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Drugs are a serious scourge that threatens society

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Abstract

Drugs are a scourge that has invaded the world across various social strata. Many people have attempted to legalize and use them, but their harmful effects refuse to be justified. They are a cause of slow death, representing the true trade of death, which everyone must be cautious of and avoid. Their danger lies in the inability of doctors to predict their negative effects, which often lead to the death of the addict without any possibility for medical intervention or rescue. Sadly, most drug victims are young people and adolescents who are eager to try new things.

In this research, we have examined what drugs are, their causes, and dangers, and how they represent a severe threat to society in all its aspects, robbing youth of their dreams and destroying families.

Keywords: Drugs, society, scourge, dangerous

Introduction

Drugs: A Dangerous Scourge Threatening Society

Drugs are among the most dangerous substances a person can encounter in their lifetime, leading to addiction or an inability to live without them. This results in the deterioration of the user's nerves and body, impairing their balance and ability to successfully perform daily tasks. Drugs come in various types, with differing side effects ranging from severe to mild. However, they are all toxic and invade the nerves, attempting to destroy them. The number of drug victims has increased, particularly in developed countries, where material comfort enables greater drug use. Drugs, especially those that are processed or chemical, are not cheap, leading to more than just physical and health-related harm. Addicts end up wasting their money, health, time, and spirit.

Drug abuse remains a serious phenomenon that concerns many governments due to its negative effects on individuals and society. The danger and destructive impact of drugs are more devastating than wars, which destroy civilizations, eliminate abilities, and disrupt energies. In recent years, there has been a noticeable and alarming spread of various types of drugs in cities, villages, and neighborhoods, even reaching schools, high schools, and universities. This has occurred with the complicity of many community members, and it is noted that most addicts are young people and adolescents, drawn into the world of addiction either out of curiosity or to escape family or emotional problems. Drug abuse is a deviant and dangerous behavior due to its harmful effects on individuals and society, necessitating action against this phenomenon.

The question arises: What are the reasons driving youth to drug use, and what are the consequences? There are factors and reasons for drug use that vary from one group to another and from one society to another. The reasons for drug abuse can be categorized into social, economic, and cultural aspects of society.

First: Social Factors and Reasons

Social factors refer to the influences surrounding a person within their family or community.

Family Disintegration

A family that fails to provide basic needs for its children, such as maintaining their health, teaching them proper social habits, forming relationships with others, imposing controls on their psychological and sexual impulses, and fulfilling their emotional needs, can lead to the deviation of its members. One form of this deviation is drug use. It is said that daily drug use by parents has a significant impact on children's likelihood of using drugs.

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Studies have shown that 90% of children who use drugs have been exposed to drug use by one or both parents. Additionally, addiction can lead to family disintegration, the breakdown of familial bonds, and increased marital problems, often resulting in conflicts between spouses and between parents and children, and ultimately leading to divorce and the subsequent neglect of children.

The Environment and Social Surroundings

The environment and social surroundings in which an individual operates play a significant role in shaping and developing their personality, determining their inclinations, and influencing their psychological motives through the type of upbringing, pressures, and demands prevalent in their social environment. If an individual fails to cope with these pressures or faces them inadequately, it may result in social and psychological maladjustment, leading to deviance and drug abuse.

Other factors that contribute to the destruction of society and negatively impact individuals, leading them to drug use and addiction, include

1. Poor social upbringing
2. Lack of family care for children
3. The "deadly" idleness among youth
4. Bad company (negative peer influence)
5. Delayed marriage and emotional issues
6. Loss of social role and status

In addition to these social factors, which are a fundamental and influential part of raising an unaware and deviant generation that abuses drugs, there are other factors beyond the social aspect, which are primarily responsible for the destruction of society:

Economic Factors

Economic factors are among the second most important reasons leading to youth deviance and drug use, which can be summarized as follows:

1. **Affluence:** Wealthy individuals, such as large contractors and traders, often provide funds that might drive individuals and youth to frequent luxurious restaurants and bars in search of false pleasure and curiosity. This can lead them to use expensive drugs and alcohol.
2. **Unemployment and Idleness:** One of the major factors contributing to youth deviance and drug use is unemployment, idleness, and lack of opportunities. This can result in individuals seeking to escape their reality and becoming prey to depression and frustration, turning to drugs as a form of escape.
3. **Limited Income and High Prices:** Limited financial resources and rising prices can also push individuals to drug use as a means of escaping their societal conditions. This can lead youth to drug abuse and, subsequently, to committing crimes against property and public funds.

Political Factors

Political factors contributing to drug abuse can be summarized as follows:

1. **Lack of Responsibility Sharing:** Another cause of young people's frustration is the exclusion of the youth from taking responsibility. This often leads them to try and make up for this in other ways such as through substance abuse.
2. **Lack of Effective Local Channels:** Lack of local media

through which the youths can voice their opinions and sort out their issues on their own leads to their dissatisfaction and possible drug use.

