

DESCRIPTION OF FACTORS INFLUENCING DRUG ABUSE AMONG INMATES IN MALE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION

Putri Devi Kurniawati¹, Afsari Ramadita², Fathimah Dhanada G.S.³ & Naomi Soetikno⁴

¹Undergraduate of Psychology, Universitas Tarumanagara, Jakarta
Email: putri.705210065@stu.untar.ac.id

²Undergraduate of Psychology, Universitas Tarumanagara, Jakarta
Email: afsari.705210089@stu.untar.ac.id

³Undergraduate of Psychology, Universitas Tarumanagara, Jakarta
Email: fathimah.705210208@stu.untar.ac.id

⁴Faculty of Psychology, Universitas Tarumanagara, Jakarta
Email: naomis@fpsi.untar.ac.id

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ABSTRACT

Drug abuse in Indonesia is still a case that is considered quite high. The perpetrators of drug abuse receive criminal penalties so that they must be in correctional institutions. Being in a correctional institution does not immediately make drug abusers feel guilty about their actions. Many factors influence offenders to still commit drug abuse even though they are already in a correctional institution. On the other hand, the function of a correctional institution is as a correctional institution which aims to prevent inmates from repeating their actions. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to determine the factors that influence inmates to have the desire to use drugs. The method used was interviews and observations to 8 inmates of correctional institutions. The results showed that inmates of drug cases have various criminal backgrounds such as users, couriers, and even dealers. Another factor that makes them abuse drugs is found that methamphetamine can help them in lightening their work because of the effects of using methamphetamine, of the 8 people there are people who have difficulty controlling themselves. There were 8 people who reported that they used drugs because they were influenced by the environment and 2 other people who dealt drugs due to their economic conditions. It can be concluded that the abuse of narcotics led the perpetrators to enter correctional institutions due to their lack of self-control.

Keywords: self-control, drug abuse, correctional institutions

1. PREFACE

Drug abuse represents a highly structured criminal activity that extends beyond national and international boundaries, posing a substantial menace to societal integrity, including Indonesia. Becoming a serious challenge, Indonesia must actively confront and address this complex criminal phenomenon (Golose, 2023). The prosecution of drug and psychotropic crimes in Indonesia exceeded 15,455 cases in the semester of 2022. Even data from the National Police Criminal Investigation Center shows that drug cases are the second highest crime after theft with aggravation or cruelty. Based on data from Kominfo 2021, it explains that drug use is among young people aged 15-35 years with a percentage of 82.4% as users, while 47.1% act as dealers, and 31.4% as couriers. Based on data from the Indonesia Drugs Report (2022). The high level of drug trafficking and abuse in Indonesia is also inseparable from the condition of Indonesia's open territory as an archipelago and many rivers, making it easier for drugs to be imported from various places and regions of Indonesia, because more and more people are abusing drugs for various reasons such as promiscuity and low economy which are factors in drug users becoming dealers (National Narcotics Agency, 2022).

Drugs stands for Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs and is one type of painkiller that is often abused by humans. Narcotics are substances or drugs derived from plants or non-plants, both synthetic and semi-synthetic which can cause a decrease or loss of consciousness, loss of taste, can reduce to eliminate pain and can cause dependence. Narcotics have a very heavy addictive power (addiction), but also have a very high tolerant power (adjustment) and habitual power (habit). These three properties cause drug users to not escape their influence (Zukhruf, 2019). Class I narcotics, as described in Article 8 paragraph (1) of Law Number 35 of 2009 and if it turns out that the type of narcotics contains active substances that can be suspected of having medicinal properties, it must still be tested or preliminary research in vitro and in vivo to determine side effects or adverse effects on the human body. Class II narcotics are narcotics that have strong addictive power, but are useful for treatment and research, and Class III narcotics are narcotics that have mild active power but are useful for treatment and research. (Constitutional Court of the Republic of Indonesia, 2024).

