benefits not only the individual, but also the wider community, as it helps reduce unemployment and reduces the social burden often associated with the reintegration of ex-offenders. Companies that practice corporate social responsibility (CSR) by opening up opportunities for ex-offenders demonstrate that business can be a strategic partner in efforts to strengthen a more inclusive social fabric.

Civil society organizations (NGOs and local communities) complement government and private sector efforts by providing more personalized, person-centered services. NGOs play a critical role in providing counseling, mentoring, and social activities that not only help restore ex-offenders' mental health but also strengthen their support networks. Social support theory emphasizes the importance of interpersonal connections in rebuilding identity and strengthening emotional resilience. Counseling and mentoring provided by these organizations help ex-offenders deal with the trauma, shame, and social stigma that often accompanies their status as former drug users. Social activities organized by local communities also serve to promote social inclusion, reduce isolation, and build a sense of community.

Collaboration between social actors is essential to ensure that the approach to assisting ex-offenders is integrated and sustainable. Effective collaboration creates synergies that amplify the positive impact of interventions. In social network theory, it is argued that the success of social interventions depends largely on the quality of relationships and coordination between stakeholders. When social actors such as government, NGOs, the private sector, families and local communities work together harmoniously, they can create a supportive ecosystem where ex-offenders feel accepted, valued and motivated to continue to thrive. Good coordination also allows for efficient use of resources, reduces duplication of programs and ensures that the needs of all individuals involved are met appropriately.

In this context, social integration is not only about ensuring that ex-convicts are able to meet their economic needs, but also about rebuilding healthy social relationships and strengthening mental and emotional resilience. The findings of this study underscore that a holistic approach involving various social actors in an integrated manner is key to creating sustainable change. By combining emotional support, economic opportunities, and rehabilitation services, ex-drug convicts in Surakarta City have a better chance of building a healthy, productive, and meaningful life.

From the discussion above, the findings of this study can be formulated as follows:

- Finding 5** : Holistic support from social actors, including rehabilitation programs and skills training, prepares ex-convicts to lead productive lives.
- Finding 6** : The government provides policies and programs to support social reintegration, such as job training and social assistance.
- Finding 7** : The private sector plays a role by providing inclusive employment opportunities, helping ex-offenders build financial independence.

### **3) Factors that influence the effectiveness of the role of social actors in helping former drug convicts build character resilience**

The findings of this study highlight the importance of several factors that influence the effectiveness of the role of social actors in helping former drug convicts build their character resilience. One of the main factors is good communication skills. Social actors need to listen empathetically and attentively to deeply understand the problems, challenges, and needs of former convicts. With an empathetic approach, social actors can provide relevant and useful input that encourages positive thinking. Effective communication must be carried out consistently and be well received by former convicts, which will help them understand the direction and purpose of the intervention provided. Commitment to continue providing information in a supportive and directional manner can strengthen former convicts' self-confidence and facilitate their recovery process.

The knowledge and experience of social actors are also important elements that contribute to the success of rehabilitation programs. The actors involved must have a deep understanding of the dangers and impacts of drugs, as well as practical experience in dealing with the challenges involved. This experience allows social actors to develop better insights into how to handle complex situations, and to build solid networks that can provide the necessary resources. Experienced social actors also show genuine concern for the well-being of ex-convicts, providing emotional support that helps them build character resilience. With the ability to collaborate effectively, social actors can coordinate their efforts with other agencies to ensure that rehabilitation programs are holistic and sustainable.

The self-confidence of social actors plays a key role in providing convincing guidance and setting realistic expectations for ex-convicts. The personal closeness built by community leaders with ex-convicts can help build self-confidence and provide significant spiritual motivation. Social organizations also have a significant role in providing relevant education and training, as well as encouraging ex-convicts to take responsibility for their own lives. By providing motivation and encouragement, social actors can help ex-convicts improve themselves and integrate into society in a productive and independent way. The family environment also plays an important role in opening up opportunities for work and creating a more stable and independent life for ex-convicts.

Empathy is another key component that influences the effectiveness of social actor interventions. Understanding the background and challenges faced by former drug offenders allows social actors to provide meaningful and relevant support. Empathy creates mutual trust and helps ex-offenders feel valued, which in turn strengthens their self-confidence. With this support, ex-offenders can face the challenges of recovery with more optimism and motivation to build a better life. Community leaders also play a vital role in helping ex-offenders enter supportive social networks, creating a positive environment that strengthens their integration into society. The biggest challenges they face, such as social stigma, can be overcome with genuine empathy and support from their community.

Effective social control and rehabilitation must be based on strong support, as argued by Kort-Butler (2018). Social support theory suggests that policies that invest in the well-being of individuals, families, and the community as a whole are likely to have a significant effect on reducing individual offending rates. Values such as altruism, volunteerism, and generosity can mitigate the impact of social conditions that contribute to crime and delinquency. Social support theory, as described by Cullen, Wright, and Chamlin (1999), emphasizes the importance of community-based programs that serve at-risk individuals to prevent problem behavior. Social support in this context acts as a resource that individuals can rely on to cope with life problems and stress.

Strong social support should be grounded in theories that demonstrate how social relationships influence an individual's cognition, emotions, behavior, and biology. There are three primary theoretical perspectives related to social support research: the stress and coping perspective, the social constructionist perspective, and the relationship perspective. The stress perspective proposes that social support protects individuals from the adverse effects of stress, while the social constructionist perspective suggests that support promotes self-esteem and self-regulation. The relationship perspective highlights that social support is often accompanied by harmonious friendships and relationships, which positively impact health.

The process of rehabilitation and reintegration of former drug convicts into society requires a comprehensive approach to rebuild their self-confidence. Consistent supervision, emotional support, and the elimination of negative stigma are important steps to ensure that former convicts can obtain decent employment and lead a healthy social life. Education and skills training are also essential to provide former convicts with new opportunities and equip them to face the future with optimism. Social actors, with their empathetic approach and expertise, play a vital role in facilitating this process, helping former convicts build character resilience and reduce the risk of undesirable behavior in the future.

