

# Social Responsibility of Educational Institutions to Contribute Efforts in Combating Drug Menace in Country

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## ABSTRACT

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Prevalence of addictives like alcohol, tobacco and other similar substances became very common among youth. Data from various reliable sources revealed a whooping increase in young addicts in India. It is therefore an alarming situation which needs to be addressed from all sides of society. This research paper focuses on social responsibilities of educational institutions to provide efforts in this regard. As a child/adolescent or youth, a person spares maximum of his time at school or college hence it is more appropriate to initiate some correctives actions by the help of these institutions. The paper in its length describes few initiatives of government with similar ideology but also provides the real picture by collecting and analyzing first hand data from school/ college going respondents. The prime object of this paper is to compare the drafts with reality and suggest some possible remedies in this regard. As it is said that "law is not solution to every problem but society is", we therefore, concentrate on what efforts could be contributed by educational institutions and how crucial their efforts can be proved in fighting this menace.

**Keywords:** Young Addicts, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985, Policies on Drug Addiction, Child Rights.

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## Introduction

There is rapid increase in young addicts at present time and we cannot deny the fact. The entire world is contributing serious efforts to protect their young generation from getting trapped into the hell of addiction. No doubt India has done remarkable efforts in this regard by being member at various international conventions held against drugs and by ratifying the international obligations but at present some latest and more effective efforts are needed. It is observed by various renowned researchers that the efforts are now proved ineffective as compared to severity of

problem and advancement of time. Here it is also worthy to note that blaming law and government will not ease our problem but we need to share the burden at different levels and contribute efforts. It well observed that young people spend most of their time at educational institutions and in fact these institutions have strong impact on their young minds. The culture and climate of an educational institution influences a youngster like nothing else and therefore it is felt that role of educational institutions is paramount in diverting their curious immature mind from addiction to productivity. We are not considering the

educational institutions as sole factor to curb addiction among youth but the most effective to target the problem.

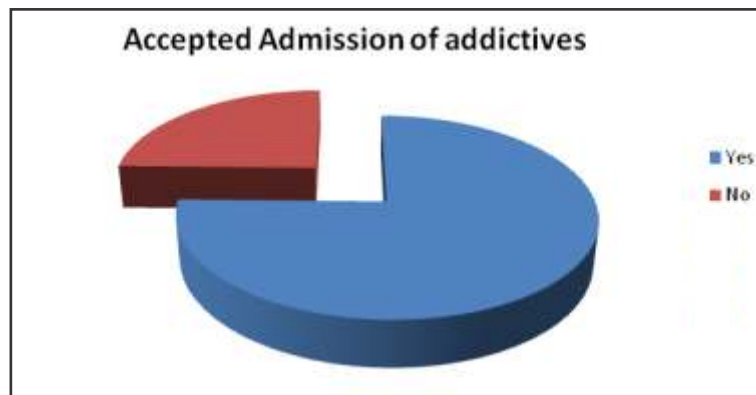
### Data Analysis

For the purpose of understanding the picture more clearly, we distributed some questionnaires among 150 students of different higher education institutions (within Udaipur region, Rajasthan)

and recorded their responses, which are as follows-

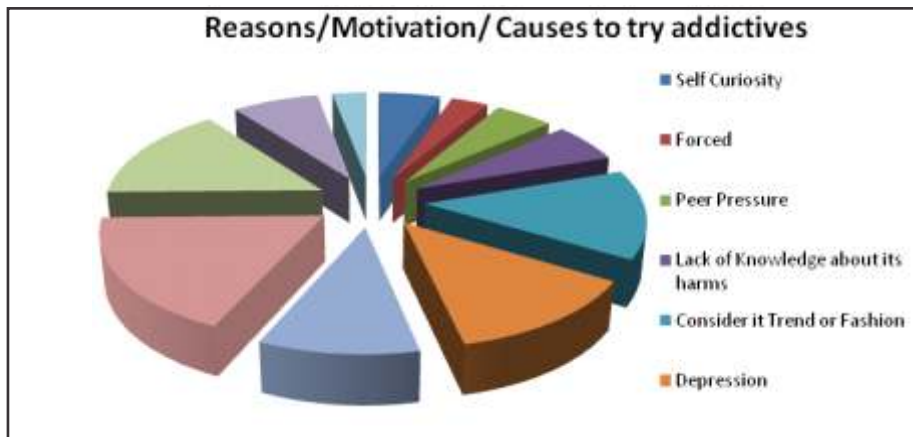
**Table 1 : Dcepted Admission of Addictives**

