

RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Drug and Its Impact on Students: A Study on Rural and Urban Perspective

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## Abstract

Drug addiction among students is one of the most widely discussed contemporary issues in Bangladesh. The general objective of the study is crucially analysis the nature and impact of drug addiction on students in urban and rural life of Bangladesh. The study was mostly exploratory in nature. Both quantitative and qualitative techniques, stratified and purposive sampling were used to choose the drug addicted student for the purpose of the questionnaire survey. Drug rehabilitation centres and hospital were also randomly selected. The age of maximum respondent is belonging to 22-24 years (23.75%). Respondents mostly took cigarette (95.2%), yaba (80.96%), marijuana (74.8%) as well as almost all type of drugs. The concerning fact is that, nearly 93% respondent were found involved in illegal activities for managing drugs. They are mostly involved in violence offences (93.75%), property related offences (86.25%), breaches (98.75%) and traffic offences (78.33%). Based on this research finding, we can recommend that all concerned including guardians, officials, socio-cultural activists, teachers, students, religious leaders, academicians, professionals, anti-drug campaigners, civil society members and elite should come out and make efforts to save the future generation from the curse of drug abuse.

**Keywords:** Drug Abuse, Crime, Students, Offences, Treatment.

## 1. Introduction

Drug addiction is one of the serious problems which are slowly and agonizingly devouring the prospect of the nation. The number of drug abusers among students is also increasing day by day (Rahman, 2015; Hossain and mahmuda, 2006). Drug abuse is a terrible threat in the society with biological, social, financial, psychological and security effect on the individuals, families, community and the country. It is a condition which characterized by an overwhelming desire to continue taking a drug through which one has become habituated for repeated consumption (Khatun and Anwar, 2013). Different study reports illustrate that it is a growing national concern in our country because there are millions of drug-addicted people where

maximum number of are adolescents, students and young men of 15 to 30 years of age and the number is ascending day by day. Consequently, drug abuse is now prevalent everywhere in the house, streets, in the workplace, parks, slums, markets and even in educational institutions both in rural and urban areas. The impacts of drugs on students are felt on many levels: educational, physical, psychological, personal, friends, family and societal. A good number of drug addict student drops out from school, college or university education. In educational institution, drug addicted students play a big role in influencing acts of indiscipline as they are under the influence of drugs. Social isolation and alienation are very common during the period of drug addiction. Students who abuse drugs, has a wide array of physical effects due to their

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drug addiction. Additional physical effects of drug addiction include tolerance, withdrawal, and sickness. The drug abuser student is in a threat to the family because of the hostile behaviour of the drug abuser the family in at risk. The effects of drug addiction on society are highly negative. Indiscriminate use of any of the drug becomes dangerous and produces a gradual mental and moral deterioration of the individual. The most of the addicts become involved in various anti-social activities to earn money and their deviant behaviour causes many problems in our daily life. Various criminal offences and anti-moral or anti-social activities are in increase in association with drug use. As a result, drugs have now become a threat to the national economy, public health, peace, social integrity, cultural growth and law and order situation of the whole society. There is a paucity of reliable data on the drug abuse situation of students in Bangladesh. Drug abuse is a serious problem in Bangladesh, more widespread than most people believe. Reliable information from law enforcement officials, treatment providers, researchers and other sources indicate that the problem is on increase. Although a number of researchers have initiated over the years on the issue of drug addiction, drug abuse, narcotics and narcotics control, a comprehensive data on drug addicted students of the country are not available. This leaves an obscure space as to the real nature and impact of drug addiction on student in Bangladesh. This study aims to shrink this obscure. The purpose of the study is quest to expose the causes, trend of drug addiction on students, types of drugs they mainly use, their treatment taking attitude and impacts of drugs on students both urban and rural areas. The main objective of the study is the nature and impact of drug abuse on students in both urban and rural areas of Bangladesh.