From the discussion above, the findings of this study can be formulated as follows:

- Finding 8** : The quality of emotional support, such as empathy, active involvement, and warmth, greatly influences the ability of ex-prisoners to build resilience.
- Finding 9** : Effective coordination between government, NGOs and the private sector ensures that the rehabilitation program is holistic and sustainable.

**Finding 10** : The availability of resources, such as mental health services, counseling, and economic opportunities, strengthens the support provided.

**Finding 11** : An inclusive and stigma-free social environment encourages the motivation and confidence of former prisoners to return to society.

**Finding 12** : The communication skills of social actors are very influential, including the ability to listen empathetically and provide constructive input.

**Finding 13** : Empathy from social actors creates trusting relationships, gives former prisoners a sense of appreciation, and helps reduce the social stigma that hinders the reintegration process.

Thus the Minor Proposition constructed is as follows:

**Minor Proposition 1** : “If social actors, including family, friends, government, the private sector, and civil society organizations, provide emotional support, economic opportunities, and rehabilitation services in a coordinated and empathetic manner, the character resilience of former drug convicts will increase, encouraging them to reintegrate into society productively.”

## **4.2. Strategies to Enhance the Role of Social Actors in Building the Character Resilience of Former Drug Convicts**

### **1) Education and training**

This study highlights the importance of education and training in supporting the social reintegration of former drug offenders. The education and training component plays a crucial role in rebuilding their lives, especially through character development, life skills enhancement, and awareness of the dangers of drugs. Specially designed programs can help former offenders lead healthy and productive lives, provide them with opportunities for personal and professional growth, and prepare them to return to being constructive members of society.

Education and training aimed at character development are essential in the rehabilitation process of former drug convicts. The program aims to shape positive attitudes, values, and ethics needed to face the challenges of life after serving time. This character education includes learning about honesty, responsibility, discipline, and work ethics, which help individuals build a healthy and stable identity.

In the context of former drug convicts, character education focuses not only on moral development but also on the formation of a mindset that encourages individuals to make wise and responsible decisions. Emphasis on self-control, emotional management, and mental resilience are important aspects that need to be instilled. These educational programs can use an experiential approach, such as group discussions, role-playing simulations, and self-reflection exercises, to strengthen the understanding and application of character values in everyday life.

Life skills or life skills is an essential element in the education and training of ex-offenders. These skills include the ability to manage emotions, communicate effectively, make informed decisions, and develop healthy interpersonal relationships. Given that many ex-offenders face social pressures, stigma, and psychological challenges after leaving prison, adequate life skills can help them adapt better to society.

Life skills training provides ex-offenders with the tools to deal with difficult situations without reverting to old, detrimental habits. For example, emotion management skills help individuals manage anger, frustration, or anxiety in healthy ways, reducing their risk of re-engaging in problematic behaviors. Communication skills are also critical, as they allow them to express their needs and feelings in positive ways, as well as build supportive relationships with others.

Awareness of the dangers of drugs should be an integral part of educational programs for ex-offenders. Education about the physical, mental, and social impacts of drug abuse helps strengthen their commitment to remaining drug-free. The program can also include information about long-term health risks, legal consequences, and the effects of drugs on their personal and family lives.

In addition, this awareness needs to be emphasized through participatory and interactive approaches, such as workshops, seminars, and sharing sessions with individuals who have successfully recovered from addiction. By understanding the dangers posed by drugs, ex-convicts can be more motivated to maintain their health and avoid

temptations they may face in their social environment. This also helps them to remain steadfast in their recovery journey, building resilience to pressures that may push them back into drug abuse.

Interpersonal skills training can include practical exercises, such as simulated social situations or group discussions, that allow former inmates to practice and hone their skills in a safe and supportive environment. These skills help them navigate the social world with more confidence and give them the tools to deal with stress or conflict in a constructive way. By developing strong interpersonal skills, former inmates can build positive social networks and feel more connected to their communities.

Partnering with local companies to provide internships or on-the-job training programs can be a huge benefit to former inmates. Internships give them the opportunity to gain practical experience in a real workplace, which not only improves their technical skills but also helps them understand the work ethic and culture of the organization. This experience also helps them build job skills, such as time management, team collaboration, and problem solving, all of which are essential for success in the workforce.

Additionally, internships can boost ex-offenders' self-confidence, as they feel they have the ability to make a positive contribution to the workplace. With the support of local companies, they can also build a professional network that can help them find future employment opportunities. Internships can also serve as a bridge between the world of rehabilitation and the world of work, giving ex-offenders a real opportunity to prove their skills and gain recognition for their efforts.

Thus, education and training are fundamental elements in the rehabilitation and reintegration process of former drug convicts. With programs specifically designed for character development, life skills, and awareness of the dangers of drugs, former convicts can be better prepared to face the challenges of life. Access to formal and non-formal education, educational counseling services, and technical and interpersonal skills training all contribute to increasing their competitiveness in the job market. In addition, cooperation with local companies to provide internship programs provides them with valuable practical experience, strengthens their self-confidence, and paves the way for a more productive and independent life. With a holistic and collaborative approach, education and training can play a vital role in helping former convicts build a better future.

Thus, the research findings can be formulated as follows:

- Finding 14** : Special education programs should be designed for character development, life skills, and awareness of the dangers of drugs.
- Finding 15** : Educational counseling services assist former inmates in choosing a career path that suits their interests and potential.
- Finding 16** : Technical skills training relevant to the local job market (e.g., carpentry, information technology, or culinary) increases competitiveness.
- Finding 17** : Interpersonal skills such as communication, emotion management, and leadership support healthy interactions in society.
- Finding 18** : Collaborating with local companies for internship programs provides practical experience, builds job skills, and strengthens self-confidence.

## **2) Building networks and providing support**

Building networks and providing support for ex-partners

prisoners are an important component in their reintegration process into society. One of the main findings of this study is the importance of building a strong network of collaboration between the government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local communities. This network serves to create the synergy needed to support the comprehensive rehabilitation of former prisoners. The government plays a role in providing a supportive policy framework, while NGOs offer in-depth rehabilitation services, and local communities provide a space for former prisoners to interact and engage socially. This collaboration is more effective when each actor understands their role and works in an integrated manner to create an inclusive and supportive environment.

