



## PSYCHOSOCIAL ATTRIBUTES OF DRUG ABUSE AMONG YOUTHS AND ADOLESCENTS

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### Abstract

Currently, drug abuse has emerged as a major social problem subjected to discussions globally. Furthermore, youths and adolescents engaging in socially deviant actions such as drug abuse can be a cause for the uncertainty of the future of a country. The main objective of this study is to identify types of drugs popular among youths and adolescents, drug-using patterns, family factors affecting drug abuse, the influence of environmental factors and psychosocial factors as well as policies, plans, and actions to address these conditions. Youths and adolescents representing the 10-24 age category being treated in rehabilitation centres were selected, under the Random Sampling Method, and the total sample was 64 individuals. In order to collect data, data collecting techniques such as Semi Structure Questionnaire and in-depth interviews were used and for data analysis SPSS and Content Analysis were used. The majority of the youths and adolescents represented in the sample stated that they use cigarette as the primary drug and 31 (48.5%) individuals had started to use drugs for the first time when they were 16-20 years of age. When considering psychosocial factors related to drugs, as individual psychological factors- (curiosity, mental confusion, disappointment), as environmental factors- (living in an area where consuming drugs without any obstacle is possible, availability of drugs in the residing area), as family-related factors- (making disputes with family members, drug use of family members), and as social factors - (peer pressure, facing legal issues) were revealed as factors that had mainly influenced the abuse of drugs among youths and adolescents through this study. The research showed a tendency among young individuals to take part in Parties organized by social media. Ecstasy, tablets used for medicinal purposes, LSD, Amphetamine type Stimulants, Cannabis, Heroin, Cocaine, Alcohol, Cigarettes, Tobacco related products and Magic Mushrooms were revealed to be the drugs that were mostly used by young individuals at parties organized through social media.

**Keywords:** *Youths, Adolescents, Drugs, Psychosocial attributes*