
THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN DRUG ABUSE AND CRIME: AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON BEHAVIOURAL AND SOCIAL INFLUENCES

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ABSTRACT

Recent news reports from 2024 have illustrated the severe impact of drug consumption on individuals, noting that large quantities of drugs have been illegally imported into India and will likely continue to be sold illegally in the future. This paper is a study examining the relationship between drug use and crime, highlighting how this has become a significant problem among both adults and youth. Many individuals are struggling with the harmful habit of drug consumption, which leads to mental health issues, financial loss, and other serious consequences. Since the youth are the future of the country, they must maintain good mental and physical health.

The authors examine the link between crime and drug use. Drug use leads to offenses such as domestic violence and driving under the influence. It is also connected to road accidents, date rapes, and drug trafficking. Furthermore, some narcotic-based medicines are illegally sold in the market. Various laws and regulations exist to address these drug-related offenses.

An empirical study was conducted in which the author examined three hypotheses present in the literature: (1) drug abuse causes criminal behaviour, (2) there is a relationship between drug abuse and criminal activities, and (3) minors are not influenced by drugs and drug culture.

A survey consisting of 12 questions was conducted in Seelampur starting December 25th, 2024 and ran for about a month, garnering approximately 100 responses, primarily from individuals aged 18 to 24. The findings supported hypotheses (1) and (2), confirming a connection between drug abuse and criminal behaviour. However, hypothesis (3) was rejected, indicating that minors are also significantly affected by Drugs.

Keywords: Drug abuse, criminal behaviour, Illegal sale of Narcotics, minor

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CHAPTER 1: DRUGS, SOCIETY, AND CRIME: AN INTRODUCTORY ANALYSIS

Any substance other than a food item used to avert, diagnose, treat, or ease symptoms of a disease or abnormal condition is known as a drug. Drugs can also influence how a person's brain and the rest of the body works and causes changes in his/her awareness, mental picture, emotional state, feelings, or actions. Some types of drugs, such as opioids, Methamphetamine, and Cannabis, may lead to addiction and abuse.

1.1 Relation between drugs and crime

Crime is a prevalent issue in India. According to an inspection of crime rates worldwide (2024), India ranks 79th among 197 countries. Additionally, the Global Organized Crime Index, which measures levels of organized crime in various nations, places India at 61st among 193 countries.⁴

The relationship between drugs and crime is complex. First, it is illegal to purchase, use, possess, manufacture, or distribute illegal drugs such as cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. Additionally, the misuse of legal substances can also be linked to criminal activity. For example, prescription drug abuse may lead to various crimes, including prescription forgery, illegal online pharmacies, and drug theft. Furthermore, drugs can indirectly influence crime through their effects on users' behaviour and their association with violence and other illegal activities related to their production, distribution, acquisition, or consumption.⁵

Alcohol exacerbates interpersonal tensions and heightens the likelihood of violent action among drinkers and others; expressive murders are characterised by the manifestation of emotions and psychological states. Emotional states such as rage, frustration, and hatred are believed to drive an individual to commit expressive murders. In this context, alcohol is identified as the significant component contributing to emotional loss and instability,

⁴ Latest crime rate report of India 2024, State Wise Crime Rate UPSC Adda247, <https://www.adda247.com/upsc-exam/crime-rate/#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20National%20Crime,followed%20by%20robbery%20and%20assault> (last visited July 19, 2025).

⁵ Drug addiction and crime Legal Service India - Law, Lawyers and Legal Resources, <https://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-2844-drug-addiction-and-crime.html#:~:text=Drugs%20also%20impact%20crime%20indirectly,%2C%20distribution%2C%20acquisition%20or%20consumption.&text=In%20this%20case%20the%20two%20accused%20and%20the%20victim%20were%20drug%20addicts>. (last visited July 19, 2025)

ultimately resulting in crimes of passion. A national study including 16,698 convicts revealed that alcohol played a more significant influence in violent crimes, including homicide, physical assaults, and sexual assaults, than in property crimes such as burglary and robbery. Alcohol, aggression, and violence: From public health to neuroscience *Frontiers in psychology*⁶

Also, poverty tends to aggravate illegal activities, and unemployment results in financial difficulty and reduces social integration, thereby making the unemployed more susceptible to crime. Similarly, inequality breeds resentment because of the uneven distribution of resources and may drive criminal behaviour in some individuals.⁷

A significant proportion of incarcerated individuals are drug users, as indicated by a study conducted in Tihar Prison, New Delhi (the largest prison in India, housing over 11,000 inmates), which revealed that 8% of new admissions were substance dependent, with the majority (76%–82%) identifying heroin as their primary drug of choice between 1997 and 2000. A separate research from a study including 466 convicts in Delhi, Mumbai, and Punjab revealed that 63% of participants had taken illicit narcotics at least once in their lifetime. Media estimates indicate that approximately 47% of convicts in 25 jails in Punjab were identified as 'addicted to drugs' during a special initiative focused on 'screening prisoners for drug use' in 2022.⁸

This shows a clear relationship between crime and drug consumption. Engaging in crime not only leads to poor physical health and various health issues but also negatively affects one's mental health. The use of drugs can develop anger issues, which are often manifested in a person's actions, ultimately resulting in criminal behaviour.

