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The spread of drugs in Algerian society: a reading of social explanations

انتشار المخدرات في المجتمع الجزائري: قراءة في التفسيرات الاجتماعية

Afaf Baoune

PhD student , University of Kasdi-Merbah Ouargla, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Sociology and Demography, Laboratory for the Development of Psychological and Educational Practices, baoune.afaf@univ-ouargla.dz

أ.عفاف بعون

جامعة قاصدي مرباح ورقلة، كلية العلوم الإنسانية والاجتماعية قسم علم الاجتماع والديمغرافيا، مخبر تطوير الممارسات النفسية والتربوية،baoune.afaf@univ-ouargla.dz

Corresponding author: Afaf Baoune, baoune.afaf@univ-ouargla.dz

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Abstract:

This research paper aims to address the phenomenon of drug use in Algerian society by defining and clarifying the most significant factors and stakeholders involved. Despite continuous efforts by authorities to curb this issue, drug use has escalated, leading to severe social and economic repercussions. This persistent problem has highlighted the need to reevaluate the strategies and mechanisms currently in place to effectively diagnose, manage, and prevent drug proliferation. The goal is to achieve a comprehensive understanding that will aid in mitigating the impact of drug use and establishing effective prevention and intervention measures.

Keywords: Drug addiction, Socio-economic factors, Family dynamics, Prevention strategies.

الملخص

تهدف هذه الورقة البحثية إلى معالجة ظاهرة تعاطي المخدرات في المجتمع الجزائري من خلال تحديد وتوضيح أهم العوامل والجهات المعنية. وعلى الرغم من الجهود المتواصلة التي تبذلها السلطات للحد من هذه المشكلة، إلا أن تعاطي المخدرات قد تصاعد، مما أدى إلى عواقب اجتماعية واقتصادية خطيرة، وقد سلطت هذه المشكلة المستمرة الضوء على الحاجة إلى إعادة تقييم الاستراتيجيات والآليات المعمول بها حاليا لتشخيص انتشار المخدرات وإدارته ومنعه بشكل فعال. والهدف هو التوصل إلى فهم شامل من شأنه أن يساعد في التخفيف من تأثير تعاطي المخدرات ووضع تدابير فعالة للوقاية والتدخل.

الكلمات المفتاحية : تعاطي المخدرات، العوامل الاجتماعية والاقتصادية، ديناميات الأسرة، رفاهية المجتمع، استراتيجيات الوقاية

. INTRODUCTION

The spread of drug use in Algerian society has emerged as a pressing social issue with profound implications for public health, social stability, and economic development. This phenomenon is not isolated to individual behavior but is deeply rooted in broader socio-economic conditions and cultural contexts. Algeria, like many other nations, faces the complex challenge of addressing the multifaceted nature of drug proliferation, which is influenced by various socio-economic factors including poverty, unemployment, and urbanization. These factors create environments that may increase vulnerability to drug use, particularly among the youth and marginalized populations.

Additionally, the rise in drug use has far-reaching effects on social structures, family dynamics, and community well-being. It can lead to family disintegration, increased domestic violence, and negative impacts on child welfare, thereby undermining the social fabric and resilience of communities. Understanding these impacts is crucial for developing comprehensive and effective interventions.

This research aims to delve into the socio-economic determinants of drug use in Algeria and to assess the social repercussions of this issue on families and communities. By examining the root causes and societal impacts of drug use, this study seeks to provide a holistic understanding of the problem and to inform the development of targeted strategies for prevention and intervention. Through a nuanced exploration of these dynamics, this research will contribute to a deeper insight into the challenges and potential solutions for addressing drug use in Algerian society.

1. Research problem

The proliferation of drug use in Algerian society has emerged as a significant social and public health issue. Understanding the underlying causes and consequences of this trend is crucial for developing effective interventions and policies. This research aims to investigate the multifaceted factors contributing to the spread of drugs in Algeria, including socio-economic, cultural, and political dimensions, and to explore the social explanations for this phenomenon. The main problem with drugs and alcohol is that they are addictive, which can lead to destructive behaviors, and long-term addiction has serious health risks.

