

## **Drug Addiction**

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my opinion on the problem of drug addiction among teenagers including the reasons for youths to become drug addicts, the harmful effects of drug abuse and the solutions that different parties should do to improve the situation.

As we all know, drug abuse in schools is on the rise and has become the biggest social problem in recent years. Last year, four schoolgirls in the New Territories felt unwell and were rushed to hospital. They were discovered that they had been taking drugs supplied by a fellow schoolmate. Therefore, I think the major reason for youths to become drug addicts is peer pressure.

Teenagers can be easily induced by their peers because they do not have good faculty of judgment. If they were asked to try to take drugs, they would do so easily because of curiosity. Most of the drug addicts think that taking drugs is an 'in-thing' and they would be regarded as timid.

Secondly, the environmental factors also contribute to the problem of drug abuse. If students belong to a community or school or peer group where others take drugs, they would soon be tempted to follow suit for the fear of ostracism or non-acceptance.

Besides, most of the students nowadays have to face a keen competition at schools and thus they are suffered from great pressure. They would feel depressed and frustrated because of the problems associated with parents, school or even opposite sex. Therefore, they try to escape from the stress by taking drugs.

However, they cannot reach the above purpose in reality by doing so. Many of them thought that it is harmless to try drugs and they would not get addicted. They just do it for fun and do not realize that they may get hooked. Therefore, some of them may even encourage their friends to try drugs as a way to relax. As a result, the problem of drug abuse among teenagers is getting worse.

As we all know, except the drug addicts, there are many adverse effects of taking drugs. Besides the physical effects such as slow breathing, nausea, loss of appetite, taking drugs would also cause various family problems. Parents always concern

about their children. Once they think that their children have become drug addicts, they will become extremely worried and do something wrong about their children such as trailing them. Thus, disputes between parents and children occur and their relationship becomes extremely bad. Moreover, the money that the government has to spend in the solutions towards this problem is much more than before. This would increase government's burden and even hinder the development of society.

So, what can we do to improve the condition? To me, different parties should take their responsibilities, including the government, schools and parents.

For the government, it should strengthen the links between schools and the police in order to have a more effective implementation of Dangerous Drugs Ordinance. It should organize seminars for teachers, parents and social workers on anti-drug education. Besides, it can intensify the publicity to target teenagers.

For the schools, providing talks and workshops can educate the students of the harmful effects of drug abuse as well as help them to build up a positive and healthy lifestyle. Schools should also enhance teachers and parents' knowledge of drugs, heighten their awareness of signs of drug abuse, as well as upgrade their skills in handling drug abuse cases. They should also give more parental guidance and drug programmes for parents.

For parents, they should spend more time with their children instead of working round the clock so as to know more about them. They should not just nag them about their failure and weaknesses but to provide them a warm and loving family by appreciating them more. By doing so, children would think that their parents really pay attention to them and concern about them. This can help the teenagers to find their values in the family or everywhere in society. Thus, they would not think so negatively and therefore become drug addicts.

To conclude, we should take our life in our hands and help the drug addicts to have a new lease of life. Let's work together to develop an anti-drug society and I hope this letter can raise the concern from the public towards the issue of drug abuse among teenagers.

Yours faithfully,

*Chris*

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