1.2 Impact on adults and youth:

Drugs are ubiquitous, with individuals ingesting them openly and without apprehension over their potential health consequences. Currently, no region of the globe is exempt from

⁶ Alcohol, aggression, and violence: From public health to neuroscience *Frontiers in psychology*, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8729263/> (last visited Nov 10, 2024) (last visited July 19, 2025)

⁷ Drug addiction and crime Legal Service India - Law, Lawyers and Legal Resources, <https://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-2844-drug-addiction-and-crime.html> (last visited July 19, 2025)

⁸ 47 per cent inmates in Punjab jails addicted to drugs *The New Indian Express*, <https://www.newindianexpress.com/thesundaystandard/2022/aug/07/47-per-cent-inmates-in-punjab-jails-addicted-to-drugs-2484827.html> (last visited July 20, 2025)

the scourge of drug trafficking and substance dependence. Millions of drug users globally endure wretched existences, teetering between life and death. The use, misuse, or abuse of drugs is contingent upon the characteristics of the substance, the individual's personality, and their immediate environment. Drug misuse is a complex phenomenon with various social, cultural, physical, environmental, and economic dimensions. The disintegration of the traditional joint family structure, lack of parental affection and attention in dual-income households, and the rejection of longstanding moral norms contribute to an increase in teenage drug addiction, as individuals resort to substances to escape harsh realities.

The United Nations has found that 13 percent of drug abuse victims in India are below the age of 20.⁹ the country attributes widespread drug abuse among the adolescent population to poor socioeconomic conditions, like unemployment, violence, sexual abuse, and exploitation.

The worldwide context in which tobacco consumption continues to pose a major public health issue. India ranks as the second largest tobacco consumer worldwide, with around one-fourth of its adult population engaging in tobacco use (Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2016)¹⁰.

The incidence of tobacco use among those aged 13–18 years is 18.5%, with approximately half initiating use before the age of 10, hence encountering significant health concerns linked with tobacco consumption (Government of India (GoI), 2019a)¹¹. The research underscores the significant frequency of alcohol and cannabis consumption among youth. The premature onset of substance use highlights the necessity for focused interventions in early adolescence.¹²

⁹ 13% of drug abuse victims in India are below 20 years: UN official The Hindu, <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/13-of-drug-abuse-victims-in-india-are-below-20-years-un-official/article66148608.ece> (last visited July 20, 2025)

¹⁰ Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (2016) Global Adult Tobacco Survey GATS Objectives GATS 2 Highlights. Available at <https://tiss.edu/view/11/research-projects/global-adult-tobacco-survey-round-2-for-india-2016/last-visit-on-2025>

¹¹ Government of India (GoI) (2019a) National Fact Sheet of Fourth Round of Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS-4), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Available at <https://main.mohfw.gov.in/newshighlights-57/last-visit-on-2025>

¹² Determinants of substance use among young people attending primary health centers in India Global mental health (Cambridge, England), <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10988150/#r8> (last visited August 17, 2025)

Adolescent substance addiction is a significant concern in the behaviour of teenagers and young individuals. It is estimated that, in India, by the time most males reach the ninth grade, approximately 50 percent had experimented with at least one substance of an abusive character.

What factors compel young individuals towards drug use?

Envision an adolescent studying for NEET or JEE; each day becomes a race, characterised by unyielding academic demands. This stress, frequently accompanied by emotional isolation, compels many to seek refuge in substances. Peer pressure significantly influences individuals, as many first encounter drugs through their peers. Research indicates that an alarming 76 percent of young individuals in Punjab were introduced to drugs through their social networks¹³

Bollywood, music, and social media make drug usage seem cool, which makes the problem worse. In cities, it's also easy to get drugs like cannabis, alcohol, and prescription drugs because they are so easy to find. As families become more nuclear and parents have busy job lives, many young people feel like they don't have anyone to talk to and turn to drugs to deal with it¹⁴.

Cigarettes and alcohol Advertisers and marketers try to get teens to buy their products, and marijuana is sold as medicine. The entertainment industry makes it seem like using drugs is exciting and doesn't have any bad effects. And many parents dismiss juvenile substance use as a natural part of growing up, saying that it needs drugs like tobacco, alcohol, or another drug to settle down, relax, or make friends.

Adolescents who consume drugs often have mental health problems include depression, developmental delays, apathy, withdrawal, and other psychosocial problems. Young people who abuse drugs are more likely to have mental health problems than those who don't, such as depression, behaviour problems, personality disorders, suicidal thoughts, attempted suicide, and suicide. Young people are the most likely to consume marijuana, which has

¹³ Global Adult Tobacco Survey 2, India 2016-17 Brand, <https://www.tiss.edu/view/11/research-projects/global-adult-tobacco-survey-round-2-for-india-2016/> (last visited July 20, 2025)

¹⁴ NDDTC, AIIMS submits report "magnitude of substance use in India" to M/O social justice & empowerment, <https://www.pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1565001> (last visited July 20, 2025)

been found to damage short-term memory, learning, and psychomotor skills.¹⁵

Further, these problems lead to family crises, financial losses, and many other problems that will destroy a person's future. Again, a huge number of students going through the same phase will lead to a loss of human resources in our country, which is a matter of concern.

