SOCIO-PATHOLOGICAL YOUTH BEHAVIOR - DRUG ADDICTION:
WITH A REVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN MACEDONIA

Blagojche Anastasov, Jasminka Kochoska
“St. Kliment Ohridski” University- Bitola
Faculty of Education- Bitola
gemelli4@yahoo.com

Abstract

Drug and drug abuse is a phenomenon typical of modern society that does not occur elsewhere and to others, but right here, among us. The number of those who enjoy drugs is growing rapidly, especially among young people, high school students and even elementary school students. Of particular concern is the fact that The Republic of Macedonia is a transit country on the road to drugs, but at the same time a country that produces and consumes drugs. Every day we are witnessing a steady decline in the average age of consumers with initiation and abuse of illicit drugs. Drug addiction is treated as a disease of modern society, and there are numerous factors and causes for its occurrence and daily growth. The main immediate factors are: tradition, impact of modern social processes on breaking down the homogeneous family, urban environment, migration, urbanization and so on. The general social causes of drug addiction are as follows: the rapid flow of ideas and the rise of standards, changes in the value system, structural changes, lack of awareness of drug properties and signs of youth behavior. Unfortunately, the Information chain is based on the principle that young people learn about drugs very quickly, but not in time for its harmful properties and effects.

Keywords: drug addiction, youth, society, disease, awareness

1. Introduction

“First the man takes the drug, then the drug takes the drug, and finally the drug takes the man.”
Old Chinese proverb

Today we are witnessing the rising demotivation and impatience of young people. The accelerated development of technology is affecting young people's will and interest. They live in a world that is far different from the one in which their parents lived. They have innumerable opportunities and temptations in front of them that are difficult for adults to grasp and imagine. When we talk about what is being offered to young people today, we can recall the Apostle Paul's words: “I am allowed, but not everything is useful to me“. Often parents are mistaken that they know their children well, that they have a normal family, and

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"that" can't happen to them. A healthy and stable family is a good foundation for preventing excessive behavior in young people. (Stojilković, 2019)

The findings so far point to the conclusion that students on the one hand have superficial information on psychoactive substances, and on the other they lack a deep understanding of the problems of drug addiction. Hence, they do not have an adequately constructed view of healthy lifestyles and the long-term effects of abuse of psychoactive substances. They are open to experimenting with them and at the same time not being sufficiently aware of the risks they are taking. The question of why one becomes addicted and another does not is always relevant, especially if individuals have grown up in the same or similar social circumstances, families, schools, or other microenvironments. That is why the logical assumption that there is a predisposition to drug addiction is emphasized. Although there are no precise studies that indicate the specific psychological structure of a person, addicts are more commonly found with personality traits such as withdrawal, passivity, aggressiveness. Identity is a potential force for personality development and a key guide in following and understanding the direction in which the young person moves. Today, the young person is exposed to greater temptations than ever before, but is also responsible for his own choices in life. (Stojilković, 2019)

2. The relationship of sociology and social pathology

Sociology, as a science, for its research subject has the whole of social life and all phenomena in society. In his research, sociology uses a global scientific approach and observes every social phenomenon within a broader set of social phenomena with which it is directly or indirectly related. Therefore, sociology is a theoretical general science that seeks to discover and formulate the general conditions in which one type of social phenomenon influences another, independent of time and space. (Wikibooks, 2008)

This science uses various methods of empirical research, symbolic interpretations and critical analysis to develop a systematic knowledge of social activities, most often for the purpose of applying it to the achievement of social well-being. (Giddens, Duneier, & Appelbaum, 2007) Sociology, as a basic social science, is the foundation from which all the separate social sciences originate. It is a field where their special results come together in a broad sociological synthesis. But it is a science at the same time, because it examines and studies practical relationships and phenomena in society.

The collaboration of sociology and other social sciences is closely linked. In the particular social sciences, sociology provides the theoretical and methodological framework for the study of particular areas of social reality or individual social phenomena that are the subject of their study. In turn, the particular social sciences provide a huge empirical material for sociology.

