



Trends Related to the Usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic Drug



Research Division
National Dangerous Drugs Control Board
State Ministry of Defense, Home Affairs and
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Trends related to the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.

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Summary.

Globally with the propensity of misusing Narcotic drugs, many steps have been taken by countries together in order to implement international conventions. Accordingly, Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs in 1961, Convention on Psychotropic Substances in 1971, Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in 1988, SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances are considered crucial and owing to the fact that these respective conventions have been signed by the Sri Lankan government, Sri Lankan government itself is bound to implement these conventions. With reference to Sri Lankan society, it has been proved by official statistical reports and researches carried out recently that there is a proclivity of utilizing drugs of any kind by the younger generation. Among the Misusage of drugs which has been a critical social issue in Sri Lanka, Heroin, Cannabis, Cigarette and Alcohol are considered prominent and furthermore in recent times, it is evident that there has been a propensity of misusing of Psychotropic, Psychoactive as well as Narcotic drugs.

During the study that had been carried out with respect to trends and patterns related to the misusage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, 10 districts were selected as the field of study and a sample of 1000 individuals who utilize Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs in the relevant districts were studied. In the view of the fact that, there has been a high distribution in the misusage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, 535 individuals were taken for the sample in the Colombo district and moreover, 465 individuals were taken from other districts as specified by the propensity and the pattern of the misusage of the respective drugs.

As claimed by the revelation of the respective studies, social demographic factors with respect to the individuals of the sample, it is evident that the majority of them were men belonging to Sinhala Buddhist ethnic group. In consideration of the age level of the majority of individuals in the sample, it was discovered that they represent 21 to 25 age limit and possess 6-to-10-year education level and moreover, were discovered to be single. Furthermore, it was found out that they were engaged in employment as untrained workers.

Among the 1000 addicts selected for the sample, 983 (98%) were found out to be utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs and 322 (32%) were found out to be utilized medicinal syrups intermittently. When inquired on the type of drugs being utilized, it was revealed that drugs that are utilized for medicinal purposes were obtained by the addicts in the sample. Furthermore, it was revealed that these addicts selected for the sample were Poly Drug Users.

It was found out that 584 (58%) addicts who utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs for the first time, representing the age limit 16 to 20 years.

It was further revealed that there are multiple causal factors for the misusage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs. Majority of them improperly utilize drugs for pleasure, enjoyment, on the impact of peer pressure, out of curiosity, as a substitution for another drug, for avoiding obstacles in life, as an easy method of leaning and memorizing and for sexual pleasure.

Among the majority of the drug addicts in the sample, it was further identified that they utilize these drugs for the first time, once gathered with close friends. It was further identified that these Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs were utilized in functions, beach parties, night clubs, in sexual activities in place of Heroin in order to avoid withdrawal symptoms, as a pain killer, and in funerals.

Among the large variety of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs being utilized for the first time, it was found out that Tramadol, Corex D, Pregabalin, MDMA, Diazepam, Benzhexol, Morphine, and Rohypnol were largely misused by the drug addicts. It was found out that Tramadol was used as a medicine by 731 (73%) drug addicts who misused Narcotic and Psychotropic without medical recommendation. It was further revealed that 499 (50%) addicts utilized Pregabalin medicine, 313 (31%) utilized Corex D medicine. Moreover, it was revealed that 84 (8%) addicts utilized Benzhexol medicine, 78 (8%) utilized Morphine, 57 (6%) addicts utilized Rohypnol medicine. In addition, it was found out that 192 (19%) of addicts utilized MDMA (Ecstasy) which is confined under Psychoactive drug category.

During the study period, over the past 3 months, it was found out that majority of the addicts utilized Tramadol and Pregabalin drugs. Moreover, it was found out that, the propensity of the usage of Corex D syrup utilized over the period of more than three months with respect to the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.

In the sample of drug addicts with respect to the study being carried out, these Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs were obtained by the majority of drug addicts through the means of their close friends. In addition, these drugs were obtained through Pharmacies, privately known vendors, illegal drug selling vendors, government hospitals, through illegal means and usage of internet.

Furthermore, it was found out that, in spite of the long-term usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, these addicts had not exposed to long-term health consequences.

Furthermore, it was reported that an overdose had occurred owing to the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs by 151 drug addicts. Among the complication derived by the overdose of drugs, dizziness, breathing difficulties, fainting was confronted by the respective drug addicts. According to the physical discomfort confronted by the addicts who utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs were identified similar to the overdose of the respective Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.

It was reported that there is a propensity of misusing Narcotic Psychotropic drugs used for medicinal purposes by school children and the youth generation. Tramadol was found to be the most utilized Narcotic drug by the respective drug addicts.

Moreover, it was revealed that there was a proclivity of using Psychotropic and Psychoactive drugs and possesses abundance or availability in sales as well. In order to control this critical situation, government, health ministry, non-governmental organizations that implement drug control, preventions, treatments and rehabilitation course of actions, ought to take immediate actions with regard to it. Or else, the youth generation including Adolescents and children possess a tendency of collapsing in to the misuse drugs in the future.

01. Introduction.

1.1 Background of Study.

In Sri Lanka from time to time, in different social ranges, it is able to witness a progress of the usage of large number of different drugs and it is the motive of our Board to identify and study the distribution of the modern trends of drugs. With the spreading, concerning the utilization of Heroin, it is noted that the distribution of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs utilized for medicinal purposes, has a systematic progress. Drugs that are utilized for medicinal purposes have a tendency of circulating through illegal means. In order to avoid the Withdrawal symptoms derived by the non-usage of Heroin, to utilize in place of other drugs as a substitute such as Heroin, Cannabis, it was revealed in the statistical and research reports that, these Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs tend to obtain through illegal means. Therefore, this study was carried out with respect to the fact that, is there a prevalence of misusing Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs? And what are the modern trends related to it?

Globally with the propensity of misusing Narcotic drugs, many steps have been taken by countries together in order to implement international conventions. Accordingly, Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs in 1961, Convention on Psychotropic Substances in 1971, Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in 1988, SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances are considered crucial and owing to the fact that these respective conventions have been signed by the Sri Lankan government, Sri Lankan government itself is bound to implement these conventions.

With reference to Sri Lankan society, it has been proved by official statistical reports and researches carried out recently that there is a proclivity of utilizing drugs of any kind by the younger generation. Among the Misusage of drugs which has been a critical social issue in Sri Lanka, Heroin, Cannabis, Cigarette and Alcohol are considered prominent and furthermore in recent times, it is evident that there has been a propensity of misusing Psychotropic, Psychoactive as well as Narcotic drugs. Among these drugs, Diazepam, Methamphetamine, Lorazepam, (Artivan), Artane, (Trihexyphenidyl) Clonazepam as Narcotic and Psychotropic substances and Morphine, Tramadol, Methadone as Narcotic drugs, are able to be considered widely misused drugs. Furthermore, it was reported that Psychoactive substances such as LSD, Ecstasy, Gabapentin and Pregabalin were misused (Senanayaka, 2018).

Psychotropic substances are defined and grouped as, natural, half artificial and artificial substances in the subcategory i, ii, iii, iv, included in the convention on the Psychotropic substances in 1971. These drugs are utilized legally in Psychiatry. That is these drugs or toxic drugs are able to cause, hallucinogens, stimulants, depressant, change in the way of influencing to the systems, perception, consciousness by the use of it. (Glossary of drug abused 1991).

Psychotropic drugs are prescribed to patients with medical approval for Bipolar Disorder or Personality Disorder. License are offered to importers of drugs by the Ministry of Health for the purpose of legally import these drugs, and for medical purposes these drugs are distributed to hospitals island wide. Nevertheless, complaints are reported concerning illegal drug trafficking and drug racketeers are subtly motivating the younger generation.

As stated by the convention on the psychotropic substances in 1971 and Convention against illicit Trafficking in Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances in 1988, it was decided that in order to activate the respective conventions, Conventions against illicit drugs in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic substances Act No.1 of 2008 in Sri Lanka was passed and therefore, under the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, Pioneer Chemical Control Authority was established in 2010. Through the Act No.1 of 2008, legal actions concerning the production of Psychotropic substances, trafficking and controlling the distribution of drugs was initiated to carryout.

As claimed by the annual report of the International Narcotic Control Board, it was proved that there is a progress in the trafficking of Amphetamine type Methamphetamine stimulants in the Asian region. Furthermore, among the major challenges related to drugs, production of drugs and trafficking, it was evident that there is a propensity of manufacturing Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs as well as the misuse of the respective drugs. (Annual report of the International Narcotic Control Board in 2017)

Relative to the Asian regional conditions, propensity of manufacturing Psychotropic substances and trafficking was proved to be at a low level. In 2008 Chemical lab illegally conducted in the Kosgama, Awissawella, was besieged. Subsequent to it in 2008, act No.1 was activated and as a result of it simultaneously the opportunities offered to activate the law as well as other illegal actions came to be limited.

In 2011, 1.769Kg of Amphetamine, in 2012, 3.789Kg of Narcotic and Psychotropic Drugs, in 2013, 1.972.450Kg of Methamphetamine, in 2014, 0.190Kg of Psychotropic drugs, in 2016, 0.50Kg of Methamphetamine and 1.232.30Kg of Psychotropic drugs were arrested. (Drug Abuse Information manual, 2016).

Furthermore, individuals who utilize Heroin and Cannabis has a propensity of utilizing Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs simultaneously. Moreover, there is systematic progress in the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs for the same reason. Thus, at district level, in order to inquire the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs and their trends, suitable sample was selected and this research was decided to be carried out.

1.2 Research Problem.

This research was conducted in order to study the following problematic areas.

Are Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs which are taken for medicinal purposes, being misused? What is the Nature of the Misuse of the Psychotropic drugs and its related modern trends?

1.3 Research motives

- To identify the types of drugs (Narcotic and Psychotropic or other drugs utilize for medicinal purposes) misused in present Sri Lanka.
- To identify circulating pattern of the misuse of drugs and the methods of using them.
- To identify the districts where the Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs are used and its related trends.
- To modify the methods with respect to the rehabilitation of drug addicts.

1.4 Research Methodology and Research Method.

The Sample based on the research criteria was studied by analyzing the quantitative and qualitative data and considering the related research motives of the respective study. Research method that was utilized in this study, was survey method. In addition, the data system related to drug addicts inclusive in the researches being conducted by the Board prior to this respective research, were decided to be utilized in order to conduct a tertiary data study.

1.5 Research field and selecting a sample.

In order to identify the trends related to the misuse of Narcotic and Psychotropic substances, this study was conducted as a quick Survey. Therefore, considering the high prevalence related to drugs that are categorized as dangerous drugs and the reports concerning the misuse connected to Narcotic and Psychotropic substances, Colombo, Kaluthara, Gampaha, Kandy, Galle, Mathara, Kurunegala, Puttalam, Anuradhapura, Rathnapura districts were selected as the research field. It was revealed in the researches conducted by the research division, that there is a progress in the propensity of utilizing drugs (as tablets) by the youth generation, participated in night clubs and beach parties. Since large number of night clubs and beach parties are centered in these respective districts, these districts were selected as the research field for this research.

1.5.1 Sample.

For this research study sample was selected from the population who utilize Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs. 1000 drug addicts were selected from the population who utilize Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs. According to the data of the list of arrested drug addicts from the Drug Abuse Monitoring System of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, and by the rate of the arrested drug addicts in the respective districts, Snowball technique was utilized to select drug addicts who represent 14-44 age category.

1.6 Techniques with regard to data collection.

Relevant information was obtained by offering a Structural questionnaire, from the addicts who utilize Narcotic, Psychotropic drugs included in the sample.

In addition, through face-to-face interviews from Police OICs, facts and information pertaining to trends and patterns of the misuse of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs in the respective area were taken.

1.7 Analysis of Data.

Quantitative data collected through structural questionnaires were analyzed by utilizing SPSS software. Correlations between variables were measured quantitatively. Qualitative data collected through the techniques of interviews, observations were categorized and analyzed by the respective characteristics or properties.

02. Trends and patterns of the misuse of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs. (Conceptual definitions, global and local studies)

2.1 Conceptual Definitions.

Narcotic drugs.

- This drug has the ability to induce sleep and create drowsiness.
- By taking smaller dosage, this drug has the ability of obscuring and darkening one's perception creating utmost pleasurable emotions, creating loss in memory and concentration. By taking larger dosage, this drug has the ability to cause a fatal impact. In medical science such drugs are explained as Narcotic drugs. (Glossary of the misuse of drugs,1991.)

Psychotropic Substances.

- This drug is a legally utilized drug in Psychiatry.
- This drug belongs to antidepressant, major hallucinogen, stimulant (Amphetamine etc.), Sedative hypnotic (Barbiturate etc.) and minor hallucinogen type of drug. These drugs have the potential to create misuse and dependence. (Glossary of the misuse of drugs,1991.)

Psychoactive drugs.

- These substances are able to alter mental conditions such as Features, perception and consciousness. (Glossary of the misuse of drugs,1991.)

Convention Act No.1 on illegal trafficking against Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, 2008.

Globally due to the propensity of misusing Narcotic drugs, international conventions are executed by countries together in order to control these drugs. Among these conventions, Single Convention related to Narcotic drugs in 1961, Convention related to the Control of Psychotropic drugs in 1971, Convention on Illegal Trafficking against Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs in 1988, are considered important and Sri Lankan government is bound to implement these conventions.

Regional cooperation related to South Asian 5th conference, conducted in the city of Malay in November 1990 concerning Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs was decided to pass and for the reason that Sri Lanka as a partner of the respective conventions who has the ability to offer commands, as stated in the 1st chart and the 2nd chart related to United Nations Convention, in order to create capability to regulate a systematic mechanism connected to imports and exports, and to be able to provide the necessity to offer commands, Convention Act No.1 in 2008 on Illegal Trafficking against Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs was decided to be imposed.

