

Teenage Drug Abuse

Chris, a 17-year-old boy, has recently been charged with drug possession by the police. He was arrested at a party carrying a small amount of Ketamine, together with his counterparts there. They are not alone, though. In fact, the number of cases regarding teenage drug abuse is on an alarming increase. Drug abuse is gaining currency among the youth who are desperately seeking for fun. However, these inconsiderate youngsters have not realized that this naive thought would, to a large extent, ruin their future.

Vitally important to the prevalence of drug abuse among the young in Hong Kong are a myriad of factors, with their stressful life the most patent. It is known to everyone that Hong Kong is a fast-paced city in which tens of thousands of people are leading a speedy life. The youth are in no way exempted from this stressful environment. The current education system has long been condemned for being ossified and setting too much store by exam results. Nowadays, students have to exert themselves everyday in a bid to compete with numerous candidates and get a place in universities. Piles of homework, innumerable tests and exams are what students are compelled to confront from dawn till midnight. Worse still, with a view to getting better results in public exams, teenagers are forced to go to tutorial centres after school. Do you really think that immature youngsters are able to deal with such stress? As a result, they begin relying on drugs in pursuit of short-term happiness.

Peer pressure also sheds light on the scenario. Teenagers are immature and innocent. Their pliable minds are not able to decide on right and wrong. Therefore, people of tender age are more likely to keep bad company. While their confidants take drugs, they may well follow suit without regard to the consequences for fear that they might be isolated. They would eventually succumb to drugs under the long-term influence of their counterparts. Besides, celebrities also give rise to the problem. These days, a number of celebrities opt for drugs to unwind and release stress at work. However, this unhealthy habit may also be taken by the youth as pop singers and famous actors carry much weight with

teenagers. As a result, they end up copying their idols.

The poverty of parental care indisputably also plays a part in explaining the phenomenon. In most families in Hong Kong, parents have to work day and night and they are too busy to spend time with their children, thereby widening the generation gap between them. Lack of communication leads to the aggravation of their relationship, which also eliminates a way for the young to pour their troubles. Then youngsters may prefer to count on drugs to numb themselves.

The problem of teenage drug abuse is undoubtedly beyond tolerance. It is high time that we did something concrete to bail the youth out of the sea of drug.

For a start, teenagers should develop their own interests and talents in multifarious aspects such as art, music and sport. They should take part in different extra-curricular activities like ball games, painting, orchestra, etc, in an attempt to help them lead a healthy life. On condition that the young lead a fit existence, they could slowly refrain from drugs. In addition, devoting to voluntary work is also a further good choice. Through visiting the homes for the old and disadvantaged, not only can they gain happiness, they can also obtain valuable experiences, which will be exceedingly useful in their future.

Added to the above, teachers and parents should by no means stand aloof from the problem. Teachers could arrange more group activities to cement the friendship within the class. They should also instill the disadvantages of drug abuse into the students lest they might misunderstand the effects of taking drugs. At home, parents should seek to spend more time with their kids in a bid to get acquainted with them. They can also take the lead to raise their children's moral. For example, parents should educate their children with correct values.

All in all, teenage drug abuse should under no circumstances be neglected. Let us not forget that youngsters are future pillars of society. Can we allow drugs poison our teenagers and beset our community? I hold firm to my belief that with unremitting efforts, our youngsters will once again become positive and healthy.