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## **SOCIO-ECONOMICAL CONSEQUENCES OF NARCOTIC MISUSE REGARDING FAMILY AND ECONOMICAL ABILITY OF ONE SOCIETY**

### **Abstract**

*All of the negative social phenomena that are related to abuse of narcotic drugs by the drug addicts and drug mafia, and all the more the illegal producing and distribution toward school children and youth are becoming the constant follow of society and one of the factors of slowing down the social-economic development of countries (especially those in transitional period). In order to better oppose all shapes that are putting safety at risk, socio-medical illnesses and terrorism on drugs, our society needs to organize all of the subjects in order to implement measures for their timely and legally stopping. That's why it is needed to explain this phenomena of abusing narcotic substances and psychoactive substances or PAS to young people in theory and in practice from a different aspects. Based on the received answers and their conclusions we can choose suitable measures, means and actions as an adequate social reaction on negative phenomena related to drug abuse and psychoactive substances.*

**Keywords:** narcotic drug, psychoactive substance, narcotics, narcotism, addiction, prevention, social pathology.

**JEL classification:** Z1, Z13, Z19

## **СОЦИЈАЛНО-ЕКОНОМСКЕ ПОСЛЕДИЦЕ ЗЛОУПОТРЕБЕ ОПОЈНИХ ДРОГА НА ПОРОДИЦУ И ЕКОНОМСКУ СПОСОБНОСТ ДРУШТВА**

### **Апстракт**

*Све негативне друштвене појаве везане за злоупотребу опојних дрога од стране наркомана и нарко мафије, а посебно илегална производња и дистрибуција која је усмерена ка школској деци и омладини, постаје стални пратилац друштва и фактор успоравања социјално-економског*

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развоја држава (нарочито држава у транзицији). Ради што успешнијег супротстављања свим облицима угрожавања безбедности, социјално-медицинској болести наркоманије и нарко-тероризму, наше друштво, треба на благовремен и потпуно легалан начин да организује све субјекте у спровођењу мера за њихово заустављање. Зато је потребно овај феномен злоупотреба опојних дрога и ПАС, нарочито код младих разјаснити теоријски и практично са различитих аспектата, како бисмо одговорили на многа питања. На основу добијених одговора, и потом изведеног закључака, могу се одабрати адекватне мере, средства и поступци, као адекватна реакција друштва на негативне појаве везане за злоупотребу дрога и ПАС.

**Кључне речи:** опојна дрога, ПАС, наркоманија, зависност, превенција, социјална патологија

## Introduction

Being the case that many types of PAS (attractively designed) and narcotics which are easy to obtain are offered to children and youth even since their elementary or high school days [Jović, 1997; Dimitrijević, 2002] we come to have a very large number of young addicts. The youngest recorded addict is nine years old, and from the overall addict population, 20% are between the ages of 12 and 15 [The evaluation narcotic, 2005]. The use-misuse of narcotics and PAS (narcotism) is ever-present in all of the life segments. It jeopardizes health and the individual's development, destroys the family, educational system and the country as whole.

As it is already known, the decision of using narcotics and PAS comes from the cerebrum cortex, which is managing the logics and rationality, it is clear that the young person who passes through a rough period of development (adolescence) is not capable of making clear and reasoned decisions which only makes the dangers of narcotic and PAS misuse higher.

The misuse of narcotics and PAS is considered to be "every use of narcotics and PAS that is not in accordance with law and social norms." The mechanism of beginning to misuse narcotics and PAS in other words, the beginning of psychophysical or psychological and/or physical addiction (narcotism) is developing in the constant interactive actions of three main factors:

1. The individual with his biological – psychological – social state and status (health, living conditions, age, upbringing and education),
2. Environment with its socioeconomic potential (customs, habits, family, school, local community and extended social community), and
3. Substance with its pharmacological properties and various potentials (111 different substance types, WHO).

