

## **REASONS FOR DRUG ADDICTION**

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### **Abstract**

Drug addiction is a dependence on a street drug or a medication. When someone is addicted, they may not be able to control their drug use and they may continue using the drug despite the harm it causes. Not everyone who uses drugs becomes addicted, but for many what starts as casual use leads to drug addiction. Drug addiction can cause serious, long-term consequences including problems with physical and mental health, relationships, employment and the law. Before controlling any matter it should be identified the reasons which are affected for this matter.

The main objective of the study is to identify the factors affected for drug addiction. Primary data was mainly used by the study through a questionnaire. 200 prisoners were selected for this study by using a convenience sampling method. Chi-square test statistics was used to find out the association between the selected factors and drug addiction.

Study found that Education level, job status, birth place, working place, drugs category, number of attendance in jail and parents live/dead status are affected reasons for drug addiction. .The most significant fact revealed by the study is that large number of prisoners is used Heroin rather than other drug categories. Another interesting finding is that, there is a high risk for married woman to be a drug addict person than married man.

Key words: affect, drug addiction, factor, prisoner

## **1. Introduction**

Society is a gather of whole. Every an each actions taken by everyone effected to the society. Sometimes it will be occurred a harmful condition to the society as a result of some misconduct. In current society it can be seen more misconducts. The use of drugs is a one of such misconduct. These drugs abuses have covered all eastern and western societies and it has become a world number one tragedy. No one knows the history of drugs, and use of drugs. Whatever, now drug has entered to each and everywhere in societies. Some commentators suggest that it maybe even a need of human beings.

Many people use drugs in order to escape physical and emotional discomfort. It may be started drinking to numb feelings of depression, smoking pot to deal with stress at home or school, relying on cocaine to boost energy and confidence, using sleeping pills to cope with panic attacks, or taking prescription painkillers to relieve chronic back pain.

Repeated drug use changes the brain and body to be addicted. These brain changes interfere with ability to think clearly, control behavior, and feel normal without drugs. Furthermore, prolonged drug use eventually brings its problems, including the psychological, physical, and social drug abuse and addiction become worse than the original problem was trying to overcome.

Now, most of drug smugglers are in international trade. Their markets are in all over the world. Especially they have aimed their market in third world countries because it is easy to escape the roles with using their power, money and international relationships. These smugglers have covered Sri Lanka also. Sri Lanka has situated in a main economical way and it is an island which sufficient with several ports. So even at past time Sri Lanka was used as an important trade point. Because of these importance most of tourists, inventors and sellers

are coming to Sri Lanka. But harmful part of that is most of drugs coming with them to Sri Lanka. As a result of that the drug addiction is increasing day by day.

Nowadays some synthetic drugs have been introduced to Sri Lanka by the drug smugglers. These synthetic drugs are been distributed through the night clubs, karaoke, hotels and restaurants. These synthetic drugs may cause irregular beat of the heart known as cardiac arrhythmia, internal bleeding of the brain which may even lead to sudden death. The group who are thinking that they become social after taking these synthetic drugs, resulting from loss of inhibition, may not know the hazardous facts related to the drugs. The spouses, parents, children and whole society have been affected by this impact.

There are many acts and laws to control these drug abusers but it can be seen that these abuses are increasing day by day. Because the drug smugglers are giving big force to spread these drugs in all over the country. Especially now school children are referring to use drugs so would no longer turn a blind eye on this problem.

### **1.1 Statement of the Problem**

Today the drugs have been spread all over the country. Not only youths and elders but also children have been addicted to the drugs. There are many forces behind this drug addiction. Most of records implies that children are trapped in testing drugs during the period of time spent in the school and every drug user has tested the drugs by an influence of an outsider will be a friend or neighbor.

Addiction to drugs has been identified as a serious health issue and a social problem today. It is seen as the major case for wrecking human values in the modern society of Sri Lanka. According to the drug abuse information 2004-2008 published by the National Dangerous

Dugs control Board, the prevalent of drugs related arrests were 141 per 100000 populations in 2008.

This has led to an open path for increasing crimes, loosing family bonds, weakling education and getting sexually transmitted diseases. However there should be some important facts affected for drug addiction. If it could find out those reasons it will help to get necessary actions to control this tragedy.

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Main objective of this study is found out the most affected reasons for drug addiction.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

Sri Lanka is a third world developing country and which has a very valuable culture and history. But with the open economy most good as well as things came to Sri Lankan society. Drug is one of bad tragedy. Sri Lankan rulers are very weak on this problem, because on one hand most of these drugs smugglers are in international trade; they can make a big force on countries such as Sri Lanka. On the other hand using political power and economical power businessmen are helping to distribute drugs over the country. So it is not easy to control this problem only by the government.

