

Drug Problem in Georgia

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Abstract:

The problem of drug addiction is rather urgent in Georgia. The plant was set to find out society's attitude towards the problem of drug addiction. The sociological research conducted by us produced important information concerning the drug addiction problem. The obtained information was various as the respondents answered very interesting questions given in the questionnaire.

The obtained information is rather interesting and in some degree even unexpected. Everything this showed that it is necessary to deepen research and reveal new circumstances in the sphere of drug addiction. The information obtained as a result of sociological research is always very interesting as it gives relatively real picture; and the drug addiction problem, unfortunately, is very acute in Georgia.

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The problem of drugs is very urgent all over the world. Georgia is not an exception. In the latest period we are standing at the "alley" is drug addiction a disease or happiness found in "Nirvana". The problems of drug addiction, drugs or drug business stay as an unsolved problem today. It must be mentioned that, nowadays, in Georgia, as well as in the whole world, there is an active fight against drugs. But unfortunately, in Georgia, drugs still remain an unsolved problem. In particular, the number of drug addicts increases catastrophically. Unfortunately the interest towards drugs is high in teenagers. The young generation sees some kind of a threat, but at the same time, reveals urgent curiosity towards drugs.

Naturally, there is a question what makes such a lot of people become drug addicts? To answer this question, different questionnaires and the topic of individual conversation were made. In general, during the research connected with drug addicts, we talked about drugs as a disease. Through them we received the information about drugs, how do they communicate with one another, what are the reasons of becoming

drug addicts, what is the accomplice condition of it, why do they apply to this substance, why do they take a risk, why do they end their lives, at what age was the drug addiction started, how long he/she keeps such style of living, what kind of influence make drugs upon people. The research is made individually, without any support. During the research, the method of questionnaire, interview meaning particular sociological, also biographical-narrative methods are used. The research took place from March 2007 to August 2009 upon 500 participators, including 100 women (girl) and 400 men (boys) in Tbilisi.

The number of the occasional participators is minimal. They were divided into categories:

- Pupils;
- Students;
- Teachers;
- Representatives of state structures and
- Colleagues working practically on fight against drugs.

During 2 year experience, we came across some difficulties. Nobody wanted to reveal identity and the problem of honesty occurred as well. That is why we think that we made a right decision to make a questionnaire anonymously. We came across the lack of readiness of the participator to fix their personal opinion about the set problems. There was a category of those people, who mostly chose the answer "it's hard to respond".

Below is given the analysis only of those responds, which were filled according to their own will. The background of the questionnaire is special, as the participators for the first time, in their life had to make a real choice whether talk about this problem or not.

Basic results. To analyze the results and to make clear about the existing situation in Georgia connected with drugs, we divided the participators into the groups:

- The first group consists of pupils;
- The second group consists of students;
- The third group consists of professors;
- The forth group consists of public workers;
- The fifth group consists of practical workers fighting against drugs;

The characteristics of the participators: The groups differ from each other according to the following characteristics: age, level of education, experience, practical activity. In the first four questions of a questionnaire persons' demographical characteristics, level of education, sex, age and so on were considered. As to the

problem of the research, particular 19 questions were made up. Below the form of the questionnaire, questions and approximate responds are presented.

The questionnaire took place in 2010-2011

Q u e s t i o n n a i r e

Demographic data:

Sex - a) Female b) Male

Education – a) incomplete high education b) high education c) incomplete higher education d) Higher education

Social conditions – a) Pupil b) Student c) Worker d) Unemployed e) Specialist (administrative- engineer staff) f) Worker of law organ

Basic questions:

4. To your mind, does the problem of drug addiction exist in our society?

a) Yes

b) No

c) It is hard to respond

5. Do you think that in Tbilisi the problem of drugs in the late 5 years:

a) Increased considerably

b) Increased a little

c) Decreased a little

d) Decreased considerably

e) It's hard to respond

6. What do you think is the problem of drug addiction?

a) Increase of crime

b) High level of poverty

c) Instability in the society

d) Lack of special establishments to pass free time

e) Decrease of the level of mutual culture

f) Because of the other

reason.....

