

Drug Culture in the Educational Institutions of Pakistan: A Threat to Moral Conduct in the Light of Islam

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Abstract

Educational institutions are meant to educate and groom the young generation in order to hold the reigns of leadership in future. It not only educates and trains people with standard and up-to-date skills as well as grooms their inner-self for preparing a morally strong and spiritually integrated personality. If it is not in accordance with the prescribed teachings of Islam, then it cannot educate and groom the youngsters the way it is recommended by Islam. Presently, educational institutions in Pakistan have a very vulnerable environment for drug addiction and intoxication. Not only male but female students are also involved in such offences. The growing number of drug addicts, irrespective of gender, in public as well as private sector institutions of higher education is a very serious threat to moral conduct. It is distorting the culture of teaching and learning. An attempt has been made in this research paper to explore the causes and implications of the growing trend of drug addictions in youngsters and chart out a feasible and productive strategy for coping with the issue in the light of the teachings of Qur'an and golden examples of the Messenger (peace be upon him).

Key words: Pakistan, Islam, Educational Institutions, Drugs.

INTRODUCTION:

Addiction is a condition in which a body craves some specific substance in order to avoid the physical and psychological withdraws symptoms and to achieve the pleasure related to that substance. It can be defined as a disease that can affect human body, brain and whole personality and poses dangerous health issues. According to the Ministry of Narcotics Control, Pakistan an estimated 6.5 million (6 per cent) citizens of Pakistan are using drugs, of these 80 per cent are male and 20% are female. Drug using is one of the prominent causes of infectious diseases like Hepatitis B and C and HIV Aids by sharing contaminated syringes. Sudden deaths are usual in the cases of over-dosage.¹ Though the use of narcotics record is as long as the known human history, however the exact time when humans first started using drugs is unknown. Narcotics were first used as a remedy for various health and social life related issues like, curing sickness, decrease pain, control dietary and appetite problems, decrease nostalgia and stress, release pressure, satisfy curiosity, open new life sights, create pleasant relations, increase sexual desires and even give meaning to life.

Islam gives straight forward guidelines for every such trait or aspect of life in which the human reasoning alone cannot reach to a flawless and reasonable conclusion. The word “*Khamr*” is used in the Qur’an for any substance inducing intoxication. Thus, any fermented juice or other substance with same effects is regarded as “*Khamr*” and is strongly prohibited in all divine religions including Islam. The drinking of alcohol and other drugs is one of the major sins. Muslims are required to stay away from intoxications as it is considered the mother of all evils.² Despite wide understanding of the dangers related to human health, social life and faith from drug abuse, it is still on the rise. Imposition of strict laws and seizing of loads of drugs every now and then are not seeming to be mending the problem and the abusers and suppliers are finding more ways into get themselves what they want.

¹ Syed Imran Sardar. Drug Abuse: Global Vs South Asian Trends with Special Reference to India And Pakistan. *Spotlight on Regional Affairs*, Xxxv (1), (2016): 1.

² **Judith K. Muhammad.** Islam against Drug Abuse. <http://www.islamforchristians.com/islam-drug-abuse/>

It is not only related to common citizens but it is a serious issue of educational institutions of Pakistan. Students are using drugs freely and its consumption is rising rapidly. Students, which are the future of Pakistan but their faith, health and moral character is at risk from drug addictions in educational institutions in Pakistan. It is not only against the proscribed morality of Islam but also against the prescribed laws of Pakistan.

Status of Intoxication in Islam:

Using of any type of drug is strongly forbidden in Islam. As Almighty Allah says in Holy Quran;

*They ask you (O Prophet) concerning wine and gambling. Say, in them are a great sin and some profit for men. But the sin is greater than the profit.*³

On another point the believers are given a clear warning in Quran:

*"O you who believe! Wine, gambling, (sacrificing to) idols and lottery are unclean and the Satan's works; shun it to be saved. The Satan only desires to cause enmity and hatred to spring in your midst by means of wine and gambling, and to keep you off from the remembrance of Allah and from prayer. Will you then desist?"*⁴

A hadith, quoted by Ibn Umar (Allah be pleased with him) narrates that"

*"Every intoxicant is Khamr and every (type of) Khamr is prohibited. The one who drinks wine in this world and is addicted to it dies without repentance and will not drink it in the Hereafter". An another such tradition by the Messenger (peace be upon him) is, where Jabir (Allah be pleased with him) is the narrator, "Allah has vowed that, to the one who drank intoxicating drinks, He will give him the sweat of the inhabitants of the Fire to drink". In another hadith like that it is mentioned that out of the three persons who would not be allowed to enter heaven, there will be the person who uses "Khamar".*⁵

Imam Musa-Ibn-Jafar states:

*"God has forbidden wine not for its name, but for its effects and corruptions". So, anything that ends like the wine is exactly wine.*⁶

³ Al Quran, Al-Baqarah verse no 219.

