



Cover Page



DOI: <http://ijmer.in.doi./2022/11.02.65>

ISSUES OF DRUG ABUSE AND TRADING IN KULLU DISTRICT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH: AN ANALYSIS

Purshottam

Guest Faculty

Department of Social Work, Kurukshetra University

Kurukshetra, Haryana, India

Abstract

The increasing rate of drug abusers in the country is a serious concern. India is the country with the highest youth population in the world. Unfortunately, most of the drug abusers are youth. Almost all parts of the country are suffering from this evil. Himachal Pradesh is known for its beauty, but now it has also come to be known for another reason from the last many years. Yes, various sources have revealed that the increase in drug abuse and illegal cultivation & drug trade in Himachal Pradesh is crying out for an immediate solution. The paper is based on secondary data compiled from reports of different organizations, journals, books and newspapers. The number of cases under the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substance Act, 1985 is increasing year by year. NDPS Act, 1985 also shows that drug production is highest in the Kullu district of the state. The paper is an attempt to know the issues related to drug abuse and trading among youth in the Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh and also to examine the initiatives taken by the government and non-government agencies to overcome this social problem.

Keywords: Drug Abuse, NDPS Act 1985, Drug Trading, Youth, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh.

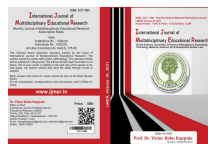
Introduction

The issue of drug abuse is a global phenomenon. The drug market of the world shows that it is the third-largest business in the world with a turnover of around \$500 billion a year, next to petroleum and arms trade and continues to grow with an increase in demand for drugs (Jenner, 2011). The epidemic of drug abuse in youth has assumed alarming dimensions in India. Ahmed et al. (2009) claimed that most drug users being in the productive age group of 18-35 years, the loss in terms of human potential is incalculable. The damage to the psychological, physical, moral and intellectual growth of the youth is very high. Drug abuse refers to the harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive substances including alcohol and illegal drugs. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), drug abuse is the use of a substance for a purpose not consistent with legal or medical guidelines, as in the non-medical use of prescription medications.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Drug Report of 2016, an estimated 1/4th of a billion people in the age group of 15 to 64 years abused at least one drug in a year. The UNODC report also shows that in the year 2014 over 207,400 deaths were caused due to drug abuse globally which is a very high number (UNODC Drug Report, 2016). At present, it is estimated that around 7.21 crore people are affected due to drugs in India, said Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawar Chand Gehlot (The Indian Express, 2016). The increasing rate of drug abusers in the country is a serious concern. India is the country with one of the highest youth populations in the world. Unfortunately, most of the drug abusers are youth. Despite the enactment of the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, drug trafficking and its abuse continues to rise unabated in India. The situation in the state of Himachal Pradesh is worse in India. The State of Himachal Pradesh is well known for its natural beauty and is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. Unfortunately, this beautiful State has also come to be known for the widespread illicit cultivation of cannabis and opium poppy.

The use and cultivation of cannabis and opium were historically present in many parts of the state. These products were consumed for religious reasons and formed a part of festival celebrations like 'Shivaratri'. The cultivation and use of cannabis/ opium continued and thrived even after being criminalized by the introduction of the NDPS Act, 1985(Charles, 2001).

Himachal Pradesh has shown a big jump in crime under NDPS Act, 1985. The position of Himachal Pradesh in 1986 for this crime was 9th which has gone up to 4th at all India levels in 2013. It has been revealed in the recently released National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) 2016, that Himachal Pradesh is in 3rd spot amongst all the states and Union Territories, with a rate of 13.1. The average rate of the country stood at 3.9, whereas Punjab ranked 1st at a rate of 20.2 followed by Kerala at 16.6. As far as Himachal is concerned, the Kullu district always ranked 1st in crime under the NDPS act, 1985. The number of cases booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 by Himachal Police during the last 12 years (2005 to 2016) was as under:



Cover Page



DOI: http://ijmer.in.doi./2022/11.02.65

Table No. 1. The number of Cases booked under the NDPS Act, 1985 by HP Police

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
No. of cases	242	385	233	374	473	596	570	513	531	644	622	929

Source: A Report by Institute for Narcotics Studies and Analysis (INSA), 2016

The above data shows that the number of cases booked under the NDPS Act, 1985 was 242 in the year 2005 and increased to 929 in the year 2016. The number of cases increased almost three times in 12 years. This should be taken into serious note. Coming to seizures of charas (hashish) made in Himachal Pradesh, the total quantities of charas (hashish) seized during the last 12 years (2004 to 2015) & Numbers of persons arrested, under the NDPS Act, 1985 during the period from 2004 to 2015 were as under:

Table No. 2. The Quantity of Charas seized & Numbers of persons Arrested, under the NDPS Act, 1985

Sr. No.	Name of the district	Quantity of charas seized (Kg)	No. of persons arrested
1.	Kullu	1347.829	1369
2.	Mandi	856.025	1346
3.	Solan	302.156	464
4.	Chamba	901.23	506
5.	Una	60.889	243
6.	Shimla	408.067	663
7.	Kangra	167.832	580
8.	Sirmaur	130.669	306
9.	Bilaspur	101.489	305
10.	Hamirpur	32.982	288
11.	Kinnaur	2.896	20
12.	Lahaul and Spiti	0	0
13.	CID	227.616	172

Source: A Report by Institute for Narcotics Studies and Analysis (INSA), 2016

The above data shows that Kullu district is highest in both quantity of charas seized and the number of persons arrested under NDPS, act 1985.

If we look at Google, newspapers and other research reports, we will find the name of Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh for drug trade and abuse. The researcher’s concern here in the present study is the Dev-Bhoomi, the Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh. The present study focuses on the issues of drug abuse & trade-in Kullu district for opium poppy & cannabis drugs only. Several other drugs are also abused in the district, like alcohol, tobacco products and other synthetic drugs etc. Many parts of the district like Old Manali & Vashisht in the Manali region and Malana & Kasol in Parvati Valley are some of the places well known for such activities.

The objective of the paper

The main objective of the paper is to examine the issues of drug abuse & drug trade in the Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh & also examine initiatives taken by the government and non-government agencies to overcome drug issues in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh.

Research Methodology

The current study uses a descriptive research design and is based on the secondary data which has been collected from articles, books, magazines, thesis, websites, newspapers and the reports of different organizations.

Issues Related to Drug Abuse and Trading in Kullu District of Himachal Pradesh

It is very difficult to find the exact number of drug abusers in the state, but the Kullu district has regularly been in media headlines for the last many years for cannabis cultivation & illegal distribution and use. In the present study, the researcher has analysed the major issues regarding drug abuse in the Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh, based on available secondary data and media coverage of different print papers and e-papers.



Cover Page



• **Illicit Cultivation and Trade of Drugs**

Illegal farming and trade of drugs became one of the fast-growing businesses in the district which will affect future generations.

Meri News (22 Dec 2008) reported a piece of news with title “Himachal’s Kullu, Mandi region tops charas chart” which revealed that things have worsened so much over the years and this illicit trade had become so popular that events like ‘Cannabis Cup’ were organised by the hashish smokers in Amsterdam, where the ‘Malana grass’ was chosen to be the ‘best smoke in the world’. A major share of the illegal drug business of the world is contributed by the Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh. An article in First Post (April 26, 2016) “Hashtag Himachal: How this beautiful mountain state turned into a narcotics den” opined that the growing drug trade in the Kullu district is detrimental to the future of the generations to come.

A Report by the Institute for Narcotics Studies and Analysis (INSA) (2016) stated that illicit cultivation of cannabis was quite rampant in Bhuntar and Banjar tehsil of Kullu district. There were areas of illegal cultivation that the authorities could not reach. Nepalese labourers have been hired by traffickers to cultivate cannabis and produce hashish. Referring to Malana, the report informed that there were 351 families in this village & the entire community was involved in charas production. Malana village alone produces 400-500 kg of charas annually. The report also revealed that Malana was a producer of one of the best quality hashish in the world. The hashish brands like Malana cream, Malana Gold & Malana Biscuits have become international brands.

