

CHAPTER- II

PROBLEM OF DRUG ADDICTION IN INDIA, NATURE, AND SPREAD OF DRUG ABUSE AND ITS SOCIOLOGICAL IMPLICATION

2.1 Introduction:

Drug addiction has become one of the serious problems not only in India but all over the World. 26th June of every year is celebrated as the "World's Drug-Free Day" but the number of drug addicts is increasing day by day with a steady lowering of the age at which drugs are taken in India. In the late 80s minimum age of taking drugs or becoming addicts was found to be 28 but recently, several studies have found that the age group has fallen to 15. In metropolitan cities, alcohol consumption starts at the age of 13. The situation is getting worse day by day; it is like a tide of drug addiction emerging in India. It has become one of the serious problems in India because youth are getting immersed in drug addiction behavior rapidly.

Drug abuse and addiction is a global issue and a big social problem as well. Although drug came into existence as an object of medicinal use but now, in contemporary society it has become a leading business involved in abusing the younger generations not in a particular country but all over the World. Behind the business of drugs, the ideologies which govern the political economy of a nation, is working continuously to increase drug abuse and addiction. Based on this, drug dealers are driving themselves towards profit maximization irrespective of business ethics, whether society is getting benefits from the product or generations are falling under the influence of drugs, they do not bother themselves with these issues. The drug business is considered World's third-largest business and a great social concern nowadays (World Drug Report,

2019). Drugs once credited with their strange ability to cure the untreatable diseases, to provide the working ability to the soldiers even to the animals (especially horses) during the war fields (as an anaesthetic), helped in major surgeries which were unbelievable in those days. The medicinal benefits of drugs have been taken over at present and it has become a serious menace facing the world.

To understand drug abuse and addiction behavior we need to know its history precisely. It is not a new phenomenon; there is a long history of natural drugs, a history of immemorial times. History depicts how the usage of drug had changed along with time and how the experiment makes it so complex and problematic for society. Starting from the beginning, the emergence of drug occurred medicinally or therapeutically to cure different diseases but we must keep one thing in our mind that the use of drugs varies with the culture and practices of a particular society or region or a community. Natural toxicants are the earliest drugs known to the human race especially, poppy (opium) and hemp. These drugs have been used since immemorial times to get relief from different diseases and hard realities. At the beginning of 4000 B.C. the Assyrian physicians have used drugs and they were very much aware of the usages of these natural drugs (Al-Badainah, 1995 cited in Sarkar, 2001).

In earlier civilizations, drugs were treated positively and were considered as a medicinal plant that could cure diseases and as a means of enjoyment or recreation. It was conceived as a grace of God; it had the properties which help to get vicinity to God. People used to place these plants (poppy) after mixing with food to their God in every sacred occasion and then they had it as a favour. Among the ancient Sumerians, opium was popular in the name of 'Gil' which means 'rejoice' or a plant of 'joy'. Usages and knowledge of drug travelled and was borrowed by many civilizations,

from one another. Babylonians borrowed the knowledge from Sumerians and passed it to Persia and Egypt (Modi and Modi, 1997).

The knowledge of drug usage started in Greece and then moved to Rome. Greek philosopher and writer Homer, in his poem „The Illiad“ (8th century) has made extensive reference to opium as a way or remedy to forget the sense of evil, pain and to produce delight and satisfaction (on the Trojan War). Greece and Rome both have used opium to cure several diseases and provided services to different patients. After the use of opium in a medicinal sense, Romans and Greeks started mixing the poppy seeds with food and offered that food to their deity in every sacred occasion. In this way, it created a religious sentiment and background of using the drug in every holy occasion. Al-Biruni (973-1051 A.D.) was the first who wrote on cannabis and opium, from the writings of Al-Biruni it is evident that Arabians first started using sleeping properties of cannabis and opium (Modi and Modi, 1997).

2.2. History of Drug Trade and Trafficking:

The history of Drugs has two dimensions in its evolution and its usages globally. First, drugs, especially opium, emerged for its medicinal purposes which has the power of healing many diseases and were used in religious (sacred) occasions as well. Secondly, drug emerged as a psychotropic substance to abuse, trade and to get profit. The first portion has been discussed above, now we are going to discuss the second purpose of the evolution of drug. This part has a direct relation with the current drug addiction, lots of research is being undertaken on the second dimension which has assumed alarming proportions. We need to discuss it very precisely and carefully because the second purpose is responsible for today’s scenario and the spoiling of the future of young generations along with different social problems. It is also important to focus on, why and how this drug abuse came into existence and has become a

recognized social problem, why drug abuse came into the light of research as an epidemic.

Arabians were the first who started the systematic use of cannabis. They used it for its psychoactive substances and sleeping properties of cannabis. South American-Indians have used Cocoa plants for religious hallucinations. Purposes shifted from sacred to business, religious performances to trafficking. In earlier days, drugs or intoxicants were not treated as harmful but in the 19th century when morphine, codeine, and heroin were discovered, since then societies started to realize that, intoxicants are harmful to the human race globally. It became harmful because the purpose had been shifted, more and more researches on drug particles started and continuous effort has been made by different scientists to discover more powerful particles of drugs. In the 20th century when Amphetamine, LSD, Methadone, Fentanyl and other synthetic drugs were discovered, the propensity for drug consumption, distribution, trafficking increased rapidly and created an alarming situation which threatens to destroy the future of all nations. Many drug wars were experienced by different nations and drugs started disseminating rapidly (Annual Report of Drug Enforcement Administration, 2019).

Arabians first introduced the medicinal usage of drugs into Europe in the 19th century and it became prevalent at the beginning of the 20th century all over Europe. In traditional China poppy cultivation was legalized and as a result of lax rules a huge amount of poppy used to be produced in China (Sarkar, 2001). Due to its legalization and profit, England (Great Britain) forced China to produce poppy for them which led to the first opium war in 1840. England won the war and the situation of China started to deteriorate due to the rapid opium smoking culture amongst youth. United States of America and France grabbed the opportunity of the drug business in China (Shanghai,

Foochow, Amoy, Canton, and Ningpo). China became the free market of opium and from here, the circulation of opium started all over the world. However, in 1853 China became independent in terms of opium production and it succeeded in preventing foreigners from the opium trade (Wijngaart, 1989).

Vietnam War is another war that was widely responsible for drug addiction culture all over the world. America invaded Vietnam in the second half of the 20th century whatever the causes were but the consequences faced by the whole world took the form of a culture of drug abuse and addiction. During this war the American government forced soldiers to take part in adventurous life in Vietnam which was full of sex and drug, although soldiers were averse to it; the American government left no choice for them. They had to lead bohemian life in Vietnam for a long time which generated a sense of alienation. Soldiers were directed by the incumbent state not to keep any sort of contact with their respective families. Hence, to avoid the pain of living life without a family they started using drugs. Gradually, soldiers became addicted to drugs (especially Morphine) because morphine was supplied by the higher authority to the soldiers only to keep them in bohemian life (Terry and Pellens, 1970). This nomadic life created a new culture that has got prominence and gradually eventuated in the name of 'Hippie culture' (this means, a group of people who have acquired all the features of American soldiers' bohemian life style although there are addition of purposes like, religious sentiments attached to some groups, or some of the groups realised the way they should utilise their freedom of life and lead a nomadic life by escaping the existing mainstream norms, rules, or a structured social life, et cetera). This study has focused only to refer drug consumption of hippies as their cultural practice.

This culture was introduced in many parts of the world and this signifies the growing number of addicts in most of the nations. America was the first nation that experienced the drug epidemic due to its actions. During the American civil war, soldiers were treated with morphine which has addictive substances. Consequently, soldiers became addicted to morphine; the situation was called „horror of soldier’s disease“ (Bellis, 1981). An attempt has been made by citing this culture only to establish a linkage about how the problem of drug addiction and a growing number of addicts played a vital role in a developed nation which was initiated intentionally and gradually eventuated as a trait of a culture and a threat as well for the future generations.

Singapore was one of the countries which started operating on drug activities during the Second World War. It operationalized its drug trafficking activity through syndicates and few syndicates were there to run this business of drug trafficking. During the Second World War, it got prominence and within a few years, it was banned (1952) by the government of Singapore (Sarkar, 2001). Drug syndicates did their business through water routes by sailing regularly to different nations, especially on the coast of the Persian Gulf, India, Burma (Myanmar) and Thailand. Singapore also supplied drugs to South Malaya, Borneo territories and Indonesia.

