

Influence Of Narcotics With Special Reference To Kerala State In India

Dr. Sreekumar D Menon

D Litt, PhD, Ed. D, MPhil, MSc, MBA, MS, MHRM, MA, MSW
PGDLL&AL, PGDMM, PGDPM& IR, PGDPC, PGDDM

Adjunct Faculty, LUC-MRC, Marian College (Autonomous), Kuttikanam, Idukki Dt, Kerala
(Former A G M, RTTC-BSNL, Trivandrum, Kerala).

Abstract:

In today's world the use of addictive substances is a global talk. Alcohol and drugs are the biggest menace facing Kerala today. Selling of liquor (madhyam) is an important source of revenue in Kerala. While UDF was in power in the state, the government almost reduced the selling of liquor, later when LDF came back to power, the state government re-opened more and more outlets for selling this liquor. The study points out that use of addictive substances is increasing day by day in children and youths of Kerala. It is spoiling the generations in this state in all aspects: physically, mentally and financially and youngsters are forced to isolate themselves from society. In their daily lives the consumption of drugs and addictive materials by youth and children is creating a terrible and pathetic situation without their knowledge. Future of the nation depends on its children; it is the responsibility of the society as a whole to allow them grow safely without the usage of narcotics. If the children go ahead with clear vision and aim, they can live with success throughout their life.

Keywords: Drug addiction, psychotropic substances, drug abuse, state, excise department, narcotics etc.

Date of Submission: 07-10-2025

Date of Acceptance: 17-10-2025

I. Review Of Literature:

Addiction is a neuro psychological disorder. For the drug users it is something that gives a state of pleasure/happiness. According to WHO this addiction can influence attitude, thought process, character, etc. From 2014 to 2024, Kerala State excise department seized 23,473 kg ganja, 20kg MDMA and other items worth about 844 crore rupees. It has been revealed that the use of synthetic drugs like MDMA, heroine etc. is increasing day by day. In general addiction can be classified in- to two categories:- first one is drug or substance addiction and second one is behavior addiction. Behavior addiction means some kind of addiction like love addiction, excessive television use, over working, denial etc. According to NDPS Act 1985(Narcotic Drugs &Psychotropic Substance act) ,5 controlled substances are there. They are Heroine (C21 H23 NO5), Cocaine (C17 H21NO4), Nicotine (C10H14 N2), Barbiturates (C12H12 N2O4), and Alcohol (several like CH4OH, C2H5OH etc.). In the olden days across the world maximum business was transacted for weapon selling/purchasing. Now it is replaced by drug/addictive substance business.

Priyanka et al (2016) in their studies revealed that adolescence is the age 13 or 14 were used as carriers for delivering the addictive substances and through these abusive substances destroying the human resources. Sellers of alcoholic items says drugs is one of the main sources of income for the state Government. Actually, the Government's major income sources are 3L, namely Liquor selling, Land transaction/dealing revenue and Lottery. Studies say that mainly six countries in the world are doing the drug peddling business. First three countries are called the golden crescent countries namely Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. The other three countries from the golden triangle are namely Myanmar (Burma), Thailand and Laos. Of course, some countries like US, UK etc. also have this drug problems. These substances are cultivated and produced illegally in some specific regions of the world including India.

The use of addictive substances is a problem across the world and a leading cause of untimely death. This global issue is responsible for millions of people's untimely deaths across this world. In the past one or two decades there is a rising trend in India about the usage of narcotic substances whether it is legal or illegal.

Let us go into the laws through which these drug/narcotic users are getting punishment. They are IPC 1860, CRPC 1972, Evidence acts 1972, NDPS Act 1985, POSCO act 2012&2020, Abkari act 1097 and COIPTA act 2003. In the past few years, the districts in which the most cases are registered, in descending order, are Trivandrum, Kollam, Idukki, Ernakulam, Malappuram and Calicut. Now Ernakulam has reached the top followed by Malappuram, Calicut, Pathanamthitta and Idukki. It is telling that one who consume this drug is getting

pleasure in body, happiness and enthusiasm. One who consumes drugs gets it pleasure in body and mind, becoming happy and enthusiastic.

