

A Sociological Study on the Factors Affecting Drug Addiction Among School Students: With Special Reference to Batapola Police Area

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Abstract

Drug addiction among school students is a burning issue in Sri Lanka. This study identified factors affecting drug addiction among school students. The research problem was the factors affecting drug addiction among school students in Sri Lanka. The main objective of this study was to propose solutions to the factors affecting drug addiction among school students and the specific objectives were to investigate the types of drug addiction, the family background affecting drug addiction, the relationship between socio-economic status of students and drug addiction, reasons behind drug addiction and to suggest solutions to prevent drug addiction among school students. Batapola Police area was examined as the study area to achieve research objectives. A sample of 20 was selected using snowball sampling technique. Primary data collection methods of questionnaires and interviews were used. Police records, scholarly articles, and research articles were used as secondary data collection methods. Both qualitative and quantitative data analysis methods were used. SPSS software was used for statistical analysis, and thematic analysis was performed to analyse interview data. The results revealed that drug addicts were using social media frequently and hanging out with friends while most of them had no hobbies, most drug addicts' parents had low levels of education, most of those who became addicted to drugs came from low-income families, they had resorted to using drugs during various functions and outings or trips, most of them had turned to drugs because they were away from the direct supervision of their parents. The study recommends conducting drug awareness programs at school level, introducing laws relating to drug offences in Sri Lanka to school curriculum, and closely monitoring children by the parents or guardians to minimize drug addiction.

Keywords: *drugs addiction, school students, social problem*