

Impact of Drug Abuse and it's Prevention

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ABSTRACT

Drug abuse is when a person use legal or illegal substances in ways that person shouldn't. The person may take more than the regular dose of pills or use someone else's prescription. The person may abuse drug to feel good, ease stress or avoid reality. The drug abuse further leads a person to become addicted to drug. Addiction is a case when a person get addicted to drugs, no matter how much harm that drug may cause to him. But, that person cannot live without consuming such drugs. The researcher through this research paper has explained the various reasons of drug abuse and drug addiction like Geographical location, Changing cultural values and increasing economic stress, Education and weak law enforcement. The researcher has further explained the impact of drug abuse on Family, Security challenges, HIV/aids and threat to depographic dividient. The researcher has explained the constitutional and legal provision of drug abuse and what are the Initiatives which needs to be taken for Prevention of drug abuse.

Key words: DRUG ABUSE, DRUG ADDICTION, IMPACT, PREVENTION, REASONS

INTRODUCTION

Over the last few decades drug consumption has become one of the biggest problems that has been faced by millions of children in adolescent lives in India. While there may be hundred reasons why one would resort to drug, we simply cannot ignore the fact that millions of youths are wiped out from our society because of drug trafficking and drug peddling. Today there is alomst no part of the world which is free from the scars of drug trafficking and drug mafia, millions of people all around the world are leading miserable life because of drug addiction. India too is caught in this vicious cycle especially when we talk about children or adolescent they get into this drug addiction moving to some peer pressure or lack of awareness or be it any reason and tend to suffer throughout there life. Even the drug abuse and crime rates are related. The researcher will explain this with help of illustrations.

Eg-One of the studies in Punjab says that a drug addict usually spends around two thousand to five thousand rupees per day in order to consume a narcotic drug and these drug addicts are usually between the age groups of 15 to 30 years and the money which they get is, basically by committing crimes such as theft or kidnapping for ransom etc. In February 2019, The Minsitry of Social Justice

and Empowerment Government of India and National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, AIIMS, New Delhi released the report on the Magnitude of substance use in India that presented the major findings of the National survey on extent and pattern of substance use in India, This was the first attempt in India's history to provide accurate estimates of the country's use of substances both at the level of the country as a whole and in each state. Alcohol is the most common psychoactive drug among Indians. Around 14.6 (10–75 years) of the population consume alcohol, that is to say, there are approximately 16 crore people in this country consuming alcohol. Ninety percent of these consumers are dependent on alcohol. The alcohol intake in men is significantly higher (27.3%) than in women (1.6%). The key drinks are Country liquor or Desi sharab (around 30%), Spirits or Indian Made Foreign Liquor (around 30%), beer in 21%, home-brewed alcohol in 11%, and other forms of alcohol in 8%. Chhattisgarh, Tripura, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh, and Goa are the states with the highest incidence of alcohol consumption.

The next widely used drugs in India after alcohol are cannabis and opioids. Approximately 2.8% of the population (3.1 crore persons) claim to have used some cannabis products during the preceding year. Among the problem users, around 40 lakhs were bhang users, and about 50 lakhs were users of illicit cannabis products such as *ganja* and *charas*. Around 2.1% of the country's population uses opium or derivatives such as poppy husk, known as Doda/Fukki, heroin, and other synthetic opioids, as well as its impure form—like smack or brown sugar. Heroin (63 lakhs) followed by pharmaceutical opioids (25 lakhs) and opium (11 lakhs) constitute the problem users. The number of people who injected drugs is estimated to be about 8.5 lakhs in India. The commonly used injectable form of opioids were heroin (46%) and pharmaceutical opioids (46%). Most of the people with injectable drugs account for unsafe injection procedures. Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Punjab, Haryana, and Mizoram have the highest prevalence. The survey indicates that a large number of people use inhalants and sedatives. Current users of sedatives (nonmedical, nonprescription) are approximately 1.08% of 10-75 year old Indians (about 1.18 crore people). The current prevalence of inhalant use among children and adolescent (1.17%) is higher than of adults (0.58%). The prevalence of cocaine users is small as compared to the Western World. ¹There are currently 10.7 lakh cocaine users in India Maharashtra has the highest number of users (90,000) followed by Punjab, Rajasthan and Karnataka. ²

The researcher will prove with the help of legal analysis as how the use of drug is being abused which results into drug trafficking and drug addiction and the way to prevent such problem.

¹<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7368435/>

accessed on 07/05/2021 at 10.45pm

²<https://www.indianjpsychiatry.org/article.asp?issn=0019-5545;year=2020;volume=62;issue=3;spage=235;epage=241;aulast=Dalal>

accessed on 07/05/2021 at 10.50pm

METHODOLOGY

The Researcher has adopted secondary method of data collection.

