



## **TRENDS AND PATTERNS OF DRUG USE AMONG CONSTRUCTION WORKERS (SPECIAL REFERENCE TO COLOMBO DISTRICT)**

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### **Abstract**

Trends and patterns of drug use vary from time to time, from region to region and from place to place. Considering the emerging trends and patterns of drug abuse, a tendency to use drugs can also be identified among workers at large scale building construction workplaces. The main objective of the study was to identify trends and patterns of workers' drug use in construction workplaces. The problem of the study was what are the current trends and patterns of workers' drug use in construction workplaces. The research was conducted at eight selected building construction workplaces in Colombo and suburbs and the sample size was 400 workers. Colombo District was selected based on the high level of construction work being carried out in the Colombo District and the high prevalence of the use of dangerous drugs in the Colombo District. Construction workers were selected for the sample using random sampling and a Survey method was used for carrying out this study. The structured questionnaire was used to identify trends and patterns of workers' drug use and in-depth interviews and observation were used to identify workers' drug use behaviour and their perception of using drugs. Quantitative data were analyzed using SPSS software and qualitative data were analysed by the thematic analysis method. Out of the total population, 79% of workers use Kerala cannabis, 76% use legal alcohol, 30% use local cannabis and 21% use smoke powder related products. A high percentage of workers (44%) who use Kerala cannabis has a high tendency to get it from a friend at work. The percentage of workers using tablets and heroin is 16% and 9%, respectively and the percentage of workers who used LSD is 0.25 %, as revealed by the study. In addition, 20% of workers use processed tobacco. Out of the workers who are using Kerala cannabis, the majority (54%) is daily users. 99% of workers are using cigarette/tobacco and it is further revealed that the highest percentage of workers (38%) use drugs due to body pains after completion of work. It can be concluded that all the workers who use drugs are poly-drug users. Furthermore, it can be concluded that Kerala cannabis has high popularity among dangerous drugs and also there is high popularity of the daily consumption of Kerala cannabis. It is hoped to create drug-free workplaces by designing and implementing preventive treatment and rehabilitation programs based on research findings.

**Keywords:** *Construction workers, Drugs, Drug use, Heroin, Kerala cannabis*