

Drug Addiction, De-Addiction & Crime

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Introduction

Drug addiction has become a major social problem in almost all countries. It is spread over all the age groups irrespective of financial background and gender. Most crimes result from a variety of factors (personal, situational, cultural, economic); even when drugs are a cause, they are likely to be only one factor among many. While drug trafficking is severely punishable with a minimum of ten years of imprisonment (Section 21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985), drug consumption also is punishable with six months of imprisonment (Section 27 of the NDPS Act 1985).

Alcohol is the commonest drug which is associated with a variety of violent behaviors, Sexual assault, Suicide, Criminal Homicide, Violence within family and road accidents.

The following research comes from ten weeks in Navjyoti Drug De-Addiction Centre, Delhi. The method used includes Rapport building with patients, Taking Case Details, Meeting with family members of the patients with 30 recovering drug addicts, Counselers, and administrative representatives.

Drug: A Drug is any chemical or biological substance, synthetic or non-synthetic, that when taken into the organism's body, will in some way alter the functions of that organism.

Drug Addiction: Addiction of Drugs or any other addictive item/ substance means that the individual is physically, mentally, or both physically and mentally dependent on the item. They will get withdrawal symptoms when they don't use the substance. A key point of drug addiction is not being able to control the use of the substance or to stop using it.

General Drug addiction signs

Chronic dishonesty; trouble with police; Increase or decrease in appetite; changes in eating habits; Changes in friends: avoidance of old, new friends is drug users; Loss of interest in things that was important before; Loss of interest in family and family activities; Lack of motivation, energy, self-esteem, discipline; Unexplained moodiness, irritability, or nervousness; Violent temper behavior, Car accidents, household accidents; Excessive need for privacy; Secretive or suspicious behavior; Unexplained need for money; stealing.

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General Drug addiction symptoms

Slow or staggering walk; poor physical coordination; Changes in sleeping habits - inability to sleep, awake at unusual times; laziness; Red, watery eyes; pupils larger or smaller than usual; blank stare; Cold, sweaty palms; shaking hands; Smell of substance on breath, body or clothes; Unexplained nausea, vomiting or excessive sweating; and Unexplained weight loss or gain.

Problems of Addiction

1. Major problem associated with drug abusers is crime violence, and other illegal or antisocial activities.
2. Sharing needles can infect them with HIV and other diseases.
3. They can start to lose friends, because no one wants to be around someone who is drunk or on drugs.
4. Job/Business Loss, Economic Loss, Accidents and Social Status Loss.
5. School grades drop, (Education Loss).
6. They create violence and fight with other for money (before taking drug) and in drug influenced condition (after taking drug)

Consumption, Sale, Purchase and Production of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and alcohol is a crime according to:

NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES ACT, 1985 (NDPS ACT), DRUGS AND COSMETICS ACT, 1940, DRUGS AND COSMETICS RULES, 1945, THE PHARMACY ACT, 1948, & MOTOR VEHICLES ACT 1988.

Link between Drug and Crime

Drugs are related to crime in multiple ways. Most directly, it is a crime to use, possess, manufacture, or distribute drugs classified as having a potential for abuse (such as cocaine and heroin). Drugs are also related to crime through the effects they have on the user's behavior and by generating violence and other illegal activity in connection with drug trafficking. They create violence and fight with other for money (before taking drug) and in drug influenced condition (after taking drug); driving under the influence.

Common ways to refrain from drugs

Keep a safe company; Avoid those situations where the possibility of consuming drugs may arise; Learn to say "No"; Avoid sitting idle; Develop good hobbies to spend time happily and meaningfully; Engage yourself in some social activities; Develop a useful routine for a day.

Homeopathy and Drug De-Addiction

Following ways of treatment are used at Navjyoti for Drug De-Addiction process. Homeopathy, Yoga, Naturopathy, Therapeutic Community and Narcotic Anonymous etc

Homoeopathy

Non habit forming even if administered very long, non psychological dependence since administered in the form of small drugs, single medicine to treat a person as whole and not just different symptoms with multiple drugs, minimum dose and cost effective.

The therapeutic community programme is a psychological treatment for the total recovery of the addict through individual counseling, group therapy, re-education and yoga. Narcotic Anonymous is a self-help organization of persons who meet regularly to help each other recover from drug-addiction.