## 2. Methods

The present study utilizes a mixed method approach because qualitative approach to social research is concerned with subjective assessment of attitudes, opinions and behaviour. The mixed method overcomes the disadvantages of qualitative and quantitative methods and benefits from the advantages of each. The study was mostly exploratory in nature. Opinion of the key informant Interview (KII) and FGD of both Expert and the general people were gathered about the intensity of drug vulnerability trend of drug addicts and their treatment and rehabilitation approaches. From the drug-prone 22 districts, we have selected 8 districts through stratified sampling. These study areas are -Dhaka, Gazipur, Chittagong,

Comilla, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Jhenaidah, and Jessore. The population of our research is schools, colleges, medical and universities student those who are drug abuser. We have selected 35 drug rehabilitation centres from 8 districts. Twenty-four (24) of them gave us opportunity to talk face to face with stakeholder (drug addicted student) as well as administration level. Before collecting data, we had promised that we did not publish their name, area detail, family address, and any photo of them. We have secured their privacy. The sample size is 317 including drug addicted student from drug rehabilitation centre (210), drug addicted student from different educational institutions (30), Key informant Interviews (77). The samples were chosen stratified and purposively from the educational institution of many parts in study areas. Basically; primary data were collected through questionnaire survey, face-to-face interview, focused group discussion, case study method. In addition, the observations of the interviewers were also recorded to facilitate understanding about nature drug addiction. Content Analysis was also chosen to identify, unitize, categorize and analyze to draw inference and conclusion. Interview was held with the Managing Director, Chairman, President, Director/Co-Director, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), counsellor, Psychologist, Clinical psychologist, other officials of drug rehabilitation centres and hospitals. In the field, O.C, S.I, Local guardian, teacher and academician, local leader have been interviewed. Collected data has been processed and analysed by applying proper statistical techniques in the light of the objectives of the study. Information has been presented in the descriptive form. Raw data were processed by removing illegal codes, reducing logical inconsistencies, dropping improbabilities and by solving ambiguities. Processed data were analyzed and interpreted by using descriptive as well as inferential statistical techniques. The data obtained from the survey method was processed with the use of simple mathematical tools as well as Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) for graphs and charts. For better understanding tables, charts, graphs have been presented. Suitable statistical tools used for data analysis.

## 3. Findings and Discussion

### 3.1 Types of Respondents

There are 317 respondents including seven categories such as: drug addicted students (75.71%), law enforcing agency (1.27%), drug rehabilitation centre authority (20.50%), teacher (0.6%), academician (0.6%), doctors (0.6%) and guardian (0.6%). Table-1 gives the categories of respondents.

**Table 1.** Categories of Respondent

Respondent Type	Number	Percentage
Drug addicted students	240	75.71
Drug rehabilitation center authority	65	20.50
Law Enforcing Agency	4	1.27
Teacher	2	0.63
Academician	2	0.63
Doctors	2	0.63
Guardian	2	0.63
Total	317	100

### 3.2 Types of General People

There are 240 general respondents including drug addicted student from drug rehabilitation centre and different educational institutions. It shows that

**Table 2.** Categories of General Respondents

General Respondent Type	Number	Percentage
Admitted drug addicted student from drug rehabilitation center	210	87.5
Drug addicted student from different educational institutions	30	12.5
Total	240	100.0

overwhelming majority of the respondents are general respondents (75.71%). Table 2 shows that most of general respondents are admitted drug addicted student from drug rehabilitation centre with 87.5 percent.

### 3.3 Sex of the General Respondents

Table- 3 shows that overwhelming majority of general respondents are males (94.58%). So, the male is more

**Table 3.** Sex of the General Respondents

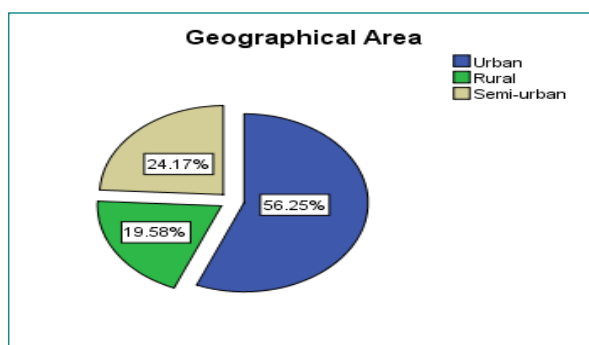
Sex	Number	Percent
Male	227	94.58
Female	13	5.42
Total	240	100%

vulnerable to be involved in drug abuse and drug related offences due different causes than the female (Santrock, 1984).

