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Drug use as a social practice in the youth environment

The article is devoted to the analysis of the problem of the spread of non-medical drug use among young people. The basis of the analysis was the results of monitoring sociological studies of the Regional Directorate of the Federal Service of the Russian Federation for Control of Drug Trafficking in the Khabarovsk Territory and the Far Eastern Institute of Advanced Training of the Federal Service of the Russian Federation for Drug Control for 2012, 2013, 2014.

The problem of non-medical drug use is seen as a social process of narcotization, within which separate social practices, most typical for the youth environment of the region, are highlighted.

Such trends in the social practices of the narcotics process are singled out: the main context of drug consumption is a joint pastime with friends and acquaintances for the purpose of entertainment; The proportion of people who have social contacts with people who use drugs has increased; smoking cannabis products growing on the territory of the region remains the main trend of narcotization; the main motive in the choice of drugs is their easy accessibility, as well as the confidence of consumers in the minor damage to health from their use (most admit the possibility of quite easy getting rid of addiction to drugs); among the possible causes of drug addiction include the adverse impact of the environment and an unfavorable social situation; The main motivating reason for turning to drugs is curiosity, due primarily to the influence of the campaign and the desire to get away from problems, to enjoy.

Keywords: *youth, youth environment, monitoring research, social process, non-medical drug use, narcotics, social practices, narcotics, drug addiction.*

Употребление наркотиков как социальная практика в молодежной среде

Статья посвящена анализу проблемы распространения немедицинского употребления наркотиков в молодежной среде. Основой анализа послужили результаты мониторинговых социологических исследований Регионального управления Федеральной службы Российской Федерации по контролю за оборотом наркотиков по Хабаровскому краю и Дальневосточного института повышения квалификации Федеральной службы Российской Федерации по контролю за оборотом наркотиков за 2012, 2013, 2014 гг.

Проблема немедицинского употребления наркотиков рассматривается как социальный процесс наркотизации, в рамках которого выделены отдельные социальные практики, наиболее типичные для молодежной среды региона.

Выделены такие тенденции изменения в социальных практиках процесса наркотизации: основным контекстом потребления наркотиков выступает совместное времяпрепровождение с друзьями и знакомыми с целью развлечения; возросла доля лиц, имеющих социальные контакты с лицами, употребляющими наркотики; курение препаратов конопли, произрастающей на территории региона, остается главной тенденцией наркотизации; основным мотивом в механизме выбора наркотиков является их легкодоступность, а также уверенность потребителей в незначительном ущербе здоровью от их употребления (большинство допускают возможность достаточно легкого избавления от привязанности к наркотикам); к возможным причинам приобщения к наркотикам относят неблагоприятное влияние среды и неблагоприятная социальная обстановка; основной побудительной причиной обращения к наркотикам является любопытство, обусловленное, прежде всего, влиянием компании и желанием уйти от проблем, получить удовольствие.

Ключевые слова: *молодежь, молодежная среда, мониторинговые исследования, социальный процесс, немедицинское употребление наркотиков, наркотизация, социальные практики, наркопрактики.*

The scale of the spread of drug abuse in the territory of the Russian Federation in general and the Khabarovsk Territory in particular pose a real threat to the health and life of the population, to economic and social foundations, and to the growth of crime and other antisocial phenomena. Despite the rather long and comprehensive work on the prevention and prevention of the spread of drugs among the population, this problem is still extremely urgent. The risks of involving teenagers and young people in the process of narcotics are most high. In addition, this problem becomes particularly important for the Khabarovsk Territory due to specific natural and climatic (large areas of natural growth of wild hemp) and geopolitical (border areas and large transport hubs) conditions.

In general, as the results of annual monitoring studies have shown, there is a tense narcotic situation in the territory of the Khabarovsk Territory among adolescents and young people. Young people are well informed about drugs, face the facts of their use, and are personally acquainted with drug users. A significant number of respondents in the polls are recognized both in the experience of sampling and using drugs in the past, and episodic and constant consumption of drugs in the present.

It is important to note that respondents in sociological surveys within the framework of monitoring research are ordinary teenagers and young people – students of schools, secondary professional and higher educational institutions, young specialists. The vast majority of them stopped the process of narcotization after experimental trials or recurrent use of "light" drugs. The obtained drug trial

for them was completed before the onset of serious and often irreversible consequences associated with the acquisition of painful drug dependence. However, while remaining active members of the society, such "experimenters" have all the opportunities to broadcast their "safe" drug experience to members of social microgroups, in which they are included: companies of friends and acquaintances, classmates, classmates and colleagues. This broadcast seems to be a powerful impetus for the formation of narcotics, the "recruitment" of new drug users-experimenters, the reproduction and rooting in the youth environment of norms and values based on the drug culture and the normalization of drug addicts. In the context of the maintenance and development of the narcotics environment, the prerequisites arise for young people to inadequately assess the impact of drugs on the human body, the physical, psychological, social consequences of this impact, and reduce criticism of non-medical drug use as personal behavior and social phenomena. As a result, a favorable environment for the development of the narcotics process is being formed.

