

DRUG ABUSE AND ITS SOCIAL EFFECTS, CAUSES AND PREVENTION IN IRAQ: AN ANALYTICAL SOCIAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Drug abuse is one of the real problems confronting human societies today, especially in Iraqi society. This scourge threatens the society in an astonishing and unnatural way. We are approaching these developments and changes that affect us without knowing the extent to which they are being torn apart. The initial section presents the general framework of the study. It includes three parts: The first part deals with the importance of the research, definition of the problem, objectives, limitations, and the methodology used in the study and the required hypothesis. The second part deals with the recognition of scientific concepts and terms. The third part includes three sub-sections: The first section introduces the motives and causes of drug abuse, the second part presents consequences of drug abuse, the third one is about the treatment and control of drug abuse, followed by findings, and suggestions.

Keywords: Drug Abuse, Social Effects, Causes, Prevention, Iraq.

INTRODUCTION:

Drug abuse is a real threat to societies and it is one of the most complex problems facing today societies. It is not less dangerous than terrorism, because it affects all forms of social and economic activities: human health, and mental, psychological and social conditions. It may affect the security and stability of the community through the deviant behavioral distortions. There are close ties between drug abuse and crime of all kinds such as murder, theft, rape and smuggling, etc. It damages economy, as well. Drug abuse may stem from the poor capacity of society in production, lack of potential jobs, and low employment rate.

The growing number of drug abusers threatens all levels of society. No one is safe, and it will become more complicated when we take insufficient preventive and clinical means into account. This calamity is global, multilateral and severe. The abusers' population grew to 185 million people, based on the latest UN report in 2004. This figure was 5 million more than previous census in 2003. This amounts to 3% of the world's population, and demonstrates the intensity of the problem.

Due to the leakage of large quantities of drugs into Iraq, it is required to seek ways to restrict its prevalence and to treat the patients. Consequently, this study attempts to address the causes of the drug abuse, and the relevant preventive measures. This study aims to provide authorities with information which assists them in addressing the problem and protecting the society against its consequences.

STRUCTURE OF RESEARCH:

Research Problem: It is difficult to estimate the real number of drug abusers, since people are reluctant to declare themselves as addicts and the formal statistics represents only 10% of the real population. The nature of the problem is complicated in Arab societies because of political, religious and moral reasons. Lack of diagnosis and registration of drug addicts, as well as shortage of adequate health centers make available statistics unreliable.

A reason for the unknown dimension of the problem in Iraqi society is the absence of clinical facilities for addicts. On this basis, our study tries to answer the following questions:

-What factors lead to drug abuse?

-What is the role of the society and the competent authorities in dealing with this phenomenon?

THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH:

The severity of the phenomenon (drug abuse) necessitates the investigation of relevant factors and their impact on the behavior of the abusers from social, economic and productivity perspectives. The seriousness of this problem requires us to strive for all possible ways to access the basic information, and to enable authorities to develop an integrated program addressing the problem.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

1. We try to provide as much information as possible about this phenomenon and find ways to prevent drug abuse and treat its complications.
2. We intend to present the problem of drug abuse to our society, because the evidence indicates that Iraqi people are ignorant of the role drug abuse plays in social problems.
3. We warn the concerned authorities about the seriousness of the matter so that they may take precautionary and preventive measures.

METHODOLOGY:

An analytical-descriptive method was adopted, by collecting data and information from scientific sources. The collected data were analyzed and compared to the reality in which we live to devise effective preventive measures for drug abuse. In addition, we introduced a realistic approach towards research whose philosophy lies in accurate knowledge of the effects of drugs on social and personal lives.

DEFINING SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS AND TERMINOLOGY:

1. **Anesthetics:** It is any substance that enters the body of the organism and disrupts one or more of its functions. The word "anesthetic" in language is said to a substance that anesthetizes the body and taking it causes loss of sensation or consciousness.
2. **Drugs:** It is any substance of raw material or factory-made that contains alarming, hypnotic, analgesic or

hallucinogenic ingredients, and if swallowed by someone, they would become numb, confused, distracted, and unstable.

