

SOCIAL ASPECT OF FEMALE DRUG ADDICTION

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This study is concerned with the social impact of heroin addiction on the addicts themselves and their families. A sample of 100 female heroin addicts were studied. They were selected as a purposive sample from the Colombo Municipal area. All the individual members of the sample and selected family members were subjected to In-depth interviews and close observation of their behavior and social interaction. As is evident from the analysis of data a particular co-relation exists between prostitution and female heroin addiction as the main source of income of the female drug addicts who lived in the street corners of Colombo Municipal area. The relationship has a tragic impact on the behavioral patterns of female drug addicts and their continuous practice of prostitution.

Prostitution is a means of income and the frequency of practicing it has been seriously increased by the heroin addiction among female drug addicts. The more the required quantity of heroin the higher the frequency of indulging in prostitution. The required quantity of heroin is not only for the individual use but also for the use of husbands or partners with whom they cohabit. Prostitution has strengthened the substance abuse of female addicts depending on the social environment they live. As a result male partners of female drug addicts depend on female prostitution for the purchase of heroin and they are not so active as other male drug addicts who depend on their own means of income or other illegal activities for buying drugs. Accordingly it is concluded that female drug addiction which completely depend on the prostitution as the main source of income perpetuate drug addiction as well as prostitution.

Key Words: Heroin, Addiction, Female addicts, Prostitution, Social impact