

Substance Use in Night Club Sub Culture in Colombo District

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Night club culture is not a new trend in Western countries anymore. However, it is being popular among Sri Lankans and some of the social issues like drug use have been raised. This study was mainly focused to identify the nature and patterns of substance abuse in night clubs in Colombo district. Major findings of this research are as follows, 54% of the sample have initiated drug use at the age range of 15-17 and their curiosity have led them to use. Majority, 98% (49), of the sample have started clubbing when they were less than 30 years. People who attend to party events were multiple drug users. Cannabis (84%), ecstasy (98%) and LSD (90%) were identified as commonly used drugs. However, heroin (42%), hashish (44%), pharmaceutical drugs (52%), cocaine (56%) and methamphetamine (56%) are the other popular drugs among them. It is further revealed that miss used pharmaceutical drugs were mainly painkillers and sedatives. Both legal and illegal drugs distributors were present within the club and 62% (31) of the sample used to buy drugs from them. Further identified that 49 of them were not daily clubbing and 32 (64%) of them used to go only in weekends. These people believe drug use in a night club is not a problematic as they used to go once in a week. However, because of the drug use 20 of them have ever been experienced to problematic situations in their life. Persons who attend to night club events consider drug use is a highly socially oriented action. Social media like Facebook was used to promote the party events. Subcultural terms were used to communicate within the club such as, the term “phill” used for ecstasy, “acid”, “stamp” for LSD, “white bair” for cocaine and “ice”, “mendi” for methamphetamine. Myths and misperceptions were created by the night club sub culture and a space was given to youths for tend to drug use.

Keywords: club drugs; substance use; nights clubs; young people; party events