3. **Manufactured Drugs:** Drugs that are manufactured for medical purposes as therapeutic medications and their source is natural from cannabis plants, poppy and coca, such as morphine, heroin and codeine which are sedatives and are used medically. Their use turns into addiction in case of excessive use without consulting a doctor.
4. **Synthetic Drugs:** They are drugs made from chemical substances and do not contain any kind of natural drugs. These are sometimes called psychotropic substances which come in the shape of pills or tablets.
5. **Drug Abusers:** A drug abuser is a person who takes drugs at times when he/she willingly desires to use it to give him/her a kind of joy and delight or to forget the concerns and difficulties that he/she faces.

The scientific definition of drugs is those chemical substances that cause drowsiness, sleep or lack of awareness accompanied by pain relief (Abdel Salam, 2000). Also, drugs can be defined as compounds that affect the nervous system or the mind; whatever causes numbness and unconsciousness or changes the way of thinking and the personality of the person whom God honored and created in the best shape (Armosh, 1999).

"Drugs" in the Arabic language is the plural form of "Mukhaddir" which is referred to a substance that causes narcosis (Al-Mukhadderat, 1992) lethargy and laziness. Linguistically, it comes from the word "Khadar" that means "conceal" or "hold by" and that would also lead to mean "silence" and "laziness" (Manzoor, 2003).

However, the term drug according to foreign concepts means numbness, i.e. loss of sense and feeling, extinguishment, silence or exhaustion; in other words tired, languished and unable to move (al-Maqrizi, 2001).

The Concept of Drug Abuse:

Drug abuse is more than just an experience where the person takes drugs often for an internal mood problem, a health problem, certain stresses, curiosity, or searching for meaning to get to happiness or desire to feel fit among members of his or her group, and overtaking it leads to addiction.

Types of Drugs:

Drugs are classified according to their purity and production areas, and are divided into: 1) White drugs: which are composed of morphine, heroin and cocaine. 2) Black drugs: like cannabis and opium. According to their impact on the mental activity of the person and his mental state:

- *Inhibitors that include analgesics, hypnotics, sedatives.
- *Stimulants: include: amphetamine, Barbiturates
- *Hallucinogens: Include (LSD), (SD25), and mescaline.

Natural drugs

Those plants whose leaves, flowers and fruits contain an effective narcotic substance that leads to a complete or incomplete loss of consciousness (Musa, 1996).

These plants are as follows:

1. Cannabis plant: It was known as Hashish and was first cultivated in India for the use of fibers in the making of ropes, weaving fabrics, and sometimes used medically as analgesic, and may grow often innate without the need to intervene in the cultivation. It may consist of a narcotic substance and its derivatives and it is known in the United States of America as "marijuana".
2. Poppy plant or opium: A substance extracted from the plant opium poppy and sometimes called in Arabic by the name (the father sleep) derived from one of its main properties as causing sleep and drowsiness, and this plant and its derivatives are sedative drugs and sedatives cause sleep.
3. Coca plant: Coca bush as a plant was found in South America in Peru, Bolivia, Colombia and Chile, and then was moved to East and South Asia such as Sumatra, Ceylon and Indonesia. Its leaves are used to chew and misuse of cocaine is in many countries of the world.
4. Qat tree: grown in the north of Yemen, especially in the mountains of Sabir and some plantations in Sanaa, as well as cultivation in Abyssinia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zaire, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa. It is eaten by chewing and may be used by members of the Yemeni community constantly and is preferred even to the bread, because they believe that it is not harmful, in addition to its refreshing properties and a sense of friendship and does not push its users to the world of imagination (El Mahi, 1957).

Industrial/manufacturing drugs:

They are drugs made from natural drugs by various industrial means, derived from opium or derived from

cocaine leaves. Natural drug abusers may substitute for their moods and avoid penalties for original drugs for easy concealment or protest as real estate drugs used as prescription drugs. This group contains the following types (Christeh ,1999):

- Morphine: Made from opium derivatives in the form of white crystals or tablets, which is odorless and tasteless.
- Heroin: It has white powder color, bitter taste, and may sometimes take dark brown color because of the addition of some substances to it is a semi-synthetic derivative of morphine and is one of the most dangerous drugs in the world for the large number of users and the speed of addiction.
- Cocaine: Is extracted from opium and has ten effects if the quantities are equal. It is medically used to treat cough, and if misused it becomes addictive and is found as tablets or injections.