• **Full Moon Rave parties**

Drug paddlers of the Kullu district organize full moon nights, rave parties for their customers. Chakraborty, Neogi & Basu (2011) described Himachal Pradesh’s Kullu valley as a well-known spot for its full-moon-night jungle rave parties. A large number of Israelis and other hippies along with some young locals’ dance to psychedelic music on full moon nights and smoke hashish. A similar statement was also reported by Daily Mail (3 June 2013) with the title “Sex, drugs and narcotics: How peaceful Himachal Pradesh became a rave haven awash with the foreign mafia”. It was reported in the news that beautiful Himachal Pradesh has become the hub of the so-called full-moon parties. An assorted group of revellers- mostly foreigners, smugglers and locals - join hands to throw night-long spectacles of hedonism; alcohol, sex and narcotics flow in abundance as music sets the mood. This is because of the easy availability of drugs in the area. It is a big question that after knowing that such parties disobey every rule of book & drugs of worth lakhs of rupees openly have been traded, why the district administration allowing such parties? If it is an offence, it should be banned or some intervention should be taken on the administrative end.

• **Narco Tourism**

One of the interesting stories by YES volunteers covered by Himvani (8 Sep 2009) with the title ‘Drugs lord over Kullu wildernesses reported that a native of Kasol village & nearby villages in Kullu valley speaks fluent Hebrew. This may appear strange as folks who can’t even speak English properly can speak fluent Hebrew. The report also revealed that over the last few decades Israelis have been frequent visitors to the place and around 3,000 of them have made nearby villages of Malana called Magic Valley, Waichin Valley their permanent home. They not only stay for years but also marry local girls and settle down. It was not the beauty of the place that allured these Israelis, rather it was cannabis that led them here. Learning Hebrew provides locals with money. Today, growing cannabis is a flourishing trade in the valley and the natives of the district are partners in this crime. A study by Ram (2014) also shows that Kullu remained lead role as far as opium poppy cultivation & cannabis cultivation. The study has given the new concept of ‘Narco Tourism’ in Kullu. In Kullu Valley, charas peddling has been noticed in close vicinity to Government Senior Secondary Schools and High Schools.

Hill Post (29 February 2016) reported news with the title ‘Kullu Manali Drug Traffickers: A Growing Threat’ also supported that learning Hebrew and cultivating crops of poppy or cannabis illegally has taken the best formula for earning easy money. It was also reported that the narcotics trade is assuming horrific shape in Kullu. Many tourists are attracted to the state for the easy availability of marijuana. The above studies show that the availability of quality drugs in the district attracts several young Indian and foreign tourists.

• **Increasing NDPS Cases**

The consumption of drugs by local youth and involvement of youth in drug trading is very usual in such areas. If someone is accused of drug trading and hangs about the courts, it is part of their day-to-day business. Youth are the worst affected. Better returns from the illegal trade of hashish discourage them from doing hard work in licit agricultural activities. Some influential local farmers cultivate opium poppy along with apple trees intending to multiply their income. This multiplication of income also multiplies the