LEGAL ANALYSIS

By way of legal analysis, Researcher will prove how the use of drug is being abused which results into drug trafficking and drug addiction and the way to curb such problem.

The following questions will help the researcher to prove.

- 1-Are there any reason for drug addiction?
- 2-Are there any impact of drug abuse?
- 3-Is there any Constitutional provision and legal framework relating to drug abuse?
- 4-Is there any International Convention to prevent drug abuse?
- 5-Can national action plan for drug demand and reduction become effective for prevention of drug abuse ? if yes then how?
- 6-Is there any initiative which needs to be taken for such Prevention of drug abuse?
- 7-Is there any role of State for prevention of drug abuse?

1-Are there any reasons for drug abuse ?

There are 4 major reasons for drug abuse i.e.

- Geographical location
- Changing cultural values, increasing economic stress.
- Education level has been found to have an impact on the risk of drug or alcohol abuse
- Weak law enforcement and regulatory controls.

- Geographical location.

The most affected areas relating to drug are referred as Golden triangle and Golden Crescent.

Golden Triangle-It is the region between the borders of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand.

Golden Crescent-It is the second major area of illicit opium production in Asia which extends across three nations i.e. Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan. It is located at the crossroads of Central, South and Western Asia. Hence, India is a link between Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent and the worst affected areas are the North East (Manipur) and North West(Punjab). Hence Geographical location is a reason for drug addiction.³

³<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5787955/> accessed on 07/05/2021 at 11.03 pm

- Changing cultural values, increasing economic stress

According to a United Nations report, 1 million heroin addicts are registered in India and unofficially there are as many as 5 million drug addicts⁴. Hence the reason is due to the changing cultural values, increasing economic stress.⁵

- Education level has been found to have an impact on the risk of drug or alcohol abuse.

The National survey by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment(2002) found that 29% of the drug abusers were illiterate and a significant number of them came from lower strata means which influenced them to get addicted to drugs.Hence as there is no education which is given to those people they fall in trap of drug abuse.

- Weak law enforcement and regulatory controls

It relates to narcotic and psychotropic substances.

Narcotic means such compound which by consuming creates a sleepy tendency in the mind of any person.

Psychotropic substances are those chemical compounds or chemical substances which change the behaviour or mood of any person.

So, the implementation of laws such as Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985 has been tardy i.e. it is not implemented properly and the implementation is very slow. Often, the officers are also not adequately trained or equipped to undertake drug law enforcement. Means, the officers doesn't know as how to deal when any such kind of situation arise.

Also, pharmaceutical sector are present which produces such illicit opium and then it supplies it through illicit channels in India and in different parts of the world.

Hence these are the main reasons of drug abuse and drug addiction.

2-Are there any impact of drug abuse?

The main impacts of drug abuse are

- Security challenges
- Threat to demographic dividend
- Impact on family
- Impact on HIV/Aids

⁴<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5787955/> accessed on 07/05/2021 at 11.05pm

⁵<https://rehab.in/indian-drug-guide/heroin/> accessed on 07/05/2021 at 10.50pm

- Security challenges

The way petroleum and arms are imported, Same way there is import of narcotic and psychotropic substances and the turnover is of around \$500 billion of narcotic and psychotropic drug. It is the third largest business in the world which is next to petroleum. Its illegal nature makes it prone to money-laundering. The drug trafficking may also increase the likelihood of occurrence of other non-drug crimes such as smuggling of arms, illegal use of guns etc. As, the traffickers of drug earn a lot of money, hence they can utilize such money for illegal purchase of guns. Hence drug abuse is one such reason for security of country to face a lot of challenges.

- Threat to demographic dividend

If we discuss about threat to demographic dividend, then we can see that the larger addiction happens to the age group of 18-35 years which results in loss in terms of human potential which cannot even be calculated. The damage to the physical, psychological, moral, intellectual growth of the youth is very high.

- Impact on family.

The drug abuse problems may affect interpersonal relationships in family. It may bring instability in family. It may result in child abuse wherein the parents who are drug addicts may not send the children to school and deprive their rights of going to school and it may also result in economic insecurity.

- Impact on HIV/Aids

After taking drugs, a person is not under any control as to what are the things which he can use, and what he cannot. Due to which, sometimes that person has unprotected sexual intercourse and also usage of syringes which is already contaminated with a blood of HIV patient and then he keeps spreading it to people. Hence Drug Addiction is also a result of AIDS /HIV.

Hence these are the main impacts of Drug abuse.

3-Is there any Constitutional provisions and legal framework relating to drug abuse?

Article 47 of The Constitution of India directs state to give priority to health of citizens over economic development to increase the standard of living of the people. It is also suggested that the Government must prohibit the usage of intoxicating drinks and drugs, which are injurious to health, unless required for medicinal purpose.

