

The Present Scenario and Impact of Drug Addiction and the Steps of Government in the Perspectives of Bangladesh

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ABSTRACT: *Bangladesh has become a highly risky country for sustainable development due to the increase of drug users, with most of them being the youths (Islam & Hossain, 2017). This is a great threat to our country because many others problems are created by this problem. This paper attempts to unfold the present scenario and impact of drug addiction in our country and to see the steps of government to prevent this problem from society. The study captures the nature and the socio-economic impacts of drug addiction among the both urban and local communities in Bangladesh. In order to reality the purpose, data were collected from different secondary materials such as book, newspapers, articles, research papers, publish documents, government documents, and journal being consulted.*

Keyword: *Drug Addiction, Scenario of Drug Addiction, Impact of Drug Addiction, Bangladesh, Step of Government.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh is a densely populated nation covering an area of approximately 147,570 square kilometers with a population of 165 million as of 2022 (Census, 2022). Currently, over 65 percent of the inhabitants fall within the working-age bracket of 15 to 64 years (Liton, 2017). A large portion of this demographic consists of young individuals. Since 2007, the nation has experienced a higher number of people in working age compared to those who are not, a phenomenon referred to as the Demographic Dividend. By 2040, this opportunity to enhance economic growth is expected to begin diminishing. The proportion of the working-age population in Bangladesh may not have a second chance at this dividend in the future (Roy, 2016). Consequently, the Demographic Dividend poses a significant concern for Bangladesh. The government aims to achieve the status of a higher-income country by 2041.

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This goal can be realized if the workforce, particularly the youth, is effectively harnessed. Drug addiction has emerged as a grave concern worldwide, affecting individuals, families, and societies alike. Bangladesh, a densely populated country in South Asia, has not been immune to this escalating crisis. Over the past decade, drug addiction has permeated various strata of Bangladeshi society, posing significant challenges to public health, social stability, and economic development. This introduction aims to shed light on the present scenario of drug addiction in Bangladesh and explore its multifaceted impacts on individuals and communities. Bangladesh is grappling with a growing drug addiction crisis, with alarming trends observed in the consumption, production, and trafficking of illicit substances.

The exploitation of our population, particularly the youth, poses a significant threat to us as we confront a serious social issue: drug addiction. In Bangladesh, drug addiction has become widespread; it's found in homes, on the streets, in workplaces, parks, slums, markets, and even among students in educational institutions across both rural and urban settings. Virtually all segments of society are severely affected by this problem (Hasan & Alam, 2017). In Bangladesh now 75 lakh above people are drug addicted and about 80 percent of them are adolescents and young men of 15 to 30 years of age (NIMH, 2017). It will be quite impossible to Bangladesh to become a higher income country by 2041, if we do not control present drug addiction situation and reduce/ prevent from our society.

2. OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this paper is to first, review the present scenario and impact of drug addiction in our country and to see the steps of government to prevent this problem from society. Secondly, to discuss how people can play vital role in these situation in the context of Bangladesh. In this content analysis research method I usually collect features of textual, visual, or aural material that is systematically categorized and recorded so that they can be analyzed. This is a content analysis study which prepared based on secondary sources in order to reality the purpose like articles, journals, books, newspapers, research paper etc. used to collect information's for authenticity.

3. CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS

Drug

A drug is any substance (other than food that offers dietary support) that, whilst inhaled, injected, smoked, fed on, absorbed through a patch on the skin, or dissolved underneath the tongue reasons a brief physiological (and often mental) alternate in the body (Ahmed, 2019).

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international health business enterprise (WHO) defines Drug: it is a chemical substance of artificial, semi-artificial, or natural beginning meant for diagnostic, healing, or palliative use or for enhancing physiological functions of man and animal (Shzzad, Abdal, Mojumder, Sohel, Ali & Ahmed).

Drug Addiction

Substance dependence is a complex neurobiological condition that necessitates a comprehensive approach addressing the mind, body, and spirit. It is classified as a brain disorder because drugs alter the brain, impacting its structure and functionality. In the absence of treatment, these alterations in the brain can become enduring. Without remedy, these brain modifications can be longer-lasting. Addiction is persistent, it's far revolutionary and if left untreated, it may be deadly (ahmed, 2019). However, according to NIDA, Drug dependency is a continual disease this is characterized by means of drug in search of and the use of medication (NIDA, 2011).

Categories of Drug

Drugs are separated into two categories is given Chart – 1 and Available drug in Bangladesh is given Chart-2 (Shzzad, Abdal, Mojumder, Sohel, Ali & Ahmed).

