
The Role of Socialisation in Preventing the Phenomenon of Drug Use in Algerian Society

دورالتنشئة الاجتماعية في الوقاية من ظاهرة استخدام المواد المخدرة في المجتمع الجزائري

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Abstract (English):

This study seeks to shed light on the problem of Narcotic substances use in Algerian society. In recent years, Algeria, like many countries worldwide, has witnessed a substantial increase in the number of individuals using these lethal substances, prompting researchers and those responsible for safeguarding public health and individual well-being to sound the alarm. A particularly striking observation is the alarming spread of this scourge among young people and even children. This has compelled us, as researchers, to develop solutions to protect young people of different ages from this phenomenon and to devise plans and strategies to confront it. Among the most sound preventive strategies are the appropriate socialisation of the child and the provision of a sound psychological, social, physical, and value-based (belief) foundation, enabling the acquisition of a strong personality and offering robust protection against the various temptations to which the individual may be exposed. A descriptive approach was employed in this study, drawing on relevant literature on Narcotic substances uses and recent statistics from the Algerian National Observatory for the Fight against Narcotic substances use. All the results were analysed and contextualised in relation to Algerian society, with particular emphasis placed on the role of socialisation in preventing this phenomenon. The findings of the present study, entitled "The Role of Socialisation in Preventing the Phenomenon of Drug Use in Algerian Society" indicate that sound socialisation plays a significant role in preventing this scourge. The family, as the first educational nucleus in a child's life, plays a fundamental role in prevention, followed by schools, media, security institutions, religious institutions, and Associations.

Keywords: Narcotic Substances; Narcotic Substances use; Narcotic Substances user personality; socialisation; prevention strategies.

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الملخص :

تهدف هذه الدراسة الى تسليط الضوء على مشكلة استخدام المواد المخدرة في المجتمع الجزائري، خاصة وان في الآونة الاخيرة شهدت الجزائر كسائر بلدان العالم تزايدا كبيرا في عدد مستخدمي هذه المواد الفتاكة، فهذا ما جعل الباحثين والمسؤولين على صحة الفرد وسلامته يدقون ناقوس الخطر.

والشيء الملاحظ هو الانتشار المخيف لهذه الافة في اوساط الشباب و الأطفال، مما استوجب علينا كباحثين التفكير في ايجاد حلول لوقاية الشباب بمختلف اعمارهم من هذه الظاهرة و وضع خطط و استراتيجيات للتصدي لها. و لعل من اهم الاستراتيجيات الصحيحة للوقاية، هي التنشئة الاجتماعية السليمة للطفل وتزويده ببنية نفسية، اجتماعية، جسدية وعقائدية صحيحة تمكنه من اكتساب شخصية قوية و تمنحه الوعي الحصين لكل المغريات التي يمكن ان يتعرض لها

تم توظيف المنهج الوصفي في هذه الدراسة، مع الاعتماد على الدراسات الادبية التي اخذت موضوع استخدام المواد المخدرة كموضوع لها للدراسة، و على الاحصائيات الجديدة للمركز الوطني الجزائري لمكافحة المخدرات مع تحليل كل النتائج و تكيفها مع المجتمع الجزائري، اين تم التأكيد على دور التنشئة الاجتماعية في الوقاية من هذه الظاهرة

أظهرت نتائج هذه الدراسة الموسومة " دور التنشئة الاجتماعية في الوقاية من ظاهرة استخدام المواد المخدرة في المجتمع الجزائري "، أن التنشئة الاجتماعية الصحيحة لها دور كبير في الوقائية من هذه الافة، و ان الاسرة كنواة تعليمية اولى في حياة الطفل تلعب دورا اساسيا في هذه الوقاية و يليها دور المدرسة، دور الإعلام، دور المؤسسات الامنية، المؤسسات الدينية و الجمعيات.

الكلمات المفتاحية: المواد المخدرة-استخدام المواد المخدرة- شخصية مستخدم المواد المخدرة - التنشئة الاجتماعية -

استراتيجيات الوقاية

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1. Introduction

This research aims to address the phenomenon of children's and adolescents' use of narcotic substances and addiction to them while also examining the role of socialisation in preventing this scour. This paper constitutes a modest scholarly contribution that may assist those responsible for individual health in our country in undertaking rapid, evidence-based interventions to curb the alarming spread of this scourge. Statistics and annual reports issued by the World Health Organisation have officially confirmed the spread of Narcotic Substances use and addiction within society, particularly among children and adolescents, because dealers of these toxic substances have begun to promote them among this segment, given their vulnerability and lack of the necessary awareness to avoid them.

This has also been affirmed by health, as well as organisations combating crime and corruption. This means that the alarm has been sound. It has become necessary for all researchers to combine their efforts to provide decision-makers with scientific data grounded in our society and the psychology of the child and the adolescent in Algeria to enable them to curb the significant and rapid escalation in the spread of drug use and addiction among young people.

A set of factors underpins the use of narcotic substances by young people and children; therefore, prevention, treatment, and combating this scourge will involve several institutions. The importance

of socialisation, through all its institutions, lies in confronting this phenomenon and protecting children and young people from it.