Local communities play a vital role in building a welcoming and inclusive environment for ex-offenders. Through various social activities, communities can strengthen ex-offenders' social ties with other members of the community. Active community involvement in organizing events that bring ex-offenders together with the community, such as community service, group discussions, and cultural activities, helps create a sense of belonging and involvement. These activities also serve as a platform to eliminate existing prejudices and reduce social stigma that is often a major barrier for ex-offenders. An inclusive environment not only provides a sense of security for ex-offenders, but also opens up opportunities to build healthy social networks, which are crucial for their recovery and integration.

In addition to community involvement, family education and mentoring are key elements in providing stable emotional support for ex-offenders. Families are often the primary source of support, and their role in the rehabilitation process cannot be overlooked. With adequate education, families can better understand the emotional and psychological needs of ex-offenders and the challenges they face. Family mentoring can help strengthen emotional bonds, provide a sense of security, and rebuild trust that may have been damaged by past experiences. The emotional stability provided by families is critical in helping ex-offenders overcome feelings of isolation and uncertainty, and provide motivation to move forward in life.

Overcoming social stigma is a major challenge faced by ex-offenders, and public campaigns and ongoing counseling are effective strategies in addressing this issue. Public campaigns aim to raise public awareness about the importance of giving ex-offenders a second chance, as well as to educate the public about the dangers of stigma and discrimination. By utilizing social media, radio, and television, these campaigns can reach a wider audience and create significant changes in perception. Ongoing counseling, on the other hand, provides individual support that helps ex-offenders overcome past trauma, build mental resilience, and cope with social pressures. With this approach, ex-offenders can feel supported and understood, which speeds up their reintegration into society.

Cross-sector collaboration is also crucial in ensuring that ex-offenders have the access they need to build productive lives. Governments, NGOs, communities and the private sector must work together to create inclusive employment opportunities and provide training that is relevant to the needs of the labor market. The private sector, for example, can play a role in providing internships or job training programs, which not only provide practical skills but also help ex-offenders feel valued and accepted in the workplace. These programs should be designed to increase their competitiveness in the labor market, which ultimately helps build financial independence and reduces the risk of re-engaging in illegal activities. This cross-sector collaboration ensures that the rehabilitation process is holistic, taking into account various aspects of ex-offenders' lives, from emotional well-being to economic stability.

Building a solid network and providing comprehensive support for ex-offenders is an important step in creating an inclusive and stigma-free society. This support not only helps ex-offenders in their recovery process, but also gives them a real opportunity to prove themselves and make a positive contribution to society. By combining efforts from various social actors, including governments, NGOs, local communities and the private sector, we can create a supportive environment where ex-offenders feel accepted and valued, and have the opportunity to build a better future.

So, the strategy to increase the role of social actors in building the character resilience of former drug convicts is to build a network between the government, NGOs and communities to support each other to work together and run social work programs so that they are accepted back into society. The rehabilitation process needs to involve families by providing education and assistance to provide emotional support. Training and skills are very important to provide to increase self-confidence, and can provide job opportunities. the need for a public campaign to reduce the stigma that occurs in society. With this strategy, good resilience can be built in society.

**Finding 19** : Network cooperation between government, NGOs, local communities, and the private sector create synergy in supporting the rehabilitation of ex-convicts. This collaboration ensures that ex-convicts have access to employment opportunities, skills training, and comprehensive rehabilitation programs, designed to strengthen their independence and competitiveness in society.

**Finding 20** : Local communities play a role in creating an inclusive environment through social activities, while education and family support help provide stable emotional support. Public campaigns and ongoing

counseling play a vital role in overcoming social stigma, increasing community acceptance, and strengthening ex-convicts' attachment to their communities.

### **3) Mentoring**

Social actors can be empowered as mentors for long-term assistance is very important to overcome the challenges faced. The family involved shows the role of the family is very important to support the rehabilitation process. With strong family conditions will increase resilience for former prisoners from pressure from the surrounding environment. Social actors can bridge to adapt back to society. With the development of skills can increase self-confidence and reduce the risk of committing the same act.

Ongoing mentoring by social actors, such as community leaders, social organizations, and local volunteers, plays an important role in the rehabilitation and reintegration process of former drug convicts. Empowering social actors to become mentors who provide long-term guidance and support helps former convicts overcome the various challenges they face, whether socially, emotionally, or vocationally. This process aims to increase their resilience, prepare them to re-adapt to society, and reduce the risk of re-engaging in problematic behavior.

Social actors who act as mentors have a responsibility that goes beyond providing practical guidance; they must be able to build relationships based on trust and empathy. To ensure effective mentoring, mentors need to be trained in knowledge of addiction, resilience, and holistic rehabilitation approaches. This training provides them with the skills needed to support ex-offenders in dealing with complex challenges. According to Social Support Theory (Thoits, 1995), strong interpersonal relationships can help individuals cope with external pressures and provide psychological protection. Thus, trained social actors can create a safe and supportive environment where ex-offenders feel supported and motivated to stay on the path to recovery.

The importance of long-term mentoring lies in the consistency and sustainability of the support provided. Former prisoners often face social stigma that hinders their reintegration process. Having a mentor who faithfully accompanies them can minimize feelings of isolation and strengthen their self-confidence. Self-Determination Theory (Deci & Ryan, 2000) emphasizes that individuals need feelings of autonomy, competence, and relatedness to achieve optimal growth and well-being. Long-term mentoring by social actors can meet these needs by providing ongoing guidance, encouraging active involvement, and supporting the development of relevant skills.

The effectiveness of mentoring provided by social actors will be maximized if there is close collaboration with families and rehabilitation institutions. Families are an important source of emotional support, and their involvement in the rehabilitation process can strengthen the resilience of ex-convicts. Families who are educated and mentored on how to provide stable support will help ex-convicts deal with the social pressures they may face after leaving the justice system. Bronfenbrenner's (1979) Ecological Theory of Development highlights the role of the immediate environment, including family, in shaping individual development. Therefore, integrated collaboration between mentors, families, and rehabilitation institutions is essential to building a holistic support ecosystem.

