

The Menace of Drugs

What are drugs? Why is there so much talk about them? Why do people become their victim? Are narcotics called drugs? These are some of the questions which are asked by many of us. The elders try to answer them, but not satisfactorily. In spite of many warnings of the dangers and the effects of these drugs, the number of addicts is on the increase. About 1.5 million people are said to be drug-addicts and have ruined their lives. It is an alarming situation.

The drug-addict looks pale and intoxicated. He lives in a world of fantasy, forgetting everything else. Drugs make him sleepy and depressed. His condition becomes miserable and unfit for any kind of healthy activity. Opium, heroin, marijuana, hashish are the drugs that make the addict doleful. Marijuana and hashish are dried leaves and flowers of a plant called hemp. The leaves, flowers and even stalks of this plant are smoked and sometimes chewed. Heroin is a refined form of opium, fifty times more potent than the latter.

All these intoxicants have proved damaging to health. Heroin affects the brain and damages the nerve cells. A person addicted to it can neither think clearly nor work actively. A state of drowsiness takes hold of him. He takes the drug to relieve his tension, worries, anxiety and frustration.

How are we caught in the net of drugs? Usually bad companions may offer us or a drug pusher may give it free of cost in the beginning. Sometimes, it is available in the form of a chewable stuff, like sweet '*chalia*' or '*sonf sapari*'.

Once someone falls a victim, it is very difficult for him to shake off the habit. Bright students are reduced to failure. The sole bread earners of families are ruined, unable to work and support their families. Therefore, something needs to be done for the survival and rehabilitation of the wretched wrecks living in such hopeless conditions. Even if there appears to be no hope of their survival, we must try our best to return them to normal life.

The Government has set up rehabilitation centres in the big hospitals in almost all the big cities for the treatment and rehabilitation of the addicts. The cultivation of poppy has been banned. Heroin laboratories in the tribal areas have been closed down.

We have to make people aware of the dangers of drugs by arranging seminars, speeches and walks in all the cities and towns. We have to be strong enough to refuse the offer of a stranger and stop smoking. Like other countries the advertisements of cigarettes on the electronic media and in the newspapers should be banned to save children from this temptation.

Words**Meanings**

addict	a person who is habitually given to something especially harmful.
latter	the second of the two items mentioned perviously
depress	unhappy
narcotics	any drug that induces sound sleep or laziness
intoxicant	a drug that excites so much that one loses control over oneself
drug pushers	those who deal in drugs
potent	strong
drowsiness	sleepiness
to relieve	something which eases
frustration	disappointment
menace	something which is threatening or harmful

EXERCISES**1. Choose the most appropriate answer.**

- i. One of the drugs mentioned in the lesson is
 - a) toffee.
 - b) maize.
 - c) hashish.
 - d) flower.
- ii. Drug pushers are those
 - a) who work at drug stores.
 - b) who deal in drugs.
 - c) who make drugs.
 - d) who hate drugs.
- iii. The sole bread earners of families means, the people who
 - a) feed the families.
 - b) buy bread for the family.
 - c) are the only earning members.
 - d) make bread for the family.
- iv. The effects of drugs are
 - a) encouraging.
 - b) soothing.
 - c) pleasing.
 - d) damaging.

2. Tick (✓) the right answer.

- i. Drugs are used for curing / securing diseases.
- ii. The flowers and stalks of hemp are smoked / stroked.

- iii. Drug users live in a world of fantasy / reality.
- iv. Bright students are reduced to zero / hero by using drugs.
- v. The hold of drugs is so weak / strong that one cannot get out of it.
- vi. The number of addicts is decreasing / increasing in Pakistan.
- vii. If some body offers us a cigarette we should / should not accept it.
- viii. Man is an honourable creation / discovery of this Universe.

3. Fill in the blanks with the correct preposition selected from the list given below:

to, into, for, over, of

- i. He was reluctant _____ stop smoking.
- ii. Repeated requests forced him _____ try the new experiment.
- iii. He died _____ a certain unknown disease.
- iv. We feel pity _____ the drug users.
- v. We should ponder _____ the effects of using drugs.
- vi. People become victims _____ dangerous drugs.
- vii. The craze _____ fashion should not make us smokers.
- viii. For _____ a hundred years this skeleton has been preserved.
- ix. He fell _____ a deep ditch and broke his knee.

4. Use the correct forms of the verbs.

- i. The school (is) closed last week for winter holidays.
- ii. He (offer) help to his friend but was refused politely.
- iii. Drug users are (call) addicts.
- iv. He was (catch) by the police.
- v. The good students are (like) by teachers and friends.
- vi. The students have (finish) their paintings.
- vii. People in the northern areas had (grew) fruit trees.
- viii. He came to school but (forget) to bring his books.
- ix. I (see) an owl in the dark night.
- x. Have you (do) your home work?

5. Use the following words / phrases in sentences of your own.

free of cost, bright students, in spite of, sometimes, neither, nor

7. Answer the following questions.

- i. Name three drugs or narcotics which are generally used.
- ii. Write a note of advice to your friend on the harmful effects of drugs.
- iii. What advice does the writer give at the end of the lesson?

8. Punctuate the following.

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9. Match column I with column II to complete the sentences.

Column I	Column II
The drug addict looks	sleepy and depressed.
Hashish is made from the	pale and intoxicated.
Drugs make a person	dried leaves and flowers of a plant called hemp.
Heroin is a refined form of	damaging for health.
All these intoxicants are	heroin.
The brain and nerve cells are damaged by	chewable stuff.
Drugs are also available as	opium.
The Government has set up	banned.
Cultivation of poppy has been	than health.
There is nothing more precious	rehabilitation centres.