Efforts to combat the problem of drug use by young people and children should not be confined to short-term plans; instead, long-term plans should be developed that work to provide the child with values and a strong psychological structure that enables them to confront all temptations.

Accordingly, we highlight the role of socialisation institutions such as the family, educational institutions, the media, mosques, and others in nurturing individuals to become healthy and effective members of society and to remain distant from this scourge.

2. Objectives of the Paper

- To become familiar with the concepts of substance use disorders.
- To highlight the role of socialisation in combating the phenomenon of Narcotic Substances use among young people.

3. Definition of Key Concepts

3.1. Narcotic Substances

A. Definition of Narcotic Substances:

➤ **Linguistic definition:** Narcotic substances are defined in the Arabic language dictionary as substances that cause the body to lose sensation and are used in surgery (Arabic–Arabic Dictionary, 2007, p. 342).

➤ **Terminological definition:** There are two definitions of narcotic substances:

First, the scientific definition: Anything that leads to lethargy, laziness, relaxation, weakness, drowsiness, and heaviness in the limbs and that alleviates pain to a greater or lesser extent (Mukhāmira, 2017, p. 14).

➤ **The legal definition:** Narcotic substances include any natural or synthetic substance listed in Schedules I and II of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and include any substance classified nationally as a narcotic (Law No. 23-05, concerning the prevention of narcotics and psychotropic substances and the suppression of their illicit use and trafficking.2023).

B. Definition of Substance Use Disorder:

The World Health Organisation defines it as a condition of chronic intoxication resulting from repeated use of a drug. It is a psychological and organic state arising from the individual's interaction with the substance, one consequence of which is the emergence of characteristics marked by different behavioural patterns that invariably include a compelling desire to take the substance continuously or periodically to experience its psychological and organic effects and to avoid the

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threatening or painful effects that result from its unavailability; the user may become dependent on more than one substance. The substances that have been associated with dependence include alcohol and drugs such as opium and its derivatives, cocaine, cannabis, and various stimulatory and hypnotic medications.

According to the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (5th ed.), it is defined as patterns of symptoms resulting from continued consumption of a specific psychoactive substance despite all the problems it may cause. Substances, according to this classification, include alcohol; caffeine; cannabis; hallucinogens; opioids; sedatives; hypnotics or anxiolytics; stimulants (amphetamine, cocaine, etc.); tobacco; and other substances (DSM-5 criteria for substance use disorders).

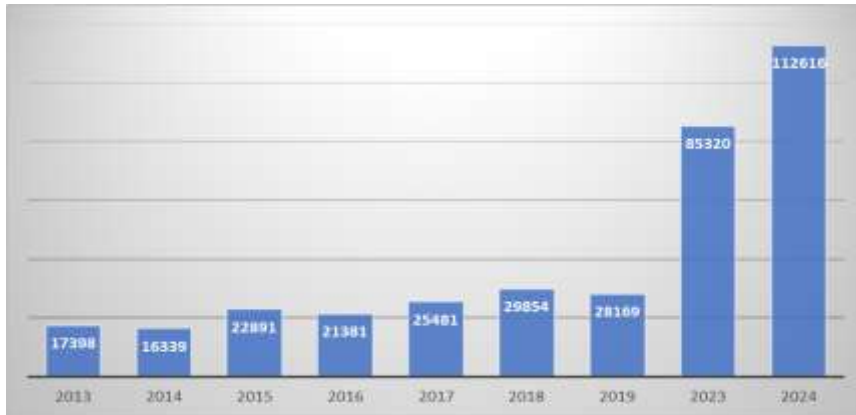
The use of narcotic substances causes the individual to experience highly negative feelings; therefore, specialists in this field do not favour the use of the term “addict” or “addiction” and prefer the term “substance use problems” or the term “individuals with substance use problems”, as stipulated in the DSM-5.

Notably, since 2013, the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (5th ed.) has consolidated the terms “dependence” and “abuse” under the designation “substance use disorder”, as the different stages of addiction mentioned in the fourth edition, namely, use, misuse, and dependence, have been removed.

C. Some Statistics on Narcotic Substances use among young people in Algeria:

The phenomenon of substance use among young people in Algeria is steadily increasing, due to a combination of social, economic and psychological factors, and the availability of these substances on the illicit market. Data from the National Office for the Fight against Drugs and Addiction clearly confirms this in the table below:

Figure 1: Evolution of the number of drug addicts in Algeria between 2013 and 2024, according to data from the National Office for the Fight against Drugs and Drug Addiction (ONADDA)



Source: Report on activities to combat drugs and drug addiction, annual results from 2013 to 2024, National Office for the Fight against Drugs and Drug Addiction