Response	Number of Respondent	Percentage
1. Yes	113	75.33%
2. No	37	24.66%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150</b>	



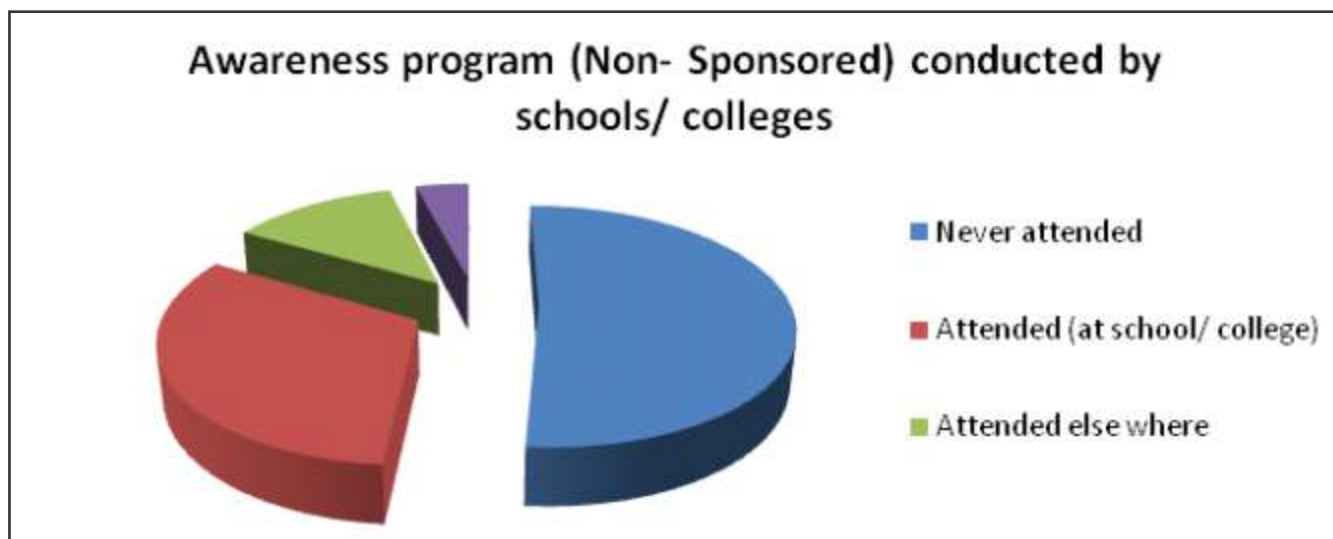
**Table 2 : Reasons to try Addictions**

Response (selecting multiple options for this question were allowed in questionnaire)	Number of Respondent
1. Self curiosity	20
2. Forced	12
3. Peer pressure	19
4. Lack of knowledge about harm	23
5. Consider it as fashion or trend	52
6. Depression	49
7. Family dispute	38
8. Easy availability	68
9. Prevalence among family	56
10. Strictness of parents	28
11. Others	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>376</b>