Synthetic drugs (artificial):

It has several labels, including psychological substances, psychotropic substances, etc. Most often take the form of pills, tablets or capsules. These chemicals are chemically manufactured as the primates of carbon, oxygen, hydrogen and nitrogen. It does not contain any kind of natural drug or its derivatives. When abused, the abuser has the same effects as natural drugs, and the most dangerous is addiction. Its types include: Hypnotic drugs, Calming drugs, LSD drugs.

Through our presentation of the drugs we see that it is a devastating scourge of the human mind and its entity and its creation and behavior, so we advise to avoid abuse because of its harm to the individual and family and society. It is forbidden to use according to Islamic law through the book of the Holy Quran, the Hadith of the Prophet , and the views of jurists, as well as natural law and positive law as a punishable offense.

Motivation, Causes and Effects of Drug Abuse:

The use of drugs is a deviation from social values and customs, traditions and behavior that are common in society, as well as a departure from the Islamic religion, which considered the use of drugs as legitimate taboos and put a limit to those who use them, as well as the legislation that prevented the cultivation, trafficking or abuse of drugs. These acts are considered as illegal and punishable by law with a severe penalty of up to death. So what are the motives and causes of drug abuse and to overcome all these taboos? The causes of drug abuse are due to several factors, including:

First: Family Upbringing for Children: Parents are the key of life for children, deriving compassion, love, warmth, security and safety. According to the education and social scientists, the family formation of children is an effective factor that influences the personality of children directly or indirectly.

Family formation is: (the educational process in which children are taught the stages of their growth regarding behavior, thinking and feelings that satisfy civilization and the environment they are living in). The parents also have the role to teach their children how to gain the concepts of social values and standards and the philosophy of life , in addition to the development of skills related to mental health and personal and social harmony, which makes the children feel their importance and self-confidence.. And Allaah says created for you from among yourselves wives to dwell in, and make between you affection and mercy, there are signs for those who think." The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "Honor your children and improve their politeness"

It was found that there is a relationship between unstable family and the formation of negative attitudes among the family members, including drug abuse. We will discuss some studies related to the family and the socialization of children, which were considered the main cause and the great motivation for their children to abuse drugs.

Cheyne's study explained that the family conditions are the cause for the children towards deviation. The study showed that the economic deprivation of the family, unemployment, low level of education and overcrowded housing are factors associated with juvenile delinquency. A large proportion of them were found to be drug users, and there was similarity in the poor family conditions of juvenile delinquents and drug addicts.

Gluek's study, which created a relationship between juvenile abuse and family upbringing, highlighted that the proportion of crimes committed by parents, grandparents, brothers of delinquents and drug abusers is higher than that of fathers, grandparents, brothers of non-delinquent and non-abusers. Eleanor and Sheldon noted that juvenile delinquents, the perpetrators of perverse behavior, are often families with no parents, family disintegration due to divorce or abandonment, child abuse by parents and lack of commitment to family values, The homes in which they live, the disintegration of their property, the lack of control and the lack of

entertainment within the family.

The study of Wilson: The factors that cause the abuse of drugs, including (absence of the role of parents in the supervision and care of the behavior of their children as the abuse of drugs in children closely linked to the lack of parental control of their children and not asking where and when they go and they do not know where their children are most of the nights.

In our analysis of these studies we find that it is necessary for the family to be an example of all its actions to immunize its children because the child has a desire to imitate whether their parents or friends. If the father is a drug addict then the child has a desire to imitate. This is supported by psychologists and educators who call the cause of abuse and frustration and scientists may emphasize the psychology of the user and the needs of the value of the unsaturated, the child needs love and affection and parental care, if the relationship with parents was disturbed the child will start to go towards deviation.

Second: The Personal Factors of Drug Users:

The personality traits of the person being abused can be learned through psychoanalysis and personal studies. According to psychologists, they have classified the personality into a mature person, a sexualized person, a repressed self and a distressed personality, also the normal and moody personality. Each of these characteristics has their own behavior according to internal and external influences. If we take the stage of personal maturity, we see that the person who looks for himself and his role in life independently, so as not to take from his father role models as in the past, but it takes a historical figure or political leader or famous singer role model, trying to imitate his behavior.