In the 19th century the demand for morphine increased in America due to its easy accessibility, people could access morphine without any prescription and it was popularised as 'sedative for coughs' (Bellis, 1981). It created a huge demand for morphine in the United States of America. The demand for different drugs increased due to the growing popularity of hippie culture among the masses in Vietnam (Sarkar, 2001). This demand attracted and created new suppliers, producing centres and traffickers with trafficking routes. Here, South-East Asia and South-West Asia played

a vital role in producing, supplying and trafficking of drugs. As discussed earlier, in the 19th-century morphine, heroin and codeine got so much popularity that, the demand for different drugs increased globally and the demand was satisfied by these two border areas of India. Firstly, South-East Asia mainly Thailand, Myanmar, and Laos (Golden Triangle) started supplying to American soldiers who were in Vietnam. A major part of the golden triangle's production was supplied to satisfy soldiers' needs and the needs of other parts of the world. America imported drugs from the golden triangle via Turkey (McCoy et al., 1972). After the withdrawal of American soldiers from Vietnam, drug trafficking routes have been changed from South-East Asia to South-West Asia (that is Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran) which is called together Golden Crescent. South-West Asia started supplying drugs and these two drug-producing and supplying hubs started working via India.

2.3. Drug Scenario and Routes in South Asian Countries:

South Asian countries are important for drug-related activities due to their strategic geographical locations, and easy cross border communications. These nations are mainly developing and underdeveloped nations which means unemployment, poverty, crime rate, illiteracy, et cetera exist at a high rate and these factors influence people to engage in such drug-related activities and thus becomes prone to drug trade and trafficking as well. Traffickers and peddlers can easily grasp the market for their trade and trafficking due to the above-mentioned factors which influence the daily life of the inhabitants of these nations and in contemporary society we can see how these activities are impacting society in general. Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent operate their business through these nations because they can store, trade and smuggle a huge amount of drugs regularly and can amass a huge amount of profit by capturing local markets with the help of young adults (Pathak, 2005).

From administrative point of view, low supervision is another issue which provides safe zones for the traffickers and peddlers to run their trade smoothly. South Asian countries are economically unstable so that traffickers and peddlers can easily grasp the attention of youth and convince them to join this illegal unhealthy business. These are the major reasons and factors based on which these nations have huge numbers of drug addicts and widespread drug activities all around. Gradually, India became a major transit centre for drug trafficking and storing hub. Golden Crescent used to import and traffic drugs from Myanmar (Burma) through the Indian Territory (Sau et al., 2018). In this way, India became the most important transit point for storing, selling and a trafficking drug hub of the world. There is an addition with the golden triangle and golden crescent that is Nepal. From Nepal as well, drugs are smuggled into India to store and for distribution to other nations. India attracted visitors as it was famous for its peace and in the 20th century, it got popularity for its low cost of drugs as well (Flynn, 1993).

2.4. Prevalence of Drug Abuse and Addiction in Different Regions of India:

In India, drug-abuse started at the beginning of the 1960s and that was the time when visitors came to India not just for peace but also for the cheaper cost of drugs. We have come to know from the different earlier writings on drug that before the 16th-century drug was used in India for the sacred or religious purposes or medicinal usages but not as an abusing substance (Thapar, 1966; Modi, 1985). During British rule, India became the biggest market of opium to be exported to different nations of the World. In the 19th century, Britishers started to cultivate opium on a large scale. By exporting drugs to other countries Britishers tried to cut down their expenses or cost to import different goods and services in India and get profit as well. Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan became the major centres for the

cultivation of opium in India. Britishers compelled Indian farmers to cultivate opium and on the other hand, farmers were getting more profit than cultivating other seasonal crops. It became a source of employment for many Indians of the Northern part and that led to the huge production of opium in India (Ghosh, 2008). Drug abuse or the number of drug addicts increased rapidly due to its easy accessibility and the cheaper rate which makes this problem more vulnerable and multidimensional. This vulnerability was provoked by the New Economic Policy (NEP) which was initiated in the year of 1991 that emphasized Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization, along with the membership in World Trade Organization in the year 1993. These decisions made India open to the World economy and market which has been used by the drug dealers for their drug trafficking business in India.

In India, many states are suffering from the problem of drug abuse and addiction, example, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, and North-Eastern states, et cetera. Drug abuse and addiction vary based on different ethnic composition and regional proximity. Strategically important regions are very prone to drug-related activities. In India the rate of drug-related activities and the number of drug addicts are increasing day by day but if we have a look into the internal scenario of India, we could find, the drug activities and the number of addicts varies from one region to other or from one state to the other. India is a country that bears the feature of unity in diversity, several ethnic, religious, cultural groups live together and create a new form of culture which influences one to participate in one another's occasions (whether sacred or cultural). The juxtaposition of different religious, cultural, and ethnic groups makes it possible to get influenced and to participate in different holy occasions associated with drug activities. Different studies and reports suggest that drug-related activities and the number of drug addicts are different in different states. The number

varies from region to region, culture to culture, and ethnic group to ethnic group. Some states are very prone to drug-related activities and have a high number of drug addicts who are mostly youngsters but some states are not.

There are several studies conducted by many scholars who have showed that, several factors are responsible and associated with the drug cultural activities in different states of India (Charles et al., 1999; Chopra and Chopra, 1965). Here, we need to focus on the factors which influence drug related activities in a particular region that shares border whether national or international. It was already suggested that those states which have high activities of drugs and addicts are also the same as which have national and international borderlines. These states are very sensitive for drug activities because there are high cross border activities going on, which means easy availability and accessibility makes it more prone to have drugs easily. We could put Punjab as an example for the same as it shares its boundary with Pakistan which is an international border. There is a movie on Punjab which portrays drug activities by the youth and the name of the movie is „Udta Punjab“. There we can see; how cross border activities take place and makes the drug available and how easily those drugs are circulated to the teenagers along with the elders. Arunachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, North Eastern States, et cetera are the major states which have the highest rates of drug activities and the highest number of drug addicts (William, 2016).

The second influential factor is the cultivation of natural drugs and the introduction of synthetic ones. Although opium was cultivated first in France and Italy but in a gradual process it spread all over the world as time passed on. India has its long history in producing opium and it is continuing whether it is legal or illegal. Cultivation of opium first started during the period of Mughal emperor Akbar and it

generated huge profit in the form of revenues. Bengal and North-Eastern parts of India are the prominent places where the cultivation extensively took place. British Governor-General Warren Hastings was the first British official who took control of the cultivation of opium and established opium agent offices in different parts of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa. To control the cultivation, processing, and purchasing the government introduced 'The Bengal Regulation IV' in 1797 and later on „The Opium Act“, 1857 which started regulating interstate import and export (Kapur, 1985).

In 1961 the single convention on narcotic drugs organized by the United Nations which was held in New York and India became one of the signatory members of the United Nations Convention on Narcotic Drugs. Traditionally India was one of the major cultivators of opium all over the world but after independence, the farmers of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh got the license to cultivate opium and they needed to adhere to the rules and regulations imposed by the Government. So, India needs to follow the rules and regulations confirmed by the convention but repeated reports are coming out on the illegal production of poppy along with cannabis, marijuana in different states of India which are mainly West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, et cetera That is the basic and significant cause for the availability and accessibility of the drugs along with the growing number of addicts in different states of India (Charles et al., 1999; Roy and Rizvi, 1986; Kapur, 1985).

Third factor responsible for drug addiction and related activities in different states is based on the on-going social processes and social change. It is evident that when the social processes are at work or major changes are brought to any particular area then that becomes the crucial time because traditional norms, values and laws lessen their grip on individuals due to changing phase which brings tensions in life and creates

normlessness. These situations are very influential and provide an atmosphere for drug-related activities and addiction. Major social changes sharply impact the existing rules and regulations, norms, values, and practices of the members of the society. Some significant and major changes were marked in the north-eastern states of India which played a vital role in the emergence of drug culture in the region. These are, British Indian Administration, mining, deforestation, construction of railroads, implementation of national, social and cultural policies, judiciary, entry of army and military forces, and most importantly reorganization of states in the name of seven sisters which created a clear-cut sense of distinctiveness among the ethnic communities of this region. This created significant changes and tensions in the life of different ethnic communities. This is how the economic, socio-cultural, political, and historical scenarios of this region have changed and now provide a wider area for the use of drugs and related activities (Pathak, 2005).

Last but not the least factor is, traditional practices in which drug was the essential part of people's celebrations on different social occasions. Traditional activities play an important role in making drug a part of the culture which also lead people to experience different mood-altering substances in different occasions. Here to prove the statement we can review the cases of north-eastern states of India. In the seven sister states there are existing traditional practices which showcases the customary use of drugs in many auspicious occasions. Smoking of opium (*madak*) and different preparations of cannabis that are bhang, ghota, majun, et cetera are common in occasions like, marriages, funerals, et cetera. In such activities, Assam is quite advanced. Traditional practices help people to carry on drug addiction without hampering social prestige. Kania Sabha (a social function) is one of the famous social gatherings where drugs are used extensively by the participants. This drug practicing

culture creates an atmosphere where modern synthetic drugs can be easily introduced in this region. (Chopra and Chopra, 1965).