Soft Drug	Hard Drug
1. Alcohol	1. Ecstasy
2. Cigarette	2. Speed
3. Marijuana	3. Amphetamine
4. Glue, Hash etc	4. Cocaine

Opium	Cannabis (Marijuana)	Stimulant	Sleeping Pill	Cough syrup	Others
1. Heroin 2. Pethedine 3. Cocaine	1. Ganja 2. Chorosh 3. Bhag 4. Hashish	1. Yaba (methamphetamine 30% and caffeine 70%) 2. Ecstasy 3. Viagra (sildenafil)	1. Tranquilizer 2. Diazepam	1. Phensidyl (codine, pseudoephedrine and chlorpheniramine) 2. Dexpotent	Glue Cigarette New Drugs Aice and Khat

Available Drugs in Bangladesh are Opium, Heroin, Phensidyl, Tidijesic, Pethidine, Viagra, Tranquilizer, Diazepam, Cannabis, Ganja, Chorosh, Bhang, Yaba, Sleeping pill, Seduxene, Dexpotentetc (Ahmed, 2019).

The Present Scenario of Drug Addictions in Bangladesh

Drug addiction is now widespread anywhere in Bangladesh; within the house, streets, workplaces, parks, slums, markets, and even in educational institutions in rural and urban areas.

According to the police report, "within the last or three years, many more young adults had been arrested for the use of capsules than ever earlier" (Mortoza, 2019). In keeping with a WHO survey, most drug users are young, they're a while starting from 18 to 30 years (Hasan & Mashahid, 2017). Facts discovered on March 19, 2018, confirmed that over –a 3rd (35.97%) of inmates had been imprisoned due to drug-associated expenses.

In a different study published by the Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition (JHPN) at the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), it was found that in the capital city, 79.4 percent of users are male while 20.6 percent are female. The JHPN research indicates that 64.8 percent of drug users in the nation are unmarried, 56.1 percent are either students or not employed, and 95.4 percent smoke cigarettes. About 85.7 percent get into consuming drugs under the influence of friends, while 65.8 percent get addicted to various codeine-laced cough syrups (Islam & Hossain, 2017).

Despite the annual increase in drug cases and arrests reported by the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC), over half of these cases result in acquittals. Across the country, 216,398 drug-related cases are pending trial, and the extended delays often allow many accused dealers to secure bail and return to their unlawful activities (Dhaka Tribune, 2017). According to the DNC's report, there are currently 73,312 cases awaiting resolution in the courts. The report indicates that the conviction rate was 64 percent in 2014, with 11,723 narcotics cases filed and 12,590 individuals charged. In 2021, the number of both cases and arrestees rose to 20,598 and 21,992, respectively, but only 40 percent of cases were disposed of that year (DNC, 2022).

More than 1 lakh people are directly involved in the illegal drug trade and supply. A report of DNC has been given below-

YEAR	CASES	ACCUSED	TRIAL DISPOSED CASES		
			PUNISHMENT	ACQUITTED	TOTAL
2014	11,723	12,590	1,716 (64%)	973	2,689
2015	10,548	11,300	892 (47.6%)	981	1,873
2016	9,773	10,465	2,356 (42%)	2,992	5,348
2017	11,612	12,651	1,016 (40%)	1,528	2,544
2018	13,793	15,116	592 (42%)	843	1,435
2019	17,305	18,346	642 (39%)	1,012	1,654
2020	17,304	18,321	310 (43%)	412	722
2021	20,598	21,992	661 (40%)	1,003	1,664
2022 (April)	8,007	8,707	300 (49%)	311	611

Source: DNC Report 2022.