Report

The study was carried out among the 30 patients at Navjyoti Drug De-Addiction Centre, Delhi. India. In the context of the results and interpretations, the conclusions may be drawn as under:

Among the subjects studied, all of them were resident of urban areas. There were equal numbers of married and unmarried patients, while one was divorced. It was seen that almost all of the patients had a very happy childhood and only few of them had experienced parental loss and poverty before the age of 15 years. Interesting thing is that every patient wanted to get rid of his habit and nearly each one of them felt badly about their addiction. The police had arrested few of them in the past for their drug influenced and violent behavior.

Among the drugs addicted to, Alcohol was the most addictive; nearly 50% patients were addicted to Alcohol. Proxivon (Pain killer capsule) and Smack had claimed second rank while others that had a few takers were Bhang (CANNABIS), Ganja, Corex (Cough Syrup), Forvin and Aphim. Few patients took more than one drug with observed combination like Alcohol with Smack, Ganja and Aphim; Smack, alcohol and bhang; Smack and Aphim; Alcohol with Corex and with ganja. (See Table 1)

Mental Stress and workload were the reasons for the addiction in some subjects. Major causes of addiction were bad company and most of the addicts had taken to drugs "Just for fun". Medical treatment and spare time and boredom were other few.

Another important observation was the influence of family members to encourage addiction. Fathers and brothers were found guilty in almost 50% cases; some claimed even uncle to be their patron. Majority of the patients studied had been from nuclear family. (See chart 2)

The addicts were mainly from lower middle class family with private job with their father either in own business or with no father. Some patients were from the upper middle class families with either their own business or self-employment. Some also came from families with government job and they themselves were working at such posts. Only a few patients were students and a couple of them were unemployed.

Majority of the patients were adults between the ages of 20 and 40 years. Few were teenagers while some were from the age group above 40. All the subjects were educated with at least 12th class and Graduate certificates while some had even Post-graduate qualification.

Table No. 1

S. No.	Drug Addicted To:“!	Patients addicted
1	Alcohol	15
2	Proxivon (Painkiller Capsule)	05
3	Smack (Heroin)	04
4	Bhang (Marijuana)	02
5	Ganja	01
6	Corex (Cough Syrup)	01
7	Forvin (Painkiller Injection)	01
8	Aphim / Apheem (Opium)	01
9	Drugs 1, 3, 5 and 8	01
10	Drug 1, 3 and 4	01
11	Drugs 3 and 8	01
12	Drugs 1 and 6	01
13	Drugs 1 and 5	01

Pie chart 1

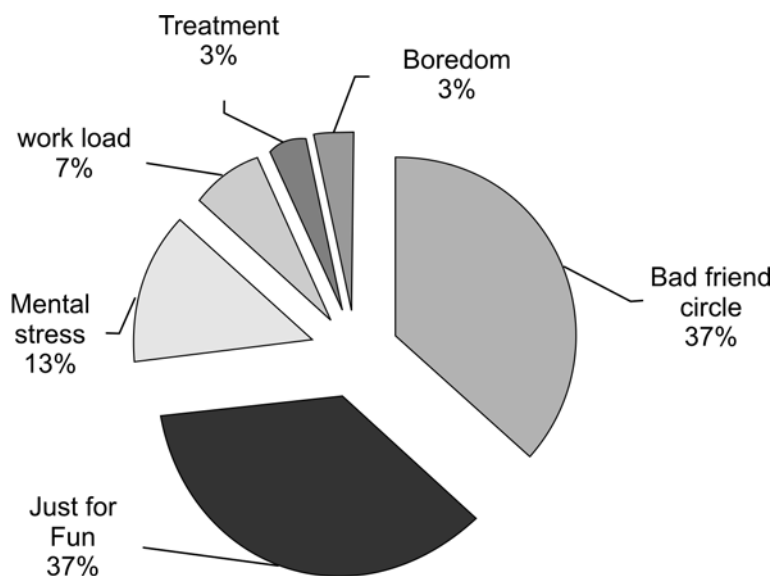
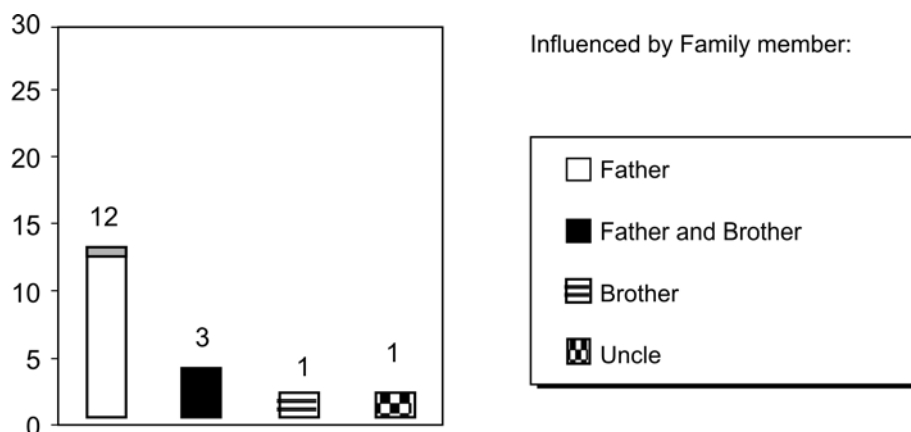
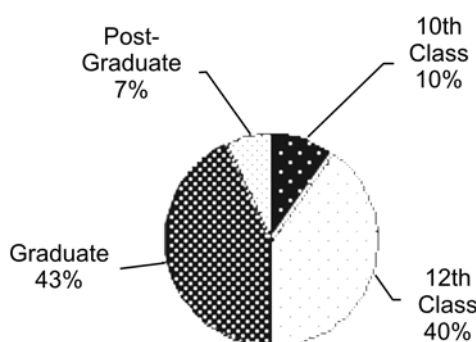


