



## High Risk of HIV towards Sexual Transaction, Use of Drugs, and Lingual Symbol of Day-Pay Workers



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### Abstract

The number of people suffering from HIV/AIDS increases from year to year in Padang City. The two main causes are free sex and drug use. One of the most frequent subpopulations of free sex and drug use is a day-pay worker in Teluk Bayur Seaport. They have their own lingual behaviors, patterns, and symbols for the sexual transaction and drug use. These are the aspects discussed in this paper. A qualitative study with a trans-sectional non-experimental design was applied. Data were collected through interviews, existing documents, and social networks. A thematic content analysis is used to analyze. The results proved the opportunity to commit free sex and drug use in Teluk Bayur Seaport is in the waiting period of the ship arrival. The most frequently used locations are on boats, on trucks, and wild lodges around the seaport. Types of drugs with the use of hypodermic needles are thought of to be potentially high in HIV infection. Research has also proven that day-pay workers at Teluk Bayur Seaport use lingual symbols and numeric symbols in sexual transactions and drug use.

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## 1. Introduction

HIV/AIDS research among workers has blossomed in recent years. Good writing on contraceptive use and unwanted/ unplanned pregnancy among female of sex workers in Zambia can be consulted by [Chanda \(2017\)](#). [Afzal's study \(2017\)](#) is worth reading to see migrant farmers and sex workers infected with HIV and cervical cancer in the rural area of South Africa. [Adnani, et.al. \(2018\)](#), was good to read in connection with social and structural factors to prevent the risk of HIV/AIDS among female sex workers in Nepal.

Other than commercial sex workers, the research on HIV/AIDS is also widely practiced for medical personnel. It is certainly intended to take preventive measures so that HIV/AIDS does not spread to innocent parties. [Kumar et.al. \(2018\)](#), for example, outlined its own model to examine the knowledge and attitude of dentistry students of Jazan University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on HIV/AIDS. The model of HIV disease progression and transmission, as well as the potential impact of HIV treatment, is also discussed in detail by [Ross et al \(2018\)](#). To find out the benefits of doing HIV testing, HCV, and HBV for health workers can also be referred [Winkelmann et.al. \(2016\)](#).

The outburst of HIV/AIDS studies among workers or among productive ages is certainly inseparable from the ILO Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work proclaimed on 21 June 2001. The rule is intended to reduce the spread of HIV among workers and its impact on workers and their families. It also contains the basic principles of policy development and practical guidance at the enterprise and community levels ([see ILO, 2006](#)). This is certainly due to the increasing prevalence of HIV among the population aged 15-49 years. One of the examples is the HIV/AIDS case found in Bali, Indonesia. 50 percent of the 2,413 HIV/AIDS cases found in Bali affected the productive workforce aged 20-29 years in 1987-2008.

In other words, the HIV/AIDS rate among workers contributes to the growth of HIV / AIDS currently does not only hit Africa but also Europe, Asia, and most countries across the world. The interesting paper on the spread of HIV/AIDS in Western and Central Europe, for example, can be consulted [Gokengin \(2018\)](#). It is reasonable that the World Health Organization ([read WHO, 2018](#)) is particularly concerned with preventive and reliable HIV diagnostic testing for patients.

In the context of Indonesia, the number of people suffering from HIV/Aids is increasing from year to year. The highest population with HIV/AIDS is Jakarta as many as 48,502 people, followed by East Java as many as 35,168 people, Papua as many as 27,052 people, Java as many as 26,066 people, Central Java as many as 19,272, and Bali as many as 15,873. The number of HIV/AIDS sufferers in West Sumatera province amount to 1,192 people. This number is among the top 10 in Indonesia. Based on data from the [Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia \(2016\)](#), it is presumed that Padang City ranks first one in a number of districts/cities in West Sumatera with 19 HIV and 557 Aids ([Akbar, 2016; Ahmad, 2016; Efianti, 2018](#)).

One of the most vulnerable subpopulations of HIV/AIDS in Padang City is Teluk Bayur Seaport. Other than job accidents, the sexual behavior of this type of worker is considered vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. Other than unsafe sexual intercourse, a number of workers of this type also use drugs.

