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AN OVERVIEW OF DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE TO A MUSLIM MAN AND RELATIONS

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Abstract

The aim of this research paper is to deliberate on the dangers of drug abuse to Muslim (and other humans). Drug abuser is a threat to humans that has been inflicting humans from ancient time to date. Drug abuse kill, maim, harm, and destroy abusers and related members of the society. A conceptual review made in this work deliberate on the following items of drug abuse among others: Islamic concepts of drug abuse, drug abuse in the context of health, drivers of drug abuse, dangers of drug abuse, examples of drugs of abuse and their respective effects, etc. It is important to re-alert the society (especially policy makers and stakeholders) to take heed and stringent measures to prevent drug abuse through disparate means including utilization of religious interventions.

Keywords: Drug, Muslim, Drug Abuse, Society, Death, Laws, Education

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Introduction

Drug abuse remain a worldwide problem causing great danger to lives of many individuals, and societies; while affecting sectors of life such as security, political, education, religion, economic, etc. The utilization of drugs among societies of the world is increasing due to drugs accessibility, and lack of policies implementation (ElShafie et al., 2023).

Nevertheless, drug abuse refers to wrongful act of drug consumption, or inappropriate utilization of substances that alter the body functioning and nature; while causing harms. Meanwhile, drug abuse has led to violence, absenteeism, destruction of public properties (such as schools), declined academic performance, school drop outs, poor cognitive ability, broken homes, sexual abuses, violence, crimes, theft, increased infections, infections, increased chronic diseases, etc (Abikwi & Okafor, 2022; Sarkingobir et al., 2023). The aim of this research paper is to deliberate on the dangers of drug abuse to Muslim (and other humans)

Islamic Concepts of Drug Abuse

The Islam is a universal religion encompassing that takes life and properties of citizens seriously. Islam aim to protect lives, properties, health, and wellbeing of adherents and other residents (Idid & Hashi, n.d.; Bensaid et al., 2021). There are several reasons that are compelling and are revealed in Islamic law that lead to prohibition of drug abuse as mentioned below:

The Quranic verses revealing effects, harms, reasons, and motives of prohibiting drugs or substances that inflict harm or mayhem on man and other biologica1l beings. Allah *Subhanahu Wata'ala* (SWT) made mentioned in several verses of the Qur'an. " *And do not kill yourselves for one another*" sura al-Nisa [4] verse 29. According to this verse, people (Muslims) shall not indulge in any act that may lead to their killing, drug abuse is a clear route that kills instantly or over a long-term period. "... and do not throw yourselves with your own hands into destruction" sura al-Baqarah [2] verse 195. Here it is promulgating that, anything that could endanger life should not be followed. In life drug abuse is a key thing spurring destruction. Nevertheless, the Almighty God reiterated on forbidding drugs (alcohols) as in sura al-Maidah [5] verse 90 "*O you who have believed, indeed, intoxicants, gambling, (sacrificing on) stone altars (to other than Allah), and divining arrows are but defilement from work of Satan, so avoid it that you may be successful*" (Usman et al., 2022).

The hadith of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) forbids drug abuse "*The Prophet (pbuh) forbade everything intoxicating and Mufattir*" (Usman et al., 2022). Therefore, every substance that elicit mind altering, harm, covering of senses, etc is therefore repugnant and forbidden in Islam (Abdullahi, 2018).

Drugs Abuse in the Context of Health

Drug is a chemical substance that own the capacity to change or alter the human body or other beings (Murat, 2014; Dada et al., 2015). Drugs may alter the brain, body, and other body parts. However, drug abuse is threatening and dangerous behavior that involves consumption of drug substance that is illegal or abnormal (Enambe & Eba, 2021). Drug addiction is a disease or disorder that affect brain, that is characterized due to a compulsive drug seeking, drug use; therefore, consequences occur. Drug Abuse destroy the normal functions of the brain or body, cause harmful effects, and last lifelong (Wu et al., 2016; Vilchez, 2018; Manish et al., 2020).