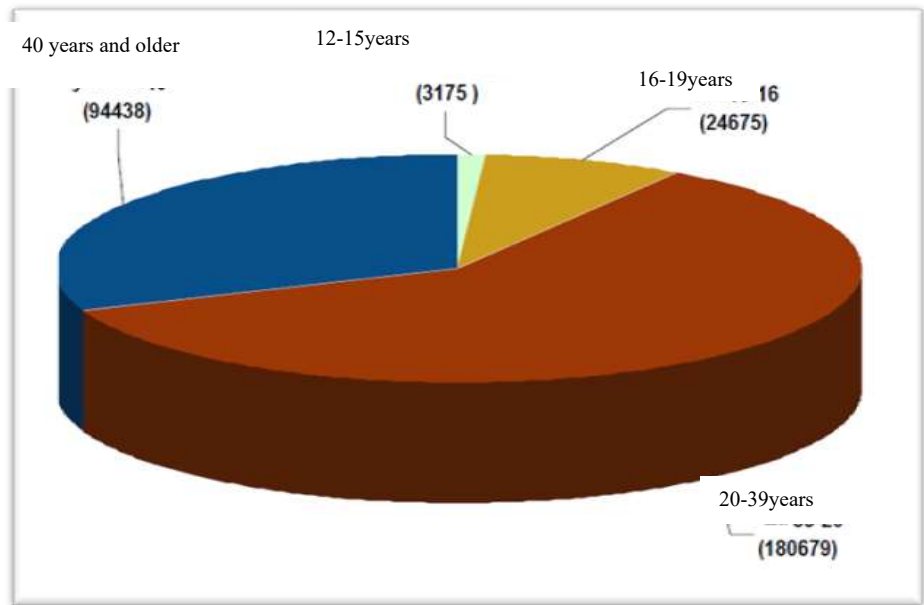
This graph shows the trend in the number of drug users in Algeria between 2013 and 2024. The curve shows a clear upward trend, with some fluctuations in the early years of the time series. The number of drug users stood at around 17,398 cases in 2013, before falling slightly in 2014 to 16,339 cases. However, this decline was temporary, with the number of cases increasing in 2015 to 22,891, then decreasing relatively in 2016 to 21,381, before gradually rising again to 29,854 cases in 2018.

In recent years, statistics have recorded a sharp increase in the number of drug users, from 85,320 cases in 2023 to 112,616 cases in 2024. This means that the number of drug users has multiplied several times over compared to 2013, indicating a clear acceleration in the spread of the phenomenon in recent years. Statistical analysis of this data shows that the number of drug users rose from 17,398 cases in 2013 to 112,616 cases in 2024, representing a total increase of approximately 95,000 cases during this period. This equates to relative growth of over 500%, reflecting a considerable expansion of the phenomenon. It can also be seen that the growth rate was moderate between 2013 and 2019, before accelerating sharply after 2019, indicating a change in the dynamics of the phenomenon.

the comprehensive epidemiological study of drug use in Algeria concluded that drug use has become widespread among all age groups and that its prevalence is linked to several social and economic factors, such as unemployment, weak family supervision, peer pressure, and the ease of obtaining certain types of drugs. It also confirmed that this phenomenon has serious repercussions on public health and social and economic stability, prompting the Algerian authorities to strengthen prevention and control policies.

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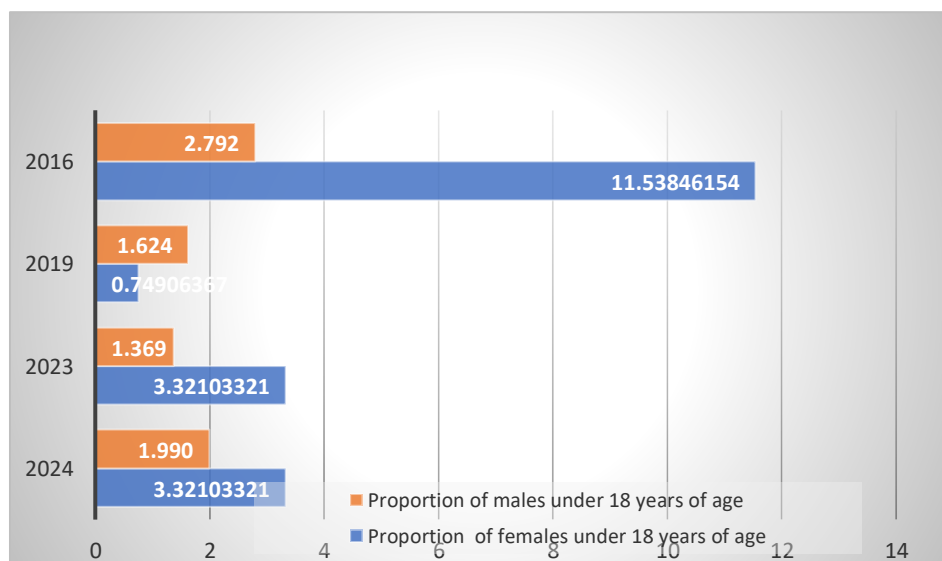
Figure 2: Spread of Narcotic Substances use across different population groups



Source: Comprehensive epidemiological study of drug use in Algeria, comprehensive national survey on the prevalence of drug addiction in Algeria, final report, National Centre for Studies and Analyses in the Field of Population and Development, 2010, p. 44

Data collected by the National Office for the Fight against Drugs and Addiction between 2016 and 2024 shows that Narcotic Substances use is no longer limited to men, but that women are also using these substances, especially among young people. The number of female users of these substances is also steadily increasing. The following figure shows this increase in the number of female drug users.