2.2 Studies related to global trends concerning the misuse of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.

As stated by the world's drug report in 2018, it was reported that 275 million individuals who represent 15-64 age gap have utilized drugs at least once or twice and 31 million individuals have collapsed in to Sevier persecution derived by the misuse of drugs. In 2015 approximately 450000 individuals died by the misuse of drugs. As claimed by World Health Organization, among these individuals, about 167,750 died due to disorders related to the misuse of the drugs. (World drug report,2018). This proves the fact that the misuse of drugs has the capability to cause a direct impact on health of an individual and create harmful consequences, and thus it is a necessity to provide treatments for disorders derived by the usage of drugs.

It was revealed that in 2016 due to the estimated reports of 34.2 (0.7%) million individuals represent 15-64 age gap utilized Amphetamine and other related drugs, prescribed by medical professionals. Furthermore, it was reported that individuals from many countries around the world have utilized Tramadol drug and deaths were reported due to the high dosage taken by the respective drug addicts. (World drug report,2018).

In addition, as stated by the world drug report,2018, 158 tons of Methamphetamine, 70 tons of Amphetamine, 70 tons of Ecstasy, had been arrested and when compared to 2016, it is noted that there is a progress in the misuse of these drugs and statistically it was reported as 12% of Methamphetamine, 35% of Amphetamine, 37% of Ecstasy. It was reported that 20.6 million individuals utilized the drug named Ecstasy in 2017. (World drug report,2018).

Due to the International Narcotic Board report in 2018, major challenge in the South Asian region is able to be considered the manufacture, trafficking and the misuse of the stimulants of Amphetamine and Methamphetamine. In addition, it was revealed that there is a propensity of misusing new Psychoactive drugs. (INCB report,2018).

It is witnessed that there is a propensity of misusing Psychotropic drugs even through the studies conducted by the researches on the misuse of Psychotropic drugs, during the time period of 2012-2013. Study that was conducted by including 2212 medical students as a sample in Teheran University, it was found out that 5% of university students misused Psychotropic or other types of drugs three times a week within the past month. It was found out that sedatives, opioids, Methylphenidate were among the drugs that were being misused. Furthermore, it was revealed that Cannabis, Ecstasy, Amphetamine, Methamphetamine, Heroin, Cocaine, opiates were being misused. (Ghahramanloo etc,2013).

In addition, it was revealed that stress derived by university studies, peer pressure, usage of Alcohol being considered normal in the society in which they live were found out as the factors influenced the misuse of Psychotropic drugs by the university students of Teheran.

During 2001-2002, a study was carried out by taking a sample of 3793 men and 3244 women in Hon Kong city concerning trends and related health consequences on the misuse of Psychotropic drugs. As claimed by the respective study, prior to the year in which the study was conducted, it was reported that 5% men, 1.8% women misused Psychotropic drugs and in addition, it was also revealed that Cannabis, Methamphetamine, ketamine, Cocaine, opioids, Benzedrine, were also utilized by them. Other factors affecting the misuse of

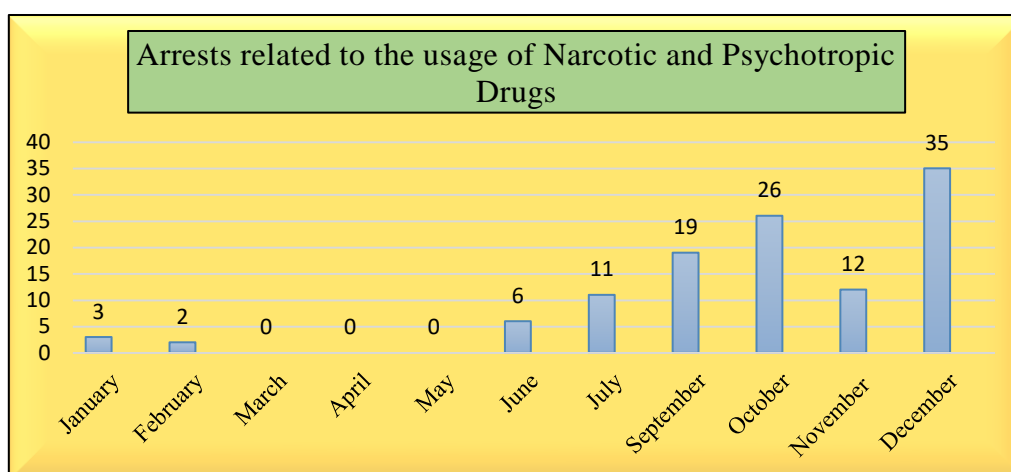
drugs that was revealed were Age limit, unemployment, being early leavers of school, being single, being addicted to drugs etc. (Joseph and et.al, 2009).

2.3 Trends of the misuse of Narcotic and Psychotropic Drugs in Sri Lanka.

When inquired on the trends and patterns of the misuse of drugs, it is important to concentrate on the research findings, conducted by other researchers with respect to trends and patterns of the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs in Sri Lanka. It is significant to consider that studies with respect to the usage of Psychotropic drugs and its trends conducted by the Research Division of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board.

In the Drug Abuse Monitoring System (DAMS) of the National Dangerous Drug Control Board, information pertaining to individuals who are offended of drug related matters, obtained treatments for drugs, were computerized and information analysis system was prepared. This information is obtained monthly from government institutions implementing law (Police Stations), government drug treatment centers, private drug treatment centers and prisons.

Over the past 5 years, when inquired on the usage of drugs and their patterns of individuals regarding drug offences and individuals expecting to obtain treatments for terminating the usage of drugs, it is able to observe that there is a propensity of misusing drugs. According to the DAM's data system, with respect to the analysis report concerning individuals arrested for drug offences in 2016, 23 individuals obtained tablets and as a percentage it was reported as 0.1%. In December 2017, 124 number of individuals were arrested for drug offences and as a percentage it was reported as 0.2%. In 2017, from December to January, progress of individuals who are arrested for drug offences is able to be shown in the following graphs.



Source: (DAMS Data System, 2017)

When inquired on the raids carried out by the Regulatory authority of drugs in 2016, following includes the statistical information concerning the Possession of drugs, storage of drugs, Distribution of drugs, Selling and importing of drugs. Therefore, summary of raids conducted in Negombo, Pamunugama, Kadana, Dematagoda, Colombo 12, Ederamulla, Kibulapitiya, Kochchikade, Waikkala, Katuwapitiya, Ekala, Katana, Radhdholugama, Paliyagoda, Kelaniya, Wattala, Adiambalama, Narahenpita, Maligawatta, Moratuwa, can be summarized as follows.

Illegal drug siege, 2016, Proceeded by Drug Regulatory Authority.

Serial Number	Nature of Offence	Type of Drug	Quantity
01	Possession of Drugs	Tramadol Pregabalin	106,377 1100
02	Distribution of Drugs	Pregabalin	996
03	Storage of Drugs	Tramadol	200
04	Selling of Drugs	Tramadol	06
Total			108,679

Source: (Glossary of the misuse of drugs, 2016)

Due to the raids carried out by the Regulatory authority of drugs in 2016, it was revealed that large number of raids were carried out with respect to the possession of Tramadol tablets and furthermore foreign citizens- 2 from India and 1 from Pakistan were arrested for the offence of the possession of drugs. This reveals the fact that there is a propensity of misusing drugs and drug trafficking.

It was revealed that different researches conducted by the Research Division of National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, that there is a propensity of misusing Heroin and a slight progress in the usage of Narcotic and psychotropic drugs. Moreover, it was revealed in the researches conducted that over time as Heroin became expensive and as there was a reduction of heroin in the market causes a progress in the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs. Furthermore, it was revealed in the researches conducted that there is propensity and high risk for the misuse of drugs among the Youth community representing the 15-25 age gap.

Research on the misuse of drugs in night clubs and beach parties by the Research Division of National Dangerous Drugs Control Board revealed that among the 50 sample of individuals, 26 (52%) utilized different types of drugs. It was further revealed that all of them misused drugs which are taken for medicinal purposes. Diazepam, Tramadol, Pregabalin, Rohypnol, Burbitone, Pseudoephedrine was revealed to be utilized by 26 individuals which was stated above as a form of tablets. It was further revealed that drugs were taken as a form of tablets from one or more categories by most of them occasionally in night club parties and other occasions. Moreover, it was revealed that these drugs were bought from Pharmacies and through other illegal means. (National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, 2017).

In 2016-2017, In order to identify the prevalence and modern trends of the usage of drugs, research was conducted by the Research Division of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board entitled as "Study of Prevalence and modern trends related to usage of drugs" within 28 police territories. In this research "Snow Balling Technique" was utilized and 1079 data bases were studied and moreover, it was found out that 72 (7%) individuals utilized drugs as a form of tablets. Furthermore, it was revealed that 16 of them misused tablets every day.

When further inquired on the type of drugs being misused, it was found out that they misuse one or more type of drugs. Within the sample it was found out that 50 of them utilize Pseudoephedrine, 39 of them utilize Tramadol, 36 of them utilize Morphine, 31 of them utilize Diazepam. This proves the fact that there is a propensity of using drugs.

Therefore, it is proved through the research reports and through the international annual reports that, there is a propensity of misusing Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs in Sri Lanka and worldwide.

03. Results and Discussions.

3.1 Social Demographical Profile of individuals who utilize Narcotic and Psychotropic Drugs.

Residences/Residential area of the respondents.

During the study related to the misuse of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, 10 districts were selected as the research field and 1000 individuals were selected from the respective districts who utilize Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs. Since Majority of the individuals who misused Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs were prevailed in Colombo District, 535 were selected from the Colombo district and number of the individuals selected from other districts can be identified as follows.

Residential Areas of the individuals who utilize Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.

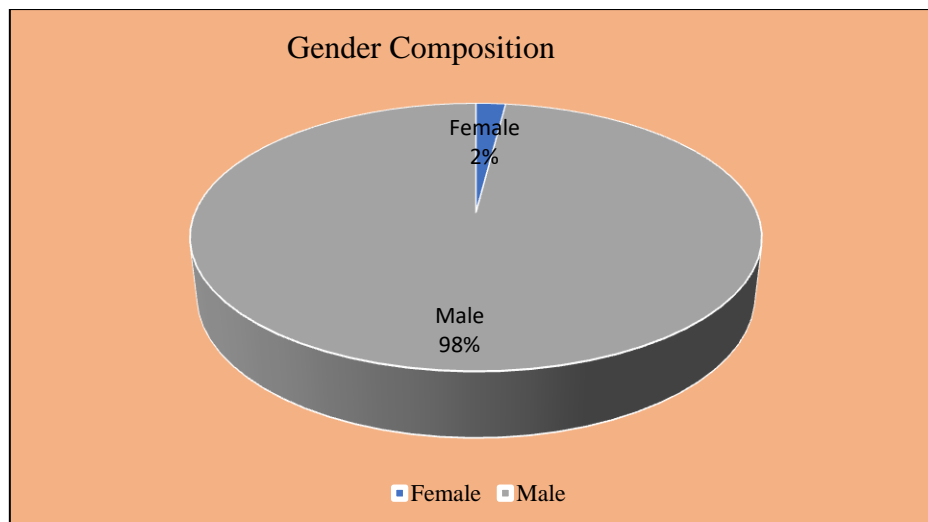
District	Number of individuals who utilize Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs	Percentage %
Colombo	535	53.5
Gampaha	159	15.9
Kaluthara	46	4.6
Kandy	50	5
Galle	45	4.5
Mathara	29	2.9
Kurunegala	45	4.5
Puttalam	28	2.8
Anuradhapura	28	2.8
Rathnapura	35	3.5
Total	1000	100

Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

Therefore, it is clarified, there is a considerable progress in the misuse of drugs in Colombo and Gampaha district. In addition, there is a high risk in the misuse of drugs in Kurunegala, Kaluthara and Galle districts.

Gender (male and female) composition.

When studied on the community and social demographic profile of the individuals who misused Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, 984 (98%) of them were men and the 16 (2%) of them were women in the database of the sample being studied, thus majority of the individuals in the sample were men.

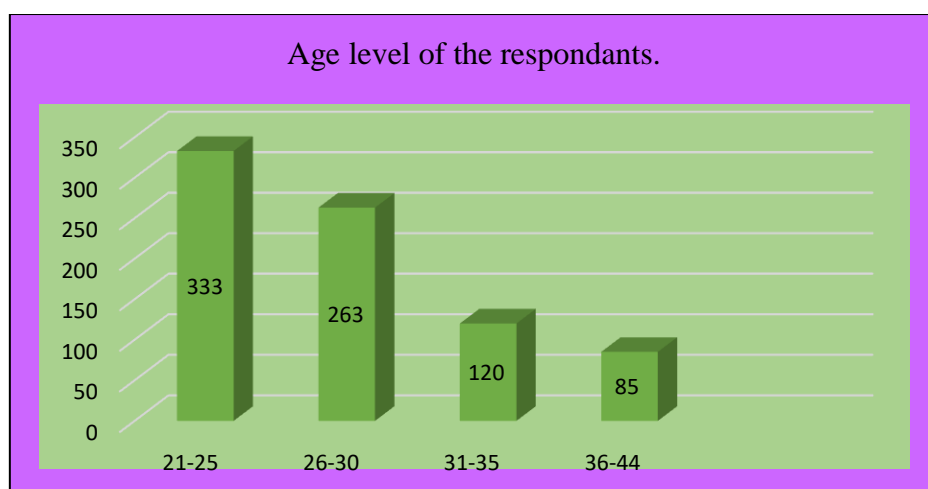


Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

Age level.