1.3 Recent Major Events and case-laws related to Drug use:

In India, there are numerous cases and news reports concerning crimes committed by drug addicts. These incidents often involve assault, rape, abuse of children, and mistreatment of parents or the elderly, with such cases on the rise in connection with drug use. This information tends to go viral quickly due to social media, and many stories may not be reported by traditional news channels or newspapers, instead gaining traction through platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Some of those are:

DRUG TRAFFICKING (News)

- I. India's largest cocaine haul, valued at ₹6,500 crore, was recently uncovered in Delhi by the Special Cell of the Delhi Police. The drugs, smuggled from South American countries such as Colombia, Bolivia, and Mexico, were stored in a god own in Mahipalpur and disguised in cardboard boxes labeled as shirts. Investigations revealed that the cocaine was intended for supply at four major upcoming events, including concerts and festivals in Delhi, Mumbai, and Goa, scheduled between October and March. The cartel behind this operation targeted college students and concertgoers as potential consumers. This significant bust has raised serious concerns about drug trafficking, public safety, and the increasing influence of international cartels in India.¹⁶
- II. The Chandigarh law enforcement agency recently seized drugs and liquor worth ₹26.82 crores in Haryana: On September 16, 2024, law enforcement in Chandigarh seized

¹⁵ Consequences of youth substance abuse, <https://ojdp.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh176/files/pubs/drugid/ration-03.html> (last visited July 20, 2025)

¹⁶ India's biggest cocaine haul worth rs 6.5 K crore was meant to be distributed at "four big upcoming music concerts" The Economic Times, https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/delhi-drug-bust-indias-biggest-cocaine-haul-worth-rs-6-5-k-crore-was-meant-to-be-distributed-at-four-big-upcoming-music-concerts/articleshow/113898051.cms?from=mdr+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.business-standard.com%2Findia-news%2Fdelhi-s-biggest-drug-bust-drug-trafficking-in-india-past-seizures-decoded-124100300381_1.html (last visited August 1, 2025)

drugs, liquor, and cash valued at ₹26.82 crores in Haryana. This operation was conducted in accordance with the Election Commission of India's guidelines to uphold the model code of conduct ahead of the Haryana assembly elections scheduled for October 5. Chief Electoral Officer Pankaj Agarwal emphasized that strict measures are being implemented to prevent voter manipulation and ensure fair elections.¹⁷

HIT-AND-RUN CASES (News)

- I. On May 19, 2024, a 17-year-old boy named Vedant Agrawal was involved in a fatal car accident in Pune while driving a Porsche Taycan at high speed. The crash resulted in the deaths of two IT professionals, Anish Awadhiya and Ashwini Koshta. Prior to the accident, Vedant had been served alcohol illegally at a bar in Pune, violating laws that prohibit the sale of liquor to minors. This incident brought attention to the growing issue of drunk driving in India, as there were 3,268 accidents and 1,503 fatalities attributed to alcohol-impaired driving in 2022. The case sparked outrage on social media, raising concerns about the increasing prevalence of underage drinking and drug abuse, and their wider impact on public safety, especially regarding the safety of women.¹⁸

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AND DRUG USE (News & Case Law)

- I. A viral video from Bengaluru shows a drunk man harassing a woman by demanding her phone number and trying to kiss her. In response, the woman slapped him and hit him with her slippers right in the middle of the road. This incident has gained widespread attention on social media and is being highlighted as part of the growing concerns about public harassment in India.¹⁹

¹⁷ Liquor, drugs worth Rs 26.82 crore seized in Haryana since poll code NDTV.com, <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/liquor-drugs-worth-rs-26-82-crore-seized-in-haryana-since-poll-code-6589470> (last visited August 1, 2025)

¹⁸ Pune Porsche Car Accident: Bail to minor accused; two members of Juvenile Justice Board removed The Hindu, <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/maharashtra/pune-porsche-car-accident-bail-to-minor-accused-two-members-of-juvenile-justice-board-removed/article68740211.ece#:~:text=On%20May%2019%2C%20two%20IT,word%20essay%20on%20road%20safety.&text=Later%2C%20a%20Committee%20was%20formed,Narnavare%20earlier%20said.> (last visited August 1, 2025)

¹⁹ Video: Drunk man harasses women for phone numbers, beaten with slippers NDTV.com, <https://www.ndtv.com/karnataka-news/video-drunk-man-harasses-women-for-phone-numbers-beaten-with-slippers-in-karnataka-3650259> (last visited April 11, 2025)

- II. **R.G. KAR RAPE AND MURDER CASE LAW:** On August 9, 2024, a 26-year-old postgraduate medical student was raped and murdered at R.G. Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. The accused, Sanjay Roy, a 33-year-old civil volunteer with the Kolkata Police, allegedly attacked her in a seminar hall after she had fallen asleep following a long shift. Roy, who had been drinking with friends, entered the hospital around 2:30 a.m., assaulted her, and killed her before leaving the scene. Her body was discovered the next day, leading to his arrest.²⁰

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (New& Case Laws)

- I. Domestic violence against women in India is a serious issue, especially in Bihar, where a Times of India survey from May 2022 found that 83% of women experience some form of abuse linked to their husbands' alcohol consumption. Among married women aged 18 to 49, 40% have faced physical or sexual violence, the second-highest rate in the country after Karnataka. Specifically, 39% reported physical violence, 8% sexual violence, and 7% both, with husbands as the main perpetrators in 95% of cases, often under the influence of alcohol. While alcohol use is not prohibited, violence committed after drinking is punishable by law.²¹ (In 2005, The Domestic Violence Act was passed, which provides remedies for victims of domestic violence. Additionally, Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code outlines the punishment for domestic violence, while Section 85 of the Indian Penal Code defines cruelty.)
- II. **DRUNK MAN ASSAULTING HIS MOTHER:** A 28-year-old man from Bundi, Rajasthan, was arrested last Friday for assaulting his 52-year-old mother while intoxicated. The incident began when she advised him not to drink and drive, but he ignored her warning. Later, at home, he attacked her. This prompted the victim, along with her younger children, to file a complaint at the Dabi police station. The case highlights how alcohol can impair judgment and contribute to violent behaviour.

