

## National Seminar on

### DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION: SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVE

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## Knowledge and Attitude of University Students towards Substance Abuse in Kerala

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**Abstract:** Education is an essential formal ingredient in the making of a civilized society. Education should lead to total human development. This includes personal, intellectual, social economic, civic, cultural, ethical and spiritual development. At times the entire student community could not able to achieve these objectives when they deviate from the educational atmosphere. Adolescence students in universities are vulnerable to the development of substance abuse dependence. In Kerala the use of substance abuse among students are increasing. A study was conducted among University students of Kasaragod district to identify the students' knowledge and attitude towards drug abuse. The findings show that the knowledge about the ill effects of substance abuse among students is low and requires intervention.

**Key words:** Substance abuse, Students, Knowledge, Attitude.

### 1. Introduction:

Education is an essential formal ingredient in the making of a civilized society. Education should lead to total human development. This includes personal, intellectual, social economic, civic, cultural, ethical and spiritual development. At times the entire student community could not able to achieve these objectives when they deviate from the educational atmosphere. Adolescence students in universities are vulnerable to the development of substance abuse dependence. In Kerala the use of substance abuse among students are increasing. A study was conducted among University students of Kasaragod district to identify the students' knowledge and attitude towards drug abuse.

### 2. Prevalence and Significance:

Prevalence of substance abuse problems among students has been studied by many investigators and there is a variation in prevalence rate from 3.1 per cent at 12-13 yr to 15.1 per cent at 18-19 yr (Jayasoorya, Beena, Meena et al, 2016). Majority of these problems begin in adolescents. These addictions severely influence the development of students, their academics and their potential to live fulfilling and productive lives. Students with substance abuse face major challenges with isolation, premature death, illness and social harm, as well as lack of access to psycho social interventions and became a barrier to higher education facilities.

### 3. Methods:

The aim of the study is to assess the knowledge and attitude of university students towards substance abuse.

### 4. Objectives of the study:

- To assess the knowledge of students about substance abuse.
- To assess the attitude of students towards substance abuse.

As per the study design data was collected from 111 university students from different disciplines.

### 5. Research design:

The study describes the knowledge of students in the areas of perceived drug use among young people, perceived harm and dangers associated with Illegal drug use, perceived extent of the drug problem, types of drugs, attitudes towards drug addicts, attitudes towards those who use or misuse illegal drugs, support for drug prevention strategies, support for drug treatment strategies and support for harm reduction strategies. The study describes the student's knowledge and attitude and hence descriptive research design is used in the study.