

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT (2022-23)**

**DRUG ABUSE AMONG YOUNG PERSONS - PROBLEMS AND
SOLUTIONS**

FIFTY FIRST REPORT

CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION

India is signatory to the three UN conventions namely, **Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 and Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988**. In 1985, the Government of India enacted the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act**, introducing robust measures for the control and regulation of activities associated with narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The legislation aimed to address the growing concerns related to drug abuse and trafficking, establishing strict provisions to curb the illicit production, distribution, and consumption of such substances. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment commissioned a comprehensive **National Survey in 2018** by National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre. According to the survey, the prevalence of alcohol use disorders is the **highest** in the states of **Punjab, Orissa and Chattisgarh**. On the basis of the survey a scheme, named National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction was formulated. Under this scheme the **Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan** was launched where community outreach is being done in vulnerable districts. Apart from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Department of Revenue coordinates with one another for addressing the problem of drug abuse in the country. The Ministry of Home Affairs through the Narcotics Control Bureau control the supply, production and distribution of drugs. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare looks after treatment aspects of drug addicts.

CHAPTER 2 : NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment commissioned a comprehensive survey in 2018 by the **National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre (NDDTC) AIIMS**. As per the Survey, about **16 crore of Indian population between 10 and 75 years (14.6%) of age uses alcohol**. Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse, Projects and Components has the objective to create awareness and educate the public about the detrimental impacts of drug abuse on individuals, families, workplaces, and society, with the goal of reducing stigmatisation and discrimination against those dependent on drugs. It emphasises the need to integrate individuals back into society by providing community-based services for identification, motivation, counselling, de-addiction, and rehabilitation. A committee formed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment found that **2,17,07,100 adults in the age group 18-75 have been estimated to be using various drugs and around 16 crore persons consume alcohol in the country**. The Committee found that Opioids, Sedatives and Inhalants are being widely used by children aged 10-17 years and the worst affected States/UTs are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, NCT of Delhi, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The number of persons **benefited under NAPDDR during 2020-21** was the highest in **Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh**.

CHAPTER 3 : DRUG DE-ADDICTION CENTRES

The Drug De-Addiction Centres were proposed during the review of the **National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction in 2021** to set-up **290 District De-Addiction Centres** in vulnerable districts. The recurring cost of DDAC is Rs.70,64,000/- for rural areas and Rs.70,04,000 for urban areas. Under NAPDDR a District De-addiction Centre (DDAC) is to be set up preferably in each district headquarter or suitably accessible place where rent-free accommodation is provided by the District Administration. The **DDAC for 5 districts namely Karimganj (Assam), Kulgam (J&K), Mon (Nagaland), Cooch Behar & Jalpaiguri (West Bengal) approved by the Project Selection Committee**, are being set up and **remaining 285 are proposed to be set up by 2025-26**. The Drug Demand Reduction Advisory Committee (DDAC) has a set of defined roles and responsibilities. It engages in primary prevention activities by conducting awareness programs within vulnerable and affected communities, with a specific focus on mitigating substance use risks among children, adolescents, and youth. The committee identifies and trains peer educators in the community, implementing early prevention education led by these trained peers. Additionally, **DDAC raises awareness about referral and linkage to counselling, treatment, and rehabilitation services for substance-dependent adolescents**. It plays a crucial role in identifying individuals subjected to substance use, facilitating their referral or admission into Rehabilitation Centers or Drop-In Centers. The committee provides a comprehensive range of services, including treatment, aftercare, and rehabilitation, which incorporates skill development. The overarching objective is to undertake drug demand reduction efforts, addressing all forms of illicit substance use, and alleviating the consequences of substance dependence on individuals, families, and society at large.

CHAPTER 4 : PREVENTIVE EDUCATION AND AWARENESS GENERATION

Preventive education and awareness generation programs are **systematically organised to address specific target groups, such as vulnerable and at-risk communities, in various settings such as neighbourhoods, educational institutions, workplaces, and slums.** The primary **objective of these programs is to sensitise the identified target groups and the broader community** about the profound impact of addiction and the imperative to seek professional help for treatment. The implementation of these programs involves collaborative efforts from diverse entities, including other Central Ministries, State Governments, Universities, Training Institutions, NGOs, and various voluntary organisations. Through a collective approach, these initiatives strive to disseminate crucial information, foster awareness, and encourage individuals within these target groups to prioritise seeking professional assistance for addiction-related issues. **The programmes should start at the school level and continue with college students.** High-risk groups such as commercial sex workers, mobile populations like tourists and truck drivers, street children and prisoners should be specifically addressed. The programme should be appropriate to the local culture and the local language. **The financial assistance for the program is provided as per the Annual Action Plan (AAP) prepared during each financial year.** The programme is done **in collaboration with Panchayati Raj Institutions, Urban Local Bodies, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sanghatan and National Service Scheme.** Funds are also allocated to Colleges/Universities for conducting awareness generation programs. As a part of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) celebrating Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, a mass Pledge against Drugs Abuse was administered in all high schools and colleges across the country on 12th August, 2022. A proposal of Project Kawach from Narcotics WIngs of Madhya Pradesh Police was examined. The salient features of Project Kawach are to make the initiative focus on raising awareness about the adverse effects of drugs among every child by integrating it into the core of the education system. To facilitate this, the development of an Interactive Digital Portal is proposed, serving as a dedicated platform for this purpose. The portal will feature exclusive content such as messages and movies designed to educate and engage the target audience effectively. Recognizing the need for ongoing updates, a specialised team will be formed to ensure the timely and relevant information on the web portal. In essence, the comprehensive strategy aims to embed drug awareness education into the education system, leveraging an Interactive Digital Portal with tailored content and sustained updates for the

continuous benefit of every child. **The funds allocation for the programme for each year 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 is Rs.5 crore whereas the fund allocation for the year 2025-2026 is Rs. 10 crore.** Consumption of drugs and alcohol has increased in rural areas to limit the usage of such drugs. More initiatives should be taken to involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI).

