DRUG ABUSE AND ITS EFFECT ON SOCIETY

First of all WHAT IS DRUG?

A drug is any substance that causes a change in an organism's physiology or psychology when consumed. Drugs are typically distinguished from food and substances that provide nutritional support. Consumption of drugs can be via inhalation, injection, smoking, ingestion, absorption via a patch on the skin, or dissolution under the tongue.

We know what drugs are, so what then is DRUG ABUSE?

Drug abuse or substance abuse refers to the use of certain chemicals(drugs) for the purpose of creating pleasure without prescriptions from the medical professionals which has effects on the brain. There are over 190 million drug users around the world and the problem has been increasing at alarming rates, especially among young adults under the age of 30. Apart from the long term damage to the body drug abuse causes, drug addicts who use needles are also at risk of contracting bad diseases through needles, for example HIV.

Causes of drug use

1. Curiosity and peer pressure, especially among school children and young adults
2. The use of prescription drugs that were originally intended to target pain relief may have turned into recreational use and become addictive
3. Chemicals may be used as part of religious practices or rituals
4. Recreational purposes
5. As a means of obtaining creative inspiration

Drug categories

1. Depressants: These cause depression of the brain's faculties and examples include sleeping pills (barbiturates) and heroin.
2. Stimulants: These cause stimulation of the brain, giving rise to alertness and increased bursts of activity. A rapid heart rate, dilated pupils, raised blood pressure, nausea or vomiting and behavioural changes such as agitation, and impaired judgement may also result. In severe cases, there may be delusional psychosis which can occur with the use of cocaine and amphetamines.
3. Hallucinogens: These cause hallucinations and an "out of this world" feeling of dissociation from oneself. Hallucinogens may cause distorted sensory perception, delusion, paranoia and even depression. Examples includes ecstasy, mescaline and LSD.

Examples of drugs are:

1. Alcohol
2. Tobacco
3. Cocaine from coca
4. Opium and opioids from poppy plants
5. Hashish or marijuana from cannabis
6. Synthetic drugs such as heroin, ecstasy and LSD

Symptoms of Drug Abuse

1. Isolating from family and friends who don’t use drugs
2. Spending time with new friends or friends who get high or drink
3. Never having money or often asking to borrow money, even for small items
4. Showing up late to work/school or not showing up at all
5. Losing a job
6. Doing little to find a job if out of work
7. Paying less attention to basic hygiene
8. Changes in sleeping habits
9. Extremely private about possessions, including their bag, room, or car
10. Lying about using or drinking
11. Sneaking away to get high or drunk

You may find hidden bottles of alcohol or drug paraphernalia among your loved one’s belongings. Personality changes often occur with substance abuse and addiction. You or your loved one may be more irritable or agitated, and even blow off commitments or family events.

How Drug Abuse Affects Society:

1. Increase in child custody losses
2. Increase in child abuse and neglect
3. Increase in addiction risks for children of drug-addicted parents
4. Increase in domestic disputes
5. Increased rates of homelessness and poverty
6. Substantial financial health care burden
7. Increased rates of co-occurring mental disorders
8. Increase in insurance premiums, taxes
9. Increased strain on co-workers
10. Increase in the number of people incarcerated in state and federal prisons
11. Increase in rates of violent crimes on college campuses
12. Losses in revenue for businesses and universities

Drug addiction is a complex illness with far-reaching consequences for those who know, work with, and support the drug-addicted individual. Even if you don’t know someone who is abusing drugs directly, you are likely impacted in other ways, whether through taxation, paying higher insurance premiums or college tuition, or in picking up hours at work. Drug addiction knows no boundaries.

ABSTAIN FROM DRUG ABUSE.