Social pathology is a special sociological discipline that studies socio-pathological phenomena and explores all kinds of disorders of human importance that are of social importance. These are social diseases, social deviations and social disorganization. In a broad sense, it is a science that deals with facts about disorders that are socially conditioned, harmful, unacceptable and undesirable. Areas of social pathology include social diseases
(somatic, mental and psychosomatic), sociopathy, toxicomania, vices (alcoholism and drug abuse), aggression (crime) and social disorganization. (Eduklik, 2014)

The sociological approach to the study of pathology is the most widespread today. Its founder is Emil Durkheim, who defined it as applied sociology. It covers three areas of social research:

- Deviant behavior- behavior that deviates from established social standards and norms. In social pathology social deviation is understood as the kind of individual and group behavior that results in social-destructive, pathological and delinquent behavior, causing a social reaction. It is about all those phenomena that endanger universal social values.
- Social disorganization- absence, disorder and the breakdown of the form of social relations on which the organization of the institution or group is based. This area is less studied than deviant behavior because the reasons for deviant behavior are more sought after in the sphere of the individual's personality, and less so in certain properties of the social system.
- Social Response- social measures for the prevention and elimination of deviant behaviors. It depends on the nature of the deviation, the degree and the extent to which it occurs, the social visibility of the deviation, the meaning that the social community attaches to the norm that is violated. A condition for social reaction to deviant behavior is its visibility to community members. (Wikibooks, 2008)

3. **Socio-pathological youth behavior- drug addiction**

The term drug addiction is of Greek origin and by definition means a passion for enjoying narcotic drugs and the drug addict is the person who enjoys it. However, the notion of drug addiction has much broader dimensions and grows into a common passion, and as it evolves, it becomes a hallmark of an entire culture and a new principle and way of life, in other words, it becomes a disease. Drug addiction is already a trend, a response to the daily monotony of young people or the social dysfunction, opposition to all that is normal and reasonable, a ticket to society, a way to cut off time or unexplored expanse, without which life is considered incomplete. Actually drug addiction is a very strong personality connection with some psychoactive substance, which manifests itself as an irresistible passion for its consumption. (Kaličanin, 2002)

The World Health Organization defines drug abuse as "a state of periodic or chronic intoxication caused by drug reintroduction". We distinguish three types of addiction: mental, physical and tolerance. How long this may take depends on a variety of factors: the type of drug and its pharmacological properties, the manner, frequency, amount and length of consumption, the addict himself and his needs, family and social environment, etc. (Nastić, 2004)

4. **Drug addiction to young people**

Addiction is subjected to a harmful habit, usually a psychophysical drug addiction, including legal medications, nicotine, caffeine, and alcohol. In the last two decades there is talk of internet addiction as well. The classification includes a number of addictions, such as physiological, psychological, behavioral and consumer addictions. All types of addiction have a similar course: diagnosis, prognosis and treatment procedure. (Medicine, 2011)
The drug is a natural or synthetic chemical substance that affects physiological and psychological (intellectual, emotional and motivational) functions, and significantly changes the behavior of the person consuming it. Multiple use leads to accustomed or creating psychic/ physical addiction. Drug intake (heroin, crack, cocaine) leads to rapid production addiction, and when it abruptly stops, abstinence syndrome occurs. According to the World Health Organization, drugs are "any substance that when found in the living organism is able to modify one or more functions and with its reuse lead to psychological or physical addiction” (Голубовић, 2008)

Many modern-day drugs have historically been used as drugs (heroin, marijuana, hashish, cocaine). Sumerians, Chinese and other nations in the past have used opium, cocaine and hallucinogenic mushrooms to prevent pain due to increased physical endurance in those who fought. Nowadays, except in some places where drugs have remained an inevitable part of culture or some pagan rituals (in countries such as Bolivia, Peru, Cambodia, Mexico, Turkey and certain African countries) are taken up by various motives. The most basic are:

- The trend;
- The need for self-discovery, which is most pronounced among adolescents as one of the stages and crisis of identity;
- The need for self-discovery in the environment, which is also characteristic of adolescents whose mental state at a given time in life is too fragile and complicated, and tends to fit into a larger and more stable environment at all costs;
- Rebellion and resistance against the world,
- Identification with false idols and
- The most dangerous factor, of all the worst human beings characteristics, which throughout history have been the source of the greatest success and the greatest failure - curiosity. (Stevan, 2003)

