

THE CONSEQUENCES OF PSYCHO-ACTIVE DRUG MISUSE TO PERSONAL AND GENERAL SAFETY OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE COUNTRY

Bora Stanojkovic

Technical School "Novi Beograd", Belgrade, Serbia

Abstract: *The problem with misuse of Psycho Active Substances, in short PAS, in youth indicates continuous jeopardizing of drug addict, starting from socio-medicinal condition since psychophysical status and then socio-economical status of a family become endangered. The drug addict with his antisocial behavior at first uses the substance without much care and out of curiosity and then, forced by his body needs, enters into a never-ending circle which conditions the behavior that is a threat to himself, his family, close and distant environment in its socio-medicinal, economic and security means. All this shows just how many problems this causes to an individual, his family and country as a whole. All the indicators in socio-medicinal, economic and security fields indicate significant influence of drug misuse (narcotism), on the overall condition of the country since drug addict is not capable of taking care of himself so the family becomes burdened, occupied with that problem (social, economic, medicinal and legal status). Moreover, drug addicts are susceptible to committing suicide. No drug addict is capable of defending his country. There is also large funding involved in engaging professionals in the treatment and resocialization of such individuals.*

Keywords: *psychoactive substance, narcotism, addiction, social pathology, narco-criminal, prevention.*

1. INTRODUCTION

From the dawn of times there have been reports of problems of young people in their developing stage -puberty.¹ Adolescence with its key biological, psychological and social elements is the development period of dynamic character with distinct specificities in the last decades of the twentieth century. Consequently, the turbulent processes that take place in a young man as well as a sex tern al factors' impacts generate the behavior of adolescents on realizing diverse (unadjusted) desires and needs. Therefore, it is difficult at puberty stage for

¹ Čurčić V.: Adolescencija-revolucija i evolucija u razvoju, KBC „Dragiša Mišović“, Beograd, 1997, str. 13-20.

young people to determine the boundary between normal and abnormal, because adolescents can in a given moment be “sometimes neurotic, sometimes quite normal.”

Today, with pronounced anomie and alienation, and searching for their own identity, young people often flee from social institutes- spaces (family, school, workplace), with rebellion and protests respond to lack of proper identification of family models, from - in their opinion - unattractive lifestyle of parents (wishing for big profits with little work), enter a whole new world, a world of drugs, a new powerful ideological habitat with accelerated course of criminal and anti-social, aggressive behavior toward the rapid acquisition of status symbols, or the apparent fulfillment of youthful, unexplained or too modestly explained, illusory desire for wealth and power.

The use of illegal drugs carries multiple damage, first to the individual, and then to the general security of the society. The consequences left behind by drugs to the health of these individuals are medical and social in nature, and threats to general security can also be classified into two categories:

- Delinquent situations created by adolescent drug-addicts (younger offenders) in their attempt to get to drugs (theft, forgery of prescriptions, etc.), and
- Criminal offences done by older adolescents -delinquents: sales (dealing) of drugs, production, processing and trafficking; these are serious crimes punishable by imprisonment.

The above issues and consequences that are law offences due to the consumption of psychoactive substances and narcotics can be labeled as a phenomenon of the combined type or with immediate negative effects. Example: traffic accident with one or more of the injured and deceased participants in the accident.² Both personal and collective security are compromised through jeopardizing the safety of public transport, as well as the lives of passengers

The fact is that by establishing dependencies of PAS or narcotic road, an adolescent-addict³ knows nothing else but that it is an absolute must for him to take a certain amount of substance every day; if not, he loses control over his actions. Fear of withdrawal syndrome (pain) cannot be controlled by the addict; that is why he needs help - chemical drugs.

Due to lack of means (money, jewelry, paintings), i.e. due to lack of material possibilities for purchasing PAS, addict is ready for any kind of cooperation (this is the criminal area, understandably), he is subject to easy manipulation; thus he is unable to perform any defense - security - area of the state apparatus.

Use of PAS and narcotic drugs carries with may result in increase in co-morbidity in terms of the occurrence of certain illnesses (schizophrenia), i.e. it can accelerate their appearance or lead to biological changes;⁴ it can also speed up the decision on self-destruction or suicidal act.

2. INCAPACITY TO TAKE CARE OF ONE'S SELF

The process of getting used to the substance - drug - and to a different way of life takes place gradually and discreetly. Depending on the type of drug and mental and physical abilities of the person, getting used can last for several weeks and several monthly sessions, even years, and therefore it is difficult to accurately determine the border when someone has

² Stajić LJ., Mijalković S., Stanarević S.: Bezbednosna kultura mladih - kako živeti bezbedno, Draganić, Belgrade, 2006, pp 69-81.