Cases of drug and substance misuse among the youths are rising steadily and at a worrying trend not only in Algeria but also in most parts of world. If intervention measures are not put in place, the fate for future generation is at stake. Most youths have become addicts, hopelessness and uninterested in getting married.

2. Research Questions

1. What are the primary socio-economic factors contributing to the increase in drug use in Algeria?
2. How does the rise in drug use impact social structures, family dynamics, and community well-being in Algeria?
3. How can the spread of drugs be reduced?

3. Research Objectives

1.To identify and analyze the socio-economic determinants of drug use in Algeria.

2.To understand the social impact of drug use on families and communities and Assess the effects on family cohesion, domestic violence, and child welfare.

4. Conceptual grounding

What is a drug? Strictly speaking, a drug is any substance that, when consumed, alters one or more of the functions of the human body. This definition covers a wide range of substances, from cocaine to medicines for the control of cancer or high blood pressure. It also includes many everyday foods along with beverages such as tea, coffee, and cola that contain the mild stimulant caffeine. The drugs that constitute a social problem are typically limited to the psychoactive drugs: those that can produce major alterations in the mood, emotions, perceptions, or brain functioning of the person who takes them.[1]

For social science purposes, a drug

must be defined in context. In the medical context, a drug is a chemical substance used to heal the body and mind, one that is physician approved in medical therapy. In this sense, Lipitor, a cholesterol-fighting agent, Zoloft, an anti-depressant, and Celebrex, an antiarthritis agent, are drugs. Within a legal context, a drug is an illicit or controlled substance, one whose possession and sale are subject to legal penalties; this makes marijuana, LSD, and heroin drugs.[2]

Drugs. (drug addiction) These terms generally refer to illegal drugs, although the social significance of alcohol, tobacco, and tranquillizers should be noted (for example regarding health). The diverse origins of illegal drugs include natural plants and manufactured synthetics. Research shows that patterns of use, behaviour, and subjective experience will be influenced by particular properties of drugs but also by social factors, such as culture and expectations[3].

The concept of addiction is unhelpful: it suggests a dependency with grave consequences for the individual and society. Not all drug-users develop dependency nor do such consequences inevitably follow; the term 'problem drug-user' is therefore increasingly favoured. Regarding crime, the dominant thesis is that regular drug use, coupled with the illegality of supply, forces users to commit crime to pay for drugs; however, whether drug use leads to involvement in crime, or involvement in delinquent lifestyles introduces a person to drug use, is debated. HIV transmission via shared syringes has encouraged the aim of minimizing harm associated with use, challenging the traditional pursuit of abstinence. Calls for decriminalization are regularly made, but legislative change seems unlikely, at least in the short.

We can define **drug abuse** as the use of unacceptable drugs and/or the excessive or inappropriate use of acceptable drugs in ways that can lead to physical, psychological, or social harm. (See the discussion of drug dependence later in this section.) With this definition, there can be little question that the abuse of both legal and illegal drugs is a social problem.[4]

Drug addiction, or chemical dependency, refers to a condition in which drug use is compulsive users are unable to stop because of their dependency. The dependency may be psychological (the individual needs the drug to achieve a feeling of well-being) and/or physical (withdrawal symptoms occur when the individual stops taking the drug). For example, withdrawal from marijuana includes depression, anger, decreased appetite, and restlessness.

Drug addiction, as used by professionals in the field, refers to physical dependence on a drug. Although most drugs of abuse are physically addicting, some, such as the hallucinogens, are not.

Abuse of alcohol and other drugs is a growing problem throughout the world. One in four deaths of men ages 15–29 in Europe is due to alcohol, and addiction to opiates and cocaine is a growing problem in China, Latin America, Russia, and other nations of the former Soviet Union.