Chart 1: Reasons for taking Drug:



Educational Status:



India is a large manufacturer of pharmaceuticals, cheaper pharmaceutical drugs widely abused by the poor and unemployed. Drug users favor pharmaceuticals due to their accessibility, low price, and relatively less incriminating nature when compared to other drugs. Pharmaceutical preparations cough syrups and painkillers like Proxyvon (a preparation of dextropropoxyphene), Corex, Phensedryl (codeine based cough syrup) are banned or restricted by the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. This act forbids the sale of Corex, Phensedryl, and Proxyvon, among other drugs without prescription / documentation from a doctor. Painkillers and cough syrup may seem relatively mild, but both contain by- products of opium, the same plant used to make heroin, and possess similar addictive qualities.

Results

The present study was carried out among the 30 Navjyoti patients, in the context of the results and interpretations the conclusions drawn may be summed up as follows:

Arrested by Police	= 10 patients / 30
Patients who like to remain alone:	= 26 patients / 30
Married patients:	= 15 patients / 30
Very Happy Childhood	= 29 patients / 30
Experienced Early Parental Loss.	= 07 patients / 30.
Feels bad about his drug abuse	= 29 patients / 30
Want given away this Habit	= 30 patients / 30
Experienced Poverty	
(Before the age of 15 years)	= 13 patients / 30

Type of Family

Patients from Nuclear Family	= 25 patients / 30
Patients from Joint Family	= 05 patients / 30

Patient's Occupation

Own Business:	= 06 patients.
Self-Employed:	= 05 patients.
Pvt. Job:	= 14 patients.
Govt. Job:	= 01 patient.
Unemployed:	= 02 patients.
Student:	= 02 patients.

Father's Occupation

Own Business:	= 08 patients.
Self-employed:	= 01 patient.
Pvt. Job:	= 03 patients.
Govt. Job:	= 03 patients.
Unemployed:	= 01 patient.
No father-	= 09 patients.

Monthly Family Income

01000 To 10000	= 18 patients.
11000 To 20000	= 03 patients.
21000 To 30000	= 08 patients.
31000 To 50000	= 01 patients.

Age Group of Patient

15 To 20	= 02 patients.
21 To 30	= 13 patients.
31 To 40	= 12 patients.
41 To 50	= 02 patients.
51 To 60	= 01 patients.

Conclusions

Drugs are related to crime in multiple ways. Most directly, it is a crime to use, possess, manufacture, or distribute drugs

Drug Addiction cause Health, Wealth and Social status loss

Drug Addiction rate is more in Nuclear Family

Personality make-up is another factor for drug-addiction

One simple way to refrain from drugs is avoiding those situations where the possibility of consuming drugs may arise

Counseling and other behavioral therapies are critical components of effective treatment for addiction.

Major addicted peoples sign is excessive need for privacy and Secretive or suspicious behavior

90% of property crimes and muggings are drug related

People who have been drinking are at greater risk of being the victim of violent crime, and are also more likely to be involved in accidents, fires and to engage in self-harm

An Alcohol use is a greater problem than the use of other drugs

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