

## Review of Frequently Used Psychotropic Drugs

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## Introduction

**F**orensic science, also known as criminology, is the science applied to criminal and civil law, primarily on the criminal side during criminal investigations, governed by legal standards of admissible evidence and criminal procedure. Criminology is the study of crime and deviant behavior. Criminology is an interdisciplinary field of both behavioral and social sciences, drawing primarily on the research of sociologists, psychologists, philosophers, psychiatrists, biologists, social anthropologists, as well as legal scholars.

The cases and crimes related to illegal drugs come under this criminology department. Nowadays these types of drug crimes are increasing day by day. And also, it is mainly influencing the younger generation as well. Before describing illegal drugs, first, we have to know what is drugs? A drug is any substance that causes a change in an organism physically or psychologically when consumed. Drugs are typically distinguished from food and substances that provide us nutritional support. Consumption of drugs can be through inhalation, injection, smoking, ingestion, absorption via a patch on the skin or dissolution under the tongue. We can differentiate drugs into two categories: legal drugs and illegal drugs. Knowingly or unknowingly we use a lot of drugs in our daily life. Some drugs, such as alcohol, caffeine, nicotine, and various prescribed and over the counter medications are legal but may have

restrictions based on age, location of use, driving, and point of sale regulations. The active ingredients in legal drugs can be regulated and controlled: the alcohol content of drinks etc can be controlled.

If a drug is classified as illegal, it means that it is prohibited by law. Different illegal drugs have different effects on people, and these effects are influenced by many factors. As it depends on the type of drug used, how much is consumed, how many different drugs are taken at the same time etc. This makes them unpredictable and dangerous, especially for the young. Illegal drugs include cannabis, cocaine, heroin, steroids, opium, hallucinogens, etc.

## Materials and Methodology

Various toxicological text and forensic texts by different authors , web search , various Textooks and peer reviewed journals were studied to get more information about Drugs.

### Heroine:

These are drugs that slow down the central nervous system and the messages that transfer between the brain and the body. These drugs decrease people's concentration and slow down their ability to respond. The name 'depressant' suggests that these drugs can make a person feel depressed, but this is not always the case. The term depressant purely refers to the effect of slowing down the central nervous system. Some other examples include alcohol, opioids, barbiturates, GHB.

### Cocaine:

Also known as a stimulant (also called a psychostimulant). These are drugs that stimulate the central nervous system and speed up messages

to and from the brain and body. These drugs typically increase energy, heart rate, and appetite. Some other examples of psychostimulants include methamphetamine (speed, ice, base), dexamphetamine, caffeine, nicotine, MDMA / ecstasy

## Opium

### Medicolegal importance of Opium

Therapeutic overdose of medicine containing opium ; Overdose of opium medicine used for treatment of sexual incompetency ; To induce courage Sometimes opium is used to steady the nerves for doing some bold act like murder requiring special courage . In ancient time the warriors used opium before march .

Suicidal - From 12th century , opium is supposed to be ideal poison for suicide , as it causes painless death in comatose stage . But according to Opium Act 1957 & 1878 & NDPS Act 1985 to keep opium is a crime . So its use is restricted .

Homicidal - It is used for infanticide specially infant unmarried woman .

Accidental - Opium is used by worker women to keep their child in deep sleep while going to their duty . In such cases , accidental poisoning may cause with increased dose .

In following cases accidental poisoning may happen : Doping- Sometimes it is used for doping race horses . It is rarely used as a cattle poison

### Hallucinogens:

These are drugs that usually change how a person sees the world. These drugs can change the way a person sees, hears, smells, or experiences different things, including experiencing things that aren't there at all. Some other examples of hallucinogens include ketamine, magic mushrooms, LSD.

## Discussion

The above mentioned is a short description of the most commonly used illegal drugs. These days drug crimes are being reported in large numbers day by day. Most of the people are less aware of this major problem happening around them and it has a bad effect on our society.

In this study different authors, web search, various textbooks' and peer reviewed journals were studied to get more information about Psychotropic drugs.

## Conclusion-

- 1) The thorough review of Psychotropic drugs shows that it is the popular drug used everywhere in the world.
- 2) From published literature its importance is proved.

## References

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