It is reasonable to see why various interests meet each other at seaports including Teluk Bayur from shipping companies, customs, immigration, quarantine, banking, and other interrelated interests ([Deuba, et.al; 2016](#)).

Each agency involved has an interconnected network. When associated with the Labor Law in Indonesia, workers in Teluk Bayur Seaport can be divided into three categories, *i.e.*, permanent workers, outsourcing workers, and day-pay workers.

This paper just focuses on describing the day-pay workers. The limitation of day-pay workers in this paper is the ones paid if they get engaged in an activity and other company workers whether directly or indirectly connected to Teluk Bayur Seaport such as loading and unloading workers, truck drivers, boat crews, manual handling, and commercial sex workers. [Pascom and Szwarcwald \(2010\)](#), the reason is that this type of worker is not only physical but also a mental and social burden.

There are three aspects that will be discussed. They are the pattern of sexual transactions, the use of drugs and syringes and the use of lingual symbols in the conduct of sexual transactions and drug of a day-pay worker in Teluk Bayur Seaport.

## 2. Research Methods

Data were collected using purposive samples under several procedures. Seaport day-pay workers such as crew members, captains, loading and unloading laborers, truck drivers, reserve drivers, motorcycle taxi drivers, taxi drivers and commercial sex workers working in Teluk Bayur Seaport were interviewed using interview guides primarily related to sexual transactions, drug use and lingual symbols used.

The workers meeting the requirements are to be interviewed and given several open-ended questions. Prior to the interview, respondents were advised of the purpose of the interview, the reasons for the research, and the benefits of the research. To protect the identity and confidentiality of the respondents, a letter of agreement between the researcher and the respondent written in Indonesian is provided. Interviews are conducted individually approximately 40-60 minutes on locations specified by the respondents.

## 3. Results and Analysis

As stated previously, the day-pay worker is the one receiving a daily wage. Such wages may be received weekly or monthly on the basis of their work by multiplying the number of working days with the average number of workers per working day. They are loading and unloading workers, truck driver, captainship and crew, and commercial sex workers as well. This subchapter discusses inherently sexual and drug transactions pattern and the use of lingual symbols as well used in the Teluk Bayur Seaport of Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia.

### *a) Loading and unloading workers: pattern of work and opportunity to commit free sex*

The loading and unloading workers in Teluk Bayur Seaport are a kind of worker relying on human labor as the main thing. This type of work in ergonomics is known as manual material handling. Types of work include lifting, carrying, pushing, and pulling tasks. According to the Regulation of the Minister of Transportation of the Republic of Indonesia number 60 of 2014, the loading and unloading activities at Teluk Bayur Seaport consist of stevedoring, cargo *doring* (for the goods loading from dock to warehouse and vice versa), and delivery (the job of taking goods from the warehouse to the top of the vehicle and vice versa).



Figure 1. Teluk Bayur Seaport  
(Source: [www.wikimedia.org](http://www.wikimedia.org))

Work accident of loading and unloading workers for example from 2014-2017 have occurred as many as 43 times, ie 11 times in 2014, 21 times in 2015, 7 times in 2016 and 4 times in 2017 (Akila, 2017). Based on interviews, information obtained that the loading and unloading workers at Teluk Bayur Seaport consist of

two shifts. The first one is to unload the goods from the truck to the dock and the second one is assigned to move the goods from the dock to the ship. Despite a small salary, stevedoring personnel have the opportunity to get engaged in risky sex transactions. The opportunity is at the time of loading and unloading activities that are caused by the delay of the ship so that the goods piled on the pier. Another opportunity that is also owned to loading and unloading force is when there are no goods disembarked or when the ship is docked. One shift of loading and unloading took as many as approximately 50-s workers. Shift change usually occurs once a week (see also [Markolinda, 2013](#)).

b) *Truck driver: job pattern and opportunity to commit free sex*

Teluk Bayur Seaport has a strategic role not only for industrial and trade growth but also for business development in Indonesia. This port accommodates a number of export and import commodities of West Sumatra such as iron ore, crude palm oil (CPO), coal, cement, clinker, cinnamon, tea, molds, furniture, and other key export commodities to foreign countries, especially America, Europe, Asia, Australia, and Africa. The port that was formerly named Emmahaven is located in the City of Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia.