Cover Page



DOI: <http://ijmer.in.doi./2022/11.02.65>

number of people arrested under the NDPS Act, 1985 in Kullu district. The district always tops in this number. Sehgal (2013) reported in Daily Mail that a Faridabad resident was arrested with two grams of LSD-69, 20g of Cannabis and Rs 55000 in cash in Full moon party organized in Banjar of Kullu district. Himvani (7 Dec 2015) reported a piece of news with the title ‘4 people nabbed in Kullu with contraband drugs. It was reported that 4 persons were nabbed with a huge catch of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh. One with 2.170 kilograms cannabis, 2nd with 2 grams Heroin seized, the Third case was registered in police station Bhunter, recovering 492 gms Cannabis and the Fourth case was registered in police station Kullu with 700 grams Cannabis. Similarly, the Narcotics Control Bureau has arrested two persons from Himachal Pradesh and seized 5.2 kg charas worth Rs 15.60 lakh during a raid conducted on a hotel in Margao. NCB officials claimed that it was one of the biggest seizures of charas in Goa (Two Himachal youngsters arrested with drugs, 2017). Ani News (18 Feb 2017) also reported news with title ‘Kullu police arrests US national with big consignment of drugs’ which reported that the Kullu district police has arrested a 42-year-old US national from Naggar, a locality 30 kilometres from Kullu with 126 kilograms of Ganja (raw cannabis), 9 litres of hashish oil and 1290 grams of solid hashish. It was also reported in Times of India that Kullu police had arrested a Swiss national with drugs, two foreign nationals- one woman from Turkey and a man from Sri Lanka were arrested with 539 LSD papers near Manikaran in Parbati valley (Foreign nationals arrested with drugs, 2017). The data shows that nabbing of persons with narcotic drugs like cannabis, opium poppy etc. in the Kullu district is very usual. People have accepted these practices though it is an offence. In most cases, youths are nabbed. They become an easy target as the drug business is the way to earn fast money. Along with locals, the number of foreigners involved in drug peddling is also increasing in the Manali and Kullu regions of Himachal Pradesh.

Outlook (4 Feb 2021) reported that the international drug peddlers were also active in the Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh. It was reported that since July 2019, Kullu police have arrested 23 foreign nationals for drug trafficking, out of whom 17 were African nationals. In 2020, a total of 1,538 NDPS cases were registered, 351.018 kg of charas and 6.751 kg of heroin seized. Altogether, 2,044 Indians and 14 foreigners were arrested in these cases. In January-February 2021, a total of 149 NDPS cases have been registered and 179.195 kg charas and 840.286 grams of heroin were seized and 188 people were arrested. The Tribune (15 Jan 2021) reported news with the title ‘Over 400 kg drugs seized from Kullu’. It was reported in the news that Kullu SP Gaurav Singh along with his team seized over 412 kg of charas and ganja from Banjar in Kullu district in the last one and a half years and registered 68 NDPS cases.

Initiatives are taken to check Drug Menace in the State of Himachal Pradesh

India has been a part of three United Nations Drug Conventions- 1961 convention, 1971 convention and 1988 convention to make law for the country. Keeping in mind the UN convention agreement, the Indian parliament passed the NDPS act, 1985. The act was amended in 1989, 2001 and 2014. Several many initiatives have been also taken to control drug abuse. Along with these central government initiatives the state Government of Himachal Pradesh has also taken some of the initiatives to check the drug menace in the state.

- **General Concerns and Initiatives**

The whole discussion shows the cultivation and trading of drugs in the district is at its extreme and it has become a crisis for the general public as well as a serious social problem. Needless to say, that drug problem in Kullu is crying for an urgent solution. Some of the organizations, government officials and Government representatives show their concern for this problem, but the problem is growing rapidly. Web India (27 August 2006) reported news with the title ‘Kullu residents protest against rising drug menace’. It was reported that residents mostly mothers along with the members of women's organisations and religious organisations were protesting against the rising menace of drug peddling in the Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh so that they can save the youth of Kullu.

Makhaik (2010) reported that on the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, chief justice Joseph Kurian expressed concern about rising incidences of drug abuse among the young and emphasized upon teachers to take up the role of counsellors to reach out to children and lead by example. The chief justice said that citizens owed a civic responsibility towards fighting the drug menace. He also said that every section of society always talks about one's rights but we simply sleep or ignore our duties toward a society which should not be done. Similarly, Himachal Pradesh High Court Chief Justice Mansur Ahmed Mir called for creating awareness about drug abuse among youth as it has a detrimental impact on society (Himachal HC Chief Justice calls for increasing awareness about drug abuse, 2016).

The menace has attained alarming proportions and has turned into a matter of concern not just for the state government but for the courts too. Some of them specially mentioned their concern about the increasing drug abuse among youths. Only concerns during particular occasions will never solve the problems, but concerns should be action-oriented.