The drug abuse has become a major social problem to Sri Lanka. The ill effects of the drugs have not become to a barrier to the person. The spouses, parents, children and whole society have been affected by this impact. This has led to an open path for increasing crimes, loosing family bonds, weakening education and getting sexually transmitted diseases including HIV.

Though there are acts and punishments to control the drug addiction, it is increasing day by day. Therefore there is a suspicion on relevantness of these acts and punishments. So, it is important to find out the related reasons before given the solutions to control drug addiction.

### **1.5 Methodology**

The methodology includes sample selection, data collection and data analysis methods used throughout the study. Primary data was mainly used by the study through questionnaires and interview methods. 100 male prisoners and 100 female prisoners were selected from Walikanda, Magesin and Colombo ladies jails in Sri Lanka using a convenience sampling method. Chi Square method was used to find out the association between relevant factors.

## **2. Literature Review**

Drug addiction is a problem that has been increasing deeply in the current society today. Drug addictions can only hinder from accomplishing goals or dreams in life. People sometimes feel they are too bright, too powerful, too much in control to become addictive. Addiction can trap anyone. It can lead to harming ones body, causing problems in family structure, and contribute to the delinquency in society. According to Richard M. Nixon, it comes quietly into homes and destroys children; it moves into neighborhood and breaks the fiber community which makes neighbors.

No one really knows the history of drugs, and drug use for the origins of the association of humans. The history of the drugs is going so far as human beings. Human beings have always had a desire to eat or drink substances that make them feel relaxed, stimulated. Past people discovered more things such as herbs, roots, mushrooms or fungi. They had to be eaten, drunk, rubbed on the skin, or inhaled to achieve the desired effect. One of the oldest records

of such medicinal recommendations is found in the writings of the Chinese scholar-emperor Shen Nung, who lived in 2735 BC.

The path to drug addiction starts with experimentation. A person have tried to use drugs out of curiosity, because friends were doing it, or in an effort to erase another problem. At first, the substance seems to solve the problem or make life better, so people use drugs more and more. As with many other conditions and diseases, addiction differs from person to person. Persons' genes, age when they started taking drugs, family and social environment play a main role in addiction. In 2007, Marina, B. conducted a survey and founded that gender, ethnicity and the presence of other mental disorders may influence risk for drug addiction. Here, people's environment is included factors such as family, friends, socio economic status and quality of life in general which effect for drug addiction.

Drug addiction was not deeply affected to society and health before 1980 year. But now it has been spread widely in Sri Lanka. The addiction of school children is becoming the new trend in drug addiction. According to the Dayananda Wedamulla, Drug abuse is a pressing issue in Sri Lanka society which must be addressed. P.V. De Silva and P. Fonseka have discussed that large majority of addicts (70.1%) had started to use drugs when their age was 10-20 years.

Drug addiction is a deadly disease. It is a progressive illness whose ends are always the same, jails, institutions and death. There is no cure for addiction; if an addict stops using drugs then the recovery is possible. In 1994, Min J. Landry shown that recovering from addiction is possible for the drug user with the help of their families. In the World Drug Report; it is included multiple fields of information which important to fallow to help prevent drug addiction within the family.

An important feature of all the prior research studies documented in the preceding section is the exclusive focus on the determinants, treatments and recovering of drug addiction. They had identified some reasons also of which are affected for drug addiction. But the releventness of those reasons had not justified. And also, there may be some other factors which do not considered. So it is important to done a research to fulfill those circumstance. Thus, this study, with its primary focus on the reasons for drug addiction is an important extension of the researches and valuable addition to literature.

### **3. Methodology**

#### **3.1 Data Collection**

For this study primary data was collected from a convenience sample of male and female prisoners were selected from Walikanda, Magesin and Colombo ladies jail in Sri Lanka. A questionnaire was used to collect the data and selected sample consists of 200 of population with 100 male prisoners and 100 female prisoners. Nine selected factors were recorded.

- Level of Education (Absent, Grade 1-8, GCE O/L, GCE A/L, Higher education)
- Job category (Permanent, Temporary, Unemployed)
- Birth Sector (Urban, Rural or Estate)
- Job place (Urban, Rural or Estate)
- Parents died or lives status
- Parents' status (jailed or not)
- Attendance in jail (how often)
- Civil status
- Drug Category (Heroin, Cannabis, LSD, Ampitamin)

### 3.2 Data Analysis Technique

The main question of interest is to found out the mostly affected reasons for drug addiction.