Figure 3 : Évolution du pourcentage de toxicomanes de moins de 18 ans par sexe de 2016 à 2024, selon les données de l'Office national de lutte contre la drogue et la toxicomanie.



Source: Report on activities to combat drugs and drug addiction, annual results from 2013 to 2024, National Office for the Fight against Drugs and Drug Addiction

The curve shows a gradual increase in the proportion of females in recent years, with the gender gap narrowing relatively to reach a female proportion of approximately 2%. This development reflects a series of socio-demographic shifts linked to changing behaviour patterns among adolescents, the influence of peer groups, and the spread of drug use in schools and urban areas. Despite this relative increase among females, males remain the group most vulnerable to Narcotic Substances use at an early age, which confirms that the phenomenon remains largely linked to the social and behavioural characteristics of adolescent males, calling for the strengthening of prevention and awareness policies targeting young people within social institutions.

Data provided by the National Office for Combating Narcotics and Drug Addiction confirm that the phenomenon of the use of narcotic substances in Algeria has shown a clear upward trend over the period 2013–2024, with a marked acceleration in recent years. This reflects the growing scale of the phenomenon and its development into an increasingly significant health and societal problem, which requires the strengthening of prevention and awareness-raising policies, particularly among young people.

D. Reasons for Young People's Use of Narcotic Substances:

Multiple factors may lead a child to use narcotic substances, particularly during the initial stage of adolescence, given the specificity of this developmental period. Many scholars and researchers have conducted studies to identify the most important of these reasons, drawing on theories and scientific

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foundations concerning childhood and adolescence. Here, we present the most prominent and frequently cited reasons in this body of research and studies, which we consider to correspond to the factors that lead children and adolescents in Algeria to consume narcotic substances. The most important of these are as follows:

- The availability of narcotic substances, particularly given that, in recent times, dealers of these poisons have begun to promote them in schools, believing that children are the best customers because they are easier to influence and persuade them to consume them.
- The consumption of narcotic substances by one of the parents, siblings or relatives (an environment conducive to addiction).
- Friends and delinquent peers play vital roles in pushing their companions towards the use of narcotic substances.
- The presence of family problems and a lack of family stability (Toumach, 2017, pp. 146–147).
- The child's increased loyalty to the peer group and friends rather than to the family (Al-Eisaoui, 2000, p. 234).
- Children's influence, especially in the initial stage of adolescence, is influenced by popular songs replete with coded expressions referring to narcotic substances.
 - Psychological crises accompanying adolescence.
 - Severe frustration that the child is unable to overcome.
 - Curiosity and experimentation.
 - The desire for false euphoria, joy, and elation.
 - The absence of parental monitoring is due to parents' preoccupation.
 - The mistaken belief that narcotic substances help people forget problems and worries.
 - Low awareness of, or ignorance about, the dangers of these substances.
 - There is a paucity of awareness campaigns and plans to combat drug use within schools.
- The spread of deviance hotspots within educational institutions.
- Excess money and failure to teach children how to manage it.
- Severe poverty and its prevalence.

E. How Substance Use Disorder is Diagnosed:

Substance use disorders are diagnosed by specialists such as physicians specialising in neurological diseases, physicians specialising in mental disorders, or psychologists. The DSM-5 is performed according to the criteria contained in the DSM-5. The corresponding criteria for the ICD-11 are also provided. Most specialists worldwide, including those in Algeria, use the DSM-5 criteria.

Diagnostic criteria adopted in the Fifth Edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Classification of Mental Disorders

The criteria are divided into four categories comprising 11 criteria.

First Category: Impaired Self-Control

1. Using larger amounts of the substance, or for a more extended period, than intended.
2. Unsuccessful efforts to stop use despite repeated attempts.
3. A great deal of time is spent using the substance or seeking it.
4. A strong desire to use the substance ("craving").

Second Category: Psychological and Social Consequences Resulting from Substance Use

5. Disregarding obligations related to work, home, or family and being unable to fulfil them.
6. The use of substances continues despite social or interpersonal problems resulting from such use.
7. Important activities, such as social activities, are encouraged because of substance use.

Third Category: Hazardous Use

8. The substance can be used in hazardous situations (e.g., driving).
9. The substance continues to be used despite resulting health problems (e.g., lung cancer) or psychological problems such as depression.

Fourth Category: Physiological Manifestations

10. Tolerance, according to one of the following conditions:

- The need to increase the dose to achieve the same effect, or
- The effect of the substance diminishes when the same quantity is used.

11. Withdrawal, observed through one of the following manifestations:

- Experiencing withdrawal symptoms (withdrawal syndrome).
- Resort to take certain medications to eliminate withdrawal symptoms.

To diagnose an individual as having substance use disorder, they must meet two or more criteria within a time period estimated at 12 months. The severity of the disorder is determined as follows:

- Mild disorder: the presence of 2 to 3 criteria.
- Moderate disorder: 4 to 5 criteria.
- Severe disorder: more than six criteria.