5. The nature of problem

From a pharmacological viewpoint, a drug is any substance, other than food, that chemically alters the structure or function of a living organism. So inclusive a definition, however, encompasses everything from vitamins and hormones to laxatives, snake and mosquito venom, antiperspirants, insecticides, and air pollutants. Obviously, this definition is too broad to be of practical value. Definitions that depend on context are more useful. In a medical context, for example, a drug may be any substance prescribed by a physician or manufactured expressly to relieve pain or to treat and prevent disease. In a sociological context, the term drug denotes any habit-forming substance that directly affects the brain or nervous system. More precisely, it refers to any chemical substance that affects physiological functions, mood, perception, or consciousness; has the potential for misuse; and may be harmful to the user or to

society. In addition to the illicit drugs that attract so much attention, many pharmaceutical drugs are abused as narcotics.[5]

6. Use and Abuse

Drug abuse occurs when acceptable social standards of drug use are violated, resulting in adverse physiological, psychological, and/or social consequences. For example, when an individual's drug use leads to hospitalization, arrest, or divorce, such use is usually considered abusive. Drug abuse, however, does not always entail drug addiction.

Differences Among Drug Use, Drug Abuse, and Drug Dependence

How do we distinguish among drug use, drug abuse, and drug dependence? Drug use is simply the ingestion of substances in order to produce changes in the body or mind that alter the way the world is experienced. Any consumption of psychoactive substances (including legal drugs such as alcohol) for any purpose is considered drug use.

Drug use: The ingestion of substances so as to produce changes in the body that alter the way the user experiences the world.

Drug abuse, on the other hand, is the use of psychoactive substances in a way that creates social, psychological, or physical problems for the user. All drugs can be abused, including legal ones such as alcohol, tobacco, diet pills, decongestants, and even caffeine. The fundamental distinction between drug use and drug abuse is that abuse creates harm in the life of the user. Thus, all drug abuse includes drug use; however, all drug use is not necessarily drug abuse.[6]

Drug dependence is characterized by compulsive drug use behaviors despite negative consequences and produces psychophysiological changes in the user. This dependence can be physiological or psychological in nature, or both, and its effects can vary considerably. For example, compared with more socioeconomically disadvantaged persons, those with sufficient resources or wealth may experience fewer problems associated with drug dependence and be less likely to be arrested, fired from their jobs, or lose custody of their children.

• Method of administration

Smoking a drug or injecting it into a vein increases its addictive potential. Both smoked and injected drugs enter the brain within seconds, producing a powerful rush of pleasure. However, this intense "high" can fade within a few minutes, taking the abuser down to lower, more normal levels. Scientists believe this starkly felt contrast drives some people to repeated drug usage in an attempt to recapture the fleeting pleasurable state.[7]

7. Types of Drugs

There are many different types of drugs, but the focus here will be on narcotics By law, narcotics include "opium and its derivatives, the coca leaf and its active ingredient cocaine, and the cannabis plant, the source of marijuana and the powerful resin hashish" . Other controlled substances include LSD, amphetamines, methamphetamines, barbiturates, and other chemically designed or designer drugs. Opium comes from the opium poppy. One of the biggest producers in the twentieth century was Turkey, then Mexico and Afghanistan. It is used for pain, coughs, and other conditions. Its derivatives include codeine, morphine, and heroine. The coca plant grows in the Andes Mountains of South America. Locals use it as a digestive and circulatory aid. Cocaine, a powder derived from the leaves, is an analgesic (pain reliever). Amphetamines are chemically produced drugs that were first used to treat personality disorders. They are known as crystal meth, crank, speed, or ice. Barbiturates are also chemically produced and used as an anticonvulsant, especially for epilepsy. LSD, or lysergic acid diethylamide, is a chemically produced hallucinogenic. It was popular in the 1960s, thought to simulate spiritual experiences, and commonly called acid. Marijuana and hashish were also popular in the 1960s when they were also called weed. Today

marijuana is used in chronic illnesses, and to counter the nausea caused by chemotherapy treatment for cancer.[8]

Alcohol . • Cocaine • GHB . Heroin Inhalants LSD Marijuana MDMA/Molly • Methamphetamine Tobacco.

