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Research Paper

Effects of Consuming Marijuana on Teenagers

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to identify the social and economic problems faced by teenagers who are addicted to marijuana drug and to know the willingness of the teenagers to quit from drug addiction. Case studies have been conducted on ten teenagers of Manjalpur area of Vadodara District, Gujarat who are addicted to marijuana drug. The ten teenagers were identified and interviewed by the researcher to explore the impact of marijuana drug on teenagers' social and economic life and also to understand their willingness to quit the drug. The study consists of findings which includes disturbance of social and economic life of the teenagers due to consumption of marijuana drug and also three teenagers were only willing to quit the drug has been present in this research paper.

Introduction

As William Osler in Naznin A., Nadia S & Riaz U., (2015) on Self-medication among medical and pharmacy students in Bangladesh has rightly pointed out, perhaps, the greatest feature which distinguishes man from other animals is his desire to take medicine. From time immemorial mankind has taken pleasure in consuming substances which affect the mental state of the individual. In some communities the use of it carried their own particular taboos, in certain other communities the use of it was considered to be religious. Today, drug culture has become widespread and extensive. The problem of drug dependence is growing like cancer and very much like cancer our intervention programs seem to have no effect on its growth. From what can be seen, heard and read from various means of mass media, it is apparent that drug abuse is a complex and multifaceted problem. Although the motivating factors for the initiation of drug use were found to be the tendency to seek pleasure and relief of pain, curiosity, peer pressure, boredom, and frustration and so on, the different

social, economic and political factors that predispose, precipitate and perpetuate the problem are to be attacked simultaneously to free our society from drugs.

Analytical View

Drug addiction is a menace that is spreading all over the world at an alarming rate. WHO world reports (2017) that nearly 50 million people in the world are drug-addicts, 30 million smoke marijuana, eight million cocaine, 1.7 million opium, 700,000 use heroin and the remaining consumes narcotics such as smack etc. In U.S.A drug- abuse is the number one health problem. Number of Americans using various drugs, being addicted to them, and even dying from overdoses, is on the increase. It is estimated that Americans spend about \$90 billion a year on drugs. The various cities in the U.S., where use of drugs and drug related crimes are high are Detroit, Texas, Miami, Boston and Los Angeles. Cannabis is the most used drug in Africa and the Middle East, where it was unknown till 1940. Pakistan and Bangladesh in the subcontinent show an unprecedented rise in drug abuse. Drug-abuse in the Gulf and the West Asian Countries is also on the rise, cannabis and opium being the commonly used drugs. Pakistan is the most convenient point for smuggling out huge quantity of drugs like opium, heroin, smack and mandrax.

Intoxicating Drugs are not new to India. In the ancient literature mention 'somaras', an intoxicant used during certain occasions. Earliest reference to cannabis (Indian Hernp) is found in 800 B.C. and by 1000 AD, its use became fairly common. It appears to be the favourite drink of Lord Shiva. In the Vishwanath temple (temple of Shiva) at Varanasi, the Datura fruit is an essential offering. A large number of sadhus or ascetics are believed to be using these drugs to experience hallucination and a sense of feeling of timelessness. There is evidence that poppy was cultivated in Canbay and Malva, during the 15th century. Moghuls recognized opium as a vital article of trade. In 1757, the East India Company monopolized cultivation of poppy. Governor General Warren Hastings brought opium trade under the control of the Government. In many parts of the country pseudo-religious tradition sanctions the use of cannabis, opium, charas and ganja. They have also been used for self-medication, and as sedatives. It is considered that drug problem faced by India is, to a great extent, due to the country's geographical position. India is located between the two major points of origins of illicit drugs - the Golden Triangle countries of Burma, Thailand and Laos in the East and, the Golden Crescent countries of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran in the West. Researcher has been able to find out with different sources that with the rise in consumption of tobacco, and alcohol there is also another addiction that is seen to be rising in the city

which is use of marijuana drug. Researcher could also find that Manjalpur area of Vadodara District has about 3 prominent paddlers who sell the drug, which was due to increase in demand of the drug in the area. Hence, the researcher selected Manjalpur area as his field for the conducting the study. Also, there have been various studies on tobacco and alcohol addictions and problems related to it, but as this is an area that is not explored researcher found key interest in conducting research on marijuana drug and its effect on Teenagers.

Marijuana Drug

Marijuana as drug is a specific part of the cannabis plant and one of the oldest drugs used by the mankind. It is also known as pot, weed, ganja, this flowering plant can grow to 16 feet (5 meters) high, likely originates in the Central Asian steppe, near the Altai or TianShian Mountains, and was first cultivated in China and India, according to "*Cannabis and Cannabinoids: Pharmacology, Toxicology and Therapeutic Potential*," (Routledge, 2002). Almost all the part of marijuana plant like, leaves, stems, flower buds and extracts can be vaporized, eaten, brewed in a tea or put into a tincture. It is also believed by the scientist that marijuana contains hundreds of compounds and the one responsible for the drugs' psychoactive effects is tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (2015), tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) binds to cannabinoid receptors throughout the body, and marijuana's "high" comes from THC's binding to brain regions responsible for pleasure, time perception and pain in real time.