7. Why do you think people start using drugs?

a) Because of interest

b) Because of idleness

c) To forget problems

d) To make close proximity with other drug addicts

e) Because of the other

reason.....

8. What ways of using drugs do you know?

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9. What kinds of drugs do you know?

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10. Have you ever tried drugs?

a) Yes

b) No

11. Do your friends and acquaintances use drugs?

a) Yes

b) Possibly

c) No

d) It's hard to respond

12. What is your attitude towards people, who use drugs?

a) Negative

b) Neutral

c) Positive

d) It's hard to respond

13. What will you do if you find out that your friend uses drugs?

a) I'll try to explain him that it is dangerous for health

b)) I'll try to find out information about special establishments for rehabilitation of drug addicts

c) I'll express sympathy towards him

d) I'll do nothing

14. Do you think it is possible to become a drug addict, if a person tries drugs only once?

a) Yes

b) No

c) It's hard to respond

15. To your mind, drug addiction is:

- a) A disease
- b) A bad habit
- c) A way of passing time
- d) Because of the other reasons

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16. To your mind, if any of the parents is a drug addict, what kind of influence will it make upon the child's future?

- a) Considerable influence
- b) Normal influence
- c) A little influence
- d) It's hard to respond

17. Do you think that drug addiction is a part of youth culture?

- a) Yes, it is a youth fashion (night clubs living)
- b) It deals only with a little part of youth
- c) No, it is not correct
- d) It's hard to respond

18. Do you think it is easy to get drugs?

- a) Yes, drugs are sold at every step
- b) It is possible to get them
- c) No
- d) It is hard to respond

19. If you have an opportunity to try drugs:

- a) You will try them in any case
- b) Probably I'll refuse to try
- c) It is hard to respond

20. Do you think it is easy to quit using drugs?

- a) It is easy in case of having desire
- b) Quitting drugs is possible
- c) It is possible only in special rehabilitation establishments or under the observation of a doctor
- d) It is impossible to quit drugs

21. Do you think that drug addicts must be treated and not punished?

- a) Yes, I agree

- b) It depends on the different circumstances
- c) No, I disagree
- d) It is hard to respond

22. Do you agree with the following responds?

I agree – sign in front plus (+)

I disagree - sign in front minus (-)

I agree partially - do not make any sign

- It is important to strengthen criminal law punishment for using drugs
- It is necessary to distribute disposable syringes among drug addicts
- It is necessary to abolish criminal law liability for using drugs
- working of health defense organs is non effective
- assistance of those organizations and private persons is necessary , who realize prophylaxes and treatment of drug addicts
- there is a lack of good doctors
- law defense organs actively fight against drugs

23. What is necessary for state organs to realize strengthening fight against drugs (choosing several answers is possible)

a) To increase financing the fight against drugs

b) To have complex program of fight and prophylaxes against drugs

c) To accomplish an increase of special medical establishments' set

d) To realize extending special knowledge in medical workers

e) Because of the other reasons

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24. Do you think you are informed enough about the drugs' danger?

- a) I'm informed completely
- b) I'm not informed completely
- c) I'm informed badly
- d) It's hard to respond

25. What do you think where is easier to get drugs in Tbilisi?

- a) At the metro stations
- b) At the drugstores or medical establishments
- c) At the markets
- d) At the youth discos
- e) At the educational establishments (schools, Institutes)

f) In the houses, where drugs are sold

g) It is hard to respond

26. Do you think that there must be criminal law liability for using drug?

a) Yes

b) No

c) It's hard to respond

We analyzed responses according to the fifth question. According to the analysis of the versions we have got the following results:

While clearing up the participators' opinions about the percentage of the drug addicts, we have got the following results:

The 191 participators of the questionnaire responded that during the last five years the problem of drug addiction has considerably increased. The 84 participators responded that the problem of a drug addiction has not increased considerably. The 97 participators responded that the problem of drug addiction has decreased a little. The 45 participators responded that the problem of drug addiction has considerably decreased and 83 persons were unable to respond.

