IMPACT OF DRUG ABUSE ON YOUTH CRIMINALITY: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The drug trade has become a lucrative business; as a result, youth criminality rises as a greater social problem at the present time. The concerning fact is that drug abuse destroys youth productivity and influences youth criminality. This paper intended to find out the interrelationship between drug abuse and youth criminality through face to face interviews with the addicted youths. Drug availability, negative peer association, curiosity, pleasure, lack of social support, unemployment problems, family dysfunction, and frustration are influencing the youth to take drugs as well as to commit crimes. Particularly, drug availability, curiosity, and negative peer association are the most common risk factors of drug abuse and youth criminality. Besides, the drugs are now available even in the rural areas and the students are the main victims of these illegal drug businesses. Most of the addicted youth are involved in the drug trade and that leads them toward committing criminal activities. If we want to remove drug abuse and youth criminality, the root causes should be identified first and we should provide our young generation a social environment free from drug availability, good peer association, sufficient social and family support to reduce all types of frustration in the socialization process. Hence, the family members, society, and the government should take the necessary steps to stop these problems, for our own national peace and prosperity.

KEYWORDS: Drug Abuse, Youth Criminality, Peer group, Curiosity, Recidivism

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INTRODUCTION

The availability of illegal drugs is a clear threat to our country as the youth are the main victims of these illegal drugs. There are millions of drug-addicted people in Bangladesh and most of them are young people. According to BSS (2013), the trend of drug consumption is higher in youth and teenagers, their age is spanning between 15 to 30 years. In a research, Khan and Rahman (2012) demonstrated that most of the drug abusers in Bangladesh are aged between 20 to 25 years and 67 percent had committed a crime after taking drugs. The BSS (2013) also reported that around ten thousand cases are filed and nine hundred people are arrested every year in connection with drug-related violence and crimes. In 2013, Khatun and Anwar found that about 61.5 % of drug abusers collect money for buying drugs by illegal means. These findings showed that there is both direct and indirect connection between drug abuse and youth criminality and the youth generation of our country is most vulnerable to the curse of illegal drugs. The illegal use of drugs has evil consequences as drugs rapidly decrease the educational, social, cultural, moral, and family values. As a result, the people taking drugs frequently lose their productivity, professional and educational capabilities, and self-dignity. The continuous habit of taking drugs also damages the psychological,

physical, mental, moral, ethical condition. Atlanta Police Department pointed out the addicts are desperate for cash to feed their habits and can commit murder. Khan (2013) explored that, around six million drug users in Bangladesh spend over Tk. 70m every day for illegal narcotics. Oishi is the prominent example that we had witnessed, the murder of parents by their own drug-addicted daughter. Though we are aware of single incident, there are so many parents in our country who are suffering the same problem. The drug abusers are more likely to commit a crime again and again as Anglin and Maugh (1992) found that, those who are involved in regular use of hard drugs are typically at high risk of recidivism. Drug abusers are more likely to commit crime than normal peoples as Inciardi noted that 356 addicts in Miami committed 118,134 offenses over a one-year period. In a study, Beaukimer and Reuters (2000) found that nearly one-quarter (22 percent) of the federal prison inmates and one-third (33 percent) of state prison inmates were convicted for offences like robbery, burglary, or motor vehicle theft were recorded being under the influence of drugs. On the other hand, among the state and federal inmates, 27 percent of those serving sentences for robbery and 30-32 percent of those serving sentences for burglary confessed that they committed offenses to buy drugs. American National Surveys of inmates in Jails and Prisons found that about 40 percent of the convicted offenders incarcerated for cognizable offenses had used alcohol immediately before the crimes. Noteworthy, most of the time the drivers accused of road accidents are found to be heavy drug abusers. American's National Statistics indicated that about 45 percent of prison inmates accused of road accidents was driving while intoxicated. Also, drug and alcohol abuse are liable for a high rate of homicide, as Brownstein (1992) reported that about 53 percent of homicides are committed by drug addicts. According to Jones (1999), a third of all thefts, burglaries, and street robberies are committed by drug-addicted offenders. Therefore, the availability of drugs is a direct threat to our national law and order situation as well as to our national development as it is affecting our youth generation.

