

DRUGS, A THREAT TO THE YOUTH OF GOA

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Abstract: Article 47 of our Constitution inter alia provides, ".... the improvement of public health as among its primary duties and in particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medical purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health.

Keyword: Threat, Constitution, medical, psychotropic.

INTRODUCTION

Supreme Court has interpreted Article 21 to cover life with normal amenities ensuring good living which include medical attention, life free from diseases and longevity upto normal expectations. Illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is a direct threat to the health and good living of the people in our country.

Drugs in the form of medicines are directly concerned to the health of the people and specially the ill and the ailing. These drugs save lives and reduce human sufferings. Legislations have therefore, been made world over to regulate their import, production, distribution, pricing and advertisements. But the traditional term, 'drug' during the course of the last decade, has assumed another meaning and presently, when the term drug is used, the usual connotations, is a dangerous narcotic drug. Therefore, legislations, have also been made in most of the countries to control production, sale and possession of narcotic habit forming and psychotropic drug to protect people from misuse of such dangerous drugs and substances.

The use of such drugs is increasing day by day causing serious threat to the health of the users. Besides, health and welfare, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, has posed besides health problems, a serious threat to the national economy also.

The use that is attempted to be controlled by the legislations passed is generally narcotic, psychotropic and recreational use of such drugs, since many of them, often have medicinal effects. These drugs, by the generally accepted definition, have the effect of altering the state of the body and mind by their consumption. There is vast variety of types of drugs divided upon several parameters including the source of derivation (plant based or otherwise), effect (narcotic, psychotropic, hallucinogens, etc) and usage (medicinal, recreational or others). Effects, apart from the usual medicinal effects include increased risk of infection by diseases such as transmission of H.I.V. and a linking between drug usage and violent crime, since the highly addicted nature of drugs induces people to utilise any means possible to ensure continuous supply of them. The first and foremost requirement is that drug trafficking in recognised a crime

against humanity and international community, so that drug traffickers are not able to use sovereignty, as a barrier to shield themselves and the evidence of their crime from detection. Therefore, international co-operation is essential in matters of extradition and mutual legal assistance, investigation, detection, evidence collection, prosecution, etc.

The investigation, prosecution, and suppression of crime for the protection of the citizen and the maintenance of peace and public order is an important goal of all organised societies. The transnational criminal organisations and drug barons involved in this highly profitable trade, operate with such sophistication, that new legal tools and novel enforcement mechanism, cutting across domestic law boundaries, would be required to effectively combat the drug menace.

It has to be recognised that the links between illicit drug trafficking and other related organised criminal activities, are too strong and it has already become an international activity. Therefore, eradication of illicit traffic is the collective responsibility of all States to that end, co-ordination action within the framework of international co-operation is necessary.

Thus, co-operation encounter narcotics law enforcement, mechanism is an absolute necessity. This is more so because, resources of many Governmental agencies committed to prevent the spread of narcotics' use and abuse, are far less than the resources of those trafficking organisations, which are engaged in this illicit trade. Very often, it has been observed that drug trafficking organisations become terrorist outfits or affiliate and identify with such outfits that are well armed and fully equipped and as such, unleash terrorist violence. The growing phenomenon of drug trafficking poses another problem for developing countries. It increases burden on the criminal justice administration system, which means that higher financial resources have to be allocated towards this at the cost of developmental activities. Also because of its concealed activities and operations, often too camouflaged to be noticed, the business operators may develop access and nexus to the highest level in the political power structure. The temptations and

allurements may become too strong to be resistant and thus, a serious dimension of corruption may erupt. Drug trafficking groups utilise new techniques in two ways; firstly, to improve the efficiency of product delivery and distribution through the medium of secure and instant communication, and secondly, to protect themselves and their illicit operations from investigation by drug law enforcement agencies.

Undoubtedly, therefore, the future trends may generate expansion in drug related crimes. To meet these new challenges, the drugs law enforcement agencies, will have to develop new forms of co-operation, new strategies, and new professional skills, all of which have vital resource implications.