The response of the next question was given in the following way – what do you think is the reason of drug addiction? From the questionnaire the participators were given an opportunity to choose several versions, according to it we have the following result:

The version that its reason is the increase of crime - was given by 47 votes. The next version that the reason of drug addiction is caused by the high level of poverty was given by 83 votes. The version of the response that the reason was the instability in society was given by 133 votes. The version that its reason was the lack of both: free time and special establishments was given by 198 votes. The version that its reason was the lack of general culture was voted by 210 votes. The last sixth versions of the responds gave the opportunity to present opinion in the written form and describe those additional reasons that promote drug addiction. From these replies many of them with its considerations coincided with one another and from them we managed to choose several main acceptable factors. Often we come across the version, that the reason of drug addiction is mainly a low level of the society development. The next version is an awful social situation in the state. And also, very often, the reason is a degradation of Georgian nation.

To the question - why people start taking drugs? - we have got the following responses (during choosing the versions the participators were able to choose several ones): the version – because of the interest - was given 187 votes. The version – because of the idleness - was given 235 votes. The version - to forget problems - was given 80 votes, the other version – because of the proximity with other drug addicts – was voted by 190 participators. In the last version the participators were able to respond in the written form naming the other additional reasons of using drugs. When analyzing the responds the most number of the participators claim that all the above mentioned reasons together promote this problem. Here we often come across the version that people start using drugs because of fashion. To their mind, others' opinion makes much influence upon this factor.

In the other question we asked the participators to respond in written forms what ways of using drugs they knew. The results were the following: The majority of the participators, particularly 197 participators named three main ways of using drugs. These are using drugs through the syringe, also through smoking and smelling. 132 participators additionally named the following ways of using drugs: taking drugs through the liquid substance and through the pills. A matter of interest is the factor that 171 participators could not name any form of using drugs. The participators had to respond in the written form what kinds of drugs they used.

During analyzing the versions, we stated that the majority of the participators named three kinds of drugs: Heroin, Subotex and Marijuana. All this substances can be viewed as the most spread kinds of drugs. The participators additionally named the following drugs: Managua, Elesde, Ecstasy, Hashish, Vinti, Chemistry, Kokaia, Morph, Opium, and Maki.

To the question – have you ever tried drugs? - the participators responded in the following way: 346 participators pointed that they had not tried drugs, but 154 participators pointed that they had tried drugs.

To the question - do your friends and acquaintances use drugs? - we have got the following results: 189 participators chose the form of the responses – Yes. 131 participators chose the form - It is hard to respond. 134 participators chose – No, and only 46 participators couldn't make any choice in the given versions. -- What is your attitude towards those people who use drugs? The responses of this question given by the participators are as follows: 138 participators' attitude towards such category of people is negative. 207 participators have neutral attitude. 49 participators have positive attitude and 106 participators found this question hard to respond.

- What will you do if you find out that your friend uses drugs? - During responding to this question, the participator could choose several versions simultaneously. The reply - I'll try to acknowledge the information about the special clinic for drug addicts' rehabilitation got 217 votes. The version – I'll express sympathy towards him – got 58 votes and to respond this question were unable only 44 participators.

- Do you think it is possible to become drug addict in case of trying drugs only once? The responses to this question were the following: 234 participators agreed with this statement, 147 did not agree with this statement, and 119 participators found this question hard to respond.

- In your opinion, what is drug addiction? - The responses to this question were the following: 297 participators think that this is a disease, 74 participators think that it is a bad habit, 73 participators think it is a way of passing time. The participators could respond to the fourth question – What is drug addiction? - additionally in the written form and consequently 56 participators noted that drug addiction is a crime.