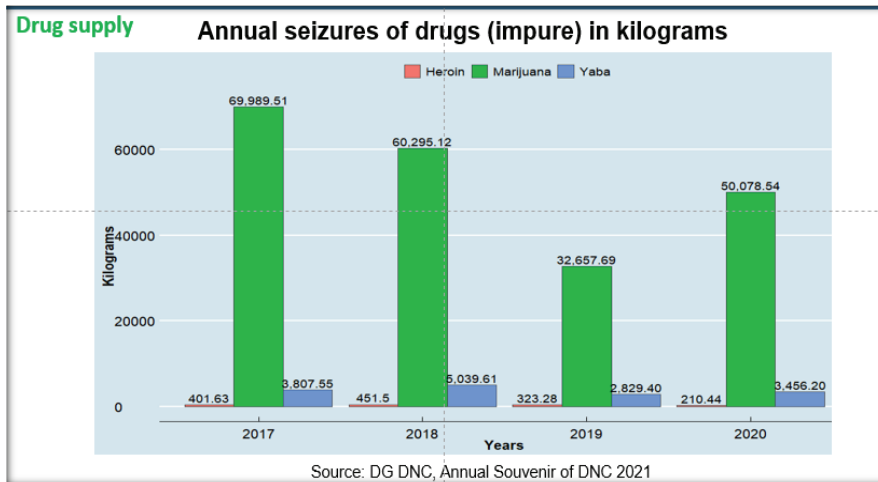
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According to Global adult Tobacco Survey 2017 (GATS) report, Tobacco usage those aged 15 and above in Bangladesh 3.78 crores people are involve in tobacco use. Among them 1.92 crores are smokers (1.5 crores are cigarette smokers and 53 lakhs are Bidi smokers), 2.2 crores are Non-smoking tobacco users.

Prothom Alo's report from Thursday, June 3, 2022, states that only those who were carrying drugs were arrested during the last three years (2019–2021) after examining the charge sheets and case files of 55 cases, including 53 Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) cases filed in 17 police stations and two Narcotics Control Department cases. There were no fresh findings from the probe. The primary offenders in the drug trade, the financiers and their clients, are still unreachable. According to DNC's annual report, smuggling of drugs, particularly yaba, surged in 2021 compared to the year before. According to the data, between 2020 and 2021, there was a 45.88 percent increase in the quantity of yaba that was captured after being smuggled into the nation from Myanmar.

With regard to heroin and cannabis, which are primarily imported from India, a similar situation has been observed. The amount of heroin seized by law enforcers increased by 109.67 percent during the same period (DNC, 2022).

The latest report of DNC shows that, in the 2021-2022 fiscals, amount of rescue drugs by DNC are-15,527 cases, 19,029 offenders, 46, 20,281 pieces Yaba, 9.704 kg Heroine, 5483.799 kg Ganja, 1332 pieces Ganja tree, 20327 bottles and 03 kg Phensedyl, 44482 ampule Injecting Drug, 896 bottles foreign wine and 2022-2023 running fiscals, rescue amount related to drugs are-3302 cases, 3620 offenders, 837829 pieces Yaba, 1.629 kg Heroine, 1388.146 kg Ganja, 34 pieces Ganja tree, 4193 bottles and 04 kg Phensedyl, 12499 ampule Injecting Drug, 374 bottles foreign wine (DNC annual report 20202). On the other hand, the amount of rescue drugs by Police, RAB, BGB and Coast Gurad are- 53073665 pieces Yaba, 441.221 kg Heroine, 86696.281 kg Ganja, 574301 bottles and 106.608 kg Phensedyl, 113070 ampule Injecting Drug, 225328 bottles foreign wine, 1.55 kg cocaine and 2022-2023 running fiscals, rescue drugs are-31052305 pieces Yaba, 192.511 kg Heroine, 65970.969 kg Ganja, 475521 bottles and 47.8 kg Phensedyl, 110659 ampule Injecting Drug, 169013 bottles foreign wine and 4.1 kg cocaine (DNC annual report 20202). On the other hand, another report of DNC Annual Souvenir 2021 is given below-



So, by the above report we can easily say that drug addiction is existence in our society in a high rare.

Drug Addiction and Education Status

A statistics of drug addiction and educational relationship is given below.

Educational Status	2015 (%)	2016 (%)	2017 (%)	2018 (%)	2019 (%)
Illiterate	16.38	18.28	23.54	43.46	36.35
1-5 Year	18.03	19.62	20.31	14.29	14.85
06-09 Year	24.04	25.27	19.38	14.89	15.87
10 Year	18.03	16.13	13.85	12.27	17.58
11-12 Year	11.30	9.27	12.62	8.05	9.90
13-14 Year	5.33	8.06	5.23	3.42	1.85
15+ Year	6.25	3.23	5.08	3.62	3.58

Source: DNC Data Base 2019

Drug Addiction and Occupational Group

There is very much relationship between drug addiction and occupational status. Most of the unemployment people in our society are in involved in drug addiction. A data of DNC is given below-