In some cases, specialists resort to conducting specific tests to confirm the individual's use of narcotic substances.

F. Narcotic Substances user personality:

Dr. Ahmed Okasha summarises the signs that characterise the personality of the substance user in the following points: (Kafafi, 1993, p. 25)

- Introversion and withdrawal from others in an unusual manner.
- Neglect and lack of concern for appearance and self-care.
- Persistent lethargy and frequent yawning.
- Facial pallor, sweating, and tremor in the extremities.

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- Loss of appetite, emaciation, and constipation.
- Severe agitation for the slightest reason, contrary to the person's usual nature.
- Apparent neglect in personal matters and irregularity in study and work.
- Resorting to lying and deceptive tricks to obtain more money.
- The disappearance or theft of valuable items from the home without the thief being discovered.

In addition to the following:

- The disappearance of medications from their storage places, especially medications with narcotic properties, even to a slight degree.
- Academic failure and truancy from school.
- Receiving late calls and associating with delinquent friends on the street, at school, or elsewhere.
- Repeated loss of clothes or other belongings and inability to determine where they are kept or placed.
- Carrying oddly shaped tins or containers in pockets, bags, or personal drawers.
- Emotional distancing from the family.
- Psychological anxiety and depression.
- Lack of self-confidence and a sense of diminished self-worth.
- Lack of motivation for excellence and work, alongside academic failure.
- Disregard for traditions and laws.
- Weak religious inclinations.
- A constant search for temporary pleasure.
- Use of sedative and hypnotic substances.
- Violence (whether as a victim or perpetrator).
- Nonconsensual or unprotected sexual relationships.
- Road traffic accidents.
- Memory disturbances.
- Poor concentration .

3.2. Socialisation:

A. Definition of Socialisation:

Socialisation refers to the mechanisms of cultural transmission, as well as the manner in which individuals receive this transmission and internalise the values, norms, and roles that govern social life. (Castra, 2013, pp. 97–98)

Durkheim defines socialisation as follows: "It is the action exercised by the adult generations upon those that are not yet mature for social life; it consists of arousing and developing in the child a number

of physical, intellectual, and moral states as required of him by the political society as a whole and by the particular milieu for which he is specifically destined.” (Abu Jadu,1989, p. 18)

Socialisation requires the acquisition and internalisation of cultural models and practices, social conventions, symbols, rules of conduct, and the values of the society in which the individual lives. This socialisation, through the constraints imposed by society (the family, the school, etc.) and through interactions with the social environment, stimulates the construction of social identity.

Among the synonyms of the term *socialisation* are integration, assimilation, and acculturation.

Sociologists typically distinguish between primary and secondary socialisation:

Primary Socialisation

Primary socialisation is the process occurring in childhood and adolescence through which personality and social identity are formed. It takes place mainly within the family, which is omnipresent, alongside the caregiver, nursery, school, friends, and so forth. The child does not perceive this world as one world among others but as the only world that exists.

Given its early, intensive, and unique nature (unparalleled), primary socialisation is crucial for later learning how to live in society. The sociologist Émile Durkheim (1858–1917) considers this "methodical socialisation of the younger generation by the preceding generations, that is, education to enable the acquisition of norms and values that constitute the foundation of society.

Secondary Socialisation

Secondary socialisation occurs at the end of adolescence and throughout adult life, across the various social settings frequented by the individual: schools, studies, sports, professional life, peer groups, nonprofessional activities, and so forth. Building on primary socialisation, secondary socialisation completes, extends, or transforms it.

Adults' entry into these settings provides an opportunity to acquire new rules of conduct (punctuality, teamwork, responsibility, marital life, etc.), enrich their personalities, and integrate into specific subgroups within society.

B. Institutions of Socialisation:

Institutions of socialisation are social systems that shape an individual's personality and facilitate their adaptation to society. They include the family, the school, places of worship, the media, peer groups, and cultural and sports clubs. These institutions play a fundamental role in transmitting values, norms, and socially desirable behaviours to the individual.

C. Types of Socialisation Institutions:

The Family: This is the first and most influential institution, within which the child learns basic skills and societal values during the crucial early years.

The School: A formal institution concerned with intentional education and the transmission of knowledge and skills, contributing to the development of the child's social awareness.

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Places of worship: These places contribute to instilling religious and moral values, unifying social behaviour, and developing an individual's conscience.

Peer Groups: Peer Groups influence an individual's behaviours and social relationships through daily interactions, play, and communication.

Media: Media have come to play an increasingly influential role in individuals' socialisation, particularly in the modern era, through the content and programmes they provide.

Clubs and other institutions: These include institutions that offer cultural, sporting, and social activities that help develop individual skills and broaden social relationships.

Criminal Justice Institutions: These include the judiciary, the police, the national gendarmerie, and correctional institutions.

It should be noted that the families, schools and universities, places of worship, and criminal justice institutions are considered among the institutions most capable of protecting individuals against the scourge of drug use.

