From Drug Abuse to Substance Abuse: Nip the Evil in the Bud

*Syed Arif Kamal**
Gold Medalist; PhD (Neuroscience); MA, Johns Hopkins, United States; MS, Indiana, Bloomington, United States
Acting Vice Chancellor and Dean, Faculties of Science and Engineering, University of Karachi, Karachi 75270, Pakistan; profdrakamal@gmail.com

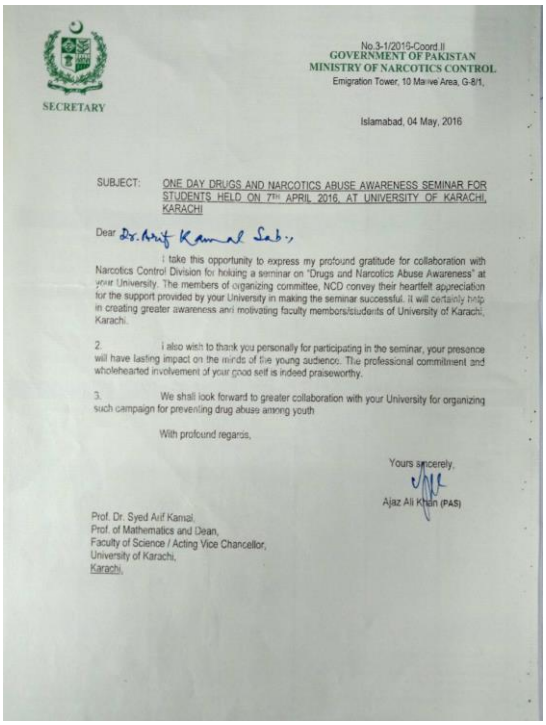
One of biggest curses of the modern age is drug-addiction among youth. This could be contributed to peer pressure, fast lifestyle, indulging in internet and social media as well as a desire to get away from the challenges of the real world or "become cool" (Fig. 1). This habit could have disastrous consequences, not only, for the individual, but also, for the immediate family. The desire to obtain drugs and controlled substances makes these individuals commit theft, robberies, trade in narcotics and weapons and in extreme cases become agent of the enemies of the motherland. The possession and transport of illegal substances is keenly monitored at airports and other border crossings, not only, in adults, but also, in very young children, as it is well known that parents use children to evade detection of these activities. In the process, they hook these youngsters to use of narcotics. Hence, it is of utmost importance to nip the evil in the bud. The speaker has proposed measures to spot signs of involvement in such activities during daily inspections in schools**:**

https**:**//www.ngds-ku.org/Papers/J33.pdf

(pages 404, 405 and Table 3 on page 410) as well as during the Early-Childhood-Integrated-Developmental Examination**:**

https**:**//www.ngds-ku.org/Presentations/ECIDE.pdf

combined with educational and counseling programs for the future of this nation.



SECRETARY

No.3-1/2015-Coord.II
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN
MINISTRY OF NARCOTICS CONTROL
Emigration Tower, 10 Marine Area, G-8/1,

Islamabad, 04 May, 2016

SUBJECT: ONE DAY DRUGS AND NARCOTICS ABUSE AWARENESS SEMINAR FOR STUDENTS HELD ON 7TH APRIL 2016, AT UNIVERSITY OF KARACHI, KARACHI

Dear Dr. Arif Kamal Sab.,

I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude for collaboration with Narcotics Control Division for holding a seminar on "Drugs and Narcotics Abuse Awareness" at your University. The members of organizing committee, NCD convey their heartfelt appreciation for the support provided by your University in making the seminar successful. It will certainly help in creating greater awareness and motivating faculty members/students of University of Karachi, Karachi.

2. I also wish to thank you personally for participating in the seminar, your presence will have lasting impact on the minds of the young audience. The professional commitment and wholehearted involvement of your good self is indeed praiseworthy.

3. We shall look forward to greater collaboration with your University for organizing such campaign for preventing drug abuse among youth.

With profound regards,

Yours sincerely,

Ajaz Ali Khan (PAS)

Prof. Dr. Syed Arif Kamal,
Prof. of Mathematics and Dean,
Faculty of Science / Acting Vice Chancellor,
University of Karachi,
Karachi.

Fig. 1. Issues associated with substance abuse

*Keywords***:** Adolescence • Early childhood • Internet addiction • Later childhood • Peer pressure • Psycho-logical health • Weapons trade

*Web address of this document***:** https**:**//www.ngds-ku.org/Presentations/Substance.pdf

*Senior-most professor among the entire faculty of University of Karachi