Drug Addiction among Teenagers

THESIS STATEMENT:

DRUG ADDICTION IS NEGATIVELY INFLUENCING THE YOUTH NOWADAYS BY HARMING THEIR MENTAL HEALTH,PHYSICAL HEALTH,OVERSHADOWING THEIR CHARACTER AND CREATING A LACK IN THEIR COIGNITIVE ABILITIES.

Drug addiction is a chronic neuropsychiatric disorder characterized by the compulsive intake of drugs of abuse and the loss of control over this consumption, in spite of the devastating consequences it carries for the individual.

According to the World Health Organization, drug addiction affects between 3.4 and 6.6% of the population worldwide and represents a major contributor to the global burden of disease and disability

1st POINT:

MENTAL HEALTH:

NOWADAYS,THE PRIMARY REASON OF DRUG ADDICTION IS THE INCREASED MENTAL STRESS.PEOPLE FACING ANY KIND OF STRESS ARE MORE FOND OF USING DRUGS THAN THOSE WHO ARE NOT.

While it may not be possible to eliminate stress, we need to find ways to manage it and the most common way among people to cope with stress is substance abuse.

It develops a higher risk of mental illness, depression, suicide and death.

FACT#1:

Stress can increase the odds that a person will use drugs and according to National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) those exposed to stress are more likely to use mind-altering substances.

FACT#2:

Sedative and tranquilizing drugs increase levels of gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) in the brain. GABA slows down the stress response making these substances a potential target of abuse.

2nd POINT:

Different types of drugs affect our body and physical health in many ways.

A casual user of drugs might think that drugs won't become a problem.

How a drug effects an individual is dependent on a variety of factors including body size, general health, the amount and strength of the drug, and whether any other drugs are in the system at the same time.

You may act differently, feel differently and think differently if you have taken drugs. And you may struggle to control your actions and thoughts.

Drug use can also result in long-term health outcomes that include harm to organs and systems in your body, such as your throat, stomach, lungs, liver, pancreas, heart, brain, nervous system, cancer (such as lung cancer from inhaling drugs), infectious disease, from shared injecting equipment and increased incidence of risk-taking behaviors.

FACT#1:

Nearly one-third of reported AIDS cases have been linked to injection drug use—heroin, cocaine, or any drug that abusers inject. One way that HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and other infectious diseases are spread is through the sharing of needles or other injection equipment

FACT#2:

Injuries due to accidents (such as car accidents), physical disabilities and diseases, and the effects of possible overdoses are among the health-related consequences of teenage drug addiction. In 1995 alone, more than 2,000 youth (ages 15 to 20) were killed in alcohol-related car crashes (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1997).

3rd POINT:

Drug Addiction often leads to risky or unethical behaviour which effects ones character greatly. Studies have found that prolonged drug use impairs your prefrontal cortex, which is involved with planning, attention, emotional regulation, and self-control. It’s also involved with foresight. You’re less able to foresee the negative consequences of your actions. Since use of drug becomes your top priority, good foresight and planning simply means getting drugs or alcohol efficiently. Since other considerations matter less, even close personal relationships, you may be indifferent to the ethical considerations involved, even perhaps stealing from loved ones so you can buy drugs. What’s more, many drugs lower inhibitions and make you willing to engage in risky behaviour, such as sharing needles and unprotected sex.

FACT#1:

A study conducted in 1988 in Washington, D.C., found youth who sold and used drugs were more likely to commit crimes than those who only sold drugs or only used drugs. About one-fourth of the youth also reported attacking another youth to obtain drugs. However, among the youth in this sample, the majority who committed crimes did not do so in connection with drugs (Altschuler and Brounstein, 1991). A breakdown of crimes that youth have committed to obtain drugs follows:

Drug selling: 36 percent.

Serious assault: 24 percent.

Burglary: 24 percent.

Robbery: 19 percent.

4th POINT:

Early drug exposure is associated with frontal lobe damage, low cognitive performance and emotional learning, as well as other behaviors. Moreover, it has been demonstrated that adolescent exposure to both prescription and social drugs impairs cognition, as well as other behaviors, in the adulthood.

There is a clear bidirectional relationship between abuse of drugs and poor academic achievement. It has been suggested that cognitive deficits could make adolescents more vulnerable to substance abuse than others; conversely, other proposals argue that substance abuse is the source of cognitive impairments

FACT#1:

A study of teens in 12th grade (16-18 years of age) who dropped out of school before graduation are more likely than their peers to be users of cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana and other illicit drugs. Illicit drug use among dropouts was higher than for those in school (31.4 percent vs. 18.2 percent). Dropouts were more likely to be current marijuana users than those in school (27.3 percent vs. 15.3 percent) and non-medical users of prescription drugs (9.5 percent vs. 5.1 percent).

FACT#2:

Alcohol has been linked to 40% of incidents of lowered academic performance and 25% of college dropouts. The heaviest drinkers make the lowest grades. Increases in average number of drinks per week are related to decreased class attendance and getting behind on school work