Against this background, the necessity of studying the characteristics of the process of narcotization of adolescents, boys and girls as a social process, revealing its main parameters, characteristics, social norms and values, factors and determinants determining the key parameters of the state and development of the narcotics process is of particular urgency.

The results of monitoring studies, allow determine the main practices of drug addiction in the youth environment. So, the main question of the conducted sociological researches was a direct personal question: "Did you try narcotics?". The specificity of such issues lies in the fact that usually respondents are not inclined to answer them sincerely. To this question 90.0% answered that they "did not try", 5.3% "tried, but stopped using". The number of respondents "use from time to time" and "use regularly" is very low (0.8% and 0.3%, respectively).

Considering that a significant part of the respondents did not answer certain questions of the questionnaire, addressed to those who have had past and continuing experience of drug use, the results obtained on such issues can be regarded as general trends rather than the result of an accurate measurement. The refusal of answers should be linked to the overall latency of the study groups of drug users, expressed in the reluctance to answer truthfully all the questions posed.

Analysis of the results of the survey showed that the majority of respondents who had experience of drug use, tried them at the age of 15 – 20 years. By this age it is possible to include senior pupils, students of average special and professional educational institutions, initial courses of higher educational institutions. It should be noted that every fourth respondent has acquired experience of using drugs under the age of 15 years.

Given that the characteristic feature of the region is the presence of focal areas of wild cannabis growing in the southern regions, the main way of using drugs is "smoking" (75.6%).

Table 1

Distribution of ways of using drugs
(in % of the number of people who tried drugs)

Method of using drugs	2013 г.	2012 г.
Smoking	75,6	65,2
Tablets	11,0	10,8
Seeds of "dope-grass"	0,9	7,5
Eye Drops	2,8	7,1
Other	4,3	5,9
Intravenous	5,4	3,5

The insignificance of the frequency of indication of various types of narcotics precludes the possibility of conducting reliable analysis. Nevertheless, it must be pointed out that the use of eye drops is noted by respondents in municipal districts bordering on urban districts; consumption of seeds of dope – respondents of the localities located between the southern and northern districts of the district.

The main source of drugs appear, apparently, representatives of the closest circle – friends and acquaintances, as more than 60% of respondents indicated that they are "treated to drugs".

Confirm the conclusion and answers to the question "Where do you manage to get drugs?", and "How do you usually get money for drugs?"

20.5% of respondents buy drugs, mostly paying with money (59.3%), in another way (15.5%), business services (4.7%), and things (2.5%). 42.6% of respondents do not buy drugs at all.

Among the methods of obtaining money for the acquisition of drugs, 18.1% of respondents claim that they make money for themselves, 8.5% take money from their parents, spouse or other relatives, and give friends and acquaintances (8.2%).

The results of the studies suggest that the majority of people who use narcotic drugs do not have a regular addiction. Drug use is rare. Experience of experimental (sample) and episodic use of "light" drugs has 6.4% of the population of the district. However, 45.3% of the "experimenters" and episodic users gave a positive answer to the question "Would you like to stop using this year's drugs?" And 21% answer "more likely than not."

Thus, the presence of contradictions in the responses and a significant number of refusals significantly complicates the assessment of the level of narcotization and does not allow us to speak about the results of the survey as an accurate measure of the level of narcotization of the population of the district. At the same time, the presence between the respondents' answers of statistically significant connections that can be interpreted logically indicates that the results of the survey can be trustworthy, as they generally reflect the main trends of narcotization, and allow reveal statistical patterns explaining the obtained data.

In general, we can conclude that the main context of drug use is a joint pastime with friends and acquaintances for the purpose of entertainment. Drugs are distributed among members of this company (jointly purchased, manufactured, they are treated). In the southern regions of the region, such drugs are usually cannabis, in the north – dezomorfin, salt. This is due to the availability of these types of drugs, as well as consumer opinion about their safety for the body.

Despite the specificity of the development factors in most areas (the vastness of the territory and low population density, the prevalence of mortality over births, the national composition of the population, etc.), the problem of drug abuse is recognized by society and is recognized as an urgent social problem that needs to be addressed. The majority of respondents expressed their negative attitude towards drug addiction.

However, at the same time, a high level of narcotization remains, especially among young people. The proportion of people who have social contacts with people who use drugs has increased. Smoking of cannabis products growing on the territory of the region remains the main trend of narcotization. The main motive in the choice of drugs is their easy access, as well as the confidence of consumers in the minor damage to health from their use. The majority of those questioned to some extent admit the possibility of quite easy getting rid of attachment to drugs.

Among the possible causes of drug addiction include the adverse impact of the environment and an unhappy social environment. The main motivating reason for turning to drugs is curiosity, due primarily to the influence of the campaign and the desire to get away from problems, to enjoy.

The majority of respondents believe that medical prevention, communication with former drug addicts and authoritative specialists will help reduce drug addiction. Speeches of famous people on drug addiction will have a positive impact on the problem.

In the spread of drug addiction in the territory, respondents tend to blame law enforcement agencies and legislation, youth unemployment and permissiveness, moral degradation of society.

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