Causes of Drugs and Substance Abuse

In the past twenty years, an unprecedented increase in the rate of drug abuse, both illegal and therapeutic drugs has threatened to derail societal advancement. The spike in the rate of drug abuse has been witnessed in almost every part of the globe. The drug scourge has not spared any country: drug and substance abuse is very much a challenge and a devastating problem.

Studies have revealed that drugs and substance misuse is influenced by a "complex, interacting network of sociological, psychological and biological variables"

Biological Factors in Drug Use

There are biological mechanisms responsible for humans' variety of sensations in the brain inclusive of pleasurable sensations. Studies found humans' brain to have a natural "pleasure pathway" that mediates the experience of reward. It is through the activation of this pleasure pathway that an individual experiences a pleasurable sensations or feelings.1,5 Therefore, the consumption of illicit drugs activates this pleasure pathway and consequently produces the pleasurable experience. Though the exact location of the pleasure pathway in the brain is yet to be identified, it is definite that everyone has this pathway, contributing to the fact that every human being has the inclination to be addicted and dependent on drugs. However, the chances of getting addicted (predisposition) are not the same for each individual. In sum, due to biological factors, though the mechanism of activation in the pleasure path is the same, the degree of activation is not the same for different individuals, contributing to different individual's predisposition to drug abuse.[9]

Genetics: Genetic predisposition plays a significant role in the likelihood of developing substance abuse disorders. Individuals with a family history of addiction are at higher risk.

Brain Chemistry: Neurobiological factors, including imbalances in neurotransmitters and the brain's reward system, can influence susceptibility to addiction.

Environmental Factors:

Availability and Accessibility of Drugs Availability of drugs or accessibility of drugs is one of the factors contributing to the increasing drug abuse during recent decades. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics' report in 2007, 22% of students in grades 9 through 12 admitted that they had been offered, sold, or given illegal drugs on school property. According to Majlis Bangsa-bangsa Bersatu, easy accessibility of drugs has been one of the current situations among the youth. Rationally, when accessibility of drugs is easy, chances of people trying out and consequently being addicted to drugs is increased. Hence, accessibility of drugs is an issue requiring immediate attention so that actions could be carried out to minimize or eliminate possible negative effects.

To increase their profits, drug syndicates are employing increasingly creative methods to lure people into drug abuse, leading to addiction. As more individuals become addicted, these syndicates secure a steady stream of business. Addicts, driven by their need to manage addiction or avoid the agony of withdrawal, often resort to various, sometimes illegal, means to obtain drugs.[10]

What environmental factors increase the risk of addiction?

Home and family

The influence of the home environment, especially during childhood, is a very important factor. Children with parents or older family members who abuse alcohol or drugs or engage in criminal behavior, have an increased risk of developing their own drug problems.

Peers and school

Friends and acquaintances can have

an increasingly strong influence during adolescence. Drug-using peers can sway even those without risk factors to try drugs for the first time. Academic failure or poor social skills can put a child at further risk for using or becoming addicted to drugs.[11]

Accessibility: The availability and accessibility of drugs in a community significantly impact the likelihood of use. This includes legal drugs (alcohol, prescription medications) and illegal substances.

Urbanization: Living in urban areas, where drug markets are more accessible, can increase exposure and access to drugs

Drug use and addiction are probably the result of a complex interplay of social, psychological, and biological forces. Biological research has primarily concentrated on the role of genetics in predisposing an individual to drug use. Research indicates that severe, early-onset alcoholism may be genetically predisposed, with some men having 10 times the risk of addiction as those without a genetic predisposition. Interestingly, other problems such as depression, chronic anxiety, and attention deficit disorder are also linked to the likelihood of addiction. Nonetheless, researchers warn.

Economic Factors

Poverty: Economic hardship and lack of opportunities can lead to increased stress and a higher likelihood of drug use as a coping mechanism.

Unemployment: Joblessness and economic instability can contribute to drug use due to stress, lack of purpose, and increased idle time.