Psychological Drivers of Drug Abuse

People take drugs due to disparate reasons or motivations such as the followings:

- To feel better- People dealing with anxiety may be instigated to consume drugs to relieve anxiety, stress, depression for the short time. However, when the drugs action ends, the problem persists.
- To act better- Some people consume drugs to elicit better feelings such as cognition, academic performance, energy, etc.
- Curiosity- Young people are more affected to take drugs due to curiosity, an inherent human nature.
- Peer influence- Many young people fall into drugs due to the stimulation or imitation from friends or peers (Akanbi et al., 2015; Essack et al., 2020; ElShafie et al., 2023).

Environmental Factors Affecting Tendency to Drugs

Home or family

There is strong ability of home environment to affect tendency to drugs. Elders or older children taking drugs serve as teachers or models to the younger ones in taking drugs. Likewise, parents taking drugs serve as bad influencers to drugs among youngsters and children or adolescents (Mamman, 2014).

School and Peers

Prevalence of drug abuse at school or stressful pressure could incite many young people to drugs without the knowledge of parents or wards or teachers. Likewise, interaction with bad peers is a strong factor that instigate children or adolescents to drug abuse (Mamman, 2014; Nasiru et al., 2019ab).

Biological Factor

People who have history of drug abuse among their forefathers could be instigated to drug abuse provided the prevailing factors are supportive (Umar et al., 2023a).

Negative Effects and Dangers of Drug Abuse

Drugs are very consequential on users and other members of the society, especially people that are close to drug abusers. Some of the dangers due to drug abuse are as enumerated below:

Mental disorders

Many people have been hospitalized due to drug abuse, and many are roaming the streets left psychologically or mentally deranged as a result of one drug abuse or other. Drug Abuse is a renown cause of mental consequences such as anxiety, schizophrenia, depression, addiction, etc (Umar et al., 2023ab).

Increased Disease Prevalence

Drugs such as alcohol, cocaine, syrup, etc cause infectious diseases prevalence to escalate. Infectious problems such as HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, sexually transmitted illnesses, etc are bring escalated by drug abuse practices around the world. In the same vein, chronic problems such as diabetes, kidney failure, liver disease, etc have been cited as dangers of drugs (Kaluwa, 2019).

Effects of Drug Abuse on Non-users

Mother's abusing drugs cause effects on their unborn or breastfeeding babies. Effects on society such as broken homes, crime, accidents, violence, etc are constantly causing a lot of harms on other members of the society including children, wives, parents, pedestrians, students, teachers, etc (Kavitha et al., 2022; Nasiru et al., 2019ab; Umar et al., 2023a). It is significant to state that, outcomes of drug abuse such as secondhand smoking are causing a lot of dangerous consequences on non-users (such as pollution, respiratory problems, cancers). Specifically, tobacco or cigarette abuse kills about 100 million people during the 20th century, a figure that will be 1 billion based on projections of the future. Alcohol can damage all parts of the human body, whereas, marijuana abuse affects learning, nervous system, respiratory system, etc (Kaluwa, 2019; Kavitha et al., 2022; Umar et al., 2023a).

Examples of Common Drugs and Their Effects

There are several types of drugs being abused, some of which are more popular, while others are less, but all drugs being abused are dangerous. Some of the drugs and their examples of effects are listed as follows:

- Inhalants- They are volatile substances such as gasoline, aerosols, spray paints, etc. Inhalants are highly dangerous and poisonous to health; therewith, they can destroy liver, kidneys, lungs, and brain.
- Cocaine- Cocaine is a mind altering drug that can incite effects on nervous, digestive, and respiratory systems of the human body.
- Amphetamines- Amphetamines include methamphetamine and act as powerful stimulants inciting euphoria. Effects due to amphetamines could be seizure, and high body temperature.
- MDMA is a stimulant and mind altering drug that increase heart rate, blood pressure, stress, and body temperature.
- LSD is a drug acting as high-powered hallucinogen and facilitates false feelings of sounds, sensations, colors, images, and emotions.
- Heroin- Heroin is a high-powered opioid that cause feelings of euphoria and relaxation. It causes a slow respiration, high risk of infections.