4. The Role of Socialisation in Preventing Narcotic Substances use among Young People and Children

4.1. The Role of the Family in Preventing Narcotic Substances use among Young People and Children:

The family is considered the primary social institution responsible for the socialisation of the child and for equipping them with patterns of behaviour that enable adaptation to society. It must therefore constitute a source of security and tranquillity, as the child learns at the beginning of life, within the family, the values, customs, and traditions of society. Through this approach, the child also learns what is desirable and what is undesirable and comes to recognise appropriate and inappropriate behaviours. Consequently, most scholars emphasise the role of the family in the sound socialisation of the individual. When it fulfils its role appropriately, it produces a healthy and prosperous individual within society; however, when its balance is disrupted, this is reflected in the child, who may later become immersed in various social problems.

As specialists in psychology and educational sciences, we have recently observed that parents are confused about appropriate methods for dealing with their children, particularly given the multiplicity of theories and approaches. Some adopt a permissive style, whereas others follow an authoritarian style, each according to their own orientations and principles. However, recent studies have demonstrated that socialisation styles based on excessive strictness or excessive leniency lead to the formation of alienated, weak, and incomplete personalities. The more these styles tend towards rationality in socialisation, the more capable they are of building sound, well-integrated personalities (Zahran, 1977, p. 213).

Some studies point to the responsibility of the family, especially parents, to provide their children with the skills and capacities to confront various challenges. The role of parents is not confined to meeting

physiological needs; rather, it extends to creating a comfortable family environment characterised by understanding, affection, and, above all, dialogue.

In light of the changes currently taking place worldwide, families may face a significant challenge: developing preventive and therapeutic plans to address a lethal social scourge, namely, the use of narcotic substances by young people and children. In this context, the family's role may be pivotal, as authorities and governments cannot confront this predicament except through the concerted efforts of socialisation institutions as a whole.

Therefore, we have decided to include several measures grounded in constructivist and cognitive theories that families should adopt in raising their children to provide them with all the tools and safeguards they require to avoid the use of narcotic substances, as follows:

- Parents should serve as role models for their children in their conduct and values.
- Positive dialogue should be adopted as a way of life between parents and children.
- Self-love and self-confidence should be fostered in children.
- Spending considerable time with children.
- Development of the child's critical spirit and logical thinking.
- The family should oversee the child's choice of friends, whether at home, at school, or on the street.
- The family should teach children to invest their leisure time in beneficial activities.
- Instilling sound principles in the child, such as honesty and trustworthiness.
- Development of a sense of responsibility in the child.
- Focusing on encouraging good behaviours rather than praising innate qualities, such as saying "You have become skilful" instead of "You are a genius".
- Inappropriate behaviours are linked to logical and direct consequences rather than physical or psychological punishment. If a child uses narcotic substances, parents must explain the consequences of such use so that the child can understand the danger and avoid it, as punishment may reinforce this deviant behaviour.
- Encouraging participation in community and cultural activities to strengthen belonging and reinforce family ties.
- Adopting an educational approach characterised by a balance between firmness and kindness.
- Monitoring, or at least being informed about, what the child does on their mobile phone, namely, monitoring the pages they visit on social media platforms.
- Guiding the child towards beneficial electronic games that develop their knowledge while preventing all aggressive games or those that suggest behaviours deemed unacceptable by society.

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4.2. The Role of the School in Preventing Narcotic Substances use among Young People and Children:

All scholars specialising in psychology and the social sciences agree on the role of the school in the socialisation of the child and in equipping them with the skills and values necessary for living in society. It constitutes the second environment to which the child moves after the family environment, where the child encounters a wider circle and a new sphere in which to engage in activities and to continue acquiring knowledge and principles that prepare them for the formation of their personality and the planning of their future.

The school also plays an effective role in designing long-term awareness programs to prevent drug use among children and young people. In this context, several measures should be adopted by schools to achieve this objective, particularly given that, in recent times, the primary mission of schools in Algeria has become limited to accompanying students in the acquisition of knowledge and focusing exclusively on the cognitive dimension of education, without adequate attention to emotional and other personal dimensions. Among the most important measures are the following:

- Development of students' critical thinking and analytical abilities.
- Equal attention should be given to emotional and behavioural aspects alongside the cognitive dimension in the educational process.
- Encouraging students to take initiative and to be creative.
- Promoting awareness that a sound mind resides in a sound body while encouraging students to practice sport and to join sports and cultural clubs.
- Development of students' social awareness.
- Enabling students to acquire sound decision-making skills.
- Lessons on the concept of citizenship at all educational levels should be incorporated, with emphasis on instilling the concept of the good citizen within society.
- Students' social intelligence and emotional intelligence should be developed, with a focus on equipping them with problem-solving skills.
- Listing and counselling units in schools and universities should be established to enable students to seek help when necessary.
- Integrating lessons on the harmful effects of drug use on physical and psychological health across different school subjects. These lessons should also include awareness of the types of narcotic substances and their consequences for individuals and society.
- Academia campaigns against drug use among students should be disseminated, and these efforts should be extended to reach their parents.