We can classify these drugs in generally three categories. 1, **Natural** -drugs that one gets naturally from plants, herbs etc. Example Opium, Ganja etc. 2 **Synthetic**- artificially made by humans by mixing naturally occurring items. Example MDMA, LSD etc. 3. **Semi synthetic** – Natural and synthetic mix. Example steroids, heroin etc. As per NCB (Narcotic Control Board, a government organization) one who is not taking regularly may show withdrawal symptoms, regular usage turns to addiction. In Ganja itself about 100 chemicals are there, most important among these is THC- (Tetra Hydro Can aminol) which is a psycho active addictive.

Pant et al (2002) in their studies revealed that in smuggling and trafficking of drugs social and economic implications are involved. Smuggling and trafficking of drugs are also related to terrorism. The study pointed that funding of terrorism is created through smuggling of narcotic items which indirectly leads to political instability and threats to the nation.

Let us go to the types of punishment: -1 **Small quantity** -6 months imprisonment and Rs 10000 (ten thousand) fine. Quantity of the items are Ganja up to 999 gm, Brown sugar 5 gm, Opium 25 gm, Synthetic/ non-synthetic 0.005gm or ml. 2. **Medium Quantity**- 10 years' imprisonment and fine Rs one lakh (Rs 100000). Quantity of the items Ganja 1 kg to 20 kg, Brown sugar 5 gm to 250 gm, Opium 25 gm to 2.5 kg, synthetic/semi - synthetic items 0.005 to 0.1gm/ml.

3 **Commercial Quantity**- 10 to 20 years imprisonment and fine rupees two lakhs (Rs200000-). Quantity of items Ganja 20 kg and above, Brown sugar above 250 gm, Opium above 2.5 kg, synthetic/semi synthetic above 0.1gm/ml. Unfortunately, laws are in books and are usually never implemented strictly. But countries like Singapore and Australia are implementing these laws strictly and giving death penalty too.

As per the annual report of narcotics (2002) use of abusive substances is a menace to the entire mankind. Its threat affects societies and developing countries like India. Frank Elbe (1997) reported that drug producers launch aggression against human life, mankind and political and environmental systems.

From 2023 June to June 2024 according to the NDPS Act a total of 27,701 cases were registered throughout Kerala, out of which 85,00 cases were from Ernakulam district only. Next state having maximum number of cases is Punjab - 90,25 cases. In Punjab drugs are coming through Pakistan only. Some more statistics during 2025 in Kerala. Last January-February 63 murder were reported, out of these 30 were addiction related murders only. In Kerala during last four years (2021 to 2024) 87,101 drug related cases were registered. But from 2017 to 2020 (four years) 37228 cases were registered. This indicates that as years pass the number of drugs /addictions related of cases are increasing.

According to Shaiju Alfi, CEO Dale View, from de- addiction center at Trivandrum each month 150 to 300 cases are coming out, of that 80% are drug related. During February 22- nd to March 1 st (one week) an endorsement drive was conducted. In Kerala 2,762 drug related cases were filed and 2,854 peoples were arrested.

If we go through history, we will find that abusive substances like opium, ganjas and cannabis were used for religious as well as medical purposes. Initially these narcotics were used to get rid of pain and discomforts and to enhance the physical and mental capabilities. But innovation has led users into the world of mood-altering effects and the world of fantasy. A report from UN drug control program in 2001 shows that 3% of the entire population in the world is using these abusive substances for medical and religious purposes.

The cost of abusive substances worldwide is calculated above one thousand billion dollars (one dollar means about 88 Indian rupees) in a year according to a bulletin from UN commission on narcotics. The amount involves costs for law enforcement, service charge, handling of accidents and crimes, treatment, and loss of productivity. This report appeared in New Delhi edition of times of India dated 23-4-1996.

