

Preface

Friends, you learnt about meaning and features of deviant behaviour in unit-9. Deviant behaviour is one of the important reasons for emergence of social problem. In this unit, we will get an understanding of meaning and features of social problems and will discuss three contemporary social problems of India.

Every society in the world has its own aims and continuous efforts are on for their achievement. Attainment of these aims is the criterion of society's progress. In order to realize the aims, a society develops a system of norms and values and expects its members to behave accordingly. It, however, does not happen always that all members behave according to the prescribed norms and values of society. Knowingly or unknowingly, sometimes they behave against the expectations of society and this leads to surfacing of social problems.

If we view the history of human society, we find that no society primitive or modern is free of problems; though with the changing time, form of social problems also changed. Or in other words, with the development of social consciousness and social awareness, new social problems surfaced. In addition, geographical and environmental changes, urbanization, industrialization, rapid developments in the field of science and technology development of individualistic values and laws have caused several new social problems. This calls for scientific study of social problems in order to control and eliminate them for maintenance of social system.

Scientific study of social problems assumes importance in the subject-matter of modern sociology. Social problems are viewed differently by people of different classes; but generally they view problems as something disgusting or ignorable. Sociologists, however, focus their attention in analyzing the causes and effects of social problems without any bias. Social problems, in sociology, are considered as a challenging situation against the prevailing norms and values of society. Sociologists study social problems from scientific perspective the same way they study other forms of human behaviour. Their main aim is to obtain an understanding about reasons of social problems and that how social problems are related to other fields of social behaviour.

Definition of social problem

Friends, as we know, no society is free from problems. However, these problems are not similar across societies or nations. They differ from one society to another, because of distinct social norms, cultural values and regional characteristics. Therefore, it becomes difficult to give any common definition of social problems. Nevertheless, different scholars have attempted to define it on the basis of scientific studies of social problems carried out by them.

Richard C. Fuller and Richard Myers, scholars of Michigan University of America, write in their article 'Some Aspects of a Theory of Social Problems' that social problems means those aspects or situations of behaviour which is being viewed as undesirable by a considerable number of individuals within a society and they believe that there is a need of reformative policies, programmes and services to control and eliminate social problems.

American scholars P. B. Horton and G. R. Leslie write in 'The Sociology of Social Problems' that a social problem is a condition that affects a significant number of people in ways considered undesirable, about which it is felt that something can be done through collective measures.

Features of social problems

Features of social problems can be described as follows on the basis of definitions given above.

- (1) Social problem is an objectionable condition that prevails in society.
- (2) Social problem affects a considerable number of individuals within a society. It should be noted here that 'considerable number of individuals' is not specified in figures.
- (3) This condition is undesirable for significant number of people.
- (4) It is felt by people that some collective measures should be taken for elimination of this condition.
- (5) It is believed that this condition is not permanent and can be removed.
- (6) There is a fear of violation of socially important norms and values.
- (7) Social problem is not individualistic but social.
- (8) Social problem has social effects and therefore it also affects other aspects of society.
- (9) Social problem is relative. It means that a condition which is considered a social problem in one society may not be considered as social problem in another society.

Friends, the aforementioned features of social problems must have helped you in understanding social problem more clearly. Now, let us have an understanding about three social problems prevalent in Indian society.

Problem of uneven sex ratio

If a society is visualized as a chariot, then, man and woman are its two wheels and a balance between these two wheels is necessary for sustenance of any society. In absence of balance, the chariot will not move ahead no matter what other facilities are available in it.

Uneven sex ratio indicates towards the imbalance between these two wheels. In a way, gender of an individual is totally a biological matter. An individual cannot either select his/her sex. Then a question comes up that why uneven sex ratio is a social problem ?