When considering the age level of the individuals who utilize Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, it was noted that the majority of them, that is 333 (33%) represented 21-25 age group. Furthermore, 263 (26%) of them represented 26-30 age group, 199(20%) of them represented 14-20 age group, 120 (12%) of them represented 31-35 age group and 85(9%) of them represented 36-44 age group.

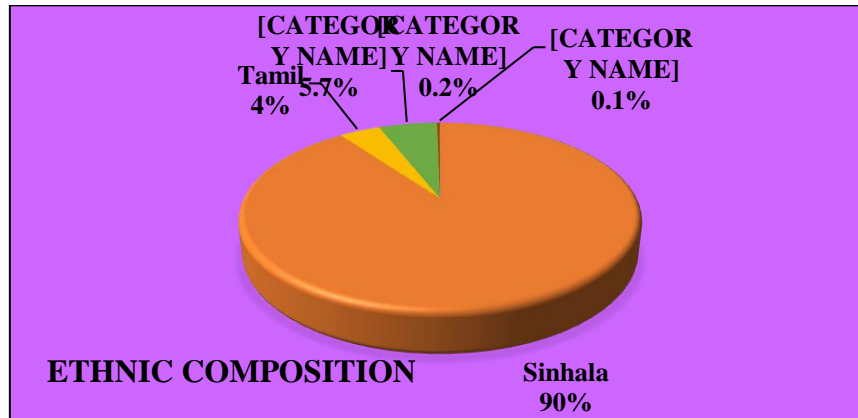
Since majority of the individuals who utilize Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs represent 21-25 age group, it was revealed that the youth community had addicted to the misuseage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.



Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

Ethnic Composition.

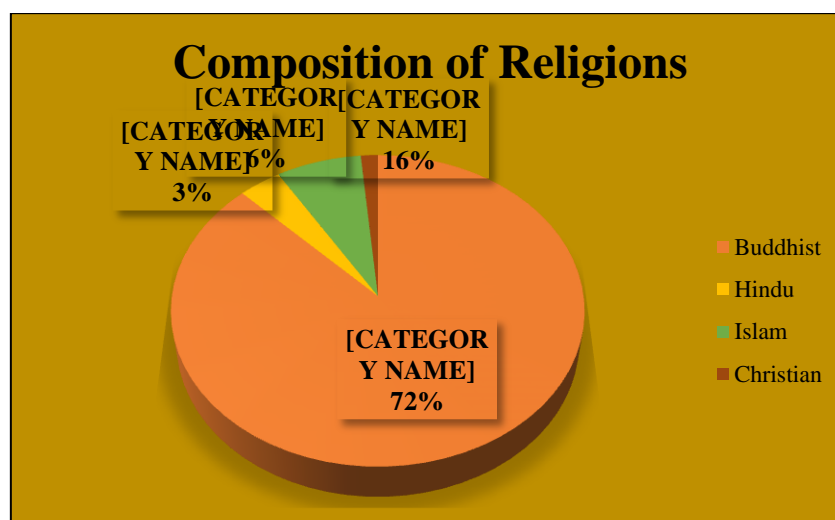
When inquired on the ethnic condition of the individuals who utilize Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, it was found out that majority of them, that is 901(90%) of them represented Sinhala, 57(5.7%) of them represented Muslim, 40(4%) of them represented Tamil ethnic groups. Furthermore, 2(0.2%) of them represented Burghers and one individual (0.1%) represented Malay ethnic group, were included in the sample.



Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

Composition of Religions.

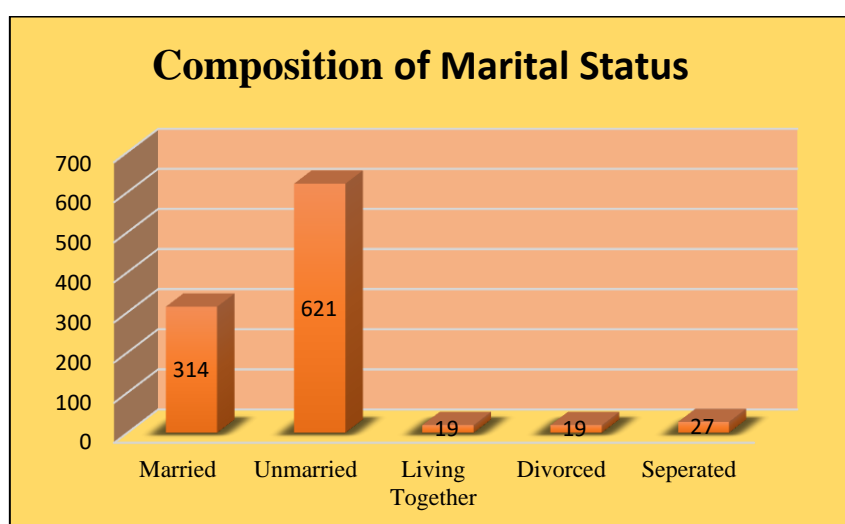
Majority of the individuals who utilize Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs represented by Sinhala ethnic group and among the majority of them 720(72%) represented by Buddhists, 160(16%) represented by Christians, 57(6%) represented by Muslims, 36(3%) represented by Roman Catholics and 27(3%) represented by Hindus.



Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

Composition of Marital Status.

When inquired on the marital status of the individuals who utilize Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, it was found out that, majority of them represented by individuals who are unmarried. 314 (31%) represented by individuals who are married, 19(2%) represented by individuals who live together without being married legally, 19(2%) represented by individuals who are divorced, 27(3%) represented by individuals who are separated.



Education Level. Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

Considering the education level of the individuals in the sample, it was identified that the majority of them represented, that is 517(52%) of them represented education level of grade 6-10, 315(32%) of them were completed and passed O/L, 82(8%) of them completed and passed A/L, 50 (5%) of them represented the education level of grade 1-5. Among the Individuals who utilize Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, it was found out that 18(2%) of them hold diplomas, and 9(1%) of them hold degree programmes or were post graduates.

Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

Composition of employment.

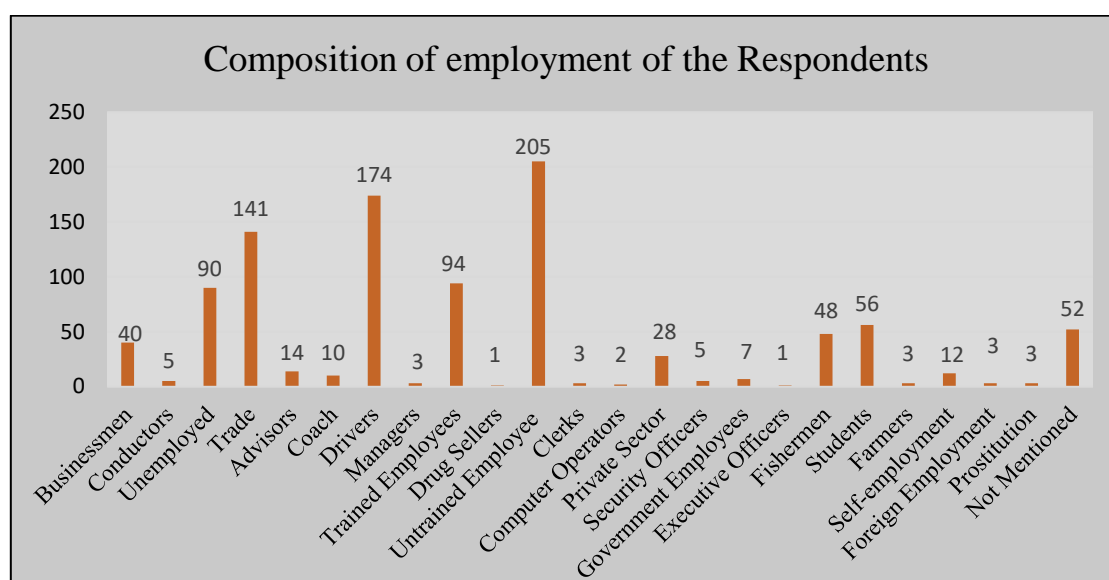
When analyzed on the employment level of the respondents in the sample related to the misuse of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, it was identified that majority of them represented, that is 205(21%) represented by untrained employees, 174(17%) represented by Taxi drivers, 141(14%) represented by vendors, 94(9%) represented by individuals who are unemployed, 48(5%) represented by fishermen, 40(4%) represented by entrepreneurs and 529(52%) represented by individuals who unmentioned/unspecified the type of their employment.

Furthermore, 56(6%) represented by Students, 28(3%) represented by individuals who were employed in the private sector, 12(1%) represented by individuals who are involved in self-businesses, 10(1%) represented by trainees and 14(1%) represented by professionals who involved in advising.

Moreover, 3 (0.3%) of women represented prostitution, 05 (0.5%) represented by individuals who were employed as Conductors, 7 (1%) represented by government servants, 03 (0.3%) represented by farmers, clerks, Managers and individuals who involved in foreign employment.

In addition, it was included that, 7 (1%) represented by security officers, 1 individual who involved in illegal drug selling, 1 individual who involved in executive level occupation and 2 individuals who were employed as computer operators, in the sample.

Therefore, majority of the sample was represented by laborers and in addition to it, it was also included that there were individuals who were employed as drivers, in the sample.



Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

Social demographical factors of the respondents.

Social demographical factors	Number of individuals who utilize Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs	Percentage %
<u>Gender</u>		
Male	984	98.4
Female	16	1.6
<u>Age (In Years)</u>		
14-20	199	19.9
21-25	333	33.3

26-30	263	26.3
31-35	120	12
36-44	85	8.5
<u>Ethnicity</u>		
Sinhala	901	90.1
Tamil	40	04
Muslim	57	5.7
Burgher	02	0.2
Malay	00	00
<u>Religion</u>		
Buddhist	720	72
Hindu	27	2.7
Islam	57	5.7
Christian	160	16
Roman Catholic	36	3.6
<u>Education Level</u>		
Uneducated	9	0.9
1-5 years	50	5
6-10 years	517	51.7
Completed O/L	315	31.5
Completed A/L	82	8.2
Diploma Holder	18	1.8
Degree Holder	09	0.9
<u>Marital Status</u>		
Married	314	31.4
unmarried	621	62.1
Living together	19	1.9
Divorced	19	1.9
Separated	27	2.7
Widow		

Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

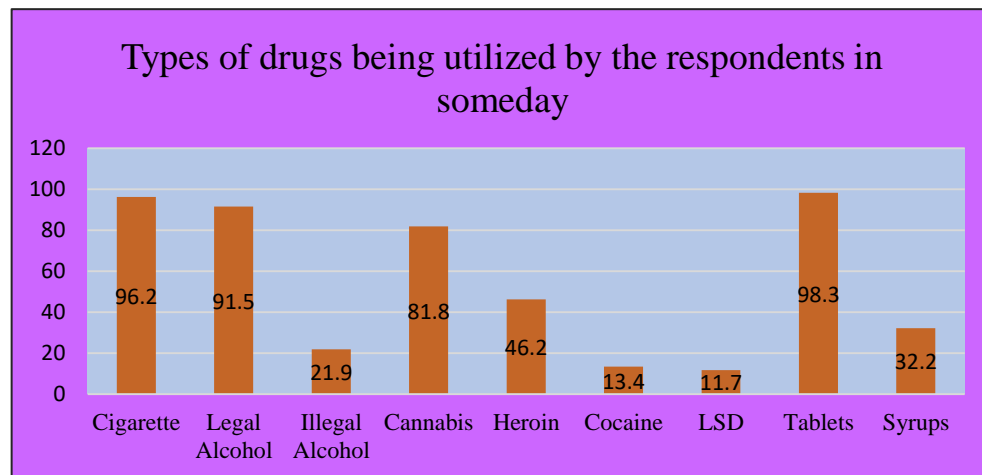
3.2 History related to the Usage of hazardous drugs of the respondents.

When inquired on the history of the individuals in the respective sample that was being conducted related to the misuse of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, it is able to explain it under few major criteria, that is,

- 1). Drugs being utilized someday.
- 2). Drugs being utilized during past 12 months.
- 3). Drugs being utilized during past 3 months.

Types of drugs being utilized by the respondents.

When inquired on the history of the individuals who utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, it is significant to find out the usage of drugs that had ever been utilized by them. Among the 1000 individuals who utilized Narcotic and psychotropic drugs, it was revealed that, 962 (96%) of them utilized Cigarette, 915 (92%) of them utilized Alcohol and 818 (82%) of them utilized Cannabis someday in their life. And it was further revealed that 462 (46%) of them utilized Heroin, 219 (22%) of them utilized illegal Alcohol, 134 (13%) of them utilized Cocaine, and 117 (12%) of them utilized LSD.



Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

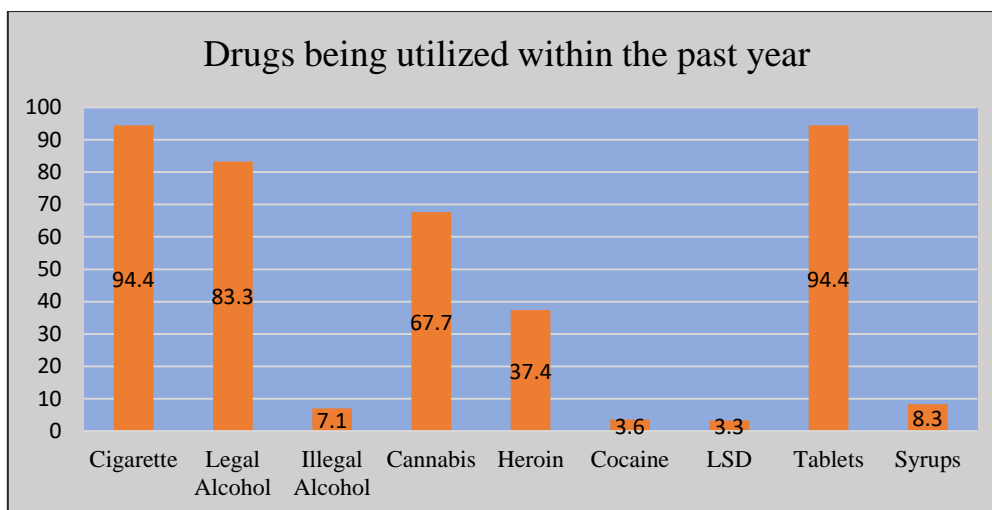
Individuals who were included in the sample, utilized drugs someday in their lives and moreover, it was revealed that, 983 (98%) of them utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs and 322 (32%) of them utilized Syrup someday in their lives.

According to the above chart, it is evident that, individuals who utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs had also used other types of drugs and therefore it was further revealed that all of the individuals included in the sample, were Poly Drug Users.

Usage of other drugs by the individuals who utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs during past year.

When inquired on the usage of other drugs of the individuals who utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs during the past year, it was noted that majority of them, that is 944 (94%) of them used Cigarettes. Furthermore, it was revealed that, 833 (83%) of them utilized legal Alcohol, 677 (68%) of them utilized Cannabis, 374 (37%) of them utilized Heroin, 71 (7%) of them utilized illegal Alcohol, 33 (3%) of them utilized Cocaine.

Moreover, it was revealed that, 944 (94%) of individuals in the sample had utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs during the past year. Among them, it was revealed that, 83 (8%) utilized syrup and 33 (4%) used LSD, in the sample during the past year.

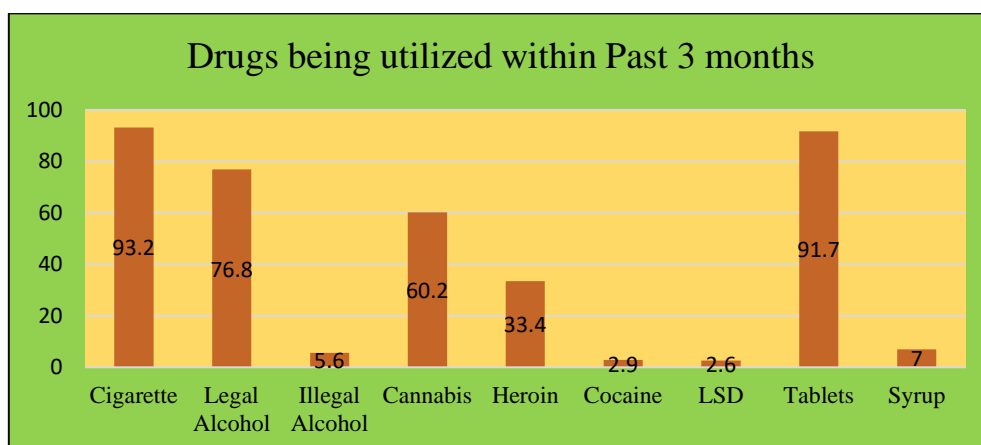


Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

Composition of the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs and other drugs during the past three months.

It was revealed that 932 (93%) of individuals who were included in the sample had utilized Cigarettes. Among them, it was further revealed that 768 (77%) utilized legal Alcohol, 602 (60%) utilized Cannabis, 334 (33%) utilized Heroin, 56 (6%) utilized illegal Alcohol, 29 (3%) utilized Cocaine, 26 (3%) utilized LSD.

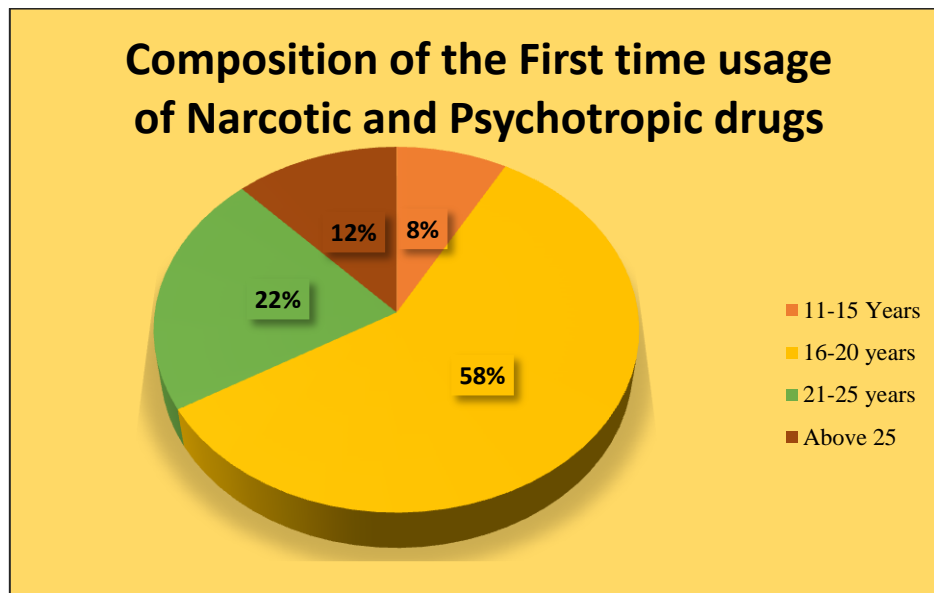
It was evident that Among the individuals who were included in the sample during the past three months, 917 (92%) utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs. Furthermore, it was revealed that 70 (7%) of them utilized Syrup.



Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

Composition of the Age level of the individuals who utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs for the first time.

When identified on the age level of the individuals included in the sample, who utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs for the first time, it was noted that, 584 (58%) of them represented 16-20 age level, 215 (22%) of them represented 21-25 age level, 120 (12%) of them represented above 25 years, 81 (8%) of them represented 11-15 age level, and among these individuals who represented 11-15 age level had used Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs for the first-time during school age. This clarified that 11 years age category is able to be considered as the age level with a highest risk of using of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.

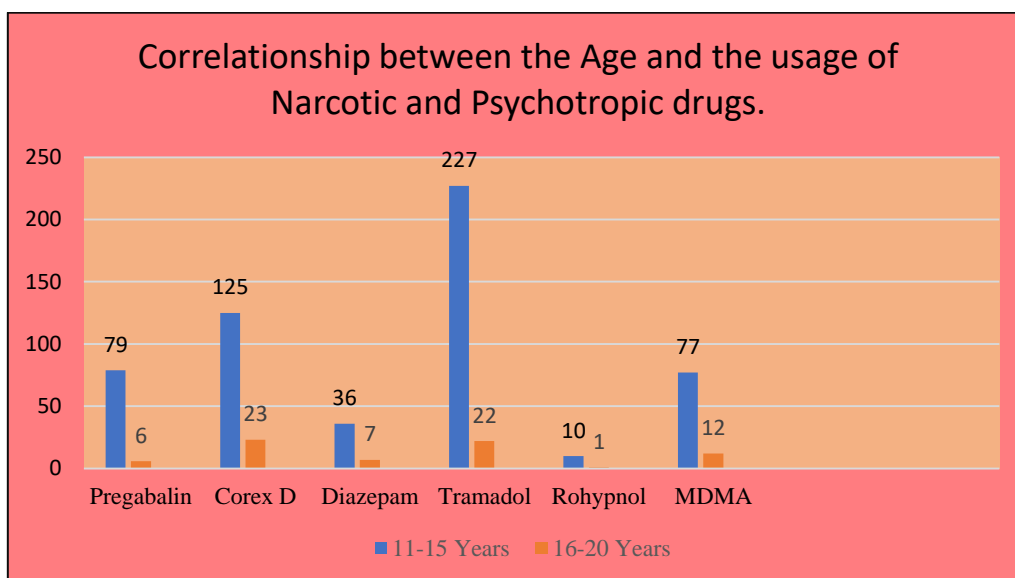


Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

3.3 Started age of the individuals who utilized different types of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.

Considering the age level of the individuals who utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs for the first time, it was identified that 584 individuals utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs for the first time during 16-20 age level. Among them. It was evident that 227 (39%) utilized Tramadol drug. Furthermore, it was evident that 125 (21%) of them utilized Corex D syrup, 79 (14%) of them utilized Pregabalin and 77 of them utilized MDMA (Ecstasy). Therefore, it was revealed that majority of the individuals who utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs for the first time had represented 16-20 age level.

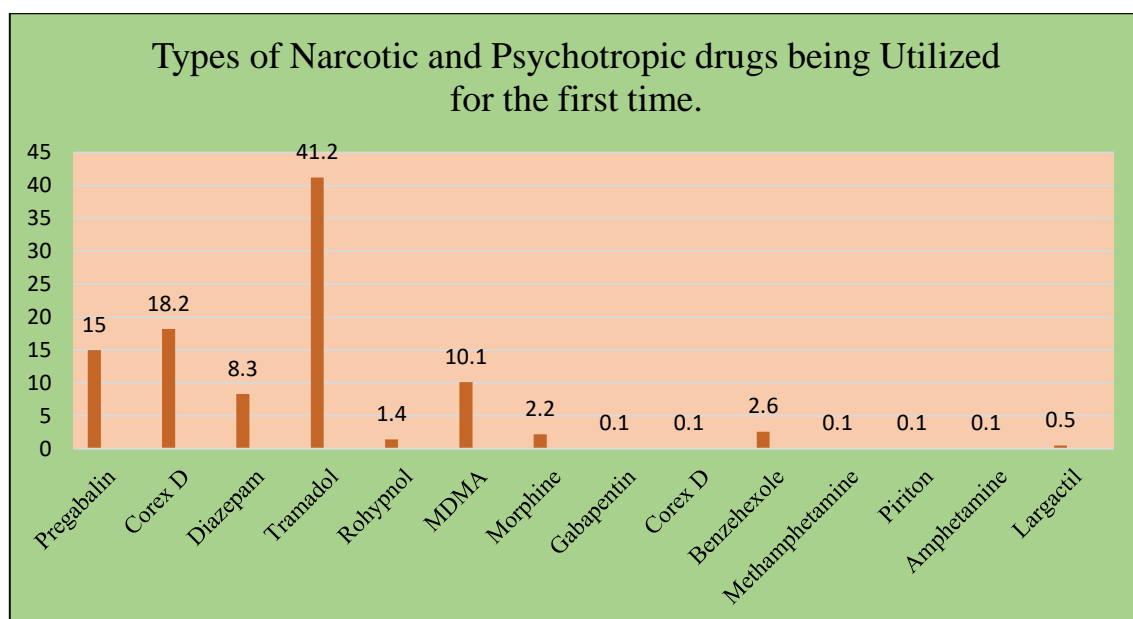
In addition, it was identified that there was a propensity for the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs during 11-15 age level. Among them, it was evident that 81 of them utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs for the first time. Furthermore, it was noted that among them 23 (28%) utilized Corex D syrup, 22 (27%) of them utilized Tramadol, 12 (5%) of them utilized MDMA (Ecstasy), 7 (9%) of them utilized Diazepam and 6 (7%) of them utilized Pregabalin. Thus, this proves the fact that the age level with the highest risk with respect to the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs for the first time can be considered as 11 years.



Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

3.4 Types of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs being utilized for the first time.

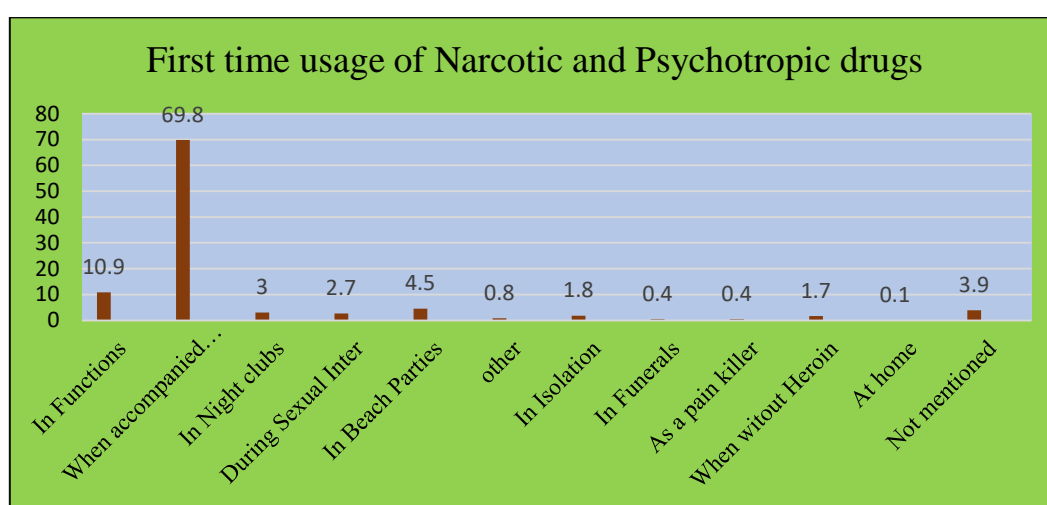
When inquired on the usage of the types of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs for the first time, it was evident that 412 (41%) of them utilized Tramadol, 182 (18%) of them utilized Corex D syrup, 150 (15%) of them utilized Pregabalin and 101 (10%) of them utilized MDMA. Furthermore, it was revealed that 83 (8%) of them Diazepam, 26 (3%) of them utilized Benzhexol, 22 (2%) of them utilized Morphine, 14 (1%) of them utilized Rohypnol, for the first time.



Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

3.5 First time usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.

When considering the first-time usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, it is significant to identify the composition of age level, types of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs taken and the instances where Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs were used. It was revealed that the individuals included in the sample who utilized Narcotic and psychotropic drugs for the first time had taken these drugs when they were accompanied with their friends and furthermore, it was revealed that 109 (11%) of them utilized in ceremonial events, 45 (5%) of them utilized in beach parties. Moreover, it was found out that, 30 (3%) of them utilized in night clubs, 27 (3%) of them utilized at instances of having sexual intercourse, 17 (2%) of them utilized them in place of Heroin to avoid withdrawal symptoms, 4 (0.4%) of them utilized as a form of pain killers and in funerals.

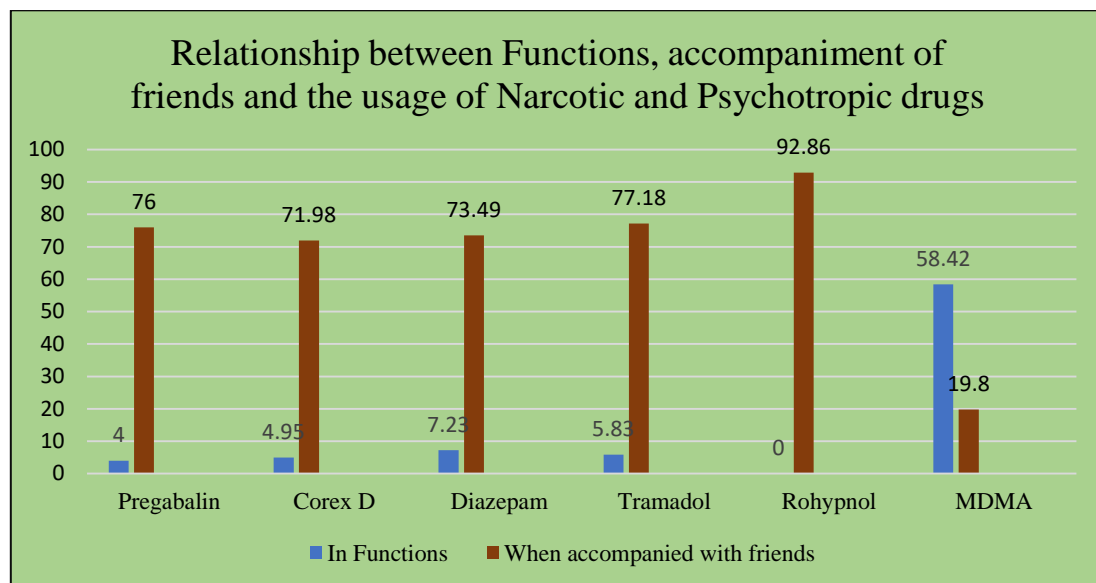


Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

When considering the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, it was revealed that majority of the them had utilized these drugs when they were accompanied with friends. Among 412 of individuals who utilized Tramadol for the first time, 318 (77%) of them utilized it in the occasions where they were accompanied with their friends. It was further revealed that among the 150 individuals who utilized Pregabalin, 114 (76%), among 182 individuals who utilized Corex D syrup 131 (72%), among 83 individuals who utilized Diazepam 61 (73%), among 14 individuals who utilized Rohypnol 13 (93%), had utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs for the first time when they were accompanied with their friends.

Therefore, despite the fact that, majority of them utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs for the first time when accompanied with friends, majority of individuals who utilized MDMA (Ecstasy) were utilized in ceremonial events. As It was found out in the previous researches, MDMS drug, which is a Psychoactive type of drug which was found to be utilized in recreational event. Thus, among 101 individuals who utilized MDMA (Ecstasy), 59 (58%) of them utilized in ceremonial events and 20 (20%) of them utilized when accompanied with friends. And furthermore, it was revealed that 20 (20%) of them utilized in night clubs and beach parties. Therefore, it was found out that there was a connection between ceremonial

events and accompaniment of friends with respect to the first-time usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.



Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

It was found out that different types of drugs were utilized in specific occasions. Nevertheless, different occasions were taken for the usage of some Psychoactive substances. Furthermore, it was proved that MDMA (Ecstasy) was utilized in night clubs and beach parties. Thus, it was evident that, close friends are able to be considered an influencing factor with respect to the usage of Psychotropic drugs and due to the above charts, it was found out further to be utilized mostly in ceremonial events, beach parties, night clubs.

3.6 First experiences with respect to the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.

Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs are offered to patients with medical approval for Bipolar Disorders or Personality Disorders which are able to be manipulated to the Central Nervous System, perception or consciousness and furthermore, when utilized without medical recommendation, it is able to cause alters in the perception and thus the experiences of the individuals who utilized Narcotic and psychotropic drugs can differ with respect to the individual experiences that they confront.

When analyzed on the experience related to different individuals who were included in the sample, their first experience related to the usage of the Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs were provided by them and the vividness related to the experiences of the different types of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs were revealed. Therefore, among the individuals who utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, 412 of them utilized Tramadol for the first time and their experiences with respect to it, is able to be identified as follows. Among 95 (23%) of individuals utilized Tramadol were said to be experienced a drowsiness in their first experience. Statement such as “I felt a severe drowsiness”, “My mind becomes slow”, “I forgot everything”, proves the fact that they experience abnormalities in their first

experiences. Among 83 (20%) of individuals who utilized drugs experienced physical difficulties or discomforts in their first usage. As for examples, following statements are able to be mentioned, “I felt as if my body is smashed”, “I felt like vomiting”, “My stomach has started to burn”, “My muscles are aching”, “My breathing has started to gain speed”. Among 37 (9%) of the individuals who utilized drugs were stated to be gained energy. “I have the strength to do anything”, “I felt a tremendous fit”, “I’m feeling alive”, are able to be taken as examples. Among 35 (9%) of individuals who utilized Tramadol, experienced hallucinations as a result of it. “I felt as if I’m floating in the sky”, “I felt as if I’m in another world”, “My hands are raising upwards without my control”, “My mind is not mine anymore”. Can be taken as examples.

Among 150 individuals, 39 (26%) of them who utilized Pregabalin for the first time, experienced emotions related to extreme pleasure. 34 (23%) of them who utilized Pregabalin preferred the intoxication. Among 31 (21%) of the individuals who utilized Pregabalin experienced confusions in mind, 25 (17%) of them experienced hallucinations, 20 (13%) of them experienced strengthening in mind. “This has increased my ability to think”, “I can now take quick decisions”, “This has reduced my stress” can be taken as examples.

It was revealed that Among 33 (40%) individuals who utilized Diazepam had experienced Drowsiness as their first experience. 14 (17%) of them experienced Hallucinations, 13 (16%) of them experienced emotions connected to extreme pleasure and 13 (16%) of them experienced physical discomforts.

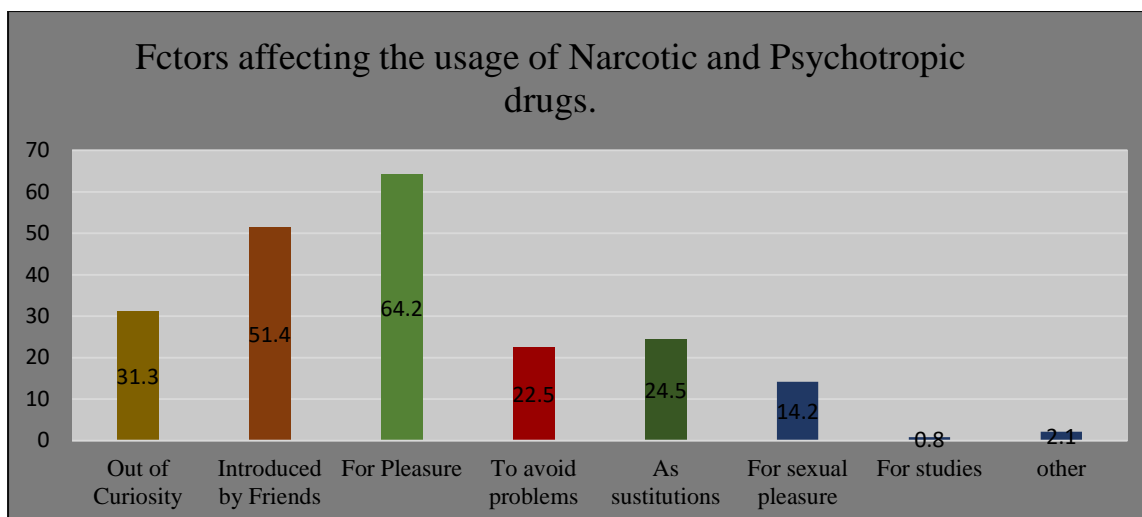
Among 101 individuals who utilized MDMA it was revealed that, 55 (54%) of them experienced extreme pleasure as their first experience. 37 (37%) of them experienced improvement in strength, 15 (15%) of them experienced hallucinations.

Furthermore, it was revealed that in addition to the usage of drugs, these individuals utilized types of syrups as well. 182 of individuals utilized Corex D and among 37 (20%) of them who utilized Corex D, experienced extreme pleasure in their first experience. 33 (18%) of them experienced drowsiness, 25 (14%) of them experienced Hallucinations, 23 (18%) of them experienced physical discomforts and 17 (9%) of them experienced improvement in mental strength.

3.7 Factors affected for the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.

It was revealed that there were multiple factors that are able to be affected for the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs. That is majority of them, 642 (64%) of them utilized these drugs for extreme pleasure, 514 (51%) of them utilized by the enforcement of close friends, 313 (31%) of them utilized owing to curiosity, 245 (25%) of them utilized as a substitution, 225 (23%) of them utilized to avoid personal problems, 21 (2%) of them utilized as an easy method of studying, 8 (1%) of them utilized for Sexual Pleasure.

Therefore, it was found out that majority of the individuals utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs for extreme pleasure and by the enforcement of close friends.



Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

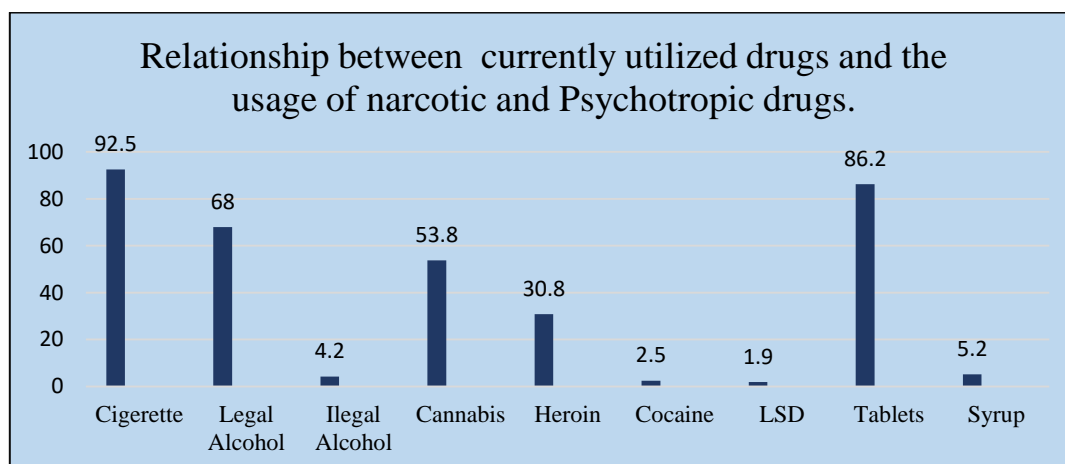
3.8 Present condition of the misuse of Narcotic and Psychotropic Drugs.

Other types of drugs, being utilized with Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.

Individuals who were included in the Total sample, utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs and it was revealed that all of them were Multiple drug users. That is, these individuals included in the sample, had taken more than single type of drugs and it was further revealed that in addition to the misuse of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, other types of drugs were taken by them.

Moreover, it was revealed that 862 (86%) of the individuals in the sample utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs and 52 (5%) of them utilized syrups.

Among 925 (93%) of the individuals who utilized Narcotic and psychotropic drugs someday, had also utilized Cigarettes. 680 (68%) of them utilized legal Alcohol, 538 (54%) of them utilized Cannabis, 308 (31%) of them utilized Heroin, 42 (4%) of them utilized illegal Alcohol, 25 (3%) of them utilized Cocaine and 19 (2%) of them utilized LSD.



Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

Majority of the individuals who utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, who were included in the sample, also utilized Cigarettes. In addition, legal Alcohol, illegal Alcohol, Cannabis and Heroin were utilized with the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.

Types of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, being utilized in someday.

Among the respondents who utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, who were included in the sample, were revealed to be utilizing Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs without medical recommendations in someday. It was revealed that Majority of them, that is, 731 (73%) of them utilized Tramadol. 499 (50%) of them utilized Pregabalin, 313 (31%) of them utilized Corex D syrup, 84 (8%) of them utilized Benzhexol and 78 (8%0 of them utilized Morphine, 57 (6%) of them utilized Rohypnol. And it was further revealed that 192 (19%) of the individuals included in the sample utilized a Psychoactive drug named, MDMA (Ecstasy).

Drugs being utilized for medicinal purposes in someday

Type of Tablet/Syrup of the medicine used	Number of people	Percentage
Pregabalin	499	49.9
Corex D	313	31.3
Diazepam	219	21.9
Tramadol	731	73.1
Dextromethorphan	3	0.3
Rohypnol	57	5.7
Thiophene	1	0.1
MDMA	192	19.2
Morphine	78	7.8
Gabapentin	9	0.9
Corex	5	0.5
Benzhexol	84	8.4
Methamphetamine	4	0.4
Methadone	2	0.2
Broncodex	3	0.3
Piriton	2	0,2
Amphetamine	1	0.1
Largactil	7	0.7
Clonazepam	24	2.4
Haloperidol	2	0.2
Olanzapine	1	0.1
Clozapine	`1	0.1

Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

Frequently utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.

