

Editorial**Preliminary Results of National Research on Drug Abuse**

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Introduction

Since the early 1980s, Egyptian community leaders at all levels have demonstrated intense concern over the problem of drug abuse. Although epidemiological data on drug abuse in Egypt are scarce, yet health professionals have reported a multitude reasons for such concern, increases in the rate of addicts seeking psychiatric treatment, increases in drug related health problems mainly drug overdose toxicity and alarming drop in age at initiation of drug use, with expectant rise in adolescent addicts (Seif El Din, 2001). It is reported that Bango still represent the most common substance in the Egyptian market of illegal substance (Ceneral Administration for Drug Combat, 2004). Egyptian surveys found a gradual increase in the consumption of alcohol among Egyptians with a prediction that it will be the commonest abuse in the next century (Okasha 1985).

Aim of the Research

This research aims to determine the real size of the drug abuse in Egypt and drawing a nearly real picture to the spread of abuse and pattern of abuse in different governorates of Egypt. This was done in order to help policy makers to take suitable decisions for prevention and management of the problem.

This was expected to be done through:
a- Knowing the extent of spread of drug abuse.
b- Identifying the social and demographic criteria of the abusers.

c- Asking the abusers about their history of intake (age of starting abuse causes of intake relapse ect.)

d- Identifying the most common abused drugs.

e- Knowing the attitudes and informations about narcotics and abuse for abusers and non users.

f- Knowing the opinion about mass media and its effects in this field.

Steps of the Research1-Designing the Questionnaire

(a) The scientific committee shared in designing the questionnaire as self reporting one and

without telling the name of the subject.

(b) The questionnaire was distributed to many professors interested in the problem to know their opinion.

(c) The Questionnaire was changed many times till it became in its final form.

2-Choosing and training the researchers

(a) Researchers were chosen from the social workers and psychologists working in different governorates. The enthusiasm honesty, strong attachment to the society and past experience were the main criteria required in the research

(b) Training on application of the questionnaire was carried on.

3- Sample choice:

(a) The following governorates were chosen as first step: Giza, Port saided, Assiut, Sharm el sheikh.

(b) Other governorates were selected for the second step: Kaliobia, Dakhalia, Kafr El Sheikh, Damiata and Behira.

A random sample composed of 0.2% of population over 16 years old was selected, taking in consideration to be representative to the population of each governorates.

ResultsThe main results deduced were:

1-The most common abused narcotics are hashish and Bango followed by Bira and alcohol.
2-The Route of intake was mainly through smoking followed by mouth, snuffing and lastly injections.

3- Addicts abuse drugs mainly for these reasons: curiosity, sharing friends, overcoming problems, imitation, to escape bad mood or feeling lonely and to increase sexual activity.

4- The rate of regular abuse in our sample as a whole was 12.6%. The rate increases in Sharm El Sheikh which is town of tourism, PortSaied which is characterized by special economical system and Giza which is center for schools and the biggest university.

5- Abuse is more common in males (16%) although it started to spread and affecting females (2.3%).

6- Abuse is widespread between Bedwines who