This means that when we have all of these conditions and close the circle between these three interdependent factors, there is a higher probability that, a young and curious individual who still do not have its character formed will, be it because of psychophysical deficiency or any other current stressful situation accept the offered narcotic, if only for

the sake of trying. If by that first try the individual senses any kind of change, some kind of relief so it can even for a short amount of time forget on its enchanted circle of problems, that young individual will continue with taking the narcotic drugs and PAS while entering the dangerous circle with only one thought on its mind- to take another dose. This is the time when medical, social problems start - the addiction disorder, this inevitably leads to the economic problems of an addict with socio-pathological characteristics of behaviour. This behaviour induces the spreading of narcotic drug addiction in the speed of geometrical progression and that is the reason why it took on an epidemic-pandemic character at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **The consequences for the family of an addict**

At the very beginning, we should pay attention to the two global processes who, with their influence encroaches into socioeconomical condition of today's family. The general education of society and socialization of almost all family functions, and when we add the influence of overall factor affects of plurimedial and virtual ways of shaping the population to these two, especially the young we still get an insufficiently established and assumptive qualitative effects for the future socialization processes and the overall outcome that we need.[Polovina, Bogunović, 2007] This said, it is needed to have a general change regarding the socialization, which will be of great importance for the family and individual, in other words, upcoming generations in our country, Republic of Serbia. These factors today are under the specific influence of transitional processes which induces more risks on all levels on social development starting with socio-economic, healthcare and security system of a society and the country in global. Due to aforementioned it is clear to see why the increase in negative phenomena is more and more present on the territory of Republic of Serbia. In the urban as well as in the rural environments. In this pleiad of negative phenomena the misuse of psychoactive substances and narcotic drugs is among the top leading ones on all levels of social ladder with its long-term and sometimes even deadly consequences.

As much as socio-psychological and economical consequences are disastrous for the addict they are also ruinous for the whole family.

The negative actions of an drug addict (skipping classes, leaving regular education, idleness and even heavier socio-pathological acts) collapses the stability and status of an individual and then the family in whole. Absence from one's workplace or even leaving the job due to the emerging situation leads to the disappearance of monthly or yearly incomes which further leads to falling into a difficult economic position of the family because of the growing needs. The ruining of socio-economical status of an individual and its family is inevitably followed by medical disorders in other words, negative influences of PAS and narcotic drugs, first on individual systems of an organism and then on to vital organs, (depending on the type and quantity of drug ingested) and the degree of addiction or the time span of poisoning. Depending on these, the method of treatment and the institution where the treatment will be carried out, as well as economic-financial needs of ones family are decided.

There is a proverb: "When the one member of the family is sick, the whole family suffers." The misuse of psychoactive substances and narcotic drugs indubitably leads to

relation disorders in the family, socio-economic and health decline, violence, and in the end the family breakdown.

## Disrupted relations

The bare knowledge of a narcotic problem in the family by any family member leads to a sudden and heavy relation disruptions beginning with its basic function of upbringing and security until the complete shattering of its unity.

The most important role for social maturation of a child from its birth until the inclusion into collective (school) belongs to the family. [Mikelić, 1965, p.180-201] Here is the place where the child acquires the basic norms of behaviour: feeding, hygiene, discipline and the collective sense until the enrollment in school. After that, the school becomes the house of education and further upbringing in which the child continues to acquire knowledge, and the whole process of continuing the work where the family left off. Regarding the biologic-psychophysical development of children and maturing adolescents for the comprehension and acceptance of basic and popular social norms, beside the family, the school has an important and decisive task in that period.

The large share of the influence on family and school today has the country with its norms which are created by forming the overall system. We can say that the social system of today is much stronger in determining socioeconomic status of an individual than that of earlier decades. It represents one of the most important factors of which depends the forming of one's character [Rot, 1963, p. 144-164] since it governs the family and social relations.

The problem of today's society is much bigger because it is burdened with changes which are specific for modern civilization, as well as the own country's burden in transition where the misuse of PAS and narcotic drugs is becoming more frequent and is spreading at epidemic speed.