Cover Page



DOI: <http://ijmer.in.doi./2022/11.02.65>

Zee News (8 Dec 2017) reported a piece of news with title ‘Himachal Pradesh HC orders shutdown of 44 hotels in Kullu to check drug menace’ expressing concern about the drug menace in the state, the court had directed the Superintendent of Police, Kullu as well as the Zonal Director, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Chandigarh, on October 25 to constitute the Joint Task Force to raid all restaurants, hotels and dhabas¹ (roadside eateries) in and around Kasol and Malana to stop illegal activities. The court in its order again on December 7 also directed the Director-General of Police of Himachal Pradesh and the Zonal Director of the NCB, Chandigarh, to visit Malana village and ensure complete eradication of contraband and take action against people indulging in the illegal trade of contrabands.

• **Concerns of Political Leaders**

The reported news The India Post (2011), Business Standard (2015), The Himachal News (2015), & The Hindu (2017) also shows that the Chief Ministers of the state of different tenure showed their concern towards drug abuse on their public address at different occasions. Times of India (2017) reported that Prime Minister Modi blames the Congress party for drug issues in Himachal Pradesh and made this issue a political agenda for the 2017 HP State elections. He addressed Himachal as Devbhoomi and said that Congress was making it 'Danav Bhoomi'. The Hindu (25 April 2017) reported a similar allegation by Mr Dhumal, Former Chief Minister of the state that under the Congress government, the status of Himachal Pradesh had changed from ‘Devbhoomi’ (Land of Gods) to ‘Drug Bhoomi’ (Land of Drugs). He claimed that people of the State had now acquired the tag of drug suppliers.

Political leaders were also seen making statements on the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking many times. The India Post (2011) reported that Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal, Chief Minister of that time announced that the State Government would launch a special campaign against the illicit drug traffickers and traders involved in selling tobacco and its allied products to the people within a radius of 100 yards of all the educational institutions where policemen would be patrolling. He said that Special Prohibition Awareness Campaigns would also be launched through educational institutions to sensitize young generations about the drastic impact of drug and tobacco use. He said that the toll-free helpline would also be started in association with a Non-Governmental Organisation to provide information relating to the drug de-addiction to any person. Business Standard (11 June 2015) reported in their article “Drug abuse needs to be curbed” that Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh said illicit drug business attracts criminal organisations because of huge profits it generates and referring to Malana, he also added that the government is committed to making Malana drug free. The chief minister admitted that cannabis was widely cultivated in many states, including Himachal Pradesh, and this needs to be curbed by enforcing strict laws. Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh also said the government would provide high-quality imported rootstock of apples to the locals so that they can opt for alternative and remunerative cultivation. In other cannabis growing areas, he said the government would promote the cultivation of exotic vegetables and flowers (Drugs and narcotics batter Himachal youth, courts concerned, 2016). Himachal Watcher (26 July 2017) associated the recent case of gruesome rape and murder of a schoolgirl in the Kotkhai region of Shimla district with increased substance and drug abuse among youth.

Rather than making such political statements, all the leaders of different ideologies, intellectuals and students should come forward in a common front to fight this social problem.

• **Government Initiatives to control drug Menace**

Information & Public relations by the Government of Himachal Pradesh (2016) in their press release mentioned that intending to check drug menace, the state government has prepared a comprehensive plan for this and focuses on certain drugs derived from plant sources like cannabis and opium. The State Government had carried out a Cannabis/ Opium Eradication Campaign from 22nd August 2016 to 5th September 2016 to adhere to the objective of Cannabis/ Opium free Himachal Pradesh. In the campaign, the eradication of Cannabis/Opium was being carried out on all lands including Gram Panchayat, forest, PWD, IPH, Agriculture, Horticulture lands, roadsides, etc. and implemented in the entire State in an effective manner. To intensify the Cannabis/Opium Eradication campaign, the State Government has also deployed Sashatra Seema Bal (SSB) for addressing the issue in high altitude regions and provided them with modern equipment for cannabis/opium destruction.