2.5. Drug Activities in West Bengal:

West Bengal is coming under this menace rapidly due to its easy accessibility and communication. The drug problem in West Bengal is not a new phenomenon. It has its history long back with the introduction of hippie-like culture in Kolkata (the 1960s) and it was also known as 'youth culture'. Mainly, the age group of 15-30 was affected by this culture. Ganja was popularised during this decade. In 1970s Charas became popular and Heroin in the 1980s. In West Bengal, Kolkata was the first place that was affected but gradually all the districts of West Bengal experienced the same menace (both urban and rural areas). West Dinajpur, Nadia, Murshidabad, Howrah, Malda, Alipurduar, Burdwan, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, and Cooch Behar are the most important districts which have been affected by this problem widely (Sarkar, 2001).

West Bengal has become the target centre due to its strategic location and easy communication facility. Large numbers of people have migrated here from Bangladesh, Nepal, Bihar, Bhutan, and Sikkim as well. As a result, along with migrants, different practices are transmitting into this region and drug addiction is one of them. So, trafficking has become easy and with low supervision, it has become more difficult to trace the traffickers. We will specially talk about the Darjeeling district of West Bengal and its trafficking routes. Here, in Darjeeling drug trafficking and selling are growing day by day due to its strategic geographical location and different processes are at work like rapid urbanization, modernization, and globalization which lessen the traditional ties. It shares national as well as international borders which make this place vulnerable for drug-abusing activities for the traffickers and the addicts.

Drugs are trafficked from different borders that are connected to Darjeeling district. Drugs are trafficked from different borders like borders of Bangladesh that is Chengrabandha, Fulbari, and Hili of Balurghat, Nepal border that is Panitanki and Purnia Moore which connect Darjeeling with Bihar as well, from Bhutan border that is Alipurduar and Jaigaon. Drugs are trafficked through every border whether international or national. Drugs are coming even from neighbouring districts and stored in Darjeeling district then distributed to other states of North-East and Sikkim along with different districts of West Bengal. Recently, two New Psychoactive Substances have been found in this district of Darjeeling which is truly international, Yaba and Khat drugs. Former originated in Myanmar and latter in Africa. Both the drugs are cultivated and produced out-side India but they are found in this small region which signifies the fact that drug abuse and trafficking have their international dimensions. It is very dangerous for the young generation and a matter of concern for the administrators of West Bengal to check and control these kinds of activities in the region under study.

2.6. Economics of Drug Business:

Economics of drug business is an interesting, multidimensional and complex issue. It can be classified into different levels- production level, wholesale and retail level. These levels are playing a vital role in spreading drug menace to the grass-root level. In contemporary times pattern of drug business has changed and those involved in drug business are trying to chalk out new strategies to capture the drug market. Nowadays, people are into the trap of drug culture and youngsters are the most significant ones. Only youth have the capacity to spread this menace at the grass-root level. Main business or profit is generated from lower level instead of production or wholesale level. Maximum accumulation of profit is generated through retailing

because of overhead payments. Youth are an important part of this drug business because, drug peddlers target the youth to circulate as well as to consume different types of drugs which can make their business successful. Youngsters are at a vulnerable stage as they are taking the risk concerning their future and family. They are easily attracted to new things, and can cope easily with new situations. They are mainly attracted to forbidden activities and drug peddlers use them easily for their purposes.

Drug business is a huge business which is calculated and reported by the World Drug Report in 2003 at US\$13 billion at the production level, at US\$94 billion at the wholesale level and at US\$322 billion at retail level. So, one can assess the data and can judge the variation of profit from one level to another (The Moscow News Weekly, 2007, cited in World Drug Report, 2019). In a small region like the field area under study one bottle of corex (cough syrup) costs Rs. 35-50 but it is sold to the minor addicts at Rs. 150-250 (Hossain, 2022). It clearly represents the margin of profit in this business. This is one of the major issues involved in this dangerous business. The cost of Corex (cough syrup) Rs. 35 is inclusive of all taxes and profit but they are getting profit of five to eight times. This is how the drug market operates and accumulates profit from addicts. The propensity of the drug business is to grow rapidly and has broken all the boundaries of ethics. In the past 1960s to 90s technological development was not there yet they continued their business. Now, technological abuse is another way of circulating drugs to addicts.

The dark web is generating a facility through which the drug dealers can continue drug dealing internationally and no one can trace or catch them. It provides a space where they can do whatever they want. Drug dealing, money laundering, extortion, kidnapping, et cetera are continuously growing and no cyber cell can track them

down. Now, online pharmacy is performing the task of supplying drugs at the doorsteps of the addicts by charging overhead prices without verifying prescriptions. Recently, delivering drugs to the minors has become a normal issue and no one is ever bothering himself to think or to take any action against this problem of drug addiction. People are taking home deliveries of drugs to abuse it and for this purpose, they have to pay five to ten times more than the actual price of the drugs. Social media like Facebook, WhatsApp, snap chat, Instagram are the popular sites through which these abominable activities are taking place rapidly (Mahanta, 2021).

As time is moving on, the utilization of drugs has changed; the motive has shifted from service toward business, from use to abuse. Initially, it helped the human race as well as animals but now, the scenario has changed and humans are searching remedies for using drugs in a limited way (medicinal). The use of drugs should be for a limited purpose and the remedies are needed to cure youth from abusing drugs or addiction, to stop them from their urge of hedonic pleasure or the feeling of being unstoppable. However, the fact is, for the sake of business and profit, sellers and the peddlers entrap the feelings of the youth by obfuscating them with different machinations. Hence, youth intertwine themselves in illegal consumption or related putative activities precariously and surrender themselves to the pimps for their own needs, and are left with no choice for remorse.

The drug business is gaining the highest margin of profit not only in India but all over the world. People are engaging themselves in this business only for money and power without having little concern about the future generation of the nations. Experiments on drug are going on relentlessly and as a result, new versions of drugs are being launched in the market simultaneously. This business has a global dimension and control. Those who are active in this business always try to increase the tolerance

level of the abusers and sell their drugs to the adults even to the minors, just to make a profit. The starting age of addicts has already been mentioned at the beginning of our discussion. As per the World Drug Report, 2017, there are 739 different new psychoactive substances introduced world-wide from 2009-2016. These are being introduced through online pharmacy, smuggling and peddling into a region or cross border trade, home delivery, pubs, discos, et cetera for regional distribution and delivery, dealers are using teenagers who are mostly school students. Drug carrier jobs are given to the youth without thinking about their future (World Drug Report, 2019).

Young people are coming under the influence of drugs due to new strategies and techniques adopted by the businessmen as well as distributors. Practice to become an addict is changing nowadays. A non-addict individual is unaware of the fact that he or she is consuming drug unconsciously and becoming an addict. Some unethical businessmen have started mixing the drugs with food and other items, like- drinks- soft drinks or cold drinks, energy drinks, et cetera (Ghosh, 2021). In this way, they sell their products and a non-addict becomes an addict by consuming these drug mixed products. This is the way of selling more and more by producing a huge number of addicts. Many addicts are unaware of the fact that they are abusing drugs without their knowledge and consciousness. They become addicted to the food mixed with drug due to its addictive particles and in this way the numbers of addicts are increasing day by day. Within a very short time, it will take young people into its grip.

Youths are being targeted by different groups of people with this unhealthy illegal activity. These groups are drug manufacturing companies, smugglers or paddlers, druggists, peers, et cetera. Drug dealers target youth to satisfy their needs (profit maximization or to satisfy their needs on a particular issue). Drug abuse is increasing

day by day rapidly due to the easy availability of various kinds of drugs. Teenagers are now engaging themselves with this unhealthy illegal activity of drug consumption. Different courier services, home delivery system, online pharmacy makes it the easiest way to get different types of drugs anytime, anywhere at different prices. Medicine shops are providing drugs to the underage children by charging overhead prices without verifying prescriptions. They are providing a platform for the addicts to get drugs easily. Along with the increasing rate of drug addiction the rate of suicide cases is increasing rapidly due to drug abuse (Goldston, 2004).

This profit-maximization mentality and careless attitudes towards today's youth are more dangerous than drug abuse and addiction. Drug abuse and addiction is an evil practice but the drug supplier's mentality or those who encourage illicit drug activity are more dangerous for youth and society as a whole. It is not simply the statement of profit maximization mentality that seeks more and more profit rather this mentality is helping in generating more and more addicts into the society from every age group of people. It may be possible that they (drug dealers) are addicts and their next generation will be in this process of addiction and become addict as well.

2.7. Nexus Between Drug Abuse and Crime:

Activities induced by drugs are increasing every day and with drug-induced activity, deviance and crime are also growing rapidly although drug abuse itself is a crime. Drug abuse provides an atmosphere for deviance and crime. Road traffic accidents, prostitution, theft, robbery, murder, rape, etc. are increasing with the growing number of drug addicts and it is reported that most of the deviance and crime cases have happened under the influence of drugs or alcohol (Gottfredson and Hirschi, 1990). Drug abuse and addiction behavior extend the propensity for crime. Drug-induced behavior becomes very interesting and complex as well when it is linked with

deviance and crime because people willingly engage themselves with drug abuse and addiction which is illegal activity or crime, on the other hand, they are taking drugs which lead them to commit other crimes. We may assume that they are taking drugs before committing other crimes because it provides strength, fearless attitude, and feelings of being invincible and capable of doing anything, in short, they become prone to commit any crime irrespective of consequences for their future, their families and prestige. Drug abuse and addiction behavior have a direct relationship with the growing cases of different crimes.

