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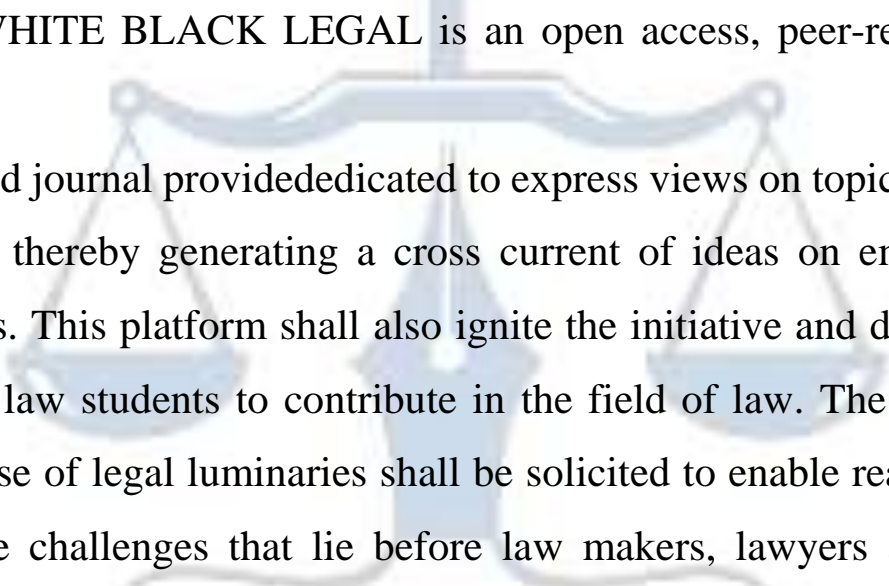
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## ***ABOUT US***



WHITE BLACK LEGAL is an open access, peer-reviewed and refereed journal providededicated to express views on topical legal issues, thereby generating a cross current of ideas on emerging matters. This platform shall also ignite the initiative and desire of young law students to contribute in the field of law. The erudite response of legal luminaries shall be solicited to enable readers to explore challenges that lie before law makers, lawyers and the society at large, in the event of the ever changing social, economic and technological scenario.

With this thought, we hereby present to you

# **DRUG ABUSE – A HURDLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMY**

AUTHORED BY - ANANYAA CHANDAK

## **From Addiction to Economy: Understanding the Detrimental Effects of Drug Abuse on Development**

Drug abuse is one of the major economic problems affecting the physical and mental life of individuals and society, thus a hinder in development of nation. Drug abuse (or substance abuse) means an over indulgence in a drug or chemical substance. Drug usage is been increasing day by day in the society. Drug abuse inflicts immeasurable harm on public health and safety around the world each year, and threatens the peaceful development and smooth functioning of many societies. An understanding of the economic costs of drug abuse is necessary to develop policies that reduce such costs. Taking a glance at world, as of today, there is no fraction of the world hat is free from drug abuse. India is also caught in this vicious problem of drug abuse. Drug addiction causes a huge cost on human resources, directly hindering economic development of the nation. Drug abuse has a direct and fatal impact on social and economic aspect of the nation. It not only causes disturbance in one's harmony but also puts high economic burden on the society. The impact left is immeasurable. The usage, production and marketing of drugs, emergence of a class of drug consumers is a huge challenge for mankind. It ultimately leads to unemployment, weak human resources, weak brain power, unhealthy society and increasing crime at large.

Drug addiction is most common in the teenagers. Be it either peer pressure or study pressure, one's carelessness led them to these mud pith of drugs. Ones stuck it becomes difficult for one to overcome these. Drug abuse does not depend on any single factor (no single factor can be identified as a contributor). There're multiple factors interplaying with each other and leading the individual to the trap of drugs or substance addiction. Adolescents (teenagers) are more prone to usage of those substances, as they are in their developing stage and a slightest change in their environment or mental health can led them to these mud pith of drugs. Family discords, community acceptance, failures in life and academics, peer pressure, and ganging are some of the prime reasons which propel individuals to resort to drug abuse. Few teenagers consume

substance to show off their wealth and power, while some to act cool but its consumption is reflection of poor personality. It's easy to fall but it takes more courage, determination and most importantly willpower to get out of its grip. In many cases, drug abuse leads to school dropouts and poor learning outcomes.

Health is wealth. It is wisely said that the closest friend of a person is his body. Healthy body and healthy mind make a person wealthy and wise. Drug abuse has direct impact on public health and safety. It hampers the peaceful development and smooth functioning of the society. Even roads are not safer as road safety is compromised due to addiction. 90% of the road accidents occur due to consumption of alcohol and drugs. Usage of drugs means deteriorating one's health which directly leads to weak minds, poor personality and unhealthy relations, indirectly affecting economical growth and development of the nation.

Is drug abuse a hurdle in the development of the economy? Frankly yes. Drug abuse can and is indeed a hurdle in the development of the nation's economy. It has several negative consequences, including decreased productivity, healthcare costs, increasing crime, education and workforce development, and social costs. Beyond health costs, people under the influence of drugs safety risks and costs to people around them and the environment. For example, drug-affected driving accidents have emerged as a major global threat in recent years. Additionally, a greater awareness of the impacts on the environment of illicit drug cultivation, production and manufactured has emerged. A further cost of drug abuse that is often cited is the loss in productivity that can occur when drug users are under the influence of drugs or are experiencing the consequences of their drug use. Study have put the costs of lost productivity borne by employers at ten of billions of dollars.

Drug abuse is a pressing issue that affects societies worldwide, exacting a toll that goes beyond its immediate health and social consequences. Economic development encompasses various factors, the impact of drug abuse a long shadow, impairing productivity, increasing healthcare costs, and destabilizing communities. Drug abuse poses a formidable obstacle to economic development. Its far-reaching effects undermine productivity, inflate healthcare costs, contribute to crime rates, and disrupt education and workforce development. To foster economic growth, it is essential for governments and communities to address drug abuse through comprehensive strategies that encompass prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation programs. By doing so, we can not only enhance the well-being of individuals but also create

an environment conducive to sustained economic progress. Preventing drug abuse is crucial in ensuring the well-being of individuals and the overall development of society. Educational institutions and communities play a vital role in raising awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and promoting prevention strategies. Strict measures, such as implementing anti-drug programs, providing counseling services, and fostering a supportive environment, can help deter drug abuse and protect individual from its harmful effects. Together, we can work towards creating a drug-free and thriving community.