Tramadol Drug

Tramadol drug belongs to the Narcotic drug category which is utilized in medical treatments as a moderate pain killer. This drug is specifically utilized as a pain killer to reduce labour pain, for disorders related to liver and kidneys, for cancer related deceases. Side effects which are able to cause by utilizing Tramadol can be mentioned as Nausea, Lip drying, Colic, headache and Constipation. Moreover, when utilized without medical recommendation, it is able to cause Habituation. This drug is commonly termed as “Apple” in the general usage among people.

Pregabalin

Pregabalin drug is utilized for treatments related to Epilepsy, Neurological disorders and Anxiety. Moreover, this is utilized to treat disorders related to legs and feet, Migraine and to avoid the Alcohol withdrawal symptoms. This drug is able to be addictive when utilized without medical recommendation. Side effects of utilizing this drug is able to be mentioned as drowsiness, Lip drying, confusion and memory loss. This drug is commonly termed as “Gaba”, “Pregab” in the general usage among people.

Corex D

Corex D is utilized for cough conditions and ought to be utilized under medical recommendation with the correct dosage. If exceeded the correct amount of the dosage, this syrup can be addictive or habituate and can cause intoxication.

Diazepam

Brand name “Valium” is utilized for Diazepam drug which belongs to “Benzo diazepam” category. Generally, this drug is utilized with the medical approval for anxiety disorders, to avoid Alcohol withdrawal symptoms, surgeries, disorders related to legs and feet and to increase memory. If this drug is utilized without medical approval, it can cause Habituation. Drowsiness is able to cause as side effects with respect to the usage of this drug. Furthermore, this drug can cause suicidal attempts to addicts of this drug.

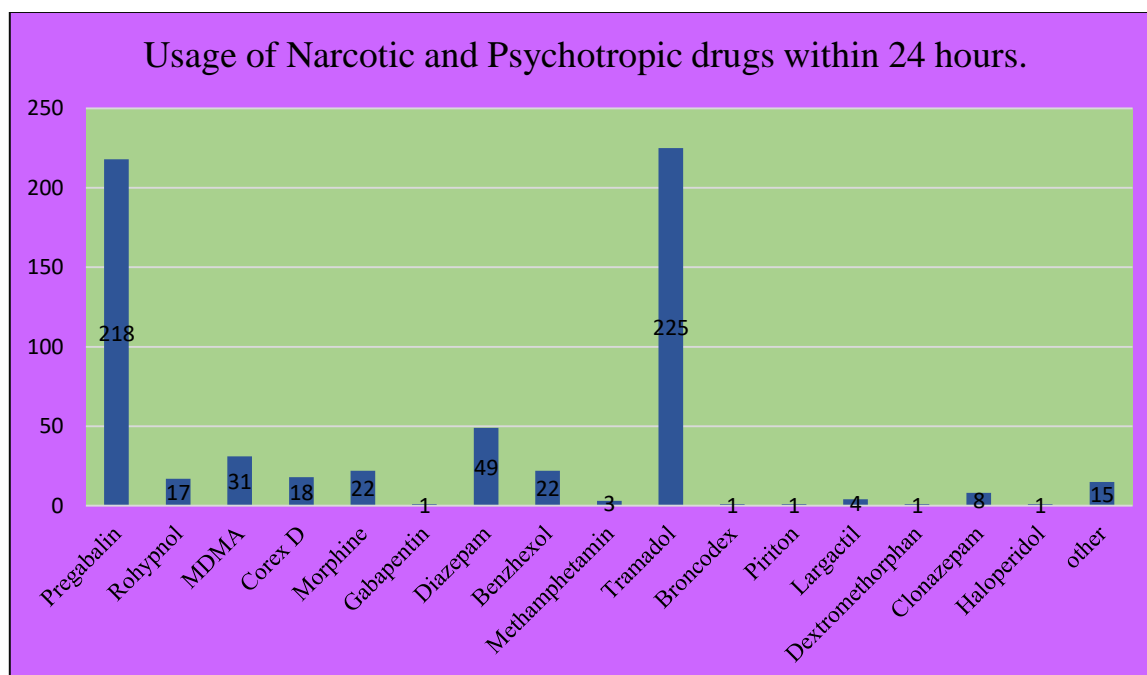
MDMA (Ecstasy)

Chemical name for MDMA drug is “Methylenedioxymethamphetamine” and is also named as “Ecstasy”, belonging to Psychoactive drug category which is utilized for recreational purposes. This drug is not recommended by medical professionals and can cause stimulant and Hallucinogens emotions. Specialty of this drug known as “Ecstasy” is that it is mostly utilized for dancing in parties. Side effects of this drug are able to be mentioned as memory loss, sleeping difficulties, perspiration and Palpitation.

It was revealed that, among 192 (19%) the individuals who utilized MDMA or Ecstasy 31 (3%) of them utilized this drug during the past 24 hours, 54 (5%) of them utilized it during the past week, 90 (9%) of them during the past month, 4 (0.4%) of them during the past 3 months and 13 (1%) of them utilized during more than the past 3 months.

Types of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs being utilized within 24 hours.

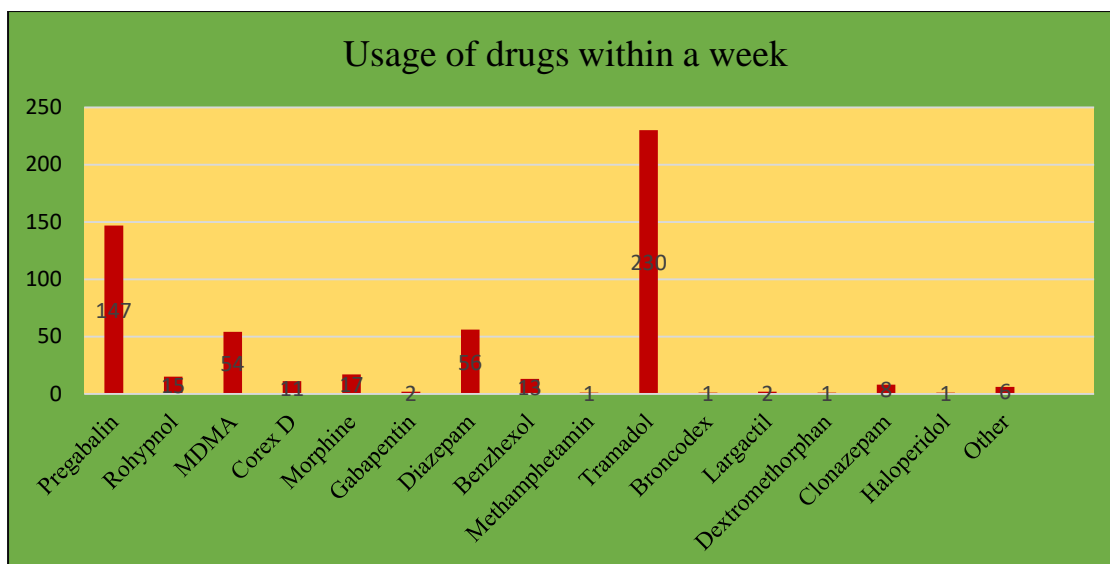
It was revealed that 456 individuals had used Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs within 24 hours. And furthermore, it was found out that, 17 types of Psychotropic drugs were utilized by the above mentioned 456 individuals. That is, it was found out that 225 of them utilized Tramadol tablets, 218 of them utilized Pregabalin tablets, 31 of them utilized MDMA (Ecstasy), 22 of them utilized Morphine tablets, 22 of them utilized Benzhexol tablets, 18 of them utilized Corex D and 17 of them utilized Rohypnol. In addition, it was revealed that Methamphetamine, Clonazepam, Largactil, Gabapentin, Broncodex, Dextromethophan were also utilized by them.



Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

Types of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs being utilized within a week.

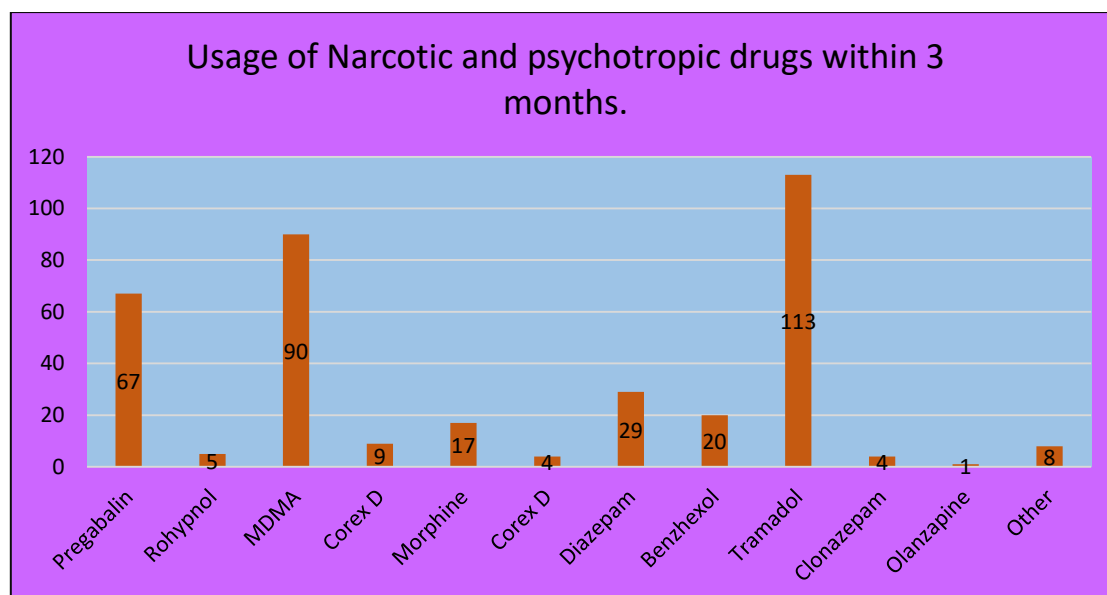
It was revealed that 291 individuals had utilized 16 types of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs within the past week. Among 16 types of drugs, it was identified that, 230 of them utilized Tramadol tablets, 147 of them utilized Pregabalin, 56 of them utilized Diazepam, 54 of them utilized MDMA (Ecstasy), 17 of them utilized Morphine, 15 of them utilized Rohypnol tablets, 11 of them utilized Corex D and 13 of them utilized Benzhexol. In addition, it was found out that they had misused Gabapentin, Methamphetamine, Broncodex, Largactil, Clonazepam.



Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

Types of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs being utilized within a month.

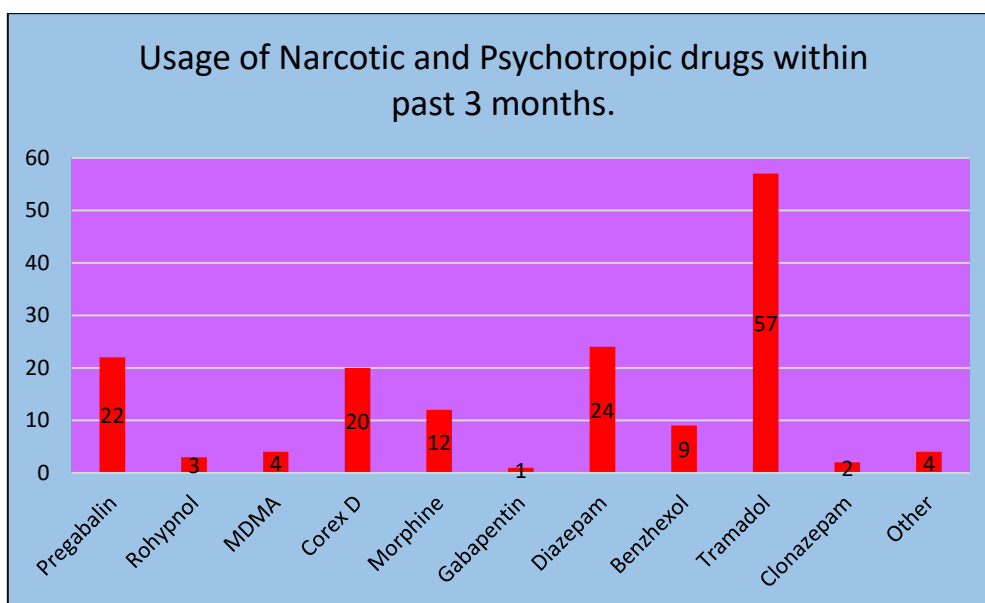
It was revealed that 106 individuals had utilized 12 types of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs within the past month. It was found out that 113 of them utilized Tramadol tablets, 67 of them utilized Pregabalin, 90 of them utilized MDMA, 29 of them utilized Diazepam, 20 of them utilized Benzhexol, 17 of them utilized Morphine, 9 of them utilized Corex D, 5 of them utilized Rohypnol, within the past month.



Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

Types of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs being utilized within 3 months.