4.3. The Role of Media in Preventing Narcotic Substances use among Young People and Children:

The media play an active role in socialisation, providing individuals with knowledge and important information on specific issues and assisting in the formation of their values and attitudes. Recently, the world has experienced significant development in the media; it is no longer limited to television, newspapers, and radio as it was in the past but has expanded to include several new and more advanced means, particularly with the emergence of the internet and the vast revolution in knowledge resources experienced globally.

The role of the media in societies has become multifaceted, encompassing education, awareness-raising, guidance, and cultural enrichment. Its role is evident in supporting national ideas, strengthening patriotism, and preserving the nation's security and progress. With technological advancements, the media's capacity to influence has become increasingly prominent (Al-Dulaimi, 2010, p. 136).

This is evident in the media's prominent role in combating and preventing particular social scourges. However, it should be noted that the media can be a double-edged sword. For example, in combating and preventing the phenomenon of drug use, the media may fail to fulfil its proper role if campaigns, articles, or other media outputs are not carefully designed in accordance with societal standards and modern learning theories.

For the media to convey an accurate picture of the dangers of drug use among young people and children, to enable them to avoid it, and to assist families in developing preventive plans to protect their children, the media must follow specific measures to achieve their intended objectives. The most important of these include the following:

- Raising media professionals' own awareness of the need for caution and responsibility when addressing issues related to drug use.
- All content published or broadcast by the media concerning the phenomenon of drug use should be monitored, as inappropriate coverage may lead to further complications and escalation of the problem. Recently, several Arab television channels have broadcasted films and series that explicitly promote drug use and present a positive image of the lives of those who traffic in such substances, which may lead young people and children to perceive it as easy means of acquiring money.
- Broadcasting various awareness programmes and sensitisation campaigns aimed at educating individuals about the dangers of drug use.
- Harnessing internet networks in efforts to combat and prevent drug use among young people and children, as these networks are among the most widely used media platforms within this age group.
- Proposing effective outlets and solutions to combat this scour.

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➤ Avoiding the promotion of drug use through films and songs; for example, in Algeria, some *rai* songs constitute an explicit means of glorifying narcotic substances and promoting their use.

- Positive values and practices in individuals can be instilled by engaging in films and television series, thereby encouraging young people and children to emulate exemplary social behaviour.

- The media should play a role in disseminating information that can help substance users and their families stop use and obtain treatment, such as promoting psychological rehabilitation centres and hospitals specialising in the treatment of substance use disorders.

- The media should undertake preventive campaigns across all platforms, ensuring that they are repeated, diverse, and extend even to those who do not use these substances.

4.4. The Role of Places of Worship in Preventing Narcotic Substances use among Young People and Children:

The problem of drug use is among the most serious problems in any society. Numerous traces in the heritage of ancient civilisations indicate that human beings have known of narcotic substances since those distant times. Such traces have been found in the form of engravings on temple walls or writings on papyrus, and human beings discovered plants and became familiar with them through experience, eating some and extracting the juice of others. It appears that human beings' ancient excursions in forests led them to plants with psychoactive effects; they used them for treatment, introduced them into temples, and employed them in religious rituals. People in the past used narcotics, and the positions of religions that preceded Islam varied between prohibition, avoidance, asceticism, and moderation; other traditions believed that their consumption brought happiness and amusement, and they were offered to deities to avert their harm and secure their favour, as found in pagan religions. Judaism and Christianity prohibited the consumption of alcohol. This is evident in particular texts, which emphasise refraining from intoxication and warning against it because it involves licentiousness; thus, the prayer of one who uses such substances is not accepted. Although the Bible does not employ modern medical terms such as "substance use, it strongly warns against drunkenness, against being controlled by anything other than the Spirit of God, and against the devastation caused by addiction-like behaviour" (biblical verses 23:29–35; Ephesians 5:18). (Middle East Council of Churches, p. 106).

For Judaism, which is among the ancient heavenly religions and which, through our master Moses (peace be upon him), called for virtues and forbade vices, urging good deeds and avoidance of evil, and affirming respect for the human being and the necessity of avoiding all that harms the self or others, the Torah contains a categorical prohibition against drinking wine and intoxicants. This is stated in Lord's words addressed to Aaron: "Do not drink wine or strong drink, you or your sons with you, when you enter the tent of meeting, lest you die; it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations, and to distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean" (Leviticus, 8:1–

11). In 1922, a Jewish rabbi named Nahum Effendi issued an official statement in Egypt declaring that the Jewish religion most strictly forbids the consumption of alcohol and warns of punishment for those who take it as a drink. From the foregoing, it is clear that Judaism prohibited drinking alcohol and what falls under its ruling, such as narcotics, because they affect the mind and cause it to lose its functions (Abu Zahir, 2023).

In Islam, Islamic law affirms the prohibition of the use of narcotic substances and their trading because of the serious harm they cause to individuals and society, including health-related, psychological, social, and economic harm. Jurists based the prohibition of narcotic substances on an important principle, namely, that "everything that intoxicates, corrupts the mind, and leads to harm is forbidden, whether it is an old intoxicant such as wine or a new intoxicant such as drugs" (Boutami & Hajar, 1981).