There is ample evidence that drug use increases individual's involvements in criminal activities (Bennett, 1998 and 2000). Scholars claimed that majority of addicts commit economic-associated crimes to sustain their addictive behavior. Others suggested that drug users are involved more frequently in personal crimes like assault, family conflicts quarrels, violent crimes, and prostitution. In this regard, Goldstein (1985) said that there is a causal connection between drug use and violence. Though this context, micro factors are those that are learned in the process of interaction. Social deviation and criminality that are learned through peer pressure, family members, on the street, at school, contact with criminal justice agencies, mass media, frustration etc. However, macro factors predisposing individual to social deviation and criminality are structural. Notably, structural factors are social disorganization, low social control, social problems caused by social structure, population heterogeneity, environmental factors, inequality, unemployment, poverty, broken homes etc. (Goldstein, 1985). Apparently, the connection between drug use and crime involved with illicit drug sales and abuse is a necessary prerequisite to illicit drug trade. Hence, the drug market is one mechanism by which substance abuse causes crime that follows logically.

Existing theoretical and empirical studies reveal that youth criminality is involved in drug abuse. Differential Association Theory (1947) developed by Sutherland proposed that when a person interacts with another person, they are influenced by each other in terms of behavior. Differential association refers to the process whereby one is exposed to normative definitions favorable or unfavorable to illegal or law-abiding behaviors (Akers, 2000). The first proposition of the differential association theory is that criminal behavior is learned. In this sense, drug addiction is learned and a process of symbolic interaction with others, mainly in primary or inmate groups. The principle of differential association is a person taking drugs and committing criminal acts because he or she has learned "definition" (rationalizations and attitudes) favorable to taking drugs in 'excess' of the definitions unfavorable to taking drugs. Drug addiction is learned and practiced

in interaction with other people in the process of communication. The learning of drug addiction includes (a) techniques of taking drugs, which is sometimes very complicated, sometimes very simple, and (b) the specific direction of motives, drives, rationalizations, and attitudes. Therefore, Sutherland's theory is an instigating agent of learning drug-related offenses (Ahuja, 1996). In contrast, Hirschi's Social Bonding Theory explains that attachment, commitment, involvement, and beliefs are important for the social bond. Those stronger social bonding with parents, adults, school teachers, and peers are more likely desist from crime (Berg and Huebner, 2011; Visser and Travis, 2011; Sampson and Laub, 1993) and individual's behavior will be controlled. However, the weaker is the more likely it is that the individual will not control his or her normal behavior and frustration for incapability to bonding with others. Hence, uncontrolled behavior and frustration accelerate him to take drugs and commit drug-related offenses for feeding drug substances.

Over and above, this analysis offers a broad and clearer picture of drug abuse and youth criminality explaining with various factors related to youth criminality influence by drug addiction. Furthermore, this analysis has been conducted by identifying some variables which are explained cause and effect by using quantitative statistical tools. Finally, some primary key points were identified, including- socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, Duration of drug abuse, Causes of drug abuse, family dysfunction and abuse, Sources of drug, Frustration and drug abuse, Nature of crimes for drug addiction and drug dependency and recidivism of youth.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of the study is to find out the correlation between drug abuse and youth criminality. The specific objectives of the study are given below.

- To identify the nature and extent of criminal activities due to drug abuse.
- To find out the negative impacts of drug abuse over youth generation.
- To explain the influencing factors of drug abuse and youth criminality.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study focuses on drug-addicted people who have committed crimes due to drug addiction. Following the nature of this research, we selected two drug treatment centers "Decide Drug Treatment Center in Tangail" and "Path Drug Rehabilitation Center in Manikganj" as well as selected a vital area of drug-addicted people besides Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University (MBSTU). In this research, non-probability sampling we had chosen quota sampling method to selected respondents. For this reason, we have divided study area into different strata or quota like two treatment centers and Santosh area. In addition, we used quota sampling for collecting data and the total population of the study area is not properly defined. On the other hand, it was impossible to select respondents randomly from the Drug Treatment Center. For this reason, we had chosen quota sampling to select a site and snowball sampling methods to find out the respondents under non-probability sampling. This research is analytical and quantitative in nature; data had been collected by face to face interview system following a structured questionnaire from 50 respondents. Moreover, to process and analyze the data, different types of statistical tools like univariate analysis had been used in this research like charts, graphs, cross-tabulations, and chi-square tests, etc.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Findings of the Study

Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table-1 discusses about the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. This paper presents that most of the drug abusers (54 percent) are youth and their age group is 20-25 years old. Several studies also suggest that, majority of drug abusers in Bangladesh are youth and their age is spanning between 15 and 30 years (BSS, 2013), 20-25 years (Khan and Rahman, 2012). In terms of educational qualification, 56 percent are educated over SSC level but some of them ended their study before passing HSC. In a study it was found that about 56 percent of the drug abusers are either student or unemployed (ICDDRDB, 2013). Most of the drug abusers of the study are found students (68 percent) reading in College and Universities. On the other hand, most of respondents are found unmarried (56 percent) similar to a research finding that about 56 percent drug abusers are found unmarried (Khatun and Anwar, 2013). This paper also reveals that most of the drug abusers belong to single family (78 percent) and their monthly income is below 10 thousand taka (74 percent). Therefore, it can be concluded that the majority of the drug abusers in Bangladesh are youth in age and come from lower or middle class single families. The unmarried youth are also found more likely to be involved in drug abuse and criminal activities.

Table1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Variables	Frequency	Percent
Age Group		
20 and above	9	18
20-25	27	54
25-30	6	12
30-35	3	6
Over 35	5	10
Total	50	100
Educational Qualification		
Illiterate	1	2
Primary	7	14
Secondary	14	28
Higher Secondary	8	16
Over HSC	20	40
Total	50	100
Family Type		
Joint	10	20
Single	39	78
Broken	1	2
Total	50	100
Monthly Income		
Below 10000	37	74
10000-20000	5	10
20000-30000	3	6
30000-40000	1	2
Over 40000	4	8
Total	50	100
Occupation		
Labor	9	18
Student	34	68
Businessman	5	10
No Job	2	4
Total	50	100

Factors of Drug Abuse

Table-2 discusses about the overall factors that influence an individual to become drug addicted. Most of the respondents take drugs only to meet up their pleasure (68 percent) and another 22 percent take drugs to reduce pain and frustration. On the other hand, most of the respondents started taking drugs first time only for curiosity and pleasure (70 percent) while about 18 percent started due to frustration and inferiority, 4 percent of them due to mental disorders and 8 percent of them due to failure in love. From this study, 58 percent respondent has informed that peer group pressure and friends was their vital cause of taking drugs. Besides 20 percent informed frustration, 12 percent family matters and 10 percent identified drug dependency. It shows that bad friends circle plays a vital role in influence of drug addiction. Hence, curiosity and frustration are the first stage of experiencing drugs with a bad peer group and taking drugs continuously lead to drug dependency.

Table 2: Factors of Drug Abuse

Variables	Frequency	Percent
Causes of Drug Abuse		
Pleasure	34	68
Reducing pain/Frustration	11	22
Stimulate	4	8
Others	1	2
Total	50	100
Cause of Taking Drugs First Time		
Curiosity and Pleasure	35	70
Frustration and Inferiority	9	18
Mental disorder	2	4
Failure in Love	4	8
Total	50	100
Vital Cause of Taking Drugs		
Family Matters	6	12
Peer Group and Friends	29	58
Drug dependency	5	10
Frustration	10	20
Total	50	100
Nature of Frustration		
No frustration	16	32
Love Related	11	22
Economic Problem	5	10
Unemployment	4	8
Family Problems	14	28
Total	50	100
Influence of Drug Availability		
Highly	41	82
Lightly	4	8
No effect	5	10
Total	50	100
Influenced by		
Friends and Peer Group	40	80
Relatives	5	10
Others	5	10
Total	50	100

These findings also give clear evident that drug availability increases drug addiction as 80 percent of respondents supported that drug availability has high influence on large number of drug addicts because they can manage drugs easily.

In terms of influence, majority of the respondents (80 percent) were influenced by their friends and peer groups. Therefore, peer group and friend circle play the prime role of attracting a person to be involved in drug addiction. It means that peer group relationship is more vital cause of drug addiction than family relationship. In this matter, the family members should keep monitoring their children's peer groups and friends.

Family Relationship and Drug Addiction

According to the table-3, it is found that the drug abusers were mostly properly pleased or pleased (64 percent) with their families while 30 percent weren't also pleased with their families. On the other hand, after taking drugs most of drug abusers lost good relationship with their families. Before taking drugs about 70 percent respondents have good or very good relationship with family members but after involving in drug abuse the percentage decreases to 40 percent.