Uneven Sex Ratio

Responding to this question, it can be said that the birth and death of an individual are natural factors but when humans or society interfere in it, it becomes a social problem. Physical conditions in the modern age, caused by progresses made in science and technology, communication and transport are fast changing but ideas, beliefs, values, traditions etc are not changing at that speed. It is a bitter truth of society that an individual cannot welcome the birth of a girl child with the passion he expresses his pleasure for a newly purchased car. Misuse of science and technology and pursuance of insensible traditions have resulted in number of women being lower than men in India. The case is similar with Gujarat. According to census 2011, in the age-group 0 to 6, the number of girls per thousand boys is 886 in Gujarat. In certain talukas of Gujarat, this number ranges from 700 to 750, which is in fact a matter of concern.

Let us try to understand the reasons, adverse impacts and the measures to deal with uneven sex-ratio which has caused several social problems.

What is meant by uneven sex ratio ?

As explained in unit-1, sex ratio indicates number of females per thousand males in India. Uneven sex ratio is indicative of number of females being lower than of males. Following table contains figures related to sex ratio for India and Gujarat from 1901 onwards.

Sex Ratio in India and Gujarat, 1901-2011

SN	Year	India	Gujarat
1.	1901	972	954
2.	1911	964	946
3.	1921	955	944
4.	1931	950	945
5.	1941	945	941
6.	1951	946	952
7.	1961	941	940
8.	1971	930	934
9.	1981	934	942
10.	1991	927	934
11.	2001	933	920
12.	2011	940	918

(Source : Gender Composition of Population, Provisional Population Totals, India, P. 80)

Reasons of uneven sex ratio

Uneven sex ratio is one of the severe demographic and social problems in contemporary India. As a student of social science, our aim is to find out its reasons and undesirable impacts and measures to tackle this problem. Let us first know the reasons which have caused this problem.

(1) Patriarchal family system :

Patriarchal family-system is found in almost all societies, which is based on relations of authority and subordination. In such kind of family system man enjoys higher status than woman and in this male dominated system most of the family decisions such as expansion of family, inheritor of property etc. are taken by men. Women do not have any say in even matters like conceiving child. Thus, patriarchal family system contributes to uneven sex ratio.

(2) Gender discrimination :

Many studies have established the fact that congenital biological differences are responsible for differences found in man and woman. The problem lies in differences in the congenital roles of a man and a woman. The ideal situation calls for all fields to be opened for both men and women without any gender discrimination and that both should have equal opportunity to succeed in the fields of their choice. As Neera Desai has observed, tasks of men and women are perceived from a discriminative point of view and as far as gender equity is concerned, double standards exist in society. According to the known scholar J. Seward, capability, interest and liking of men and women have nothing to do with their biological differences. Thus, gender discrimination is biological element which creates the problem of uneven sex ratio.

(3) Female-infanticide :

The main factor responsible for uneven sex ratio is female-infanticide. In Indian patriarchal family system, birth of a boy-child is considered as very important but the birth of a girl-child is generally not welcomed. Various social, religious and cultural factors have contributed to the increased importance of birth of a son. With this, the craze about having a son also increased. Though illegal, sex determination test is available to know the sex of the child conceived. If the result of this test shows that the conceived child is a girl, female-foetus is killed through abortion. This is nothing else but the revised and modern version of age old custom of *doodhpiti* (killing a girl-child by drowning its face in milk) which has lowered the number of females.

(4) Ill traditions and ill customs :

To a great extent, ill traditions and ill customs are also responsible for uneven sex ratio. Customs like child marriage, *satipratha*, dowry, *devdasi* system (in which a girl is “dedicated” to worship and service of a deity or a temple for the rest of her life) negation on widow remarriage and many others have put a question mark on the existence of womankind. Gujarat proverbs such as ‘*dikari to parki thapan kahevaya*’ (daughter when married belongs to husband’s family) and ‘*dikari ne gay dore tyan jay*’ (daughter and cow do as directed) are indicative of the fact that women have to tolerate the ill effects of the traditions and customs meant for them. Therefore, birth of a girl-child is not welcomed. Thus, ill traditions and customs of society contribute to uneven sex ratio.