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<i>Occupational Group</i>	<i>2015(%)</i>	<i>2016(%)</i>	<i>2017(%)</i>	<i>2018(%)</i>	<i>2019(%)</i>
<i>Unemployment</i>	41.83	44.22	47.23	53.92	41.30
<i>Small Business</i>	17.31	16.80	12.62	16.90	21.84
<i>Service (Private/ Public)</i>	9.38	10.08	9.23	5.84	4.78
<i>Laborer</i>	6.97	7.93	7.85	10.26	11.43
<i>Vehicle Driver</i>	4.09	5.78	5.69	4.02	3.75
<i>Student</i>	13.46	8.60	11.23	5.23	10.24
<i>Agriculture profession</i>	0.48	1.08	0.77	0.60	1.19
<i>Others</i>	6.49	5.51	5.38	3.22	5.46

Source: DNC Data Base

Impact of Drug Addiction:

The consequences of drug misuse are unbounded. There are impacts on the body, mind, family, society, economy, and country. Family falsehoods break down as a result of drug addiction. Drug abusers pose a hazard to their families because of their angry behavior. The abuser's antisocial behavior interferes with the family's regular activities. The young person who is addicted to drugs quits school, college, or university. Due to irregularities, the service member loses his position. Alienation and social isolation are widespread. Because the drug addict spends the majority of the family's income on drugs, the family grew estranged from the community. Addiction to drugs erodes moral, family, cultural, and educational values. Addicts lose their capacity for work and education, as well as their dignity, and they engage in either significant or minor criminal activity. For an addict, obtaining and using drugs becomes their only goal in life. The prevalence of numerous drug use has made the situation worse overall, affecting social and personal functioning, health impairment, crime, and other aggressive conduct (Islam & Hossen, 2017).

The horrible effects of narcotics have wrecked countless lives and families. It is a more dangerous sickness than cancer, according to sociologists. If the administration is serious about becoming a high-income nation by 2041, it is necessary to create a drug-free society. The research of DNC (2022) found that the drug abusers of different Districts in Bangladesh are the most at risk.

With serious medical, social, financial, psychological, and security repercussions for individuals, families, and communities, drug addiction is a fatal threat to society. It is a bane of the scientific and technical civilization and the contemporary free globe. Students, professionals, business people, laborers, rickshaw pullers, and other professionals make up the majority of addicts. In order to wipe out the root of drug dealing and drug addiction, administrations sometimes conduct crackdown operations arresting and killing tens of thousands of addicts and dealers. But someday later, the situation does not change at all. It rather remains the same. As a result, Bangladesh loses its youth's unlimited potential and energy gradually resulting is severe in a decline in economic production (ahmed, 2019).

Drug addiction is a deadly fascination that attracts people of all ages no matter whether he/ she is literate or illiterate. Only death is its inevitable consequence. This fatal addiction slowly weakens our nerves. It severely destroys the immunity of our body. It makes our thinking faculty numb and blunt. An addicted person does not feel hungry and sleepy. He/ she loses the sense of time, sense of pain, or sense of happiness. The victim gradually loses his / her weight and reaches the point of abnormality and life in death condition. The bad effect of drug addiction is thought to be fatal because of its hidden power of damaging our bodies slowly. An addicted person cannot strongly fight against that and gradually goes to the extremity of facing the harsh fate of life (Rahman, 2019). A scenario of drug-addicted taking treatment in Bangladesh is given below-

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Marijuana (cannabis herb)	5,813	8,066	7,047	4,683	4,069
Heroin	10,248	9,923	11,061	8,244	8,054
Yaba	8,413	16,491	15,986	8,656	7,021

Source: DNC data and UNODC Annual Drug Report Bangladesh, 2019

Drug addiction plays a catastrophic role in our personal, familial, and social life. Drug addiction results in the moral degradation of the youths and leads to a considerable rise in criminal behaviors in society. A drug-addicted person rejects the idea of a peaceful life and dies younger as a direct consequence of depression and frustration in life.

Research shows that there is an obvious relationship between taking drugs and involvement in anti-social activities. A drug-addicted person gets involved in different sorts of anti-social acts to bear the drug consumption costs. These illegal activities widely include snatching, stealing, extortion, prostitution, and drug dealings. Drugs make people physically and mentally imbalanced, destroy their personalities and snatch away their desires and states. It will be an irreparable loss for the nation if these youths who are our future spoil their own lives by being affected by drug addiction.

According to DNC insides, spending related to drug abuse is on the rise. In a previous study conducted in 2013, the DNC revealed that addicts are taking drug worth Tk 20 crore daily, and Tk 600 crore monthly (Khan, 2017).