Table 3: Family Relationship and Drug Addiction

Variables	Frequency	Percent
Fulfillment of Basic Demands by the Family		
Properly	17	34
Pleased	15	30
Not pleased	15	30
Can't	1	2
Partially	2	4
Total	50	100
Level of Relationship before Taking Drugs		
Very Good	10	20
Good	25	50
Medium	11	22
Bad	4	8
Total	50	100
Level of Relationship after Taking Drugs		
Very Good	5	10
Good	15	30
Medium	17	34
Bad	13	26
Total	50	100

Therefore, it can be said that family matters have no big influence on becoming drug abusers but the families should take more time to stand beside the drug victim to help them to recover properly because this finding show that drug addiction gradually decreases family attachment.

Types and Availability of Drug

In this study, it has found that most of the respondents take Marijuana (38 percent), then 24 percent of them take alcohol and Marijuana at a time. There are also 16 percent people who take Marijuana, Yabba, Alcohol, Heroin as well as some non-conventional type of drugs like sleeping pills, Gum etc. In 2012 Tauhid Hossain Khan and Dr. Md. Ziaur Rahman, found that, about 62 percent respondents of Bangladesh are addicted by Marijuana, Yabba, alcohol, Viagra etc.

Table 4: Types and Availability of Drug

Variables	Frequency	Percent
Types of Drugs		
Heroin	1	2
Alcohol	2	4
Marijuana	19	38
Yaba	4	8
Alcohol & Marijuana	12	24
Heroin, Alcohol & Marijuana	4	8
All	8	16
Total	50	100
Sources of Drug Collection		
Relatives	4	8.0
Dealers	29	58.0
Slum Area	6	12.0
Friends	11	22.0
Total	50	100.0

Most of drug abusers collect drugs from dealers (58 percent). They also collect drugs from friends (22 percent), slum areas (12 percent) and also from relatives (8 percent). It reveals that drug dealers are spreading all over the country even in village and rural area. The business of illegal drugs are being committed by the drug peddler or local dealers very easily as the respondents have informed that they didn't feel any sort of big problem to collect drugs.

Drug Abuse and Criminal Activities

According to table-5, most of the respondent's (68 percent) daily expenditure is below 200 taka in a day, 12 percent needs 200-500 taka and over 2000 taka also. And only 8 percent needs 500-1000 taka in a day. In terms of collecting this money for buying drugs, most of the respondent managed money for buying drugs by theft and fraud (34 percent), 24 percent by theft, fraud and extortion. Besides, about 18 percent are involved with all types of offences including hijacking. On the other hand, drug addiction influences an individual to commit crimes. According to the table-5, most of the respondents are involving in theft (64 percent) for drug addiction, 6 percent in fraud, 4 percent in sexual offence and assault and 20 percent involving in all offences with extortion. In terms of types of crime, the study reveals that 87.54 percent respondents are involved in income generating or property crimes like theft, fraud, extortion and also assault in taking money from others. This study also reveals that, among 50 respondents 68 percent are not involving in drug trade or supply but 32 percent are involved indirectly. This means some youth are highly addicted and involving in drug trade or supply as medium of earning. Several studies also presented that the drug abusers needs a big amount of money for buying drugs (Khan, 2013) and they maintain cost by various illegal means like robbery and assaults (Beaukimer and Reuters 2000: 8).

Table 5: Drug Abuse and Criminal Activities

Variables	Frequency	Percent
Daily Expenditure for Buying Drugs		
Below 200 take	34	68
200-500	6	12
500-1000	4	8
over 2000 taka	6	12
Total	50	100
Sources of Money for Drugs		
Theft	12	24
Theft, Fraud and Extortion	12	24
Theft and Fraud	17	34
All including Hijacking	9	18
Total	50	100
Types of Offences due to Drug Addiction		
Theft	32	64
Fraud	3	6
Extortion	1	2
Sexual Offence	2	4
Assault	2	4
All	10	20
Total	50	100
Offences against Family		
Assault	1	2
Theft	23	46
Fraud	1	2
Theft and Fraud	10	20
Assault and Theft	12	24
All	3	6
Total	50	100
Involvement in Drug Trade		
Yes	16	32
No	34	68
Total	50	100

In 2012, Tauhid Hossain Khan and Dr. Md. Ziaur Rahman also found that 67 percent respondents reported that they had committed crime as a result of drug use. In terms of types of crimes, the study reveals that 87.54 percent respondents are involved in income generating or property crimes like theft, fraud, extortion and also assault in taking money from others. It is also said that the drug-crime relationship is interactive (Inciardi et al., 1993, Baron, 1999, Karofi, 2012). Therefore, it can be said that, continuous taking drugs encourages more use of drugs and more use of drugs in turn encourages more crimes. There is a clear evidence that as a person's drug abuse increases his involvements in criminal activities (Bennett 1998, 2000). Some argue that most addicts commit property related crimes to sustain their addictive life style. Others opinion is that drug users are more frequently involved in personal crimes like assault, family quarrels, violent crimes and prostitution. ICDDR (2013) also claimed that more than 100,000 people are directly involved in illegal drug trade and supplying the drugs. Hence, there is a clear nexus between drug abuse and youth criminality.