Drugs are mostly sold and bought from the black market for illicit use that means, although drugs are available for medical use on printed prices but, if someone needs those medicine without prescription or the buyer is a minor then the price of drugs gets a hike instantly whatever the price actually levied on or printed. It may cost double or triple times of the actual price due to realization by the sellers that those drugs are going to be abused, hence, buyer has to pay overhead prices, that is why the term black market is being used.

Furthermore, in black market, adulteration of different substances works as a major strategy to enhance the volume of profit. In the region under study, sellers of drugs have started to mix other substances with the drugs and sell them on overhead prices. That means, profit comes from both sides. For example, on the one hand, with marijuana (ganja) they mix similar-looking weeds which increases the quantity of their total possession and the mixed marijuana is sold at overhead prices which enables them to double their profit. Often animal bones are collected, dried and turned into dust. This dust is mixed with drugs which are available in powder form like brown sugar, cocaine et cetera (Ghosh, 2021). This adulteration also causes serious

health issues for the addicts but the practice continues through which the dealer increases his profit with adulteration.

These practices with the sole purpose of profit maximization will harm the abusers more and more. The youths are consuming drugs from the black market along with some unknown substances for their desired pleasure. Based on the composition of two substances originality of the concerned drug is compromised. On the one hand, we may think that, if the purity of any particular drug is compromised then it could be less harmful than the original drug. On the contrary, it may be possible that although the originality is gone it could be more harmful as it was mixed up with other substances and will have more side effects than the original product. We do not know how other substances may react when mixed up and consumed with a particular drug, that may bring serious health problem for the addicts.

To control drug abuse behavior different policies and programs are initiated and implemented by the government from time to time. Different slogans are raised to curb the menace, for example, drug addiction is like a slow poison, „Say No To Drugs and Yes To Life“. NGOs are providing their continuous service to control the menace and are trying to spread awareness on different effects and consequences of drug abuse behavior but the fact is that the numbers of addicts are growing manifold.

2.7.1 Categorisation of the Relationship of Drugs and Crime:

Ansley Hamid in his book „Drugs in America“, (1998; 132-33) discussed the relationship between drugs and crime and has categorized their relation into four categories. We will be discussing different types discussed by Hamid and will cite information as an example collected during fieldwork from the region under study. As per Hamid the relationship between drugs and crime are as follows-

i. **Drug Use Causes Crime:**

Here, in this first type, Hamid has established a causal relationship between drug abuse and crime. He said, “drug users may commit acquisitive crime to raise money to obtain more drugs”. Hence, drug abuse guides abusers to commit a crime only to sustain their addiction to different drugs. For example, one of the incidents occurred in the Junction area of Siliguri Sub-Division, one of the addicts of that area murdered one stranger by hitting him with a stone on the head and robbed him only to get his desired drugs. This was the incident of the year 2021. His urge to have drugs made him kill someone to get money and to buy pleasure in the form of drugs (Uttarbanga Sambad, 2021). These types of incidences show how an addict is pushed to commit murder only to satiate the craving for drugs.

ii. **Crime Causes Drug Use:**

In this type, Hamid mentioned, "persons who are criminally predisposed also take drugs, drug use is seen as integral or normative to a criminal lifestyle." Furthermore, in most cases, criminals commit crimes under the influence of drugs or abuse drugs to celebrate the success of a crime. Hence, drugs are abused by the criminals in both cases- before committing a crime or after. Some criminals take drugs before a crime only to enhance their confidence and courage and some criminals take drugs after the successful operation of a crime or both cases may appear in a single operation of a crime. For example,

Case Study No. 1

One of the respondents Rita from Siliguri region mentioned that, she is very much predisposed toward crime and criminal activities. She had started committing a crime by stealing things from her neighbourhood, school bags of

her peers, and even from strangers to satisfy herself. She mentioned, that drugs were not her motive but crime helps her to fulfil her other desires. One day she got caught and was sentenced to three months' confinement in a juvenile home. She had the opportunity to live with like-minded people and found that she was not alone. She is still obsessed and predisposed to crime.

Initially, she used to commit crimes unplanned and unintentionally but during punishment days she learned how to plan for a crime and left no clues behind. After her release from the juvenile home, she started to plan crime as she was able to create a group with some like-minded individuals who were in the juvenile home and get release together. They taught her how to abuse in order to enhance her courage before committing a crime and to celebrate their success. Since then, she is in drugs and continuing her obsession with crime. For an example, the girl uses different tactics to attract men and lures them into relationships. The scheming she indulges in reflects changing value system in society and the vulnerability of relationships the youth engage in. She lures her target that is the man with whom she has developed a relationship to a distant place where her accomplices keep watch in silence from a distance. She indulges in intimate behaviour which is recorded and then the victim is accosted by the members of the group who demand money and other belongings including mobile phones and bikes et cetera which enable them to purchase drugs.

iii. Drug and Crime Involve a Third Variable:

In this third type Hamid has mentioned, "the relationship between drugs and crime is said to exist only concerning one or more additional variables, they result from a common cause such as social dissatisfaction or legal-political

factors otherwise there is no connection between the two variables.” One of the respondents mentioned that poverty, unemployment, lack of skills for particular jobs, daily expenses, failure in relationships or career, and easy money easily links individuals and pushes them either into drugs or crime.

Case Study No. 2

Ronak (pseudonym) is from the hills of Darjeeling district and completed his schooling in 2016 but did not have the economic strength to pursue higher studies as he had the responsibility to look after his family which constitutes of father, mother, and a sister. His father is a paralyzed patient and his mother is a maidservant. His sister is continuing her schooling and she is in class seven. After the completion of school study, Ronak had to do something to earn money for his family but due to his low skills, he did not get a suitable job that could meet his family expenses till the end of the year 2017.

One of Ronak’s senior friends who had passed from the same school offered him a courier job in Darjeeling hills. He had the responsibility to deliver packages from Siliguri to different places of Darjeeling hills and the turnout would be Rs, 1000 per delivery, for locals Rs, 500 per delivery along with travel and daily allowances. Two to three deliveries he used to make per day from Siliguri to Darjeeling and in local areas of Darjeeling. This was a pretty good job to earn money for his subsistence.

Everything went on smooth and perfect but after a couple of months, he found himself with drugs in those packets which he used to deliver to different places when police caught him on drug trafficking charges in the middle of the year 2018. He was surprised that he trafficked and delivered drugs to his

regional drug dealers but on the other hand, he was thinking about money and a job for his family because he was doing well for his family. One question was poking his mind, what will be next? Suddenly he saw his senior friend who was talking to the police in the police station. The very next morning police released him on bail. He was very happy that at least seniors helped him and set him free from the police station as he was unaware of the drug trafficking fact and he was innocent. After release, he had a conversation with his seniors and got to know that they paid five lakhs for his release and they are intentionally using him to carry out drug trafficking in hill areas of Darjeeling.

Now, Ronak was in a dilemma that whether he will be with his seniors or will find some other work. Ronak's seniors came again to him and offered him double the amount which he used to get in earlier deliveries but his job responsibility changed as he was identified by police. So, he could not traffic drugs anymore from Siliguri to Darjeeling but he could circulate drugs in the interiors of Darjeeling and arrange for new recruits to traffic drugs from Siliguri to Darjeeling hills. Ronak agreed to his seniors' proposal consciously and gave his consensus to do so but after his arrest, he was very nervous and scared to carry out his job again. This was the time when his seniors introduced ganja (marijuana) for consumption before the brown sugar. He had expertise in abusing other substances like smoking cigarettes, chewing gutka, etc. but for the first time, he took ganja only to deliver drugs to his clients. Now, he is an expert in abusing drugs of every kind whether natural or synthetic.

Therefore, it can be said that drugs and crime sometimes involve a third variable(s) that links both. Here, Ronak's case speaks in detail of the relationship and the process, how a third variable pushes someone to link himself with crime and drugs. Hence, poverty and unemployment played a vital role in Ronak's life and led him to be consensually intertwined with drugs and criminal activities.

iv. **There is a Reciprocal Relationship Between Drugs and Crime:**

This is the last but not the least important of the classifications of relationship between drugs and crime where Hamid said, "drug use and offending are seen as interrelated lifestyles". According to him, drug abuse and crime overlap one another. In the region under study (Darjeeling district) a section of youth are found who are situating themselves and carrying a lifestyle in which crime and drug abuse overlap one another. We can consider one of the respondent's information by discussing daily life and lifestyle to understand how drugs and crime overlap or interrelates.