### 3.4 Geographical Areas of the General Respondents

The Figure 1 shows that among total respondents most of the drug addicted students come from urban area

which is nearly 57%. Then, come from semi-urban area (24.2%) and rural area (19.6%).it is indicated that student in anywhere involved with drug of abuse.



**Figure1.** Geographical area of respondent living place

### 3.5 Nature and Causes of Drug Abuse among Students

From scientific researches that for biological, particularly for endocrinal reasons, youth is the most vulnerable age for addiction to drugs. The global statistics and statistics of all previous studies and

reports in Bangladesh also support this proposition. No single factor can predict whether or not a person will become addicted to drugs. It has been found several natures and causes of drug addiction among the students. These natures and causes are shown below

### 3.5 Age of First Using Drug

On average most of the drugs users commence some form of drug use between 11 to 20 years. Research team asked students how old they were when they first used to select substances. Responses consisted of two-year intervals for ages 10 through 15 (i.e. 10-11 years, 12-13 years, etc.), a three-year interval for students aged 16 through 24, and open-ended ranges for extreme responses (“under 10” or “25+”). The mean age of first-time use of Cigarettes was the lowest of all substances investigated, at (14.1 years), followed by Yaba (15.2 years), Marijuana (16.5 years), cannabis (16.7 years), Phensedyl (17.1 years),

Alcohol (19.5), Heroin (22.4 years). Smoking is the first bad habit which leads to taking drugs. At the last stage of smoking they start yaba, pethidine, heroin, marijuana. The table 4 shows that, maximum number respondents (31.25 %) smoked cigarette firstly during 14-15 years. Moreover, during 16-18 year, 22.92% respondent take marijuana and cannabis respectively, 24.58% respondent take Yaba, 17.92 % respondent take Phensedyl, 7.5% respondent take Sleeping Pill for the first time. The table also shows that the highest number of respondent (19.17%) drink alcohol (beer, wine, liquor), followed by Inhalants (1.67%) between 19 to 21 years.

**Table 4.** Age of first using Drug

Age of first using Drug	Didn't use	<10	10-11	12-13	14-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25+
Cigarettes	4.17	7.5	9.58	14.58	31.25	15.42	9.58	5.42	2.5
Alcohol (beer, wine, liquor)	40.83	0	2.08	4.17	7.92	17.09	19.17	5.42	3.33
Marijuana (pot, hashish, hash oil)	22.92	2.5	6.25	7.92	12.5	22.92	16.67	6.25	2.08
Heroin	72.91	0	0	2.08	3.33	3.33	6.25	11.25	0.83
Yaba	17.92	2.08	3.33	4.17	12.5	24.58	22.92	7.08	5.42
Inhalants (glue, solvents, gas)	95.41	0	0	0	0	1.25	1.67	1.25	0.42
Phensedyl	42.5	0	0.83	3.33	10.42	17.92	17.5	5.42	2.08
Cannabis	24.17	2.08	4.58	6.25	11.67	22.92	18.33	7.08	2.92
Morphine									
Pethidine	91.25	0	0	0	0.83	1.67	2.08	2.92	1.25
tolune	98.75	0	0	0.42	0	0.42	0.42	0	0
Sleeping Pill/ Sedative, hyponotic and tranquilizer drugs	81.25	0.83	1.25	2.08	2.92	7.5	3.75	0.42	0
Prescription pills that are not prescribed to you	98.34	0	0	0	0	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42
Medications prescribed to you, but you used to get high	98.75	0	0	0	0.42	0	0.42	0.42	
Over-the-counter medications to get high	98.75	0	0	0	0.42	0.42	0	0	0.42
Other illegal drugs	98.34	0	0	0	0.83	0	0.42	0.42	0

Md. Faruque Hossain and Mahmuda Mamun (2006) found that the highest number of drug addicts (24.03%) is students. They found that influence of peer group (67%), curiosity (57%), frustration (16%), unemployment (5%), failure in love (11.54%), and family conflict (19%) are the causes of drug addiction.