(5) Economic condition of family :

In the present time, factors like poverty, unemployment and inflation have made child rearing difficult not only for poor and middle class people but also for those belonging to upper class. Parents need to sustain their children till they become self-reliant. Addition of daughters in the family in expectation of a son makes the family larger and conditions bitter. Such factors lead to increase in proportion of female-infanticide. Thus, economic conditions are indirectly responsible for uneven sex ratio.

(6) Unnatural death of women :

Biologically, women are stronger than men and so they live longer; but defective social atmosphere leads them towards unnatural death. Dowry is the most important reason for women’s unnatural death in India. Demand of dowry from in-laws coupled with harassment ultimately leads women to commit suicide. In many cases, in-laws kill the woman if their demand for dowry is not satisfied. Dowry takes a heavy toll of women. In India, in 2011, dowry had claimed 18233 lives of women. This means that in India, every ninety minutes, one woman dies of dowry.

Since last few years, honour killing, resulting in unnatural death of women, has attracted attention of all. An honour killing is the homicide of a woman by other members of the family due to the belief that victim, by committing certain inappropriate action, has brought dishonour upon the family. The death of the victim is viewed as a way to restore the reputation and honour of the family. Inappropriate actions of women as viewed by the family members include being in a relationship that is disapproved by the family, love affair, or rape. In India, honour killing is more visible in states like Punjab, Haryana, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

In addition, incidents like divorce, celibate motherhood, rape, constant insult or disregard, harassment caused by family members or in-laws also lead women towards unnatural death. All these cases of unnatural deaths of women become determining factor in creating uneven sex ratio.

(7) Migration :

Migration of people from one place to another due to job, business, education, or for any other reason plays an important role in creating imbalance in sex ratio. When people migrate from one region to another, population of the place of origin as well as destination gets affected. This difference in population creates imbalance in sex ratio. For example, in a study of workers of ship breaking yard in Alang, Bhavnagar, carried out by Kaushik Shukla, it was found that most of the workers were males belonging to other states.

Moreover, migration aimed at economic development creates imbalance in sex ratio. In traditional Indian society males are expected to earn livelihood while females are supposed to manage home, produce children and rear them. Generally men migrate to earn livelihood from one place to another easily but for women it is little restrictive. A number of agricultural labourers migrate from one state to another to work in agricultural fields. The places where trade and industries have developed have more migrant workers. Thus migration from one state to another or to foreign countries is generally male-dominated. In this pattern of migration women tend to stay in their native place. Therefore, we find state wise variation in sex ratio, which we call uneven sex ratio.

Adverse effects of uneven sex ratio

Both male and female have important roles in social structure and their contribution in overall development of society is equally significant. Through their role of reproduction and child rearing they maintain the continuity of family heritage. Their declining number may work as an obstacle in maintaining social continuity.

Uneven sex ratio has an adverse impact on marriage institution. Lower number of females as compared to males results in increase in number of unmarried males. Parents live in tense situation till their son/s get/s married. Lower number of females also encourages selling of daughters, means men have to pay higher prices to women in order to get married. Prosperous men can pay higher prices for marriage but poor ones or those belonging to middle class cannot afford it and therefore the question of selection of life partner becomes more complex for them. Very often, it also happens that a highly qualified woman is compelled to marry a man with lesser qualification or vice versa. Uneven sex ratio also compels communities, particularly endogamous, to follow *sata* method of marriage (exchange marriage) and many times it results in ill-matched marriages.

Increase in number of incidents of harassment of women is also one the outcomes of number of females being lower than that of males. Increasing incidents of molestation, sexual harassment and

rape in different states of India are witness to this.