Rehabilitation institutions, on the other hand, provide the infrastructure and resources needed to support the recovery process. Collaboration with mentors allows for a more personal and in-depth approach to addressing the needs of ex-convicts. With regular counseling sessions and support groups involving families, mentors, and rehabilitation professionals, ex-convicts can feel a sense of solidarity that strengthens their spirit to move forward. These sessions create a space where they can share experiences, receive constructive feedback, and form positive social networks.

Regular counseling sessions and support groups held by social actors create an environment where ex-offenders can share their stories without fear of being judged. This not only strengthens the sense of solidarity among them but also helps build resilience and self-confidence. When society sees ex-offenders participating in positive social activities and contributing productively, social acceptance increases, and negative stigma gradually decreases. This shows the importance of the role of social actors in supporting this transition with an empathetic and evidence-based approach.

Cross-sector collaboration between government, NGOs, communities and the private sector plays a critical role in ensuring that ex-offenders have access to employment and training opportunities. This access is critical to building financial independence and preventing ex-offenders from returning to risky environments or behaviors. According to



Human Capital Theory (Becker, 1964), investment in skills training increases an individual's competitiveness in the labor market, which in turn can improve their quality of life. Thus, collaboration between different sectors can provide relevant training and employment opportunities that match market needs.

Internship programs organized by the private sector and supported by mentors from the local community can provide invaluable practical experience for former inmates. These programs not only equip them with applicable skills but also help them build professional networks that are essential for long-term success. The private sector involved in these initiatives also benefits from workforce diversification and the creation of a positive corporate image in the community.

Empowering social actors as mentors who provide long-term guidance is a key component in the rehabilitation and reintegration process of former drug convicts. This mentoring strengthens their resilience by providing emotional support, skills training, and consistent guidance. Collaboration with families and rehabilitation institutions and campaigns to reduce social stigma create a more inclusive and supportive environment. In addition, cross-sector collaboration ensures that former convicts have access to economic opportunities that can help them build more stable and meaningful lives. With an integrated and community-based strategy, social actors can play a significant role in helping former convicts rebuild their lives with confidence and renewed enthusiasm.

**Finding 21** : Social actors (community leaders, social organizations, and local volunteers) can be empowered to become mentors who provide ongoing guidance and support.

#### **4) Increase active participation in community activities**

Enhancing the active participation of ex-convicts in community activities is an important strategy in the process of social reintegration that aims to rebuild self-image and strengthen social relationships. Involvement in various social, religious, cultural or sporting activities can provide significant benefits for ex-convicts. Not only does it help them improve their self-image, but it also allows them to feel accepted and valued by the community. Participation in these activities encourages positive interactions that can strengthen social networks and build self-confidence, which are essential for effective recovery and reintegration.

In this context, governments and communities have a crucial role to play in creating inclusive programs. Collaboration between the two parties ensures that initiatives designed to support ex-offenders cover a range of aspects relevant to their needs. These programs can take the form of social activities involving the wider community, such as community service, cultural events, or religious celebrations, which give ex-offenders the opportunity to engage directly in community life. By engaging in these activities, they can demonstrate that they are part of the community and want to contribute positively, thereby reducing prejudice and stigma that may still exist.

In addition, entrepreneurship training is an important element in efforts to empower ex-convicts economically. This training provides them with the knowledge and skills needed to start an independent business, open up opportunities to create a stable source of income, and reduce dependence on jobs that are difficult for them to get due to social stigma. Entrepreneurship programs can cover various aspects, such as business management, marketing strategies, finance, and product or service innovation, which are tailored to the potential and interests of ex-convicts. By having the ability to start an independent business, they can not only overcome economic obstacles, but can also prove that they are capable of being productive and independent individuals.

Raising public awareness through public campaigns and open discussions is also an important component of this strategy. Campaigns designed to educate the public about the importance of supporting the reintegration of former prisoners can reduce stigma and prejudice. Discussions involving various parties, including community leaders, government, and former prisoners themselves, can create a deeper understanding of the challenges faced and the efforts made to change. In this way, the public can better understand the importance of providing second chances and supporting the recovery process, which will ultimately create a more inclusive and supportive environment.

Local media plays a vital role in spreading the success stories of former prisoners who have managed to build new, productive lives. These stories serve as inspiration, not only to the general public but also to other former prisoners who may feel hopeless. Local media can be used strategically to highlight these stories, demonstrating that

positive change is possible and worth pursuing. By spreading constructive narratives, the media can help change the negative perceptions often attached to former prisoners and replace them with more positive, hopeful images.

Overall, increasing the active participation of ex-offenders in community activities, with the support of the government, community, and media, is a holistic and sustainable approach. This approach not only provides direct benefits to ex-offenders, but also helps build a more inclusive community, where all individuals have a fair chance to contribute and thrive. With coordinated and inclusion-oriented measures, ex-offenders can regain their respect and standing in society, break the cycle of stigma, and move towards a brighter and more productive future.

Former prisoners must always be involved in these social activities will make it easier to adapt to society by improving self-image, so that government cooperation with other institutions to provide social activity programs or inclusive activities. Training for former drug prisoners has a job to develop their own business and a program for rehabilitation to provide assistance to overcome the mental state of former prisoners, so the role of religious figures and psychologists is needed. In addition, the stigma that appears in the public needs to be reduced by the role of local media.

**Finding 22** : The involvement of former prisoners in social, religious, cultural or sporting activities, facilitated through government and community cooperation in inclusive programs, helps them build positive relationships and improve their self-image.

### **5) Access to economic resources**

Access to economic resources is an essential component in the rehabilitation and reintegration of former drug convicts. Skills training that is relevant to the needs of the local labor market is a priority to ensure that former convicts have a real chance of building an independent and productive life. The skills developed should include technical skills that can be directly applied, such as carpentry, information technology, or culinary, to increase their competitiveness in the labor market. This training not only opens up job opportunities but also provides the confidence needed for former convicts to adapt to society.