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AMOUNT AND FREQUENCY OF DRUG USED BY THE PATIENTS OF CENTRAL DRUG ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTRE

Name of Drug	Amount of use in a dose	Frequency of use per day	Frequency of use per week
Cannabis	1 Gram	1-3 doses	6-20 doses
Yaba	1 Tablet	1-2 doses	6-7 doses
Heroin	10 mg	2-4 doses	12-26 doses

Source: Interview of patients of Central Drug Treatment Centre (CTC) conducted by National Consultant 2021

Average daily cost per user

Name of Drug	Number of use in a dose	Average cost per dose (USD)	Average cost per dose (BDT)	Total cost per dose (USD)	Total cost per dose (BDT)
Cannabis	2	0.57	50	1.14	100
Yaba	1	5.78	500	5.78	500
Heroin	4	1.78	150	6.92	600

Source: Interview of patients of Central Drug Treatment Centre (CTC) conducted by National Consultant 2021

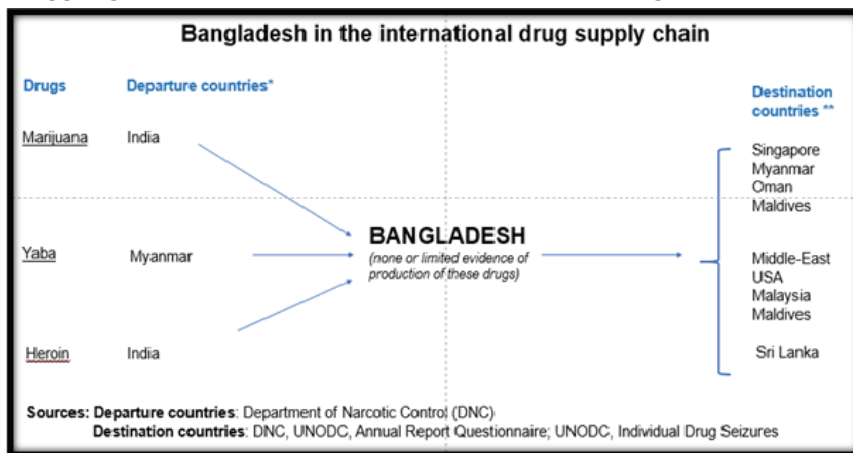
Between July 2017 and April 2018, the Bangladesh Cancer Society, in collaboration with Dhaka University, the American Cancer Society, and Cancer Research UK, conducted a study on 10,000 families across all districts of the nation. The study's findings indicate that the risk of developing the three main types of cancer—lung, laryngeal, and mouth—is 109 percent higher for tobacco users than for non-users.

Problem Created by Drug Addiction

Many problems are created by Drug Addiction; these are Cancer, Poverty, Chronic illness, Terminal illness, Behavioral Problems, Child abuse, Child neglect, Sexual abuse, Spouse abuse, Elder abuse, Divorce, Death, Unemployment of wage earners, Crime victimization, Illness, Family problems (Shzzad, 2013).

WHY DRUG ARE AVAILABLE IN BANGLADESH

The illegal cultivation of cannabis is one of the primary causes of the availability of dangerous drugs in Bangladesh, especially in the hilly districts close to Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, Khagrachari, and Rangamati in the southeast (which borders Myanmar) and Naogaon, Rajshahi, Jamalpur, and Netrokona in the northwest. Although there are no accurate statistics on the overall area of cannabis production in Bangladesh, it is said that growing is expanding in the Chattogram Hill Tract region. Overall cannabis cultivation has risen dramatically in recent years, according to the Army and the Bangladesh Rifles in the hilly southeast. Second, Bangladesh serves as a transit nation for the Golden Triangle's and, to a lesser extent, the Golden Crescent's drug production. The Indian Narcotics Control Bureau has reported that heroin being imported into Bangladesh from India over the porous border between Bangladesh and Ndo. In 2017, 31 heroin seizures were found concealed in shipments of fresh vegetables from Dhaka, UK (INCSR). The seaport at Chattogram and the airport in Dhaka seem to be the most popular departure locations. However. The biggest drug problem in Bangladesh is thought to be the smuggling, diversion, and abuse of medications coming from India.