Remedial measures

Alleviation of the problem of uneven sex ratio requires change in beliefs and values towards women. Efforts are required from government, voluntary organizations, intellectuals, social thinkers, religious leaders and public servants. Nevertheless, following measures can help curb the problem of uneven sex ratio :

- Formulation of policies to encourage the birth of girl-child
- Steps should be taken for recognition of equal importance of men and women in social life, though they have been given equal rights constitutionally and legally
- Families having only one girl-child should encourage other families for opting for girl-child.
- Women should themselves be aware and organized and create public awareness for their existence
- Mass media should create public awareness by telecasting the problem of uneven sex ratio
- Efforts should be made for internalization of values of equality in the process of socialization of son and daughter
- Efforts should be made for prevention of female infanticide
- The Act prohibiting pre natal sex determination test should be strictly implemented
- The youth should be made aware of the serious impacts of uneven sex ratio and for this purpose seminars and conferences should be organized in schools and colleges
- Voluntary organizations should play a constructive role in this regard
- Efforts should be made to change ill traditions and customs of society
- Dowry Prohibition Act should be strictly implemented

HIV / AIDS as a social problem

Human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome, commonly known as HIV/AIDS is a worldwide phenomenon and in almost all countries there are people living with HIV. In terms of number of people living with HIV, India ranks third after South Africa and Nigeria. According to the annual report of National Aids Control Organization (NACO) for the year 2013-14, in India the number of people affected by HIV, aged 15 to 49 was 20.89 lakh in 2011. This indicates that most of the people with HIV belonged to young age-group. This is really a matter of concern for India which has a larger population of the youth.

What is AIDS ?

- A - Acquired
- I - Immune
- D - Deficiency
- S - Syndrome



AIDS

In simple words, AIDS means extinction of immunity in the human body which causes several diseases. An individual suffers from AIDS after few years of having HIV. HIV, after entering into human body, diminishes immunity in a gradual manner and therefore the person with HIV becomes victim of several diseases. This situation of human body is termed as AIDS.

The first victim of AIDS was noticed in America in 1981. Gradually the disease spread from homosexuals of Los Angeles, America to drug addicted people and after that it spread to almost all countries of the world.

In India, for the first time, Dr. Suniti Solomon had diagnosed a sex worker with HIV in Chennai in 1986. The sex workers had the symptoms of this disease in later years. By 1987, there was an addition of 135 patients of HIV, among whom 14 were totally affected by AIDS.

How does AIDS spread ?

AIDS is caused by HIV. HIV can be destroyed if it is outside the body but once it enters the human body it is difficult to destroy it. Dr. Prakash Vaishnav and Dr. Vrajlal Patel have explained how AIDS enters in human body in their book titled '*AIDS Aa Yug No Mahakal*'. According to them AIDS enters in to human body through four mediums :

- (1) Unprotected sexual relations
- (2) Blood
- (3) Mother
- (4) Non-sterilized equipments

How does AIDS do not spread ?

- (1) It doesn't spread by shaking hands, sitting or eating with AIDS patients. Nor does it spread by hugging or kissing them.
- (2) It doesn't spread by taking bath in a pond, river or a swimming pool with AIDS patient/s.
- (3) It doesn't spread by coughing or sneezing of AIDS patient.
- (4) It doesn't spread by fly, mosquito or bug.
- (5) It doesn't spread by use of public toilet.
- (6) It doesn't spread by tears or sweat of AIDS patient.

Reasons of HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS is not merely a public health concern; it is also a result of violation of social norms and values. Not only the patients of AIDS and their families, but society, culture, economy and population also come under the adverse impacts of AIDS. From all these perspectives, AIDS is not merely a health problem; it is also a social problem. Let us try to understand the reasons of AIDS as a social problem.