The person, whose personality is worried and ravaged and faces difficulties in dealing with life, tries to escape from this reality. As well as the person who is imposed by the conditions cannot handle, turns from a natural person to a person who is sick due to the repeated pain that is exposed to it, which leads to the weakness of its own abilities and unable to control the emotions and suppression of feelings and behavior, including social relations and behavior, and sources of pain have different reasons : It may be mental and personal like a serious illness or a painful accident, or a major loss in a business transaction, or loss of position. Psychological trauma is a key factor in dealing with and alleviating this phenomenon. Commitment to patience and consideration of this thing as a fate and unavoidable, and reminding of the book of God Almighty, by saying: "Let us show you some fear, hunger and lack of money, souls, fruits and virtue those who have patience." Verse: 155 of Surat Al-Baqarah.

Third: Social Factors:

The social variables contribute to the phenomenon of drug abuse. These variables include the increase in the population, the emergence of the problems of urbanization and the opposing ideologies, the growth of the means of communication between citizens, the ideological differences, the increase in the rates of family disintegration, and the rule of individualism, marginalization and alienation. Thus, deviation has become more than an individual behavior or a psychological or biological phenomenon. Some are civilized as a drug abuse, because the person has lost the social values, customs and traditions that have been raised on them. These habits have become unsuitable for the new social phenomena that he is living in addition to moving away from the religious zeal which espouses values, Vice-by-side work.

The sudden change in social values and the taking of a new form in the way of life and the result of several factors due to rural-urban migration, sudden wealth, industrial abuse rather than agriculture, too much population momentum, changing working pattern and lack of knowledge of the culture of the new environment and its impact on family cohesion its members struggle between the new style of life and the style of the old life was a positive factor in the deal to escape the family members of this sudden change.

Fourth: Groups That Person Belongs to (Friends - School - Work):

Young people are always under pressure from friends, and those pressures are aimed at subordinating them to the rules of the group so that they are acceptable. The closer the children are from the age of independence, the pressure of friends is stronger and their influence on beliefs and behavior and the way of confusion and even mood. These pressures encourage young people to imitate their friends in normal and wrong behavior, because these children are in the process of developing and seeking the principles of belonging to the group, so they tend to compete the older ones and this leads to their acceptance as a result of pressure on them.

Mannheim noted in his study (Monnheim, 1994) that cultural factor and the group of friends play a prominent role in the formation and use of drugs. The prevalence of social events and adolescent and youthful views are attributed to his abusive partner, and he feels important and wants to imitate him. Studies have shown that

friends play an important role in stimulating abuse. And that bad companion is a base for deviation. The Holy Prophet (PBUH) warned us of the importance of companionship in shaping the behavior of a Muslim by saying: "But if you are like the good and the bad one, like the owner of the musk, either he guides you, or you buy from him, or you find a good wind from him. You find a malignant wind)) (27). He said (r): ((do not accompany only a believer and eat your food only pious)) (Abu Dawood, Abu Dawood, Al-Sunan).

Fifth: The Weakness of the Religious Clergy and its Association with Drug Abuse:

Islamic societies must uphold the principles of Islamic law and guide the members of society to adhere to them, apply them and enforce them, and law enforcement helps spread drugs and abuse.

The weakness of religious and moral fortunes makes individuals prey to psychological crises, which in turn is one of the causes of abuse. Religious fortification creates the individual on the truth and faith and the safety of the application of the orders of God Almighty, and who is immune to the Islamic religion can distinguish between what is allowed and what is forbidden.

Six : Policies and wars:

The British-Chinese war in 1942 was caused by the spread and export of opium to China through the British colony at the time (India) until it became the scourge of society for the large number of abuse of different popular groups.

Britain used the same method in Yemen, encouraged the introduction and cultivation of drugs, and they were keen to provide it to citizens by aircraft from Ethiopia and Kenya, until it spread in Yemen instead of coffee trees.

Israel's prominent role in its wars with the Arabs in the spread of drugs in Egypt, and in southern Lebanon, where cannabis cultivation was discovered after the liberation, is an accusation.