⁴ Al Quran, Surah Maidah, verses no 90 & 91.

⁵ **Judith K. Muhammad.** Islam against Drug Abuse. <http://www.islamforchristians.com/islam-drug-abuse/>

⁶ Mohammad Reza Sattari, *et al.*, Islam and Addiction. *Pharmaceutical sciences*, 18(3): 154.

Abdullah Ibn Umar (Allah be pleased with him) reports that the Messenger (peace be upon him) said:

*"Whosoever drinks wine, Allah will not accept his prayer for 40 days. If he seeks repentance, Allah will forgive him. And if he repeats it, Allah will not accept his prayer for 40 days".*⁷

These teachings regarding the complete prohibition of any kind of intoxicant substances puts Islam at a distinct place comparing to the other religions of the world. All kinds of drugs are strictly prohibited in Islam because it is a serious threat to morality as well as health to believers.

Drug Culture in the Educational Institutions of Pakistan:

Many kinds of either partially legal or illegal drugs are being used in educational institutions around the world including Pakistan, where its ratio has risen to six million at present. It is not only limited to any section of society but in each and every section of society drug culture is present particularly in Pakistan. Students of educational institutes are exposed to drug abuse throughout the county which is a very serious threat to moral character of students as well as health. This addiction seriously threatens the future generation of Pakistan both morally and physically. The most commonly used drugs by the students are Hashish, Alcohol, Cannabis and tobacco. Along with these, opium, cocaine and heroin have also seen spreading.⁸ Now a days Ice and Shisha are the most vulnerable threat to students of educational institutions of Pakistan. Since two years a lot of students have been addicted to these intoxications. Majority hostels are the hub of drug addictions. This thing not only effecting the addicted students but also the main cause to making more and more students as drug addictions due to easy availability and its culture in hostels. Educational institutions are also the main target to drug Mafia as this is comparatively an easy market.

Causes of Drug Using among Students:

There are many causes, including biological, psychological and social, which are affecting the possibility of any person becoming a drug

⁷ Hadhrat Abdullah Ibn Umar, Tirmidhi, Nasai, Ibn Majah and Daarami.

⁸ Mary Nadenge Gabriel, *et al.*, Examining the Influence of Drug Abuse in Learning Institutions in Kenya Academic Article. *International Journal of Education and Social Science*, 3(3), (2016).

addict. These causes are called the risk factors. Family environment is one of the root factors. The involvement of parents in any kind of substance abuse increases the risk for their children to fall into same condition through passive influence.⁹ The easy availability of drugs in residential areas and near educational institutional increases the risk of one's tumbling into it and especially in the case when there is lack of information to public and specially the students about the dangers of drug abuse. Compelling or temptation by friends is also one of the major causes among students falling into drug abuse comparing to the other cases. Friends have the greatest influence on the young smokers. The initiation of tobacco smoking generally occurs in the company of a friend who is a smoker. This factor is increasing among students living in hostels. Academic pressure is also one of the key factor, which is built by the competitive atmosphere in educational institutions and the high expectations of teachers and family due to which students tend to take refuge in drugs from the stress caused by these factors.¹⁰ Moreover, TV, film and pop stars and fashion models make smoking look attractive and the students copy them to smoke their style. This thing has tremendous impact on students' minds. Promotions and advertising of drugs is also an effective weapon to manipulate the choice of students to start the using of drugs.

Moral Implications of Drug Addiction:

The impacts of drug addictions on the public life are severe and leading to moral degradation, socio-economic loses and server health issues with respect to society, family, criminality, employment and direct and indirect consequences are arising thereof. There is no distinction among intoxicating drugs and wine in Islam. All of these substances induce destroying effects on the moral, physical and mental as well as on the spiritual health of a person. Many mental, moral as well as physical disorders of mild of severe nature are directly linked to the abuse of such substances. Even the personal ethics are strongly affected by such abuse as it is evident that such abusers lose their ability of distinguishing between choosing the right

⁹ Muhammad Zaman, *et al.* Drug Abuse among the Students. *Pakistan Journal of Pharmaceutical Research*, 1(1), (2015): 42.