The prohibition of narcotic substances in the Qur'an is likewise not expressed using the scientific term currently in use; rather, its prohibition emerged through the *ijtihad* of religious scholars and jurists, who analogised narcotic substances to wine because of the similarity of the harms resulting from their use. They justified this prohibition by referencing the noble verse in the preserved Book of God: "O you who believe! Indeed, wine, gambling, stone altars, and divining arrows are but defilement from the work of Satan, so avoid it that you may be successful" (Al-Mā'idah 5:90).

Since the Algerian people are predominantly Muslim, the mosque is among the most important institutions in society and plays a very significant role in individuals' socialisation. Accordingly, the religious discourse of imams in mosques can constitute an effective means of combating and preventing the phenomenon of drug use.

On the basis of the foregoing concerning the role of religious institutions in combating and preventing drug use among young people and children, mosques and religious associations in Algeria should adopt specific measures to achieve these intended objectives, most notably the following:

- Imams should link Friday sermons to individuals' daily lives and emphasise the social scour that is prevalent in society.
- Instilling the virtuous values and principles encouraged by Islam in children through the lessons they receive in Qur'anic schools.
- Drawing attention to the position of Islamic law regarding the use of narcotic substances or their trading, which contributes to reducing this phenomenon.
- Emphasising the necessity of choosing companions who possess virtuous principles and values.
- Members of society should be urged to work to strengthen family ties while emphasising the role of parents in accompanying their children and raising them properly.
- Intensifying sermons and religious lessons concerning the dangers of drug use.

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- Imams and religious teachers are adopting a scientific approach to address the phenomenon of drug use and are not relying solely on religious arguments and emotional methods (intimidation and fear appeals).
- Coordination with audiovisual institutions, internet networks, and newspapers that provide important interactive spaces that attract children and young people is needed to increase awareness of the dangers of drug use.

4.5. The Role of the Criminal Justice System in Preventing Narcotic Substances use among Young People and Children:

The criminal justice system (the police, the national gendarmerie, the judiciary, and correctional institutions) undertakes substantial work in confronting the scourge of drug use in our country; however, this effort is criticised for certain shortcomings, including the following:

- Treating users and individuals with substance use disorders as criminals rather than as patients or victims.
- Addressing the problem of children's drug use in the same manner as adult use through deterrence and imprisonment.
- Failing to seek solutions that address the actual causes of delinquency and drug use.
- Failing to remedy the psychological, physical, and economic harm inflicted upon children who have fallen into the hands of dealers and who have been threatened and extorted.

In view of these gaps, and in order for criminal justice institutions to combat and prevent drug use among young people and children to enable them to avoid it, these institutions must adopt specific measures to achieve their intended objectives. The most important of these are as follows:

- Drafting new legislation whereby the penalty for children's and young people's use of narcotic substances is referred to care and treatment centres for individuals affected by this disorder.
- The penalties for major traffickers who exploit children and young people to distribute these poisons are increasing.
- To protect children from drug dealers, police units should be established within educational institutions in neighbourhoods where this scourge is prevalent.
- Sensitisation campaigns in schools and secondary schools should be conducted to increase children's and parents' awareness of the dangers of drug use.
- Drafting legislation criminalises the promotion of drug use through songs, films, and television series.
- In view of Algeria's strategic location, combining drug trafficking and strengthening border control has made it a transit point for these lethal substances.
- Activating international treaties to combat this phenomenon.

- A toll-free hotline should be established to guide or support parents in monitoring or assisting their children if they fall into the trap of drug use.

Conclusion

In light of all that has been presented in this research paper, it is evident that all revealed religions, including Islam, have explicitly prohibited the consumption of wine and intoxicants and have prohibited narcotic substances by analogy, given that the characteristics of wine apply to other narcotic substances owing to their effect on the mind. Both also share the same legal basis for prohibition, namely, intoxication, which renders these substances more evil and more harmful than wine does because they cause a loss of reason, lead to imbalance, result in addiction, drive individuals towards the nervous system, destroy all aspects of life for the users of these narcotic substances and for those around them. Accordingly, the task of socialising institutions in combating and preventing the phenomenon of Narcotic substances use among children and young people has become urgent in view of the alarming spread of these narcotic substances within this vulnerable group worldwide. Every institution in Algeria, as in all countries of the world, must fulfil its role effectively and in coordination with other institutions, whether national or international, because the state alone cannot undertake this task.

Finally, we emphasise the need for teachers and researchers specialising in social sciences, particularly psychology and sociology, to share the results of their research on this social scourge, which threatens the safety of our children and our country, with the relevant authorities so that they can implement prevention and treatment plans aimed at eradicating this scourge. In fact, there are many promising studies that could change the methods and strategies used to combat Narcotic substances use, but unfortunately they are not being exploited. We also propose that a nationwide survey be conducted across the entire country by a team of researchers specialised in the field, in order to determine the true number of Narcotic substances users, especially young people and children, and to identify the real reasons why they turn to Narcotic substances. This study would help those responsible for prevention and treatment to address the harms of Narcotic substances use and to develop an appropriate treatment plan for each region of the country.

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