(1) Unprotected sexual relation :

Unprotected sexual relation is the main reason of AIDS. When a man or a woman living with HIV gets into unprotected sexual relations with each other, HIV gets transmitted from one body to another and a person without HIV also gets infected. In the long run she/he becomes victim of AIDS. Unprotected sexual relation is found more common among sex workers. According to recent researches and reports, a number of sex workers are living with HIV/AIDS. A man who has sexual

relation with a woman prostitute having AIDS gets it transmitted into him. Similarly sexual relation between a woman prostitute and a man with AIDS results in the former having the same. Thus unprotected sexual relations transmit the disease.

In the modern age, norms related to virginity and extra-marital relations have been weakened and there is also an increase in sexual willfulness. TV serials, films and social media have an adverse impact on mutual loyalty of husband and wife. Messages conveyed through these mediums have generated and intensified the desire of having a variety in sexual life. As a result of all these, incidents of rape, in metropolis to villages, have been increasing. According to the annual report of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for the year 2013, in whole of India, 24,923 cases of rape were registered in 2012 and in 98 percent of the total cases, rapist was a close or known person. Homosexual relations have also increased. Persons in gay and lesbian relationships have more chances of acquiring AIDS. Countries like America, Africa and England have larger number of persons engaged in gay and lesbian relationships and also the larger number of persons living with AIDS. Gay and lesbian relationships are legally approved in these countries.

Thus, unprotected sexual relations are major reason for spread of AIDS.

(2) AIDS through blood :

As we learnt, HIV cannot survive in outer environment for a longer time; but once it enters the human body and comes into contact with bodily fluids (blood, sperms or vaginal secretions), it is not possible to eliminate it. This means that in critical situation when blood is required, taking blood of a person having HIV is dangerous. Blood of HIV infected person is an important factor for spread of AIDS. Acquiring untested blood from the persons who regularly sell their blood for money also increases the possibility of AIDS. Use of tested blood provides protection against AIDS. Further, implantation of any part of the body of the person with HIV will infect the taker.

(3) Parents to child transmission :

When a man or a woman with HIV gets into sexual relation and if the woman with HIV becomes pregnant, she can transmit the disease to the child in the womb or to newborn. This is third important reason for the global coverage of AIDS. In absence of treatment, there is 20 percent possibility of transmission of HIV from pregnant woman to her child before or after birth. If the pregnant woman with HIV is not taken care of well during the pregnancy, the child can have HIV. In addition, traditional methods of delivery, coupled with non-preservation of health related norms are more likely to transmit HIV from mother to child

(4) Addiction of drugs :

Persons addicted to drugs have poor immunity and therefore they are more likely to have HIV. Recent researches have revealed that many addicts are living with HIV. Addicts generally take the drug through injection and use the same needle for each other. If the needle used by an addict with HIV is used by other person, the latter can be infected with HIV. This has been an important reason for the spread of HIV/AIDS in north-east India

Apart from these visible reasons, various other factors linked to society and culture such as consumerism, shunning from marriage and resultant responsibilities, wrong beliefs about sexual life, over ambitiousness, poverty, lack of education, urbanization etc. play an important role in origin of HIV.

Adverse effects of HIV/AIDS :

The above discussion has made it clear that HIV/AIDS is not only a personal problem; but it is directly linked with society and culture. In this sense, larger number of persons living with HIV/AIDS adversely affects any nation or community.

As seen earlier, the main reason behind origin of HIV/AIDS is unprotected sexual relations. Therefore, if the blood report of any person shows that s/he is HIV positive, it is enough for that person to feel embarrassed. Being afraid of disrepute s/he does not tell about this to anyone. This situation becomes unbearable for him/her. Further, people develop a cold attitude towards the patients of HIV/AIDS.

Among the deaths caused by AIDS, infant and maternal mortality result in demographic changes. This also leads to various problems of widows. The treatment of AIDS is so expensive that it not only affects the families concerned but the economy of the whole nation. As seen earlier, the fact that most of the persons in India living with AIDS belong to 15 to 49 age-group, has an adverse effect on trade, industry and education of the nation. Further, since there is no medicine or vaccine invented for the treatment of this disease so far, efforts being made for related research and also for bringing about social awareness have been proved expensive.

