



ABSTRACT

The term of "Party Drugs" is commonly used for drugs used in parties, especially in raves and nightclubs, and it mainly includes Amphetamines, Methamphetamines, Ecstasy, Ketamine, Gamma Hydroxybutyrate, and Volatile Nitrites. Party drug users are a group of hidden community that it is not visible to cursory observers in Sri Lanka. They include people of all walks of life in the society. Currently, there has been a trend among youths in going out and attending such parties where "party drugs" are consumed to a greater extent. There has not been a serious attention paid by the researchers in this phenomenon and the researches particularly into interventions for address amphetamine and 'party drug' uses are extremely limited. Therefore, the writer considers that it is pertinent and significant to study substance use in nightclubs and beach parties given the alarming increase of the trend which would certainly lead to serious social and economic consequences in the near future. The study is also believed to be timely as there has been a heightened effort going on to fight illegal narcotics by the government of Sri Lanka.

Qualitative and Quantitative research methodologies have been utilized in this research and, under this research methodology, the survey method and the case study method have also been used as research methods. Primary data were collected through questionnaire and a few interviews, and secondary data were collected from available books, publications, research studies, journals, websites, and paper articles published by the local and foreign intellectuals on the subjects. People who attend night clubs and beach parties regularly were also coopted as data contributors.

The objectives of this study are to identify the nature of the spread, current trends, changing patterns, and culture of amphetamine and 'party drug' use in Sri Lanka. Within this study, it has been examined how environmental factors have affected addiction and abuse of party drugs. Apart from that, the health issues and other consequences of abusing of drugs are discussed and analyzed in order to shed light on this subject.

This study is culminated with the new knowledge and insights gained in the process being disseminated in the form of recommendations which would be useful for those who are in a position to make decisions in addressing drug abuse in the country.

Key Words:- Party Drugs , Nightclubs, Beach Parties.