



# **The Impact Of Drug Abuse And Recommendations Addressed To The World Summit For Social Development.**

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## **Abstract:**

Global increases in problems of illicit drugs both reflect and contribute to international tensions. The origins of some of these tensions are clear: rapid changes in political alignment, reduced family and community cohesiveness, increased unemployment and underemployment, economic and social marginalization and increased crime. At a time when dramatic improvements are taking place in some sectors, e.g. communications and technology, improvement of the quality of life for many people has fallen far short of the potential that exists and the rising expectation of people who know life can be better. Drug abuse has a wide-ranging, severe impact on individuals, families and society as a whole, encompassing physical and mental health issues strained, relationships, financial problems, and an increased risk of legal troubles and violence. Physical health Consequences Long –term drug abuse can lead to a variety of debilitating health problems, Including. \*Organ Damage, infectious Diseases, Cancer, Mental health Disorders, Cognitive Impairment, Behavioral Changes etc.

Key words: impact, illicit, crime, strained, Cognitive. Tobacco, Alcohol.

## **Introduction:**

Drug abuse has sever and extensive impacts on an individual's physical and mental health, and creates devastating consequences for families and society. The nature and intensity of the effects depend on the type of drug, the frequency of use, and the individual's genetic and environmental background. Drug abuse term often refers to the consistent use of drugs without putting into consideration the reasons why it was recommended. Some of the most commonly abused drugs are alcohol, cocaine, opium and other psychoactive drugs. Depending on the actual compound, drug abuse including alcohol may lead to health problems, social problems, injuries, unprotected sex, violence, deaths, motor vehicle accidents, suicides, homicides, physical addictions or psychological addictions. Although youths in the current century involve in drug abuse due to several factors. There are two prime causes of drug abuse among the youths. These are peer pressure and depression. Drug abuse can affect one's health and can lead to countless physical health

problems like cardiovascular problems such as heart attacks and strokes, respiratory problems, liver damage or many others. It can have profound effects on mental health also like anxiety, depression, and psychosis, impaired functioning, affecting memory and decision making abilities. The effect of drug abuse on person is going to be viewed from different aspects. These are: Social aspect, financial aspect, physical health aspect and mental health aspect. In our society drug abuse can strain relationships and negatively impact on social interactions, breakdown of family relationships due to trust matters, conflicts, isolation and withdrawal from social groups, leading to feelings of loneliness, difficulty in maintaining employment or fulfilling responsibilities, resultant financial strain and instability.

### **Objectives:**

To examine the social and economic impact of drug abuse from a broad international perspective Secondly, based on that analysis, to suggest how problems of drug abuse prevention and control can be addressed in a constructive, coordinated manner.

### **Methodology:**

This paper will employ qualitative research methodology, primarily relying on secondary sources such as Books, articles, Website, journal, publications etc.

### **Impact factor of drug abuse:**

#### **Education**

Education is the principal means of preventing drug abuse. In addition to educational institutions, other settings are important for the contributions they make to learning and socialization. Home, workplace and religious institutions, to name three examples, are settings for the education of young and old alike. Most officials support the full integration of drug abuse education into mainstream institutions, whether public and private, religious or secular. An issue, often unstated, is whether, to have real impact on the drug problem, society or the individual should be the initial target for change. Seeking the root causes focuses on the social conditions that lead persons to engage in drug abuse. Slow and indirect, education is often seen as producing its results only over the long run, involving parents and making gradual social changes to reduce experimentation, occasional or regular drug use. The short-term approach (to control the supply of drugs) and the long-term demand reduction approach by education are two ends of a continuum which are often placed in opposition to each other. In reality, both are essential parts of a comprehensive view of prevention of drug abuse. To clarify and assess human progress, a yardstick termed the Human Development Index (HDI) has been prepared by UNDP. HDI uses real purchasing power, health and education indicators to provide a broader picture of human progress than was previously available on comparative income bases. Generally measuring the ability of people to live a long and healthy life, HDI reflects the importance of education to human and social development and provides a focus for health planning. By focusing on specific target groups, preventive health education has the dual goals of forestalling the abusive use of drugs and promoting human development. Adolescence is a time when enormous changes take place in the process of normal development. In many cultures it is, according to one observer, "a time for developing a person's sense of self identity, a process that involves separating from parental attachments and values and establishing new social ties, values and ideals. In separating from parents, youth need to form other

