# Children as a victim of drugs

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#### Children as victim of drugs

- Children, because of their tender age, are particularly prone to be swayed into addiction under unhealthy influences and to be used as an instrument in drug trafficking.
- The amended law makes it mandatory for the states to set up juvenile justice boards and protection homes at district levels.
- States are dragging their feet on implementation of the juvenile justice (care and protection)amendment Act,2006.

#### Introduction

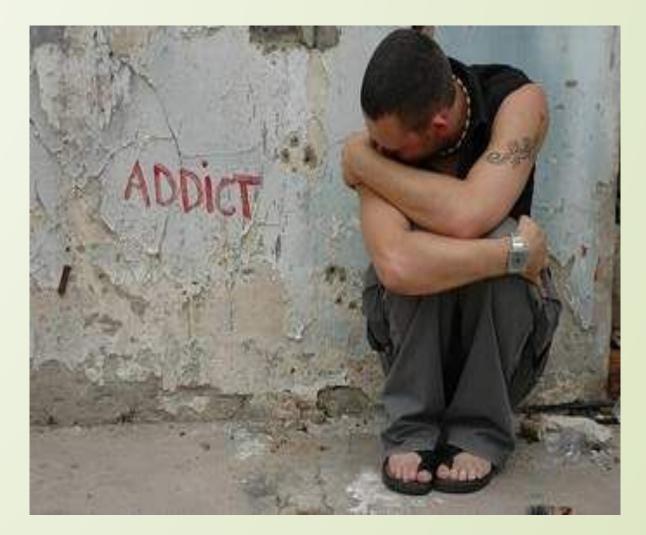
- Children who abuse drugs may have a greater risk of developing an addiction when they are adults.
- It's important to know the difference between drug abuse and addiction. Many teens experiment with drugs, but aren't addicted.
- Children abuse can have long-term cognitive and behavioral effects since the child brain is still developing.

#### Centres in India

- Delhi:Samadhan foundation against drug addiction
- Mumbai:sankalp rehabilitation centre
- Bangalore:dahalia foundation
- Kolkata :prayas de-addiction centre
- Ahmedabad:alpha healing centre

#### Punjab wages a 'war on drugs'

Drug use and dependence is high in the northern Indian state of Punjab. No official survey has been conducted but the media reports that nearly 75% of the youth in the state are affected by drug use. The issue took on political dimensions during national elections in early 2014 and the state government began a clampdown on people who use drugs, with mass arrests, seizures and interdictions under the NDPS Act. Over 14, 564 persons were arrested under the NDPS Act in a span of 8 months and more than one third of prisoners in the state are reportedly facing drug-related charges. 'Special drives' were launched against people who use drugs, who were either arrested or forced to take admission in 'de-addiction' centres



#### Funding

A National Fund for the Control of Drug Abuse was established in May 1989. Rules for its administration were notified almost twenty years later, in 2006. The fund can receive contributions from the central government, individual donors and proceeds from the sale of property forfeited from drug trafficking. Applications are screened by a governing body, which comprises a senior officer and other members appointed by the government.60 NGOs and government departments are eligible to make requests for grants for drug control activities including treatment. Preventive education and awareness on the 'ills' of drug dependence have been prioritized for funding.

| Task   | Department   | Ministry                               |
|--|--|--|
| Policy development including framing/amending the NDPS Act, Rules and notifications thereunder | Revenue  | • Finance                              |
| Policy coordination  | Narcotics Control Bureau ("NCB")   | • Home                                 |
| International drug control<br>(representation, liaison,<br>reporting etc.)                     | <ul><li>Revenue</li><li>NCB</li></ul>  | <ul><li>Finance</li><li>Home</li></ul> |
| Opium production and manufacture   | <ul> <li>Central Bureau of Narcotics</li> <li>Government Opium and Alkaloid<br/>Factories</li> <li>(both are under the Department<br/>of Revenue)</li> </ul> | • Finance                              |

#### Current legal framework

- Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985
- NDPS Amendments, 1989
- NDPS Amendments, 2001
- NDPS Amendments, 2014

### Legal acts

| Key features of the NDPS Act on treatment   | Section                       |
|---|-------------------------------|
| An "addict" is a person who is dependent on any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance   | 2 (a)                         |
| Treatment is one of the measures that the central government must take and allocate funds for, from the National Fund   | 4 (2) (d) and 7 A             |
| Drug dependent people, who are charged with consumption or an offence involving<br>a small quantity of drugs can choose to undergo treatment and be exempt from<br>prosecution  | 64 A                          |
| Instead of sentencing, courts can <i>divert</i> drug dependent people convicted for consumption or an offence involving a small quantity of drugs, to a recognized medical facility for detoxification, instead of sentencing | 39                            |
| The government (central and/or state) can set up and regulate centers for the identification, treatment and care of drug dependent people   | 71 , 76 (2) (f) and 78 (2)(b) |