Prevention or control of AIDS :

Friends, through discussion on causes and effects of HIV/AIDS you must have understood the fact that, if not controlled, this disease can create various social problems. It is also difficult to control this disease as no medicine or vaccine has been invented for its elimination so far. The best alternative then is to prevent its spread and for this purpose there is a need to create logical awareness about the disease among people. Let us know about what are the things that prevent spread of AIDS:

- (1) As we now know that the main factor behind AIDS is unprotected sexual relations. In other words, protected sexual relations can control the spread of AIDS. Sexual relation with only one loyal partner and use of condom during intercourse play an important role in preventing AIDS.
- (2) Blood donated by a person living with HIV can transmit the disease into the taker's body. Therefore, whenever blood is needed, one should insure that the blood is not infected with HIV.
- (3) Syringe, needle or any other medical equipment used for the person with HIV should not be used for the treatment of a healthy person. In programmes of vaccination or medical investigation sterilized equipment should be used.
- (4) Public and social awareness should be created through various mediums of communication and liaison. For example, 1st December is celebrated as 'World AIDS Day' every year.
- (5) Researches for invention of medicine or vaccine to control HIV/AIDS should be taken up.

In addition, the performance of the Government of India in controlling HIV/AIDS has been praiseworthy. Various efforts initiated by the Government have succeeded in controlling this disease to a large extent. Under the leadership of the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), established in 1992, HIV /AIDS control programme known as NACP has been initiated in India through 35 HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Societies. Treatment centers for HIV/AIDS are also functional in state dispensaries.

Problem of drug addiction :

Study of human life of each society of the world makes it clear that in all ages people used to

consume some sort of intoxicant/s to feel relieved from disappointment, frustration and mental tension, to have some pleasure or in order to have fluctuating feelings of joy and sorrow. The feeling generated by consumption of intoxicants produces five kinds of psycho-medicinal impacts. In fact, in order to obtain these impacts, an individual consumes intoxicants. These five impacts are as follows :

- (1) Relief from pain
- (2) Reduction in undesirable and painful actions or feelings such as anxiety, impatience, excitement, fatigue, etc.
- (3) Removal of sleeplessness and depression and increase in bodily power and energy.
- (4) Attainment of new consciousness and feeling
- (5) Reduction in the feeling of overloaded with work and prevalence of pleasant feelings.

The youth consume drugs to attain above mentioned impacts which are in fact illusory. Before 1925, there was no prohibition on consumption of drugs but in a convention of United Nations (UN) in Geneva in 1925 adverse impacts of drugs were discussed and member countries were advised to prohibit the sale and consumption of drugs. Following this, the World Health Organization (WHO) of UN initiated a campaign for controlling the global problem of drug addiction. As a result, all countries of the world perceived drug addiction as a social problem and initiated efforts for its control and elimination.



Intoxicants

Meaning of drug addiction :

According to the expert committee of WHO, 'drug addiction is a state of periodic and chronic intoxication detrimental to the individual and to society, produced by the repeated consumption of a drug (natural or synthetic). Its characteristics include: (1) An overpowering desire or need (compulsion) to continue taking the drug and to obtain it by any means; (2) A tendency to increase the dose; (3) A psychic (psychological) and sometimes a physical dependence on the effects of the drug'.

John A. Chlosen : 'Drug addiction is a psycho-physical reaction towards the chemical substance which is consumed to create a pleasant effect or to avoid painful situation'.

Reasons of drug addiction :

A number of factors are responsible for drug addiction. Here, we will learn about them in brief.

(1) Change in social system :

Social change means the change that has occurred in social structure. When a person cannot adapt to the changing social situation, s/he turns towards consumption of drugs. In today's young generation, consumption of drugs has become a fashion and by doing this they claim to have become modern. In addition, TV shows and films have become a great source of imitation for them. Because of all these factors, many times individuals feel lonely or feel that there is no one close to them. Such individuals, isolated from self and society, turn towards consumption of drugs and gradually become addicts.

