



Sociology

Explore—Journal of Research for UG and PG Students

ISSN 2278 – 0297 (Print)

ISSN 2278 – 6414 (Online)

© Patna Women's College, Patna, India

<http://www.patnawomenscollege.in/journal>

Drug addiction – a social evil

**Rozy Srivastava • Hanny • Priti Kumari
• Tapashi Bhattacharjee**

Received : December 2010
Accepted : February 2011
Corresponding Author : Tapashi Bhattacharjee

Abstract : *Drug Addiction is a serious problem which affects the life of many people around the world. Particularly amongst the youngsters drug addiction is increasing at a high rate. There are millions of teenagers that fall into this deadly habit at a tender age and it ruins their entire life. A number of reasons lead to problem of drug addiction, like for fun sake, loneliness or some other problem in their lives. Some teenagers also start taking drugs as they feel it is cool.*

The main objective of the study was to measure and see the percentage of drug addiction among men, women and children and to generate social awareness among people and to eliminate drug addiction at all levels. The hypothesis formulated was 'in traditional society charas and Bhang were taken with religious spirit.'

Primary and secondary sources of data had been collected. The areas of the study were chosen in Patliputra, Boring Road, Kankarbagh, Patna Junction Road etc. The records of hospitals and clinics were also collected.

It was found that drug addiction was a major problem of the society which affected the persons mental ability and physical capacity, it affected their socio-economic condition as well. On the basis of the results and findings of the study, some suggestions have been given to cope up with this problem of drug addition.

Key words : *Youngsters, teenagers.*

Rozy Srivastava

B.A. III year, Sociology (Hons.), Session: 2008-2011,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Hanny

B.A. III year, Sociology (Hons.), Session: 2008-2011,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Priti Kumari

B.A. III year, Sociology (Hons.), Session: 2008-2011,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Tapashi Bhattacharjee

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology,
Patna Women's College, Bailey Road,
Patna – 800 001, Bihar, India
E-mail : mukherjee.tt@gmail.com

Introduction :

A drug is a substance that when put into the body can change the way the body works. A soft drug is less addictive and considered less harmful to the body. A 'hard' drug is harshly addictive and considered much more harmful to the body. Drugs are normally used for the treatment of diseases. Historically, addiction has been defined with regard solely to psychoactive substance (for example alcohol, tobacco and any other drugs) which cross the blood brain barrier once ingested temporarily affecting the chemical milieu of the brain. Drug addiction is a complex brain disease. It is characterized by compulsive, at times, uncontrolled drug craving, seeking, and use that persist even in the face of extremely negative consequences. Drug addiction is a state of periodic or chronic intoxication produced by the repeated consumption of a drug (natural or synthetic). Its characteristics include :

- (i) an overpowering desire or need to continue taking the drug and to obtain it by any means.
- (ii) A tendency to increase the dose.

More people are using drugs today and most of them are youths. Drug addiction is eating the vitals of the youth population. It is a life shattering illness. It results in driving families apart and breaks people down. It all starts with that one little dose and the thought that you can quit whenever you want. It has many effects - alienating family & friends and death for most addicts. According to the survey report of World Health Organization- Drug addiction refers to the condition of drug use which disintegrates both individuals and society. It is a general belief that drug abuse is confined to certain socio-economic groups and it always involves the use of illegal substances. Neither of these assumptions is true unfortunately. Drug addiction and alcoholism are forms of severe disease that affects the life of many people, taking away the youths from their responsibilities towards family or society regarding their own actions.

Reasons behind Drug addiction

There are many causes of drug addiction as given below :-

- (i) Curiosity - Frequent reference to drug in newspapers, literature and radio makes a person curious to have personal experience or taste of a particular drug.
- (ii) To overcome frustration and depression- The desire to get solace or relief from personal problems initiates the use of drug. The school children who take refuge in drugs are usually lonely, unloved, uncared and insecure.
- (iii) Looking for a different world - Some people believe that drugs open up a new world of perception.
- (iv) Peer group pressure is also one of the important reasons of drug addiction.

The objective of the study was to find out the after effects of drug addiction which has ruined the life of many people and also the type of drugs mainly used by men or women specially among youngsters in various forms as in smoking, mixed with alcohol, pills, powders, injection through needles etc.

Hypotheses :

The hypothesis formulated was "in traditional society, Charas and Bhang were taken or used by men with religious spirit, provided excuses for taking drug."

Methodology :

Several methods have been used in the research project .

A sample of 200 respondents has been taken through incidental-cum-purposeful sampling method.

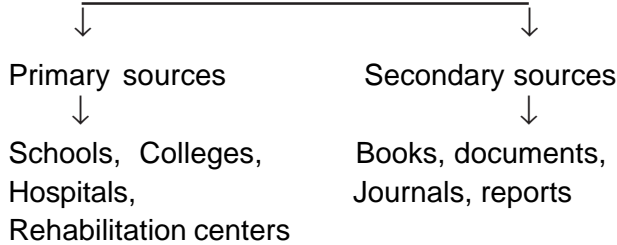
Area of study :

Various schools, Colleges, training centres, hospitals, rehabilitation centers have been chosen

in Patliputra, Boring Road, Kankarbagh and Station area of Patna.

Sources of Data :

Primary and secondary sources of data were collected.



