

Laxmi Narain Dubey College, Motihari

(a constituent unit of B.R.A. Bihar University, Muz.)

NAAC Accredited 'B+'

National Cadet Corps (NCC)

Topic: Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking

**NCC - Common Subject
B/C Certificate Examination**

Instructor

Lt. Durgesh Mani Tewari

ANO- 4/25 COY.

dmtewari@gmail.com

Q.3

TOPIC

[SA6: Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking]

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Introduction

1. A 'Drug' is a substance - solid, liquid or gas that brings about physical and/or psychological changes.
2. Drugs affect the central nervous system. They act on the brain and can change the way a person thinks, feels or behaves.
3. Drug trafficking and drug abuse are considered as a greater problem than drug consumption.

Types of Drugs.

4. There are three main types of drugs affecting the central nervous system :-

(a) Depressants. Depressants are drugs that slow down the function of the central nervous system. Depressant drugs do not necessarily make a person feel depressed. They include :-

(i) Alcohol.

(ii) Cannabis.

(iii) Barbiturates

(iv) Benzodiazepines, Benzos, Tranx.

(v) GHB (gamma-hydroxybutyrate) or Fantasy.

(vi) Opiates and opioids including Heroin.

(b) Stimulants. It act on the central nervous system to speed up the messages to and from the brain. They

make the user feel more awake, alert or confident. Stimulants increase heart rate, body temperature and blood pressure. Other effects include appetite, dilated pupils, talkativeness, agitation and sleep disturbance. Mild stimulants include:-

(i) Ephedrine used in medicines.

(ii) Caffeine in coffee, tea and cola drinks.

(iii) Nicotine in tobacco.

(c) Hallucinogens. It affect perception, people who have taken them may believe they see, hear and receive things that are not really there or what they see may be distorted in some way. The effects of hallucinogens vary a great deal, so it is impossible to predict how they will affect a particular person at a particular time. It include:-

(i) Dhatua

(ii) Ketamine

5. Legal Drugs. These are those where laws and regulations control the availability, quality and price of the legal drugs. For example tobacco may not be sold to persons below age of 18 years.

6. Illegal Drugs. Because they are illegal there are no prices or quality controls on the

illicit drugs such as heroin. This means that a user can never be sure about its quality, strength or purity.

Drug Abuse

7. Drug abuse refers to a patterned use of a substance (drug) in which, the user consumes the substance in amounts or with methods, neither approved nor supervised by medical professionals, using of illicit drugs - narcotics, stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens, cannabis, even glues and paints, are also considered to be classified as drug abuse. Continuous and prolonged abuse of drugs may make a person an addict.

8. It was found that all the addicts either take cannabis or heroin. 72% of addicts are in the age group of 20-24 years, female comprise only 2% of the addicts. 78% of the addicts come from the families which are facing problems such as, loss of one or both parents or separation of the parents.

9. Drug addiction is found to be most common in peer group. The other reasons are curiosity, pleasure seeking and mental tension. It is observed that education and occupation has no significant effect on the habit. Drug abuse incidents is high in youths may be due to their emotional immaturity.

Drug Trafficking.

10. India, due to its geographical location has become a transit route base for illicit heroin, hashish and morphine from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Nepal and Burma. This area is known as Golden Crescent. Cannabis smuggled from Nepal is mainly consumed in India.

11. A peculiar system of supply and demand that characterizes the Indian drug market is that the user and traders are often the same. To fund drug consumption many users resort to crimes and thefts. The drug syndicates often use poor people, especially youth to carry their illicit products from one place to another.

The Law.

12. Control over cultivation of opium and all matters relating to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are regulated by the "Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and Rules", which provide for :-
(a) Punishment of upto 20 yrs rigorous imprisonment and fine upto Rupees Two Lakhs for indulging in trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

(b) Death sentence in case of repeat of this offence.

(c) Forfeiture of property of smugglers.

(d) Regulating of legitimate trade and commerce of NDPS for medicinal and scientific purposes.

(e) The "Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances" (PITNDPS) provides for detention of persons indulging in trafficking of narcotic drugs for 1 to 2 years by an executive order.

Conclusion.

13. To eradicate the problem of drug abuse and trafficking, it requires mobilisation of international communities through a comprehensive approach in combating illicit production, trafficking and consumption of drugs.

14. Govt. and NGOs should emphasise on education, healthcare, treatment and rehabilitation for effective control of drug abuse.