

Drug Addiction Among Youth: Causes & Consequences.

1. Introduction

1.1 Attention Grabber

1.2 **Thesis statement:** Drug addiction among youth is a multidimensional crisis rooted in socio-economic pressures, psychological vulnerabilities, and weak governance. Drug addiction produces devastating consequences for individuals, families, and national development. Unless it is addressed through comprehensive preventive and rehabilitative measures.

2. Conceptual Understanding of drug addiction

2.1 What is drug addiction

2.2 Commonly abused substances among youth

3. Causes of drug addiction among youth

3.1 Socio-economic causes

3.2 Psychological and emotional factors

3.3 Peer pressure and social influence

3.4 Family and parenting issues

3.5 Role of media and digital platforms

3.6 Weak governance and policy gaps

4. Consequences of drug addiction among youths.

4.1 Individual level consequences

4.2 Family and social consequences

4.3 Economic consequences

4.4 National security and social stability

5. Case of Pakistan

6. Way forward

7. Conclusion

A society that allows its youth to fall prey to drugs, risks its future to decay, crime, and lost potential. According to UNODC, more than one-third of global drug users are young people. This highlights that drug addiction is not merely a personal failing but a social and developmental crisis. Youth, regarded as the backbone of national progress and innovation, when trapped in substance abuse, it transforms from productive assets into liabilities. In countries like Pakistan, where a large proportion of population comprises of young people, exposure to drugs, it leads to serious challenges such as challenges to public health, social cohesion, and national security. Abuse of drugs is rooted in socio-economic pressures, psychological vulnerabilities, peer influence, and weak governance. Drug addiction among youth produces disastrous consequences for individuals, families, and the state, demanding a comprehensive, preventive and rehabilitative response.