Drug Abuse and Recidivism

It is matter of sorrow that about 96 percent respondents are involved in recidivism and only 4 percent are not involving in recidivism (Table-6). It shows that drug abusers are mostly involved in same offences again and again. Most of the respondents have informed that they were involved in recidivism due to drug dependency (34 percent), 26 percent pointed

pleasure, 20 percent for family members, 12 percent for peer group pressure and 8 percent also informed unemployment influences recidivism.

Table 6: Drug Abuse and Recidivism

Variables	Frequency	Percent
Involvement in Recidivism		
Affirmative	48	96
Negative	2	4
Total	50	100
Cause of Recidivism		
Family Problems	10	20
Unemployment	4	8
Pleasure	13	26
Drug Dependency	17	34
Friends and Environment	6	12
Total	50	100

Therefore, the most common causes of recidivism are drug dependency, pleasure and family problems. Besides, drug dependency and pleasure play more negative effect on recidivism than family problems.

Cross Tabulation

Relation between Area and Sources of Collecting Drugs

From the cross table-1, it is seen that the most of the young people of towns, villages or sub-towns collect drugs from dealers (58 percent) and youth of city areas collect from slum areas. So it is a concerning issue that the drug dealers are spreading all over the Bangladesh as most of the drug abusers can easily find illegal drugs from their local dealers or peddlers.

Table 7: Area of Residence Sources of Drug Collection

Area of Residence	Sources of Drug Collection				Total
	Relatives	Dealers	Slum Area	Friends	
City	0	0	2	0	2
Village	1	15	0	6	22
Town	1	10	3	2	16
Sub-Town	2	4	1	3	10
Total	4	29	6	11	50

Relation between Marital Status and Criminal Activities

From the cross table-2, it can be easily said that the unmarried people (54 percent) are more likely to involve in drug abusing and youth criminality than married (38 percent) people. Several studies also supported that about 56 percent drug abusers are found to be unmarried and many of them are involved in criminal activities (Khatun and Anwar, 2013).

Table 8: Marital Status * Criminal Activities

Marital Status	Involvement in Recidivism		Total
	Yes	No	
Married	19	0	19
Unmarried	27	1	28
Widow	2	1	3
Total	48	2	50

Relation between Occupation and Youth Criminality

From the cross table-3, it can be said that the students and laborers are more likely to be involved with drug addiction and committing crimes like theft than others. The ICDDR (2013) also found that about 56 percent of drug abusers are found to be mostly either students or unemployed people.

Table 9: Occupation Youth Criminality

Occupation	Types of Offence for Drug Addiction						Total
	Theft	Fraud	Extortion	Sexual Offence	Assault	All	
Labor	6	2	0	0	0	1	9
Student	21	1	1	2	2	7	34
Businessman	4	0	0	0	0	1	5
Unemployed	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Total	32	3	1	2	2	10	50

So it is clear that most of the time the young students and laborers take drugs and commit various offences like theft, fraud, extortion, sexual offences and assault etc.

HYPOTHESIS TEST

Hypothesis Test-1

Research Hypothesis: Curiosity is the main cause of drug addiction than other factors.

Null Hypothesis: There is no difference between curiosity and other problems in generating drug addiction.

Independent Variables: Cause of taking drugs-Nominal level (Curiosity and Pleasure, Frustration, Family problems, others)

Dependent Variable: Involvement in Recidivism due to drug addiction- Nominal level (yes versus no).

Chi-Square Test: 1

Count	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	24.724 ^a	3	.001
Likelihood Ratio	7.771	3	.051

From the Pearson Chi-Square test we can see that when significance level is 0.001 and df is 3 the calculated value is 24.724 but the table value is 16.27. So CV is greater than TV. So the null hypothesis is rejected.

From the statistical test we can say that there is a positive relation between curiosity and drug abuse and youth criminality. So research hypothesis is accepted. Curiosity plays a bigger role than frustration and family problems in creating drug abusers and youth criminals. Curiosity is a big risk factor in this matter.