Case Study No. 3

Rukmini (pseudonym) is a student of a college in the Siliguri Sub-Division area and is 19 years old. Her family constitutes of father, mother, and a younger brother. Her father is in the police department, her mother is a school teacher and her brother is a school student. She lives in the Siliguri area.

Rukmini is a modern girl who has every access to the resources to become a responsible and productive citizen. She had grown up in a healthy environment but has eventuated as a criminal due to her extravagant lifestyle. she is in rehab now at the age of 19 taking treatment for drugs and crime.

At the age of 16 Rukmini first visited a disco with her friends when she tasted alcohol and got to know her tolerance level for the first time. As she had enough access to money, freedom, and friends to visit those places she continued to visit almost twice a week. Within a very short period, she was besotted with the nightlife style of disco and bar. At the age of 17, she first smoked marijuana (ganja) and afterward moved towards different drug pills. She shifted herself from alcohol to drugs due to many reasons. People would easily understand that she is under the influence of alcohol as they would smell it while with drugs those issues are nominal. When she first smoked marijuana and returned home no one realized that she had taken something but with alcohol her parents caught her several times and then, scolded and punished her. She had a very good family environment and socialization but she never listened to her parents as she considered that they were controlling her life.

Her aversion toward her parents' supervision and growing interest in substance-abusing culture led her to spend an insecure life without any restraints. Within a couple of months, she got into brown sugar as her tolerance increased and, marijuana and pills were not giving her the same pleasure that she used to get earlier. From this shift, her life changed and that shift put her in struggle for money management to get her desired drugs.

Initially, different substances abused by Rukmini were economically affordable as she could manage the expenses with her pocket money but with brown sugar, her expenses on drugs were getting higher day by day just like her tolerance and demand to have brown sugar. Drug doses and

expenses for drug purchase are correlated by their nature and extent. Increasing tolerance cost Rukmini lots of money per day and it became impossible to arrange drug doses with her pocket money along with her other savings like scholarship and other sources. As we have already discussed that drugs are sold at street prices Rukmini used to spend Rs, 300 to 400 per day when she first encountered brown sugar and soon (a month) it rose to Rs, 600 and then to 800 but due to the increase in drug doses the expenditure rose to Rs, 1200 to 1400 within a couple of months. After a year she started to spend Rs, 2500 to 3000 per day. This growing amount put her in a struggle to arrange more money daily. She used to have eight to twelve doses per day (powder form) along with two drug-filled injections. Soon she became an Injecting Drug User (IDU).

Now, we will discuss Rukmini's way of money management. Initiation of a cosmopolitan lifestyle brings new sets of refreshment and recreational areas like nightlife parties, bar and disco culture is one of them in Darjeeling district. This cultural shift from traditional recreational areas to the modern one has put a section of youth in a vulnerable situation in which they are inadvertently entering the world of crime and Rukmini is one of them.

Rukmini has a very good economic background to lead her life on but she eventuates as an addict due to the easy access to money and excessive parental supervision. In her initial stage of substance abuse, she did not face any difficulties with the substance consumption money as she was allotted a handsome amount of money as her pocket money, and also, she had access to her mother's ATM card. She used it several times and

withdrew a small amount of money from her mother's bank account. Her mother never realized that due to the small amount but when she shifted herself to the next level of abusing substances to drugs then she started facing problems to manage money for her consumption and getting caught. Initially, the time invested was nominal for substance abuse, it was like two to three hours per day just because she had to spend her time only on consumption. That was the time when she did not have to bother herself to manage money because of the easy access to money but in the next stage of abuse, she had to invest her time for the consumption as well as for the money management as her tolerance increased along with the drug purchase amount. Hence, in the next stage, she had to invest double time and money of what was invested earlier in the initial stage.

For the management of consumption expenses mainstream spaces (whether social, cultural, political, or economic) played a vital role, and losing these spaces is not a good sign for a drug abuser. Losing of those spaces put an addict in a situation where struggle begins to manage money for drug consumption.

After being caught by her mother for ATM theft, Rukmini was forbidden from the use of the ATM card of her mother. That means she started losing her mainstream spaces as her mother held a space in mainstream and that mainstream space was helping Rukmini with her abuse. Rukmini's mother complained and reported to her father about what was going on. Eventually, her father stopped her pocket money by saying that, they will provide directly whatever she needs. Her parents tried to take control over every activity of Rukmini but it did not yield positive results. Her friends

with whom she started alcohol consumption, are still on alcohol and left Rukmini as their companion just because she shifted herself from alcohol to different drugs. Alcohol is to some extent accepted in mainstream society and culture but not drugs. Now Rukmini has a new set of friends who are already on drugs.

After choking of every mainstream management way, Rukmini has been left with no choice but to use illegal means to be in the drug culture irrespective of her parents' control. At the start, she mortgaged all her gold jewelry to a drug dealer to get her desired drug. Those pieces of jewelry were bought for Rukmini's wedding by her parents. The original cost of those pieces of jewelry was Rs, 5 lakhs and Rukmini mortgaged them for Rs, 1 lakh. She wasted that money within six months. This was an incident that happened in the mid of the year 2018.

In and around the Darjeeling district and specific to Siliguri Sub-Division brown sugar is available and it cost Rs,1500-2000 for one gram but if someone can purchase one kg directly from the dealer then the cost falls to Rs, 800-1000. As Rukmini had money so she decided with her friends to buy brown sugar in much more quantities compared to her prior purchase. She visited Murshidabad and Kaliachak to buy drugs. She came back with nearly half a kg of brown sugar and decided to sell drugs to others along with her consumption. She started dealing drugs and continues her business in drug dealing. She continued it for six months and at last was left with nothing in her hand because of the high level of consumption. She was not alone to consume brown sugar from her capital drug. Her friends

also used to take a share in consumption due to their participation in the purchase of drugs and distribution.

After the end of the business with a great loss, she started practicing prostitution for three months and saved some amount of money apart from her drug consumption to start her business again and also decided to sell her new scooty (two wheelers gearless vehicle) at a nominal price of Rs, 30,000, so that she could buy some quantity of brown sugar. Rukmini and her friends moved to Murshidabad to bring drugs but unfortunately, they got caught by the Phansidewa police (Siliguri Metropolitan Police) with drugs when they were returning home.

This was the time when her parents took a stand and released her from police and put her in a rehabilitation centre where I met her. This was the detailed case of how drug related cultural life activities lead addicts to crime and criminal activities. Life of addicts and criminals becomes reciprocal at a certain point of time to sustain one another (drugs and crime).

This is all about Hamid's classification with relevant case details of the current study. All the types put forward by Hamid on relationship between drug and crime are very much relatable and associated with the information collected during field work from Darjeeling district. Apart from the above discussion of different types the researcher found something new which Hamid did not consider in his study. Basically, the types of drugs and crime relationship discussed by Hamid is internal choice of individuals and completely initiated on addicts' or criminals' will. When they felt the necessity to initiate drug or crime into their

behavior for their survival only then they initiate it as their strategy. This decision completely relies on themselves (a section of youth who are either into crime or drugs) and it is very much internal and an individual choice. However, there are drug addicts who never committed crime to sustain their drug induced behavior or we can say there are many criminals who never intoxicated themselves for their crime. Although the relationship of drug and crime is dependent on many factors.

2.7.2 Discussion:

Hamid discussed only internal factors which countenance the relationship but there are structural factors as well on the basis of which the relationship gets influenced. In sociology structural factors generally indicates the relationship of broader political, economic, social and environmental conditions that links with a particular issue. Drug and crime are usually linked with all the above-mentioned structural factors which plays a vital role in the dissemination of drugs, crime related activities and in establishing a strong relationship between drug and crime. Different institutional control mechanisms can check the growth of crime and related activities but, if the magnitude and grip of control mechanism get loose and fails to ensure moral values then social change starts. Failure of effective micro controlling elements like, community, family, socialization, parenting et cetera in contemporary situations put a section of youth in a hopeless situation where future is unguaranteed in every respect. There are plenty of structural factors that pushes failed individuals towards drug and crime irrespective of individual initiation when the structure become dysfunctional.

To explain structural factors in brief in connection with drug and crime the researcher assumes that political economic perspective would be sufficient to explain how structural elements pushes and force people into drugs and crime. Political economy

refers to the broader relationship of economy with the political system which impacts upon other aspects of all social life such as religious, social, cultural, environmental et cetera. Mode of production is the substructure of all social life and influences all the aspects that is why the researcher considers political economy to explain the external objective reality that pushes people in crime and related activities irrespective of individual initiation. Here, we are considering collective shared events that are favourable to and attached with the illegal activities like drugs and crime.