In Kerala all districts have Government de- addiction centers are available, which are absolutely free where as in private centers thousands to lakhs are charge as treatment fees.

The neighboring state of Tamil Nadu has fewer narcotics related cases were registered compared to Kerala. Kerala is ranked number one estate in India for substance abuse and narcotics. A lot of studies have been conducted in Kerala regarding the consumption pattern. One study revealed that out of 402 students in Kerala 31.8% (128 students) either used alcohol, smoked or chewed pan. In a leading daily of Kerala, a report came on 25-3-2025. Kerala excise department conducted a survey by collecting samples from six hundred people from three "Vimukthi de- addiction centers" from Trivandrum, Ernakulam and Calicut. The report says that - (a) 70% started consumption between the age of 10-15 years. (b) 78% started to consume because of mere curiosity. (c) 80% started taking ganja(cannabis) with friends for the first time. (d) 39.83% had repented for taking this addictive. (e) 16.6% were charged for crime under the influence of narcotics. (f) 97% who were charged with criminal cases used drugs at least once in a day. (g) 50% of the respondents consumed drugs more than two times.

The consumption of drugs and addictive materials by youth and children in their daily lives is creating a terrible and pathetic situation without their knowledge. Consumption or use of addictive material creates damages to an individual's health and, mental state in addition to destroying family relationships and, social peace, causing financial difficulty and, physical and mental negligence from others, isolation from the society, job loss, making

injury to the family and society, losing decision- making ability, creating mental tension in parents and collapse/break down of relatives' status. The use of these addictive substances affects the sensing power, study efficiency, health condition of the children besides contributing towards a sense of intolerance and isolations for parents and leading to unwanted friendships for children.

Some other consequences of the consumption of abusive substances are economic burdens, disturbance in family environment, psychological problems and violence.

It is observed that a lot of reasons are there for children to take drugs and addictive substances. Some among them are (1) Lack of self-awareness and confidence (2) No aim or goal setting. (3) Peer group pressure. Children are generally unaware of their brain's capacity, power of the eye, pumping capacity of the heart, muzzle strength etc. They are taken away by the quality of the food and the dress, but they do not look in to the quality of the education they receiving.

Importance has to be given to Programs for social awareness, teaching at school level, Parents leading and directing help desk programs etc. Such steps are necessary to weed out and eradicate this terrible menace from our society. From the childhood itself proper goals have to be set for the children.

During my childhood, I have got beatings from my school teacher. Those days teachers have full authority over students. Nowadays one cannot imagine students getting punished by teachers like earlier. Parent's may file cases in various judiciary forums against the school and teacher. This is one of the reasons why the addiction among school children is growing rapidly. If the teachers get back the old power and parents check the school bags when the children come back, to some extent this dangerous usage of drugs/abusive substances can be reduced.

Future of the nation depends on children; it is the responsibility of the society as a whole to allow them to grow safely without the usage of narcotics. They must grow with goal setting in their mind. If parents give attention and care to the children, they will not go in bad company of narcotic users. Children should get a feeling that their parents are their protectors who will safe- guard them in all situations. If parents make a hug once in a day the children will get a feeling of security. If the children go ahead with clear vision and aim, they can live with success throughout their life. Going to spiritual places (say temple, church, masjid etc.) has an influence among people to reduce /stop the use of these dirty drug /narcotics use.

For person who are interested to stop the usage of narcotics, an organization named "Alcoholic Anonymous" will support them. About 87,000 such groups are available across the world spread in 150 countries." Alcoholic anonymous" is a book written by Bill Wilson. In this book Bill Wilson suggests 12 ways addicts to get rid of their addiction. International de-addiction day is on June 26. We, the generations as a whole have to take an oath that we will never misuse these abusive items in our life.

Objectives of the study:

The objectives of this study are the following

- (1) To know how narcotics and drug abusive materials influence the children and youth in Kerala.
- (2) To understand the impact of this abusive substance, use in Kerala.
- (3) How to regulate/control the uses and save the youth and children of Kerala.

