

Growing drug business a matter of concern

Substance (drug) abuse not only leads to immense human distress but also is a significant cause of crimes and violence all over the world. Today almost every part of the world seems engulfed with the curse of substance abuse and trafficking. A significant number of substance dependents (drug addicts) throughout the world live miserable lives.

The world statistics on the drugs/substance abuse show a horrifying picture. With a huge turnover it has become a growing business. Most of the victims are teens, who don't have much money but who desperately want to get high. Most of the drugs they abused are over-the-counter drugs which they can get easily and at low cost. As they have to large quantity to get high, the drug have adverse and immediate effects on their health.

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There are no surprises that there is an increased rate of tension and stress in the society due to poverty and hiking prices. Many people find it difficult to support their families because of which the media is continuously reporting suicides. Others find a better option: drugs.

Like many of the country's human developmental problems, the issue of drug abuse is of highest importance and susceptibility. Majority of the drug users belong to the poorest societal categories.. This is a battle which, at the moment, has little publicity, little funding but plenty of victims. Although there are strict laws for fighting against drugs and its abuse, the results have been quite disappointing: many of the drug traders escape punishment by giving bribes for release, adding to the already mounting corruption levels. There is a rising toll of drug addicts in the youth. Drug abuse causes not only the economic breakdown of a family but also the loss of self-confidence and will on part of the addict along with the loss of job, indulgence in crimes such as theft and suicidal thoughts. Drug addicts are also more prone to accidents and are at higher risk of HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and tuberculosis.

“The problem of drug addiction amongst women cannot be separated from other aspects of their social conditioning ... such as racism, sexism and poverty ... that are essential to understanding drug abuse in women. A vast majority of the new addicts belong to the younger generation who are hooked on narcotics through their friends, casual acquaintances, drug pushers and, sometimes, family members. The poor consumers who cannot afford to pay for their needs end up consuming substandard drugs which affect their health in hazardous ways. People are dying due to this menace or are, to the least, exposed to different diseases such as AIDS, hepatitis and many more. Corporations can be blamed for the drugs menace, as well. Firstly, they decide lesser wages to maximise profits and induce more load per person, no matter how minute. This leads to more unemployment and stress to the employed of a similar magnitude. The lesser the demand, the more the supply is diverted; thus the better chances of having unused labour engaged in the workshop of the devil – boredom.

We have a responsibility to those who fall prey to this menace. We, as a society, are not only responsible for the treatment of drug addicts but also for their rehabilitation as respectable citizens. It is important to recognise them as members of a society with a definite role to play. We must realise that abusers of drugs demand healing and restoration through medicine and psycho-therapy.