

Law Students Perception on Factors Influencing Drug Abuse in Mangaluru City

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Abstract— Drug abuse is the illegal use of any substance that alters mood or behaviour. This can include the use of illegal drugs, prescription drugs used in a way other than prescribed, and over-the-counter medications taken in excess. Drug abuse can lead to a variety of problems, including addiction, health problems, financial problems, and legal problems. The previous news reports says that around 2.8% of Indians between the age of 10 and 75 years are consumers of cannabis in form of Bhang, Ganja and Charas. Around 15.8 million children aged between 10 and 17 years are addicted to substances in India.

After the analysis of secondary data about drug abuse cases, it is clear that there is a need to mitigate this to lead a joyful life and to safeguard the society. Hence, the researcher had planned to take up the study with objectives to find out the factors influencing drug abuse, study the awareness on the laws regarding drug abuse and to suggest the preventive measures for drug abuse. Law students studying in Mangaluru city were the respondents and the data is collected through questionnaire method. Simple random technique is adopted for the selection of sample. The study was a descriptive study and the data was collected with a pre-planned open-ended questionnaire. The present study focuses on the law students perception on factors influencing drug abuse in the city of Mangaluru which would also give an insight to the various stakeholders of Law enforcement agencies to work together to reduce the drug abuse problems in the society. Drug abuse is a serious issue, but there are few steps both youths and law enforcement agencies can take to minimize the risk. By working together, youths and law enforcement agencies can create a safer and more positive healthcare experience.

Keywords— Drug abuse, Law Students, Drug abuse Awareness.

I. INTRODUCTION

Drugs are chemical substances that interact with our bodies and minds, causing changes in how they

function. This can encompass a wide range of effects, from relieving pain and treating diseases to altering mood and perception. From the familiar aspirin relieving a headache to the complex chemicals used in chemotherapy, drugs can be used for therapeutic purposes, but also misused for their mind-altering or mood-enhancing properties. The term encompasses both legally prescribed medications and illegally obtained substances, all sharing the ability to impact our biological and psychological states.

Understanding the diverse nature of drugs, their intended uses, and their potential risks is crucial for making informed decisions about their use and navigating the complex societal issues surrounding them.

Drug abuse refers to the harmful and excessive use of drugs, encompassing both illegal substances and prescription medications misused beyond their intended purpose. It's characterized by a pattern of using a drug despite negative consequences in various aspects of life, leading to physical, mental, and social deterioration. This includes taking larger doses than prescribed, using drugs recreationally instead of medically, and prioritizing drug use over personal responsibilities and relationships. Drug abuse can manifest in dependence, addiction, and a constant preoccupation with obtaining and using the drug, causing significant harm to the individual and those around them. It's a complex issue with various contributing factors, requiring medical and professional interventions to address the underlying causes and support recovery.

II. METHODOLOGY

Methodology in research refers to the overall plan and approach used to answer a research question or test a hypothesis. The present study taken up with the following objectives;

- To find out the factors influencing drug abuse
- To study the awareness on the laws regarding drug abuse
- To suggest the preventive measures for drug abuse

The present study is descriptive research design conducted in Mangaluru city. The primary data was collected from Law Students of S. D. M College, Mangaluru using pre-planned interview schedule consisting of 23 questions. After obtaining the consent from the respondents the researcher collected the data through face-to-face verbal communication. Further, the collected data has been scrutinized and code book has been drawn. Thereafter, the coded information has been entered into computer using SPSS Software. The coded data has been presented in bi-variant tables for the analysis.

III. DATA INTERPRETATION

Data analysis is the process where through logical and systematic techniques, the data gets evaluated and an unbiased inference gets illustrated. The data from the bi-variant table has been cross-related for interpretation.

Table No. 1: Education and opinion on the reason for drug abuse among youth

Drug abuse refers to using any substance, legal or illegal, in a way that harms yourself or others. This can involve taking more than the recommended dose, using a substance for non-medical purposes, or using it in a risky way. Education data can reveal patterns in drug abuse. For example, researchers might compare dropout rates, academic performance, or specific educational programs with reported reasons for drug use. This can help identify potential risk factors associated with lower educational attainment.