Control over narcotic drugs in India and the law

The legislative control over narcotic drugs has been exercised in India through a number of Central and State enactments. The principal Central Acts, namely, the Opium Act, 1857, the Opium Act, 1878, and the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930, were enacted long time ago. The Opium Acts of 1857 and 1878, were mainly aimed to consolidate and amend the laws relating to cultivation of poppy and manufactured opium. The main reasons of passing of these Acts, were that contracts between the agents of opium and agriculturists were oppose to the policy laid down by the Government for the purpose. These Acts were made applicable to the whole of India. Initially, the Act of 1930, exercise controls over plants such as opium, hemp, cannabis and their alkaloids and salts such as morphine, cocaine, ecgonine, etc. In course of them, newer substances developed specially, psychotropic drugs and substances. These drugs and substances found a ready market in the narcotic world. Although the Central Government and every State in the country, has its own enforcement machinery, for exercising strict control over such drugs, even then, in the recent past, illicit drug trafficking, and drug abuse at national and international level, increased considerably. Drugs are coming across the border especially from the Pakistan border. Heroin originating in South West Asia is brought into India through areas like Ferozepur and Amritsar districts in Punjab, and Jaisalmer and Warmer in Rajasthan. Charas, brown sugar, smack, and similar other stuff, are brought into India from or through Singapore, Bangkok and Hongkong. Burma and Afghanistan are also suitable for such trafficking and Nepal is the main source of 'ganja'. The existing law was not adequate enough to deal with the situation and many deficiencies were also found. Some important deficiencies were:

- (A) The scheme of penalties was not sufficiently deterrent to meet the challenge of well organised gangs of smugglers
- (B) Laws did not provide for investigating officers with the power of investigation of offences.
- (C) The laws in existence were not covering all international conventions and obligations to deal with the matter.
- (D) New drugs known as 'psychotropic substances' were not sufficiently covered under the laws which were in operation.

Accordingly, repealing all the three earlier Acts, a comprehensive legislation on narcotic drugs and

psychotropic substances, was passed in 1985, hereinafter called the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, (1985 as amended in 1988).

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The primary object of the study is to find out whether there is an increase in the offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act in the State of Goa. The other objectives are as follows :

1. To explore various provisions of NDPS Act dealing with narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
2. To examine the role of NDPS Court in awarding the punishment under NDPS Act.
3. To find out various drugs that are prohibited under NDPS Act their impact on the human body.
4. To offer certain suggestions based on the research.

Hypothesis :

Though several laws deal with drug related crimes, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, is a major legislation in controlling drug related crimes in India. Even though NDPS Act provides stringent provisions for using, consuming, distribution and selling drugs, there is a steady increase in the offences under the NDPS Act. The increase in number of cases under NDPS may be attributed to ineffectiveness of the law enforcement agencies. Further, faulty investigation resulted in many acquittals.

Scope :

The area of study is restricted to the district of North Goa and the researcher is mainly concerned with the increase in the number of cases under the NDPS Act, reason for such increase, and the number of persons acquitted for the mentioned year, i.e. 2006 to 2012.

Methodology :

The data for the purpose of the study was collected primarily by two sources, i.e. primary and secondary sources.

Primary sources : Primary data was collected from the records of the concerned authorities. Further, the empirical data was collected directly from the records of the court and both structured and unstructured interviews. Data was also collected by using structured questionnaire.

Secondary sources : Secondary data was collected through books, text books, magazines, newspapers, websites, case laws, law journals.

PROBLEMS OF NARCOTICS IN GOA :

The main problem faced by the youth in Goa, is the addiction of drugs, which is due to the influence of the western culture. The foreign tourists come to India, and visit specially Goa to intoxicate themselves with drugs, as they are easily available along the coastal belts. The youth along the coastal belt are unemployed and normally school dropouts, and therefore, get carried away with the easy money they get from drug dealing, as a result of which most of them choose to become drug dealers. The health conditions of the youth today, is deteriorating from bad to worse, due to the

excessive use of narcotic drugs. The youth mingle around with the foreigners and contact various diseases including S.T.D., AIDS, etc. In the last few years, a number of youth and many foreign tourists along the coastal belt have died either due to AIDS or due to consumption of overdose of drugs. There are instances where they have also died by committing suicide as their state of mind has been altered due to excessive consumption of drugs. This is basically due to the fact that the parents are employed out of the country, leaving their children at the mercy of the grandparents or boarding schools, who have little control over them.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY :

Goa is a State which covers an area of about 3702 square kilometres, and has a coastal belt of 104 kilometers, and consist of two revenue districts, i.e. North Goa and South Goa, and is popular as a tourist spot on the world map. Goa is blessed with natural beauty and is achieving new heights in social, economic and industrial developments. Goa has monuments of historical significance and has a culture which is a blend of the east and the west. Goa is blessed with wonderful beaches which are idyllic beauty spots and attracts millions of tourists every year. There are churches which are famous for their unique architectural styles and temples with their century old traditions, have attracted tourists in large numbers, as a result of which tourism is boosted. Today, Goa is become a major paradise for the drug addicts and consumers, as majority of the foreign tourists come to Goa to intoxicate themselves with drugs on the wonderful beaches in Goa. Basically, the narcotic drugs find their way to Goa from places like Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Kashmir, and also from foreign countries by hood winking the drug enforcement agencies. The reason for the tourists to live in the coastal areas, is because the drug trade is clandestinely flourishing in these areas. In Goa today, we have various law enforcement agencies which enforce the N.D.P.S. Act as a Special Act. The Goa Anti-Narcotics Cell is established in the year, 1985, and it has independent Police Station constituted on 21st April, 1994. The jurisdiction of the anti-Narcotics Cell is all over Goa. The main idea of constituting the Anti-Narcotics Cell in Goa is to eradicate the drug menace. There is also a Special N.D.P.S. Court constituted for the purpose of providing speedy trial of the offences under the Act. The scope of the study is to find out how effective the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic substances Act, is in the State of Goa. The main objective of the enactment of the N.D.P.S. Act, 1985, was because the earlier Acts enacted were outdated and found to be inefficient in curbing the drug menace. Stringent provisions have been made in the Act as the drug abuse has caused undue damage to the society.

In the next chapter, we shall see the various types of drugs and the effects and we shall also critically analyse the Act.

MISUSE AND ABUSE OF DRUGS :

Today, the misuse and abuse of drugs is become a social problem. Drug trafficking today, has not only affected the economy of the country but the illicit money generated from drug trafficking is utilised for illicit activities including

encouragement of terrorism. On the other hand, drug addiction eats into the vitals of the society. There is no doubt that the drug trafficking, trading, and its use is global phenomenon and has acquired the dimensions of an epidemic and affects the economic policies of the State, it corrupts the system and is detrimental to the future of the society. It has a tremendous adverse effect, thereby creating a sick society and harmful culture. Anti-drug justice is a criminal dimension of social justice. The United Nations Convention against illicit trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in Vienna, Austria, in 1988, was perhaps, one of the first efforts at an international level to tackle the menace of drug trafficking throughout the world. The Convention has been ratified by the Government of India. In Goa, due to the easy availability of drugs and psychotropic substances, drug abuse is going on at an alarming rate, as most of the people in the coastal areas are dealing in the drug trade.

HISTORY OF DRUG ADDICTION :

Narcotic drugs have been discovered from over 4000 B.C. in various countries and are used in various ways. In South and Central America, Indians made pre-historic discovery of drug-bearing plants. Two of these plants contain alkaloids of world importance that have become modern drugs, they are cocaine and quinine. Pre-Columbian Mexicans used many substances, from tobacco and some plant that were used for mind expanding (hallucinogenic) in their medical collection. Another fascinating substance that was used was the sacred mushrooms that were used in the religious ceremonies to induce alert state of mind.

Next came the era, i.e. from 1485-1547, in which the natural substances were used and there was no refinement of the substance, i.e. a specific term called Drugs for the substance was not used.

Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), the Austrian Psychoanalyst, noted the numbing effect of the drugs. He called this to the attention of the Clinical Pharmacologist, Carl Koller, who introduced cocaine as a local anaesthetic into surgical procedures.

But it is only in the 19th century A.D., that the active substance in drugs were extracted. During this time, newly discovered drugs like morphine, Laudanum, cocaine, were not regulated by law. They were prescribed freely by physicians for a wide variety of ailments. They were available on patient medical stores and sold by travelling tinkers, and in drug stores. During the American civil war, morphine was used freely, and wounded veterans returned home with their kit of morphine and hypodermic needles. In the 19th century, the abuse of opium reached its peak in Asia and from there spread to the west. By the early 1900's, there was a report that estimated 2,50,000 addicts of opium in the United States.

The problem of addiction of drugs was recognized gradually. Legal measures against drug abuse in the United States was first established in 1875. In this year, opium was outlawed in San Francisco. The first drug law was the Pure Food and Drug Act, 1906, which required accurate labelling of patient medicines containing opium and certain other drugs.