Education is one of the powerful means that helps in generating positive thinking in the youth and guides them to become responsible citizens of the nation. In recent decades we have already seen plenty of protests taking place and is still going on regarding the employment in schools and colleges in West Bengal because the incumbent government failed to provide a secure future to the eligible and qualified candidates. Goals are fixed but legitimate means are not secured to achieve those goals as has happened recently, the responsible former minister and Employment Board members of West Bengal government have been taken into custody by Enforcement Directorate (ED) on the charges of selling government jobs of teachers (Times of India, 2022, Aug 18th). Faith in the efficiency of government is falling as the moral value of being educated is also falling day by day as the educational system is not able to generate a healthy future to the worthy job aspirants. Failures of the system has already started to frustrate those who are in the process of acquiring education.

R K Merton in his modes of adaptation theory wrote that, when goals are not achieved through legitimate means the strain comes in but if the legitimate means are undermined there is no scope for adaptation. Recent situations are providing platform in bringing deviance and strain into the lives of the young as a collective entity.

Hence, one of the quotes from Durkheim is more likely to be applicable in this situation, which is, „all social change begins with some form of deviance and yesterday’s deviance becomes today’s norm“ (Durkheim, 1895). On the basis of the above quote, we can get an insight into how the deviances are getting institutionalised and causing strain for the youth.

Market is one of the strong factors that influences the relationship of drugs and crime as it creates a huge amount of profit. Political economy of drug trade is also involved as individuals linked to drugs can be there without becoming an addict or a criminal (in front of mainstream society) but trader, dealer or businessman can stay by channelizing others in drugs and crime without drawing anyone’s attention (police, administration etc.). Drug trade needs a huge amount of capital to operate. As we have already mentioned above that, one gram of brown sugar is worth Rs. 2000-3000, so one can easily calculate what amount of money is needed to run a regional, national or international level business. One of the drug seizures was made by Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) at Mundra Port, Gujrat, which is under the control of Adani Group, 3000 kg of heroin was seized from three containers which was worth twenty-one thousand crores (Uttarbanga Sambad, 2022, November 1st). The political angle is that the authorities are not inclined to catch the ones really running the business only small players get caught.

Another example that will substantiate the fact is that druggists are a very important group in the illegal business of drug there was an operation carried out by the Siliguri Police when three druggists were arrested for the storage and selling of huge number of contraband drugs in and around Siliguri Sub-Division. Arrested people reported that, they were running contraband drug business in the past seven years and this business is a business that generates unlimited profit. One of the arrested said, he

earned nearly ten million within a year by selling contraband drugs to the young himself. They have druggist license and can store drugs to some extent for the business. They put overhead prices for any of the contraband drugs that can be taken by the young without a medical prescription (Hossain, 2022). Arrested culprits are not addicted to any of the contraband drugs but they are producing new sets of addicts only to gain profit.

So, the point is, there are people who are working behind the scene and leading a section of youth into the behaviour of drug abuse and crime. This is purely an external factor that is actually producing a new set of addicts and criminals for their business and creating market demand which forces drug and crime to come closer.

Political motivations of politicians also motivate a section of youth to indulge in drug induced behavior by committing crimes for political purposes of their leaders. In contemporary times, a section of youth is leading a precarious life in terms of employment, impoverishment, social dissatisfactions and alienation etc. that easily lures them towards earning easy money. Nowadays, a huge number of young people are engaging themselves in drug carrier jobs only to earn huge amount of easy money not for abuse and addiction. Hence, there are plenty of structural factors that force individuals to relate themselves with drug and crime, although drug induced behavior itself is a crime irrespective of subjective initiation into the drug and crime.

Therefore, Hamid only considered internal factors which motivates individual to relate with drugs and crime. Hamid established a fine relational categorization of drugs and crime but ignored the structural and political economic factors that plays a crucial role externally for the initiation of an individual or a group into the illegal behaviour which increases the vulnerability and magnitude of the relation between drugs and crime as a whole.

2.8 Impact of Alcohol Price Rise on Consumption of Natural Drugs:

The governmental policy has its effect on the society positively or negatively, for example, the price of alcohol or liquor has been recently raised, and it has a direct impact on consumers. Here, a relation is found between alcohol consumption with marijuana or smoking *ganja*. Due to the hike in the prices of alcohol, the number of marijuana smokers has increased along with consumption quantity. Marijuana or *ganja* costs very low compared to alcohol, the cost of alcohol could be even ten times more than *ganja*. So, the price of a particular substance has direct consumption relation with other substances (Excise Report, Govt. of West Bengal, April, 2020).

2.9 The Pattern of Drug Abuse and Addiction:

In drug abuse and addiction behavior, it is difficult to find a certain model or pattern of drug-taking because the addict's behavior and way of taking drugs changes day by day. In India, the most common substance used by the user is tobacco and alcohol but, in this study, these two substances are not considered as part of the investigation. After the consumption rate of tobacco and alcohol, the next position is occupied by cannabis (especially marijuana) and opioids (AIIMS, 2019). Marijuana is the most common psychoactive substance which is used by the addicts not only in India but all over the World (World Drug Report, 2018). Almost all types of NPS (New Psychoactive Substances) are found in India widely, whether psychoactive or synthetic narcotics, as an example synthetic cannabis, lab created ketamine et cetera. These various drugs are consumed by the addicts differently or in their own ways. The mode of consumption of drugs varies from one addict to another. Addicts can have it orally or they could inhale, smoke or inject intravenous/intramuscular. These are the ways through which they can satisfy their drug desire. Due to the different ways of consumption of drugs, it could impact differently on the abusers. A very

dangerous method is the injection of intravenous/ intramuscular drugs because drug mixes directly with the blood and reacts instantly.

Long term courses of drug-taking could cause great harm and could result in death. Inhalants may be of different types- Sniffing, Huffing and lastly, Bagging. World Drug Report, 2018 defines these categories as – 'Sniffing': 'Solvents are inhaled directly from a container through the nose or mouth', 'Huffing': 'a shirt sleeve, sock or a roll of cotton is soaked in a solvent and placed over the nose or mouth or directly into the mouth to inhale the fumes', 'Bagging': 'a concentration of fumes from a bag is placed over the mouth and nose or the head'.

If any study or research claims that, all young people are equally vulnerable towards drug abuse and addiction, then it would be a misconception because it will lack scientific evidence. Emotions and susceptibility to drug use, abuse and addiction vary from one individual to another. Moreover, influential factors may be specific that could also vary between individuals and there is no factor alone sufficient to lead individuals towards harmful use or abuse of substances or drugs. One should have very good and precise knowledge of the extent and pattern of drug abuse and addiction because there are personal, social and environmental factors working continuously and these factors influence individuals which may or may not result in drug abuse and addiction behavior of young people. In addition to the sociological theories Social Learning Theory and Social Cognitive Learning Theory claims that, people can learn moral behavior and morality by observing others through modeling process. Modeling process is important as it guides people to decide or provide a sense regarding right or wrong on the basis of the goals and outcomes. Bandura in his theory mentioned that, people are very much aware and capable of regulating their thoughts, emotions, motivation, and actions (Bandura, 1997).

Self-regulation can control and direct actions of individuals (Locke and Latham, 1990 cited in Bandura, 1978; 1978). In learning process individual always tend to learn rewardable actions and mimic them or try to reproduce. Those actions or behavior that are positive and have goal orientation are highly influential and reinforcing. In the learning course, self-efficacy is another factor that guides individual behavior. With high efficacy, individuals are prone towards experiencing different difficult tasks and try to master the same. With weak efficacy individuals directly reject or avoid difficult tasks and focus on the personal failings and negative outcomes. So, it depends on several factors that what could be the outcome of any particular action and individuals are not equally vulnerable to drug use and abuse. Another prominent theory is Self- Control Theory of Walter C. Reckless where he observed that, self is the key factor and that self is vulnerable to everything. If the self is strong then it creates a strong buffer that is positive and law abiding. On the other hand, if the self is weak then it makes a negative buffer which is favourable to the negative and illegal activities (Reckless, 1961). However, in a sociological study attention should also be on the structural factors which operate in a society and cause addiction at a societal level.

