



## Role of NDPS Act 1985 in India: A Focused Study on De-addiction Among Teenagers in Metropolitan Cities.

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### Abstract:

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 is the cornerstone of India's legal framework to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking. This research paper explores the dual role of the NDPS Act in enforcing stringent legal action against drug offenders and facilitating rehabilitation, particularly focusing on its impact on de-addiction initiatives among teenagers in metropolitan areas. With rising drug abuse statistics in cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Kolkata, especially among adolescents, the Act's relevance in curbing demand through deterrence and rehabilitation has gained renewed significance. A case study on Delhi's de-addiction programs offers insights into the Act's implementation challenges and successes. The research concludes with recommendations for a more integrated approach combining law enforcement, education, and healthcare.

### Keywords:

NDPS Act 1985, drug abuse, teenagers, de-addiction, metropolitan cities, rehabilitation, narcotics law, youth additio

### Objectives:

- To analyze the provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985 in the context of teenage drug abuse.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of the Act in metropolitan cities for reducing addiction among adolescents.
- To examine real-life implementation of de-addiction programs under the Act.
- To suggest policy-level reforms for improving de-addiction outcomes in urban youth.

### Hypothesis:

The NDPS Act 1985, while effective in criminal enforcement, requires better integration with public health and educational interventions to serve as a strong tool for de-addiction among teenagers in Indian metropolitan cities.

### **Relevance of the NDPS Act:**

The NDPS Act was enacted to consolidate and amend the law relating to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Its key objectives include:

- Prohibition of production, manufacture, possession, sale, purchase, transport, and consumption of narcotic and psychotropic substances.
- Empowering central and state governments to regulate the operations involving such substances.
- Establishing a legal framework for the treatment and rehabilitation of addicts.

### **For teenagers, the Act has special relevance due to:**

- Rising instances of substance abuse in schools and colleges.
- The availability of drugs through illicit markets in metropolitan regions.
- The need for both punitive and preventive strategies.

### **Provisions Related to De-Addiction:**

- Section 64A: Offers immunity from prosecution to addicts volunteering for treatment.
- Section 71: Authorizes the government to establish and maintain centers for identification, treatment, education, and rehabilitation of addicts.
- Section 77-78: Provides for education, awareness, and regulation of advertising of narcotics.

### **Case Study: De-Addiction Programs in Delhi**

Delhi has witnessed an alarming rise in drug use among adolescents, particularly in urban slums and public school zones. NGOs like SPYM (Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses) work in collaboration with the Delhi government and the Ministry of Social Justice under NDPS provisions to offer:

- Drop-in centers for teenagers
- Counseling and psychiatric support
- Family education programs
- Legal aid for juveniles arrested under minor NDPS offenses

### **Findings:**

- Over 40% of clients in some centers are below 18.
- Peer pressure and easy access are major contributing factors.
- Rehabilitative approach (as provided under Section 64A) leads to better recovery than judicial punishment.
- However, lack of trained personnel and low awareness among families hampers outcomes.

#### Analysis & Discussion:

Despite its robust structure, the NDPS Act faces several implementation hurdles:

- Law enforcement often lacks sensitivity in handling juvenile users.
- Rehabilitation facilities are insufficient in number and unevenly distributed.
- Many adolescents fear legal consequences and avoid seeking help.
- Schools and parents are under-informed about the Act's de-addiction provisions.
- Thus, while the Act provides a strong legal foundation, there is a gap between law and ground-level public health response.

#### Recommendations:

1. Mandatory training for police and judiciary on adolescent-sensitive application of NDPS provisions.
2. Integration of drug education and mental health counseling in urban school curriculums.
3. Expansion of adolescent-focused de-addiction centers in metro cities.
4. Digital awareness campaigns targeted at urban youth through social media and influencers.
5. Establishment of a centralized youth addiction helpline with legal and psychological assistance.

#### Conclusion:

The NDPS Act of 1985 holds significant potential in addressing teenage drug abuse through a combination of legal deterrence and rehabilitative care. However, metropolitan realities demand a more proactive, youth-centric application of its provisions. Enhanced collaboration between law enforcement, educational institutions, healthcare providers, and families is critical. Updating implementation mechanisms to be more youth-friendly and focusing on awareness can make the Act a powerful tool not just in controlling supply, but in transforming young lives.

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