In 1914, the sale of cocaine was forbidden, except a substantial dose could be sold by licensed doctors and pharmacies. In this year itself, heroin was totally banned. The SC of United States decision, in the case of [United States v. Jin Fuey Moy – 241 U.S. 394 (1916)] made it illegal for doctors to prescribe narcotic drugs to addicts and many doctors who prescribed these as a part of an addiction treatment were jailed, and soon, all attempts were made to remove use of drugs at treatment. The use of narcotic and cocaine diminished by 1920's.

By 1930s, most States were given anti-drug education in schools, but there was a fear that its knowledge would lead to experimentation, as a result such education was cancelled in most places. In the 1950's, use of marijuana increased, along with that of amphetamines and tranquilizers.

President Nixon of U.S. proposed the Comprehensive Drug Abuse and Control Act of 1970, which ranked addictive drugs according to their dangerous character and applied restriction to the highest categories. There were 5 schedules that were adopted. The 1st schedules were reserved for the drugs which were more dangerous in nature and which were without any accepted medical use. These were given severe liability for abuse. The drugs that were included in this schedule were marijuana, heroin and L.S.D.

In the year, 1980's, there was a decline in the use of most drugs, but cocaine and crack, use increased. By 1970, over 55 federal drug laws were passed which specified various measures, including life imprisonment and even death penalty for offenders in drug crimes, the severest penalty was reserved for illicit distribution and manufacture of drugs. The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, and 1988, increased funding for treatment and rehabilitation. Drug laws have always kept pace with the changing perceptions of the society.

TYPES OF DRUGS:

Drug bearing plants are of three types, they are cannabis (hemp) plant, coca plant and opium poppy plant.

THE CANNABIS PLANT

Cannabis (hemp) plant means any plant of the genus Cannabis. This is a tall widely cultivated Asian herb (Cannabis Sativa of the family Cannabaceae, the Hemp family) that has a tough bast fiber, which is used in the making of ropes or cords. The resin of this plant is separated to form a widely used drug called Charas. The separated resin may be in whatever form whether crude or purified. The concentrated preparation of this resin is known as Hashish oil or liquid Hashish. The dried leaves and the flowering or fruiting tops of this plant is also a widely used drug called Ganja or also called as Marijuana. The pistillate part of the plant yield THC which is a psychoactive substance which causes the drug effect.

THE COCA PLANT:

Coca plant means the plant of the species of the genus Erythroxylon of the family Erythroxylaceae. This is an American shrub. The leaves of this plant are used in the

manufacture of drugs such as Cocaine, Ecgonine, etc.

Cocaine is extracted from the leaves of coca plant. Crude cocaine is used either directly or indirectly. The other uses of cocaine are that it is used medically in the form of its hydrochlorides. In medicine, it is used as a topical anaesthetic, this treatment of using cocaine is called cocaize. The chemical formula of cocaine is $C_{17}H_{21}NO_4$. Cocaine is a bitter substance containing alkaloids and after it is processed, it is found in a crystalline state.

Ecgonine is another drug that is prepared from the leaf extracts of the coca plant.

Opium poppy plant means the plant of the species Papaversomniferum. It is a plant from which opium or any phenanthrene alkaloid can be extracted. Crude opium means the coagulated juice of opium poppy plant. Opium is also used as a medicine, this is called as medical opium. It is a brownish narcotic drug. Opium is also transferred into an extra suitable form for smoking. All the parts of the poppy plant are used. After harvesting, it is used in the original form or they are cut, crushed or powdered, whether or not juice has been extracted from it. These components in all the above mentioned form are called as 'poppy straw'.

Some of the other drugs produced from opium poppy plant are morphine, codeine and heroin. Morphine is a bitter crystalline base with a chemical formula $C_{17}H_{19}NO_3$, that is the principal alkaloid of opium and is used in the form of soluble salts. It is phenanthrene alkaloid. It is used as an analgesic (insensibility to pain without loss of consciousness) and sedative.

Codeine is a morphine derivative with a chemical formula $C_{18}H_{21}NO_3 \cdot H_2O$ that is found in opium, and is weaker in action than morphine, and is used as an analgesic (insensibility to pain without loss of consciousness) and antitussive (a cough suppressant).

Heroin is a strong physiologically addictive narcotic drug with the chemical formula of $C_{12}H_{23}NO_5$ that is made by Acetylation. It is more potent than morphine, and therefore, is prohibited for medical use. It is more used for its euphoric (a feeling of wellbeing or elation effect). It is a diamorphine alkaloid.

Psychotropic substances are substances which are naturally synthetic or any natural material or any salt or preparation of such substances. It includes Barbitol Camazepam, cathine, etc.