²⁰ Kolkata doctor's rapist had liquor before crime, used to watch porn: Sources India Today, https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/kolkata-doctor-rape-murder-case-accused-sanjay-roy-liquor-watched-porn-bengal-police-2580653-2024-08-11?utm_source=perplexity (last visited August 1, 2025)

²¹ 83% women face violence when hubbies get drunk: Patna News - Times of India The Times of India, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/83-women-face-violence-when-hubbies-get-drunk/articleshow/91426156.cms> (last visited April 11, 2025)

DRINK AND DRIVE (News)

- I. Dehradun accident: Six young students lost their lives in a fatal accident in Dehradun on Monday night when their speeding Innovation collided with a container truck at ONGC Chowk. The victims included five from Dehradun and one from Himachal Pradesh. While some claims suggest the group had been partying and may have consumed alcohol, no official medical confirmation has been made. The incident has triggered widespread online discussions urging caution against drunk driving and highlighting road safety concerns.²²

There are many more cases similar to the one mentioned above. These are only some of the recent cases; people around us are even unaware of the actual number of cases that occur every day. As per the Delhi police data up to June 2025, a total of 544 cases were Registered under Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substance (NDPS) Act.

CHAPTER 2: DRUGS AS A CATALYST FOR CRIME: LEGAL PERSPECTIVES**2.1 Offences lead by drug consumption:*****i. Drink and Drive***

More and more people around the world are worried about drug usage and road safety. Drinking and driving is a well-known risk factor for car accidents, injuries, and deaths, but drug-induced impairment of driving is becoming a bigger problem in many nations across the world.

The survey also found that men are more likely than women to drive when drunk or high. Fifteen percent of adults aged 21 to 25 drive after drinking or taking drugs, compared to seven percent of adults aged 16 to 20 and seven percent of adults aged 26 or older (2021 DT 8.33B).²³

²² Dehradun accident: Alcohol Link unclear, but internet urges caution against drunk driving Hindustan Times, <https://www.hindustantimes.com/trending/dehradun-accident-alcohol-link-unclear-but-internet-urges-caution-against-drunk-driving-101731747040080.html> (last visited April 11, 2025)

²³ Drugfacts National Institutes of Health, <https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/publications/drug-facts> (last visited June 21, 2025)

ii. Domestic violence

In Bihar, 40% of married women in the 18-49 age group have experienced physical or sexual violence, which is the second highest in the country after Karnataka with 47%the survey shows that 39%of women have experienced physical violence, 8%sexual violence, and 7%both physical and sexual violence.

Drug-facilitated sexual assault happens when drugs or alcohol make it impossible for someone to provide their consent to sexual activity. These drugs make it simpler for someone to conduct sexual assault since they lower a person's inhibitions, make it harder for them to fight back, and make it harder for them to remember what happened. Drugs and alcohol can make you less able to do things, which is a legal word that means different things in different states.²⁴

iii. Date rape victims

Most of the victims of **date rape** were Meitei girls below the age of 20 years (70.5%), 58.8% of these cases were assaulted in the afternoon and 52.9% of the assaults occurred in restaurants. The history of consumption of beverage in the form of alcohol offered by the perpetrator was present in 52.9% of the cases date rape.²⁵

iv. Drug trafficking

Drug trafficking is an illegal commerce that happens all over the world and includes growing, making, distributing, and selling drugs that are against the law. UNODC is always watching and studying the illegal drug markets around the world to have a better idea of how they work. Drug trafficking is a key part of this research. Further information can be found in the yearly.

In 2023, Myanmar became the world's biggest producer of opium. The area of land used for illegal crop growing grew from 99,000 to 116,000 acres. This surge has made drug

²⁴ Drug-facilitated sexual assault RAINN, <https://rainn.org/articles/drug-facilitated-sexual-assault> (last visited July 10, 2025)

²⁵ A study on drug-facilitated sexual assaults in... : Journal of Medical Society LWW, https://journals.lww.com/jmso/fulltext/2014/28020/date_rape__a_study_on_drug_facilitated_sexual.7.aspx (last visited July 10, 2025)

trafficking in the NER much more dangerous. The NER states seized more than \$267 million worth of illegal goods in FY 2022–23 alone.²⁶

2.2 Drug-related Laws in India

People in India have been growing opium since the 10th century. The Opium Acts of 1867 and 1878 were passed during the colonial period to limit the growing and manufacture of opium, but not its use. In the 1920s, numerous province governments passed legislation to limit the use of opium because of the pressure from rising nationalism movements. In 1930, the Dangerous Drugs Act became law. This was meant to control the growing, making, selling, owning, trading, and dealing of drugs. The law mostly dealt with narcotics made from plants like poppy, hemp, and coca. It didn't have any rules against using cannabis or other drugs. Licensing and punishing actions that weren't licensed were the main ways to govern things. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act (DCA) was passed in 1940 to control drugs, especially those made from cannabis and opium.²⁷

2.2.1 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985 (NDPS Act 1985)

