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### Abstract

Drug use and trafficking represent a serious social problem that threatens the security and safety of society. This phenomenon has become a significant danger sweeping human communities, particularly affecting young people. Its impacts are reflected in various aspects of society, including political, economic, social, and health dimensions. Drugs are a curse that affects the individual, a disaster for their family, and a real loss for their country. Drug abuse results in the worst outcomes for individuals, affecting their willpower, work, and social status. Due to drugs, a person becomes limited in fulfilling the ordinary responsibilities placed upon them.

Therefore, in our research, we have highlighted what drugs are, their impact on society in general, especially on young people, and the methods of prevention and treatment.

**Keywords:** Drugs, youth, society, social, prevention and treatment

### Introduction

Drug use and addiction represent a serious social problem that threatens the security and safety of society. It has become a significant danger sweeping across human communities as a whole. The impacts of drug abuse are reflected in various aspects of society, including political, economic, social, and health dimensions. Drugs are a curse for the individual, a disaster for their family, and a loss for their nation, as drug use leads to the worst outcomes for the individual in terms of willpower, work, and social status. Due to drugs, a person becomes incapable of fulfilling the ordinary responsibilities placed upon them.

Therefore, it is necessary for us to clarify now what the concept of drugs is and what it means. Defining drugs is important to understand the nature of these substances, their characteristics, and the different consequences and effects of their use and addiction. We begin by defining drugs linguistically: linguistically, the word "drugs" is derived from the Arabic word "khidr," which refers to a curtain that is spread in a corner of the house, and "khedr" refers to darkness or deep darkness, and "khader" refers to laziness or a state of stupor caused by drinking or medication.

In terminology, drugs are substances whose use leads to a state of complete or partial anesthesia, with or without loss of consciousness. These substances provide a false sense of euphoria and happiness, allowing users to escape from the real world into a world of fantasy. Notably, a narcotic is a chemical substance that causes drowsiness, sleep, or loss of consciousness, often accompanied by pain relief.

From a legal standpoint, drugs are defined as a group of substances that cause addiction and poisoning of the nervous system. Their circulation, cultivation, or production is prohibited except for purposes specified by law and can only be used by those authorized to do so.

There are various types of drugs, which can be categorized based on their sources and types. They can be broadly divided into natural drugs and synthetic drugs.

- 1. Natural Drugs:** These are drugs derived from plants such as poppy, cannabis, coca, and khat. The leaves, flowers, or fruits of these plants contain narcotic substances, including:
  - **Cannabis:** The popular term for the narcotic substance extracted from this plant is "hashish".

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- **Opium:** This substance is extracted from the poppy plant, which grows in temperate and subtropical climates.
- **Coca:** A plant that is cultivated in many parts of the world, especially in South America.
- **Khat:** This plant is widely cultivated in Ethiopia, Somalia, Aden, and Yemen. The trees grow to a height of one to two meters in hot regions and three to four meters in tropical areas. Khat is not classified as a narcotic substance prohibited internationally and is not monitored in airports and ports. However, its cultivation is banned in Arab countries by law.



**Fig 1: Heroin**

**Heroin:** One of the most dangerous types of drugs, heroin ranks second in terms of its severity. This drug can end your life with just a small overdose.



**Fig 2: Cocaine**

2. **Morphine:** A crystalline powder extracted from the leaves of the coca plant. Experts in the field describe the effect of cocaine (though this description seems intended for morphine, a correction here) as a stimulant for the central nervous system.