To examine that chi square test statistic is applied in this study. Hypothesis for the chi square method can be defined as:

$H_0$ : The cases are independent.

$H_1$ : The cases are dependent.

### 3.3 Results

#### 3.3.1 Descriptive Analysis

**Table 3.3.1.1: Respondents' Background Information**

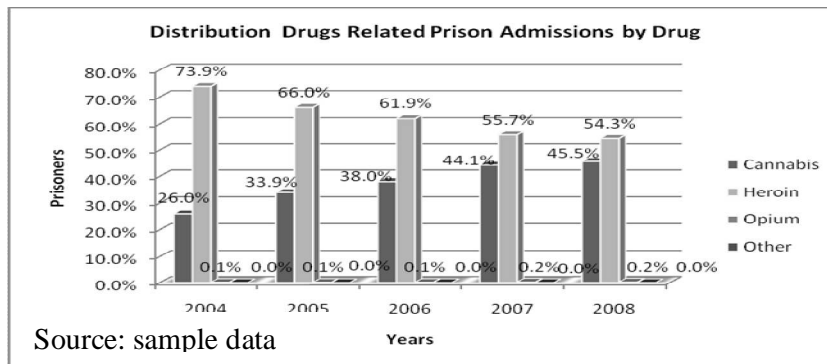
Source: Survey data

Background	Proportion of the Respondents (%)
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	50
Female	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Level of Education</b>	
Absent	21
Grade 1-8	53
GCE O/L	20.5
GCE A/L	05.5
Higher education	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Job Category</b>	
Permanent	13.5
Temporary	64
Unemployed	22.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Birth Place</b>	
Urban	73.5
Rural	23.5
Estate	03



<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Background</b>	<b>Proportion of the Respondents (%)</b>
<b>Job Place</b>	
Urban	97.5
Rural	02.5
Estate	00
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Civil Status</b>	
Married	72.5
Unmarried	27.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

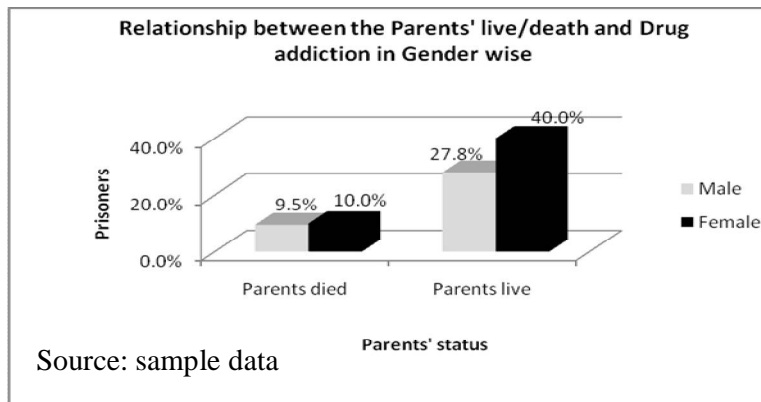
Table 3.3.1.1, presents the information relating to personal attributes of the respondents. The respondents are not well educated with 74% are attending only up to grade 8 and majority of the respondents have not a permanent job. And also, this suggests that more than 70% of the respondent's birth place was urban area. Thus, the survey response can be relied upon to the extent that more than 90% of respondent work place situated in an urban area. Only 27.5% of the respondents were unmarried.



**Figure 3.3.1.1: Reported Prison Admission Related to Drug Categories**

Figure 3.3.1.1 indicates the reported drug Adductors in Sri Lanka (2004-2008) according to the drugs they taken. Opium and Other drugs takers have not got an important place, when

consider about the Cannabis and Heroin takers. Another important fact lime light that the users of cannabis had been increased, and the users of Heroin had been decreased. But when consider as a whole it can see that heroin is the highly used drug.



**Figure 3.3.1.2: Parents' Alive/Dead Situation by Gender**

Figure 3.3.1.2, indicates; more than 50% of prisoner's parents are still alive.

### 3.3.2 Test the Independence of the Variables

It is essential to test whether there is a relationship between the dependent variable and independent variables. For that chi-square test was used.

#### 3.3.2.1 Hypothesis

$H_{0a}$ : Drug addiction is independent from the education level.

$H_{0b}$ : Drug addiction is independent from the job category.

$H_{0c}$ : Drug addiction is independent from the birth place.