It is regrettable at the international level that some countries, for political purposes, are aware of the magnitude of the damage caused by addiction to abuse by promoting their trade to their neighbors or enemies, either directly or through complacency and indulgence for the purpose of internal demolition. Narcotics are directed bombs that affect the principles of the nation and its values, so the drug trade is linked to the political status of the state and the nature of its relationship with its neighbors. Wars increase the availability, spread and abuse of drugs, as a means of financing the war as it is in Afghanistan. The financing of the fighters is one of the drug trade and cultivation in that country, and the civil wars in Lebanon have contributed to the spread of cannabis cultivation. If we take our country (Iraq) as a matter of practice, we see that until recently was clean of drugs according to international reports, but the reality has changed after the occupation in 2003, which is now a target for the promotion of drugs and the dissemination of toxins as a result of occupation and security and lack of control.

Resulting in the diversion of large quantities into the country from neighboring countries. Iraq has been a transit point only for drugs from producing countries to trading and drug-dealing countries, but the evidence suggests that it is now in the role of abusers in a remarkable way and became a hotbed of the epidemic. According to official information provided by the Ministry of Interior for the period from 1/5/2004 to 1/11/2004, quantities of prohibited drugs were seized, including drugs 5, 586 kg of opium, 38 kg triac, 9703 narcotic pills. In addition to (Makki, 2007) promotion cases, (al-Sistani, 2009) smuggling, (Strain, 1995) abuse, and the Ministry confirmed that these seized substances do not exceed 10% of the quantities destined for smuggling and is determined to combat drugs and the resulting crimes. On November 8, 2007, the head of the Najaf Provincial Council told Al-Hurra TV that a six-acre farm had been discovered, in the Zarka area for drug cultivation (Najaf Provincial Council, 2007). We therefore believe that the issue needs to be addressed promptly and promptly to reduce this phenomenon.

The effects of drug abuse:

The problem of drugs is one of the most important problems faced by societies at present because of the severe effects on the health and behavior of the abuser and his family and affects the safety and security of society. It is also harmful to the economy, production and development. It may be a devastating pest for societies. To clarify this:

First: Social Impact

The fact that a drug user is a threat to the lives of others. It is an element of concern and disturbance to the security of society as it seeks to search for prey to theft, murder or rape. They practice illegal acts and ultimately lead them to become criminal characters who are hostile to society and know no path to their goals except through aggression. The crimes of violence, armed robbery, theft, rape and other crimes affect the security of

the society and the safety of its members, and cause chaos and instability.

And that abuse leads to repeated practice of criminal, immoral or immoral behavior. ICardi and Chambers found that 79 percent of the people surveyed were drug users with criminal records and 93 percent of them committed assault crimes to get money to buy drugs. (Chambers, 1992).

William Bloon, (1998), in his study of 1,500 addicts in New Orleans, found that 300 women were satisfied with the need to use drugs through prostitution 600 were robbing. 300 were doing drugs for a commission. 300 make their children to become perverts and commit non-social behavior as they spend their incomes and their families and wives to buy drugs.

It is clear from this study that there is a negative relationship between the abusers and the society, represented by the criminal behavior of murder, theft and lack of moral behavior, which is the decline to acts of prostitution and non-social behavior by spreading toxins to society through the promotion of drugs as well as family disintegration and its repercussions on society by making their children obnoxious. In our analysis of the social impact of abusers we can find the following:

- Drugs affect the social aspect of the individual and weaken his ability to adapt to society and lead to bad manners.
- The inability of the drug user to build successful social relations. The abuser becomes a person who is a deviant person who harms his family and society.
- The offender commits criminal acts that have bad social effects, such as crimes against morality and morals, and crimes of negligence, especially in traffic accidents, cars, murder, theft, etc.

Second: The adverse effects of drug abusers on family life:

The social effects of abuse on family life are many and varied:

Giving the bad example to the members of his family, where he buys drugs from the income of his strength and the strength of his children and his family, leaving them in hunger and deprivation, which may lead them to theft and begging, and may lead the wife to deviate to get her strength. Family money is wasted on the purchase of drugs, and this is reflected in the denial of education and health care to children. In this way, children feel neglected by their parents not to take responsibility and weaken them properly.