In addition to these, there are numerous local substances that are used. They are glue, paint thinners, correction fluid, felt tip, markers fluid, gasoline, etc. These are inhaled to produce the drug effects.

PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES:

"Psychotropic substance" means any substance, natural or synthetic, or any natural material or any salt or preparation of such substance or material included in the list of psychotropic substance specified in the schedule.

These psychotropic drugs work by altering the normal functioning of the body, i.e. they speed up some of the processes, slow down some of them and even dampen them up. This is the reason why a large number of side effects occur with the use of psychotropic drugs. In addition to the side effects, there are various diseases and problems that are

caused by the use of such psychotropic drugs. Like a car run on rocket fuel, you may be able to get it to run a thousand miles an hour to the end of the block, but the tyres, the engine and the internal parts fly apart in doing so.

Effects on the body :

Psychotropic drugs generally may cause bodily effects such as nausea, dry mouth, constipation, diarrhea, vomiting, decreased appetite and weight loss leading to anorexia (eating disorder), fatigue, dizziness, sleepiness, tremors, increased sweating, hot flashes, blurred vision and sexual dysfunction.

Effects on the brain :

Mental effects include anxiety, agitation, panic attacks, insomnia, nightmares, trembling, exhaustion, irritability, hostility, impulsiveness, aggressiveness and urge to move about restlessly, associated with an inner mental agitation that can lead to violence and outright psychotic mania.

STAGES OF DRUG USE :

There are several stages of drug use that may lead to dependence. Young people seem to move more quickly through the stages than do adults.

Experimental use : typically involves peers, done for recreational use, the user may enjoy defying parents or other authority figures.

Regular use : the user misses more and more school or work; worries about losing drug source; uses drugs to “fix” negative feelings, begins to stay away from friends and family; may change friends to those who are regular users; shows increased tolerance and ability to “handle” the drug.

Daily preoccupation : the user loses any motivation, does not care about school and work, has obvious behaviour changes, thinking about drug use is more important than all other interests, including relationships, the user becomes secretive, may begin dealing drugs to help support habit, use of other, harder drugs may increase, legal problems may increase.

Dependence : cannot face daily life without drugs, denies problem, physical condition gets worse, loss of “control” over use, may become suicidal, financial and legal problems get worse, may have broken ties with family members or friends.

CAUSES FOR NARCOTIC DRUG ADDICTION :

There are numerous reasons for drug addiction. The most common for today is the lack of attention that is faced by the person. In addition to this, there are other reasons such as absence of parental love in the family, degrading of values in the society, peer pressure, the imitation of the western world, the growing competition and stress in life are other common reasons that are seen among the addicts.

Excessive use of pain killers can also be another cause for drug addiction. People who use drugs for pain relief may become dependent, although this is rare in those who don't have a history of addiction.

Peer pressure can also lead to drug use or abuse, but at least half of those who become addicted have depression,

attention deficit disorder, anxiety disorders and schizophrenia, post-traumatic stress disorder, or another mental health problem.

Other reasons may be having a low self-esteem, problems with relationships, living a stressful lifestyle, living in a culture where there is a high social acceptance of drug use, etc.

Poverty is another factor that get people involved in drugs transportation and drug business. Hence, drugs are made available any where. Increase in tourism that leads to transportation of drugs and drug dealing, hence, easy availability may lead to its use or abuse. As a result of increase in population, there is scarcity of jobs and people get involved in drug transportation business. Sometimes, as it is the business of the community and no other job is available, people may be forced into it.

Children who grow up in an environment of illicit drug use, may first see their parents using drugs. This may put them at a higher risk for developing an addiction later in life for both environmental and genetic reasons.

To cater to this dangerous nature of narcotic drugs, there is a great need to regulate the activities relating to narcotic drugs. Their production cannot be totally barred because of their medical nature. Hence, there are various legislations that have been passed from time to time.

CONCLUSION :

Drug addiction is a global concern today. Millions of people all around the world are trapped in this vicious circle of drug addiction. 26th June is celebrated as the International Day against drug abuse and illicit traffic, every year. The purpose of this is to make the people aware of the menace of drug addiction.

Goa, which once attracted tourists from all parts of the world, for its scenic beauty, flora and fauna, has today become famous for other reasons. Goa, has been attaining the notoriety of being a haven or the international drug lords, who have found Goa as a paradise to transact the clandestine drug trafficking.