It prevailed that the major drug of abuse in Bangladesh is Yaba now. The practical scenario of Yaba addiction among the young generation is alarming. Every year the percentage of Yaba addiction is increasing. Bangladesh is facing this challenge as the neighboring country- Myanmar is producing huge quantities of Yaba using amphetamine and pushing toward Bangladesh. Naaf River, the South-east part of the Bay of Bengal, and even the deep sea are also being used by the Drug peddler of Myanmar. Sometimes they are using south-eastern hilly region of Bangladesh, Taknaf, Cox's Bazar, and some parts of Sylhet and Brahmanbaria districts (DNC, 2021).

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CAUSES OF DRUG ADDICTION

Drug addiction among youth has been influenced by their micro (e.g., home, school, workplace, etc.) and macro (economic, social, educational, legal, and political systems, etc.) settings.

Young people abuse drugs due to complex social and peer groups' influence, frustration, depression, and curiosity for the drug; a sub-cultural and psychological environment that induces the youths to take drugs. Major risks factors responsible for drug abuse are family disorganization, parental neglect, parent-child conflict, loss of spouse strife, indiscipline, isolation, lack of emotional support, rejection of love, over protection, unemployment; disappointment; repeated failure and personality mal adjustment and easy availability of drugs (Shzzad, 2013).

According to DNC report, the causes behind drug addiction are mainly these reasons-

Primary cause of drug abuse	2015 (%)	2016 (%)	2017 (%)	2018 (%)	2019 (%)
Curiosity	11.00	32.84	24.15	17.13	49.49
Influence of friends	84.93	64.44	74.92	81.27	49.83
Desire to get easy pleasure	0.48	0.25	0.15	00	00
Psychological disorder	0.24	0.86	0.15	0.20	0.17
Adverse atmosphere in the family	1.44	0.37	0.31	00	0.17
Easy access to drug	0.48	0.12	0.15	00	00
Unemployment	00	0.12	00	00	0.17
Frustration	0.96	0.49	00	0.80	0.17
Lack of drug awareness	0.14	0.12	0.15	0.20	00
Complication about treatment	0.48	0.37	00	00	00

Source: DNC Data Base

WHY DRUG ADDICTION IS INCREASING IN BANGLADESH

One of the main causes of our country's increasing drug addiction is the long period of the judiciary. The availability of witnesses is the main barrier to taking the cases to trial. Even with a warrant, it is quite hard to locate a witness (DNC Director, 2022). DNC's Annual Drug Report 2021 states that the conviction rate in drug cases has actually been declining over the last eight years, down from 64 percent in 2014 to 40 percent in 2021. For this, DNC officials and lawyers blamed faulty case filings, weak investigation and case statements, and the absence of credible witnesses (DNC, 2022). One of the main causes of the poor conviction rate in drug trials is the lack of witnesses.

Even after 102 days have passed for the case to be resolved, the cases are still handled normally if the judge finds that there are witnesses to the offenses and the prosecution did not bring the other witnesses before the court. Those who were made witnesses to the seizure, however, claim in court that they were unaware of the situation. For this, the charges against the accused cannot be proven (Khan and Bappi, DS, 2022). Many of the criminals got acquitted due to faulty and incomplete investigation, improper presentation of cases in court, and weak statements of prosecution witnesses said Tawohidul Haque (Teacher, ISWR, and DU). 73,312 drug-related cases were pending and many suspects in the cases were re-engaging in the drugs trade after receiving bail. If the pending drug-related cases are not resolved quickly, drug-related crimes will continue to increase in the future (DNC DG, 2022).

GOVERNMENT STEPS AGAINST DRUG ADDICTION

To utilize the Demographic Dividend, the government is on the hard line to control drug addiction at any cost. The government is working to achieve SDG goals (DNC, 2022). The administration promised to treat narcotics with zero tolerance. Many suspected were slain in purported gunfights during the ensuing anti-drug campaign, but the nation's drug problem could not be stopped.

The legislation states that the death sentence is applied to six different drug-related offenses: sponsoring, investing, assisting, abetting, influencing, and funding the drug trade. Enacting legislation won't help if the offenders are not apprehended.

Saving the Young generation from the curse of drug addiction. And with the stopping of the ongoing trend of drug addiction among the young generation, Bangladesh is aiming to attain the Goals of vision 2021 and 2041 and the 'Delta Plan, which targets combating drug addiction and trafficking. As a Nodal Agency, DNC has taken all-out possible efforts needed to tackle the drug menace. A dope test is imposed before entering Government service. Go and NGOs together with the media are working closely to create massive awareness among people against drugs. DNC is complying with the guidelines of the UN, INCB, and UNODC to control the drug menace. 350 non-government de-addiction centers along with the CTC of DNC are delivering treatment services to drug users. As drug trafficking is a Transnational Organized Crime (TOC), Bangladesh Government is negotiating with other neighboring countries regarding drug issues and carrying on a dialogue with them through bilateral agreements (DNC annual report, 2022). Perceiving the drug addiction phenomenon, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh declared the 'Zero-Tolerance' principle against Drugs.

