



## DRUG ADDICTION: A DANGEROUS THREAT TO YOUTH IN UZBEKISTAN

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### Abstract

This article analyzes the problem of drug addiction, its prevalence among youth, causes and consequences, as well as its impact on society. It also examines preventive measures, rehabilitation systems, and strategic actions undertaken by the state to combat this issue.

**Keywords:** drug addiction, youth, global problems, toxic substances, crime, harmful habit, youth issues.

### Аннотация

В данной статье анализируется проблема наркомании, её распространённость среди молодёжи, причины и последствия, а также влияние на общество. Также рассматриваются меры профилактики, системы реабилитации и стратегические действия государства по борьбе с этой проблемой.

**Ключевые слова:** наркомания, молодёжь, глобальные проблемы, токсические вещества, преступность, вредная привычка, проблемы молодёжи.

### Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada giyohvandlik muammosi, uning yoshlarda tarqalishi, sabab va oqibatlari, shuningdek jamiyatga ta'siri tahlil qilinadi. Shuningdek, maqolada profilaktika choralar, reabilitatsiya tizimlari va davlat tomonidan ushbu muammoni bartaraf etishga qaratilgan strategik tadbirlar ko'rib chiqiladi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** giyohvandlik, yoshlar, global muammolar, zaharli moddalar, jinoyatchilik, zararli odat, yoshlar muammosi.

### Introduction

Although humanity is living in a new stage of social and technological development, drug addiction remains a global issue without a complete solution. The spread of this harmful habit among youth is particularly alarming. Drug addiction not only negatively affects an individual's health but also impacts social activity, societal role, and future prospects. Therefore, implementing comprehensive measures to prevent drug addiction is of critical importance.

### Causes of Drug Addiction Among Youth

Youth may become prone to drug addiction for various reasons. Deficiencies in the family environment, lack of parental attention, and inadequate upbringing, as well as the negative influence of friends and social groups, push young people towards harmful habits. Psychologically, youth are unstable and inclined to experiment with new experiences. Emotional stress and susceptibility to depression also contribute to drug use. Initially, young people may use drugs to improve mood, enhance personal abilities, or out of curiosity, but over time, their bodies develop psychological and physiological dependence on these substances.

The development of the internet and social networks serves as an additional factor increasing youth drug addiction. Through darknet sites and online stores, substances such as cocaine, heroin, fentanyl, and other synthetic drugs easily reach young users. Psychoactive substances are presented in various forms—gum, candy, or electronic cigarettes—which makes them even more appealing. Moreover, promotion and misinformation on social media increase the likelihood of youth accepting drugs.

### **State Policy and Preventive Measures**

Decree No. 73 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, dated May 6, 2024, strengthens measures against the illegal circulation of narcotic and psychotropic substances. Within this framework, the National Strategy for 2024–2028 was approved, assigning responsibilities to all state agencies and regional commissions for prevention, rehabilitation, and control. Monitoring activities involving the National Guard have been implemented in higher and secondary education institutions. Additionally, digital monitoring systems have been introduced to reduce illegal drug circulation and improve early diagnosis and rehabilitation services.

To enhance the effectiveness of preventive and educational activities, meaningful engagement of youth through spiritual, educational, sports, and cultural activities is important. Family upbringing also plays a critical role in shaping the mental and psychological stability of young people.

### **Crime and Social Consequences**

Drug addiction often leads youth to crime, theft, and financial loss. This negatively affects not only individual health and future but also societal development. Youth addicted to drugs may pawn their homes, sell family property, or even commit crimes. As a result, crime rates rise, and social instability emerges.

### **International Experience and Cooperation**

The online distribution of drugs is a global problem, making international cooperation essential. The Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) facilitates information exchange and coordination among countries. Through this, organized criminal groups are identified, and illegal drugs are confiscated. Cooperation with internet providers and the use of artificial intelligence and technological solutions are effective tools for detecting and blocking illegal activities.

### **Conclusion**

Drug addiction is a global threat to youth. Its prevention requires the combined efforts of family upbringing, education, social, and technological tools. Controlling online distribution, covert sales, and darknet transactions is one of today's most urgent tasks. Every citizen, parent, educational institution, and society as a whole must work together to prevent drug addiction among youth and reduce its negative consequences.

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