**Codeine:** It is extracted from the opium poppy plant. Chemically Manufactured Drugs:

This group of drugs is created in laboratories through chemical synthesis. The immense scientific advancements have led to the widespread production of these drugs, making it challenging to regulate their manufacture. This group can be divided into:

- **Hallucinogens:** These drugs are characterized by their ability to cause sensory distortions and personality disturbances. They have various effects on memory, learning behavior, and other functions.
- **Sedatives and Hypnotics:** Sedatives and hypnotics affect brain functions by depressing them, similar to alcohol. They reduce the ability to concentrate and decrease alertness.
- **Volatile Solvents (Derivatives):** A group of volatile solvents has been classified as addictive substances by the World Health Organization. These substances are commonly abused by adolescents and young people through inhalation of their vapors. The effects of these

volatile substances include dizziness, relaxation, visual hallucinations, nausea, and sometimes vomiting or drowsiness. Among the significant complications are sudden death due to heart arrhythmia and cardiac arrest or respiratory depression. The impact of volatile solvents can be severe on the brain, similar to that of other narcotics.



**Fig 3: Hallucinogens**



**Fig 4: Barbiturates**

**Barbiturates:** Also known as sedatives, have long been recognized as a favored medication for American housewives due to their calming effects. They belong to a class of sedatives widely used to treat depression, anxiety, and various issues, including sleep problems.

#### **Addiction and the reasons for falling into its trap**

Due to the widespread phenomenon of drug abuse in many Arab and Islamic societies, the phenomenon of drug addiction among community members, especially the youth, has become more dangerous than cultural invasion. Cultural invasion targets minds to undermine and control them, while addiction and drug promotion among the youth aim to destroy both their minds and bodies simultaneously. The eradication of both can lead to society's collapse and the loss of its future. Thus, this phenomenon of drug addiction has become one of the most dangerous problems that concern officials worldwide, especially in our promising Islamic world. Day by day, the danger of addiction escalates because it increases every day with the decreasing age of addicts and the entry of new, younger individuals, such as school students and university students, into the cycle of death and destruction. This issue does not only affect young males; heroin and white drug addiction has also spread among females, with a rate equal to 5% of addicted youth. Girls and women often become acquainted with these drugs through a husband if he

is an addict or through morally corrupt friends. There are stages that an adolescent or a person goes through until they reach the stage of addiction.

1. **The readiness to commit a mistake and the availability of conditions for it:** This involves exploiting the ease of obtaining drugs, then the lack of self-respect, followed by natural and personal flaws.
2. **The trial stage:** This is a phase that drug users usually downplay, but it leads to the next stage.
3. **The stage of drugs taking over the body:** At this point, the person sells everything they own to buy any type of drugs.
4. **True addiction:** Here, the primary goal in the addict's life becomes losing consciousness.
5. **Consequences of addiction:** This stage involves the physical and psychological deterioration of the addict.



Fig 5: Crystal meth drug

**Methamphetamine, or crystal meth:** Actually one of the most dangerous types of drugs that have been around since about 1980. It was first used by the Nazis during World War II as a stimulant for fighter pilots and tank commanders. It reappeared again in the 1950s in America as a product for combating obesity

- a. **Physical addiction:** This type of addiction is where the addict becomes accustomed to a specific drug, and the body becomes highly saturated with it, making it difficult to stop using these drugs. Stopping suddenly can cause serious complications that may lead to the addict's death.
- b. **Psychological addiction:** In this type of addiction, the addict becomes accustomed to a certain drug that is not difficult to quit suddenly because this type is easy to treat, and its complications can be eliminated, such as using hashish, khat, stimulant pills, inhaling gasoline, nail polish, and shoe polish.



Fig 6: Physical addiction

Some scholars attribute the problem of addiction to the interaction of two main factors: personal and psychological predisposition, and the inability of the addict to adapt to their society, including its problems. Thus, addiction begins with

an initial stage, which is soon followed by other stages that drag the person into countless dangers.

There is a clear difference between addiction and habituation. Habituation is a psychological phenomenon that arises from a conscious and voluntary desire to obtain the effect of drug use. In contrast, addiction is a physical phenomenon that arises from an involuntary desire to consume drugs due to what is called physical dependency on the substance.

Of course, drugs have been used since ancient times in various societies and civilizations, such as the Pharaonic, Roman, and Greek civilizations. The ancient Egyptians were the first to discover drugs, but their use was not limited to addiction; they were used in medicine. Opium was used to treat eye diseases and as an ointment for body pain. Poppy, known as the shabana plant, was used as medicine to calm children from crying.