3. **Suppression of Freedom:** Lack of freedom and absence of chances to share one's opinions and vote make people feel hopeless and turn into political criminals as a consequence of disobeying state decisions.
4. **Limited Youth Participation in Decision-Making:** This is also true because non-involvement of the youth in decision making processes may also lead to their feeling of marginalization and hence deviant behaviors.

Effects of Drug Abuse

There are several effects resulting from drug abuse, including:

1. Economic Effects

As previously mentioned, economic, social, and political factors can lead to drug use if not managed properly. The economic impacts of drug abuse include:

- Drug abuse significantly affects the economy as users spend their income on drugs, often diverting these funds to illegal markets, which weakens national economies.
- Drug users lose much of their physical and mental strength due to drug use, which reduces their productivity and negatively impacts the national economy.
- Governments spend substantial amounts on combating drug abuse, including funding for rehabilitation centers, prisons, courts, and the expenses associated with incarcerating drug offenders. These funds could be better utilized in developing the country.

2. Social Effects

The family is the fundamental unit of society, and drug abuse causes severe damage to families. The effects include:

- The addict becomes detached from the world, neglecting their family and the upbringing of their children.
- A significant portion of the family's finances is spent on obtaining drugs, money that would have been better spent on family needs, leading to family instability and potential neglect of children.
- This neglect can push children into delinquency, leading to theft, begging, and prostitution as means to obtain money.

3. Health Effects

Drug abuse has significant health impacts, including:

- **Respiratory and Cardiovascular Effects:** Drugs can negatively affect the respiratory system, increase heart rate, cause severe anemia, and lower blood pressure. They also impact white blood cells, leading to compromised immune function.
- **Digestive Issues:** Some of the side effects that are common among drug users include reduced appetite, poor digestion and bloating especially when the drug is ingested. This may result in the development of diarrhoea and constipation.
- **Cancer Risk:** Different types of cancer are known to be related to drug abuse .
- **Sexual Dysfunction:** Research has it that male users of drugs are likely to experience a decline in sexual performance and sexual health .
- **Physical and Mental Health:** Drug abuse affects the physical aspect of an individual through making them lethargic besides facing psychological problems such as anxiety, depression and loss of memory.

Effects of Drug Abuse on the Individual

Drug abuse has several important effects on individuals, including: Drug abuse has several important effects on individuals, including:

1. Financial Waste: Family needs could be met with the money which is used in the purchase of drugs.
2. Mood and Cognitive Impairment: The use of drugs alters the mood and also the cognition, and this results in many other issues.
3. Health Issues: The body suffers from various diseases due to drug abuse.
4. Addiction and Behavioral Changes: Users often become addicted, leading to irritability and reduced productivity.
5. Loss of Responsibility: Addicts may become irresponsible and detrimental members of society.
6. Psychological and Physical Disorders: Drug abuse can cause disturbances in psychological, physical, and nervous system functions.

Effects of Drug Abuse on Society

A strong connection has been established between drug abuse and an increase in crime rates within society. Many studies have shown a correlation between drug abuse and criminal behavior, such as theft and other forms of deviance.

Research also indicates a relationship between drug abuse and traffic accidents. There is substantial evidence suggesting a strong link between drug use, including alcohol, and traffic accidents, as evidenced by the high number of road traffic casualties reported daily in the media.

Impact of Drug Abuse on Development Projects and Plans

Drug abuse and addiction undeniably affect workers' performance and productivity. The negative effects on physical and mental health resulting from drug use diminish an individual's work output, thereby impacting overall productivity and hindering development projects.

Prevention and Treatment Approaches

Addressing this issue requires following these steps and methods:

1. Prevention is Better Than Cure: Educate young people about the dangers of drug abuse and its severe impacts on individual health.
2. Severe Penalties: Implement strict penalties for drug trafficking and use.
3. Combat Promotion: Fight against those who promote or encourage drug use and alcohol consumption.
4. Role of Religious Leaders and Educators: Appeal to the religious leaders in mosques and educators in schools to play an advocacy role to prevent the use of drugs .
5. Media Engagement: Ensure proper use of media in order to counter the effects that are associated with drug abuse .
6. Awareness Campaigns: Promote anti-drug abuse crusade through various social stakeholders to come up with awareness campaigns.

Conclusion

- Global Concern: Drug abuse has turned into an alarming issue in the society since it affects all classes of people especially the young generation regardless of their gender .
- Youth as a Pillar: Youth are the pillar of development and progress hence this challenge must be fought with vigor .
- Collective Efforts: There is need to address and

coordinate the efforts to prevent and prevent the factors that cause drug abuse .

- Addressing Consequences: The effects of drug abuse should therefore be treated at the individual, family and community level.
- Economic, Social, and Political Impact: Beyond the direct harms, drug abuse also results in significant economic, social, cultural, and political damage, threatening the safety and stability of society.

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