The misuse of PAS and narcotic drugs by children is one of the worst things that can befall two parents. It leads to sever frustrations and even more severe pathology. Because of the present problem the family starts to avoid cousins and friends, which can be seen as conditioned alienation. Whatever work the parents are having they become antisocial, make mistakes at the workplace which is making the whole situation even more difficult. This can go as far as losing ones job and then surely the constant source of income. Among the family members there comes to negligence of workplace, school and other obligations which in turn creates tense and depressing state which can be a prelude to disorganization of one's family.

The relations inside the family become quite confusing, varying from the mother's need to protect to father's pathological actions (alcoholism – I don't want to know for you existence so go live on your own) which is increasingly making the state of living for every member of the family more difficult than it was. This leads to a complete disruption of all of the positive attitudes that can help in coming out of the crisis of the addict and his family.

## Domestic violence

The family that we know of today is a modern achievement behind which stands a long process of evolution. This is why we can rightfully say that it is the oldest and longest-lasting and also a changeable social group which is founded on sexually, bio-reproductive, protective, educational and upbringing and economic relations of a woman and a man who are interconnected by marriage [Group of authors, 2006, p. 81-109] or the illegitimate relationship.

The authority question in sociology and especially in sociology of the family is considered in context of the patriarchal family. Today, regarding the world changes who are directly or indirectly reflecting onto socioeconomic and security changes in our country we can make a typology of families like:

- Traditional or patriarchal type of the family (The name "Patriarchy" is derived from the world patriarch, which means the elder, from the Greek compound of patria (tribe, kin, family tree) and apxyc (leader, ruler) which is surely one of the oldest family types. This kind of family order in its different varieties is stretching back from today to the antic country's communities. The family order in patriarchal family is asserting the father's authority.
- The transitional type of a family where we can see the noticeable differences when compared with patriarchal-traditional type. It shows more freedom, open communication negotiations.
- The participative family type where the main elements are- mutuality, partnership and togetherness. All of the members are equally participating in organization of overall (socioeconomic) family life.

With its influence (direct or indirect) the social system of today is strongly affecting transformation of traditional family and some kind of surrogate (homosexual partners are getting married and adopt children, so it is not usual to say father or mother anymore, instead it is better to say one of the parents, feminism, emancipation of women etc.) which results in decreasing number of families family members, which leads to increase in family pathology. Industrialization, urbanization, migrations and many similar phenomena are contributing to the ruining of traditional and well tested forms of family organization which directs to disorganization and disintegration and at the same time has a bigger influence onto nature and frequency of domestic violence.

The presence of psychoactive substances in family in the form of any of the aforementioned types and prototypes is an initial phase of depressing, unstable and frustrated state which leads to violence. This is confirmed by the drug addicts who was at treatment in Special hospital for the addiction treatment where they found out many similarities and differences among the families of the patients. [Special hospital for substance abuse - Belgrade]

Domestic violence has a wide variety of negative elements of behaviour: verbal threats, impudent and violent behavior, psychological violence-saying depreciatory words until we run down the individual and physical violence with mild or sever injuries which can often end in killing the person. In certain members of the family the emotional violence is also always included, following all of the aforementioned segments. This kind of violence is mostly expressed in children.

Sexual violence can be described as multiple violence since it is most often comprised of physical and psychological violence with the possibility of bio-physical complications in the person who was violated.

Mental and behavioural disorders that are initiated by the use-misuse of alcohol (WHO-F10), are taking up the high place in the topics of social pathology and medicine in the world and here. Domestic violence [Ristanović, 2002, p. 77-82] caused by the misuse of alcohol is most often directed toward one's wife (pathological jealousy), and then to other family members- children, mother and father. The main factors are of psycho-social and economic nature:

- Psychological - the pathological jealousy of an alcoholic,
- Social – the status of the family and its members is being degraded (the avoidance of cousins and friends, losing the job, etc.)
- Economic – the high spending of a house budget while the incomes are low or non-existent.

