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FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ADDICTION: AN URGENT ISSUE OF MODERN SOCIETY

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Abstract

This article analyzes the negative impact of drug addiction on social development, public health, and youth education. It also discusses the prevention of drug addiction, strengthening preventive measures, improving medical and psychological rehabilitation systems, and enhancing cooperation between the state and society. The study is based on the analysis of legal documents, scientific literature, and recommendations of international organizations. The findings demonstrate that a comprehensive approach is necessary in combating drug addiction. The article also highlights the importance of educational programs, healthy lifestyle promotion, psychological support, and international cooperation in reducing the spread of drug abuse among young people.

Keywords: drug addiction, prevention, psychotropic substances, rehabilitation, healthy lifestyle, youth, law enforcement agencies.

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Introduction

Drug addiction is considered one of the most dangerous global problems of the twenty-first century, posing a serious threat to human development, social stability, and public health. Today, the increasing use of narcotic and psychotropic substances in almost all countries of the world creates not only medical but also social, economic, moral, and legal problems. In particular, the spread of drug abuse among young people negatively affects the healthy development of future generations. Youth represent the most active and promising segment of society, and their involvement in harmful habits directly influences national development and social progress.

Narcotic substances are among the most harmful agents affecting the human body. Regular consumption leads to both physical and psychological dependence. Such dependence gradually destroys a person's health and disrupts their lifestyle. Drug addiction causes serious disorders in the cardiovascular system, central nervous system, and respiratory organs. In addition, it affects mental health, leading to aggression, depression, emotional instability, and social maladjustment. In severe cases, it may result in suicide or serious criminal behavior.

The negative consequences of drug addiction are not limited to individuals alone. It also damages family relationships, causes problems in child upbringing, increases divorce rates, and intensifies economic difficulties. Drug-dependent individuals often experience reduced work productivity and decreased social activity, which negatively impacts the national economy. Furthermore, illegal drug trafficking contributes to the development of the shadow economy, transnational crime, and corruption.

In recent years, the rapid development of information technologies and internet networks has created new forms of illegal drug distribution. Social media platforms, messaging applications, and hidden online networks are increasingly used for drug trafficking, making this issue more complex and dangerous.

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Therefore, combating drug addiction requires not only traditional methods but also modern digital monitoring and preventive mechanisms.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, combating drug addiction has become one of the priority directions of state policy. Large-scale reforms are being implemented to prevent illegal drug trafficking, strengthen preventive measures among youth, improve narcological services, and develop rehabilitation systems. Laws, state programs, and preventive measures aimed at preventing and treating drug addiction are being gradually improved.

At the same time, international experience shows that strengthening punitive measures alone is insufficient to solve the problem of drug addiction. Effective prevention requires educational campaigns, moral and psychological support, family supervision, and active public participation. Organizing meaningful leisure activities for young people, involving them in sports and cultural activities, and promoting a healthy lifestyle are among the most effective ways to prevent drug abuse.

The main purpose of this article is to scientifically analyze the negative impact of drug addiction on society, examine its social and legal consequences, and identify effective mechanisms for combating drug addiction. The article also develops scientific and practical recommendations aimed at strengthening preventive measures, improving medical and psychological rehabilitation systems, and enhancing cooperation between government institutions and the public.

Research Methodology

The research was conducted using methods such as analysis of scientific literature, examination of legal and regulatory documents, and comparative analysis. In particular, the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan related to combating drug addiction, presidential decrees, and recommendations of international organizations, including the United Nations and the World Health Organization, were studied.

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In addition, scientific articles, statistical data, and expert opinions related to the topic were analyzed. Based on theoretical and legal sources, the main directions of combating drug addiction were identified and clarified.

Research Results

The analysis shows that drug addiction is one of the main factors negatively affecting human health and social life. Drug abuse leads to cardiovascular diseases, mental disorders, weakened immunity, and increased infectious diseases. Long-term addiction also damages psychological stability and causes social isolation.

Drug addiction negatively affects family relationships as well. Parents suffering from addiction may fail to provide proper upbringing for their children, which can increase juvenile delinquency and social problems. Moreover, drug addiction causes serious economic damage. Treatment costs, reduced workforce productivity, and increased crime rates adversely affect the national economy.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, several legal and regulatory acts have been adopted to combat drug addiction. In particular, measures are being implemented to improve prevention and rehabilitation systems based on the Law “On Prevention and Treatment of Drug Addiction Diseases.” State programs aimed at developing narcological services and expanding rehabilitation centers have also been introduced.

However, strengthening punitive measures alone cannot completely eliminate the problem of drug addiction. International experience demonstrates that prevention, educational campaigns, and psychological assistance systems play a significant role in addressing this issue effectively.

Discussion

One of the most important directions in combating drug addiction is strengthening preventive activities. Educational institutions should regularly conduct awareness

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programs about healthy lifestyles and the harmful consequences of addiction. Organizing spiritual and educational events, seminars, and training sessions among young people can produce effective results.

In addition, the effective use of mass media and social networks is of great importance. Modern information technologies can be used to promote healthy lifestyles and raise awareness among youth.

Another important issue is the development of medical and psychological rehabilitation systems. Drug-dependent individuals should not only receive treatment but also be socially rehabilitated, provided with vocational training, and supported psychologically.

Furthermore, cooperation between law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, medical organizations, and local community structures should be strengthened. Since drug addiction is a global problem, developing cooperation with international organizations is also highly important.

Conclusion

In conclusion, drug addiction is one of the major global problems threatening human health, social stability, and national development. The increasing use of narcotic and psychotropic substances negatively affects not only individuals' physical and mental health but also family relationships, social environments, economic development, and crime rates. The widespread prevalence of drug addiction among young people particularly threatens the health and intellectual potential of future generations.

The research findings indicate that strengthening legal responsibility and punitive measures alone is insufficient in combating drug addiction effectively. It is necessary to comprehensively develop prevention systems, educational campaigns, medical and psychological support, and social assistance programs. In particular, promoting healthy lifestyles in educational institutions and organizing sports and cultural activities for youth are important preventive

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measures. In addition, individuals suffering from drug addiction should not be isolated from society but should instead receive treatment, psychological support, and social rehabilitation to help them return to healthy lives. Improving rehabilitation centers, training qualified specialists, and implementing modern treatment methods are among the key priorities in this field.

Moreover, cooperation among government institutions, educational organizations, medical institutions, law enforcement agencies, and civil society should be strengthened. The active participation of local communities, youth organizations, and mass media can significantly increase the effectiveness of preventive activities. Modern information technologies and social media platforms should also be used for large-scale awareness campaigns.

International experience demonstrates that interstate cooperation is essential in combating drug trafficking and drug addiction because illegal drug trade has a transnational character. Therefore, strengthening collaboration with international organizations, exchanging experience, and implementing joint programs are necessary.

Overall, combating drug addiction requires a comprehensive and systematic approach. Harmonizing legal, medical, moral, and social measures can reduce the level of drug addiction in society, protect young people from harmful habits, and contribute to the formation of a healthy and well-developed generation. In this regard, combating drug addiction remains an important responsibility for government agencies, public organizations, educational institutions, and every member of society.

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