Drugs are easily available in the coastal belt at a very cheap price due to existence of many competitors in the fray. Drugs like charas, find their way to the Goan markets from the neighbouring parts of Nepal and Himachal Pradesh. These drugs once taken across the international boundaries to foreign destinations, fetch ten times more than the domestic market price, making the business more lucrative and worth the risk.

Drug offenders once intercepted get away from the long hands of the law due to faulty investigations carried out by the investigating agencies, either because of faulty investigations being done or due to ignorance of the law. The investigating agencies are compensated suitably by the drug lords, in turn, for going soft on investigations, leading to high acquittal rate.

There are numerous reasons for drug addiction. The most common for today, is the lack of attention that is faced by the person. In addition to this, there are other reasons, such as absence of parental love in the family, degrading of values in the society, peer pressure, the imitation of the western world, the growing competition and stress in life, are the

other common reasons that are seen among the addicts. Excessive use of pain killers can also be another cause of drug addiction.

Drug addiction started as a casual use among the addicts, but later takes the form of addiction. Initially, it starts with minute quantities and keeps on increasing until the addict cannot face daily life without the drug. The increasing use of drug addiction leads to various problems in the life of the addict, and not just the addict, but also the family members of the addict. There is a high chance of addicted person being affected by diseases such as HIV/AIDS, and Hepatitis, etc., as some of these drugs are taken by the use of a needle. In addition to these, drug abuse has also led to the increase in crime rates as drugs impair judgement urging a drug addict to commit crimes and also to cause fatal accidents.

To cater to these problems of drug abuse, there were various laws enacted from time to time. In the year, 1857, there was the Opium Act passed to deal with the problems of drug abuse. In the year, 1878, another Act also called the Opium Act of 1878, was passed. Then, the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1930, was passed. But, finally, to cater to the loopholes that were left out by the Dangerous Act, 1930, the N.D.P.S. Act, 1985, was passed, which the present legislation is relating to narcotic drug laws in India. In addition to this, there are various other legislations, that are formed to control drug abuse.

The Act covers offences that are committed under drug abuse and illicit traffic of drugs. It extends to the whole of India and there are special courts that have been constituted under this Act. In Goa, there is special N.D.P.S. Court, which has been constituted under the Act and located in Mapusa, North Goa, which tries all cases relating to drug abuse and illicit traffic of drugs. In Goa, there has been drastic increase in drug crime, as a result the life of the community has been disturbed to a large extent.

SUGGESTIONS:

Proper training need to be imparted to the investigation agencies by skilled and efficient training personnel, so as to achieve a higher conviction rate.

Increase in number of officers in the Anti-Narcotic Cell and creation of more police stations, along the coastal belt exclusively for handling drug related offences.

Since the drug business is flourishing because of corrupt investigation agencies, it is essential that officers of high integrity should be inducted in the narcotics department.

Due to considerable loss of time and effort in forwarding samples for analysis to Central Forensic Laboratory, Hyderabad, alternatively, Central Forensic Laboratory in Goa, would be most appropriate.

Goa being a tourist State, the Government need to keep a close check on the people who are frequently visiting leaving the State of Goa, specially foreigners.

Instances have come to light where the investigating agencies have been fabricating false cases by implanting drugs on innocent victims, for the purpose of extorting money, most being foreigners and rich kids. Therefore, it is felt necessary that officers of upright integrity, should be recruited in the Narcotics department.

There must be creation of awareness among the people, living in the beach areas about the ill effects of drugs on the human body and how it can disrupt the life of a human being. Awareness need be created by NGOs and through Legal Aid Cells, etc.

There must be creation of legislations for the medical practitioners. They should seldom and in the rarest cases, made to use these drugs that are habit forming.

The addict who is convicted or acquitted, has to be made to undergo treatment for drug addiction. The time spent for treatment should include the period of sentence.

The education system should be so oriented that also plants morals in the children and not only competition, as the entire society faces its major problem due to degrading morals in the society.

Due to the growing menace of drugs in the Goan society, the crime rate is increasingly at an alarming rate. If not checked and brought under control in time, there could be drug wars in Goa, and Goa would not be a safe place to live in. Therefore, drug laws need to be more stringent for a better tomorrow.

Drug addiction may be conceptualised as crime without victim i.e. the addict himself is the victim who becomes a prey of its misuse. This devastating melody is eroding the roots of social, economic and cultural fibre of the Goan society. It gives rise to criminality and criminal behaviour which eventually leads to social disorganisation.

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