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985

This Act mainly provides for reduction of supply activities. It prohibits a person or company to produce, Manufacture, Cultivate, possess, sell, purchase, transport, store and consume any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance. There is a provision which is made in this Act of health care for those people who are dependent on drug for their existence i.e. to improve their health care. This Act gives power to government to maintain and regulate treatment centres for rehabilitation of people. This Act also permits supply of drug to registered addict. As a follow up, Narcotic Control Bureau was constituted. It coordinates the work of administration or enforcement under this Act.

Hence, This is the Constitutional framework and legal framework relating to drug abuse.

4-Is there any International Convention to prevent drug abuse?

United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic substances, 1988

It basically provides comprehensive measures to prevent drug trafficking and also makes provisions for money laundering which is a result of drug trafficking. It also provides for international cooperation for extradition of drug traffickers, controlled deliveries and Transfer of proceedings and ensuring that there is a minimum use of drugs and psychotropic substances.⁶

Hence this is the International Convention for prevention of drug abuse.

5-Can National action plan for drug demand reduction be effective for prevention of drug abuse? If yes then how?

National action plan for drug demand reduction aims to adopt a multi-pronged strategy under which through education or General awareness, drug addicts are given counselling as how to remove the entire drug addiction. Also, it plans for treatment and rehabilitation of affected individuals and their families for making them to live a normal life again. Also, Training and capacity building of service providers is done through collaborative efforts of the Central government and State Government and also the Non-governmental Organization.

Administrative mechanism of National Action plan for Drug Demand and Reduction.

At today's time all medicines are available to people at online without any doctor's prescription and reach at their homes. Hence, it is duty of all implementing agencies to co-ordinate with each other and control the sale of such sedatives, painkillers, and muscle relaxant drugs which involves narcotic

⁶<https://www.who.int/medicines/access/controlled-substances/ecdd/work-on-ecdd/en/> accessed on 07/05/2021 at 11.03 pm

and psychotropic substances. As, there is no control on it, hence such drugs are used in an illegal manner. There will also be establishment of Multi Ministerial steering committee which will decide on the action plan which needs to be taken. The ministers will mainly consist of Ministers of social justice, Minister of Health, Ministers of Home affairs, Ministers of Education. ***Hence, in this way National Action plan for drug demand and reduction can become an effective tool for prevention of drug abuse.***

6-Is there any Initiatives which needs to be taken for prevention and removal of drug abuse?

- The very first initiative which needs to be taken is holding awareness generation programmes at educational institutions, work places and for police functionaries as how to deal with any such case of drug addict person.
- Increasing community participation and public cooperation by involving local bodies and other local groups like Mahila Mandals, ⁷Self-help groups. Here, with their help, those people who are suffering from drug addiction can be brought out from such problems.
- Those drug addicts whose treatment is in process or those whose treatment is already done and they want to take drugs, So all such people's data base need to be prepared for taking appropriate steps. Hence, by preparing data base of such people it can easily be understood as to what is the percentage of people who are getting rid of the problem of drug addiction and is there any new strategy which needs to be adopted or not.
- Whenever any adolescent shows interest in such kind of substance then he can be prevented by making him aware about the effects and problematic situation.
- There must be limit on availability of substance to make it more difficult for people to consume it.
- There must be criminal as well as social sanction for adolescent in order to discourage them from drug abuse.
- Mass media and public awareness programmes for the young audience and whose behaviour the target audience may model. The message must reach among a wide and diverse audience through television, internet, mobile phone, newspaper and hoarding flex on road side so that it will serve more impact on people.
- Parents play an important role to improve several aspects of a person's development. By the parent training family skill building and structured family therapy, it can help significantly to reduce the severity of consumption of substance.

⁷ - <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2019/jan/13/government-prepares-national-action-plan-on-drug-abuse-dumps-draft-policy-1924577.html> accessed on 07/05/2021 at 11.11 pm

Hence, Such Initiatives can be taken for the prevention of drug Abuse.

7- Is there any role of State for prevention of drug abuse?

- There should be a credible baseline surveys, on the basis of which through impact assessment studies, it can be decided as to how many drug production companies are present and who supplies the drug in a legal manner.
- Through local enforcement agencies, there is a need for strict monitoring of drug production as to which are the websites who are offering drug and how to regulate such websites.
- Also, There is a need of strong intelligence networks and development of websites portals by which the illegal supply of drugs can be stopped.

Hence, this is the role of state for removal of addiction of drugs.

CONCLUSION

From the above discussion concluding that, Drug abuse is growing at a very large scale and it is very much necessary for curbing such a problem. There are lot of people who are Drug addicts and many have lost there life's due to such problem. The Drug addiction affects not only the person who is addicted to it, but it also affects his family and other people. Hence, There is a big need at today's time for prevention of drug abuse.

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