

Unit Five: Recommendations addressed to the World Summit for Social Development

Recommendations addressed to the World Summit for Social Development

The following is suggested:

1. Acknowledge the severity of drug abuse and elevate its status as a social issue by developing a set of drug-related indicators.

Historically, addictive disorders have not been prioritized among the many challenges faced by countries, United Nations organizations, and various public and private entities. This lack of prioritization is more indicative of a deficiency in systematic data rather than a careful consideration of policy alternatives. Drug abuse is sometimes categorized as a health issue and at other times as a criminal matter, yet it carries distinct and significant repercussions for society. Although awareness is growing, policymakers need improved data: effective policies and programs depend on thorough analysis. No single metric or data collection can fully capture the intricate nature of drug abuse issues, but fundamental indicators are essential for effective planning and action. While all estimates may have limitations, utilizing an imperfect estimate effectively is preferable to having no estimate at all.

2. Establish a comprehensive information repository for both national and international planning regarding the financial implications of drug abuse: generate assessments of the costs associated with drug abuse and its effects.

What are the social and economic repercussions of drug abuse and addictive disorders?

Teacher: Dr. Hanane RABAHI – Specialty: Language Contact and Sociolinguistics Variation- English Language.

Understanding this is crucial for effective policy development. Ongoing initiatives in various countries to estimate these costs should be sustained, serving as frameworks for evaluating expenses at both national and international scales. These assessments must encompass both direct and indirect costs related to health, crime, education, poverty, and employment effects.

3. Enhance alternative development initiatives as a strategy for preventing and controlling drug abuse: identify effective practices in alternative development and broaden their implementation.

Alternative development offers a way to integrate social and economic growth with drug abuse prevention. Although it is still in its nascent phase, alternative development initiatives in rural regions of Latin America and Asia have shown that this approach can be effective. It is essential to broaden its scope to align key elements with the environmental, social, cultural, and drug abuse contexts of the targeted areas. A careful expansion of this strategy could gradually alleviate economic and drug-related issues. It is important to clarify the conditions under which this approach is successful and to evaluate both demand (prevention) and supply aspects in practice, as each plays a significant role. Research into farmers' perspectives on the significance of price disparities between legal and illegal crops is necessary. Early successful examples from developing nations suggest that achieving economic self-sufficiency requires a long-term commitment and multiple phases of implementation.

4- Enhance understanding of issues related to drug abuse and successful intervention strategies by leveraging communication technology to improve the dissemination and application of information.

Information circulates swiftly across the globe. The evaluation and sharing of knowledge present a chance to enhance responses to substance-related issues at both international and community levels. The prevention of drug abuse has not fully utilized communication tools. There is a need for innovative applications of electronic

Teacher: Dr. Hanane RABAHI – Specialty: Language Contact and Sociolinguistics Variation- English Language.

information transfer. The challenges that countries and international organizations encounter are growing more rapidly than their ability to address them, and information technology can play a crucial role in improving the effectiveness of response strategies.

5. Enhance global cooperation on substance abuse

International organizations possess extensive knowledge regarding drug-related issues, and their collective experience presents a valuable opportunity to address intricate challenges. A framework for collaboration is essential to direct the efforts of international agencies towards specific substance abuse issues. One pertinent area for joint initiatives is the substance abuse among children in developing nations, where the use of marijuana, volatile solvents, glues, and other inexpensive intoxicants must be curtailed. This widespread issue requires the proactive partnership of agencies such as UNICEF, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, and the World Bank. Additional examples of challenges that would benefit from this type of international cooperation include substance abuse, crime and violence, preventive education, and integrated rural development in relation to substance abuse and AIDS. Under the auspices of UNDCP, the combined expertise of key UN organizations and other entities could create models for particularly effective interventions.

Conclusion

Over the last three decades, the developing world has achieved significant social advancements: "Infant mortality rates have been reduced by half, total fertility rates have decreased by 40 percent, and life expectancy has risen by almost ten years..." (1, p. 242). Nevertheless, there is considerable variation among countries, and fundamental issues continue to affect a large portion of the global population. While social and economic development has progressed slowly yet positively, the situation regarding drug abuse and addictive disorders has worsened. The prevalence and complexity of these issues have multiplied, and our understanding of their distribution and effects remains as incomplete today as it was many years ago.

Teacher: Dr. Hanane RABAHI – Specialty: Language Contact and Sociolinguistics Variation- English Language.