(2) Breakdown of cultural norms :

The situation of breakdown of cultural norms is also known as anomic. It is created due to tension between cultural norms and aims and the measures meant to achieve them. As Cohen and James have noted, that certain individuals have internalized the moral norms of society but they lack necessary skills. On the other hand they have no access to any criminal activity or violent atmosphere. Individuals experiencing such dual failures turn to consumption of drugs.

(3) Isolation of individual from self or society :

The condition or situation when an individual feels isolated from self or society is known as social alienation. Even in presence of family members or others, certain individuals feel loneliness or isolated and make society or social situation responsible for this state of affairs. They turn to consumption of drugs to get rid of their feeling of loneliness. Gradually, such individuals develop anti-social and anti-national attitudes.

(4) Impact of friends or peer-group :

Friends or peer group are such primary groups which have considerable impact on individual's behaviour. Addicts in such groups pressurize new entrants in the group to consume drugs. The latter succumb to the demand of former to get acceptance in the group. Thus they become victim of drugs.

(5) Curiosity and ignorance : Most often, individuals are unaware about the ill effects of consumption of drugs. Sometimes, it also happens that after listening to experience of drug addicts a desire is created to have such kind of experience. They begin consuming drugs as an experiment but once they start consuming drugs they become addict. Thus curiosity and ignorance lead them to wards consumption of drugs.

(6) Development of industries and cities :

The process of migration caused by industrialization gives boost to the process of urbanization. The similar kind of work and atmosphere make industrial workers averse to themselves or society and to get rid of the fatigue caused by working all through the day, they turn towards consumption of drugs. On the other hand, urban atmosphere provides them enough space for such activity since they don't have any fear of being identified. Thus, feeling of insecurity and enough opportunity to hide criminal behaviour lead them towards addiction.

(7) Economic condition :

Unemployment results in inferiority complex as unemployed individuals cannot satisfy their economic needs and for this purpose they need to depend on others. To get rid of disappointment and depression caused by unemployment, they start consuming drugs. Employment with low wages / salaries also makes many persons disappointed. Most often they also turn to addiction.

Not only unemployment and low wages but richness is also responsible, in many cases, for persons being addicts. The youth belonging to economically prosperous families consume expensive drugs to pursue their hobbies. Very often, we read such kind of news in newspapers etc.

(8) Geographical location of India :

In terms of drug trafficking, India's geographical location assumes importance. Drug trafficking has thrived in border-states of Punjab, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Bihar. Geographically, India is also a medium for supplying drugs to other countries. Agents and anti-social elements involved in drug trafficking supply drugs to cities and metropolis of India in a planned way. As a result, the youth of India become victim of addiction and waste their life.

(9) International politics :

India is a developing country and its development bothers many developed countries as well as enemy countries. These countries play an important political role in giving boost to the problem of drug addiction in India. These countries want India to be finished economically, with reduced strength of army and the youth being addicted to drugs so that the pace of development is blocked. Thus, international politics is also responsible for drug addiction.

Drug addiction adversely affects personal, familial and economic life and health of individual and therefore it calls for eradication of this problem.

Measures for solving the problem of drug addiction : Above mentioned reasons have made it clear how disruptive can be the problem of drug addiction. If it is not controlled, the society and the nation have to face its destructive consequences. Let us get knowledge about some of the measures for controlling this problem.

(1) Certain acts have been enacted, from time to time, for prevention of the use of drugs :

Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930 : This act was enacted with detailed legal provisions to control all chains of drugs.