### 3.6 Learning to Take Drug

During the survey, it was found that 57.92 % respondents said that they learn to take drugs from their friends and 18.33% mentioned that they learn from their relatives. Besides, 11.25% learn from the Elder brothers of institution/ living area, 10.42% learn from the neighbours and remaining from the others (Table-5).

**Table 5.** From Whom Learn to Take Drug

Learning to Take Drug	Number	Percent
Friends	139	57.92
Neighbors	25	10.42
Relatives	44	18.33
Elder brothers of institution/ living area	27	11.25
Other	5	2.08
Total	240	100

### 3.7 Main Sources of Drugs

According to the field survey, the Table 6 shows maximum respondents (29.58 %) said that the main sources of abused drugs came from drug driller and

the rest sources are night clubs (25%), slum areas (19.58%), kiosks / small shops (14.58%), fellow students (7.09%) and friends (4.17%).

**Table 6.** Main sources of drugs

Main Sources of Drugs	Number	Percentage
Small shops	35	14.58
Slum areas	47	19.58
Fellow students	17	7.09
Drug Driller	71	29.58
Friends	10	4.17
Night Clubs	60	25.0
Total	240	100

### 3.8 Drug Abuse and Criminal Activity

The Table 7 indicates about the interdependence of drugs with criminal activity and it shows that maximum numbers of respondents (49.58%) are agreed with the statement and 41.25% respondents are strongly agreed. Respondents are neither agreed nor are disagreed (6.25%) and 2.92% respondents disagreed with the statement. The table also reveals

that a significant number of respondents (90.83%) reported that a relationship exists between the respondents' drug use habit and their engagement in criminal activities. Drug use is both directly and indirectly related to crime (Anglin and Maugh, 1992; Khan and Rahman, 2013). Drug abuse and delinquency have interrelated relationship (Amiti and Fendrich, 1999).

**Table 7.** Drug abuse and Crime are inter-dependent

Level	Agree strongly	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Disagree strongly
Number	99	119	15	7	0
Percentage	41.25	49.58	6.25	2.92	0

### 3.9 Illegal Activities for Managing Drugs Expense/Expense/Money/Cost

According to table-27, nearly 92.92% respondent said that that they have involved in illegal activities for managing drugs expense/money/cost. On the other

hand, remaining respondent it was not necessary for them to involve in illegal activities for managing drugs expense/money/cost. Taslima Khatun and Saeed Anwar (2013) found that about two-third (61.5%) assumed that addicted people collect money by doing criminal activities.

**Table 8.** Involving in illegal activities for managing drugs

Illegal activities	Number	Percentage
Yes	223	92.92
No	17	7.08
Total	240	100



### 3.10 Types of Offences

The Table 9 portrays that drug addicted student generally involved in different types of offences.

These are violence offences (93.75%), Property offences (86.25%), Breaches (98.75%) and Traffic offences (78.33%).

**Table 9.** *Offence types*

Offences Types	Number	Percentage
Violence offences	225	93.75
Property offences	207	86.25
Breaches	237	98.75
Traffic offences	188	78.33