CHAPTER 5 : CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building programmes are to be undertaken to provide intensive training to personnel in the identification, treatment, after-care, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug addicts. Financial assistance shall be provided as per the Annual Action Plan and/or to the State Government or other organisations. The training programs organised have increased from **374 in 2018 to 701 in 2022**. The number of programs conducted and the number of beneficiaries is the **highest in the state of Karnataka, 101 and 300 respectively**. **According to the Ministry, 6063 programmes were organised during the period 2017-18 to 2021-22 and 415595 persons benefited from these programmes. 2251 training programmes in 2018-19, 2588 in 2019-20 and 724 programmes in 2020-21 in various states across the country have been organised.** The responsibilities related to training, capacity building, preventive education, awareness generation programs, research documentation, monitoring and evaluation programs, and the establishment of a suitable database have been assigned to State Level Coordinating Agencies (SLCA) and Regional Resource Training Centers (RRTCs).

CHAPTER 6 : TREATMENT REHABILITATION AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT FOR EX-DRUG ADDICTS

There are 535 de-addiction Centres including 350 Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts (IRCA), 53 Community based Peer led Intervention (CPLI), 73 Outreach and Drop-In Centres (ODICs) and 38 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) are being run by various NGOs in the States/ UTs under NAPDDR. **The number of beneficiaries is the highest in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.** Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Drug Addicts (IRCA) **play a crucial role in addressing substance abuse by providing comprehensive services, including counselling, treatment, preventive education, awareness generation, motivational counselling, family counselling, detoxification, de-addiction, aftercare, and follow-up.** Beneficiaries receive in-patient services during a 30-day stay at IRCAs. Outreach and Drop-In Centres (ODICs) complement these efforts through community-based activities, offering out-patient services. ODICs conduct outreach programs targeting vulnerable adolescents and youth, engaging in behaviour change communication sessions, identifying and bringing individuals to drop-in centres, and providing a secure space with screening, assessment, counselling, and referral to treatment facilities. 350 Integrated Rehabilitation Centers for Addicts (IRCAs), 53 Community based Peer led Intervention (CPLIs), 73 Outreach and Drop-in Centers (ODIC), 21 State level Coordinating Agencies (SLCA) and 38 Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATF) are running across the States/UTs in the Country. The number of de-addiction centres is very less in several States/UTs such as Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Puducherry, Sikkim and Tripura. Schemes of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment relating to drug abuse are generally operated by NGOs.

CHAPTER 7 : NASHA MUKT BHARAT ABHIYAN

The Ministry have launched **Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)** in **272 identified vulnerable districts on 15 August 2020** based on the findings of first comprehensive National survey & inputs from Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) with an aim to create awareness about ill effects of substance abuse among the youth, with special focus on higher educational institutes, university campuses, schools and reaching out into the community. Major focus would be on Higher educational Institutions in this Abhiyaan. A number of 10,432,000 children in the age group of 10-17 years have been estimated to be using various substances in the Report of National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, AIIMS. The Department has reached 10.47+ crore people through Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) launched in most vulnerable 272 districts with 8000 volunteers to create awareness about ill effects of substance abuse among the youth through various means such as conducting 65 Abhiyan activities in the campuses of eminent universities and colleges across the country and vulnerable communities present around them. e Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment have developed 'Navchetna' Modules in collaboration with the Ministry of Education under 'Navchetna' Project with the aim to increase awareness and education on life skills and drugs among students in schools. 100 schools having 30+ teachers in 300 districts each are proposed to be covered under the Project and five Master Trainers are proposed to be trained in each district. Another initiative of translating training materials into 10 Regional languages of the country and uploading materials on the DIKSHA portal will help the objectives of the program to reach the local people.

CHAPTER 8 : MONITORING

The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment ensures monitoring of schemes implemented by various NGOs across the country to **enhance transparency and accountability to check the misuse of funds**. To ensure transparency and reliability in the grant-in-aid process, several measures have been implemented. Only online proposals submitted by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) through the e-Anudan portal are considered for approval. The evaluation of NGO proposals is based on recommendations, satisfactory inspection reports from authorities, and adherence to scheme guidelines. Subsequent grants are released to implementing agencies only upon the submission of audited accounts verified by Chartered Accountants and utilisation certificates from the previous year. NGOs are mandated to install CCTV systems with live feeds accessible on their websites. Those registered on the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) and implementing the EAT Module ensure proactive disclosure of their activities to the public. Periodic surprise inspections by the Ministry and state representatives monitor NGO performance, facilitating corrective action based on inspection reports. Any identified organisations deviating from guidelines face grant cancellations. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment to regularly organise the training for the officials working in the Project Monitoring Units to update them with the developments/changes in the implementation of schemes. Ensuring accountability and efficiency in the utilisation of funds for their intended purposes.