

ISSN 1800 – 4067



**THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY
OF
SRI LANKA**

9th Annual Research Conference
24th - 26th March 2016

ABSTRACTS

Royal Asiatic Society of Sri Lanka
96, Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha
Colombo 07, Sri Lanka

Recond 10 - 534

Consumption of Narcotics among Male Hostel Students of a Leading State University in Colombo - Sri Lanka

Hulathduwa S. R¹, Nahallage C. A. D², Kumara H. W. R³, Arachchi P. A. C. P. P⁴

The main objective of this research was to find out the socio-demographic characters of recreational drug abuse among male hostellers of one of the leading Universities in Colombo. Narcotics are addictive drugs with physical dependence, psychological dependence and tolerance. WHO classifies narcotics into several sub-groups some of which containing a large number of individual drugs. Opioids/opiates is one such sub-group consisting of some of the most widely abused recreational drugs. Comprehensive researches on current trends of recreational drug abuse among the youth in Sri Lanka are not common. The study was carried out on a random sample of two hundred male hostel students from four faculties; Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS), Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC), Faculty of Applied Sciences (FAS) and Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS). The sampling was based on proportional allocation and data were gathered from questionnaire method; data analysis was done using SPSS and Minitab. 69% used some kind of narcotic on a regular basis. Among regular users of narcotics, 96% used cigarettes and 20% of the regular users consumed for more than 5 years. 69% used drugs on a daily basis. Special occasions for use of narcotics were the bursary day, after exams and on special get-togethers. 27% of regular users have tried narcotics for the first time after coming to the university. Providing closer and intimate supervision on hostellers and organizing programmes on drug awareness and rehabilitation are recommended for primary and secondary prevention.

Keywords: Narcotics, Faculties, Prevention, Addictive, Drugs

-
1. Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardenepura, raveendra.pre@gmail.com
 2. Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardenepura
 3. Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Sri Lanka Law Collage
 4. Department of Social Statistics, University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Sri Lanka