meaningful relationships. Sometimes the peers with whom the growing youth associates influence him or her to adopt drugs as part of their social behavior. However, the effect of drugs may not be to enhance social relationships and self-identity. Rather, the drugs may cause the growing girl or boy to become a pathetic and emotionally detached and, consequently, to face problems of establishing social bonds, with the result that the youth becomes increasingly isolated emotionally and socially". Although many officials show concern about drug abuse, some also minimize the risks. The word "drugs" often causes associations with illness, even shameful illness, although less so for alcohol and tobacco than other drugs. This may be the reason why some officials minimize the risks involved in drug use. Cultures vary enormously with respect to their degree of stigmatizing persons with health or social problems.

## Health

Health problems impair family life and productive employment, diminish the quality of life and may threaten survival. A comprehensive picture of worldwide health implications of drug abuse is not available. Significant country and international data, however, are available and the impact of addictive substances on health in both industrialized and developing countries are discussed below.

The broader context of addictive substances includes tobacco, alcohol and solvents (including glues, thinners and gasoline). All of these substances have several important characteristics in common. They alter the function of the human brain and have an impact on behavior; they are widely used throughout the world; and they burden society by increasing social and economic costs for productive enterprises and by drawing upon limited government services. The most widely used addictive substances, alcohol and tobacco, are harmful with extensive damage to the individual, family and the community. Disease, disability and dysfunction were obviously not included in the estimate in the box but would certainly increase significantly any estimate of human costs due to substance abuse. Deaths as a result of drug abuse are a major source of concern. Recent informal estimates are that perhaps 200,000 drug-injecting-related deaths may occur per annum based on the estimated size of the current world population of injecting drug abusers of approximately 5.3 million. WHO has reported as follows: "Existing data indicated a several-fold increase in drug-related deaths over the past decade. The yearly mortality rates (or "lethality") among intravenous drug users or drug addicts on treatment programmes ranged between one and two percent in Europe and the United States". WHO's examination found that, during the period of 1980 to 1988, mortality related to drugs increased in some countries and decreased in others. It decreased in Japan and Thailand and showed little change in Austria, New Zealand and former Yugoslavia. Slight increases were seen in the former Czechoslovakia, the predecessor States of Germany, the Netherlands and Spain. Steeper increases in mortality were noted in Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Poland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States. High variability in mortality rates, however, was found within countries and from year to year. Substances commonly associated with drug abuse-related deaths are cocaine, heroin (and other opiates), barbiturates and amphetamines (and amphetamine derivatives). Benzodiazepines, hallucinogens, cannabis and other substances are less frequently implicated. Combinations of drugs and alcohol were frequently noted. Although commonly used, the term "overdose" is misleading since different reactions, such as hypersensitivity, may be the real mechanism of death in

some cases rather than an acute intoxication effect due to excessive amounts of the drugs. Availability, cost, chemical contents of the drugs (e.g. adulterants), preexisting and potentially life-threatening health problems and patterns of use are all factors that may play key roles in determining whether harmful effects occur in any individual case. The most widely used controlled drug, cannabis, could be associated with some fatal accidents despite its low acute toxicity. Concerning chronic use, there may be greater risks of damaging the lungs by smoking cannabis than tobacco. Commenting on the public implications of the use of addictive substances, a Tobacco and alcohol consumption account for nearly 5 million deaths annually worldwide. As levels of GNP per capita rise, third world populations' age, and noxious substances are more widely marketed and distributed in developing countries, the number of deaths can only be expected to increase. Major health report states: "Decisions about the control of tobacco and other addictive substances are among the most important health-related choices that societies can make collectively. In many populations, prolonged cigarette smoking is already the greatest single cause of premature death. Alcohol and other drugs also contribute to disease and disability. The damage from substance abuse is not limited to the individuals involved; others also suffer indirectly because of drunk driving, fires, passive smoking, and drug related crime and violence". The proportion of all drug users and abusers who end up with serious health and social problems is not known. Whatever that proportion, illicit drug use more frequently results in problems or disease rather than death. Since substance abuse is not evenly spread throughout the population, it is advisable to determine the characteristics of the specific groups involved in order to plan interventions. Drug abuse may be influenced by the social-cultural milieu, the degree to which a person is part of a structured environment, his or her personal characteristics, the specific drugs involved and the circumstances of use.