³ Adict (eng. adict od lat. addictus) prav. dosuđen, dodeljen, zavisnik, najčešće od droge. Jovanović R.: Veliki leksikon stranih reči i izraza, Prometej, Beograd, 2006, str. 23. 23.

⁴ Boro Lazić. To može biti i Vaše dete, Belgrade, 2007, pp 76-89.

become an addict. This is why the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1946 introduced a more precise notion of dependency-drug use, with the following characteristics:

- strong desire to take drugs and obtain them at any cost,
- tendency to increase the dose during application,
- psychic or physical dependence on the effects of drugs, and
- harmful consequences on the individual and society.

Also, the process of drug-addiction depends on several important factors, including: type of substance-drugs, psycho-physical force of a person in that very moment, and amount of substance.⁵

Complete dependence on substance-drug, i.e. the negative effect on the body of addict with the consequences reduces this person to a life of misery and simple vegetating; not even increased dose of the substance can do anything because complete numbness and lack of any interest are but an introduction into serious damage to vital organs, especially the heart, liver, lungs, etc.

Health complications in addicts range from mild (with minor medical interventions) to severe, when hospital treatment is required with constant supervision of medical staff. According to the degree of the disease, a doctor or consulting team will determine the type of treatment and time interval of the treatment, as well as monitoring the postoperative course of treatment and recovery, which suggests that a drug addict is not able at that time to take care of himself, he needs the help of a professional, family and immediate social environment.

3. LIMITED CONTROL OVER ONE'S OWN ACTIONS

Curiosity, disease or something else can prove to be the reason to start using drugs, i.e. to begin with the abuse of narcotic drugs in young-adolescents. At the very beginning of this seemingly harmless passing game, the young consume a substance or drugs, then, many of them repeat it, and then the substance-drugs triggers addiction. A large number of young people (not all) continue to consume the same dose and substances, while many increase the dose and change the substance for faster pharmaco-dynamic effect which introduces them to a full addiction -drug addiction. The addict loses control of his mental and physical processes, regardless of time and space of events; the substance becomes the initiator and controller of actions in the life of an adolescent addict.

With alcohol use among children and youth there are far-reaching consequences, since from the very beginning of use alcohol impairs their function (desire, concentration, memory, attention), followed by health problems: disturbed liver function, and later, if they continue consuming drugs, cirrhosis of the liver, stomach cancer, etc. Cannabis use has negative effects in the form of fear, anxiety, depression, so students who take marijuana have low concentration, cognition, coordination and judgment, and have lower ratings (if they are still in full-time education).

Cocaine, which belongs to the group of natural alkaloids, is obtained from the leaves of *Erythroxylon coca*, creates insidious substances with pharmacological adverse health effects on addicts. Adverse psycho-physical manifestations are evident from aggressive behavior unsuitable to the situation, from a variety of sensory illusions (cocaine bugs), from extreme

psychological and physical restlessness, paranoid perceptions of the moment, and from making inappropriate decisions, all the way to overdoses.⁶

Mechanisms of action of PAS and narcotics with synthetic makeup or with natural origin are diverse (as we noted in the previous section), and they have either same or similar effects on the body of adolescent addict, with weaker or stronger pharmacological effect on certain points of the central nervous system (CNS) thus limiting control procedures of addicts, or causing certain action that at the moment (because of the influence of drugs) seem willing, yet they are in fact involuntary actions, uncontrolled by addicts.

4. EASY MANIPULATION

The aim of the use, i.e. drug abuse is to influence the psychological and biological processes, i.e. to raise the level of acceleration and time of initiation; in certain cases this serves to slow them down, or even to stop them, and then induce special states of consciousness, as well as a change in behavior. In this regard, for these purposes, especially after World War II, not only drugs of natural origin have been used (such as cocaine, marijuana, hashish, heroin), but also a variety of synthesized substances and preparations that are produced in special laboratories, analog to natural drugs just several times stronger in their pharmacological and pharmacodynamic effects on human body.

In fact, this is about chemical substances that have already predetermined, designed stimulating effects (the substance of truth, courage, etc.), or they have psychoactive effects (fear, panic, illusions, etc.). The origin of these substances dates back to the First World War, production increases during the Second World War, and continues after 1945, i.e. after the war.

Bearing in mind the use and abuse of PAS and narcotics, as well as their impact on the human organism with potential negative consequences for the health of addicts, there are two very important segments of the overall threat to the status of an individual, family and country as a whole.

