

Socio-Economic Factors of Drug Abuse among Youth: With Special Reference to Colombo District

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This article reviews the key socio-economic factors of the dangerous drug abuse among the youth in the Colombo District. Drugs can have immediate and long-lasting effects on physical and psychological well-being of a young person. Therefore, the findings of this research will be useful in developing strategies to overcome the current state. A sample of data about 112 drug addicted youth was gathered from three (03) cities which were reported to have the most serious drug victims in the Western Province. Questionnaires and interviews were used to gather data. Factor analysis was used to identify the key factors behind dangerous drug abuse of youth. Regression Analysis was used to estimate the monthly expenses for heroin. Descriptive Statistics, chi square test and contingency table were also used for analytical purposes. Results discovered that most dangerous drug addicted youth are school drop outs, three wheeler drivers, petty businessmen, and day paid labors. Among many other motives, loss of love, interrupted education and stress due to unemployment are some of reasons behind drug addiction on youth. Income, age and rate of heroin usage per month are the most significant variables for the monthly expenses for heroin. Factor analysis identified five common factors namely psychological, physical strength, addiction factor, influence of friends, and food appetite.

Keywords: community awareness programs, drug abuse, heroin, youth,