Loss of security in the family where the house is under constant inspection by the security services, looking for the drug abusers or illegal acts to be held accountable by law. The family feels insecure because the head of the abused family cannot protect them.

Misuse of abusers contributes to the disintegration of the family because of the abuse of his wife by beatings, quarrels, slander and libel in front of the children. This immoral behavior leads to divorce or abandonment, which helps to break apart and break up, thus increasing the manifestations of deviation.

Third: Implications for drug users:

- Drug abuse has negative effects on the health of the abusers with serious and sometimes fatal consequences. These diseases that affect the abuser include: Personality disorder, misconduct, selfishness and irresponsibility, and seems to have an incomplete personality.
- A loss of balance and a sense of stray mind and thinking.
- Lives in bad love and feels as a pariah of society and family.
- Causes serious physical diseases including hepatitis, brain damage, HIV / AIDS, tissue infections, clots of the limbs, heart and lung, skin ulcers.
- Drug abuse weakens the ability of abusers to recognize and control. On the will and push for the practice of all kinds of deviation from the killing, theft, rape, corruption and vice and deviation in behavior and ethics.
- The loss of balance of thinking and movement exposed to traffic accidents, whether the leader of a car or a road passing.
- Neglecting his family and all his duties and the deterioration of his social level, with the emergence of behavioral deviations in contempt of moral values and social controls.

Fourthly: Abuse causes economic and productivity damage:

The habit of using drugs causes economic and productivity damage to both the individual and the society. The individual who uses these toxins (drugs) takes a large part of his income to buy them and since their prices are very high, it affects his individual income and exhausts his economic life.

The study, conducted in Yemen, found that using drugs takes 13% of the household income and comes second after eating in terms of expenditure (Chambers, 1988). The drugs cause countries significant economic damage to

their spending for prevention, control, treatment and services to users who have been placed in prisons for food, clothing and care. The treatment of drug addicts in Canada, France and America has cost very much up to 40% of the total expenditure of health services. And the cost of treatment of drug addicts and alcohol alone amounted to billion dollars, according to the report of the US Department of Health, which was published in 1985.

CONCLUSIONS:

Despite the efforts made to fight against drugs, it is disturbing that the spread of the scourge is increasing day by day. The phenomenon of drug abuse affects the security, safety and stability of society, because it is linked to various types of crimes like murder, theft and rape. The possibility of the state is limited and low efficiency of its agencies and the small amount of technical assistance from countries make them paralyzed to face the problem. The illegal spread of drugs and drugs on the black market pose a threat to the society if abused, especially narcotic, sedative, stimulant or hypnotic ones. The infection of the user to different diseases, most dangerously AIDS, hepatitis and tuberculosis, may infect others. Poverty, displacement and unemployment increase the distortions leading to abuse, and therefore require the development of solutions to address these problems. Wars have a major role in the spread of drugs, because of disorder and lack of control over borders with countries that encourage drug dealers to increase their activities.

Iraq is surrounded by countries that produce, cultivate and promote drugs, countries like Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey and the Persian Gulf countries, which making it vulnerable to illegal drugs as a transit route.

SUGGESTIONS:

After we know the causes and motives of abuse, and the great destructive damage it causes to the individual and society, we had to find solutions to address these causes to eliminate the problem as follows:

parents are role models for their children, because children mimic their parents in actions and movements, parents with good morals and values and social customs derived from religion, in addition to adherence to the teachings of Islam and the application of the book of God Almighty and the Prophet Muhammad, Wife and children of all kinds of deviation including abuse. Parents have a responsibility to nurture and raise children in different lifestyles, to instill confidence in them, to be strong and self-reliant and to avoid all forms of taboos.

Encouraging children to engage in activities, hobbies and sports, such as painting, spinning, fishing, reading, using computers, singing, collecting stamps, visiting museums, photography, chess, football, table etc . And giving them opportunities .

The father should maintain the cohesion of the family in visiting relatives and participate in trips and tourist trips.

To explain to the children the nature of the drugs and their harm to the individual, family and society.

To teach the children the acumen and self-reliance and how to deal with bad friends and listen to their views and be patience and compassion with them.

Adhering to the religious teachings and Sunnah of the noble Prophet, and instilling these values in the children gives them good immunity.

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