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The government enacted a new Narcotics Control Act 2018. The main vision of the government is ‘to make drug addiction free Bangladesh’. All the law enforcing agencies of Bangladesh e.g. DNC, Police, RAB, BGB, and Coast Guards are working together to attain three major objectives. These include Harm Reduction, Supply Reduction and Demand Reduction-internationally accepted modus operandi in order to combat the drug addiction problem (DNC annual report, 2021).

The Cabinet Division on July 25 (2022) gave the final approval to the draft of the Evidence (Amendment) Act, 2022, which will allow electronic records and digital data to be admissible in court. For this act, video footage of seized drugs is accepted in court as evidenced. Two major projects, such as Enhance and modernization of the Dhaka Central Drug rehabilitation Centre project; and to build of the testing laboratory of the Department of Drug Control in four divisional cities project (DNC report, 2022). Treatment the drug-addicted children in the Dhaka Central Drug Rehabilitation Centre (DNC report, 2022). Colombo Plan GiAaxb International Centre for Certification and Education of Addiction Professionals (ICCE).

LEGAL ACTION AGAINST DRUG ADDICTION

The government of the Bangladesh has taken different legal steps against drug addiction. Some legal status is given below-

The Narcotics Control Act of 2018

In line with the ‘Zero-tolerance’ approach of the government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, the Narcotics Control Act of 2018 has been enacted on 27 December 2018. The act covers the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including provision for the treatment and rehabilitation of dependent people. This act has a total of 7 Chapters, 70 sections, and two schedules. It has supremacy over any other laws in Bangladesh regarding drugs. It deals with any issue of drug-offense prevention and control of drugs and precursor chemicals including treatment and rehabilitation of addicts. It has legal coverage for the establishment of the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) as the Nodal Agency of the government to fulfill the objectives of the law in question. It also provides the legal basis for the formation of the National Narcotics Advisory Committee (NNAC) as the highest apex body of the government for formulating necessary policies and strategies to combat the drug problem in the country.

Other Related Laws and Rules

The Narcotics Control Act, 2018 is the principal law for drug abuse prevention and control in Bangladesh. The other legislations related to drugs are the Special Power Act, 1975; the Custom Act; the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002; Coast Guard Act, 1995; the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898; the Evidence Act, 1872; the Narcotics Control Rules, 1999; the National Narcotics Control Board Fund Rules, 2001; and the Private Treatment and Rehabilitation Center Rules, 2005.

Search, Seizure and Arrest Activities

The operation of search, seizure, and arrests is mainly by section 23 of the Narcotics Control Act, 2018. The other relevant sections are-sections 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, and 35. The enforcement officials of the Department of Narcotics Controls, the Police, RAB, Customs, BGB, and the Coast Guard are empowered.

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Raid	34073	33024	39585	47407	63055
Case	10548	9773	11612	13793	17305
Case Arrest	11300	10465	12651	15116	18246

Source: DNC Data Base

Investigation

Only DNC and Bangladesh Police are empowered to investigate offences under the Narcotics Control Act.

YEAR	CASE	ARRESTS
2015	57134	70159
2016	69739	87014
2017	106546	132893
2018	119878	161323
2019	124098	162847

Prosecution and Trial

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) has its own prosecutors to prosecute cases in Courts. The manpower in DNC’s prosecution section is very much inadequate in comparison with the number of Courts.

Year	Disposal of Cases					Conviction / Acquittal of Accused					Pending Cases
	Conviction	Rate	Acquittal	Rate	Total	Convicted	Rate	Acquitted	Rate	Total	
2015	892	47.63%	981	52.37%	1873	971	48.2%	1042	52%	2013	59165
2016	2356	44%	2992	56%	5348	2927	41%	4206	59%	7133	
2017	1016	40%	1528	60%	2544	1065	40%	1615	60%	2680	
2018	692	42%	843	58%	1435	631	41%	911	59%	1542	
2019	642	39%	1012	61%	1654	678	39%	1070	61%	1765	

Source: DNC Data Base 2019

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OPERATION OF MOBILE COURT ON DRUG

To overcome the drug situation, the Government has recently introduced Mobile Court for offenses under the Mobile Court Act, of 2009. The Mobile courts apprehend criminals, prosecute them on the spot, and impose punishment of short-term imprisonment. There is no provision for bail in Mobile Court.