Domestic violence is present all over the world, however the reliant data-register of violence over women and children does not exist. Without the adequate prevention and following of present pathology, the violence remains a concealed problem. Physical violence makes 70% and those are the most extreme forms of violence over women (head injuries, nose fracture, arm fracture, etc.), especially over pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers. The violence is most often carried out by men (husband, ex-husband, partner) and that is in 78%, followed by sons with 9% and fathers with 4,2%. The daughters take on the violent role in 2%, boyfriends in 1,8%, while the mother and mother-in-law situations are present in 1,6% of cases. Younger and middle-aged women are the ones who suffer violence the most, while the ones aged 60 and over are most often terrorized by their sons.[[www.savetovalisteprotivnasilja.org/active/sr](http://www.savetovalisteprotivnasilja.org/active/sr)]

## **Economic-social decline**

In the previous paragraphs we have talked about the negative influences on an individual and the family in terms of using psychoactive substances and narcotic drugs. Following this the damaged family leads to weakening the whole family system so they become dysfunctional in the eyes of one society. Alcohol which enters the body in form of rakia or vine is acting as a toxicant on the nervous system and brain cells. This is why (the male or female person) under the influence of alcohol (tipsy or drunk-under narcotics) is not able to think rationally, in other words to normally and professionally perform tasks or everyday chores. It is general knowledge that that kind of person is prone to uncontrolled psychophysical actions and pathological phenomena which starts with verbal conflict and in time grows into physical violence over the entire family. This kind of incidents often end with murder.

Regardless of what kind of person and what age we are talking about, the use-misuse of the alcohol in itself beside the many losses is also creating the financial ones which are pushing the individual into economic downfall. Addict in time increases the dose-quantity, intensify his intoxication and by doing this doubles the house budget expenses.

Table 1. The prices of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages 12.12.2010.

Beer	106,90 din.	Coca-cola	105,00 din.
Vine	639,90 din.	Cola	98,00 din.
Vine (Riesling )	174,90 din.	Clear juice	82,00 din.
Vine (dry)	544,90 din.	Mushy juice	109,90 din.
Rakia	559,65 din.	Mineral water	42,70 din.
Vodka	499,90 din.	Soda	76,90 din
Small bottle (rakia)	60,00 din.	Canned soda	53,00 din.
Whiskey	1499,99 din.		

Source: The data obtained by researching the price fluctuations on market

Due to closely interconnected economical-health-social factors today is really difficult to define a precise place at the scale of importance for individual and family when forming and developing a healthy family: What is more important, the economy or social status?

The use of alcoholic beverages in the past was limited to a close circle of (matured) people and under special occasions (holidays, celebrations, etc.) in small quantities. On Balkans (former Yugoslavia) and its surroundings, it is known what kind of beverages are used regarding the ethnic / geographic territories and customs. In such a way Slovenians like drinking beer and vine the best, Croatians vodka and white vines, Bosnians local rakia, Montenegrins vine, Macedonians mastic and local vines and in Serbia the local rakia is most widely used, the Greeks like metaxa brandy while Albanians are enjoying Albanian cognac-Skenderbeg.

However, nowadays everyone drinks everything, without any special choosing and control so the number of consumers is higher and at the same time the consuming of alcoholic beverages is also on the rise. Also, the biggest number of consumers can be found among the female population. Here is one example from a technical school form 10.12.2010: During the class a third grade girl (17 years) has shown indecent behaviour with her friends wherefore they were thrown out from the class. After this they went to market to buy a new amount of beer and other drinks and went to a park behind the school where they continued drinking. As an excuse they said that it was a friends birthday. The girl (M.S) drank so much the she had an uncontrolled need for urination. The ambulance did their part of medical assistance, the returning to a normal medico-psychophysical state and releasing to a several days home treatment. This is just one of the similar and many examples of using-misusing alcohol (alcoholic beverages) among the scholars and youth which can additionally aggravate the already disrupted family state in economic-social terms.