First segment of compromising is when a person willfully, for various reasons, takes substances and is subject to many negative consequences, including manipulation as negative effect of the substance. Second segment of compromising (conditioning) is closely associated with the substance, but additionally initiated by someone for his personal needs or even higher goals (various state agencies, industry, for the sake of the country), when the substance is forced upon a person (through injections or orally) in order to reach certain goals.

Regarding the first aspect of manipulation which has a very broad scope of misuse through adolescent population, about 90% of addicts are affected by this. When we add the negative consequences of the long-term negative effects through biological-medical, socio-economic, as well as cultural and negative security consequences, manipulation is a current unfavorable integral element attached to the addict, located in the vortex of conflict and the substance of his personality on the one hand, and family, friends and social norms on the other. This means that addicts are conditioned on one hand by chemical action of the substance on the body, causing the very addiction as such, i.e. increasing the body's need for ever higher doses in order to achieve the desired state. For fear of detoxification, or worse even, when already in abstinence crisis, addict would be willing to perform even the most

immoral actions in order to get his drugs and mitigate the crisis, more precisely - to reduce the overall biological-psychological-health tension by consuming the substance.

As concerns other areas of compromising the overall situation through manipulation, this refers to individuals and departments that use substances to achieve their goals (collection of information, financial, industrial information, etc.). In gathering information, substance as a stimulant is forced into person's organism (forcibly injected either through food or drink) when they request specific data and information from this person; this data might be vital to industry, manufacturing, police, army, etc. Accordingly, conditioning in this case originate and are initiated by certain agencies, with the help of substances (LSD-25), resulting in chemical conditioning by the very substance through its effects on certain centers of the nervous system; this means that this person is subjected to manipulation by those in power in order for them to reach their goals. Another comprehensive unfavorable factor is that a person becomes addicted to this forcibly entered substance, i.e. he gives in either because of the chemical pressure of drugs, or because of fear. The person gives in conditioning, i.e. to the demands of those who subjected him to this in the first place.

5. CONCLUSION

“The most dangerous type of narco-terrorism toward any country is the one who kills children with drugs because it destroys it several times over and in the long run, makes one nation disappear.” The results of these precautions were visible but not nearly enough. Therefore, after almost four decades of fighting against narcotism, the world is once more at its beginning. This showed in 1999 when the General Assembly of OUN spoke about the estimation of conditions and argued about growing problems of narcotism, in other words, misuse of psychoactive substances and narcotics and their illegal production, fabrication and trade as profitable (slowly killing) goods. Using this opportunity the prime minister said the well known premise: “The misuse of drugs represents a time bomb which ticks at the heart of our civilization.. We must find a way to deactivate As in the world so in our country as well, from the very beginning of the presence of narcotic drugs and PAS on the territory of former SFRJ and Republic of Serbia when the sudden development of narcotism happened, with our lack of knowledge, in other words, not knowing the issues about the newly born situation at hand by the parents, health workers and leading people the never-ending race with this evil and against it begins. And the drug addicts took the lead. The misuse of narcotic drugs and PAS is getting bigger all over the world. In those days there were 22 million of registered drug addicts and today we have 220 million. In the same years here in Serbia we had 10 thousands and nowadays even 120 thousand of mainly younger (60%-90%) population of drug addicts.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- [1] Ćurčić V.: *Adolescencija-revolucija i evolucija u razvoju*, KBC „Dragiša Mišović“, Beograd, 1997.
- [2] Dimitrijević I.: *U veku droge, Priručnik za porodicu i školu*, Beograd, 2007 (<http://www.scribd.com/doc/18482549/Doc-Dr-Ivan-Dimitrijevic-U-Veku-Droge>)
- [3] Jerotić V.: *Ličnost narkomana*, Ars Libris; Neven, Beograd, 2006.
- [4] Jovanović R.: *Veliki leksikon stranih reči i izraza*, Prometej, Beograd, 2006.
- [5] Lazić B.: *To može biti i Vaše dete*, D.O.O. „Dr Boro Lazić“, Beograd, 2007.

-
- [6] Milosavljević M.: Droga, mit, pakao, Stvarnost, Sarajevo, 2000.
 - [7] Milošević M.: Organizovani kriminal, Službeni list SRJ, Beograd, 2003.
 - [8] Stajić LJ., Mijalković S., Stanarević S.: Bezbednosna kultura mladih - kako živeti bezbedno, Draganić, Beograd, 2006.
 - [9] "Suzbijanje zloupotrebe psihoaktivnih supstanci u Vojsi Srbije " (zbornik radova), Ministarstvo odbrane Republike Srbije, Beograd, 2007.