

Effects of drugs

I - The social effects of drug use:

Drug abuse is a social disease that humiliates and destroys the individual, affects his psyche, reflects on his personality, erases his virtue, pushes him to vice, and leads him to apathy and indifference, which makes him lose his sense of responsibility and distances him from the reality of life. He always seems helpless and powerless, always sitting, little movement, unable to work, and does not know the meaning of struggle, and ends up in a hospital to treat a chronic and incurable organic disease, or in a mental hospital until the end of his life.

Most studies and research conducted on all types of drugs and in different societies indicate that drug use has negative effects on the individual, his relationship with other members of society, and his productivity, whether he is a worker or a student, due to the changes that occur in him as a direct result of drug use.

Drugs lead to bad results on the individual in terms of his work, will, social status and people's trust in him, and make him a lazy, shallow-minded person, negligent in performing his duties, indifferent to his responsibilities, irritable for trivial reasons, and with a deviant temperament in his dealings with people.

Drugs push the individual to not do his work, lacking the competence, enthusiasm and will to fulfil his duties, prompting his supervisors at work to dismiss him from his job and fine him with financial penalties that cause an interruption in his income. In this field, the scientist Wolf referred to the social impact of addiction in his experiment that he conducted with three psychiatrists in Recife, Brazil, on a number of drug users, and found that these addicts were the object of trust and collapsed, their morals and productive efficiency were affected, and their relationships with their colleagues collapsed, because of the drug, and they turned into people who lacked professional energy, enthusiasm and will, in addition to the obvious neglect in their appearance and their hostile feelings towards the son. Drug abuse leads to a low level of morality among drug users, which leads to self-love, lack of sense of responsibility, disregard for duty, weak willpower, neglect of family duties, and denial of the principles of honesty and honour.

Drug addiction causes the addict serious physical, mental and moral deficiencies and impairments, which are often passed on to his offspring.

Addiction has an impact on the happiness and misery of the individual and the family, as well as a close link to criminality. A crime may be the result of an irritation caused by drug use, a mental disorder caused by chronic addiction, an accident caused by the state of poverty caused by addiction, or the desire to obtain the drug illegally. Drug users set a bad example for their family members as they often follow their initial impulses and instincts, which are governed by the will or normal circumstances, due to their inability to control them and the impulses within themselves.

Drug use by a family member leads to the destabilisation of the family's social structure and the decline of constructive social interaction frameworks among its members. The dimensions and consequences of these effects vary according to the membership of the drug user within the family, such as the father, mother or child, as well as the type of drug being used, the level of use and the period of time.

Drug abuse represents a severe economic burden on the family's income, worsening the family's living situation in all respects, and this may lead to the deviation of some family members, in which case the father is a bad model for his family, whether in terms of his morals, or his suspicious relationships with addicts with abnormal morals, in addition to the slide of one of the family members into the same abyss to which the head of the family has descended, namely addiction, especially children who develop a sense of irresponsibility and appreciation of duty towards their families and even society.

Drug abuse not only leads to the physical disfigurement of the family, but also to the disintegration of family ties, and the increase of problems between spouses that lead to the family's destruction and ruin. In other words, just as the user is affected by the environment around him, he is also affected by it, and his health and mental state changes for the worse, and he is not in a state of health or mind to take care of his children, and he is unable to raise them properly.

Cases of drug use by a family member are also reflected in their social relations, where there is a limitation of social interaction with them, aversion, rejection, and avoidance of mixing with them by relatives, neighbours and friends, due to their bad reputation for dealing with drugs and the negative behavioural patterns they produce. In addition to the local community's perception of drug users, which varies from one individual to another, such as viewing the user as an infectious patient who needs treatment, an abnormal person who can repent, a bad

social model, a source of badness and a bad companion, or a contaminated person who must be shunned.

Drug abuse and addiction is a serious social issue that threatens the safety and security of society, and has become a serious threat to humanity as a whole, and its effects are reflected on society in various political, economic, social and health aspects. The social effects of drugs on society can be identified in the following issues:

- **The spread of crime and delinquency:** Drug addiction is one of the topics that are related to criminal behaviour in two ways, on the one hand, it is a crime in itself punishable by law, and on the other hand, a good number of research and statistics have shown that there is a relationship between drug use and acts that are criminalised by law, such as murder, rape, theft, homelessness, adultery, sodomy and all sexual practices of incest. Thus, it can be said that drug-induced crimes are compound crimes that create serious criminal complications for society.

The lack of income of the user as a result of his unemployment and his inability to meet his needs, the inevitable result of this is that the user is exposed to the commission of crime in some of its forms and forms, such as fraud, fraud or breach of trust, and in this case it is necessary to expose the owners to moral and social decline and family disintegration, such as adultery, divorce, polygamy, neglect of children, and abuse of other psychoactive substances such as alcohol.

Moral and social decline: - Although the drug is considered a consequence of moral decline, it is at the same time a cause of this decline in values, as a result of the social unacceptability of the user as a disrespectful behaviour in some social circles, as the user is forced to go to bad places and circles until the drug is available to him, and then he keeps those with bad behaviour and a bad record.

- **Enmity and hatred between people:** Drug abuse is a direct cause of enmity and hatred between people, even friends, because when the addict gets drunk and loses the mind that prevents words and actions that offend people, the love of false pride and arrogance takes over him, and he is quick to anger with falsehood, which leads to colours of hatred and enmity between the user and the general public, so murder, disclosure of secrets and violation of honour arise, and these are social diseases that harm society.