The act covers three main types of drugs and substances: (1) narcotic drugs, which are drugs that make you feel sleepy or euphoric (as defined in the 1961 Convention); (2) psychotropic substances, which are drugs that make you feel good (as defined in the 1971 Convention or the drugs that the government says are such); and (3) controlled substances that are used to make these substances, including precursor chemicals like ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. The 1961 Convention says that bhang, a cannabis leaf product, is not covered by the act. Instead, it is mostly controlled by the excise laws of each state. The NDPS Act makes it illegal to grow, make, sell, buy, trade, import, export, use, or consume psychotropics and narcotics, except for medical and scientific

²⁶ From poppy fields to black markets: Understanding the drug trade across India and Myanmar oronline.org, <https://www.orfonline.org/research/from-poppy-fields-to-black-markets-understanding-the-drug-trade-across-india-and-myanmar> (last visited July 10, 2025)

²⁷ National Drug Laws, policies, and programs in India: A narrative review Indian journal of psychological medicine, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10958082/#:~:text=The%20NDPS%20Act%20prohibits%20the,The%20Act%20is%20primarily%20punitive.> (last visited July 22, 2025)

purposes. The Act is mostly about punishment.²⁸

2.2.2 Drugs Control Act, 1950

This law grants the Government of India the authority to regulate the supply, issuance, and sale of drugs in the country. The government is empowered to establish maximum selling prices and impose restrictions on sales, such as the maximum quantity a trader can hold and the maximum amount that can be sold to an individual.

1. The maximum selling price that can be charged by a producer or dealer.
2. The maximum quantity that a dealer or producer is allowed to possess.
3. The maximum quantity that may be sold to any individual in a single transaction.

Different prices or quantities may be established for various regions, dealers, or producers. No dealer or producer is permitted to sell at a price higher than the fixed maximum, hold stock beyond the prescribed limit, or sell more than the allowed quantity in one transaction.

2.2.3 Drug and Cosmetics Act, 1940

It was enacted by the Department of Health under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare after receiving the assent of the Governor General on April 10, 1940, and came into force on April 1, 1947. It regulates the import, manufacture, distribution, and sale of drugs, biosimilars, and medical devices. The primary objective of the act is to ensure that the drugs, biosimilars, and medical devices sold in India are safe, effective, and conform to state quality standards. The original version of the Act has 5 Chapters, 38 Sections, and 2 schedules.²⁹

²⁸ National Drug Laws, policies, and programs in India: A narrative review Indian journal of psychological medicine, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10958082/#:~:text=The%20NDPS%20Act%20prohibits%20the,The%20Act%20is%20primarily%20punitive>. (last visited March 2, 2025)

²⁹ Drug & Cosmetic Act 1940 CliniExperts, <https://cliniexperts.com/india-regulatory-bodies/cdsc/drug-and-cosmetic-act-1940-drugs-and-cosmetic-rules-1945-drugs-and-cosmetic-rules-2019/> (last visited July 22, 2025)

The Rules are established by the government of India through the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**. The Rules have also been amended time to time to meet the needs of the time and to rectify any deficiencies noticed during the implementation.

2.2.4 Legal Drinking Age

The legal drinking age in India varies widely from state to state, reflecting the country's diverse cultural and regulatory landscape. While some states allow alcohol consumption at 18, others set the minimum age at 21 or even 25. Understanding these age restrictions is crucial for individuals and businesses alike, as non-compliance can result in significant fines and legal issues. In this guide, we delve into the legal drinking age across different Indian states, explore the regulations governing alcohol consumption, and examine the penalties for violations³⁰.

CHAPTER 3: EMPIRICAL RESEARCH: METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION

3.1 HYPOTHESIS:

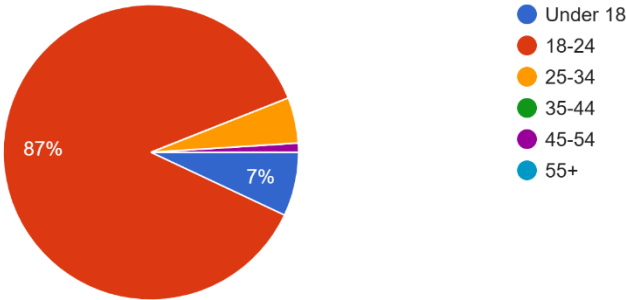
An empirical study has been conducted to gain more insights about the drug-crime relationship. three hypotheses present in the literature are examined:

- **Drug abuse causes criminal behaviour**
- **There is a relationship between drug abuse and criminal activities.**
- **Minors are not being affected or influenced by drugs and drug culture.**

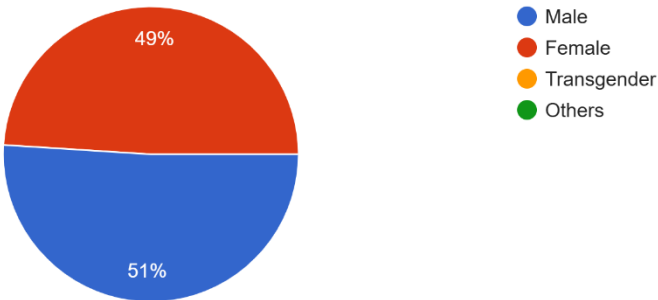
An online survey was conducted by the author to understand general opinions about drug use and its connection to criminal activities in India. The targeted audience was primarily individuals aged 18 to 24. On the other hand, responses were fairly balanced between genders, with 51% of participants identifying as male and 49% as female.