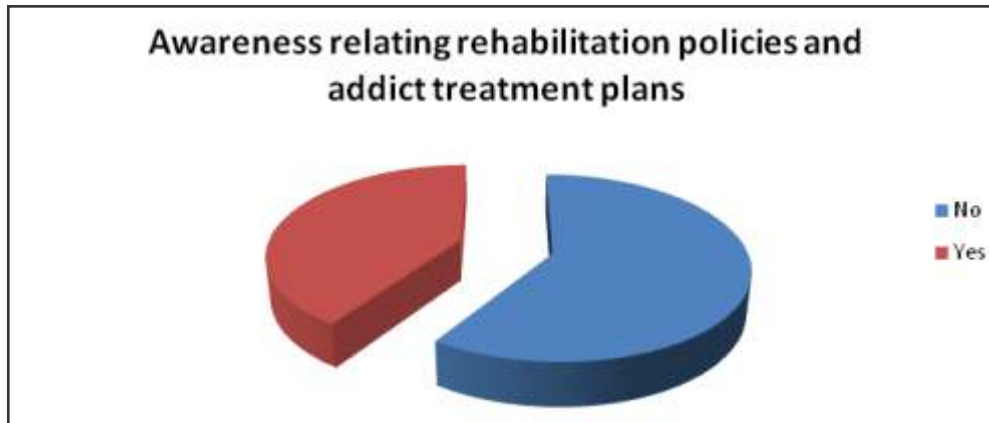
**Table 3 : Attendance of Any Awareness Program (Non- Sponsored) Conducted By Schools/ Colleges on Consequences of Addiction**

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1. Never attended	77	51.33%
2. Attended at school or college	48	32%
3. Attended at place other than school or college	19	12.67%
4. Never attended but such programmes are occasionally conducted at my school or college	06	4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150</b>	



**Table 4 : Awareness Relating Rehabilitation Policies and Addict Treatment Plans**

RESPONSE	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1. No	89	59.33%
2. Yes	61	40.66%
<b>TOTAL</b>	150	



The above data reveal the points where educational institutions can contribute. When majority of youngsters are accepting consumption of addictives, it is alarming. The biggest factors for this are revealed to be easy availability and addiction as a trend or fashion among people of this generation. It is also revealed that majority of students never attended any awareness programmes as their educational institutions never conducted any such program.

**Role of Educational Institution**

Educational institutions play a key role in influencing young minds. These are the places where a child or a youngster spends most of his time. Therefore chances to change their habits or solve their problem are more here. Similar to imposition of corporate social responsibilities on corporate, there should also be imposed a social responsibility on educational institutions to make arrangement regarding creating awareness on addiction and drug related crimes, constituting

anti-drug clubs or no addiction clubs to promote an addiction free environment, arranging counselling facility for those in need and collaborating with local police and rehabilitation institutions to help young people.

**Judicial Observation**

In the landmark judgement of Bachpan Bachao Andolan versus Union of India & ors, hon'ble court mentioned immediate areas requiring remedial attentions which are summarized below:

1. Formulation of a national action plan for children;
2. Creation of a module containing an appropriate curriculum for children of all age groups in order to keep them away from drugs, alcohol and tobacco;
3. Setting up of de-addiction centres;
4. Establishing a standard operating procedure on enforcing the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act,

2015 particularly Sections 77 and 78; and

5. Implementing the action plan with the national policy on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substance which has been approved by the Union Cabinet.

As a result of serious efforts with regards the formulation of a curriculum incorporating appropriate aspects of generating awareness and sensitization, an affidavit has been filed on behalf of the Department of Higher Education in the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development.

On 4 December 2015 directions were issued in the present case in pursuance of which inclusion of issues relating to eradication of alcohol and drug abuse in the New Education Policy was taken up. A consultative process has been initiated by the Union Government. A committee was constituted on 31 October 2015 for the evolution of a New Education Policy (NEP). Out of 33 themes identified, 2 themes of school education are titled:

- (i) Comprehensive education – ethics, physical education, arts and crafts; life skills; and
- (ii) Focus on child health. This, it has been stated, would cover “the implied importance of the inclusion of issues pertaining to eradication of alcohol and drug abuse in the NEP.”

### Conclusion and Suggestions

There are tremendous efforts by Indian government to protect childhood but we cannot ignore the fact that only government is not responsible for making efforts towards any social problem. It is clearly evident from every aspect that the problem of addiction among youngsters needs special attention from their close ones. It is strong recommendation from authors that educational institutions must come forward and contribute their role. Hon'ble Supreme Court also pointed that young people are not hardcore addicts and they can be better treated by providing a better change in their surroundings. Every policy in this regard focuses on preventive methods first and

contribution by educational institutions can be the best one. Even the directions provided under new education policy justifies that the impact of change in curriculum and teaching activities relating addiction, drugs and alcohol will provide the desired results in protecting youth and adolescence.

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