¹⁰ Wechsler, H., *et al.*, Environmental correlates of underage alcohol use and related problems of College students. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 19(1), (2000): 24-29.

and wrong, moral and immoral and their intentions and actions are need driven and linked to the cravings for those substances.¹¹

It has detrimental impact on life and morality of students in Pakistan. It is leading to loss human potential, stop intellectual growth of students, make behavior coercive, emotionally make student very bad, deteriorate their manner how to deal and do interactions with peer as well as elders and dignitaries, students using drugs are more likely than non-using to do sex, having many sex partners, placing them at bigger risk for illegal pregnancies, prone to Delinquent and criminal Behavior, to pay for drugs going to juvenile crimes, group conflicts, alter the students sense of time and decrease their capability to execute tasks that need concentration, focus and coordination, leading to drug trafficking, and also leading to decline grades and overall academic performance.¹²

The social problems may include disputes related to family and marriage, unemployment, dangers of infectious diseases like HIV, and crime as well as corruption. Drug abuse and alcoholism are one of the biggest cause of moral and health deterioration among students, and the problems related to drug abuse are not just economical.¹³ According to National Assessment Survey, done by UNODC in 2006, 628,000 opiates abusers were found to be present in Pakistan. 482,000 of which were found to be heroin users. 125,000 were found to be Injecting Drug Users (IDUs) among the total number of addicts. According to the 2013 report of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) there are totally 1.06 million opiate addictions in Pakistan. Highest number of addictions of both opium and heroin users are found in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan provinces. It is estimated that 1.6% of the entire residents of Baluchistan is opiates users, while in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa it is approximately 7.2% of the total population. The injecting drugs users are also increasing very rapidly.¹⁴ It is estimated that 28.8% of the inhabitants who are injecting drugs in Asia are the patent of HIV aids reflect the high

¹¹ UNODC Report. *Drug Use in Pakistan 2013*. Narcotics Control Division, Government of Pakistan: 53-54.

¹² R.C. Jiloha. Social and Cultural Aspects of Drug Abuse in Adolescents. *Delhi Psychiatry Journal*, 12, No.2, (2009), pp. 170-171.

¹³ UNODC Report. *Drug Use in Pakistan 2013*. Narcotics Control Division, Government of Pakistan, pp. 53-54.

¹⁴ Syed Imran Sardar. Drug Abuse: Global Vs South Asian Trends with Special Reference to India and Pakistan. *Spotlight on Regional Affairs*, xxxv(1), (2016): 20-21.

frequency of HIV aids among the injecting drugs users in Pakistan.¹⁵ Drug abuse is also closely related to various types of crimes. For instance, a study conducted in 1985 in US found that in that year overall crimes linked to narcotics were 800,000, and 1/3 of 523,000 American detainees were under the effects of drugs while they omitted those crimes. Out of the 50000 car accidents, 23000 were those where the drivers were found to be driving under the influence of drugs. Physically, it is also misbalancing the mind, sickness, causes leprosy, shivers, feverish bad breath, blood pressure, lowering of eyebrows, HIV, tuberculosis, teeth problems, intestines damage, destruction of body organs like lungs, liver punctures, burning of stomach and weakening of eyesight among other things. One/third of the victims of AIDs were infected while injecting narcotics through contaminated tools.¹⁶

CONCLUSION:

Students are using drugs freely and its consumption is rising very rapidly in the educational institutions of Pakistan. Students who are the future of Pakistan but their faith, health and moral character are at risk from drug addictions. It is not only prohibited in Islam but also prohibited by the legal provisions of Pakistan. By every ground drugs are evil. Its use has diverse implications on human being including worst effect on moral conducts of students. Even it is not permitted in Islam to sell drugs to non-Muslims. Islam prohibits the use of intoxicants and declares it illegal; even prohibit to sell such things which are supportive in drugs manufacturing. In this regard the life of the Messenger (peace be upon him) is a model for us. The environment of educational institutions needs to be suitable and helpful for schooling of the upcoming generations of the Muslims. It is the time to wake up from the deep slumber of ignorance and unawareness regarding the monstrous and grievous issue so that the future of Pakistan and upcoming generations is saved.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Shahid Athar. The Alcohol & Drug Abuse: The American Scene and The Islamic Perspective. http://www.islamawareness.net/Alcohol/alcohol_abuse.html

Recommendations:

In the light of above analysis, the following recommendations are made to tackle the issue concerned:

1. The teachers should teach their students about religious status of drugs and its moral, social and religious implications.
2. Continuous exertions should be made to bring awareness and prevention of drugs addictions in educational institutions.
3. Coordination should be made between all the stakeholders like govt, anti-narcotics agencies, civil society, private sector anti-drugs organizations and other national as well as international agencies in order to achieve the goal of drugs-free Pakistan.
4. The breakdown of the supply chain of drugs into Pakistan especially into educational institutions is essential. The law enforcement agencies in Pakistan like Anti-Narcotics Force should be trained and equipped in order to enable it to effectively control the issue of drugs flow into Pakistan and their supply within the country.
5. Media should stop the advertisement of drugs and also highlight the implications of drugs in order to bring awareness among students regarding the severe implications of drugs.