In addition, collaboration with local companies is a key factor in creating inclusive employment opportunities. Internship and employment programs can be designed through collaboration with the private sector, with the support of government incentives such as tax breaks or awards for companies that support the reintegration of ex-convicts. These incentives encourage more companies to provide employment opportunities and remove the stigma attached to ex-convicts. Strong cross-sector collaboration between social actors, such as government, NGOs, and local communities, will ensure that these programs run holistically and sustainably.

Micro-credit or venture capital programs with easy requirements are an effective strategy to support ex-convicts in starting small businesses. Venture capital provides them with the resources needed to create economic stability and reduce dependence on environments that may trigger relapse. This capital can be supported by entrepreneurship training that includes business planning, financial management, and marketing. In this way, ex-convicts not only receive capital but also the knowledge to manage their businesses effectively.

Ongoing business mentoring is essential to ensure the long-term success of businesses started by ex-convicts. Mentors from social actors, such as community leaders or social organizations, can provide relevant guidance and advice, help them face emerging challenges, and build adaptive business strategies. These mentoring services also serve as emotional support that strengthens ex-convicts' mental resilience in dealing with business and social pressures.

The formation of cooperatives or social enterprises is a strategic solution to create sustainable economic resources. By working collectively, former prisoners can build supportive social networks, strengthen solidarity, and share mutual benefits. These cooperatives or social enterprises not only provide employment opportunities but also create a sense of belonging and active involvement in the community, which is important in the process of social reintegration. This initiative supports the theory of social support which emphasizes the importance of reliable social resources, both formal and informal, to improve the well-being of individuals and communities.

As described in social support theory, interventions that focus on individual and community well-being tend to have positive cumulative effects. Social support, as outlined by Kort-Butler (2018), plays a critical role in preventing problem behavior and promoting well-being. Community-based programs that involve a variety of social actors in

providing guidance and supporting the reintegration of ex-offenders are examples of this approach. Skills training, financial support, and employment opportunities are integral parts of broader strategies to create supportive environments and reduce the risk of crime.

A holistic approach involving skills development, financial support, and business mentoring, as well as cross-sector collaboration, will strengthen the economic and social resilience of ex-prisoners. With this strategy, they will not only be able to survive but also thrive, becoming productive and independent members of society. The role of social actors in providing access to economic resources is a clear example of how structured and coordinated support can create sustainable positive change.

**Finding 23** : There is no cooperation with local companies to provide internships and jobs, supported by incentives from the government.

Therefore, from the 11 findings stated in problem formulation 2, the Minor Proposition that can be constructed is as follows:

**Minor Proposition 2** : “If social actors in Surakarta City are given integrated training and empowered to provide education, skills training, and ongoing guidance, they will be more effective in building character resilience in former drug convicts, supporting rehabilitation, and facilitating inclusive social and economic reintegration.”

### **4.3. Barriers and Encouragements of the Social Environment in Building Resilience in the Character of Former Drug Convicts in Surakarta City Society**

Interaction is part of the results of all kinds of human experiences with their environment that are manifested in the form of knowledge, attitudes and actions or in other words, there is a response behavior and reaction of an individual to stimuli that come from outside (environment and or within the individual). In other words, behavior is the response/reaction of an individual to stimuli that come from outside or from within themselves. This response can be passive (without action: thinking, having an opinion, behaving) and or active (taking action).

The social behavior paradigm emphasizes an empirical objective approach to social reality that identifies the characteristics of society to become a social construction (Anwar and Adang, 2013: 73) which shows a theory about the concept of behavior (Psychology) and then becomes a sociological concept which means that real behavior/behavior in the past and can be interpreted as behavior in the present (Ritzer, 2014: 73). Furthermore, the obstacles of the social environment in building the resilience of the character of former drug convicts, namely:

#### **1) Social Stigma**

The social stigma attached to former drug convicts is one of the biggest challenges in their reintegration into society. In general, this stigma arises from negative perceptions that develop in the community, which associate former convicts with undesirable characteristics or behaviors, such as drug addiction, criminality, or inability to change. This stigma not only affects the way society treats former convicts, but also has a direct impact on the opportunities they have to obtain adequate support, whether from social, economic, or psychological aspects.

One of the most significant impacts of this social stigma is social exclusion, where former drug convicts often face rejection in various aspects of life. Discriminatory attitudes from society—such as cynical treatment, distrust, or even open rejection—can make former convicts feel unwelcome. This kind of discrimination not only involves explicit rejection, but also often manifests in more subtle forms, such as refusing to interact socially or avoiding them in the context of the community. As a result, former convicts feel isolated and marginalized, which worsens their psychological situation.

These feelings of isolation and social rejection contribute to the decline in self-confidence and motivation in ex-convicts. As explained by various social theories, individuals who feel unaccepted by their social environment tend to experience psychological stress that can hinder their mental and emotional development. Continued social stigma can reinforce feelings of helplessness and low self-esteem, often leading to depression, anxiety, or even hopelessness. In the context of rehabilitation and reintegration, these feelings become major obstacles that prevent ex-convicts from building resilience and developing positive character traits.

Furthermore, one of the direct implications of this social stigma is that it is difficult for ex-convicts to access decent employment. Many companies or employers are reluctant to hire ex-convicts for fear of the risks they may pose, such as concerns about the company's reputation or fear that they will re-engage in problematic behavior. As a result, ex-convicts often lack a stable source of income, which worsens their economic situation and increases the risk of relapsing into harmful behavior. In many cases, the inability to find employment leaves ex-convicts feeling unable to contribute productively to society, further reinforcing the cycle of powerlessness.

This situation creates a vicious cycle in which social stigma hinders access to resources essential for rehabilitation, which in turn exacerbates the social and emotional difficulties they face. Barriers to employment or community support make it extremely difficult to build resilience and strong character. According to resilience theory, individuals need a supportive environment and access to adequate resources to develop resilience in the face of challenges. In the case of former drug offenders, social stigma is a major barrier that undermines this process, as they struggle not only with the effects of their past but also with the persistent prejudices that exist in their environment.

Therefore, addressing social stigma is a crucial step in supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of former drug convicts. Efforts to raise public awareness through education, public campaigns, and promotion of success stories about former convicts who have successfully recovered and contributed positively to society are essential. A community-based approach involving government, social organizations, and the wider community can help reduce prejudice and build a more inclusive environment. By reducing stigma and discrimination, former convicts will have a greater opportunity to build resilience, develop their potential, and live productive and meaningful lives.