Fig 7: Psychological addiction

### Causes of Drug Use

Of course, wars, conflicts, the spread of unemployment, and cases of idleness are among the primary reasons that lead to drug use. Another main reason is the role that global media plays directly and local media plays indirectly in the spread of drugs among the youth. They contribute by presenting a distorted picture of the facts and information related to drug use, which causes confusion in the viewer's mind and obscures the truth. Perhaps the most important examples of this are:

1. A movie or TV series, for example, might depict drugs as a means for sexual exploitation or as the perfect solution for getting rid of worries and psychological pressures.
2. A media program might present information about drugs that is insufficient or incomplete, giving the viewer a false or incorrect impression about the misuse of drugs.
3. The information presented to the viewer might be incorrect, giving a false perception as a result of being handled in an inappropriate way. Alternatively, the information might encourage young people to stay away from drugs, but it is presented in a manner that arouses curiosity and the desire for exploration among the young viewers.

Family disintegration is also one of the factors that have helped in the spread of drugs among the youth. The preoccupation of parents, idleness, academic failure, and the economic, social, and political conditions of society also contribute to this issue.

### Treatment of the Drug Abuse Phenomenon The Role of the Family in Treating Drug Abuse

The family is the primary environment where young people learn virtues and values, as well as social control and discipline, and where social heritage, traditions, and customs are passed down.





**Fig 8: Abuse Phenomenon**

### **The role of universities in treating drug abuse**

The university is the main stronghold of human thought in raising its levels and is the most important source for investing in and developing the community's wealth, especially human resources. The university is the fundamental pillar, so it is essential to maintain a high level of religious, moral, and national education, strengthen cultural, scientific, and Arab ties, organize competitions, hold scientific seminars, and regular annual conferences to study this phenomenon. It should encourage scientific research, conduct master's and doctoral studies on this issue, and study its dimensions and effects on society. Additionally, universities should hold seminars for women, where many professors give lectures to inform women about the characteristics of individuals who abuse drugs, how to identify them early, and how to guide them towards treatment, especially for mothers whose husbands travel abroad.

### **The role of mosques in treating this phenomenon**

Through advice and guidance, mosques can open clinics attached to them to care for and treat addicts.

### **The Role of Media**

The media has a significant role in this matter and requires a well-thought-out plan to disseminate information and facts related to the phenomenon of drug abuse with complete objectivity through various programs and to raise scientific awareness among different segments of society.

### **Recommendations and Suggestions**

1. Instill Islamic values and traditions among young men and women.
2. The role of the state in eliminating drugs by combating drug use through all means and methods.
3. Media awareness.
4. Provide suitable places for investing free time.
5. Monitor those who have been subject to punitive sentences, such as subjecting addicts who have served prison sentences for drug-related crimes to follow-up.
6. Conduct medical examinations for school and university students.

### **Conclusion**

After discussing the phenomenon of drugs, along with

methods of prevention and treatment, the conclusion clarifies the following:

1. Drugs are among the most dangerous destructive plagues that have recently spread widely in society, especially among the youth, and particularly within the university community, as students in this stage often lack supervision and guidance.
2. We have highlighted the most harmful types of drugs in terms of health, though there are some drugs used in medicines that humans consume, such as painkillers, sedatives, and others.
3. There are other types of drugs, such as chemical ones, including volatile solvents and hallucinogens.
4. The effects of addiction on the family: We have discussed how a family, in general, can lead to disintegration and dissolution if one of its members uses drugs.
5. We have outlined the key stages that adolescents go through, including the stage of drug use, and we have identified the main types of drugs involved.
6. In this section, we have explained the reasons behind drug use by individuals, which can be attributed to various factors, including economic and social issues, neglect, lack of care, and unemployment.
7. At the end of our research, we discussed the main solutions and treatments for drug use, emphasizing the roles of families, schools, universities, government institutions, as well as mosques and the media in addressing this issue.

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