The earliest stages of life are a particularly vulnerable time. Reporting on the effects of alcohol and drug abuse on fetuses in a study carried out in four Danish cities, one researcher has found that the extent of maternal drug abuse is correlated with obstetric complications and developmental characteristics of the foetus. The effects of an unstable foetal life carry over into childhood. However, with care, many of these effects can be overcome. One of the most visible impacts of harmful drug use is seen in the consequences of cocaine use on newborn infants. Experts have found that cocaine-using pregnant women have a higher rate of spontaneous abortion. Also, mothers who carried their foetus to full gestational term had infants with depressed behavior and poor responses to stimuli. Other studies indicate that infants exposed to sedatives, stimulants or pentachlorophenol (PCP) may have marked deficits. PCP and cocaine used by mothers also may interfere with the essential bonding that occurs between mother and child at birth. Other investigators have findings supporting these views. In discussing the victims of drug abuse, a commentator notes that "maternal drug use is a substantial and apparently growing part of the problems of unhealthy newborns. The direct victim of such passive drug taking is the child, but there are indirect victims too.

## **Family and community**

The family is often viewed as the basic source of strength, providing nurturance and support for its individual members as well as ensuring stability and generational continuity for the community and culture in reality, the family is far more complex. At least four conceptual views of the family have been identified. First, it may be seen as protecting and sustaining both strong and weak members, helping them to deal with stress and pathology while nurturing younger and more vulnerable members. Secondly, the family may be a source of tension, problems and pathology, influencing weaker members in harmful ways, including destructive drug or alcohol use. Thirdly, it may be viewed as a mechanism for family members to interact with broader social and community groups, such as peer groups, schools, work colleagues and supervisors and persons associated with religious institutions. Fourthly, the family may be seen as an important point of intervention - a natural organizational unit for transferring and building social and community values. Rapid social, economic and technological change may, under certain circumstances, weaken the sense of family and reduce the sense of belonging to other people, groups and places. Stability of relationships, environment and expectations is a powerful force in helping people manages their lives, especially important for children and young adults. In some societies, the classical problem of balancing discipline and control of children with nurturing support to encourage their exploration, understanding of the world and self-realization may be complicated by substance abuse problems as well as a wide range of other conditions. Families can have a powerful influence on shaping the attitudes, values and behavior of children, but how do they compare with peers in terms of influence on drug taking? The influence of peer groups, which is usually strong during formative years of youth, may be stronger than that of parents in some cases. One researcher has found that friends are more similar in their use of marijuana than in any other activity or attitude. In this situation, drug use by peers may exert a greater influence than the attitudes of parents. This researcher observed that peer and parental influences are synergistic, with the highest rates of marijuana use being observed among adolescents whose parents and friends were drug users. Other investigators, however, have found that peers have a high degree of influence only when the parents have abdicated their traditional supervisory roles. Hence, parents exercising traditional family roles may be able to limit the influence of peer groups on children's attitudes towards drug use and therefore have a crucial influence on children's behavior.

## **Work and employment**

Work status includes more than being either employed or unemployed. Also to be considered are the rate of underemployment and the extent of work in the informal sector. What is perceived as an employment problem also varies according to the views of society. For example, if youth have low status in a particular culture, the fact that they are disproportionately unemployed, not to mention underemployed, may be of little interest to decision makers. If a society places youth in a marginal status until some distant adulthood, it is even more difficult for young people who have been associated with drugs to obtain productive employment. These adverse effects on youth may also appear for female youth, who in some cultures do not normally have prospects for occupational roles outside the home.