**Finding 24 :** Negative stigma is strongly attached to former drug convicts, who are often labeled as "addicts" or "criminals." This label creates a negative perception in society, making it difficult for them to get jobs and social support.

## **2) Social support**

Social support is a key element in helping former drug convicts rebuild their lives, especially in overcoming the stigma that often sticks to and hinders the process of social reintegration. The social stigma against former drug convicts often creates significant barriers, making it difficult for them to get jobs, build social relationships, and feel accepted in the community. In this context, strong social support from family, the immediate environment, and the community is very important to accelerate the process of recovery and adaptation.

Family, as the primary source of social support, plays a vital role in providing the comfort and emotional stability that ex-convicts need. A loving and empathetic family environment can help restore their self-confidence, provide a sense of security, and provide the necessary encouragement to face the challenges ahead. The presence of caring family members who are willing to provide guidance and listen without judgment can have a profound positive impact. Emotional support from family helps ex-convicts feel accepted and valued, which is essential to rebuilding their identity as valuable individuals in society.

In addition to family, the role of the community is no less important. Inclusive and supportive community groups can provide opportunities for ex-convicts to engage in social, religious, or cultural activities, which accelerate their adaptation to the community environment. Active participation in the community helps build positive relationships and strengthens their sense of belonging, which ultimately increases their self-confidence and motivation to live a better life. A supportive community also helps reduce the feelings of isolation and alienation that ex-convicts often feel, creating an environment where they can share experiences, learn, and grow together.

Furthermore, social organizations play a vital role in providing relevant skills training programs and employment opportunities. These skills trainings help ex-offenders become more productive and independent, enabling them to contribute positively to society. With tailored training tailored to the needs of the labor market, ex-offenders can increase their competitiveness, opening up opportunities for decent employment, or even starting small businesses. Social organizations can also provide ongoing mentoring and assistance programs, helping them cope with the social and economic challenges they may face during the reintegration process.

Overall, social support provided by family, community, and social organizations has a significant impact on helping former drug offenders rebuild their lives. This support not only helps overcome social stigma but also

strengthens their resilience, encouraging them to become more productive individuals and contribute positively to society. By creating a supportive environment and providing adequate resources, former offenders have a greater chance of living healthier, more stable, and more meaningful lives.

**Finding 25 :** Social support from family, friends, and community is essential in the rehabilitation process. Family acts as the primary network that provides a sense of security and affection.

### **3) Finance/economics**

The economic barriers faced by former drug offenders are a serious challenge that can slow their reintegration into society. Strong social stigma is often a major barrier, preventing former offenders from finding decent employment and building financial stability. Employers often view them with distrust, fearing the negative impact that hiring someone with a criminal record might have. As a result, employment opportunities are severely limited, even for low-skilled jobs. The inability to access decent employment further worsens their economic situation, which can ultimately lead to desperation and increase their risk of re-engaging in problematic behavior or illegal activities as a way to make ends meet.

In addition to stigma, lack of skills or formal education is another significant barrier. Many ex-convicts lack relevant skills or sufficient training to compete in the job market, especially in a highly competitive urban environment like Surakarta. In large cities, the job market tends to be dominated by jobs that require high levels of technical, professional, or academic skills. Ex-convicts' unpreparedness to meet these demands makes it even more difficult for them to find stable and sustainable employment. In addition, they often lack the social networks that can help them find employment opportunities, which worsens their economic situation.

The high cost of living in big cities adds to the economic burden they face. Basic needs such as food, shelter, transportation, and healthcare require sufficient income, and without steady employment, ex-offenders are often stuck in a very unstable financial situation. This financial pressure has serious psychological effects, exacerbating their already stressed mental state from their experiences in prison and the social stigma they face. This ongoing pressure can lead to anxiety, stress, and even depression, making them even more vulnerable to the temptation to relapse into old habits or engage in criminal activity in an attempt to survive.

Recognizing the magnitude of this challenge, the role of government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is very important in creating sustainable solutions. The government can design proactive policies, such as providing skills training programs tailored to the needs of the local labor market. This training can include various technical skills such as carpentry, culinary, information technology, or other skills that are in demand in the labor market. In addition, entrepreneurship training can also be provided to encourage former prisoners to start independent businesses that have the potential to provide stable and sustainable income.

NGOs also play a major role in supporting ex-convicts through programs that focus on economic empowerment. They can provide skills training, provide business coaching services, and even assist in providing venture capital or micro-credit with easy terms. This financial assistance allows ex-convicts to start small businesses without getting caught in the trap of burdensome loans. Ongoing business mentoring programs are essential to ensure that the businesses they start can grow and survive in the market. Through this mentoring, ex-convicts can learn how to plan, run, and manage their businesses efficiently, as well as overcome the challenges they may face.

The formation of cooperatives or social enterprises can also be an effective solution in empowering former prisoners collectively. In cooperatives, they can work together, share resources, and support each other to achieve better economic goals. Social enterprises involving former prisoners can focus on sectors that are relevant to the needs of the local community, such as food production, handicrafts, or services. By working collectively, they can take advantage of economies of scale and build positive social networks, which not only increase their income but also strengthen their sense of solidarity and empowerment.

This support not only contributes to economic stability, but also to restoring the self-confidence and motivation of ex-offenders. When they are given the opportunity to contribute productively to society, they feel more valued and accepted. This can reduce the stigma attached to them and build the confidence needed to stay on the right track. Thus, investments in skills training, venture capital, and business mentoring not only address the economic

challenges they face but also drive broader social transformation. These efforts help ex-offenders build more stable and respectable lives, and reduce their risk of re-engaging in crime.

**Finding 26** : The economic barriers faced by former prisoners are influenced by social stigma, making it difficult for them to find work and earn a stable income.

#### **4) Environment**

Former drug convicts often face significant challenges in social reintegration, especially due to the negative stigma attached to them in society. The distrust that is often faced with them often resulting in social isolation, with limited employment opportunities and unstable incomes. In addition, they often lose the support of family and close friends, worsening their condition and hindering the process of resilience and healthy life recovery. In this context, the role of government and social institutions becomes very important in providing support that can improve the living conditions of former prisoners and support their rehabilitation.