Statement of the problem:

The use of (legal or illegal) narcotics items is a menace to the growth of the human resource across the world. This study is a small attempt to explain how this dirty substance/material influence the youth and children in Kerala.

II. Methodology:

The responses of all levels of people including teenagers, youths, house hold members and senior citizens were taken, however, majority responses are from teenagers and youths. The details were collected as a random sampling over phone across the state of Kerala. Simple statistics tool is used to analyze the data. The survey was conducted among 200 respondents. Both ladies and gents participated in the survey.

Analysis and Interpretation of Data

1 Based on Age

Age group	No of respondents	Percentage	cumulative
10-25 Yrs	60	30	30
25-40 Yrs	90	45	75
40- 55 Yrs	30	15	90
Above 55	20	10	100

45% of the respondents are in the age group of 25-40 yrs and 30% belongs to 10-25 yrs group.

2 Classification based on Gender

Gender	Number of respondents	Percentage	cumulative
male	120	60	60
female	80	40	100
total	200	100	100

60% percent of the respondents are male.

3 Classification based on Education

Education level	No of respondents	Percentage	cumulative
Up to class X	24	12	12
+2, PDC, Polytechnic, ITI etc.	66	33	45
Degree	60	30	75
Above degree	50	25	100

33% of the participants are +2 ,30% degree level and 25% above degree level.

4 Based on family members

Number of members	Number of respondents	percentage	cumulative
3-5	188	94	94
6-8	8	4	98
9-11	4	2	100

94% of respondents have family with 3-5 members.

5 Marital Status

status	No of respondents	percentage	cumulative
Married	90	45	45
Unmarried	110	55	100

45% of the respondents are married.

6 Based on employment

Type of respondent	No of respondents	percentage	cumulative
student	120	60	60
Employee (Govt, Pvt,self-employed)	50	25	85
Un employed	26	13	98
Pensioner	04	02	100

60% of the participants are student and25% employed

7 Have you used abusive substances once in your life?

No of respondents	Yes	NO	Not applicable (NA)
200	90	50	60
percentage	45	25	30
Cumulative percentage	45	70	100

45% of the participants have used the abusive substance once in their life.

8 Have you used drugs other than those required for medical use.

No of respondents	Yes	NO	Not applicable (NA)
200	75	65	60
percentage	37.5	32.5	30
Cumulative percentage	37.5	70	100

37.5% of the participants agree that they used drugs other than for medical use.

9 Are you able to stop using drugs when you want to do?

No of respondents	Yes	NO	Not applicable (NA)
200	20	130	50
percentage	10	65	25
Cumulative percentage	10	75	100

65% Of the participants have the opinion that unable to stop the usage of drugs when we wish .

10 Do you ever feel bad or guilty about your drug use?

No of respondents	Yes	NO	Not applicable (NA)
200	80	45	75
percentage	40	22.5	37.5
Cumulative percentage	40	62.5	100

40% of the respondents felt guilty in their drug use.

11 Do your parents /spouse were complained about your involvement with abusive substances?

No of respondents	Yes	NO	Not applicable (NA)
200	88	50	62
percentage	44	25	31
Cumulative percentage	44	69	100

44% of respondents' parents /spouse complained about the respondent's involvement with abusive substance (56 % of the additives)

12 Have drug abuse created problem between you and your spouse?

No of respondents	Yes	NO	Not applicable (NA)
200	80	50	70
percentage	40	25	35
Cumulative percentage	40	65	100

40 % of the respondents have informed that addictive use created problems with their spouse (that is 44.4% of the married respondents)

13. Have you tried to stop consuming abusive substances?

No of respondents	Yes	NO	Not applicable (NA)
200	75	80	45
percentage	37.5	40	22.5
Cumulative percentage	37.5	77.5	100

Out of 90 users 75% tried to stop consuming addictive substances.