Picture 2. Teluk Bayur Seaport  
(Source: [www.telukbayurport.co.id](http://www.telukbayurport.co.id))

As the chain of sea transportation, Teluk Bayur port functions as an interface for sea and ground transportation. Goods transported by ship need to be transferred to ground transportation such as trucks or trains. Conversely, goods transported by ground transportation are loaded onto the ship.

At the time this study was conducted, the location of the dock at Teluk Bayur Seaport was limited to a few trucks. Thus, truck drivers have to wait for few days to unload the goods. It is the custom of most truck drivers to use the waiting period to have free sex with commercial sex workers.

Truck drivers can have sexual intercourse at various places. Even truck drivers also often have it on their own trucks. When they make sexual transactions, his position is usually replaced by the reserved ones. The reserved driver at Teluk Bayur Seaport is known as *supir oyak* (reserve driver) replacing the main one for various purposes. In other words, one of the causes of commercial sex in Teluk Bayur Seaport is due to queue to wait their turn ([Markolinda, 2013](#)).

c) *Ship captain and crew: opportunity to commit free sex*

There are several types of ships docked at Teluk Bayur Seaport. Other than cargo ship and passenger ship or semi-passenger ship there are also fishing vessels, and container ones. Among them, ones can harbor by the pier and the other can do offshore. The contract of the anchored boat is generally filled by foreign ships or big ships owned by Indonesia ([Markolinda, 2013](#)).

Each ship has her own management. The bigger the ship, the more complex the management is. In addition to ship captains, there are also crew members having different functions. The crew is generally male.



Picture 3. Teluk Bayur Seaport  
(Source: [www. www. wikimedia.org](http://www.wikimedia.org))

It is a commonplace that the ship's time range or rest is the most frequent time exploited by commercial sex workers in Teluk Bayur Seaport. Commercial sex workers usually come to the ship. Sexual intercourse is committed on board, on the beach, or at certain locations around the coast. Especially for ships docked offshore, the commercial sex workers are brought by speedboat.

Based on the interviews with police officers also obtained information that other than sexual activity, drug use is also often done on board. In fact, not infrequently evidence number thrown into the sea when there is an inspection by the officer. The more ironic thing is when drugs are used as stimulants to perform sexually.

There are several types of drugs circulating in this port. In addition to heroin, it is used with a syringe and shabu with a sucking device called bong are also circulating in Padang. From such various types of drug used one of which is heroin whose risk is the highest in spreading HIV/AIDS at Teluk Bayur Seaport (see also [Markolinda, 2013](#)). According to seaport official, the harbor workers in Teluk Bayur often use syringes.

The injection needle is used to inject the drug into the blood him/her self and other's blood users by licking, swallowing and tearing vena. In addition to heroin, a drug party usually consuming shabu is also frequently done. According to respondent, too, one bong (shabu suction tool) can be used by more than one suckers. Thus, drug and sexual behavior are already inherent at Teluk Bayur Seaport. It is one of the difficult problems to avoid.

#### d) *Lingual symbol and communication patterns*

Lingual symbol involves multilayered power in relation to various concepts of discourse, clause, phrase, sentence, contour and other linguistic forms ([Sawirman, 2005; 2014; 2016](#)). Both ship captain and crew have a long-standing and solid relationship with the taxi drivers and pimp at Teluk Bayur Seaport. They also know and understand each other. They both have long distance communication numbers ([Markolinda, 2013](#)).

The three dominant symbols used are broiler (*ayam potong*), free-range chicken (*ayam kampung*) and purebred chicken (*ayam ras*). Chilled chicken is a common symbol for all commercial sex workers in Teluk Bayur Seaport. The free-range chicken symbol is used to request low-level commercial sex workers. Whereas purebred chicken is a lingual symbol used to ask for elite, beautiful, and classy commercial sex workers. These lingual symbols are paired with verbs such as a *request or need*.