³⁰ Legal Drinking Age in India <https://restthecase.com/knowledge-bank/legal-drinking-age-in-india/> (last visited August 28, 2025)

Age
100 responses

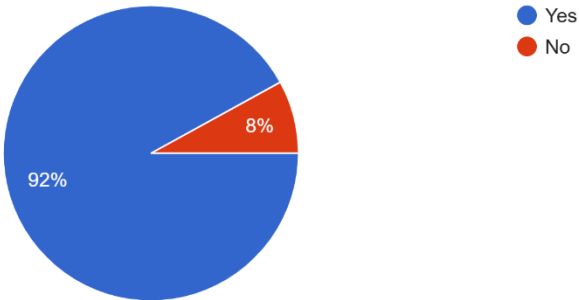


Gender
100 responses



The survey contains a total of 12 questions related to drug use in India leading to crime, for which there is an analysis for all of them.

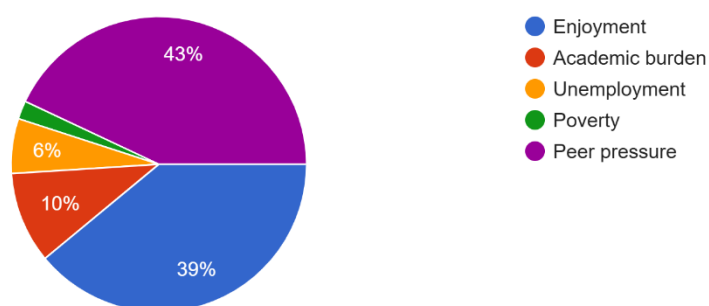
1.Do you think drug use is very common nowadays?
100 responses



The question was straightforward and simple, and we received nearly 100 responses. Of those, approximately 92% of people believe that drug use is very common nowadays, while the remaining 8% think that drug use is not as common is not that common.

2. What according to you possible reasons that lead people to use drugs?

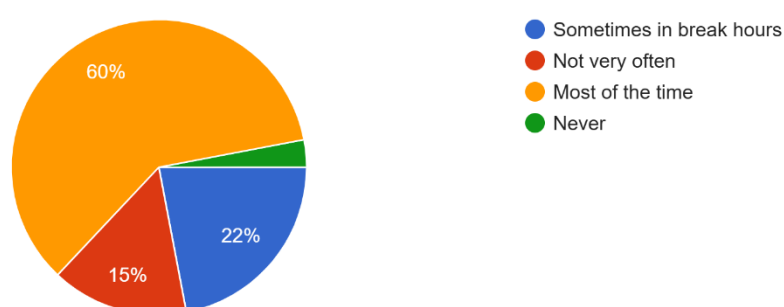
100 responses



The question was posed to identify the possible reasons behind drug use. The responses indicated that nearly 43% of participants believe that peer pressure is a major factor contributing to drug use. Additionally, 36% think that drugs are used for enjoyment, while 10% attribute drug use to academic pressure. Furthermore, 6% associate drug use with unemployment, and the remaining 2% believe that poverty is a significant reason.

3. How often do you notice people around you smoking and drinking?

100 responses

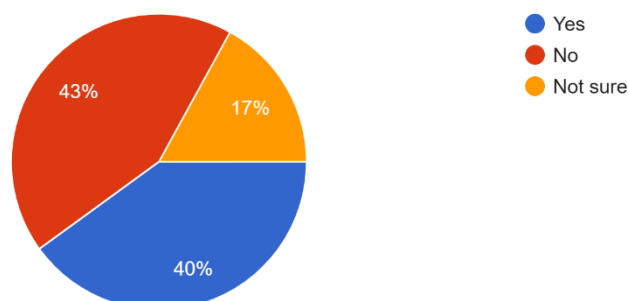


In this survey, we aimed to understand how often individuals see people around them smoking or drinking. The results revealed that nearly 60% of respondents encounter people smoking or drinking most of the time. In contrast, 22% reported seeing people smoking or drinking only during breaks. Additionally, 15% stated that they do not often observe others smoking or drinking, while the remaining 3% have never been in the presence of people who smoke or

drink.

4. Have you ever witnessed someone using drugs in your presence?

100 responses

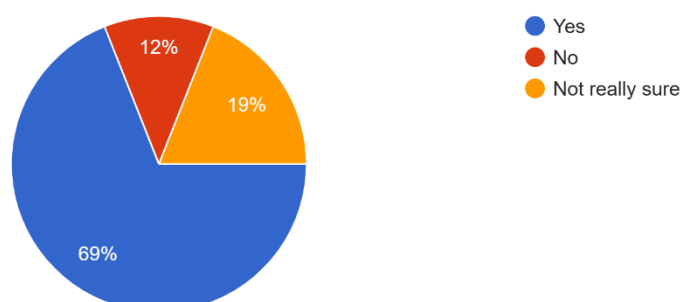


The following data shows that 40% of people have witnessed someone using drugs in their presence. In contrast, 43% have never witnessed such an event, while the remaining 17% are unsure if they have seen someone using drugs.

The reasons for this uncertainty may include a lack of awareness about drugs or an inability to identify the substances being used. There can be many factors contributing to this situation.