There are only 13 correctional institutions in Indonesia, especially for narcotics offenses, that still have sufficient capacity to accommodate (Indonesia Drugs Report, 2022). DKI Jakarta alone has many inmates and detainees of narcotics, namely 1,893 people. However, the capacity of the narcotics inmates in class IIA Jakarta is only 1,084 people. Class IIA Pamekasan, East Java, which has 421 inmates and detainees with a correctional institution capacity of 1,234 people. In addition, there is also a class IIB narcotics correctional institution in Purwokerto, Central Java, which houses 60 people, with a capacity of 250 people (Katadata Media Network, 2023). Based on the correctional institution that facilitated this research, this correctional institution has several classes of inmates in criminal offenses consisting of criminals, narcotics, and terrorists. Based on information obtained from correctional institution officials they do not know the exact number of inmates involved in narcotics cases, this is due to overcrowding, so that one room consists of 15 to 20 people (KF, interview, March 4 2024). This also causes many inmates not to get a room, so they have to sleep in the hall that has been divided and made into rooms, but they still have to share with three people in one room (National Narcotics Agency, 2022).

The influence of promiscuity causes several impacts on teenagers and adults, the influence of promiscuity is of course prone to negativity. The presence of friends and their involvement in a group has a certain influence. The coworker environment is a new group that has characteristics, norms, habits that are much different from what is in the home environment. Even if the group deviates, adolescents will also adjust themselves to group norms (Wulandari, 2020). Many people assume that trying new things is common and a positive action. However, unfortunately there are some curiosities that can produce negative impacts such as consuming narcotics and even distributing them. The distribution of narcotics is increasingly widespread and uncontrollable, so there are also many users who come from various circles, including adolescents, adults, and the elderly (National Narcotics Agency of Riau Islands Province, 2021). In addition, this study aims to determine the effect of promiscuity and economic conditions on self-control.

Self-control has a role in self-adjustment, so when self-control is poor, the resulting behavior tends to deviate. Individuals who have low self-control are unable to direct and regulate behavior, are unable to interpret the stimulus faced into the main form of behavior and are unable to choose the right action so that it will lead to aggressive behavior. Self-control is one of the

things that makes individuals direct their behavior in accordance with the norms that apply in their environment. According to Averill (1973), self-control is an individual's ability to modify behavior, an individual's ability to manage desired and unwanted information, and an individual's ability to choose one action based on something that is believed. Averill's understanding focuses on the individual's abilities to regulate actions in accordance with what he believes.

Aligned with Averill's theory, research stated that self-control is the ability to regulate oneself, which involves a conscious effort to resist immediate impulses in favor of achieving long-term goals (Inzlicht et al., 2021). It succeeds when urges are restrained to prioritize primary goals and fails when impulses override those goals. Self-control is crucial for various self-regulatory and executive functions, including suppressing short-term desires to enable long-term planning and effective goal pursuit. Self-control is the ability to arrange, organize, regulate, and direct forms of behavior that can lead to positive consequences and is one of the potentials developed which will then be used by individuals in their life process, including in dealing with environmental conditions. Averill states that there are two factors in self-control, namely, internal, influenced by the emotional condition of a person and external, influenced by the environment either in the family environment or the community environment which is a factor affecting individual self-control (Marsela & Supriatna, 2019).

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a qualitative descriptive method aimed at better understanding and exploring phenomena related to the research subjects' self-control consists of several aspects, such as behavioral control, cognitive control, and control in decision making. This study was conducted to find out and explore the factors influencing drug abuse among inmates. Sagadin (1991) in (Starman, 2013) explains that case studies are employed when analysis and description are needed, such as describing each person individually (including their activities, special needs, life circumstances, and life histories, etc.), a group of people (a school department, a group of special needs students, teaching staff, etc.), a problem (or several problems), a process, a phenomenon, or an event in a specific institution, etc in detail. This approach was adapted by the researcher as an effective research method to analyze the detailed information about specific life situations that occurred with the subjects group explaining their engagement with drug-related activities. In order to achieve the case study purposes to gain in depth details as much as possible about an event, person, or process, the "how" and "why" questions are often being probed within the in-depth interviews conducted by the researcher (Yin, 2003) to uncover the factors contributing to subjects' motivations behind their drug involvement.

Participants were selected based on the activity program that had been established by the Correctional Institution, namely, the inmates who participated in the PKBM (Community Learning Activity Center) activity program. The participant's criteria in this study are male gender inmates who are drug users, who are serving a sentence in a correctional institution, using methamphetamine and marijuana, and not under the prescription of psychiatric drugs or drugs. Based on these criteria, there are 9 inmates who match the predetermined criteria.