- **Ill health of the user:** Drug-induced ill health affects society because the individual is not isolated from his society, but is part of it, influencing and being

influenced by it. The use of drugs and hashish leads to the prevalence of social diseases in societies, such as negativity, laziness, opportunism, and disrupting people's affairs in public and private circles, which would affect the progress and development of society.

- **Increased traffic accidents:** Drug abuse and addiction is one of the main reasons for the increase in traffic accidents, and thus the increase in the number of deaths and severe or disabling injuries in society, which causes heavy material costs and large social and economic losses that society may not be able to bear.

The results of a study conducted in Canada on the contribution of drugs to the occurrence of accidents for motorists resulted in the presence of alcohol in 41 per cent of cases, and opium derivatives in 12 per cent. The study sample included (483) cases of injury resulting in death, (401) of whom were motorists and (81) pedestrians.

II- The economic effects of drug use:

The phenomenon of drug abuse has an economic aspect, which is of great importance to the individual on the one hand, and to society on the other hand, and dealing with drugs, whether through use or promotion, can weaken the human psyche, infect it with diseases, making it unproductive and always late for work, which is a means of earning a livelihood. The results of the research conducted have shown that drug abuse and addiction affect the individual's productivity at work, which would lead to a decrease in the productivity of the user, which means the amount of what a person produces in a given unit of time.

The third economic impact of drug use at the individual level is the increased susceptibility of the user to accidents, so that the productive process itself suffers serious losses as a result of these accidents (such as damage to production tools or production machinery), but in other cases the productive process may suffer more serious losses, such as cases of drug use and addiction among industrial workers, especially skilled workers in the field of heavy industry.

A- The economic effects of drug use on the individual:

If we look at the impact of drugs on the individual from an economic point of view, we will find that the addicted individual may start using drugs for free for the first time, or as a courtesy to a friend, or out of curiosity, or a desire to relieve some pain, and then start paying the price to obtain the narcotic substance,

and every day he increases the dose he takes, and thus the price he pays to obtain the narcotic substances, until the time comes when the addict finds himself without money and has to sell everything he owns to obtain the substance he is taking, in order to obtain the substance that he is using.

B. The economic effects of drug use on society:

One of the most serious harms of drugs is their negative impact on the economies of society, due to their high cost on society's resources, as well as hindering its growth and reducing the effectiveness of the major trends that should dominate its march. If drugs are grown in the society in which they are consumed, this means wasting part of the national wealth represented in the land that could have been invested in the cultivation of what is more beneficial to society than drugs, and in the human labour that is consumed in their cultivation and manufacture. Drugs have a very serious impact on the economic aspect of the country, as they are the main reason behind the spread of unemployment and lack of production, and the spread of the drug trade results in the smuggling of hard currency out of the country, reducing its quantity and increasing its demand, which in turn is reflected in the purchasing power of the national currency.

Drug use represents a huge burden on the state's national income, as drugs smuggled from abroad are estimated at hundreds of billions, which means that the money that leaks from abroad is needed by all members of the public and should be invested in vital sectors that bring huge returns to the state and have a direct impact on the process of economic and social development for citizens.

Finally, another major item of economic impact is the amounts spent by the state and various institutions on the range of medical, psychological and social services provided to treat addiction, rehabilitation and social absorption procedures, and awareness programmes at all levels. There is no doubt that these amounts spent in non-productive aspects could have been directed to invest in production processes to benefit society, instead of being wasted in this manner, and these are all doors of expenditure mainly promoted by the ministries of health and social affairs.

Thus, it is clear to us the serious effects of drugs on both the social and economic dimensions, as we cannot separate the social impact from the economic impact, as both are complementary to each other, hence the need for joint efforts with dynamic visions in addressing drug abuse based on close cooperation and coordination between relevant institutions and ministries. In order to develop

treatment plans for drug users in order to contribute to building a stable social reality in which all its citizens live in security and stability away from any influences or impurities that would disturb their lives, or contribute to creating more social and economic chaos that would have a negative impact on their family life or their living reality.

III- Psychological and social effects of drugs:

1- Delinquency of family members:

The user or addict buys narcotic substances from his own and his children's sustenance, leaving his family hungry and deprived, which leads his family members to steal and beg.

2- Transferring the habit of drug use to children:

If the head of the family repeatedly uses drugs, this will arouse the curiosity of his children and push them to use drugs, and parents may also send their children to fetch drugs from afar, and it is known that the child is easily influenced by his father and imitate his actions.

3- Lack of safety at home:

Where the house is constantly subject to search by the security services in search of what the person has in his possession of the drugs he uses, which makes family members feel unsafe inside the house, in addition to the chaos caused by the peers of the addicted head of the family, which causes constant anxiety for the mother and children.

4- Family disintegration:

Drug abuse often leads to the spread of family disintegration because it causes issues that result in divorce or emigration, in addition to causing bad behaviour among family members.

5- Deformed children:

Drug use during pregnancy can lead to fetal deformity, according to a study conducted in the United States, where the rate of stillbirths for women who use drugs was 35 per cent and the rate of deformed babies was 55 per cent.

6- Health impact on the user:

Drug use affects the digestive and respiratory systems, affects the nerves and causes anaemia. These are the social and health effects caused by drug use, and they are not all the effects, as there are other effects that cannot be covered.

Reference list:

- سعد العربي: ظاهرة تعاطي المخدرات- تعريفها ن تاريخها - الندوة الدولية العربية حول ظاهرة تعاطي المخدرات، 4 - 10 ماي 1996.
- سوييف مصطفى: المخدرات والمجتمع نظرة متكاملة، سلسلة عالم المعرفة 205، المجلس الوطني للثقافة والآداب، الكويت، 1996.