- **Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949 :** According to certain provisions of this law construction of distillery, production, sale, import or export of intoxicants such as liquor, toddy, opium, hashish, etc. have been prohibited.
- **Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961:** Through this convention, strict regulations were imposed on cultivation of poppy-seeds and opium meant for medical and scientific purposes.
- **Opium Act 1978 :** In the context of illegal production, trafficking, storage, distribution and sale of opium and activities related to it, regulations were implemented through this act.
- **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985:** Under this act, it is illegal for a person to produce/manufacture/cultivate, possess, sell, purchase, transport, store, and/or consume any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance. The act prescribes a minimum term of rigorous imprisonment of 10 years, which may be extended to 20 years for offenders, and also a fine which shall not be less than one lakh rupees but which may be extended to two lakh rupees.

(2) Curative steps :

The curative steps suggested by Marwah Committee are as follows :

- Educational schemes on disadvantages of consuming liquor and misuse of drugs should be formulated and they should be integrated with national development schemes
- Students, the youth, workers, migrants, tribals etc. should be educated about this problem
- Establishment of *Nasha Mukti Kendra* (de-addiction centers) and committees related to the problem of drug addiction
- Persistent evaluation of consumption of liquor and other intoxicants among different groups of society and of steps being taken for eradication of the problem

Apart from above, the action plan of Narcotic Control Bureau of the Government of India includes several steps for eradication of this problem. They include services of non-governmental organizations, rehabilitation of addicts, awareness about health, efforts to reduce demand of alcohol and drugs among the youth and make them aware about ill effects of drugs etc.

In this unit, you understood about the meaning and features of social problems, uneven sex ratio prevalent in India, AIDS, causes and adverse effects of drug addiction and remedial measures for the same. Scientific understanding of social problems must have changed your viewpoint of perceiving social problems prevalent in the world around you.

Friends, in this textbook of sociology for 12th standard, we have tried to encompass almost all aspects of Indian social life in unit-1 to unit-10. With introduction and description of socio-cultural diversity of India, women's empowerment, sanskritization, westernization, liberalization, various social movements, social impacts of means of communication, etc. this textbook will add to your sociological knowledge.

Exercises

1. Answer the following questions in detail :

- (1) Explain the reasons of uneven sex ratio.
- (2) Specify the reasons of AIDS.
- (3) Specify the reasons of drug addiction.
- (4) 'AIDS is a social problem'- verify the reality of this statement.

2. Give concise answers to the following questions :

- (1) Features of social problems.
- (2) Adverse effects of uneven sex ratio.
- (3) The problem of uneven sex ratio can be prevented – explain.
- (4) How AIDS can be controlled? Explain.
- (5) State curative measures for the problem of drug addiction.

3. Answer the following questions in brief :

- (1) Define social problems.
- (2) What is uneven sex ratio?
- (3) Give full form of AIDS.
- (4) Specify the meaning of intoxicants.

4. Answer the following questions in one sentence :

- (1) When does social problem occur ?
- (2) State sex ratio of Gujarat according to 2011 census.
- (3) What is female infanticide ?
- (4) What is honour killing?
- (5) What is full form of HIV ?

5. Choose the right options from the following :

- (1) Sex ratio of India in 2011..... ☐
(a) 920 (b) 930 (c) 940 (d) 950
- (2) Where does India stand in the world in terms of prevalence of AIDS? ☐
(a) Second (b) Third (c) Fourth (d) Fifth
- (3) Where was the first patient of AIDS found ? ☐
(a) India (b) England (c) Japan (d) America
- (4) When 'World AIDS Day' is celebrated ? ☐
(a) 1st December (b) 11th December (c) 1st October (d) 11th September
- (5) When was Bombay Prohibition Act enacted ? ☐
(a) 1947 (b) 1948 (c) 1949 (d) 1950

Activity

- Make a list of social problems prevalent in your area.
- Investigate the concept of uneven sex ratio in the context of your society and write a report.
- Organize a discussion on measures to prevent AIDS.
- Study the spread of addiction among the youth of your area and write a report.
- Hold group discussion on effects of intoxicants.