Drugs are various natural or chemically synthesized substances that have a psychoactive effect on the consumer. They primarily affect the vegetative nervous system. Some of them make it more difficult or easier to consume in the long run addiction and have different consequences for the consumer. It is almost impossible to reach anyone who comes into contact with drugs. Given the fact that mass production of drugs has made it far cheaper and accessible to everyone, drug addiction is already a global phenomenon. It is no longer the occupation of the rich, but also the "treasure of the poor”. (Stevan, 2003)

4.1 Adolescent drug addiction in Europe and in our country

In Western Europe drug addiction is spreading unseen speed especially after the 80s, and states are facing various problems in its suppression. At the Second Ministerial Conference in Strasbourg in 1994, data was provided on drug users: Austria 22646, Italy 150000; Germany 70,000 - 100,000; Poland 20000 - 40000; Norway 4000 - 5000; Switzerland 25000 - 30000; Slovenia 1000 - 3000; Croatia 4500. Unfortunately in our country as well the time has passed when drug addiction among the youth was a phenomenon far and away in our society. Already after the 70's The Republic of Macedonia has faced initial problems due to the massive increase in drug use among young people, primarily due to the discovery of their different, "better" world under the influence of Western culture. The youth subculture of the 1970s led to the enjoyment of drugs from the earliest years. Youth addiction in the 1970s was
seen as an ideology of protest, of youth resistance to society i.e. on the emancipatory step. In the 1980s it became a style and a supplement to various sub cultural movements. In the late 80's and early 90's, young drug users no longer seek a better understanding of the world; they do not seek ways to improve the environment, but seek to forget it. Young people today have a "no future" philosophy, which is the most fatal. (Стаменкова-Трајкова, Белевска, & Трајков)

In recent years, illicit drug trafficking has grown and the enjoyment of drugs has spread. Perhaps in recent years, the economic and social crisis, the demolition of traditional values, the erosion of morality, which is present in all countries in transition, have played a key role. Compared to 1993 in 1995 the number of enjoyers has tripled. Drug enjoyment also entails juvenile behavior, leading to the recent years of thefts, violent behaviors and murders often committed by minors, a significant number of whom are drug users and whose main motive is to obtain the necessary funds drug supply. Some of drug lovers themselves grow drugs in their gardens. The desire to become addicted to drugs is a young person's socially conditioned attitude, a reflection of one's attitude towards one's own and social problems. Thus, it can be concluded that drug addiction is a socio-pathological phenomenon that causes socio-economic relations in the family and personality traits. (Стаменкова-Трајкова, Белевска, & Трајков)

4.2 Adolescent attitudes about drugs

The adolescent population from which drug addicts can later be recruited is not homogeneous in terms of attitudes and interest in drugs and opiates. It can be said that it is much differentiated and their views are different and unequal. Therefore, for practical reasons, adolescents, in terms of their attitudes about drugs, are divided into five groups:
1. Many modern adolescents do not show any interest in drugs of any kind, nor do they approve of their use.
2. Some modern adolescents show an interest in young drug addicts and their behavior, but without any desire to accept drugs and their lifestyles.
3. The third group consists of adolescents who emotionally identify with drug addicts and who use drugs themselves. For most of them, enjoying drugs is more of a public demonstration of their determination than internal need for drugs.
4. The fourth group consists of adolescents who identify with drug addicts in terms of their attitudes, customs, behaviors and attitudes towards drugs. However representatives of this group, whether because of the short internship or personality factor, maintain a certain distance to the drug, not completely succumbing.
5. Still a relatively small number of those adolescents who have completely depleted their relationships and habitual social relationships, and are mentally and physically drug dependent. Thus they fully adopted the drug addicts' behavior and the characteristics of the drug addict.