14 Did your family neglected you for consuming abusive substances?

No of respondents	Yes	NO	Not applicable (NA)
200	85	65	50
percentage	42.5	32.5	25
Cumulative percentage	42.5	75	100

94.4% of the family (90 users) are neglected the user.

15 Did you faced any medical problems (like memory loss, hepatitis etc.) as a result of your drug use.

No of respondents	Yes	NO	Not applicable (NA)
200	18	57	125
percentage	9	28.5	62.5
Cumulative percentage	9	37.5	100

24% of the (out of 75 users) consumers undergone medical problems as a result of addiction

16 Did you got a feeling that time is short for other works due to addiction

No of respondents	Yes	NO	Not applicable (NA)
200	16	59	125
percentage	8	29.5	62.5
Cumulative percentage	8	37.5	100

21.3% of the drug users getting a feeling that time is short for doing other work

17 Are you neglecting your family due to addiction?

No of respondents	Yes	NO	Not applicable (NA)
200	30	45	125
percentage	15	22.5	62.5
Cumulative percentage	15	37.5	100

40% of the substance users neglecting their family due to addiction

All students who used addictive substances told that they (in descending order) 1. Lost concentration for their studies, 2. Lost their Aim/Goal ,3. Lost good friends,4. Experiences isolation in the society, 5. Got blamed by their relatives and friends, 6. Had Financial problems,7. Experienced mental satisfaction and an increased tendency for criminal activities.

During the conducting of the survey a few general questions were asked to the respondents.

From the responses we came to know the following. Majority of the students got addicted to substance abuse while residing in hostels. Majority started using drugs in their adolescence time. Substance abuse is more in boys than in girls. Suicidal ideation is less in girls. Majority of the addicted children's mothers are house wives. School based programs and policies can reduce the addiction to an extended level.

III. Findings:

1. 75% of the respondents are in the age group of 10 to 40 years.
2. 60% of the participants are male and 40 % are females.
3. 12% of the participants studied up to class X, 33% up to plus two and 55% degree and above degree.
4. 94% of the participants family have 3-5 members.
5. 45% of the participants are married.
6. 60% of the respondents were students, only 25% have employment.
7. 45% of the participants used abusive substance once in their life.
8. 37.5% of the participants used abusive substances other than medical use.
9. 65% of the respondents unable to stop using drugs when they want to stop, 10% can able to stop.
10. 40% felt guilty about their drug use.
11. 44% of the parents /spouse complained about their (drug users) involvement in abusive substance use.
12. 44% of the married respondents told that using of abusive substance created problem with their spouse.
13. 75% of the users tried to stop the use of the addictive substances.
14. 94% of the addictive users were neglected by their family for consuming abusive substances.
15. 24% of the users undergone medical problems as a result of addiction.
16. 21.3% of drug users were getting a feeling that time is short for doing other work.
17. 40% of addictive users neglecting their family due to addiction.
18. Loss of concentration for study, lack of aim/goal and friends, isolation in societies, increase of expenses - are some of the additional ill effects due to the use of abusive materials.
19. Majority of the people who got students addicted were staying in hostel, started drug use in their adolescents and abusive use is more in boys than girls.

Bibliography And References:

- [1]. Pant MS& Rad DN" Dimensions And Implication Of Drugs Trafficking And Abuse In India". Social Reference Vol 53 ,2002, P 6
- [2]. Crime India 1994-Ministry Of Home Affairs, Govt Of India, New Delhi, P334
- [3]. Times Of India Daily Dated 2-3-1994, New Delhi
- [4]. Mathrubhoomi Malayalam Daily TVM Edition 25-3-2024
- [5]. Frank Elbe" The Scrooge Of Drugs "In Global Drug Law, New Delhi 1997, P34
- [6]. Narcotic Control Board Annual Report, Govt Of India 2002 P26
- [7]. Priyanka, Sharma & Akita "A Study On Adolescent Drug Abuse In India". American International Journal Of Research In Humanities, Art And Social Science 2016, ,15(2) P119-121