What other factors increase the risk of addiction?

Early use

Although taking drugs at any age can lead to addiction, research shows that the earlier a person begins to use drugs, the more likely he or she is to develop serious problems. This increased risk may reflect the harmful effects that drugs can have on the developing brain. It may result from a mix of early social and biological vulnerability factors, including unstable family relationships, exposure to physical or sexual abuse, genetic susceptibility, or mental illness. Still, the fact remains that early use is a strong indicator of problems ahead, including addiction.

Drug use is influenced by a complex interplay of biological, psychological, social, cultural, economic, and environmental factors. Effective prevention and intervention strategies must address these multifaceted causes to reduce the incidence of drug use and its associated harms. Understanding these underlying factors can help in creating comprehensive approaches that consider the diverse influences on drug use behavior.

8. Sociological Theories of Drug

Various theories provide explanations for why some people use and abuse drugs. Drug use is not simply a matter of individual choice. Theories of drug use explain how structural and cultural forces as well as biological and psychological factors influence drug use and society's responses to it.

Structural-Functionalist Perspective

Structural functionalists argue that drug abuse is a response to weakening societal norms. As society becomes more complex and as rapid social change occurs, norms and values become unclear and ambiguous, resulting in anomie a state of normlessness. Anomie may exist at the societal level, resulting in social strains and inconsistencies that lead to drug use. For example, research indicates that increased alcohol consumption in the 1830s and the 1960s was a response to rapid social change and the resulting stress.

Anomie produces inconsistencies in cultural norms regarding drug use. For example, although public health officials and health care professionals warn of the dangers of alcohol and tobacco use, advertisers glorify the use of alcohol and tobacco, and the U.S. government subsidizes the alcohol and tobacco industries. Furthermore, cultural traditions, such as giving away cigars to celebrate the birth of a

child and toasting a bride and groom with champagne, persist.

Anomie may also exist at the individual level, as when a person suffers feelings of estrangement, isolation, and turmoil over appropriate and inappropriate behavior. An adolescent whose parents are experiencing a divorce, who is separated from friends and family as a consequence of moving, or who lacks parental supervision and discipline may be more vulnerable to drug use because of such conditions.[12]

Conflict Perspective

The conflict perspective emphasizes the importance of power differentials in influencing drug use behavior and societal values concerning drug use. From a conflict perspective, drug use occurs as a response to the inequality perpetuated by a capitalist system. Societal members, alienated from work, friends, and family as well as from society and its institutions, turn to drugs as a means of escaping the oppression and frustration caused by the inequality they experience. Furthermore, conflict theorists emphasize that the most powerful members of society influence the definitions of which drugs are illegal and the penalties associated with illegal drug production, sales, and use. For example, alcohol is legal because it is often consumed by those who have the power and influence to define its acceptability.[13]

The conflict perspective on drugs examines drug use and its societal implications through the lens of power dynamics, inequality, and social conflict. Here's how this perspective typically approaches the issue:

1. Structural Inequality: It views drug use as a response to social and economic inequalities. According to this perspective, individuals from marginalized or disadvantaged backgrounds may turn to drugs as a coping mechanism or a form of escape from their challenging circumstances.
2. Capitalist Society: Critics from this perspective argue that drug use is influenced by capitalist economic systems that prioritize profit over public health. Pharmaceutical companies, for example, may prioritize selling addictive medications or lobby for policies that benefit their interests.

In summary, the conflict perspective provides a critical examination of drug use within broader social contexts, focusing on power imbalances, structural inequalities, and the role of societal institutions in shaping drug-related policies and outcomes. It challenges mainstream narratives and policies surrounding drugs by highlighting how they can reinforce social divisions and perpetuate injustices.

