“Drug Menace in India”

Collective inputs from over 170,000 Indian Citizens in circle

“Transform India with Modi”

(Current state, Issues, Root Causes and Proposed Solutions)

November 29, 2014
Drug Menace in India

Executive Summary

The population of India has reached over 1 billion people and is still rising. Some reports suggest that there is an increasing use of illicit drugs and reported numbers point to over 3 million drug addicts in India. Addicts range from school kids to aged men and women who have been users for years. The 170,000+ strong “Transform India with Modi” online citizen community has come together to collectively identify the key issues, root causes and solutions for the Drug Menace in India and the community expects that the Government will work towards implementing the identified solutions.

Issues and Root Causes Identified:

1. People are increasingly starting to use drugs
2. People as young as school kids are falling prey to this addiction
3. A lot of children start using drugs under peer pressure
4. Working parents don’t have enough time to look into the daily activities of their kids
5. People frustrated due to non-availability of jobs and other social drawbacks get easily drawn towards drugs
6. Organised gangs operating the business in towns and villages
7. Drug peddlers make good money out of it so they try to sell more
8. Some drugs are easily available on the streets including places like Paan shops
9. People blindly ape the west
10. Using drugs is glamourized by the movie industry
11. Drugs are easily smuggled from the neighbouring countries
12. Caught drug peddlers bribe the police and get let off
13. The counselling system in schools and colleges is weak
14. There has always been a nexus between drug mafia and government officials
15. Poor intelligence in tracking the network of drug suppliers
16. Illegal opium farming within country
17. Lack of awareness within society regarding ill effects of using drugs
18. Taking drugs is a status symbol among the ultra-rich
19. There is a lack of morality and social responsibility among children nowadays
20. There is an increasing level of mental tension with growing distrust in people
Solutions Identified:

1. A strong anti-narcotic law should be brought into effect
2. The anti-narcotics department should be strengthened on people, controls, process and systems front
3. Citizens should be engaged through the enablement of easy reporting about sales of drugs/drug rackets
4. The intelligence network should be beefed-up
5. Classes should be held in school and colleges, telling children about the ill-effects of using drugs
6. Having a counsellor in schools and college should be made mandatory
7. CCTV cameras should be installed on the outer premises of school and college. This will help in identifying the peddlers and users
8. Counselling helplines should be started to help people start the process of de-addiction
9. Harsh punishment should be given to the people involved in drug trafficking
10. Glamourizing the use of drugs should be banned in movies
11. Borders with countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, and Pakistan etc. should be strictly guarded to prevent smuggling of the contrabands
12. Government officers found to be a part of this nexus should face criminal proceedings
13. Illegal opium farming in different parts of India should be curtailed with the help of local police
14. Awareness campaigns should be done telling people about the ill-effect of using drugs
15. NGOs should be pulled in to work in this area in partnership with the Government

Drug Menace in India – A few Citizen Posts and Comments:

1. In most of the cases Peer pressure is responsible for kids/teenagers succumbing to adoption of drugs/liquor/cigarette. Drug traffickers usually spread their wings through this mode. Why not find ways through NGOs, incentives and other methods to create peer pressure in a reverse way. The impact of ads campaigns is very limited in such cases. Now a days Teenagers considers the good advice from elders as speech and usually ignores – Pradeep Gupta
2. Parental care and guide is very important to eradicate this menace. Parents should spend quality time with their children and also closely observe their behavioural changes. If they spend too much time alone in their room or bath room we should
become alert and watch their activities closely. Also look for small theft that takes place in the house. More than anything we should be very friendly with the children so that they can freely share their feelings with the parent – Padmanabhan SK

3. I see the solution as from childhood people should be made aware of their emotional behaviour and should be guided about to make them strong internally. Purpose of education should not be just reading, writing and learning information. Not so strong person in his values and in his perception of right and wrong fall easy prey to drug peddlers. – Kiran Garg Bansal

4. It is because of our laws are so lenient towards drug traffickers They get away easily and restart it – Dinesh Chandra Kala

5. Every drug except off the counter should be supplied against Dr's prescription. Every bill should be automatically billed with Dr & patient's name. Whom so ever sells against this rule, the pharmacist license as well as shop license to be cancelled – Balasubramanayan

6. Stringent implementable laws are the only deterrent. Drugs are available everywhere in India. Why? Because no one fears the law! – Rajendra Menen

7. To categorize drugs and have possession punishment accordingly. Say for instance, marijuana which is sometimes recommended for certain ailments and that needs to be isolated from the umbrella coverage of banning all this. Report coming from certain US states that has legalized medicinal marijuana usage is pretty good and has some astounding effects socially and economically. Modern age party drugs have only added a menacing variety and that needs serious looking into – Ash Kharel

8. Our Narcotic control bureau network have to be expanded and its personnel to be well trained. The personnel to be carefully chosen and given them the ethical training about their job. How it affects the nation's young due to their complacency. There shall not be any Government interference into their operation. The problem will completely eradicate if this body is allowed to work with their full potential without any threat and interference – Sanjoy Chakrabarty

9. The nexus of politicians, goons, doctors and mafia turned drug manufacturer for earning huge profit is resulting into death of the poor due to administration of adulterated drugs, expired drugs. Impose death penalty to the drug inspectors along with drug manufacturers, suppliers, distributers. There is no fear of law to many who has patronage of politicians and high influential law. Fear of law has to be imposed in the mind of these goons. – Rajeev Kumar

10. Lack of morality, social responsibility, responsibilities of younger generation towards families & parents & easy availability of funds are the root causes of drug menacing. – Vijayendra Chennagiri

11. the root cause of drugs farming/production and their main marketers have to be given severe punishments than the modes of transport (who knowingly or
unknowingly or by force transport them when transport restrictions are applied seriously within borders and on cross border drug imports – *Raghu Vir Dendukuri*

12. Drugs have become a menace only due to lack of upbringing and dedicated parenting. The parents are to be involved with their children in their activities, unless this happens drugs will continue to be a nefarious hazard – *Umesh Gopinath*

13. External remedial measures apart, parental care and concern at home and teacher's alertness in Schools and Colleges, lifting life tensions of competition and sustenance will have to be seriously adopted to prevent drug abuse to a great extent – *Ananta Narayan*

14. There should be a transformation in the approach of Teachers and parents in the changed scenario of the Digital Era. In fact, they have to be given education/mentoring on handling the children in a matured and refined way, considering the children as "Friends" rather than just wards. Many children badly need Love and Affection – *R. S. Krishnan*

15. one sees a lot of kids get hooked while going or coming from school and colleges through contact with peddlers. ensuring a policing of school /college during the start and end of college hours will deter and sometimes help in identifying the peddlers and avoid youngsters falling prey to drugs – *Sridhar*

16. Unlike liquors drugs are used mostly by educated people. The users of drugs know the consequences of the consumption. The source of drugs to be controlled rather than controlling the usage. As long as no body is forcing to use drugs, the sellers should not be punished in democratic countries. If drug usage/ selling is punishable, the smoking and drinking also to be punished – *A Samad*

17. To implement the harsh anti-narcotics laws within a fixed time frame, the powers of courts to pass stay orders and bail need to be curtailed drastically. The situation is so bad that in many cases conviction order and bail are issued simultaneously. This business has to come to an end as it has led to miscarriage of justice. Only the fear of harsh laws can help in controlling drug menace – *K C Rana*