The participant with the initials SP is a 57-year-old man. His education level is senior high school. SP is an odd-jobber who works as a repairman. He was convicted under articles 112 and 114 and sentenced to 7 years. He has served 3 years and 2 months of his sentence. Participant DS

is a 22-year-old man. He is the youngest of 2 siblings. His education level is Vocational High School (SMK). He was charged with article 114 paragraph 2 and sentenced to 9 years. DS himself has served his sentence for 1 year.

Participant with the initials JK is a 43-year-old man. JK feels there is an economic problem because he is the head of the family which causes a burden in his economics condition. JK chose to become a methamphetamine dealer. JK himself has been caught and released in 2019, but he still does the same thing because of economic demands. The participant with the initials SW is a 44-year-old man. SW has the last level of education, namely, elementary school. SW himself is a user and dealer of methamphetamine, so he is subject to punishment under articles 112 & 114. SW is an entrepreneur who owns a fruit shop and restaurant.

The participant with the initials DL is a 29-year-old man. His highest level of education is junior high school. DL is charged with articles 112 & 114, 111 & 114 as a methamphetamine dealer and user with a sentence of 15 years and has served 5 years and 3 months. Participant AA is a 34-year-old man. His highest level of education is junior high school. AA is a casual worker who works in a ceramic shop and is an *office boy*, he was sentenced to 10 years and 3 months, and has served 3 years and 8 months under articles 112 paragraph 2 and 114, dealers and users.

The participant with the initials PT is a 42-year-old man. PT was sentenced to 10 years and has been serving for 3 years. PT was charged with article 114 for using methamphetamine. PT admitted that his friend forced him to use and admitted to using because of promiscuity in the home environment, PT was caught in 2021 served 2 years and 7 months. Previously TY had used drugs when he was in elementary school, he admitted that he was taught by his friend. TY had stopped using, but when he worked at a karaoke place he admitted that he was taught by his superiors to use drugs.

Data taken based on interviews as a whole using in-depth interview methods and group discussions with semi-structured techniques. This is because the PKBM room is an open room that contains many assisted residents, so it will be very difficult if the entire interview uses group discussions. Therefore, researchers divided into two people who conducted in-depth interviews and one person conducted group discussions to gain information by personal communication. The interview lasted for 5 to 20 minutes. Observations were of course carried out by researchers in order to see the situation and conditions in the PKBM room. The interview results were obtained through verbatim and also voice recordings during the interview.

Data collection was carried out by taking a population of 15 people and taking a *sample of 8* people. Research with *purposive sampling* technique used by providing target determination was taken using interviews and observations for two weeks in March 2024 by giving *informed consent* before conducting interviews. In order to validate findings, the interviews were conducted based on the information provided by the correctional officials to target accuracy and ensure the trustworthiness of this study results. The data collected has been triangulated by cross-checking participant's responses credibility with the officials to maintain the reliability of the sources used in this study.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

After conducting interviews and observations of 8 inmates in correctional institutions, it was found that one of the factors influencing the use and distribution of narcotics is due to the lack of individual self-control in relationships and economic satisfaction. Self-control is one thing that makes individuals move their behavior in accordance with the norms that apply in their environment (Marsela & Supratna, 2019). Averill (1973) emphasizes the individual's ability to regulate actions in accordance with what he believes. Averill divides self-control into three parts, namely, the ability to modify behavior, the ability of individuals to manage information, and the ability of individuals to choose actions that they believe in.

The ability to manage information consists of two parts which are *information gain* and *appraisal*. *Information gain* is used to predict and anticipate events, while *appraisal* is an evaluation assessment of events. The ability to control behavior is sharpened into two parts, namely, *regulated* and *stimulus modifiability*. *Regulated* is in charge of the individual's ability to determine a matter which will then be modified into a response in response to the next thing in the future (Ghufron & Riswanti, 2011 in Marsela & Supratna, 2019).