Tools : Tools used for data collection were.

Observation - The researchers went to the rehabilitation centers, hospitals, clinics, schools, Colleges etc. and observed the behaviour and health of the addicts and students in general.

Interview schedule - Set of structured questions were framed by the researchers and answers were recorded by the interviewer.

Results and Interpretations :

The research project came to the conclusion that drug addiction is a major problem of our society which affected the person mentally and physically both. It affected the socio-economic condition as well. While analyzing the data it was found that 50% of the youth aged between 14 to 30 years were drug abusers and were students of schools and Colleges. They used drugs just for fun. 23% of the youth aged between 15 to 25 years responded that they used drug just to enjoy with their peer group and at late night parties. 27% them said that they became addicted to drug due to their unhealthy grouping. The results also showed that 78% male were addicted to drugs and only 22% were women or female addicts. As per occupational basis 23% of them were labourers, 18% were office-goers, 12% were businessmen and majority of them i.e. 37% of the total respondents were students using various types of drug.

The marital status of the data clearly showed that 33% of the total respondents were unmarried.

26% were married and 23% were divorced and only 18% of the respondents were widows, who used various types of drug. On the basis of literacy rate, it was found that 40% of them were literate and 66% of them were illiterates, though 75% respondents were taking drugs without knowing and being aware of its negative effects and 25% of them despite knowing the effect of it were using drug. 59% of them could not maintain good relationship with their family members and friends due to their frustration, loneliness, irritation tension etc. of their life whereas 28% of them wanted to come out of this problem and some how they were able to maintain the balanced relationship with their family and friends.

Findings :

- Drug addiction is socio-economic and psychological problem. It damages the physical organs and brain as well.
- The hypothesis was formulated as in traditional society Charas and Bhang were used or taken with religious spirit could not be found relevant in the project as the drug addicts were found taking or using drugs mainly for fun, enjoyment and to be rid of frustrated life.
- In place of Charas, Ganja and Bhang, the drug addicts were using Heroine, Cocaine, Caffeine, Morphine, Brown Sugar, Opiate etc.
- Drugs were being used in various ways as pills, mixed with alcohol, in cigarettes, powders, injecting in body through needles.
- Drug users had shown various symptoms as vomiting, nausea, itching, burning sensation, weight loss, excitement, memory loss etc.
- The persons involved in drug cases were classified into four categories -
 - (i) First category of persons were those who produced drugs.
 - (ii) Second category were the Kingpin who used to procure from the producers and dealt in trade drugs at large scale.
 - (iii) Third were the carriers.

- (iv) In Fourth category were the consumers as drug addicts.
- Drugs were classified into four categories.
 - (i) Sedatives and Tranquilizers as sleeping pills.
 - (ii) Opiate Narcotics - Pain killers.
 - (iii) Stimulants making one hyperactive and excited.
 - (iv) Hallucinogenes - caused illusion or blurred views.

Conclusion :

On the basis of the study, drug addiction was found more in metropolitan towns or big cities. Even the young boys & girls of reputed schools and Colleges were involved in drug addiction and the parents were not aware of it.

Drug addiction shattered dreams and wasted lives of many around the world either in developing, developed and underdeveloped countries.

Drugs are generally used to cure illness but drug addiction or drug habituation make the normal and fit people sick.

We must take a step forward in combating addiction of every kind of drug.

Suggestion and Recommendation :

Drug addiction an evil for society and individuals has to be eliminated. The person who are bring addicted must not be neglected and hated rather they have to be treated, loved, cared and accepted in family and society. Following steps should be taken to eliminate of the problem.

- Everyone must learn to face the truth as difficult as it may seem. They must not start taking drugs just to avoid critical or problematic situation of their life.
- List of NGOs and Governmental organizations dealing with drug issues should be made known to the public.
- Awareness about drug addiction should be instilled in boys and girls from a very early age

in order to bring about a change in the mindset of the future generation.

- Legal literacy could be conducted on a regular and systematic basis at the local level.
- A separate wing of police may be opened for dealing with drug addiction issues in all police stations. Though ICPO Interpol and Cooperative Customs Corporation Council is working on addicts on world level basis.
- There should be a special court with a judge and magistrate in each district to handle drug addiction cases for the counselling of drug addicts.

References :

- Agarwal G.K. (2004). *Social Change and Control*, Sahitya Bhawan Publication: Delhi.
- Baghel D.S. (2006). *Criminology*, Rawat Publication : Jawahar Nagar, Delhi.
- Madan G.R. (2005). *Social Disorganization*, National Publication.
- Rao C.N. (2004). *Sociology*, Chand Publication: Ram Nagar, New Delhi.

Magazines

1. A drug to End Drug Addiction- Jan 8, 2008.
2. Kurukshetra- Sept. 2010.
3. Pratiyogita Darpan- Oct. 2007.

Newspaper

Times of India March 10, 2010.

Websites

- www.google.com
- <http://righthealth.com>
- <http://medicinenet.com>>drug abuse index
- <http://drugsno.com/drug-addiction/-united state>
- www.rediff.com
- <http://mayoclinic.com/health/drug-addiction/DS00183>
- <http://druglibrary.org>
- <http://india.gov.in/citizen/health/drug-addiction.php>
- <http://www.addiction search.com>
- www.dainikjagran.com