5. What is your opinion about minors using drugs? Are they being influenced by this drug-taking culture?

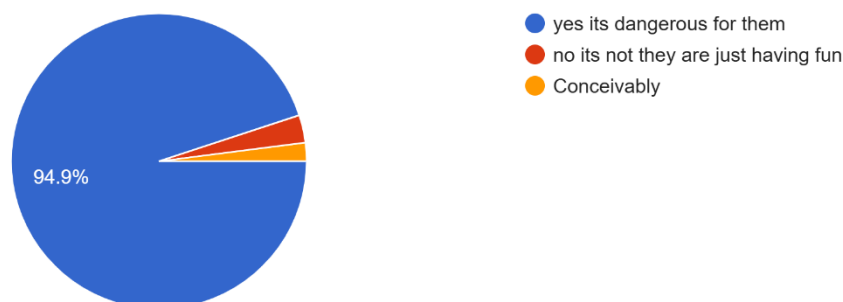
100 responses



According to the research, one of the aims was to understand the involvement of minors in drug use. To explore this, participants were asked about their opinions on drug use and the influence of drug-taking culture on minors. The results showed that 69% of respondents believed that minors are indeed getting involved and influenced by this culture. Meanwhile, 19% were unsure about minors' involvement in such activities, and 12% completely denied that minors were involved.

6. Weather according to you, Minors consuming drugs is a matter of concern or not ?

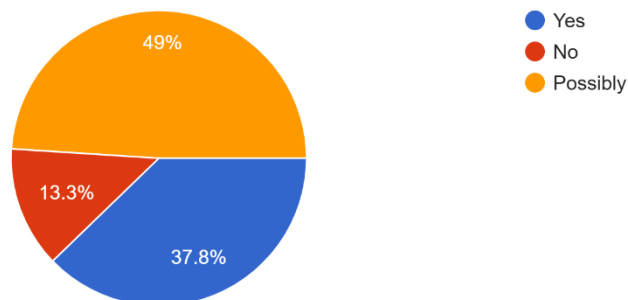
99 responses



One also wanted to gather people's opinions on how harmful drug use is for minors. The survey revealed that 94% of participants believe it is dangerous for minors to consume drugs. While 2% think it is possibly harmful, another 3% responded that they don't view it as dangerous, claiming that some minors use drugs just for fun.

7. Has the quantity of drugs in your surroundings is increased for minors?

98 responses



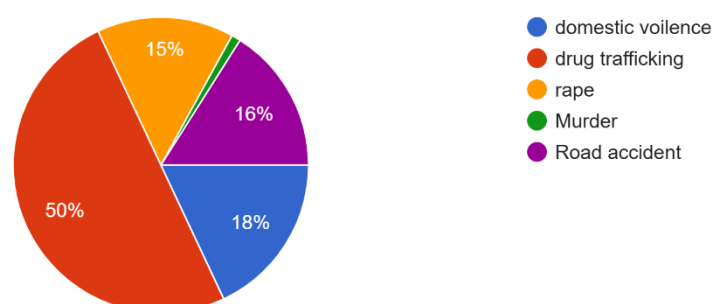
Access to harmful substances becomes more concerning when they are easily available. In a survey, one asked participants if they believed the quantity of drugs available in their environment had increased. Results showed that 39% of respondents said "yes," indicating that they perceive a rise in drug availability. This suggests that an increase in quantity could lead to easier access. Additionally, 49% responded "possible," showing some uncertainty about the quantity yet still leaning towards the idea that it might be true. Finally, 13% believed there has been no increase in the quantity of drugs around minors.

In this research, the researcher changed their questions to focus on the issue of drug-related crime, which was the main area of investigation.

A question was posed regarding the types of crimes that may be caused by drug consumption. To gather insights from the audience, several options were provided where drugs are often considered a contributing factor. The options included rape, domestic violence, murder, drug trafficking, and road accidents.

8. Drug consumption is a growing concern in our country. Do you think it is also contributing to other crimes? What types of crimes do you believe can be caused by drug consumption?

100 responses

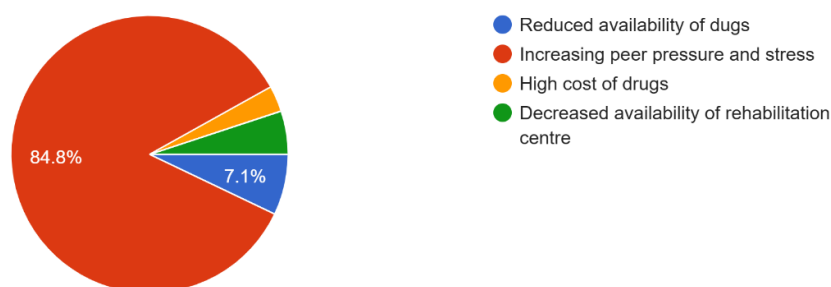


The results indicated that 50% of participants believe that drug trafficking is definitely a crime related to drug consumption. Additionally, 18% voted for domestic violence as a consequence of drug use, while 15% chose road accidents. Another 15% cited rape, and only 1% voted for murder.

The question 9 aimed to gauge people's awareness of laws related to drugs. This was an open-ended question, and the results indicated that while many individuals are aware of these laws, there is still a significant number of people who do not have a clear understanding of the existing drug laws and regulations in India related to drug-related crimes.

10. Which of the following is a major reason for the increase in drug use among Indian youth?

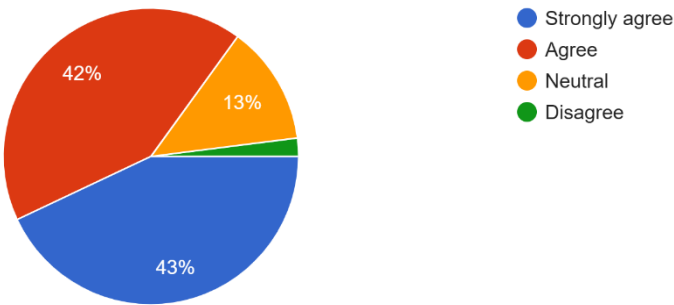
99 responses



The authors were curious about the possible reasons for the increase in drug consumption among youth. Participants were asked to select factors contributing to this trend. A significant 84.8% identified increasing peer pressure and stress as the main reason leading to higher drug consumption. Additionally, 7.1% believed that the availability of drugs was a factor, while 5% pointed to the decreased availability of rehabilitation Centres. Finally, 3% attributed the issue to the high cost of drugs.

