

# **The concept of drugs, types and varieties**

## **I- A historical overview:**

Drugs have been known since ancient times and have been used by some people to bring benefits and relieve pains and aches. However, their use was limited and their danger was unknown, and even medicine did not recognise their danger outside the medical field until recently. There is no doubt that the discovery of these substances came spontaneously or by chance, or perhaps by experimentation as a result of the search for a cure as a result of man's direct interaction with nature for the purpose of survival and finding solutions to the health issues he encountered. Since the dawn of history, human societies have known the Indian hemp plant, from whose fibres and tissues several purposes have been extracted and used by humans, such as anaesthesia. Studies indicate that the Chinese knew this twenty-eight centuries before the birth of Christ, and did not use it as an anaesthetic like their Indian neighbours who used it in their religious rituals, and Christian priests also used Indian hemp as an anaesthetic substance in religious rituals and ceremonies.

In the Arab countries, drugs have also been known for a long time and in the same way as in some other countries of the world. Hashish, as Ibn al-Bitar says, was grown in Egypt, and the poor used this drug. As for khat, it moved to Yemen when Abyssinia invaded it in 925, and moved from Yemen to some areas in Palestine with the migration of Jews from Yemen. Mesopotamia and the Nile civilisation previously knew opium, and the Egyptian papyrus talked about it as early as 1500 BC, but it did not turn into an object of abuse as hashish and khat did.

A narcotic substance is any raw material or preparation containing stimulant or analgesic elements that, if used for other than directed medical and industrial purposes, may lead to a state of habituation or addiction to it, which harms the individual and society physically, psychologically and socially.

It is defined as (drugs that affect the central nervous system by activating or inhibiting the central nervous system or causing hallucinations and fantasies, which leads to habituation or addiction, resulting in economic and social damage to the individual and society). Thus, drug addiction has become one of the biggest problems facing any society, as the number of addicts increases every year with the increase in the types of drugs and their forms. It is also noticeable in the recent period that the phenomenon of addiction is no longer limited to the rich, as it was

in the past, but it has come to include groups from the poor classes and perhaps more than the number of rich people addicted to drugs, as drug use in the past was largely limited to the male group, but now the female group is using various drugs, according to the latest studies. Some researchers have tried to define drugs linguistically, legally and scientifically as follows:

## **- Definition of drugs:**

### **A- Linguistic definition:**

The origin of the word narcotics in the Arabic language is from the verb khadir, which means to cover, and it is said that a girl is said to be anaesthetised if she stays in anaesthesia, i.e. covered up, hence the use of the word narcotics on the basis that they are substances that cover the mind and make it absent-minded.

It is said (anaesthetised), which means concealed, and anaesthetised is lazy and lazy. Anaesthesia is a spasm that affects the organ so that it cannot move. Therefore, anaesthetics, intoxicants and alcohol are: Covering, concealment, opacity, obscurity, ambiguity, lethargy and laziness. Narcotics and intoxicants apply to these meanings completely, as they cover their owner from the truth, cover his mind, block him from every virtue, and push him to vice, making him live in ambiguity, darkness, laziness, and lethargy.

### **B- Terminological definition:**

Narcotics are defined as any natural or manufactured substance that partially or completely destroys the human mind and makes the owner unaware of what he or she is doing or behaving, and also prepares the person for some unreal things, and some types of drugs may be used in the medical fields under medical supervision and for urgent need and in small quantities that do not cause addiction.

Drugs have two definitions: a scientific definition and a legal definition.

- **Scientific definition:** It is a chemical substance that causes drowsiness, sleep and absence of consciousness accompanied by pain relief, so neither stimulants nor hallucinogenic drugs are considered drugs according to the scientific definition. Alcohol is considered a drug.

- **Legal definition:** A substance that poses a danger to the health of the individual and society, or is a group of substances that cause addiction and exhaust the nervous system, and it is prohibited to circulate, cultivate or manufacture them

except for purposes specified by law, and they are used only with a licence... Note that there is no agreed general definition that clarifies the concept of drugs.