The State Government’s counter-narcotics efforts have also received remarkable success. Under the anti-drug initiatives, the State Government has launched special drives to detect NDPS cases that were launched periodically by the State Police. Special drives to curb drug menace amongst the youth were organised near schools and colleges from time to time under the Community Policing Scheme. Awareness campaigns were launched by Narcotic cell, all SPs and field units of CID to aware general public and educational institutes. The State Police also organises a mini-marathon to sensitize the masses against drug abuse every year.

¹A roadside food stalls



Cover Page



To strengthen the narcotics cell within the State, Government has also sanctioned funds amounting to Rs. one crore to the State Police for the storage facility of drugs and psychotropic substances in the districts, which has been equally disbursed among all districts.

The state government is not only committed to destroying drug production but is also working towards helping drug abusers. To address the problem of drug abuse, the State Health Department has started a De-Addiction Programme, as one of the main components of Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK). Under this programme, De-Addiction Centres have been made functional in all Regional and Zonal Hospitals of the State. One Clinical Psychologist and one Medical Social Worker are appointed in all these Centres. These Clinical Psychologists and Medical Social Workers have also imparted training for this job at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangaluru. These Counsellors also conduct at least four field visits in a month in different institutions for IEC activities. After five years there are many Zonal hospitals with no staff at De-Addiction centres. There is no job security as the state government has no policy for the regularization of these employees.

Institute for Narcotics Studies and Analysis (2016) reported that Senior Superintendent, Central Excise and Customs, Shimla analysed the impact of law enforcement operations on illicit cultivation of cannabis in the Malana area of Kullu district. The report says that in the year 2003, the first-ever anti-cannabis drive resulted in the destruction of about 50% of the total crop and 11 Cases were registered to lead to arrests. In the year 2004, foreigners' bases were destroyed and cases against foreigners residing beyond Malana's Magic Valley were registered. In the year 2005-06, the operations were advanced into the tougher areas. So, mafias were pushed near to snowlines in Malana and other parts of Kullu. But in the year 2007-08, the lull in enforcement operations took place. Cultivation in the forest area was revived again by the influential class of traffickers and not by the poor people.

The researcher concluded that in the present time substance abuse is not limited only to smoking marijuana. A variety of synthetic drugs are also consumed by the youth of Himachal. Unfortunately, school children nowadays are exposed to drugs at a very tender age. Statistics show that all statements were proved fictitious. All initiatives were unable to achieve their goals.

Conclusion

Drug abuse in various forms has always been culturally and socially acceptable particularly among adults in this beautiful hilly district of Himachal Pradesh. Different forms of tobacco and alcohol are freely distributed & consumed at home in many functions and festivals without any restriction. Tourism, which is considered an important source of income for the district and locals has flared the problem of drug abuse in the district among youth. Tourist destinations have been the interest area of many drug rackets and mafias. For the young generations, enjoyment has become synonymous with loud music, pubs/bar & drugs, which leads them to darkness. Youth especially adolescents are more prone to drug abuse because of their immature age group and experimenting nature.

The above discussion and the different sources clearly show that youth is under threat in the district because of the increasing illegal cultivation of drugs, its abuse and trading. Drug abuse not only affects one's behaviour but also their work. It also affects one in physical, mental, social and economic aspects. Drug traders' life is always in danger and it leads to disruption of family life also.

Even after the number of headlines regarding drugs in newspapers, the number of cases under the NDPS Act, 1985 is increasing & the drug trade is growing day by day and our youth is becoming a part of this hell. With the strong provisions for offenders in the NDPS Act, 1985, concerns of the Chief Minister, top administrators and different non-governmental organizations, we could have been able to decrease drug abuse but we failed. It means there is a lack in implementation of the NDPS act or there is a huge gap between the statements and implementation. The number of drug abusers & drug trade in the district is much more than the data showed by different agencies. We need to understand the depth of this problem rather than neglect it before the situation goes out of hand like Punjab/ Chandigarh where a huge number of youths are being reported as drug addicts.