According to "an estimated 30 per cent of the world's labour force are not productively employed. More than 120 million people are registered as unemployed; some 700 million are underemployed" Further, the disparity between the income levels of people in rich and poor countries is growing larger, and even when there has been a drop in poverty levels in some countries, the distribution of income has not correspondingly improved. Employment has constantly lagged behind economic growth for both developing and industrialized countries. The situation in both is similar in one respect: substantial increases in capital investment or productivity have not always created a corresponding number of jobs. One study terms this phenomenon "jobless growth. Policy makers are searching for ways to increase the number of jobs along with economic growth. The number of young people is expanding faster than available jobs. The disparity between the size of the labour force and the number of persons employed is projected to worsen throughout the 1990s. ILO estimates, for example, that "the labour force for sub-Saharan Africa will grow 3.3% a year in the 1990s, while productive employment will increase by only 2.4% a year.

## Crime

In the drug abuse field, however, a common conceptual structure is provided by international drug treaties. Several of the treaties have obligations which require penal provisions in national law for illicit traffic offences. Requirements concerning illicit demand are more complicated. Countries implement both supply and demand obligations in enormously varied ways.

Crime and drugs may be related in several ways, none of them simple. First, illicit production, manufacture, distribution or possession of drugs may constitute a crime. Secondly, drugs may increase the likelihood of other, non-drug crimes occurring. Thirdly, drugs may be used to make money, with subsequent money-laundering. And fourthly, drugs may be closely linked to other major problems, such as the illegal use of guns, various forms of violence and terrorism. Whether illicit drug use should be considered a crime, a disease, a social disorder or some mixture of these is debated in many countries. Often, public policy is ambivalent about the nature of addiction, with social attitudes towards drug abuse reflecting uncertainty about what causes abuse and who is ultimately responsible. A continuum exists in relation to accepted social status and crime. At one end is law-abiding behavior and at the other, criminal activity. Between these two extremes are found deviant behavior and delinquency. Many marginal persons who use drugs do not go on to become delinquents or criminals. If progression along this continuum does not take place within a country, the concept of progression is even less applicable across cultures. What is marginal or deviant in one culture may be tolerated or even considered to be part of the mainstream in another. Information collected by police or other authorities varies from country to country. The amount of unreported crime depends on many variables. States parties to the international drug control treaties have an obligation to report on drug abuse to the United Nations. Reports on the illicit traffic and drug abuse are presented to sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which meets regularly in Vienna. Whatever the limitations are of reports to the United Nations as estimates of the illicit traffic, these reports do shed light on how serious the situation is. Using these various sources of information, UNDCP has recently reported the spread of illicit opium poppy cultivation in Latin America, increased heroin abuse in parts of Africa and

Asia and increased cocaine abuse in Latin America and the Caribbean. These increases, along with other information about current trends, reflect a bleak picture.

The United Nations conducts and publishes a series of surveys of crime trends, operations of criminal justice systems and crime prevention strategies in Member States. Reports on crime-related matters, including the impact of organized criminal activities on society at large and control of the proceeds of crime, are presented to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The sharpest increase in crime, recorded in both the 1980-1985 period and the 1975-1989 period was in drug-related crime and robbery. The rate of increase in drug crimes was greater than for all other types of crime, except kidnapping, for which the base figures were low. The complex connection between drug use, delinquency and crime has been discussed by experts for decades. Substance use and delinquent behavior are often related, especially as either drug use or delinquency become more serious. Early sexual activity is strongly related to delinquency and drug abuse. Girls who have been pregnant report increased prior use of alcohol and other drugs

