

## ABSTRACT

Undue usage of psychoactive substances, on the other hand substance abuse among the school children is presently on a high increase in Sri Lanka. Since, Substance abuse is significantly associated with serious violent acts in the community, it is becoming a socio economic problem. Therefore, it is important to pay more attention immediately to identify the direction to preventing the problem. Drug addiction and rehabilitation of addicts have become a significant public health, cultural and economical problem in Sri Lanka. Youth are important to society, we need to come up with new ideas to reduce teenage drug addiction. Otherwise it will adversely affect their health, culture and economy of the Sri Lanka. Therefore, this study aims to identify the factors affecting teenage drug addiction. Previous researchers identified the following factors to be directly linked to teenage drug addiction: gender, religion, area of origin, monthly pocket money, family occupation, awareness of availability of substances, parental drug addiction, peer group drug addiction, peer pressure for drug and frustration. This quantitative study was based in the city of Polonnaruwa, where the sample population of 340 out of 12,000 teenagers, were selected from the simple random sampling method. Except for the data on 'frustration', which was collected through direct questions, all other data has been gathered through survey questionnaires. Data was analyzed using the Independent sample t test and Chi square test of independence, under the SPSS software, to find factors affecting teenage drug addiction. The following findings were made after the hypothesis tested: drug addiction of teenage males is higher than the addicted teenage females; higher monthly pocket money may lead to a higher probability of drug addiction; occupation of the head of the family affects teenage drug addiction; the parents' addiction to drugs increases the teenage offspring's probability of addicting to drugs; the probability of addiction to drugs is higher when there's addiction in the peer group and the peer pressure for drugs is higher; higher levels of frustration also leads to increased probabilities of addiction. Therefore, it is recommended for parents to be more vigilant about the child's peer group and to pay more attention on creating awareness of money management and performing a keen observation of their expenditure

*Keywords: Drug addiction, Rehabilitation, frustration, substances, peer group*