Year	Raids	Cases	Arrested	Conviction	Acquittal
2015	14337	7487	7823	7821	02
2016	13541	6430	6592	6591	01
2017	12212	5991	6044	6044	00
2018	13821	6776	6866	6866	00
2019	18424	9444	9484	9484	00

Source: DNC Data Base 2019

SUGGESTION TO STOP DRUG ADDICTION

As drug addiction is a curse for human civilization, it is necessary to stop the indiscriminate use of drugs by our citizens. It is pleasing to know the fact that Bangladesh is still at the elementary in its being affected by drugs than other western countries where nothing but drugs reign over the youths. Bangladesh will be benefited if it tries to wipe this menace out at the beginning from our soil. And to be successful to get the expected result, the following measures are seen as mandatory: we have to take action against drug addiction considering its social context; increase the power and capacity who are involved in this sector; awareness among all the society is very much necessary; we have to introduce our youths to our age-old glorious social, political, religious and cultural heritages, spirits and ideals that will illuminate their tender but sharp minds by removing the darkness of ignorance from them; the government, as well as the common people, should strengthen the anti-drugs movements and campaigns; we should focus on inculcating human values and ethics into the minds of our bright youths; we should work for ensuring alternative use of drugs, for example in medical and research purposes. We should put an extended effort to eradicate poverty from our country and work for creating employment opportunities for all so that our valuable manpower does not get frustrated in life and does not get addicted to a fatal curse like drugs; we should launch some effective programs to train up our unemployed citizens so that they can acquire some working experiences and capabilities to get jobs that will remove their frustration and keep them away from harmful drugs; our teachers should come forward to advise our youths not to take drugs.

As teachers are directly involved with the youth as their advisers, this tactic will create a great impact to wipe the roots of drugs from our society; our parents should also play a wise as well as prudent role by conducting educative and constructive programs to make their children aware of the harmful effect of taking drugs; our national electronic and printed media should take an integrated plan of action to publicize the importance of rejecting temptation and attraction for drugs in our society; National Narcotics Control Board, the highest level government body responsible for formulating a drug policy in Bangladesh, should initiate an effective plan of action to formulate new law to control the indiscriminate use of drugs after scrutinizing and revising the old laws regarding narcotics control in Bangladesh; the NGOs can play a significant role in Bangladesh, especially in the awareness and rehabilitation process; concerned administration should be reshuffled. Culprits that are hidden in the Police, BGB, and narcotics control department must be punished. At the same time, rewards should be declared for superior performance; coordination among all laws; security fence near Shah Pori Island; increased naval patrol in the southern part of St Martin's Island; using surrendered godfathers, and dealers to stop narcotics; increased vigilance of BGB, Cost guards in Shah Pori Island; sending listed godfathers' name to ACC for action; strong vigilance on Rohingya camps; action against Myanmar BGP involved in smuggling; transfer of BGB camp members every month; transfer of policemen who have a link to smuggling; reward for law enforcers working to stop yaba smuggling; Joint patrol of police, BGB, and RAB in border areas.

CONCLUSIONS

Since drug addiction is a complex issue, it should be approached from a variety of angles and treated as such. The two most effective institutions for preventing drug addiction are the family and society, thus the government should include them in drug policy that addresses both preventive and therapeutic issues. To prevent drug addiction in the nation, we must make sure that the legislation is properly applied. The drug trade's criminals must be apprehended and dealt with. Cases cannot be left open for very long. Some cases have persisted for over two decades. Drug dealers are encouraged by this. Legal action must be taken against people who use street children as drug carriers, and this situation won't be resolved until the state takes action to protect the fundamental rights of the children after integrating them into society. Young people's awareness is raised by their peers, families, schools, the media, and other significant persons or organizations. Various social groups can also take the initiative in this area. Drug use and trafficking are crimes that the law cannot stop on its own.

The Present Scenario and Impact of Drug Addiction and the Steps of Government in the perspectives of Bangladesh

To combat this, we need to raise social awareness. The government's anti-drug campaign will inevitably fail if this doesn't happen. To effectively combat drug addiction in the nation, significant policy and institutional reforms involving all relevant parties are urgently needed. If the aforementioned recommendations and measures are implemented and properly and sincerely considered, we will undoubtedly be able to present a drug- and narcotics-free nation to our future generations.

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