Based on the results of semi-structured interviews conducted with *inmates*, the majority of them stated that the use and distribution of narcotics was caused by promiscuity, aids in doing work, and also economic factors. *Inmates* stated that narcotics were very helpful in completing their work. By using drugs the inmates said that it helps them in problem solving, in case they faced a serious problem that usually they can't solve on their own. On the other hand, they were also trapped in very demanding economic conditions in the present. Inmates stated that the use began when they were introduced by their peers who used and offered, then curiosity arose and they tried to use drugs. After using it and feeling the effect they decided to use more because the effect was very helpful to them in life (in work and also the economy). When they start using, there will be more and more demands to use and leading them to become dealers, so that in addition to getting more money they also get more goods.

The peer influences in the younger period plays a pivotal role in drug-related subculture. Sheehan et al., 1998 in (Gürel, M et al., 2023) mentioned that individuals who use substances often start this habit during adolescence. According to one of the inmates, he began to start using drugs from an early age as he received it from his schoolmates. Research suggests that substance use commonly commences during adolescence, driven by various factors including the need for peer acceptance, early hood environmental influences, the desire for social status, and the tendency to imitate others (Cousijn et al., 2018). For instance, a study conducted by Titus et al. (2008) on 85 cases revealed that a significant portion, approximately 75% of adolescents' initiation of substance use could be attributed to peer pressure and curiosity. This notion aligns with the narratives provided by one of the participants in this study. Participant TY (39) recounted his personal experience, stating, "... actually I stopped a long time ago, at first I had it done but I stopped at the beginning of junior high school. I think it was before junior high school where I was still in elementary school. I got it from my friends." This statement highlights the significant influence of peer relationships and early exposure to substances.

A similar pattern emerged in the experiences of another participant, who initiated substance use under the influence of his peers. Participant PT (42) stated "... because you can get along, meet

friends, then I am forced by my friends at home." The social dynamics on substance use initiation among individual adults shows the role of social interactions in shaping behavior. The environments can serve as influential settings where substance use behaviors are made through social interactions. In line with participant AA (34), he shared that he initially tried drugs due to peer influence: *"Yes, at first I tried it, yes because of the scope of my friends. In the end, I became addicted to drugs."*

The influence of social interactions extends beyond peer relationships during adolescence and continues to play a significant role in substance use patterns into adulthood. Participant TY (39) added *"... I stopped after graduating from junior high school. But later, I started doing it again. Maybe because of the karaoke association where I worked, even my own boss taught me to use it."* In adult social life, the pervasive nature of social influence wherein associations with adult figures and workplace environments can contribute to substance use behaviors.

Individuals begin using drugs for various reasons. Over time, they shift their focus to the procurement and availability of the chosen substance. Substance use can be facilitated by easy access to the substance. People often start using substances without considering the risk of addiction and believe they can control themselves. However, this often leads to the marginalization of addiction, facilitated by easy access (Bahar, 2018). Participants TY, PT, and AA all share a commonality in their substance use experiences—they were all drawn to drugs due to the ease of access. Moreover, they often found themselves trying drugs without actively seeking them out. Instead, they were either forced or introduced to drugs by their peers.

On the other side, participant DL (29) said that he found out about this drug from his environment and started out just trying but because he saw the side effects he got, he finally wanted to continue using drugs. He said that *"... because one of the associations is also yes, in the environment there and once you have tried the effect, how satisfied you are addicted",.* Something similar happens when a person experiences drug addiction, where learning occurs by brain cells in the pleasure center. If a person feels pleasure after using drugs, the brain will release chemicals that convey the message that the drug is useful for the body's defense needs, thus triggering repeated use. When the drug is used again, the pleasure sensation reappears, and the brain remembers it as a priority. As a result, the brain will form a false mindset, as if drugs are needed as a self-defense mechanism, which ultimately results in addiction (Purwaningsih, 2018). Participant DL showed his addiction due to the effects of drugs he used suggesting that addiction stemmed from the impact of the narcotics he consumed. This indicates a causal relationship between drug use and the development of addiction, underscoring the powerful grip that narcotics can have on individuals. The detrimental effects of these substances on the brain's chemistry and the resulting changes in behavior further highlight the challenges of overcoming addiction once it has taken hold.