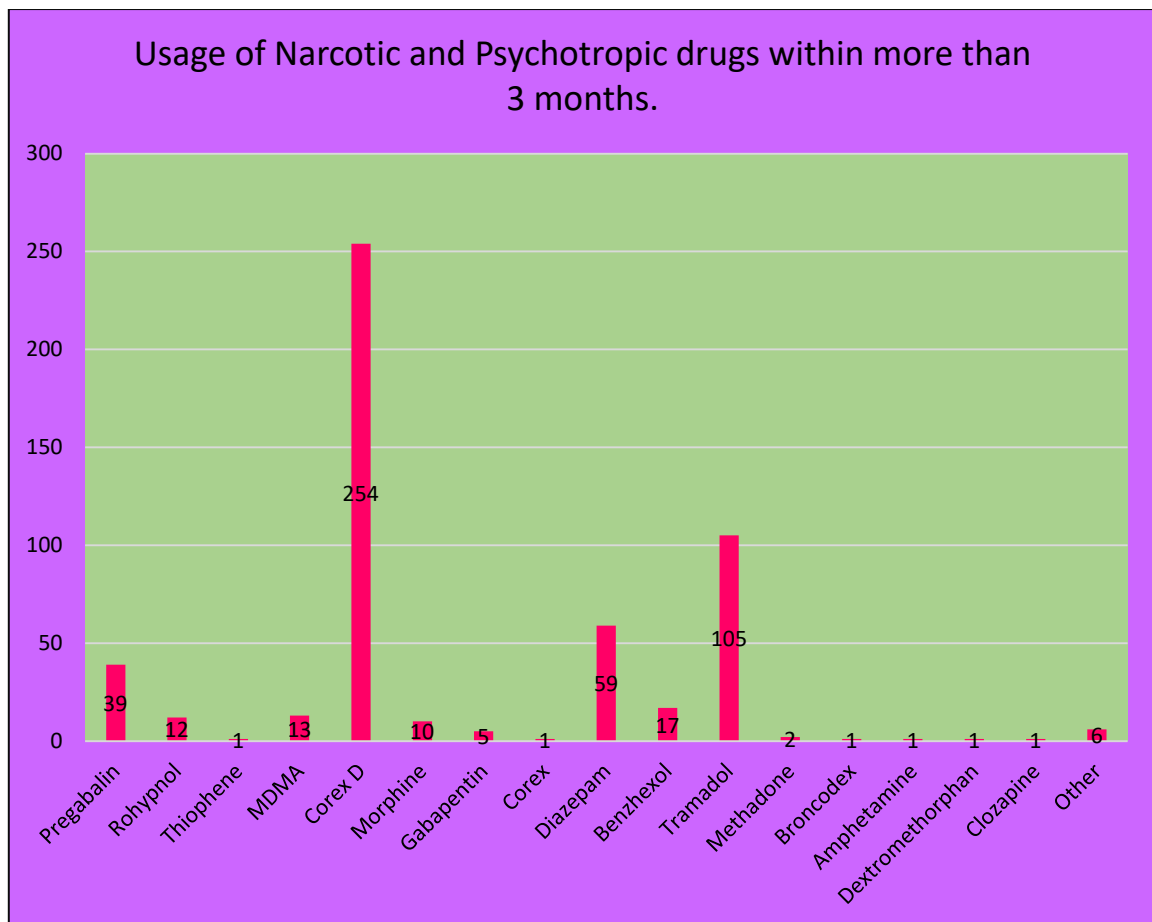
It was revealed that 53 individuals had utilized 11 types of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs within the past 3 months. Among these drugs, 57 of them utilized Tramadol tablets, 24 of them utilized Diazepam tablets, 22 of them utilized Pregabalin tablets, 20 of them utilized Corex D, 12 of them utilized Morphine, 4 of them utilized MDMA, 3 of them utilized Rohypnol, 9 of them utilized Benzhexol and 1 individual utilized Gabapentin.



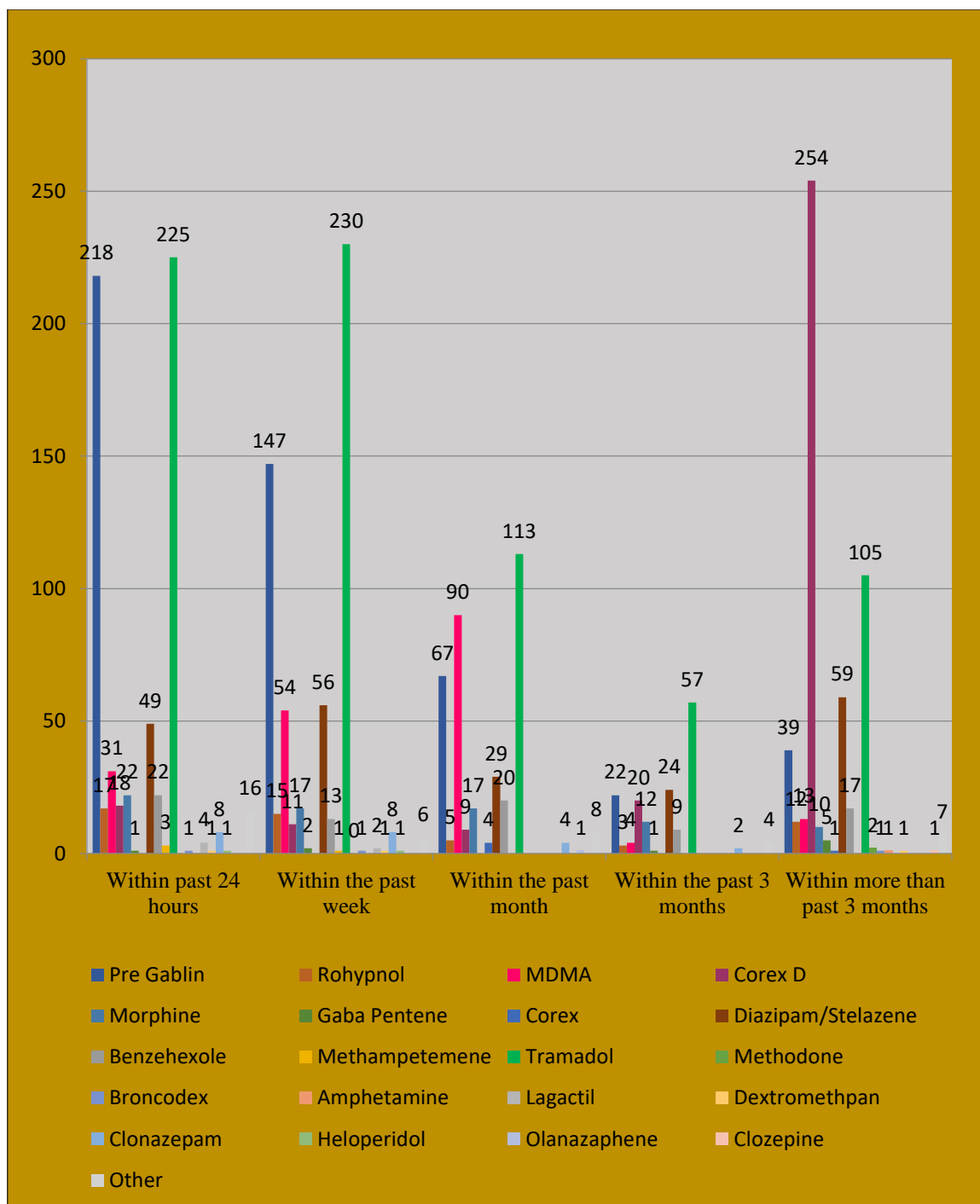
Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

Types of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs being utilized within more than 3 months.

It was found out that 94 individuals had utilized 17 types of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs within more than 3 months. Among these drugs 254 of them utilized Corex D syrup, 105 of them utilized Tramadol tablets, 59 of them utilized Diazepam, 39 of them utilized Pregabalin, 17 of them utilized Benzhexol, 13 of them utilized MDMA, 12 of them utilized Rohypnol, 10 of them utilized Morphine and 5 of them utilized Gabapentin. In addition, it was further found out that Methadone, Broncodex, Amphetamine, Corex drugs were utilized by them.



Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)



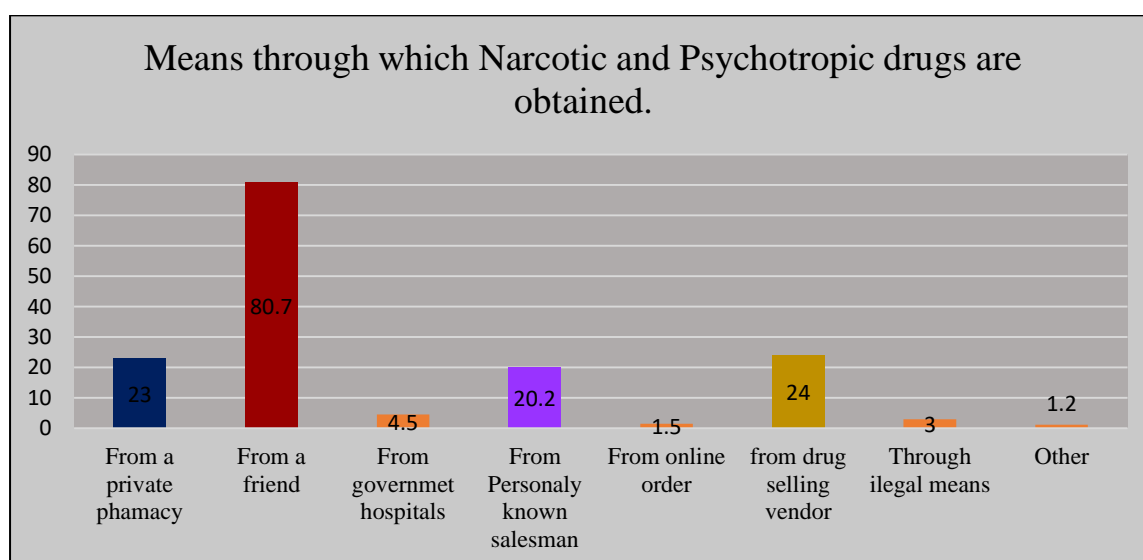
Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

As stated by the above graph, it is evident that within the past three months and within more than past three months, Tramadol drugs and Pregabalin drugs were misused by the majority. In the general usage these drugs are termed as “Apple”, “Gaba”. Nevertheless, it is evident that within more than 3 months, there was a propensity of using Corex D syrup by the majority. Therefore, it is able to be identified that, there is a propensity of using Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs in recent times.

According to the above-mentioned revelations of studies, it is evident that there is a systematic progress in the usage of Psychotropic drugs which are utilized for medicinal purposes. These drugs can be categorized to two main categories as Psychotropic and Psychoactive drugs.

3.9 Means through which Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs are obtained.

It is significant to find out the means through which these Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs are obtained by individuals who improperly utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs. From Individuals who represented the sample, it was found out that 807 (81%) of them obtained these drugs through the means of close friends, 230 (23%) of them obtained from pharmacies, 202 (20%) of them obtained from personally known salesmen, 240 (24%) of them obtained through drug-selling vendors, 45 (5%) of them obtained through hospitals or government pharmacies. In addition, 30 (3%) of them obtained through illegal means, 15 (2%) of them obtained through online orders and 12 (1%) obtained through other sources.

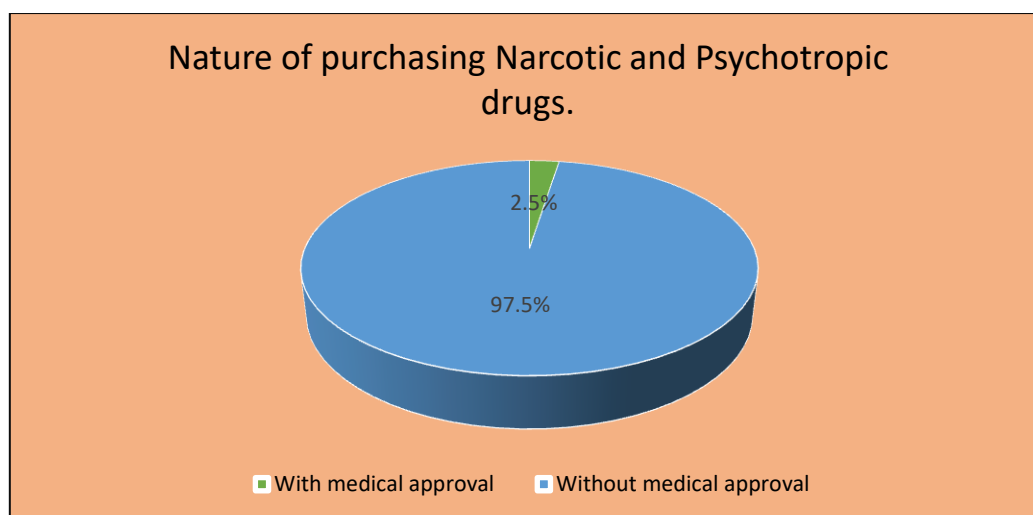


Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

In the sample, it was evident that some individuals obtained these Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs through the means of their close friends. Therefore, it is evident that there is a propensity of obtaining Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs through the means of close friends. Furthermore, it is noted that there is a tendency of obtaining Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs through pharmacies and drug selling vendors.

3.10 Nature of the procurement of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.

It was found out that there was a propensity of misusing drugs without medical approval that are generally recommended by medical professionals for physical and mental illnesses. In the sample, it was revealed that majority of them, that is, 237 (98%) of them utilized drugs without medical prescription or medical approval by medical professionals and among them only 6 (2%) of them utilized these drugs with medical recommendations. This proves the fact that, majority had obtained drugs through illegal means.



Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

3.11 Composition of purchasing drugs through illegal means.

When inquired on Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, obtained from private pharmacies without medical approval, it was revealed that, 119 (50%) of them obtained these drugs from pharmacies through mediators, 99 (41%) of them through close friends, 12 (5%) of them through an employee of a private pharmacy, 11 (4%) of them obtained by offering more money. Furthermore, it was found out that one individual had obtained these drugs from a pharmacy by providing medical approval through a mediator working at a hospital.