11. Do you believe drug use leads to criminal behavior?

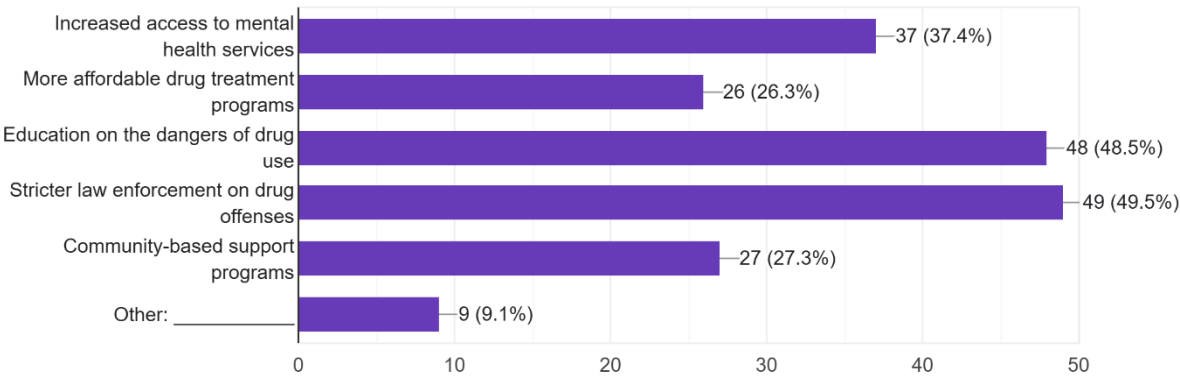
100 responses



There was a straightforward question about whether people believe that drugs lead to criminal behaviour. In response, 43% strongly agreed, 42% agreed, 13% remained neutral, and 2% disagreed.

12. What solutions do you believe could help reduce drug-related crime?

99 responses



Drugs related to education and their dangers have gained attention, and stricter laws could be significantly helpful according to the results.

3.2 RESULTS

3.2.1 Hypothesis 1

“Drug abuse causes criminal behaviour”

From the analysis done, it has been constructed that 43% strongly agreed, 42% agreed, 13% remained neutral, and 2% disagreed. Most responses indicate that drug use leads to criminal behaviour.

Hence, Hypothesis 1 is proved and accepted.

3.2.2 Hypothesis 2

“There is a relationship between drug abuse and criminal activities.”

From the analysis done, it has been observed that there is a relation between drug abuse and criminal activities, the responses show that people believe drug use leads to various types of crime, especially crimes like drug trafficking 50% of participants believe that drug trafficking is definitely a crime related to drug consumption. Additionally, 18% voted for domestic violence as a consequence of drug use, while 15% chose road accidents. Another 15% cited rape, and only 1% voted for murder.

One simple cause of this is an increased level of anger, which leads to a lack of control over your mind. This can result in a habit of consuming, as it becomes not just a habit but an addiction.

Hence, Hypothesis 2 is proved and accepted

3.2.3 Hypothesis 3

“Minors are not being affected or influenced by drugs and drug culture.”

The analysis done of the observed data depicts that minors are being affected as per the survey done, results showed that 69% of respondents believed that minors are indeed getting involved and influenced by this culture. Meanwhile, 19% were unsure about minors' involvement in such activities, and 12% completely denied that minors

were involved.

Hence, Hypothesis 3 is rejected.

CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION

Drug use has become an alarming issue among adults, youth, and especially minors, who are often influenced and exposed to such behaviors. It is common to see minors smoking in public, and their easy access to substances like cigarettes, alcohol, and even drugs exacerbates the problem. As responsible adults, we must set better examples by controlling our own actions, practicing moderation, and avoiding smoking or drinking in front of minors. Children are impressionable, and responsible behavior by adults plays a crucial role in preventing them from developing harmful habits. Additionally, education is vital and should not be limited to parents alone; it should also be extended through schools and community platforms to raise awareness about the dangers of substance use.

A collective effort is required to protect minors from substance use. Adults—whether as parents, siblings, relatives, or guardians—must remain vigilant and intervene when they notice minors engaging in smoking or drinking. Sellers and authorities also bear significant responsibility and should enforce laws more strictly by verifying the age of buyers and preventing the sale of illegal items. By limiting easy access and taking corrective action when minors attempt to purchase these substances, we can address one of the primary causes of the problem. Education plays an influential role as well; teaching children about the risks of drugs empowers them to make informed decisions and resist peer pressure.

Beyond prevention, providing care and support for those already struggling with substance abuse must also be prioritized. Rehabilitation centers are essential for helping individuals overcome addictions before they escalate into violent or criminal behaviour. Substance abuse not only harms an individual's health but also affects their families and communities. Recognizing that our lives are interconnected means we must act responsibly to break these cycles of harm. Protecting minors from drug use today will help shape a healthier, more responsible generation tomorrow, ensuring they grow into valuable assets for the future of our country.

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