The influence of drug abuse, driven by its effects are also evident in participants' perceptions of beneficial outcomes during work. This highlights the interplay between substance use and perceived advantages, illustrating the complex relationship individuals may have with narcotics in the workplace. Such perceptions can perpetuate substance abuse behaviors, as individuals may seek to replicate perceived benefits, despite the inherent risks and consequences associated with drug misuse. While participant SP compared his works with drugs and without drugs, it makes

him choose drugs because he can finish his job faster and can solve a problem more efficient, he expressed “ *i was using drugs while i was working and i compare it while i wasn't, it more effective and efficient working with drugs rather than not*”. Based on his explanation, the narcotics help him to be more enthusiastic and make the work lighter and the effects of narcotics also fight sleepiness and fatigue at work. With lack of knowledge SP willingly tried drug because of his friend's suggestion that said it would help him finish his work faster. This proves that SP has a lack of information gain because he can't predict and anticipate an event, he can't focus on his work so he choose to use drugs as a coping way.

According to (Eleanora, 2017) previous research, it was noted that every individual addicted to drugs reaches a stage where they depend on these substances for their daily necessities, a dependency that often leads to an escalation in dosage over time. Participant SP (57) said that “*...I actually only saw and heard about it and then in the end I tried to use methamphetamine drugs because of my friend's suggestion to help me with my work until over time I became addicted to using drugs.*” In addition, DL also uses it for activities such as those performed by SP due to the side effects that make their performance faster and a growing sense of enthusiasm in doing things. DL said “*... if it's like methamphetamine, it makes us to do activities so enthusiastically, especially when I work, I definitely need it but for the drug to calm the mind, increase appetite, so it's good there*”.

Methamphetamine, a synthetic stimulant, exerts its influence primarily on the central nervous system. Its consumption methods include inhalation, ingestion, or injection. Known for its powerful stimulating properties, methamphetamine significantly boosts energy levels, enhances alertness, and induces a profound sense of euphoria. Both participants SP and DL are found to experience several beneficial effects where they feel more energized, thus enhancing their performance in carrying out their duties mentioning how they felt using drugs helped them in their daily activities, especially at work. This substance's impact on neurotransmitters in the brain contributes to its potent effects, making it a highly sought-after drug among users seeking heightened sensations and increased productivity (Bambang, 2014).

People who engage with drug dealers may encounter three identifiable categories. One of the groups involves individuals who fulfill both the roles of substance users and dealers. These individuals typically transition from being users to dealers, motivated by the desire to obtain substances at a lower cost and ensure access to higher-quality products (Hunt, 1990; Ünlü & Demir, 2012; Fairlie, 2002). AA (34) also mentioned how he eventually got involved in selling drugs to make money quickly: “*... yes, eventually I could make money too because it was a fast way, so I ended up selling it too.*” According to Participant AA, the transition from trying drugs to selling them occurred naturally within their social circle: “*... the point is that we hang out with friends, eventually we try it and then selling it, there is no compulsion.*” Participant SP also added “*...until I was initially offered to deliver drugs, so for about three months I became a courier, and a year i became a dealer, I sell it.*”

The interviews also showed that some of the participants become involved in drug abuse primarily due to the influence of their social circle, where drug use is normalized. Additionally, they view drug dealing as a lucrative opportunity to increase their income, driven by financial pressures or aspirations for material gain. Participant SW (44) said that “*... actually I personally*

think that I am so greedy, I don't know thank you, I should be able to be grateful for the life I already have, because drugs are not the main income, I have a lot of input as a fruit trader boss and have a small restaurant for my wife's business, but as a person I feel less and less, so i use drugs. "... I have a lot of stuff but I don't use it excessively, I use it just to hang out and earn money, because I earn money because I'm a dealer too." From these two participants, it shows that *decisional control* is the ability of individuals to choose actions based on beliefs emphasizing that self-control involves the ability of individuals to choose action or responses that are in accordance with their beliefs or values. This reflects a decision making process that is adjusted provided by Averill (Ghufron & Risnawati, 2011).