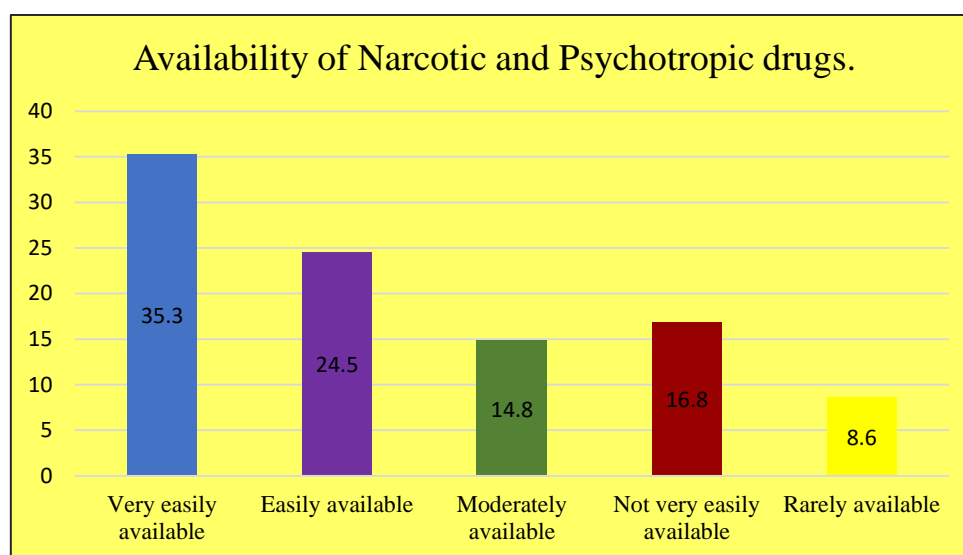
3.12 Abundance of the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.

Awareness of the Composition of age level related to individuals who utilize Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.

When inquired on the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs and other types of drugs from the individuals included in the sample, it was identified that among 1000 individuals in the sample, 880 (88%) of them aware of the fact that individuals who represent 18-35 age level tend to utilize Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs in their area. Furthermore, 561 (56%) of them aware of the fact that school leavers tend to utilize Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, 404 (40%) of them aware of the fact that individuals who represent 36-60 age level tend to utilize these drugs, 121 (12%) of them aware of the fact that individuals represent over 60 years tend to utilize these drugs. And moreover, 362 (36%) of them aware of the fact that school-age children also tend to utilize Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs. Therefore, this proves that there is a propensity of using Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs among school-age children.

Availability of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.

When inquired on the availability of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs in their respective area from the individuals who were included in the sample, 325 (35%) of them revealed, that Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs are very easily available in their area. 245 (24%) of them revealed that Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs are easily available in their area. 148 (15%) of them revealed that Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs are moderately available in their area. 158 (17%) of them revealed that Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs are not very easily available in their area and 86 (8%) of them revealed that Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs are rarely available in their area.



Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

Therefore, Majority of them, that is 60%, revealed that Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs are easily available and popular in their respective areas.

Popularity of the misuse of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs (District level).

According to the sample, it was inquired on the popularity of the misuse of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs as well as the popularity of the misuse of Heroin and Cannabis. According to the 10 Districts that were studied, it was found out that number of individuals who misused Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs were more than that of the number of individuals who misused Cannabis and Heroin. Reason for this is, individuals who only utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs were included in the sample.

In the Colombo district, among 535 individuals being studied, 427 (80%) of them utilized Cannabis and 270 (50%) of them utilized Heroin. Moreover, among the same 535 individuals, 532 (99%) of them utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs and 119 (22%) of them utilized types of Syrups.

In Gampaha district, among 159 individuals being studied, 130 (82%) of them utilized Cannabis and 71 (45%) of them utilized Heroin. Moreover, among the same 159

individuals 151 (95%) of them utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs and 39 (25%) of them utilized types of Syrups

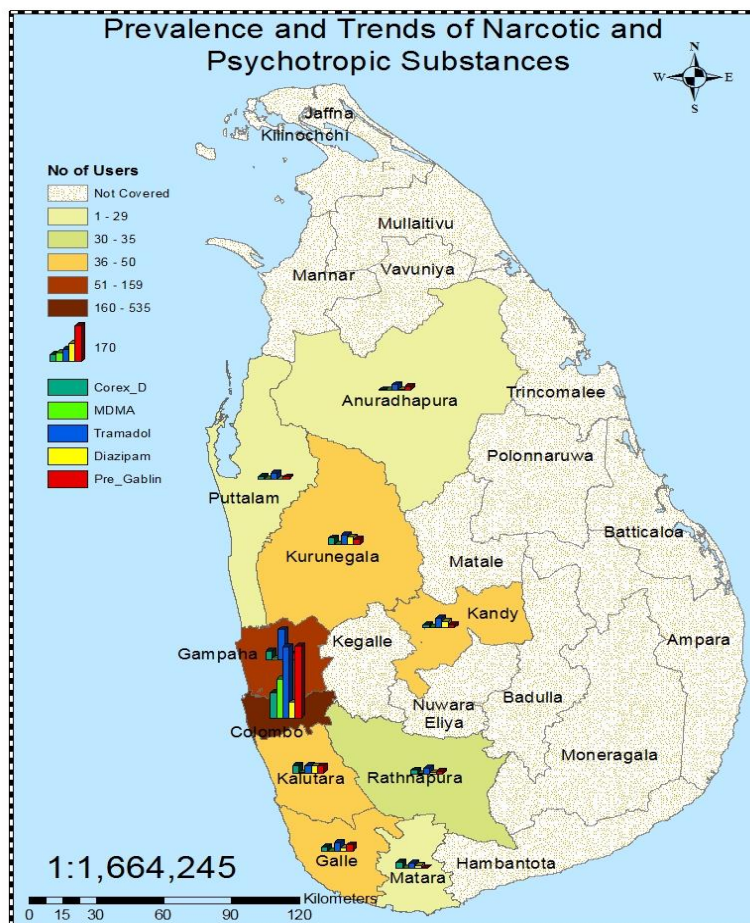
In Kandy district, among 50 individuals being studied, 46 (92%) of them utilized Cannabis and 22 (44%) of them utilized Heroine.

Among the individuals included in the sample who utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs within the 10 districts, it was found out that majority, that is 731 of them utilized Tramadol drug and among the same 731 individuals, 326 (53%) of them represented Colombo district, 137 (19%) of them represented Gampaha district, 46 (6%) of them represented Kurunegala district, 39 (5%) of them represented Galle district, 35 (5%) of them Kaluthara district, 27 (4%) of them represented Rathnapura district and moreover, it was reported that 26 (4%) of them represented Anuradhapura district and Puttalam district, who utilized Tramadol drug.

Among the individuals included in the sample, it was found out that 499 utilized Pregabalin drug and among them 332 (67%) of them represented Colombo district, 32 (6%) of them represented Kaluthara district, 30 (6%) of them represented Galle district, 28 (6%) of them represented Gampaha district. Furthermore, the lowest percentage, which is 1 (0.2%) of the usage of Pregabalin, reported from Mathara district.

It was found out that among the individuals included in the sample, 313 were reported to be utilized Corex D syrup. Among these individuals, 116 (37%) of them reported from Colombo district, 39 (12%) of them reported from Gampaha district, 34 (17%) of them reported from Kaluthara district, and moreover, lowest number of individuals who utilized Corex D was reported from Anuradhapura district and which was reported to be 3 individuals.

Among the individuals included in the sample, 219 utilized Diazepam drug and 72 (33%) of them represented Colombo district. Lowest number of individuals who utilized Diazepam drug was reported (0.4%) from Puttalam district.



Popularity of the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs (from District level)

3.13 Misusage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs and related health problems.

Since individuals included in the sample had utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs in the long run, it was indeed significant to identify the Health problems derived by the long-term usage of it. Among the 1000 individuals included in the sample who utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, 898 (90%) of them revealed that they do not possess long-term illnesses or Health consequences. Nevertheless, among 1000 individuals included in the sample, 102 (10%) of them revealed that they do possess long-term health problems resulted by the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.

Overdosage of Drugs.

Among the individuals included in the sample, 151 of them experienced Vertigo, breathing difficulties, fainting caused by the overdosage of drugs and syrups. Physical complications experienced by the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs were very much similar to the symptoms of overdosage. As stated by the definition of the overdosage of drugs by WHO, by taking overdosage of drugs or by combining different types of drugs together can result blackout or insanity. In such cases, symptoms such as breathing difficulties, lip whitening, compression of pupil of the eye is able to occur. Within this study, it was evident that according to the complications shown by the individuals included in the sample, and to the definition of overdosage and its complication explained by WHO, in certain instances, that they also obtained higher dosage of drugs.

3.14 Becoming free from the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs and turning to treatments and Rehabilitation.

It was revealed that, there were several factors affecting the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs utilized in someday by the individuals included in the sample and not intended to utilize them anymore. In order to easily understand the study conducted, the study with respect to the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs is able to be summarized as follows.

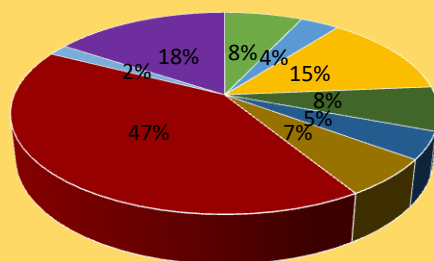
Physical Problems	Mental Problems	For the betterment of family	Economic Problems	Facts related to Occupation
Resistance of body	Memory loss	Owing to marriage	Waste of money	Being extremely busy
Dizziness	Distortion of mind	Children shouldn't be humiliated.		Migrating overseas
	Insanity	Suspicion of mothers		
		Loss of parents		
		Punishments of parents		

Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

According to the information obtained from the individuals included in the sample, it was evident that, not only personal factors but also Social factors had affected the elimination of the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.

Among individuals included in the sample, it was revealed that 200 (20%) of them attempted to stop the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs in someday. Among 200 (20%) it was revealed that, 94(47%) of them attempted to stop the usage by their own will, 29 (14%) of them attempted to stop the usage through private medical treatments, 15 (7%) of them through government medical treatment procedures and treatment procedures carried out by National Dangerous Drugs Control Board. Moreover, it was revealed that few of these individuals included in the sample, received treatments from the treatment centers carried out by private institutions and NGOs.

Nature of treatments and Rehabilitations, taken by the respondents.



- Government treatments
- Ayurvedic treatments
- Private treatments
- National Dangerous Drugs Control Board
- Non governmental Organizations
- Private Institutions
- Self-attempt
- Other
- Not Mentioned

Source: (Field Survey Data, 2017)

04. Conclusions and Suggestions.

Considering on the usage of drugs in Sri Lanka, in addition to the usage of Heroin and Cannabis, it is able to be identified that there is a propensity of misusing Narcotic, Psychotropic and Psychoactive drugs as well as the availability and abundance of these drugs in the market. Furthermore, it is able to be concluded that there could be a tendency of increasing the utilization of the variety of drugs that are used for medicinal purposes and increase in the usage of other Psychoactive drugs which are also known as recreational substances. If this tendency is not controlled, within the upcoming 5 years, it could be predicted that there would be a high risk in the prevalence of the misuse of these drugs and it could be further stated that the majority of children and youth is able to be entrapped into the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs.

4.1 Conclusions.

- In present times, it was evident that there is a propensity of utilizing Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs without medical approval among the youth generation.
- It is able to be identified that there is a propensity of utilizing Moderate Pain killers which is used for medicinal purposes.
- in addition to the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic Drugs, Individuals who utilize Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, concurrently utilize syrups, drugs and Alcohol, and thus they can be identified as “Poly Drug Users”.
- Among the 10 districts that was studied with respect to the usage of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, it was evident that there was a high propensity of utilizing Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs in Colombo district which belongs to the Western province, Gampaha district, Kaluthara district and Kurunegala district.
- Tramadol, Diazepam, Pregabalin, Corex D, Morphine, MDMA, Rohypnol, Benzhexol, Gabapentin drugs were found to be most frequently utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs. And furthermore, it was reported that they were imported through illegal means and further reported these drugs were imported from India by sea routes.
- It was further identified that majority of the Individuals included in the sample, utilized Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs when they were accompanied with friends, for the first time.
- Moreover, it was reported that majority of the individuals included in the sample had obtained Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs through the means of their close friends.

4.2 Suggestions.

- In order to avoid the misuse of Narcotic and Psychotropic drugs, the government, Ministry of Health, National Dangerous Drugs Control Board and Non-Governmental organizations together ought to take quick actions.
- Implementing law, increasing the sieging of Pharmacies, prevailing the current authority related to the sieging of pharmacies, offering the authority and power to siege institutions implementing law, increasing the number of food and drug inspectors, offering Police officers the legal authority to siege illegal drugs.
- Canceling the license of Pharmacies who sell drugs without medical recommendations and controlling drugs which tend to have high rate of purchasing for the misuse, such as Tramadol, Morphine, Pregabalin, to be sold, to be distributed systematically and to be inspected via pharmacies.
- Sieging ought to be carried out for Drugs imported from India through illegal means, distributors of drugs through illegal means ought to be arrested and for drug traffickers, strict legal actions ought to be conducted.
- National Dangerous Drugs Control Board in collaboration with other institutions, it is ought to control the usage of drugs, and furthermore, it is significant to make awareness related to the misuse of these drugs among school children, Teachers, youth, and citizens of Sri Lanka, and to avoid the misuse it is crucial to implement leadership training programmes island wide.
- Make awareness among Pharmacists and drug importers.
- Providing counselling services, treatments and providing rehabilitation procedures for individuals who misused drugs.

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