

Epidemiologic study of drug dependence patient at the buddhist temple treatment center : Tam Karborg

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ABSTRACT

Although opium was banned since 1959, its dependence still remains as an indigenous affection especially among the rural population. The wide spread opiate dependence which is much evident nowadays probably started about a decade ago. Opium and heroin are the two principle type of opiates commonly abused. The present study indicates that heroin use prevails in the urbanized areas with Bangkok as the prime focus while opium use is more apparent in the rural areas. The opium dependents who are mostly in the middle age level seems to remain economically productive. It is rather hard to define them as a prominent problematic group in their society. A complete contrast is seen in the heroin dependents. They are in general the young adults who start their illegal habit during early adolescence. The deleterious impact of heroin dependence is quite clear and more accentuated especially among the young adult. They are doubtless the particular group which extract heavy toll from the community. However at least 1/3 of them has records of delinquencies predating their first heroin use.

The opiate dependence population is very complex. The type of opiates in term of pharmacological action, availability and price in combination with the sociocultural background of their own community heavily modify the consequence of their dependence. The conceptual image formulated from this study will serve only as some fragmentary clues for the true nature and extent of drug dependence in the country.

Key words: Epidemiologic study, Drug dependence, Patient, Buddhist temple, Treatment center, Tam karborg.

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