Based on an interview with participant JK and DS, they were distributing the drugs due to the economic strain, which proves that there are indications of weak self-control where regulated administration relates to an individual's ability to determine the things that make an event happen. It showed when they were unable to concern the worst potential effects that may occur other than earn a lot of money. This regulated administration then proceeds to the stimulus modifiability which is an adjustment made in a particular circumstance or situation, where DS expresses *"... of course I take it, people to give me money", "... i need money for other needs."* The presence of a particular need or additional need makes DS decide to become a courier and drug dealer, where he makes adjustments to the condition he is currently facing. DS has an economic condition that can be said to be less, so he became a drug dealer from his friend's offer. DS became a courier to meet the additional needs of life, with the offer of money in the amount of Rp 25,000,000 for one kilogram DS committed himself to become a drug courier, he himself was caught while he's taking the drugs in one area of Jakarta. While it seems that if JK and DS have a lack of decisional control that makes them find a shortcut from a problem that they believe is a quick way out of a rather difficult economic situation. JK said, *"...because of the necessities of life if I am, I have only been free twice here", "...I was free during the covid era when it was really difficult, what else can I do, I tried drugs again", "... because of the needs of life too, children go to school, because that's how I get easy money"*, he believed that being a dealer was the right way out of such demanding economic conditions as narcotics was a tool to make money instantly. There's a common factor that drives them into drug trafficking. It proves that they have a low decision-making control, because their values or beliefs influence their actions to do so. (Marsela & Supriatna, 2019).

This proves that free association is a major factor in the use and distribution of narcotic drugs, it also strengthens that economic demands are growing so that civilians become narcotics dealers. Promiscuity becomes an open door for inmates, where it is easier to find people who use and people who sell drugs. Based on a journal that Marsela & Supriatna published in 2019, they said that information gain and appraisal is part of self-control. Appraisal is an assessment of comparing the result of event evaluation, this means that individual can focus on things that are useful and could ignoring unnecessary distraction.

From this interview, all of the participants had low self-control values both in terms of cognitive control, control behavior, and ability to control decisions. This is proved by the confession of the inmates who claimed that they used it because of an offer from their friends. (AA), *"Yes, at first I tried it, yes because of the scope of my friends. At the end I became addicted to drugs"*, he has a sense of curiosity, but can't contain that curiosity so he becomes an addict to drugs. Similarly to

SW, he uses and then becomes a distributor because of the influence of the environment and he uses drugs while playing with his friends who are drug users (SW) *"I have a lot of stuff but I don't use it excessively, I use it just to hang out and earn money, because I earn money because I'm a dealer too"*. Modification of self-control behavior refers to the ability to modify or adjust their behavior according to a particular need or situation. This includes the ability to refrain from impulsive behavior and adopt more appropriate actions (Marsela & Supriatna, 2019).

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis in this study shows that inmates who have abused drugs have problems controlling themselves. It is revealed by the results of interviews and observations with 8 participants who brought the conclusion that there are several factors that significantly influence their behavior due to low self-control. Social factors, especially peer influence are the main drivers for them to try and use drugs. The social environment in residential and work settings often consists of individuals with different backgrounds and experiences providing opportunities for inmates to be exposed to drug-related subcultures.

In addition to social factors, economic conditions also play an important role in drug abuse among inmates. Financial hardship has proven to force some inmates to look for ways to earn extra income, making drug couriership the only promising option. Some of them said that drug couriers are often paid sizable sums of money, making it as the only solution for those who are struggling financially and want to earn a steady or sufficient additional income.

Therefore, it is evident that drug abuse among inmates is influenced by multiple factors, including peer influence, economic pressures, and the psychological effects of substance use itself. Inmates struggle with deficient self-control, impairing their ability to consider the consequences of their actions. According to this problems, a comprehensive approach is necessary to administer interventions aimed at strengthening self-discipline among inmates in addressing substance abuse issues. Correctional authorities can provide several interventions by paying attention to indicators of self-control which are *behavioral* control, *cognitive* control, and *decisional* control to build good self-control in inmates by making activities such as role-play and reflective journaling (Van Ments, 1999; Yinger, et al., 1981).

This study which was conducted through interviews and observations involving 8 participants is limited as a case study framework with defined construction processes. The limitations of this research only present selected factors of substance abuse influenced by self-control among each participant, thus can not be generalized to all inmates across correctional facilities. Future research should explore additional factors impacting self-control concerning substance abuse and delve deeper into the cognitive processes and behavioral responses of individuals across varying levels of self-control. Further research aiming at specialized interventions to increase self-control among inmates are also crucial to provide comprehensive solutions and thoughtful reflections on actions taken to facilitate successful societal reintegration in the future.

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