2.10 The Nature and Degree of Drug Abuse and Addiction:

Extent of drug activity could be assessed for particular region by assessing how and what form of drugs are being abused and consumed by the addicts and because of that, there are several categories identified by the pharmaceutical industries and Drug Enforcement Agency. If we assess different drugs and their characteristics, effects, dangers, and side effects then, we could find that, many similarities and dissimilarities exist amongst various drugs. Pharmaceutical industry group different drugs that have similar effects and usefulness for medical assistant plans. This classification of drugs

was truly based on their chemical properties and response. Different drugs are broadly classified into seven different types are as follows-

- i. Stimulants: These drugs stimulate users or abuser's central nervous system and accelerate brain activities. It makes unique effects as increases heart rate, body temperature, and blood pressure. It makes individual more alert, prolong physical activity, repairs mood that is why stimulants are called as „uppers“ (www.drugabuse.gov).
- ii. Depressants: These drugs also affect central nervous system but decreases or diminish brain activities, that is why depressants are often called as „downers“(www.drugabuse.gov).
- iii. Hallucinogens: It simply alters an individual's awareness and consciousness of his/her thoughts, feelings, and surroundings. Hallucinogens are broadly divided into two categories: classic and dissociative. In case of hallucinogens images seem real though they are not (www.drugabuse.gov).
- iv. Dissociative: These drugs make an individual feel out of control and can feel that he/ she is disconnected from body and environment. Hallucinogens can be made of both plants and/ or by using chemicals (www.drugabuse.gov).
- v. Opioids: Opioids are the chemically processed substances that directly effects on nerve and brain. It works as a painkiller but use of larger amounts is highly addictive that can cause overdose incidents and death as well (www.drugabuse.gov).
- vi. Inhalants: These drugs are used by taking through breathing that causes slowdown of brain activities. It makes an individual high with distorted

speech. It is less addictive but highly dangerous to intake if not prescribed. (www.drugabuse.gov).

vii. Cannabis: “It is a greenish-grey mixture of the dried flowers of cannabis sativa”. It can be smoked or can be mixed with food items or may be taken as tea (www.drugabuse.gov).

These broad categorizations of different drugs are further clubbed and divided into five types by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) on the basis of authorized medical use and the abuse rate of particular drugs. This division is called legal classification of drugs and the DEA classify drugs on their abusing rate and medical use in different schedules. There are five schedules and classifications as in, highest abuse rate drugs will be in first schedule with no medical use and highest medical use drug should be in last means fifth schedule with low medical use. Therefore, one could easily understand the propensity and use of drugs by looking at either their abuse rate or their position in the distributed schedule. If any drug is included in first schedule that means the drug has the highest potential of addiction or highly addictive and can create psychological and physical dependence. The extent of drug abuse and addiction in micro level or on the individual level could be assessed and justified on the basis of psychological and physical dependence.

DEA defines psychological dependence as the intense urge or craving for drug and in this case users or abusers feel uncontrollable desire for drug consumption. Habitual intake of drugs makes a body dependent on a particular drug, body is held dependent due to the increasing tolerance level and physical dependence may be shown in the withdrawal symptoms if suddenly the drug consumption stops or if the quantity of drug intake is lessened. If a user or an abuser develops tolerance level to a specific drug, then he/she needs to take larger amounts to enjoy the same level that was

experienced once by taking smaller amounts. Withdrawal effects are built by the consumption of a drug regularly and excessively and if that consumption amount is reduced suddenly or stopped then bodily withdrawal can be seen.

Legal classifications of drugs are as follows:

Schedule- I: Here those drugs are incorporated that have high potential for abuse and addiction with no medical use. Heroin, ecstasy et cetera are the examples for schedule- I drugs. Example- Ecstasy, Heroin, LSD, Marijuana, Peyote et cetera

Schedule- II: Drugs in this schedule have a high potential rate of abuse and high rate of physical or psychological dependence as well. Example- Cocaine, Morphine, Hydrocodone (Vicodin), Fentanyl, Methadone, Adderall,

Schedule- III: This includes those drugs that having moderate or lower abuse rate compared to first and second schedule, and can be prescribed for illnesses, injuries and other health problems. In this schedule some familiar drugs are, Ketamine, Buprenorphine (Suboxone), Codeine, Acetaminophen et cetera

Schedule- IV: Here in this schedule those drugs are included which have very low risk for substance disorder and are often prescribed for medication. This schedule includes Alprazolam (Xanax), Clonazepam (Klonopin), Diazepam (Valium), Lorazepam (Ativan) et cetera

Schedule- V: This schedule drugs are usually prescribed for medications and having lower risk of substance disorder than schedule IV. Examples are, Antitussive, Ezogabine et cetera.

Various researches and surveys show that the extent of drug abuse and addiction is higher among the younger generations all over the world in comparison to the older

generations (World Drug Report, 2018). Table number- 3 shows the total seizure of various drugs in India.

TABLE NUMBER- 3: SEIZURE OF VARIOUS DRUGS IN KG. WITH NUMBER OF CASES IN INDIA

DRUGS		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
OPIUM	SEIZURE	1,766	1687	2251	2551	3538
	CASES	717	860	933	1408	733
MORPHINE	SEIZURE	25	61	28	449	18
	CASES	136	92	62	57	78
HEROIN	SEIZURE	1,371	1416	1675	2146	784
	CASES	4,467	3931	4585	7070	4477
GANJA	SEIZURE	108,300	94403	294347	352539	177442
	CASES	5,510	8130	14401	21477	9710
HASHISH	SEIZURE	2,280	3349	2805	3218	1757
	CASES	2,247	2295	2567	2943	1738
COCAINE	SEIZURE	15	113	28	69	31
	CASES	82	100	81	132	58
METHAQUALONE	SEIZURE	54	89	24107	124	98
	CASES	12	22	08	24	07
EPHEDRINE	SEIZURE	1,330	827	21272	2990	133
	CASES	44	19	17	26	10

ACETIC ANHYDRIDE	SEIZURE	54	04	2661	25	00
	CASES	02	01	01	02	00
ATS	SEIZURE	196	166	1687	95	254
	CASES	42	21	20	19	16

Data compiled by the research scholar from World Drug Reports (2014-2018).

Drug report suggested that, early 12-14 years to 15-17 years (adolescence) is a period that is full of risk-taking for drug abuse and it reaches the peak at the age between 18-25 years. In India different researches and drug reports suggest that in metropolitan cities drug abuse and addiction starts at the age of 12-15 years. Local news reports (Bandhyapadhyay, 2018) show that in metro cities the starting age of taking drugs is 13 years (alcohol) but other substances like dendrite, solutions, and tobacco start at the age group of 7-9 years (mainly among street children). The extent of drug abuse always shows to be higher among the lower age group compared to old generations along with the declining age in taking drugs day by day and is becoming prominent irrespective of religions, castes and communities`. A very high number of deaths occur due to drug dependence and overdose of the concerned drug reported in India and the age group mostly found is between 15-28 years. Drug abuse and addiction are increasing alarmingly among adolescents along with the increasing accidental deaths and crime. Different data are reported by governmental organizations for example, United Nations Reports, World Drug Reports, and information from National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre which could be sufficient for the understanding of the extent of drug abuse and addiction behaviour.

Moreover, to understand the extent of drug abuse and addiction we are citing a news article that was published in Uttarbanga Sambad (a reported crime) on 8th August, 2022. The article was written and detailed by a journalist named Sheikh Panna.

The incident happened in a rural belt of Malda district and the name of the block is Ratua under Chanchal Subdivision and the village name is Manipur, Kahala. The story mainly revolves around drugs and crime by young boys of the village. The victim of the incident named Akash Bhagat, a 12-year-old boy and the accused boys are Kanai Mondal, a 20-year-old young man and Nirmal Mondal, a 23-year-old boy. These three boys are the main characters of the incident and the companions of drug consumption. They used to intoxicate themselves as a team every day. For the purpose of consuming drugs every day they needed to manage 100 rupees per day individually but Akash failed to manage most of the day's contribution. To overcome the situation Akash started stealing things from his neighborhood and he was quite good at it. One day Akash stole a by-cycle which was kept standing at the front of Kanai Mondal's house (Akash's friend) and some days later Kanai got to know the fact that Akash had stolen the cycle and he did not give any share from that income although the cycle did not belong to Kanai or any other members of his family. Just because the cycle was kept in front of his house thereby, Kanai was demanding a share and this was the reason for the incident that occurred later.

On the day of 7th August, 2022, Akash went to attend a village cultural programme in his neighborhood alone and Kanai and Nirmal noticed that Akash was alone and they could use the day to take revenge. They tried to call Akash from the crowd but Akash did not respond to their call. Kanai and Nirmal thought that they would wait till the programme ended. At 2 o'clock A.M. the programme was about to end and people started leaving the place. Akash knew his friends will wait and will try to grab him, so

he waited there only, did not leave the place. After 10 to 15 minutes, Kanai and Nirmal caught Akash and took him to the nearby jungles just beside a pond. Lastly the moment came when Kanai and Nirmal could finally take their revenge and what was that! Why did not Akash give money to them? Therefore, they started beating Akash brutally, at that time three of them were under the influence of drugs. They had beaten Akash in two phases and then cut his throat with a blade with which they used to cut the marijuana leaves together for consumption. Also, they put several cuts in Akash's body and threw him near the pond. Suddenly they realized that Akash was still alive and then, they put a rope in his neck, tied it up and started dipping Akash's head into water continuously until he died. This happened around 3.30 A.M. and they waited there till 4 o'clock and then left the place. This brutal act of young boys left the villagers in a state of shock with no words.

In summing up the news one thing is certain that drug abuse and addiction has become a threat to everyone irrespective of age, sex and other identities. This news could state the extent and impact of drug behaviour in contemporary times because this was not a single incident that occurred or occurring in and around us.