### **- The concept of abuse:**

It means the use of any narcotic drug in any of the forms known in a given society to obtain a specific psychological or mental effect. Some define drug abuse as : An abnormal desire shown by some people towards drugs or toxic substances that are known, voluntarily or by chance, for their analgesic, narcotic, stimulant or stimulant effects, and cause addiction, harming the individual and society physically, psychologically and socially. Abuse is a psychological and sometimes organic condition that occurs in humans as a result of the interaction between them and the drug, and this condition is characterised by reactions that confirm a strong desire to use the drug in a continuous manner to feel the psychological effects of the drug and to relieve themselves of distress and fear.

It is also defined as a periodic or temporary state of intoxication that harms the individual and society and results from the repeated use of natural or artificial drugs.

### **- The concept of addiction:**

It is a chronic state of intoxication resulting from the repeated use of the drug, and its characteristics are: A craving and a compulsive need to use drugs and obtain them by all means and methods. It is also defined as the extent to which the social and professional life of the addicted individual is disrupted as it reaches a complex composite picture characterised by some features such as the urge to repeat use, the tendency to increase the quantity, and the negative effects on the individual and the surrounding social milieu. Addiction to a drug does not mean mere habituation or prolonged use, but rather the formation of a strong and urgent habit that pushes the addict to obtain the drug by any means with an increase in the dose from time to time...

### **- Types of addiction:**

There are two types of addiction:

**A- Psychological addiction:** It is a psychological condition that results from the use of a substance or drug that causes a sense of satisfaction and generates the psychological motivation to take the drug temporarily or periodically to achieve pleasure or to avoid feelings of anxiety and fear.

**B- Organic addiction:** It is a state of adaptation and habituation to the use of the substance or drug so that the user shows severe psychological and organic disorders when taking the drug suddenly, and these disorders appear in the form of patterns of psychological and physical phenomena and symptoms characteristic of each category of drugs where some drugs cause psychological and organic addiction, such as alcohol, hypnotics, tranquillisers, opium and its derivatives.

## **II: Types and classifications of drugs:**

The number of drug addicts has been increasing over the years, and the segments of addicts have also started to differ and diversify. In the past, drug addiction was limited to the rich and those who have a lot of money because it is expensive, and the majority of addicts were young males, while today, statistics and studies conducted by organisations that advocate the danger of drugs indicate that this scourge has become widespread among all age groups and both sexes, as well as the poor. statistics and studies carried out by organisations that advocate the danger of drugs indicate that this scourge has become widespread among all age groups and both sexes, and the poor have also turned to it to release their pent-up energies and escape from reality, which has increased its danger to society as a whole.

The use of narcotics is one of the prohibited prohibitions, as it falls within what harms the mind and body, as the Almighty said in Surat Al-Ma'idah: O you who believe, wine, gambling, gambling, idols and vices are abominations from the work of the devil, so avoid them so that you may be successful. 90 The devil wants to create enmity and hatred between you in wine and gambling, and to keep you from the remembrance of Allah and the prayer, so are you not willing to abstain?" verse 91.

**- The first type:** Natural drugs: These are those that are originally plants and are used directly in their original form orally, such as hashish, opium, cocaine and khat.

**- The second type:** Synthetic (semi-natural) drugs: These are synthetic narcotics that are extracted from natural substances, and some chemical processes are performed on them, and other substances become more concentrated and effective, and examples of this type include morphine, heroin, cocaine and other synthetic substances.

**- The third type:** Synthetic drugs:

These are drugs made of chemical substances that have the same effect as natural or synthetic narcotic substances, and are manufactured in the form of pills, tablets, capsules, injections, powders and syrups.

**Reference list:**

- شاكِر سوسن: المخدرات وآثارها النفسية والاجتماعية والصحية على الشباب- الشباب الجامعي وآفة المخدرات- ، كنوز المعرفة، ط1 ، عمان، 2008.
- محمد فتحي حماد: الإدمان والمخدرات، دار فجر للنشر والتوزيع، الحقائق، ط1، صر، 2004.
- الدمرداش عادل: الإدمان ومظاهره وعلاجه، الكويت ، 1983.
- سعد المغربي: سيكولوجية تعاطي المخدرات، (رسالة دكتوراه)، كلية الآداب، جامعة عين شمس، 1976.
- محمد فتحي حماد: الإدمان والمخدرات، دار فجر للنشر والتوزيع، الحقائق، ط1، مصر، 2004.