Hypothesis Test-2

Research Hypothesis: Large amount of daily expenditure for drug addiction promotes property crime.

Null Hypothesis: There is no direct relation between amounts of daily expenditure for youth drug addiction with property crimes.

Independent Variable: Involvement in recidivism due to Drug addiction, Nominal level-(Yes versus No).

Dependent Variable: Types of crimes, Nominal level- Property crime (Theft, extortion).

Chi-Square Test: 2

Count	Value	DF	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	28.461 ^a	20	.01
Likelihood Ratio	24.027	20	.241

From the Pearson Chi-Square test it can be seen that when significance level is 0.01 and df is 20 the calculated value is 28.461 but the table value is 37.57. So CV is smaller than TV. So the null hypothesis is accepted.

From the statistical test we can say that there is no positive relation between amounts of daily expenditure with amount of criminal offences due to drug addiction. So research hypothesis is rejected. So there is no influence of large amount of money for drug abusing on amount of offences, though managing money for buying drugs promotes youth to take illegal means.

DISCUSSIONS

Drug abuse and youth criminality are the two major social problems in almost all the countries in the world. At present drugs are spreading to all classes of people as the students of higher education are also taking drugs due to curiosity and they are being influenced by their environment as well as their bad friends and peer groups. They are mostly involved in theft, fraud, extortion, hijacking, drug selling, assault, sexual offences etc. In our country, drugs are now available and people can easily buy them from dealers even in villages as there are so many dealers to supply drugs to rural people. Besides, slum areas and prostitution areas are also a great source of drugs. As a result, people of all classes are involved with drug addiction; especially the young generations are involved mostly as they deal with frustration, family problems, unemployment etc. Mixing with bad peer groups and friends is also an important factor and it can be said that it is the only cause of drug addiction. Most of the drug abusers started to take drugs for curiosity and pleasure as they feel frustration of unemployment. So they need awareness about the bad effects of taking drugs as well as ensure vocational education and proper job assurance. Many of them blame their surroundings, drug availability, lack of counseling, treatment for their drug taking and criminal offences. So the Government as well as the society should ensure a drug free society taking different programs, counseling, society involvement, and public awareness and the media can also play a great role to stop drug addiction and youth criminality. Existing laws to prevent drug supply, trade also need to be enforced strictly.

From this study it is found that most of the drug abusers are young, unmarried, and not rich and take drugs at a very young age. So awareness should be increased about negative effects of drug abuse. In this study, the researchers wanted to know how drug abuse and youth criminality can be prevented. The positive side is that all of them were interested in giving up drug abuse and criminal activities. They argued that strong will power, proper family support, awareness of bad effect of taking drugs, social support, educational publication about bad effect of drug taking, friends support, proper treatment, public awareness, reducing frustration, good and favorable environment, vocational education, strict punishment, punishing the dealers, destroying drug factories, moral and religious values, developing patriotism, providing proper job, reducing conflict, proper love and affection, reduce availability of drug, strict laws, proper counseling and motivations, governmental programs as well as support from the media can be helpful to remove both drug abuse and youth criminality..

CONCLUSIONS

Youth criminality has always been considered as a concerning issue almost in every country in the world. The youth are deemed and expected to be the steering part of citizenry, on whom the development and prosperity of a country depend. But Bangladesh is facing a great problem of youth criminality due to drug abuse. Prison statistics of Bangladesh also reveals that the youth are mostly involved in different criminal activities. It is also proved that most of the youth are committing crimes due to drug abuse. Drug availability, bad peer group, demand of curiosity and pleasure, lack of social support, unemployment problems, family problems, frustrations as well as many other adverse social environment are also influencing the youth to take drugs as well as to commit criminal activities. Among them drug availability, curiosity and influence and bad peer group's influence are the biggest risk factors of drug abuse and youth criminality. So family members, society and the government should take necessary steps to stop these problems as soon as possible; otherwise this country will never see the hope of development and peace. Besides, our young generation can be engaged in many development processes only by listening their problems, providing them good family support, good peer group, good friend circle, vocational and educational training, moral and ethical treatment, proper treatment, social support, reducing frustration, proper motivation and counseling, good familiar and social environment, alerting them about the bad effects of taking drugs, strict laws against youth criminality, proper empowerment, effective national policy and strict legal action to ensure drug-free society.

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