2.11 Sociological Implication of Drug Problem in India:

Sociology deals with human relation, interaction, behavior and moreover structure and function of the society. As we all know human behavior changes on the basis of time, space and most importantly on the basis of different life experiences on different activities. Learning is a vital life long process that enables individuals to cope up with behavioral change. Although drug abuse and addiction are not a new phenomenon, it occurs every time in a new form, brings new features, and a whole new level of tolerance that catches and attracts addicts and can create a fresh set of addicts. So, on the one hand, as long as humans learn something new their behavior tend to change

and there lies the need for research on sociological implication because systematic analysis can identify the root causes for the behavioral changes caused by abuse and addiction. On the other hand, experiments on different drugs and substances is going on relentlessly, introduction of new substances bring new trends, fashion and pattern which extends the extent of drug related activities. These discoveries of different drugs initiate new behavior that impact on the existing culture regarding drug activities which may comprise mainstream, sub or counter culture and in this way culture also gets affected. Much sociological research has been done on this issue which provide explanation of the phenomena and researches have also tried to provide solutions, however an overall solution to the problem could not be arrived at.

We have started our discussion from the very beginning of this chapter by examining the history of drug abuse and addiction in traditional societies, we have already discussed that drug activity varies on the basis of time and space or in other ways region to region. In traditional societies drug related activities were very precious and sacred because people linked and identified these activities as their „God“s activity“ and drug consumption was permitted for religious purposes, even today marijuana (*ganja*) is considered as *Bholenath's* or Baba's (Lord Shiva) consecrated food (*Prasad*). Religion played a vital role in the consumption of drugs whether in earlier traditions or at the present. The most important thing is, drug intake and its activities were not considered as a social problem in traditional societies but now, we do consider drug consumption and related activities as a social problem.

Nature and extent of participation in drug related activities by a section of youth in contemporary times which is rising everyday has helped in increasing the magnitude of addiction behavior and it prevails as a social problem. In traditional societies, participation in drug related activities was restricted in terms of community level

control, in terms of age, availability, time and space of consumption but in modern times, community restrictions have become nominal due to the easy availability and access to drugs, money and consumption spaces that have paved the way for participation in huge numbers which has made the behavior a social problem in recent days. Before going further in our discussion, we need to clarify when a situation or a behavior becomes a social problem and why the behavior becomes a social problem and for whom.

Definition of social problem has been given and discussed by many sociologists. Alcoholism, drug abuse and addiction, corruption, poverty, unemployment, crime, environmental degradation and population explosion etc. can be considered as social problems.

According to Myers and Fuller in 1941, (Ahuja, 2016), social problem is “a condition which is defined by a considerable number of persons as a deviation from some social norms which they cherish”.

Reinhardt said, social problem can be defined as “a situation confronting a group or a section of society which inflicts injurious consequences that can be handled only collectively” (Ahuja, 2016).

Blumer in 1971, mentioned, “social problems involve actions or patterns of behavior that are viewed by a substantial number of persons in the society as being delirious to the society or in violation of societal norms, and about which ameliorative action is seen as both possible and desirable” (Ahuja, 2016).

As per Merton and Nisbet, 1971, social problem is “a way of behavior that is regarded by a substantial part of a social order as being in violation of one or more generally accepted or approved norms”. This definition of Merton and Nisbet is very much

applicable to the social problem of drug abuse but not exactly to the problem of population explosion because some problems are created with accepted and normal behavior but some are created with deviant behavior. Population explosion is not a deviant phenomenon but drug addiction is related with deviant behavior (Ahuja, 2016).

We already have some definitions of social problems that can answer when and why a situation or behavior is considered as a social problem. Here, we are only considering drug abuse and addiction in our discussion as a social problem. So, an important question needs to be answered that is, for whom drug abuse and addiction becomes a social problem in contemporary times? There are other related questions associated with this awaiting an answer.

In the different definitions, sociologists have answered the question as to when a situation or behavior is considered as a social problem. From definitions we can say that, when a majority of the population or a major section of society suffers or faces an undesirable issue, which inflicts negative and dangerous consequences then that situation can be considered as a social problem. However, it is necessary to also know who are those people which constitutes the majority and who are facing the negative consequences?

Drug abuse and addiction is supposed to be an individual phenomenon but in recent times it has become a morbidity at the familial level. That means, an individual puts himself in addiction but the negative consequences are largely faced by the family in particular and society in general in terms of different criminal activities like theft, burglary, prostitution, eve-teasing etc. It has emanated as a social problem since a couple of decades in India. A large number of youth indulge themselves in drug

related activities and to intoxicate themselves for hedonic pleasure is not the only cause, there are many associating factors working relentlessly.

Negative consequences associated with the issue makes it a social problem. In India, most of the wealth is owned by a few, on the other hand, majority of the people are left without any resources. In contemporary society subsistence (economic) is a major issue concerning employment that leads to have a healthy future. Impoverishment and unemployment puts young generation in vulnerable situation and creates a space where one may head to illegal and unhealthy paths. Growing number of addicts is a major concern and a problem in society as it impacting socially but along with addicts a section of businessmen, smugglers, traders and distributors are also responsible in making the behaviour a major destructive social problem for the society. Hence, drug abuse and addiction causes social problem among all sections of society. However, the problem becomes more acute when a large section of the poor gets involved in drug abuse and addiction, and consequently the negative consequences for the society increases in magnitude.

Most of the research findings provided by the World Drug Report, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA), or by National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) explain the psychological or medical factors with general social factors that are working in favour of the increasing rates of participation in drug consumption. The sociological intensions and findings are put aside by the above-mentioned explanations in the study field of addiction. Underpinning issues are there which are neither psychological nor medical like India has a large percentage of youth compared to the rest of the world which is approximately 60 per cent of the total population as cited by the International Labour Organizations (ILO Report, link of the information will be given in the reference section). As per National Youth Policy,

youth constitute the age category between 13-35 years of age and that population in India constitutes nearly 40 per cent of the total population. Unfortunately, India is located geographically in between golden crescent and golden triangle that are hubs of drug circulation centers. Hence, India has become a suitable place for international drug smuggling and trafficking, storing and distribution to other nations which makes Indian states vibrant for drug related activities as India is suffering from many social problems already like poverty, child labour, prostitution, unemployment et cetera. In these circumstances, India has become an easy target for the creation of a drug market.

Secondly, political economy of the drug related activities makes it prone to be a social problem in recent decades. Drug related activities are circumscribed with a huge margin of profit that generates employment for easy money in contemporary times which lures the minds of youth to indulge in.

Thirdly, on the basis of above factors, availability of drugs makes it worse for the young who are in their teenage. Maximum abuse of substances and drugs happen to start in teenage due to the vulnerability to explore new things irrespective of any judgement of pros and cons, freedom without bounds and access to money.

Fourthly, teenagers are easy targets as well as a very important age category to entangle with drug activities for the traders. As stated above a high percentage of youth are living in India means that if youth start abusing drugs in their teenage, they can carry this illegal activity for a long period and a section of these youth can engage with the circulation and trafficking activities only to sustain their addiction which will bring a huge profit for the traders in the long run.

There are a number of substances available in the markets but depending on their magnitude price is always levied on the drugs but pricing is mostly based on street prices rather than the original. Drug addiction is very much associated with the concept of class that was given by Karl Marx from production relation perspective. More or less all strata of people are now engaging themselves with drug abuse and addiction but the thing is, they differ in drug taking intensions and concerns that means, some addicts are engaging in drug consumption to get pleasure whereas some addicts are engaging to get relief from their hard realities and pain. Hamid has said that, rich people buy pleasure in the form of drugs (Hamid, 1998), similarly there are people who are in this to earn easy money, some are having the intension to lead an enjoyable and luxurious life that the drug business can buy. There are many causes that force one to be in drug related activities but the question is, who are generating negative consequences to the society which has brought the tag of social problem on the issue to be stigmatized as deleterious, and who are the sufferers.

Therefore, in this context the people engaged in the drug industry that is those who run them draw increasing number of the property less within their clutches. It serves both the function of enriching themselves as well as keeping a large section of the youth drugged and hence insensitive to the uncertainties and frustrations of a neo liberal world.

Drug abuse has become one of destructive social problems all over the world. In Indian context it is increasing rapidly due to the many reasons but interestingly, after the initiation and introduction of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, a notable increase is noticed in drug abuse and this prevails in the domain of illegal activities (World Drug Report, 2017).

Drug trade and its business is worlds“ third largest business that associates with the second largest business of prostitution as both the business work together in modern times (World Drug Report, 2019). Traders and businessmen running these businesses ignore the destructive nature of drugs only to gain profit. Traders and regional distributors are entangling youth into this intentionally and turning the activity to a social problem. Political economy gets linked with the issue when it is seen that the people owning the drug industry run their business and many state operators get involved in this without any serious repercussions and law operates only for the poor peddlers. This adversely affects the functioning of society where it deprived of the productive contributions of a large section of the youth.

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