Drugs as a Social Problem

While drugs are often considered a social problem in U.S. society, as inanimate substances they are neither inherently good nor inherently bad. Their effects depend on the social contexts and the ways, good or bad, in which humans put them to use. Opiate drugs, for instance, can relieve excruciating pain and play an important role in reducing human suffering after a medical surgery. However, recreational users of these substances can fall into a problematic cycle of dependence, leading to other forms of deviant behavior, comorbid health conditions, and even the possibility of death from overdose. Thus, the ways in which we integrate drugs into our lives shape the impacts they have on individuals and societies.

9. The effects of drugs

Much of the concern about drugs of abuse relates to their effects on people. Some drugs produce dependence, or a mental or physical craving for a drug and withdrawal symptoms when use of the drug is stopped. Dependence and its withdrawal symptoms can be physical, psychological, or both. Alcohol withdrawal, for example, can lead to convulsions, hallucinations, and insomnia on the physical level and nervousness and a reduced sense of self-worth on the psychological level. The withdrawal symptoms of a drug are often the opposite of the effects of taking the drug.

For example, alcohol, which helps a person relax, can lead to insomnia and anxiety when use is discontinued. Drug dependence and drug abuse are not the same thing, although they are often related. A severely depressed person, for example, may become highly dependent on antidepressant medications prescribed by a physician, but this would not be considered drug abuse because the physician's diagnosis and treatment prescription make this a socially approved use of a drug.

The Effects of Drugs on Family Dynamics

The use of drugs can have profound and far-reaching effects on family dynamics, impacting the emotional, psychological, and financial well-being of all family members. Here are some of the key ways in which drug use affects families:

1. **Emotional and Psychological Impact**

- **Stress and Anxiety:** Family members often experience high levels of stress and anxiety due to the unpredictable behavior and health risks associated with drug use.

- **Mental Health Issues**: The strain of dealing with a loved one's drug use can lead to depression, anxiety disorders, and other mental health issues among family members.

- **Emotional Distress**: Witnessing a family member struggle with addiction can cause significant emotional distress and feelings of helplessness.

2. **Disruption of Family Roles**

- **Parenting Challenges:** Parents who use drugs may neglect their responsibilities, leading to inadequate care and supervision of children.

- **Role Reversal**: In some cases, children may have to take on adult responsibilities, such as caring for siblings or managing household duties, which can affect their development and education.

- **Marital Strain:** Drug use can create significant strain on marriages, often leading to conflicts, separation, or divorce.

3. **Financial Consequences**

- **Economic Hardship:** The cost of purchasing drugs, coupled with potential job loss due to drug-related issues, can lead to severe financial problems for families.

- **Medical Expenses**: Treatment for addiction, as well as health complications arising from drug use, can result in substantial medical expenses.

4. Social Isolation

- **Stigma and Shame:** Families affected by drug use may experience social stigma and shame, leading to isolation from extended family, friends, and the community.

- **Reduced Social Support**: The isolation can result in a lack of social support, making it more difficult for families to cope with the challenges of drug addiction.

5. Impact on Children

- **Developmental Issues**: Children in families affected by drug use may experience developmental delays, behavioral problems, and academic difficulties.

- **Emotional Trauma**: The instability and potential exposure to drug-related activities can cause emotional trauma, affecting a child's long-term mental health.

- **Increased Risk of Substance Abuse**: Children who grow up in environments where drug use is prevalent are at a higher risk of developing substance abuse problems themselves.

6. Legal and Safety Concerns

- Legal Problems: Families may face legal issues related to drug use, including arrests, custody battles, and involvement with child protective services.

Safety Risks: Drug use can lead to dangerous behaviors, increasing the risk of accidents, domestic violence, and other safety concerns within the household.

7. **Family Cohesion**

- **Breakdown of Relationships**: Trust and communication within the family can deteriorate, leading to a breakdown in relationships.

The effects of drug use on family dynamics are complex and multifaceted,

impacting emotional health, financial stability, social relationships, and overall family cohesion. Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach that includes support for all family members, access to mental health services, and effective addiction treatment programs. By understanding and addressing the impacts of drug use on families, it is possible to mitigate some of these adverse effects and promote healthier family environments. Continued and uncontrolled abuse of drugs is regarded as the one of the causes of both long and short term health problems. Furthermore, risky social behavior has been proven to be caused or aggravated by substance abuse.

