
DRUG ABUSE: A CRIME

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INTRODUCTION

Starting **DURKHEIM**'s argument on crime and drugs would be great to start with. Durkheim argued that crime is an inevitable and normal aspect of social life. This eminent socialist says that crime is an unavoidable thing in society and crimes are increasing due to civilization, modernization, and urbanization, and the main cause is globalization. Because of globalization, people all over the world share everything and so they share **drugs**. The usage of drugs is an offense. In this contemporary society, using drugs has become a common thing in society as well as among the young population due to multiple aspects like sociological aspects and peer pressure

MONITORING NETWORKS

In India, the **Narcotics Drugs And Psychotropic Substance Act** was enacted in the year 1985 and this act says that it is illegal for a person to produce or manufacture or cultivate or possess, sell, purchase, transport, store and consume any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance.

DAWN – Drug Abuse Warning Network is working for the health of the youngsters in the nation as the health of the youngsters depicts the health of the country. The functions of DAWN are to capture data on the emergency department in the hospitals related to recent drug substance use and misuse from the electronic records from the hospitals. The DAWN was first administered by the **SAMHSA** which means **Substance Abuse and**

Mental Health Services Administration and recently DAWN was updated to its current version. But besides these many drug usage monitoring organizations, still we witness people getting arrested for consuming drugs illegally. So now the question rise that whether these monitoring organizations are doing their function properly.

LEGAL AND ILLEGAL DRUGS

In India, Cannabis in the form of bhang is not illegal. Other forms like Ganja (marijuana) and Charas (hashish) are illegal in India. Even though the Indian young population is using drugs like marijuana and other illegal drugs and is being arrested by Police officers and by Narcotic officers. Using drugs is perse illegal and even if people use the drug, that should be done in a private place. It should not disturb the public and it must not be in a manner that stimulates others to use drugs. Using drugs is perse illegal, then abusing the drug is a crime undoubtedly.

PENALTY FOR DRUG ABUSE

In India, for a small number of drugs, the punishment is rigorous imprisonment of 6 months and a fine of Rs.10,000 or both. Holding drugs in more than a little quantity but less than a business quantity would result in rigorous imprisonment of 10 years and a fine of Rs.1,00,000. **Uttar Pradesh** is the leading state in India which is being followed by **Punjab** and **Tamil Nadu**.

PEOPLE AGAINST ALCOHOL

In the world, many countries are encouraging the production of drugs and supplying them to people as well as exporting those drugs to other countries because the production of drugs plays a major role in the revenue of the countries. Countries get a lot of cost benefits and economic benefits through this drug export and import and thus they encourage the usage of drugs. Alcohol is also a drug. In India, especially in Tamil Nadu, we can witness the sales of alcohol creating records during festival times, and still, a group of people is protesting to close all the **Tasmac shops** that are administered by the state government (poorana madhu vilakku porattam).

During the COVID pandemic, due to sudden lockdown instruction from the central government, the state government was supposed to close all the liquor shops. Some of the people who became addicted to alcohol and other such drugs, couldn't survive without alcohol and they started to make liquor illegally in the village side and were got arrested by the Police officers. Governments of states are not coming forward to stop the sales of drugs and liquor as it is their major revenue-producing factor.

SOCIOLOGICAL ASPECTS

Strongest factor – PEER PRESSURE is considered one of the strongest factors in triggering people to consume drugs. The reason behind the utilization of drugs among the youth population is because of the detachment from family members and lack of affection and love from the family, relatives, and siblings, and lack of proper parenting.

According to a census, the usage of drugs is very high among the youth population in the past 5 years. The reason behind this is that teenage is a tender age and if they are misled by any members, it will ruin their lives and they would be forced to consume drugs due to their situations with their peers. Due to such familial and sociological pressure, people start to consume drugs and alcohol just to forget everything and to live in their world in which they will in supernatural phenomena.

We talked about the sociological pressure that motivates people to consume drugs. But in some other cases, countries themselves promote drugs to the people and make them addicted to the drugs. For example, **The United States** has fixed the highest prices for drugs in the world. Doctors in the U.S. even prescribe drugs in their medical description. By doing this, they make people consume drugs and thus get revenue for their country. Even though the revenue from the Drugs is relatively high, it needs that much safety and proper care while importing or exporting to other countries and so it swallows huge amounts of money for its transportation and its care as it is being transported illegally.

As a result of this, many of the crimes that have occurred in the U.S. have been committed by people who are on drugs and who are addicted to drugs. Sometimes, they kill themselves while on drugs due to depression, and sometimes they try to kill others. Drug abuse also leads to expenses in the medication field. People who were addicted to drugs, if they want to quit consuming drugs, would go for medical treatment and rehabilitation and thus they incur expenditure.

Accidents occur due to the usage of drugs. Daily we are witnessing a lot of drunk and driving cases. Mainly accidents occur in people who are on drugs. According to reports, Tamil Nadu contains the highest accident rate in India which is followed by Madhya Pradesh.

CONCLUSION

Consuming drugs not only leads to many health issues but also leads to the commission of crimes which is a big threat to society. We should educate people about the harmfulness of the drugs and we should create awareness about their side effects. Monitoring networks should work in full fledge. NGOs are also welcome to do these monitoring services. People should approach drug abuse as a crime and a threat to society. This habit will also be carried forward and the next generation will also do the same illegal activity, so this drug abuse should be addressed as a severe crime and should be abolished as soon as possible so that the next generation will live in a drug-free society.