		Opinion on the reason for drug abuse among youth									Total
		.00	Family Issues	Peer Pressure	Depression	Academic Pressure	Economic Issues	Curiosity	Addiction	Stress	
.00	Count	0	2	3	0	1	0	3	0	1	10
	% of Total	0.0%	2.0%	3.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%	1.0%	10.0%
1st Year	Count	0	0	7	0	0	0	4	0	5	16
	% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	7.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	0.0%	5.0%	16.0%
2nd Year	Count	2	5	8	1	2	3	3	3	0	27
	% of Total	2.0%	5.0%	8.0%	1.0%	2.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	0.0%	27.0%
3rd Year	Count	1	5	8	3	4	4	6	0	1	32
	% of Total	1.0%	5.0%	8.0%	3.0%	4.0%	4.0%	6.0%	0.0%	1.0%	32.0%
4th Year	Count	0	0	0	2	0	0	5	0	0	7
	% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.0%
5th Year	Count	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	1	2	8
	% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%	2.0%	8.0%
Total	Count	3	12	30	6	7	8	21	4	9	100
	% of Total	3.0%	12.0%	30.0%	6.0%	7.0%	8.0%	21.0%	4.0%	9.0%	100.0%

The data shown in the above Table No. 1 related to the education of the respondents depicts that 32 percent of them are 3rd year students followed by 27 percent are 2nd years, 16 percent are 1st years, 8 percent are 5th years, 7 percent are 4th years respectively and 10 percent of them haven't responded. The data shown in the Table with regard

to the opinion on the reason for drug abuse among youth indicates that 30 percent of the respondent stated that peer pressure is the main factor followed by 21 percent stated curiosity, 12 percent stated family issues, 9 percent stated stress, 8 percent stated economic issues, 7 percent stated academic pressure, 6 percent stated depression, 4 percent of the

respondent stated addiction respectively and 3 percent haven't respond to the question.

Table No. 2: Gender and opinion on the laws are effective in controlling drug abuse

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, commonly referred to as the NDPS Act, is a law in India that regulates the production, possession, sale, consumption, and transportation of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The

NDPS Act has been amended several times since its enactment to address emerging challenges and align with evolving international drug control strategies. There are ongoing debates about the effectiveness of the NDPS Act, with some arguing for a more balanced approach that emphasizes treatment and rehabilitation alongside strict enforcement. Men and women might have different experiences or perceptions of law enforcement related to drug abuse. This can influence their opinions on the effectiveness of the laws.

		Opinion on the laws are effective in controlling drug abuse			Total	
		.00	Yes	No		
Gender	Male	Count	3	29	21	53
		% of Total	3.0%	29.0%	21.0%	53.0%
Female		Count	6	19	22	47
		% of Total	6.0%	19.0%	22.0%	47.0%
Total		Count	9	48	43	100
		% of Total	9.0%	48.0%	43.0%	100.0%

The data shown in the above Table No. 2 related to the gender of the respondents depicts that 53 percent of them are males whereas 47 percent are females. The data shown in the Table with regard to the opinion on the laws are effective in controlling drug abuse indicates that 48 percent of the respondents stated positive response whereas 43 percent responded negatively and 9 percent of them haven't responded.

Drug abuse is the use of a substance in a way that is harmful to the person or others. This can include using illegal drugs, misusing prescription medications, or using any substance in a way that causes physical, psychological, or social problems. Drug use and risk factors can vary by age. Teenagers might be more concerned with peer pressure, while adults might focus on job security or family life. By comparing age groups, researchers can see if there are different priorities or misconceptions about drug abuse prevention at different stages of life.

Table No. 3: Age and opinion on the ways to prevent drug abuse in Mangaluru city

		Opinion on the ways prevent drug abuse in Mangaluru city							Total		
		.00	Awareness Programs	Proper Education	Strict Law Enforcement	Giving Punishment	1 & 2	1 & 3		1 & 4	
Age	17-18	Count	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
		% of Total	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%
19-20		Count	2	9	2	3	0	3	5	1	25
		% of Total	2.0%	9.0%	2.0%	3.0%	0.0%	3.0%	5.0%	1.0%	25.0%
21-22		Count	3	29	3	6	0	4	3	3	51
		% of Total	3.0%	29.0%	3.0%	6.0%	0.0%	4.0%	3.0%	3.0%	51.0%
23-24		Count	2	10	3	3	0	0	0	0	18
		% of Total	2.0%	10.0%	3.0%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	18.0%

25-26	Count	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	3
	% of Total	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	3.0%
	Count	7	50	8	14	1	7	8	5	100
Total	% of Total	7.0%	50.0%	8.0%	14.0%	1.0%	7.0%	8.0%	5.0%	100.0%

The data shown in the above Table No. 3 related to the age of the respondents depicts that 51 percent of them having age between 21-22 followed by 25 percent between 19-20, 18 percent between 23-24 and 3 percent of each between 17-18 and 25-26 respectively. The data shown in the Table with regard to the opinion on the ways to prevent drug abuse in mangaluru city indicates that 50 percent of the respondents stated awareness programs followed by 14 percent of the respondent stated strict law enforcement, 8 percent each stated proper education, awareness programs and strict law enforcement(1&3), 7 percent stated awareness programs and proper education(1&2), 5 percent stated awareness programs and giving punishment(1&4), 1 percent stated giving punishment respectively and 7 percent haven't respond to the question.