### **Recommendations addressed to the World Summit for Social Development**

Recognize the seriousness and increase the priority placed on drug abuse as a social problem: develop a series of drug indicators of the many problems that countries, organizations of the United Nations system and other public and private institutions deal with, addictive disorders have historically not been ranked in the first place. This situation reflects more the absence of systematic information than a weighing of alternative policy choices. Sometimes considered a health problem, other times viewed as a crime, drug abuse presents unique and costly consequences to societies. While awareness is increasing, decision makers require better data: good policy and programmes require good analysis. No single measurement or data aggregate can reflect the complex nature of drug abuse problems, but basic indicators are needed for planning and action. All estimates are in some ways incomplete, but an incomplete estimate used well is better than none at all. Develop an information base for national and international planning on the costs of drug abuse: prepare estimates of costs of drug abuse and its impact. What is the social and economic drain of drug abuse and the addictive disorders? Answers to this question are needed to facilitate policy planning. Current efforts to prepare estimates of costs, now under way in some countries, should continue, providing models for the assessment of costs at both the national and international levels. These estimates should include direct and indirect cost elements involving health, crime, education, poverty and employment impacts. Increase knowledge of drug abuse problems and effective interventions: use the tools of communications technology to achieve better transfer and use of information. Information flows rapidly around the world. The process of knowledge assessment and transfer provides an opportunity to improve international and community responses to substance-related problems. Drug abuse prevention has not sufficiently exploited communications tools. New uses of electronic information transfer are needed. Policy problems facing countries and international organizations are increasing faster than their capacity to deal with them, and information technology can help increase the effectiveness of response measures. Increase international collaboration on drug abuse International agencies has a wealth of expertise on drug

problems, and their combined experience gives a unique opportunity to tackle complex problems. A mechanism of collaboration is needed to focus cooperation of international agencies on selected drug abuse problems. An example of a suitable area for collaborative work by agencies is drug abuse by children in the developing world: use of marijuana, volatile solvents, glues and other cheap intoxicating substances must be prevented. Widespread throughout the world, this kind of problem needs the active collaboration of agencies such as UNICEF, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, and the World Bank. Other examples of problems suitable for this type of international collaboration are drug abuse, crime and violence, preventive education and integrated rural development as they pertain to drug abuse, and AIDS. Under the umbrella of UNDCP, the combined expertise of key organizations of the United Nations system and other organizations could develop models for uniquely effective interventions.

## Conclusion

In Conclusion drug abuse is a significant problem that can have far-reaching negative effect on society. It can lead to a range of health problems, both physical and mental, as well as to addiction and other negative consequences. Drug abuse is also associated with criminal activity, lost productivity, and economic costs. It can create difficulties for families and social relationships, and can pose a risk to public safety. As such, it is important to address the problems of drug abuse through prevention, education, and treatment. Drug addiction isn't about just cocaine, heroin, or other illegal drugs. Anyone can get addicted to alcohol, nicotine, sleep and anti-anxiety medications, and other legal substances. One can also get addicted to prescription or illegally obtained narcotic pain medications. Differing explanations of drug abuse are used in public health, medical, and criminal justice perspectives. In some cases, criminal or anti-social behavior occurs when the person is under the influence of a drug, and long-term personality changes in persons may also occur. Drug addiction is a chronic disease categorized by drug seeking and use that is compulsive, or hard to control, despite harmful consequences. Brain changes that occur over time with drug use challenge an addicted person's self-control and interfere with their capacity to resist intense cravings to take drugs. India too is caught in this vicious circle of drug abuse, and the numbers of drug addicts are increasing day by day. According to a UN report, One million heroin addicts are registered in India, and unofficially there are as many as five million. Drug abuse leads to drug addiction with the development of tolerance and craving. Tolerance refers to a condition where the user needs more and more of the drug to feel the same effect. Few drugs produce only psychological dependence while others produce both physical and psychological dependency. When physical and psychological dependence develops, the person's body becomes totally dependent on the drug. If prolonged use, the body becomes so used to working under the effect of the drug, which it is able to function normally only if the drug is present in body. After the person becomes dependent, if the intake of drugs is suddenly stopped, withdrawal symptoms occur. Withdrawal is the response of the body towards sudden stopping the drug. To avoid unpleasant withdrawal symptoms person must keep on abusing the drug.

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