### 3.11 Types of Committed Crimes by Drug User

To find out what type of crime the respondents were involve in, the type of crime the respondents were involved in, respondents were asked to state which type of offences they committed. The Table 10 shows that all most all of the respondents were involved in property, violence and drug related crimes. Among property related violence, maximum respondent (97.92) engaged in stealing. Then, the second highest number of respondent (95%) is involved in vandalism. Moreover, respondent also involved fraud, forgery (89.58%), traded in stolen goods (91.25%), break and enter (27.92%), motor vehicle theft (23.75%). According to violent offences of crime, the study reveals that 86. 25% respondent commit physical assault and only 6.25% respondent committed

robbery. From the field study, we found two types of drug offences. These are including buy illegal drugs and sold illegal drugs. Almost 96% respondents buy illegal drugs from different people. On the other hand, 53.33% respondents have been involved in selling illegal drugs. Though some of them full time drug peddler, maximum student sell drug so that they can earn money as well as get drug free. The Table 31 illustrates the illegal activities of students after abusing drugs. Almost 95% respondent said that they committed extortion after abusing drugs. Nearly 98% respondents tell a lie and pretend to money for drug abuse. When they did not get money from home or they have no money, then about 96% respondent theft different valuable things from inside or outside house.

**Table 10.** *Types of committed crimes*

Types of committed crimes Property related offences	Yes	No
	1. Vandalism	228(95%)
2. Motor Vehicle theft	57 (23.75%)	183(76.25%)
3. Break and enter	67(27.92%)	173(72.08%)
4. Stealing	235(97.92%)	5(2.08%)
5. Traded in stolen goods	219(91.25%)	21(8.75%)
6. Fraud, forgery	215(89.58%)	25 (10.42%)
Violent offences	Yes	No
1. Physical assault	207(86.25%)	33(13.75%)
2. Robbery	15(6.25%)	225(93.75%)
Drug offences	Yes	No
1. Buy Illegal Drug	229(95.42%)	11(4.58%)
2. Sold Illegal Drugs	128(53.33%)	112(46.67%)

### 3.12 Illegal Activities Students Committed after Abusing Drugs

Fraud is a common phenomenon of drug abuser. They take money from different person but they did not back money. They have fraud with another person. These types of work have done by almost 90 percent

respondent. After taking stimulating drugs, 66.67 percent respondent engaged in eve-teasing. From the table-11, it is also found that about 35% respondent active in snatching where only 6.25% respondent committed robbery.

**Table 11.** *Illegal activities Students committed after abusing drugs*

Illegal activities	Yes	No
Commit extortion	227(94.58%)	13(5.42%)
Fraud	215(89.58 %)	25(10.42%)
Theft from inside house or outside	229(95.42%)	11 (4.58%)
Robbery	15(6.25%)	225(93.75%)
Snatching	83(34.58%)	157(65.42%)
Eve-teasing	160(66.67%)	80(33.33%)
Tell a lie /pretend	235(97.92%)	5 (2.08%)

### 3.13 Illegal Sexual Activities

Youths who used drugs are more likely to have unprotected sex which leads to higher risk of teen pregnancy and sexual assault. There is very high prevalence of illegal sex and sexual crime in communities with drug abuse problem. The table indicates that 53.08% respondents

engaged in any illegal sexual activities due to drug addiction and the other 46.3% respondents gave their view that they were not engaged any illegal sexual activities. Respondent indicated that one of the effects of consuming drugs was the desire to engage in sex.

**Table 12.** *Engaged any illegal sexual (girlfriend/boyfriend/other) activities*

Engaged	Number	Percentage
Yes	129	53.8
No	111	46.3
Total	240	100.0

## 4. Conclusion

The time has come to rethink about the problem of drug addiction on students both in rural and urban areas in Bangladesh. It is a matter of great sorrow that an increasing number of school, college and university students are being addicted during their student life. Thousands of families in cities, towns and even rural areas are directly or indirectly affected by it. Almost 97 percent respondent mentioned that easy access of drug is the prime reason of drug addiction of student in Bangladesh. Besides, peer pressure, psychological factors, and familial factors are also liable for involving in drug addiction. The students are also found involving in different types of illegal activities to manage cost of buying drugs. Moreover, drug addiction decreases the power of differentiate between right and wrong and thus the addicted students are more crime prone than others. It is necessary to underscore the need for building a drug-free society through creation of mass awareness. We suggest to the policy makers to take policies against the abuse of drugs among the students.

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