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**THE DADAH PROBLEM AND ITS MANAGEMENT:  
A REVIEW OF DADAH PREVENTION AND CONTROL POLICIES,  
1983-1994**

BY  
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***DEDICATED TO THE  
MEMORY OF  
MY LATE FATHER***

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## SYNOPSIS

The controversy surrounding the use of psychoactive substances has been debated since the early part of this century. The habit of opium smoking was the first to be spotlighted. Other substances such as ganja (marijuana), cocaine, and psychotropic pills followed this. Global efforts have since been initiated to stem the use of these substances.

The Malaysian Government has in line with the global developments, initiated broad policy imperatives to check the spread of *dadah* use among its citizens. The main approach used has been enforcement oriented. Despite the strict enforcement of tough laws on the possession and consumption of *dadah*, the number of individuals involved with *dadah* use and its trafficking has not abated.

The review found that the factors that appear to have acted against the policy imperatives include: -

- The lack of a committed leadership – both at the political and agency level.
- Inadequately qualified, trained and demoralised implementation staff.
- Implementation agencies are unable to appreciate the dimension of *dadah* use and hence not able to have an adequate conceptualisation of the phenomenon.

- Implementation agencies lack adequate theoretical and technical knowledge to appreciate the dimension of the *dadah* problem. Hence, they are not able to formulate an adequate plan of action.
- Inadequate funds to implement specific programmes and measures.
- Lack of commitment in the implementation of the prevention programmes by the agencies.
- Inadequately qualified, trained and demoralised implementation staff.
- Inadequately researched press reports that create confusion on the implementation of the *dadah* prevention and control programme.

The study concludes by recommending the importance of understanding the overall perspective of managing the *dadah* phenomenon. This can be impacted through committed leadership, a single organisation that centralises the planning and implementation functions, adequate funds, training and research to identify, plan and implement effective *dadah* prevention and control programmes.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADTF	-	Anti <i>Dadah</i> Task Force
BH	-	Berita Harian
BT	-	Business Times
CID	-	Criminal Investigations Department
CIP	-	Comprehensive and Integrated and Prevention
D.A.C.	-	Drug Abuse Council, Washington
DDA., 1952	-	Dangerous Drug Act, 1952
HM	-	Harian Metro
I.C.D.A.I.T.	-	International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
IGP	-	Inspector General of Police
JKAD	-	Jawatankuasa Anti <i>Dadah</i> (Anti <i>Dadah</i> Committee)
LAAM	-	Lava-alpha Acetylamethodol
MM	-	Malay Mail
NADI	-	National Anti <i>Dadah</i> Information System
NSC	-	National Security Council, Prime Minister's Department
NST	-	New Straits Times
TC	-	Therapeutic Community
UM	-	Utusan Malaysia
USM	-	Universiti Sains Malaysia