$H_{0d}$ : Drug addiction is independent from the job place.

H<sub>0e</sub>: Drug addiction is independent from parent's dead or alive situation.

H<sub>0f</sub>: Drug addiction is independent from the parent's status (jailed or not).

H<sub>0g</sub>: Drug addiction is independent from the drug category.

H<sub>0h</sub>: Drug addiction is independent from the attendance in jail (how often).

H<sub>0i</sub>: Drug addiction is independent from civil status.

All the above null hypotheses were tested using chi-square test statistic under 5% level of significant and following table shows the summary of the result.

**Table 3.3.2.1: Association between Drug Addiction and other Related Factors**

Source: Survey data

Factor	P- value	Decision
Education level	0.006	H <sub>0</sub> is rejected.
Job category	0.000	H <sub>0</sub> is rejected.
Birth place	0.040	H <sub>0</sub> is rejected.
Job place	0.040	H <sub>0</sub> is rejected.
Drug category	0.001	H <sub>0</sub> is rejected.
Parent's dead or alive situation	0.858	H <sub>0</sub> is not rejected.
Parent's jailed or not situation	0.053	H <sub>0</sub> is not rejected.
Attendance in jail (how often)	0.043	H <sub>0</sub> is rejected.
Civil status	0.000	H <sub>0</sub> is rejected.

According to the table 3.3.2.1; Education level, job category, birth place, job place, drug category, attendance in jail (how often), civil status of the prisoner's were significant. That

means all those determinants are affected to addict the drugs. Parent's dead or alive situation and parent's jailed or not situation were not significant.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The primary purpose of this study is to find out the reasons for drug addiction. In particular, the study examines the drug category that people use and sell mostly and ways of addiction for drugs.

One interesting and disturbing finding is education level of the prisoner is highly affected reason. Because the large number of prisoners who admit to the jail due to drug addiction haven't well educated background. Also the result arises from this study conclude that the birth place and job place play a key roll. That means large numbers of them lives and work in urban areas and most of people are migrating top these areas. Therefore they have a big chance to addict drugs. Another factor point out by this study for drug addiction is the job category. Most of prisoners did not have a permanent job. Due to that reason they feel big stress, problems and to escape such a physical and emotional discomfort they use drugs.

Results of the chi square analysis indicate that there is a relationship between Drug category and Drug addiction. When consider about the drug categories, it is seen to be that most of prisoners were use and sell Heroin. The use or sell of deferent drug categories will be related to their price and effect. The effect of Heroin is higher than Cannabis and price is less than other types such as LSD, Ampitamin. These both reasons have affected to increased the use and sell of Heroin.

The most significant fact revealed by the study is that parents dead or alive situation and parents' status (jailed or not) are not the basic reasons for drug addiction. There is a disparity

between the male and female prisoners due to the marital status. That means there is a twice risk for married woman to be an addict to drugs than married man. Large number of male prisoners is addicted to the drugs with the effect of their friends but females are addicted especially through their brothers and husbands. Therefore, from this analyze it is proved that there is a big effect on females by their family members.

The findings of this study should be viewed in light of a few limitations. For this research the data have been collected from the prisoners in Walikanda, Magesin and Colombo ladies jail in Sri Lanka. Data have not been collected from other prisons. The sample is limited. That means, this research considers only limited geographical area. Also, the impact of these selected factors might be rather different in another country because the sample enclosed only Sri Lanka. And, there may be several other external and internal factors influencing to drug addiction that have not been considered here.

## **5. Recommendations**

The prevention is more efficient and cost-effective than either enforcement and/or treatment; the Government will facilitate better use of all preventive educational opportunities for addicts. Measures will also be taken to impart relevant, facets of knowledge, positive attitudes coping skills, particularly to young people. The preventive measures are based through the Mass Media, Education institutes and workplace holds a highly important place in the elimination of the drug use in Sri Lanka.

From this study it is proved that low education level affected to the drug addiction. Therefore, it should give the awareness about important of education to the parents and children. At the mean time government should pay its' attention to the schools which are not well developed and should provide relevant occupations according to the education level of school leavers.

Respondents who live and work in urban areas are highly addicted to drugs. This problem is mostly spreading over the jobs and stress. And also unemployment is a major reason for the drug addiction.

Heroin was the highly used and sell drug when compared to the other categories and that is not an indigenous one; it must be imported. Therefore it must be considered about the export import policies. To over come this there should be a good security in the custom, general public must be noticed about the act and the legal penalties on transporting drugs and there should be a relevant national policy against the drug users, Sellers, and transport.

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