If we look at the data the number of persons arrested and drugs seized under NDPS, act 1985 shows that the government/ administration is working to stop or decrease this menace. Again, if we talk about the government initiatives number of above-reported news showed the concerns of justices, Prime Minister, Chief Ministers of the state about drugs. Usually, the leaders of the state show they are committed to making Himachal Pradesh drug free, but data show a different picture.



Cover Page



DOI: <http://ijmer.in.doi./2022/11.02.65>

Suggestions

Based on the above discussion and observations, the researchers have given the following suggestions as follows

- With special reference to the Kullu district, data clearly shows that it is not possible to control the drug trade and drug abuse by enforcing legislation. Along with the legislation we have to educate the population of the area and also have to spread awareness related to the ill-effects of drug abuse among youth to break their relationship with drugs.
- As the drug trade is directly linked with the income of the locals from drug tourism and any other, so without providing an alternate source of income it is difficult to eradicate this social evil. By providing skill development training to youth, we can encourage them to change their profession.
- Cannabis and opium have some religious and cultural values as well in the district, so awareness and higher education is the only way to deal with the situation that they can come to know the fact/truth.
- Formulation of appropriate and relevant drug control strategies having implications for the formulation of policies, interventions and innovations at various levels are required to ban illicit cultivation and trade of drugs in the state of Himachal Pradesh.
- Drug abuse and illicit trafficking affect our health, increases crime, violence and corruption, natural and financial resources are misused destruction of individuals, families and communities, and hence it affects all sections and sectors of society. So serious intervention and action-oriented concerns are much needed. By encouraging the participation of youth in nation development we can decrease drug-related issues.
- To check the drug trade, we have the NDPS act, 1985, but its performance also depends upon the posting of honest and right police officers. So, honesty from the administrative end and equally the public participation and coordination may prove best to check drug trade.
- Children and youth are highly prone to drug abuse due to the easy availability of drugs in the area. So, at the school level, there should be counsellors to educate them about the adverse effects of drug use and guide them during adolescent problems and stress. Parenting skill development training should be part of the curriculum.

References

- Ahmed, N., Bano, R., Agarwal, V. K., & Kalakoti, P. (2009). Substance Abuse in India. *Pravera Med Rev*, 1 (4), 4-6.
- Bhakri, S. (2009, Sep 8). Drugs lord over Kullu wilderness. *Himvani*. Retrieved from <http://www.himvani.com/news>
- Chakraborty, K., Neogi, R. & Basu, D. (2011). Club drugs: review of the 'rave' with a note of concern for the Indian scenario. *Indian J Med Res*, 133, 594-604.
- Charles, M. (2001). Drug Trade in Himachal Pradesh: Role of Socio-Economic Changes. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 36 (26), 2433-2439.
- Drug abuse needs to be curbed: Himachal CM (2015, June 11). *Business Standard*. Retrieved from <http://www.business-standard.com/>
- Drugs and narcotics batter Himachal youth, courts concerned (2016, Sep 10). *DailyPost*. Retrieved from <https://dailypost.in/>
- Dutt, D., Sharma, A., & Singh, J. (2016). Drug Problem in Himachal Pradesh: Searching for Truth and Solutions. A Report by Institute for Narcotics Studies and Analysis (INSA). Retrieved from http://www.narcoinsa.org/downloads/2016_Insa%20Report_Kullu%20Conference.pdf
- Dutta. S. (2016, February 29). Kullu Manali Drug Traffickers: A Growing Threat. *Hill Post*. Retrieved from <http://www.hillpost.in/2016/02/kullu-manali-drug-traffickers-a-growing-threat/105186/>
- Foreign nationals arrested with drugs (2017, May 26). *Times of India*. Retrieved from <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>
- Himachal committed to make Malana drug free: CM (2015, June 11). *The Himachal News*. Retrieved from <http://thehimachalnews.com/>
- Himachal has become land of drugs: Dhumal (2017, April 25). *The Hindu*. Retrieved from <http://www.thehindu.com/>
- Himachal HC Chief Justice calls for increasing awareness about drug abuse (2016, August 11). *Indian Express*. Retrieved from <http://Indianexpress.com/section/india/>
- Himachal Pradesh HC orders shutdown of 44 hotels in Kullu to check drug menace (2017, Dec 8). *Zee News*. Retrieved from <http://zeenews.india.com>
- Himachal to open Drug De-addiction Centres in every district (2011, June 27). *The India Post*. Retrieved from <http://www.theindiapost.com/nation/hp/himachal-open-drug-de-addiction-centres-district/>
- Jenner, M. S. (2011). International Drug Trafficking: A Global Problem with a Domestic Solution. *Indiana Journal of Global studies*, 18 (2), 902.