Many adolescents belong to the first and partly to the second group. The members of the fourth and fifth groups have long been an extreme minority, but in the past ten years their numbers have grown rapidly.
5. Drugs in the Republic of Macedonia

The Republic of Macedonia is a country on the road to drugs (transit country), but at the same time a country that produces and consumes drugs. Of particular concern is the steady decline in the average age of initiation and abuse of illicit drugs. Another major concern is the use of heroin and the serious health risks, i.e. the risk of heroin overdose and death as a result. In the Republic of Macedonia intravenous heroin use is prevalent in 95% to 96% of drug users. Intravenous drug use is a serious risk factor for the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and C viruses and other blood related diseases. Of those who are drug addicts and who are on drug treatment, 70-90% are infected with hepatitis C virus and it is likely that intravenous drug use could be one of the major factors for the spread of HIV/AIDS in the RM in the future.

According to the HBSC (Health Behavior in School-aged Children) survey of cannabis use, conducted in 2009/2010 in 39 countries (including the Republic of Macedonia) among 15-year-olds, 3% of the respondents who used cannabis were boys and 1% were girls, on average 2%. (Macedonia, 2012)

5.1 Analysis of the drug situation in the Republic of Macedonia

The analysis is made “to assess the current situation with drug abuse in the Republic of Macedonia in order to see if there are any significant changes before and after the adoption of the National Drugs Strategy in the five pillars of the Strategy:

• Coordination of drug policies;
• Reducing demand;
• Decrease in drug supply;
• Cooperation with international organizations and
• Research and evaluation

The Center for Drug Monitoring and Drug Addiction, the Sector for Controlled Substances and the Ministry of Health conducted three surveys that represent a qualitative-quantitative analytical cross-sectional study, followed by an analysis of research conducted in the field of drugs, by other institutions and/or experts in the Republic of Macedonia. An additional objective was to identify the places where measures and activities need to be foreseen in the new drug strategy to strengthen capacity. The research was conducted in the period May - November 2012, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health with the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Macedonia.

The survey covered 246 people, 8 regions, 20 cities of the Republic of Macedonia. The selection of the representative sample in the research was random. The survey was conducted in various locations of outdoor and indoor type, parks, cafeterias, and clubs. Analyzed persons are categorized by sex, age, diagnosis and by age: addicts under 15; 15 - 19 years; 20-34 years; + 35 years; by sex: male / female. 239 (97.15%) of the total of 246 respondents gave age data. The minimum age of the respondents is 17 years and the maximum age is 55 years. The average age of the respondents was 32.2 ± 7.3 years. The calculated mean values indicate that 50% of the respondents in the survey are over 32 years of age.
The research results show that the age group 20-34 is the most prevalent in terms of drug use, i.e. the most abused drug in that age category. The analysis showed that there is a much higher number of men who abuse drugs than women, 84% of men, versus 16% of women, of all respondents included in the survey.

From the obtained data it can be concluded that 61% of the respondents have secondary education and 37% have no secondary education. This can make a correlation between education and drug use. This is important data for the preparation of prevention programs and the need for youth not involved in the educational process to be included in indicated and selective prevention programs to increase awareness of the harmful effects of drugs. The study confirmed a high degree of risky drug use by injection and thus the potential for transmission of infectious, blood-borne diseases." (Петрушевска, 2018)

**Conclusion**

The wisdom of the past centuries of life and the wisdom of the old sages sends a message to the youth - not to seek irrational beauty, but to find the beauty of reality. Because doesn’t exist more tragic reality from everyday escape from it.

Drug and drug abuse is a phenomenon characteristic of modern society. It is no longer happening elsewhere and to others, it is here among us. The number of those who enjoy drugs is growing rapidly, especially among young people, high school students and even elementary schoolchildren. For younger people, the most important thing is to act preventively and to help them build their own attitudes towards life and to use all available means to influence the formation of an appropriate system of values, especially during adolescence. Every society should regulate and prevent drug use as much as possible through specific mechanisms. It is only certain and indisputable that drugs, no matter which group they belong to and which name they hide, are the greatest evil of modern society. Drug addiction is a serious illness and should be treated this way as it is the only way to help the addict. As for already established drug addicts, there are many different ways of treating it today. Their psychological addiction, insecurity and inability to accept reality are central problems. But one thing is clear: the drug addict is a person who has a real problem and needs help. The integration of former addicts into society and their retraining is a very important process, which is not enough for that person to participate alone, but also for the whole family, friends and professional services.

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