

FACTORS THAT LED FEMALES TO DRUG USE: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PRISONS IN SRI LANKA

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When examining the landscape of drug utilization within Sri Lanka, it becomes evident that the prevalence of drug use extends across genders. A comprehensive study was undertaken to elucidate the nuances and trends associated with drug consumption among women. A specific focal point of this study involved an investigation into the extent of drug utilization among female inmates within Sri Lankan correctional facilities, as well as an exploration of the underlying catalysts driving females towards drug involvement. The core research inquiry centered around identifying the key determinants influencing female drug engagement. Methodologically, a structured questionnaire and observational methods were employed as the primary means of data collection. The study sample encompassed 80 female prisoners with a history of drug utilization, hailing from correctional institutions including Bogambara, Kalutara, Negombo, Wariyapola, and Welikada, all of whom were convicted for drug-related infractions alongside other offenses. According to the research findings, the introduction of drugs by friends (30%) had a strong effect. In addition, imprisonment 15 (4%), sexual satisfaction 1 (1%), 17 (24%) to avoid problems, 14 (20%) happiness/pleasure, and 6 (10%) curiosity had moderate effects as well. 9 (11%) of other factors that influenced women's first drug use were physical pain, grief, husband's desire, causal relationship, and boyfriend's drug use. 23 (29%) of women reported their Friends were the first to introduce the drug, and in addition, 17 (21%) of female prison officers, 15 (9%) of boyfriends, 14 (18%) of themselves, 5 (6%) of husbands, casual 4 partners (5%) and 2 relatives (2%) had first used drugs. The majority, 32 (40%) had used alcohol for the first time. Twenty-five (31%) had used tobacco products and 18 (23%) heroin, and 5 (6%) were also used for the first time. It can be concluded that peer pressure has highly affected for females to drug use.

Keywords: alcohol, drugs, drug use, heroin, tobacco