Table 2. The types and the consummation level of alcohol in high school children

What kind of drink do you drink most often?			
Variables	M	F	Overall
a) Mix of juice and alcohol	40 (18,43 %)	35 (13,89 %)	75 (15,99 %)
б) Just beer	55 (25,34 %)	25 (9,92 %)	80 (17,05 %)
в) Just vine	11 (5,07 %)	25 (9,92 %)	36 (7,67 %)
г) Strong liquor	20 (9,22 %)	30 (11,90 %)	50 (10,66 %)
д) Combination	27 (12,44 %)	36 (14,28 %)	63 (13,43 %)
ђ) I don't drink	63 (29,03 %)	101 (40,08 %)	164 (34,97 %)
<b>Overall</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>469 (100 %)</b>

Source: Data obtained from the research we conducted.

It is scientifically proven that the adverse effects of alcohol have influence throughout the entire body, more so in children and youth (adolescent) who are still in a phase of development. During this period the vital organs suffer the most damage.

Therefore, when we talk about the economic-social decline or degradation of an individual and then the family it is important to stress out that the misuse of alcoholic beverages (especially in young) is followed by far-reaching and immeasurable consequences.

The boys and girls are having a hard time deciding whether or not to form a family. Those that are dissatisfied by their income in marriage often become addicted to some negative phenomena which leads to a family breakup. If they have children they become assigned to a more responsible parent by the law regulative (which is in most cases mother). This further leads to a creation of social cases which are a burden to the parents, children and the society as a whole.

The misuse of alcohol carries many deviations, like the attempt of murder and suicide, which are very common in cases of acute intoxications. Regarding this and some statistical data (RSZ) it is confirmed that the life span of an alcoholic is ranging from 35 – 55 years, the best years for providing to a family and society in the most successful way. [Vujović, 2006, p.64-77]

By analyzing many up until now shown and confirmed effects of misusing psychoactive substances and narcotic drugs (natural or synthetic) that are having far-reaching economical, medicinal and social consequences [Petrović, 1983, 61-68] we have come to a conclusion that: all individuals, be they of male or female sex under the influence of PAS and narcotic drugs are, according to all of the psychological-social criteria going to the extremes, from social to antisocial and thus from a healthy person they become conditionally sick individuals.

It is not hard to deduct that the presence of an alcoholic (3,4% out of the total number of residents- 238.000 people are a regular consumers) leads to a high probability of a possible danger to the individual-addict and at the same time a family as well, like the presence of 35-50 thousand drug addicts (in Belgrade) could pose a threat to 50 thousand families. Beside this the lives of drug addicts are also endangered as are the lives of other citizens of Belgrade. In the Republic of Serbia as a whole, that number

reaches 80-100 thousand of addicts. From the aforementioned we can conclude that, on one side, the addicts themselves are economic-medicinally and socially endangered and then their family as well, while on the other side, the society and country become economically burdened by primary and secondary prevention. After this the security of one's country is also at risk due to organized crime and money laundering that is obtained through the illegal drug trafficking, prostitution and many other socio-pathological phenomena. Thus, we can rightfully say that the misuse of PAS and narcotic drugs is a multilayered negative phenomena.

Any member of the family who gets into a whirlpool of PAS and narcotic drugs is leading one's family to the economic downfall (the buying of PAS and drugs, other expenses that follows), jeopardizing or losing the social status (avoiding of family and friends, conflicts with the law, penalties- monetary and prison sentences), therapy that is expensive and long-term and at the end the possible physical loss-death of an addict (the life span raging from 25 to 35 years) which can be induced by overdosing, committing suicide, gunfight among the drug criminals.

## Family breakdown

In the family of an alcoholic (father, mother or both) there can be many relation disorders which are, at the beginning followed by verbal fights (psychological violence), physical fights (psychophysical violence) and at the end by temporary separations or divorce. Children in those families do not have the necessary conditions for psychophysical development, they often suffer throughout their childhood. Some of the children takes over the roles of their parents, displaying various behavioral disorders. Many of them neglect or even leave their schools while a small number gets obsessive with learning and/or sports and achieve better results then before. A great number of children themselves become alcoholic following the examples given by their parents. [Gacić, 1985, p. 90-112]