Cover Page



DOI: <http://ijmer.in.doi./2022/11.02.65>

- Kullu's Hash Haven Finally Cracks the Whip on Peddling (2017, Feb 21). Huffington Post. Retrieved from <http://www.huffingtonpost.in/>
- Kullu police arrests US national with big consignment of drugs (2017, Feb 18). Ani News. Retrieved from <https://www.aninews.in/>
- Kullu residents protest against rising drug menace (2006, August 27), Web India. Retrieved from https://www.webindia123.com/shared_files/ssl/images/logo.png
- Kumar, B. (2008, Dec 22). Himachal's Kullu, Mandi region tops charas chart. Meri News. Retrieved from <http://www.merineews.com/>
- Makhaik, R. (2010, June 26). Rising drug abuse among Himachal young raises concern. Hill Post. Retrieved from <http://hillpost.in/2010/06/rising-drug-abuse-among-himachal-young-raises-concern/20675/>
- Over 400 kg drugs seized from Kullu (2021, Jan 15). The Tribune. Retrieved from <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/>
- Quadros, D., & Yadav, R. (2017). Victims of Drug Abuse and Law Enforcement: A field Intervention. Retrieved from http://tiss.edu/uploads/files/Donita_Victims_of_Drug_abuse_and_law_enforcement.pdf.
- Saldanha, A. (2006). Vision and Viscosity in Goa's Psychedelic Trance Scene. ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies, 4 (2), 172-193.
- Sehgal, M. (2013, June 3). Sex, drugs and narcotics: How peaceful Himachal Pradesh became a rave haven awash with foreign mafia. Daily Mail. Retrieved from <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/>
- Sharma, A. (2021, Feb 4). Himachal Police Smash International Drug Racket, Heroin Valued at Rs 25 Cr Seized. Outlook. Retrieved from <https://www.outlookindia.com>
- Sharma, S. (2017, Nov 6). Modi blames Cong for drug issue in HP. Times of India. Retrieved from <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>
- Singh, C. P. (2000). Alcohol and Drug Dependence among the industrial workers, Delhi: Shipra Publications.
- State Government initiates special drive to check drug menace (2016, September 4). Information and public relations by government of HP. Retrieved from <http://himachalpr.gov.in/PressReleaseByYear.aspx?Language=1&ID=5730&Type=2&Date=04/09/2016>
- Tripathi, S. (2016, April 26). 'Hash'tag Himachal: How this beautiful mountain state turned into a narcotics den. First Post. Retrieved from <http://www.firstpost.com/>
- Two Himachal youngsters arrested with drugs (2017, Jan 13). Navhind Times. Retrieved from <http://www.navhindtimes.in/>
- Verma, M. L. (2015, Dec 7). 4 people nabbed in Kullu with contraband drugs. Himvani. Retrieved from <http://www.himvani.com/news>
- Verma, M. L. (2017, Dec 13). Drugs related crime rising in Himachal: Survey. Himvani. Retrieved from <http://www.himvani.com/news>
- Youth of Himachal should pay attention to this new research on effects of marijuana use during adolescence (2017, July 26). Himachal Watcher. Retrieved from <http://himachalwatcher.com/>