Table No.4: Age and opinion on creating awareness about drug abuse by law students

Drug abuse can be a complex issue with evolving perceptions throughout adolescence and young adulthood. Comparing opinions across age groups can reveal how attitudes towards drug abuse and awareness campaigns might change as law students mature. By understanding how age influences opinions on these campaigns, researchers can help develop more effective awareness programs. For instance, younger students might respond better to campaigns with a strong peer education component, while older students might prefer a more policy-focused approach.

		According to you, what role can law students play in creating awareness about drug abuse in Mangaluru city?									Total
		.00	Awareness regarding Laws	Awareness Programs	Marathons	Research Work	Creating fear of Punishment	Street Plays	Rally with Anti-Drug Slogan	Conduct Workshops	
17-18	Count	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
	% of Total	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%
19-20	Count	0	6	12	0	5	1	1	0	0	25
	% of Total	0.0%	6.0%	12.0%	0.0%	5.0%	1.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%
21-22	Count	5	4	33	0	1	1	4	2	1	51
	% of Total	5.0%	4.0%	33.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.0%	4.0%	2.0%	1.0%	51.0%
23-24	Count	2	2	7	1	0	2	2	0	2	18
	% of Total	2.0%	2.0%	7.0%	1.0%	0.0%	2.0%	2.0%	0.0%	2.0%	18.0%
25-26	Count	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
	% of Total	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%
Total	Count	11	12	52	1	6	6	7	2	3	100
	% of Total	11.0%	12.0%	52.0%	1.0%	6.0%	6.0%	7.0%	2.0%	3.0%	100.0%

The data shown in the above Table No. 4 related to the age of the respondents depicts that 51 percent of them having age between 21-22 followed by 25 percent between 19-20, 18 percent between 23-24 and 3 percent of each between 17-18 and 25-26 respectively. The data shown in the Table with regard to the opinion on creating awareness about drug abuse by law students indicates that 52 percent of the respondents stated awareness programs followed by 12 percent of the respondent stated awareness regarding laws, 7 percent stated street plays, 6 percent each stated research work and creating fear of punishment, 3 percent stated conducting workshops, 2 percent stated rally with anti-drug slogan, 1 percent stated marathons respectively and 11 percent haven't respond to the question.

IV. FINDINGS

The study was focused on the law student's perception on factors influencing drug abuse in Mangaluru city. The number of samples was 100 taken from S.D.M Law College, Mangaluru. The following are the major findings of the study.

- ❖ Several factors contribute to drug abuse including peer pressure, family issues, depression, academic pressure, economic issues, curiosity, addiction, stress
- ❖ Awareness Programs need to be conducted
- ❖ Providing adequate support and treatment options for individuals struggling with drug abuse is essential. This includes awareness programs, Proper education, strict law enforcement, counselling
- ❖ Law students are aware about drug abuse and laws pertaining to it
- ❖ Strict laws and punishment need to be implemented
- ❖ Counselling, rehabilitation, health centre to be implemented
- ❖ Impact on family and personal life is huge due to drug abuse

V. SUGGESTIONS

The study indicates that there must be frequent awareness programs to educate people. And people need to be known about counselling, de-addiction centre and rehabilitation to overcome this issue. Increasing the punishment and strict laws will also help to overcome these scenarios. Those who are victims should be provided proper rehabilitation

facilities and should be included in other activities to overcome from drug abuse.

If you or someone you know is struggling with drug abuse, it is important to seek professional help from psychologists or any health providers. They can provide appropriate assessment, guidance, and treatment options tailored to the specific needs of the individual. This study can be continued by conducting the study on following points: -

- ❖ Include a large number of samples
- ❖ Experience and opinion of victims of drug abuse will yield more information
- ❖ Take large area for sample collection

VI. CONCLUSION

The conclusion is to educate the civilians on effect of consumption of such substances. Government or educational institution should provide facility in educating and advising more knowledge of prevention measure to taken against drug abuse. Government should also increase the punishment what currently exists. Due to which people get easily available of such items. As per the research more people are aware of NDPS Act because the sample taken was law students but others are not aware of laws. More over make your friends wisely to not to fall in such traps. We as society should also starts easily accessible preventive technique to help the victims of drug abuse. Treatment for substance abuse often involves a combination of medical interventions, therapy, and support. Some common approaches include detoxification, medication-assisted treatment, behavioural therapies, counselling, support groups, and rehabilitation programs. The goal is to help individuals overcome addiction, manage withdrawal symptoms, address underlying issues, develop coping skills, and achieve long-term recovery. Drug abuse among youth is a significant and complex issue with wide-ranging consequences. The misuse of drugs by young people can have severe physical, mental, and social implications that can persist into adulthood.

In conclusion, drug abuse among youth is a complex issue that requires comprehensive efforts from various sectors of society. By implementing preventive measures, early intervention strategies, and providing appropriate support and treatment, we can work towards minimizing the impact of drug abuse on the lives of young individuals and fostering healthier futures for them.

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