Constant or exaggerated consuming-misuse of alcohol is interfering with or completely disabling the successful functions of a family life starting with marrying, giving birth, nurturing and educating of children and care for the elderly (parents). It can be said without a doubt that the one who is not able to take care of oneself and his behavior cannot in any case take care of someone else. After piling up of the problems from previous periods and the next ones coming in, the solutions become delayed or completely ignored thus leading to a family disruption. The situations like sudden and unforeseen crises in the family life per example- sudden death caused by overdosing or a suicide are especially difficult to deal with. This crises are involuntary, non-developmental and cause disorganization of every family who has an alcoholic within it. [Stanković, Begović, 2009] Regardless of the difference between an alcoholic and drug addict the results are the same: they go through the similar conditioned-involuntary phases of addiction, treatment attempts, relapses and, in the end the disruption of the family as the most difficult phase of ones life followed by constant fears and anxiety.

REFERENCE U SREDNJIM, A TREBA U MALIM ZAGRДAMA

The misuse of PAS and narcotic drugs (natural or synthetic ones) leads to disorganization of the whole family system. Drug is a substance which degrades the psychophysical structure of ones character, disrupts the family and eventually, kills. The drug misuse is in a causal

connection with many socio-pathological phenomena in children and youth but also in more mature-adult persons-addicts, beginning with juvenile delinquency, stealing, robbery, prostitution, suicides, murders and other felonies. Previous experiences are showing that the drug and criminal are closely connected to one another. [Nikolić, 2000] The healthy families become disrupted in the same way, when any of the members get involved in this world of drugs or the families that are already from some reason having the socio-medical and economic problems. The first to get influenced are the children or risky family situations; children of divorced parents, children of single parents etc.

This researcher has much personal experience with professional working with kids and other experiences with the families of drug addicts that confirms the attitude that the beginnings may be different [Group of authors, 2006], as well as the processes but the outcome is the same: death of a drug addict (35 years old, left two kids with their grandparents, the mother-wife's whereabouts are unknown). The second case: student-drug addict, after finishing three years of school (qualified worker after three years of secondary education) dies of an, clinically proved case of overdose. The parents divorced-disrupted family. We should also mention the father from the case of an young drug addict who did all he could to save his only son from the claws of addiction and died in his 60 years of life (before his time), while the son is to this day still on the various medications, trying to sustain his life without a family, laugh or joy on a country's budget.

There are many similar or different family stories with the same outcome: the family is socio-economically disrupted and medical-biologically destroyed.

## Conclusion

The main factors that are initiated by the drug misuse and are contributing to weakening and stopping the overall development of an individual, family and the entire society are:

- Unfinished education, because at one moment of the initial phase of addiction the addict-adolescent is leaving his regular education, transiting to an extramural education which becomes the financial problem for the family and inflates society problems.
- Not finishing the school, lack of work habits and the losing of capability to work becomes a social case and a burden for the ones that are employed,
- Since he is professionally left behind there is no way for him to advance and develop unless it is a very narrow circle of the company he is currently working at,
- The work of every addict in the very beginning, during or after the addiction experience, if he ever become involved in to a social life after all of that is on a lowest degree of utilization,
- Because of the social-economic changes and the problems caused by them the number of unemployed persons is at a high level, which leaves very small to no places for a work activation and resocialization of addicts,
- Beside the overall crises that gives birth to the indecisions of the young regarding the entering into marital relations, forming and expansion of family, the drug addicts are having additional difficulties beside socioeconomic and health ones which leads to the downfall of demographic social capabilities,

- Next to all of the difficulties - social, health, educational, security and others the economic ones are a additional expense for the society regarding the staff, correctional facilities and prisons.

It is important to say that this is just the part of consequences, which along with some other ones are making the difficult occasions toward the already weakened state of the economy even more difficult. There is no economic development and improvement without the healthy individuals, there is no contributing to a financial regeneration without the psychophysically healthy and professionally trained workers. It is without a doubt that the endangerment of the young generation of PAS is endangering the correct development of an entire society and lessens the potentials of one country.

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