If a crew member, for example, said we requested three broilers meant they were asking three commercial sex workers. If a captain of the ship says I need a free-range chicken, the point is he requests a low-level commercial sex worker. When foreigner says I need a purebred chicken he means he's asking an elite and beautiful commercial sex worker.

Other than the chicken lingual symbols, they also use the numeric symbols often used by the police, among others, as follows.

Table 1  
Numeric symbol used by pimp and day-pay worker

Numeric Symbol	Meaning
1-1	: please contact
8-1	: weakly received
8-2	: well received
8-3	: unclearly received use other contact devices
8-4	: how to accept
8-6	: understood
8-7	: forward this news to
8-8	: he is busy, not in place
8-9	: whether you can relate to
8-12	: repeat, reception interrupted
8-13	: ready to carry out the next task
8-14	: Report too fast, talk slowly
8-16	: ask for the right time

The commercial sex workers generally live in a boarding house around the harbor. They generally operate at night. Even so, the planning has been compiled since noon even before the ship docked at the harbor.

Both captains of the ship and crew can also order commercial sex workers from taxi drivers and motorcycle taxis drivers known as *tukang ojek* in Minangkabau. When a pimp receives order information from a customer such as the captain, crew, or boat guest, the pimp contacts the commercial sex workers (Markolinda, 2013). In this respect, the commercial sex worker should offer two answers, yes or no. If the answer is yes, both motorcycle taxis drivers and taxi customer is ready to take to the agreed location.

Both pimps and taxi drivers or motorcycle taxi drivers at Teluk Bayur Seaport understood best these symbols. It is understandable because generally commercial sex workers in Teluk Bayur Seaport are booked through orders. These symbols are used to disguise the authorized parties and common people. Sexual transactions conducted when the ship will dock at the port.

### Analysis

Psychologically, the heavy-duty workers at the port are under extreme pressure and workload. Such conditions lead to the development of their behavioral orientation that we will lead to various attempts to channel the psychological pressure to the pleasing things such as sexual intercourse.

This is in line with the nature of the human mind always channeling various forms of psychological pressure into other forms of social practice either physically and imaginatively in order to achieve psychological stability. This is the instinctive foundation for the pattern of social and sexual behavior of heavy workers in ports.

Furthermore, this problem becomes serious because the sex behavior of day-pay workers are arguably far from being safe so that it becomes the arena of spreading various sexual diseases (sexually transmitted diseases) such as gonorrhea and trichomoniasis and other diseases caused by the presence of opportunistic infections that occur infected people to HIV-AIDS.

The eradication of this problem is actually rather complex for it needs to involve various aspects of science from health, social psychology, and economics to behavior analysis/science. On the other hand, cross-studies producing a viable and adequate model of solutions against HIV-AIDS suffered by seaport workers can be said forgotten in the prevalence of scientific studies.

Workers are one subpopulation at risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. The number of HIV/AIDS cases in Indonesia is mostly found in the productive working age group. One of the causes of increasing cases of HIV/AIDS is the number of companies both engaged in mining and logging as well as a number of other companies leading to illegal localization (Markolinda, 2013).

#### 4. Conclusion

The results of this study put the assumption that the Teluk Bayur Seaport workers have the potential to spread HIV/AIDS. Sexual behavior of workers at Teluk Bayur Seaport of Padang belongs to the highly risky category of HIV/AIDS. This risk can also increase as a result of drug use and spread through injection needles.

Camouflage language is also found in cultural symbols such as chilled chicken, domestic chicken, free-range chicken and some numeric symbols. The lingual symbols used indicate mixed intervention of Minangkabau culture with Indonesian one. This is partly due to the process of interaction and communication within the Teluk Bayur Seaport workers area using both languages.

Cultural symbols along with the functions of camouflage language became the key instrument in the communication process of sex transactions in Teluk Bayur harbor area. The function of the language helps smooth sex transactions which also impact the widespread coverage of HIV/AIDS infection population in West Sumatra.

The findings in this study are also an input to policy developers to enforce clean laws and regulations in Teluk Bayur Seaport. Law enforcement in Teluk Bayur Seaport should be able to overcome this problem.

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##### *Statement of authorship*

The authors have a responsibility for the conception and design of the study. The authors have approved the final article.

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