The social barriers faced by ex-convicts, such as lack of education and relevant skills to compete in the job market, as well as difficulties in meeting basic needs, create severe psychological stress. The stress caused by these economic and social difficulties can reduce their self-confidence and motivation to live a better life. Therefore, social support, both from family and the immediate environment, is very necessary to provide a sense of comfort and build the self-confidence they need.

An emotionally supportive family environment plays an important role in helping ex-convicts feel valued and accepted. Sarafino and Smith (2011) emphasize that social support includes four main aspects, namely emotional, instrumental, informational, and support in the form of rewards.

Emotional support, for example, is expressed through empathy, caring, and appreciation that can provide a sense of security and reduce stress. A financially stable family can also help reduce the economic pressures felt by ex-offenders, providing a more solid foundation for their recovery process.

In addition to family, a positive social environment, including support from friends and community, helps accelerate the process of reintegration of ex-offenders into society. Supportive friends can help manage stress, encourage them to engage in constructive activities, and introduce them to relevant professional networks. The existence of an inclusive and supportive environment is essential to reduce the risk of ex-offenders re-engaging in negative activities, while a community that understands the importance of reintegration can contribute to reducing social stigma.

Cross-sector collaboration between government, NGOs, and local communities is key to creating effective rehabilitation programs. These programs, such as job training and rehabilitation support, not only accelerate the recovery process but also help ex-offenders build relevant skills to support their independence. Public education, whether through social media, open dialogue, or the dissemination of success stories from ex-offenders, can help change public perceptions and create a more inclusive and supportive culture.

With comprehensive strategies and adequate social support, the barriers faced by former prisoners can be overcome, opening up opportunities for them to begin more stable, productive and respectable lives.

**Finding 27** : An emotionally supportive family environment can help ex-offenders feel valued and accepted. Family financial stability also reduces economic stress.

Thus, from the 4 findings stated in problem formulation 3, the Minor Proposition that can be constructed is as follows:

**Minor Proposition 3** : "If the obstacles in the form of social stigma, discrimination, and economic challenges for former drug convicts in Surakarta City can be overcome through significant social support from family, friends, communities, and collaboration between the government and NGOs in providing training and business assistance, then the resilience of the character of former convicts will increase, accelerating the reintegration process, and encouraging them to return to being productive in society."

## 5. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

### 5.1. Conclusion

- 1) This study confirms that social integration and character resilience building of former drug convicts in Surakarta City require strategic roles from various social actors who collaborate effectively. If family, friends, government, private sector, and civil society organizations (CSOs) provide structured, coordinated, and empathetic support, then the rehabilitation and reintegration process of former convicts can run smoothly. Emotional support from family and friends is very important in providing a sense of security, trust, and motivation that helps rebuild the self-confidence of former convicts. Loving and caring relationships from those closest to them create a supportive environment, where former convicts feel valued and have a strong foundation to start a new life. The government plays a key role by providing supportive policies, such as job training, social assistance programs, and initiatives that facilitate access to mental health and rehabilitation services. These efforts strengthen structural support that helps former convicts overcome economic and social challenges, so that they have the opportunity to build financial independence and avoid the risk of returning to problematic behavior. The private sector also has an important role in creating inclusive employment opportunities and encouraging corporate social responsibility to support the integration of former convicts into the workforce. By providing decent employment opportunities, the private sector help reduce social stigma and promote economic stability. Civil society organizations complement government and private sector efforts by providing rehabilitation services, such as counseling, mentoring, and social activities that strengthen support networks. CSOs play a vital role in providing a personalized and empathetic approach, helping ex-offenders overcome the trauma, stigma, and psychological challenges they face. Through inclusive social activities, CSOs promote social integration and reduce feelings of isolation. Collaboration good relations between all these social actors ensure that the assistance provided is comprehensive and complementary, creating an ecosystem that supports positive transformation for ex-convicts.
- 2) This study confirms that the effectiveness of the role of social actors in building character resilience of former drug convicts in Surakarta City is greatly influenced by integrated empowerment and training. If social actors, such as families, communities, governments, social organizations, and the private sector, are equipped with comprehensive training, they will be able to provide more effective education, skills training, and ongoing guidance. Structured training allows social actors to deeply understand addiction, resilience, and evidence-based rehabilitation approaches, which are essential to support the recovery process of former convicts. Integrated training and empowerment of social actors are key to increasing the effectiveness of interventions in building character resilience of former drug convicts. With coordinated support, former convicts will have a greater chance of living a stable and productive life, free from stigma, and able to contribute positively to society. This strategy emphasizes the importance of a collaborative and sustainable approach in creating significant social change, where all elements of society work together to realize inclusive integration and strengthen social resilience.
- 3) The results of this study emphasize that the main obstacles faced by former drug convicts in Surakarta City, such as social stigma, discrimination, and economic challenges, can be effectively overcome with strong social support and collaboration from various parties. These obstacles often lead to social marginalization and worsen the psychological and economic conditions of former convicts, preventing them from rebuilding a productive life. The social stigma attached creates isolation and reduces self-confidence, while economic challenges exacerbated by difficulties in finding stable employment can lead to continued economic dependence and increase the risk of falling back into problematic behavior. Collective efforts from families, communities, governments, and NGOs are essential in creating a supportive environment that not only encourages former convicts to return to being productive, but also helps them to live a better life and contribute positively to society.

### 5.2. Research Novelty

The novelty in the results of this study lies in the development of an integrated social support-based recommendation model that attempts to reconstruct classical theories of social roles and social support theory. This model combines principles from Social Support Theory (as outlined by Cullen, Wright, and Chamlin) and align with the contextual needs of former drug convicts in Surakarta City.

The theory of social support, which essentially emphasizes the importance of social networks and interpersonal support in reducing the risk of crime, has been expanded in this study. This recommendation model expands the scope

of the theory by emphasizing that social support should not only be interpersonal but also requires cross-sector synergy between families, communities, government, the private sector, and civil society organizations. This aims to address more complex social challenges such as stigma, discrimination, and economic hardship faced by former drug convicts.