-To your mind, if any of the parents is drug addict, what kind of influence will it make upon the child's future? - The responses to this question were the following: 292 participators responded that this fact would make great influence upon the child. 78 participators responded that this fact would make average influence upon the child, 43 participators responded that this fact would make a little influence upon the child and 87 participators found this question hard to respond.

- Do you think that drug addiction is a part of youth culture? - The responses to this question were divided in the following way: 117 participators think that it is a fashion (night club living). 100 participators think that it concerns only a small amount of youth, 228 participators think that it is not correct and 45 participators find this question hard to respond.

- Do you think it is easy to get drugs? - The responses to this question are the following: 61 participators think that drugs are sold at every step. 319 participators think that it is possible to get drugs. 53 participators think that it is impossible to get drugs, and 67 participators find hard this question to respond.

- If you have an opportunity to try drugs, what will you do in this case? - The results of the participators' responds are the following: 66 participators respond that they would try drugs in any case, 363 claim that probably they would refuse trying drugs, and 71 participators find this question hard to respond.

-Do you think it is easy to quit using drugs? - The responses to this question were the following: 67 participators think that in case of great will it is easy to quit using drugs,

123 participators think that quitting drugs is possible. 244 participators think that it is possible only in special rehabilitation clinics or under the doctor's checking. 66 participators think that it's impossible to quit drugs.

- Do you agree with the consideration that drug addict must be treated and not punished? -

The responses to this question were the following: 214 participators agree with this consideration, 172 participators note that it depends on different circumstances, 56 participators do not agree with this consideration and 58 participators find this question hard to respond.

- Here are several considerations the participators are able to agree, to agree partially, or not to agree. - As a result we have got the following picture, according to which we must strengthen the criminal law punishment for using drugs – this consideration received 181 votes. We must distribute disposable syringes among drug addicts - this consideration received 78 votes. The criminal law liability for using drugs must be abolished - this consideration received 227 votes. Health defense working is non effective against drug addicts - this consideration received 340 votes. Support of those organizations and private persons who realize prophylaxes and treatment of drug addicts are necessary - this consideration received 422 votes. In Georgia there is a lack of good doctors - this consideration received 52 votes.

- What must be done by the state organs to strengthen fight against drug addiction? - (The participators were able to choose several versions). The results were the following: to increase financing the fight against drug addiction – 311 participators agreed with this consideration. Having complex programme to prevent and fight against drug addiction - 270 participators agreed with this consideration. To realize increase of special medical establishments' set - 337 participators agreed with this consideration. To realize deepening of special knowledge in medical workers – this consideration received 167 votes. At the end of the responds the participators were able to present additionally those circumstances, which, to their mind, should have been realized by the state organs. The most frequent versions were – to make additional anti drug actions and anti drug advertisements, and to solve this problem, re-establishment of territorial entirety and control of all the territory is necessary.

- Do you think you are informed enough about the drugs' danger? - The results of this question are the following: 246 participators think that they are completely informed about the drugs danger, 144 participators think that they are not completely informed about the drugs danger, 57 participators find this question hard to respond.

- In your estimation, where is harder to find drugs in Tbilisi? - The participators were able to choose several versions. The results of this question are the following: 35 participators think that getting drugs is possible at the metro stations, 58 participators think that getting drugs is possible at the markets, 124 participators think that getting drugs is possible at the drugstores and medical establishments, 133 think that getting drugs is easy at youth discos. 38 participators think that getting drugs is easy at the educational establishments. 204 participators think that getting drugs is easy in the houses where they are sold. 135 participators find this question hard to respond.

-In your opinion, whether the criminal law liability for using drug should exist or not? - The results of this question are the following: 144 participators think that the criminal law liability for using drugs should exist. 227 participators think that the criminal law liability for using drugs should not exist and 129 participators find this question hard to respond.

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