Basic prevention strategies of drugs abuse among children[14]

All is not lost as there is still a chance to salvage children hooked to drugs. Prevention is better than cure. There is thus the need to put in place basic prevention strategies in order to save our children. These include:

Information dissemination-many people perish due to lack of knowledge. There is therefore a need to employ all mechanisms available so that information may be disseminated to the greatest extent possible not only on the dangers of drug and substance abuse but also on the need for all stakeholders to act towards protecting our children from being victims of substance abuse. Through this, we will have protected our children and future generations

Prevention education-prevention is better than cure. There is therefore a need to provide education to our children aimed at warning them on the dangers of any form of drugs and substance abuse as well as educating them on better recreational activities that they can take part in at the expense of abuse of drugs.

Engaging children in other serious activities-there should be alternative activities that children can take part in that will divert their attention from drugs and substance abuse. These include engaging them in home activities such as washing utensils and cultivating land and even doing simple cooking, monitored by their parents. They can alternatively learn skills from their parents such as sewing or any other productive activity at the expense of misuse and abuse of drugs. Problem identification-problems should be identified at the earliest possible time before they develop into crises. To that extent, solving such problems will be easier. If the problem is that most children abuse drugs because they are easily available, then there is a need to regulate their availability and ensure that they are only available to adults and probably warning vendors from availing the drugs to children and probably criminalizing sale of drugs to children. Community based process-the community too has a role to play to ensure sanity of our children. This includes advocating for collective correction of children such that any adult can correct any child found abusing drugs as well as reporting such children to the nearest available administrative organ within the community. The community should additionally ensure that any child of school going age goes to school faithfully and punish all truants in a bid to reduce drug abuse among the children.

The spread of drugs in Algerian society is a multifaceted issue that requires a deep and nuanced analysis to understand its underlying causes and consequences. Socio-economic conditions, such as high unemployment rates, poverty, and rapid urbanization, create an environment where drug use can flourish, particularly among the youth and marginalized populations. These socio-economic challenges often lead to feelings of hopelessness and despair, driving individuals to seek escape through substance use. Additionally, cultural factors, including the stigma associated with seeking mental health support and the glamorization of drug use in certain social circles, further complicate the issue. Political dimensions also play a crucial role; ineffective drug policies, lack of enforcement, and corruption can exacerbate the problem by allowing drug markets to thrive. The impact of drug

use extends beyond individual users, leading to family disintegration, increased domestic violence, and adverse effects on child welfare, thereby weakening the social fabric and resilience of communities. Addressing the spread of drugs in Algeria thus necessitates a comprehensive approach that includes socio-economic development, cultural change, effective policy implementation, and community-based interventions to mitigate both the causes and effects of drug proliferation.

. CONCLUSION

The proliferation of drug use in Algerian society presents a significant challenge with deep-seated socio-economic, cultural, and political roots. This research has underscored the multifaceted factors contributing to this issue, including poverty, unemployment, and urbanization, which exacerbate vulnerability, particularly among youth and marginalized populations. The rise in drug use not only affects individual users but also has profound implications for social structures, family dynamics, and community well-being, leading to family disintegration, increased domestic violence, and negative impacts on child welfare.

To effectively address the problem of drug use, comprehensive and targeted strategies are necessary. This includes improving socio-economic conditions through job creation and poverty alleviation, strengthening community support systems, and implementing robust public health initiatives focused on prevention, education, and rehabilitation.

Addressing this complex issue requires a comprehensive approach that considers the socio-economic determinants and societal impacts of drug use. Effective interventions must be informed by a holistic understanding of these factors to develop targeted strategies for prevention and intervention. By delving into the root causes and social repercussions of drug use, this study contributes valuable insights that can guide policymakers, healthcare providers, and community leaders in their efforts to mitigate the spread of drugs and foster a healthier, more resilient Algerian society..

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