In this context, the recommendation model reconstructs Social Support Theory by emphasizing that the effectiveness of support depends not only on the quality of interpersonal relationships but also on the existence of organized and collaborative social structures, which actively support the process of rehabilitation and social reintegration

### **5.3. Recommendations for Stakeholders**

#### **1) Family and Friends:**

- a. Families have an important role in providing moral support and motivation. They need to be provided with training to understand the psychological conditions and needs of ex-convicts so they can provide support without stigma.
- b. Training for family and friends, such as family counseling and motivational sessions, can help them provide ongoing support in the rehabilitation process.

#### **2) Government:**

- a. The government needs to strengthen programs that support social reintegration, such as providing skills training, education, and access to employment for former prisoners to build self-confidence.
- b. Social campaigns and public education should be conducted to reduce stigma, involving various communities to increase public awareness and acceptance.

#### **3) Civil Society Organizations:**

- a. Civil society organizations can provide mentoring and counseling programs, especially psychological support to strengthen the mental and social well-being of former prisoners.
- b. Leadership and personal development training programs can help build job skills, increase self-confidence, and prepare them for social challenges.

#### **4) Community and Religious Figures:**

- a. Community and religious leaders can provide a personal and spiritual approach, guiding ex-convicts through personal counseling, inviting them to participate in social activities, and providing constructive advice.
- b. They also play a role in educating society to accept ex-convicts without stigma, encouraging better social acceptance.

### **5.4. Research Implications**

#### **1) Theoretical Implications**

In an effort to build character resilience of former drug convicts in Surakarta City, the role of social actors such as families, government, private sector, and civil society organizations can be understood through several social theories that underlie the importance of synergy in the process of rehabilitation and reintegration into society. The theoretical implications of the role of these social actors are as follows:

##### **a. Social Actor Theory**

Social role theory explains that the behavior expected of a person or a particular group is in accordance with their social status or position. This behavior is influenced by the social status attached to the individual, which creates community expectations regarding the implementation of the correct and appropriate role. According to S. Kullak (2022: 19-35), the concept of the actor's role is articulated through a framework that highlights five patterns of social systems that integrate types of institutional work, allowing for social change that supports rehabilitation. In this context, the role of social actors in Surakarta City includes rights and obligations that are carried out according to their social status, which facilitates an environment that supports and encourages the reintegration process.



The implications of this theory emphasize that effective social roles are crucial in heterogeneous societies. The existence of social roles regulated by prevailing norms can ensure that individual behavior is well regulated, creating an environment that supports the rehabilitation and social integration of former drug convicts. Social actors such as family and friends have an obligation to provide emotional support, while the government and the private sector are responsible for providing interventions based on social needs.

### **b. Social Support Theory**

Social support theory highlights the importance of effective social control and rehabilitation based on holistic support. KortButler (2018) suggests that social support, which includes instrumental, informational, and welfare needs, has a significant impact on reducing crime rates and strengthening individual resilience. Policies that encourage values such as altruism, volunteerism, and generosity can reduce the impact of social conditions that trigger crime and delinquency.

Social support in this context includes emotional, informational, material, and social support from family, friends, government, and community organizations. This support not only helps ex-offenders feel accepted and valued, but also increases their self-confidence. With comprehensive support, ex-offenders can gain sufficient resources to face life challenges and avoid returning to problematic behavior. Family and friends provide essential emotional support, while government and civil society organizations provide mentoring, life skills training, and other practical interventions.

The implications of this social support theory emphasize that the success of the rehabilitation and social integration process is highly dependent on the strength of social relationships and the availability of resources. Structured and coordinated support from all social actors can build individual resilience and accelerate productive social reintegration, creating a community that is inclusive and responsive to the needs of former prisoners.

## **2) Practical Implications**

Based on the research results, the practical implications for social actors in building character resilience of former drug convicts in Surakarta City are as follows:

### **a. Family and Friends:**

- (1) Family Education and Support Programs: Governments or civil society organizations can provide special education programs for families of former prisoners to improve their understanding and skills in providing emotional support. These programs can include training on how to deal with behavioral change and constructive communication strategies.
- (2) Support Groups: Support communities are formed for families and friends of former prisoners to share experiences and provide support to each other. These groups can be assisted by counselors who provide guidance on the role of families in the rehabilitation and reintegration process.

### **b. Surakarta City Government:**

- (1) Integrated Rehabilitation Program: The government can develop a comprehensive rehabilitation program, including psychological support, job skills training, and spiritual guidance. This program aims to provide comprehensive support, help ex-convicts build self-confidence, and reduce the impact of stigma.
- (2) Social Campaign to Reduce Stigma: The Surakarta City Government can launch a public campaign to reduce the stigma against former drug convicts. This campaign can involve community leaders, media, and religious organizations to spread inclusive messages and support the acceptance of former convicts.
- (3) Incentives for Companies Hiring Former Convicts: The government can provide incentives, such as tax breaks or special awards, to companies that hire former convicts.

This policy is expected to open up more job opportunities and help them achieve economic independence.

### **c. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):**

- (1) Psychosocial Counseling: OMS can provide affordable or even free psychosocial counseling services. This counseling aims to help former prisoners overcome anxiety, stress, and trauma, and build emotional

stability.

- (2) Soft Skills and Self-Development Training: OMS can organize training to develop communication skills, time management, and other work skills. This program aims to increase the self-confidence of ex-convicts and ease their integration into society.
- (3) Collaboration with Community and Religious Leaders: CSOs can work with community and religious leaders to strengthen the spirituality of ex-convicts and provide a personal approach. This collaboration will help them feel supported and accepted by the community.

**d. Community Leaders and Religious Leaders:**

- (1) Personal and Spiritual Approach: Community and religious leaders can hold personal spiritual coaching sessions and group discussions. These activities aim to help ex-convicts feel accepted and supported, without stigma.
- (2) Community Outreach and Education: Community and religious leaders can also educate the community about the importance of accepting and supporting ex-convicts. Programs such as lectures or public discussions can raise public awareness of their role in the social reintegration process.

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