- Steroids- Steroids are taken for muscle increase, increased athletic power, increased physical appearance. However, dangers due to steroids could be heart problem, liver problem, stroke, depression, suicide, and infections.
- Combinations- Another dangerous act of drugs abuse is" combination of drugs" whereby two or more drugs are used at the same juncture.
- Alcohol- Alcohol is a common drug of abuse that affects higher brain centers and the whole body is affected. It is a leading dangerous drug of abuse of this century.
- Nicotine- Nicotine is a stimulant drug present in substances such as cigarettes that cause effects such as bronchial disorders, cancer, emphysema, and cardiovascular problems (Corrigan, 1995; Chriistine, 2011; Amua- Sekyi, 2013; National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2014; Essack et al., 2020; Kavitha et al., 2022; Abikwi & Okafor, 2022; Umar et al., 2023a).

Signs of Drug Abuse

Some signs of drug abuse are as follows: Untidy appearance, poor school performance, sleeping disorders, social isolation, blackened lips, legal problems, violence, seizures, dizziness, dry mouth, poor emotions, worsened mental health, low blood pressure, emotional numbing, delayed healing, bad friends, blacken skin, unusual weight loss, stomach issues, stealing, fainting, depression etc (Murat et al., 2016; Sarkingobir et al., 2023; Sarkingobir & Tukur, 2024).

Effects on Academics and Education

Drugs are chemicals that changes the way our body works and the manner our body looks. Most of the drugs affect the brain, heart, and other higher systems of the nervous system. This act of drugs distort the ability of person involved to think, read, write, remember, recognize, concentrate, and other levels and forms of intelligence; therefore, the drug abuser face problems in education or academics, such as repeating of classes (levels), school absenteeism, school-dropping, violence, etc; these are bad indicators on education (Khan et al., 2022).

Similarly, drug abuse cause ill-health; therefore, an ill-person cannot learn properly (especially when the illness is severe or affects vital body organs) and have to be presented with poor academics (Akanbi, et al., 2015).

Meanwhile, drugs affect how body uses food. Many of the nutrients present in food could not be properly used by body due to drug abuse. In fact, some drug abusers face serious food insecurity problems. This fold of effect also affects learning ability, academic performance and ability to attend school, and complete a proper education (Mbaruku & Otieno, 2022).

Additionally, drug abusers could face victimization or humiliation while at school due to their erred act, or could subject teachers, students, etc to violence. This singular problem also causes a debilitating consequences on education in any given society (Ekeagwu, 2018).

Possible Ways of Tackling Drug Abuse

Drug Abuse prevention has been a composite consisting of several approaches. This, Islamic law like the current government policies encompass diverse interactions that are complementary. Firstly, there should be adherence to laws that forbids drug abuse, illegal abuse supplies, illegal drugs selling and related matters. The laws shall be employed to all and sundry if this menace is to be curtailed (Bensaid et al., 2021; Sarkingobir & Tukur, 2024).

Preaching using religious apparatus is another powerful idea that motivate e people to act well. Therefore, it is imperative to include religious leaders and scholars to deliver sermons, teachings, and preachings on dangers of drug abuse during public gatherings, schools, mosques, etc. People treated using this persuasive approach would act willingly to ensure drug abuse is drastically curtailed (Nasiru et al., 2019ab; Bensaid et al., 2021). Furthermore, there is urgent need to make drug abuse rehabilitation centers very adequate in the society to guide drug addicts on ways to get out of the menace. Meanwhile, parents, teachers, elders, and other stakeholders should be aroused to rise to their obligation of protecting their wards against the tormenting heat of the hellfire that await defaulters (Ghosh & Huat, 2011; Abdullahi, 2018; Kavitha et al., 2022).

Conclusion

Drug abuse is a serious menace in Muslims and non-Muslims. There is need to address the danger of drug abuse prevalence through religious ways especially in any religious (Islamic society).

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