Implication of Literature Reviewed

The studies that are reviewed in the present study is related to studies on Drug Abuse, studies on the Role/Influence of Family in Drug Addiction and studies on Family Interaction and Drug addiction. Venugopal and Chandrasekaran (1981) conducted a study to understand the type of family, order of birth and their possible association with different addictive habits among psychiatric patients. The finding of the study are, cases with addictive habits appeared to be slightly more in the rural population (53%) than in the urban population (47%) and all the cases were found to be hailing from middle to lower middle class families. The National Committee on Drug Abuse (NCDAl) in its report in 1977 concludes that —there is a hard core of drug addicts in general Population and drugs most frequently abused are alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and opium. Madanes, Dukes and Harbin (1980) through their research, come to conclusion that the addict is given a powerful role in the family. Families have a built-in mechanism to change so that it can adapt to changes within the family as well as the environment. Newcomb and Bentler (1986) conducted a

longitudinal study of 557 teenagers and observed that the emotional distress and somatic complaints of mothers increased the perceived family disruptiveness, which in turn, increased the teenager's tendency to be socially deviant and to use drugs. Mohan D (1984), found that in Delhi de-addiction clinic at

AIIMS, the absolute numbers and the proportion of patients with heroin dependence have been steadily increasing since 1980, prior to which no case of heroin dependence was registered with AIIMS de-addicts.

From the mentioned studies it was observed that an individual approach towards the addicts was not at all seen in any study so that was a place which had to be given a good focus, that helped the researcher to approach to the methodology of case-study. The focuses of those studies were just to find out an in general knowledge about the various drugs and influence of family in the addiction of drug, methodology used in these studies was survey. Hence the methodology of case study to get the in-depth knowledge and study various aspects of the field is adopted in the present study.

Rationale

Researcher could find by the help of different sources that Manjalpur area has about three prominent paddlers who sell the drug, which was due to increase in demand of the drug in the area. Hence, the researcher selected Manjalpur area as his field for the conducting the study. Also, there have been various studies on tobacco and alcohol addictions and problems related to it, but as this is an area that is not explored researcher found key interest in conducting research on marijuana drug and its effect on Teenagers. Studies conducted till now have been surveys which don't have much focus on individual, so researcher has adopted the methodology of case-study to get in-depth knowledge of addiction of the drug.

Title of the Study

'A Study on Effects of Consuming Marijuana on Teenagers of Manjalpur, Vadodara'

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the effect of the drug on social life of an individual
2. To find the effect of marijuana on Economic life of teenagers
3. To find willingness of teenagers to quit the drug

Methodology

The selection of sample town/district was not easy since the problem of drug dependency and is widely spread all over the state of Gujarat. The Vadodara district has various parts where Drug abuse is seen. As per the requirement of the study purposive sampling technique is adopted for the present study. The respondents comprise of teenagers of various different schools and also on various organization/institution. The sample size of this study is 10 respondents. The researcher adopted questionnaire and interview technique in the manner of both structured and unstructured so as to get authentic information. The questionnaire tool was validated by the experts from the field.

Finding of the Study

The finding researcher has obtained is of teenagers who live in Manjalpur area, the age group of which ranges from minimum 15 years to maximum 18 years. All the cases are male as researcher couldn't identify any female marijuana addict teenager from the field. From these ten teenagers, four teenagers have just given their 12th board exam, two teenagers are studying in 11th Standard, two teenagers have given their 10th Board exams, and two teenagers are studying for Diploma. As per socio-economic conditions, 6 of the cases belong to Middle class families, 2 cases belong to Upper Middle class families, while 1 case belongs to higher class family and 1 case belongs to Lower middle class family respectively.

The key findings of the study were as follows.

1. All the teenagers had various reasons in getting involved and starting to consume the drug, but one thing that was common was that every case had got influenced and consumed the drug for the first time in their life with their close friends.
2. Teenagers not only consumed the drug themselves but also involved their friends to consume the drug in various public spots.
3. Teenagers not only influenced others to consume the drug by offering them the drug, but also by showing them videos that motivated others in getting involved and influenced into such habits.
4. It was also found that some teenagers due to peer pressure get involved into such habits. Some teenagers get into such habits when they were not in a proper mental state in which their friends guided them towards the drug rather than giving them a proper solution, which worsen the situation more.

5. Teenagers, who obtain pocket money from their home, spent about 50% of that money for the drug.
6. Teenagers who came from poor families tend to steal money from their home in order to consume the drug. This can be considered as one of the serious economic issue.
7. Teenagers who were found to be addicted of the drug for more than 1 year, they travelled to different places in the urge of trying the same drug available in different places such as *Kasol*, *DevGadh Baria*, *Vidhya Nagar*, etc. for which they would spend a good amount of money.
8. It was also found that teenagers whenever caught by the police officials bribed them in order to rescue themselves from various consequences.
9. Out of 10 cases only 3 of the cases were willing to quit the consumption of the drug as rest other didn't find any impact of the drug on them.
10. None of the cases have ever gone for any treatments/rehabilitation centre's or visited any doctors regarding de-addiction of the drug.

Conclusion

This research paper highlights the effects of marijuana on social life (with respect to family, friends and school life) of the teenagers. Mostly family and friends play an important role in the social life of any person, especially teenagers, as teenagers tend to spend majority of their time with their family and friends and are more likely in getting influenced into various habits by them. School life also plays an important role in every individual's life, it is in school that every individual grows, learns and develops various skills inside them. It was also observed that the teenagers who were incapable of getting enough money to buy the drug, they were also found stealing money from their homes in order to buy the drug. They feel that their habit of consuming marijuana never acted as a barrier in their daily life but it only provided them pleasure. To conclude, researcher would like to say that awareness regarding the consumption of marijuana through various social media and print media should be created to eradicate the effects of marijuana on the young citizens of the society.

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