Problems of Drug Addiction Prevention
Among Schoolchildren and Students
of Krasnoyarsk Region Higher Education Institutions

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The article estimates the drug abuse situation in Krasnoyarsk region as well as that one among schoolchildren and students of Higher Education Establishment. Urgency of the research subject is being proved. The legal ground analysis for counteraction to drug-related offences in the educational environment is being carried out.

Keywords: drug abuse prevention, schoolchildren, students of Higher Education Establishments, drug-related offences, drugs, psychotropic substances, educational establishment.

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Point

Nowadays the problem of drug abuse among teenagers and youth is urgent and requires fundamental scientifically-proved measures aimed at its solution.

Example

The current drug-abuse situation in the Russian Federation is characterised by trafficking scales expansion and non-medical consumption of highly-concentrated drugs, such as heroin, cocaine, amphetamine stimulators, medications of psychotropic influence as well as their influence on HIV-infection and virus hepatitis expansion that create serious threat to the state safety, national economy and health of the population.

The key factor of negative development of a drug-abuse situation in Russian Federation is large-scale opiates manufacture in Afghanistan territory and their subsequent transnational traffic to the territory of Russia.

In a number of Russian regions drugs distribution, made from local vegetative raw materials and medications containing drugs substances being on free sale are increasing. New kinds of psychoactive substances conducing to addicted behavior formation come into service. Heavy social consequences of drug addiction are
well-known. Addicts owing to physical and social degradation leave public labour, political, family life. Drug addiction inevitably generates the whole set of features alien to a society: hard-to-cure psycho-physiological diseases and shadow economy stipulated by natural, increasing demand for drugs and illegal ways of its satisfaction in mercenary purposes, criminality, violence to the person, connected with drugs distribution and illegal enrichment.

Specific feature of society narcotization is formation of groups and even communities of addicts. Their occurrence is connected with special conditions of acquisition and drug abuse. Facing difficulties with getting not only means for drugs but drugs themselves the addict is compelled to keep in touch with those who have originally attached them to drugs consumption. Aspiration to attach immediate surroundings to his vice is rather typical to an addict. Drug addiction creates incentives for numerous kinds of offences. Demand for drugs under conditions prohibiting their trafficking induces illegal drug dealing spreading. Other kinds of criminality connected with drug addiction expansion and addicts’ activity also grow. If a want for a daily dose of drugs substances is great, the addict is prone to commit any crime to get money for the next dose. He loses ties with the society that is why he is in a natural condition of increased predisposition to commit a crime.

Drug addiction social consequences are aggravating as this problem is mainly the youth’s one.

Really, drug addiction in Russia continues to «get younger». According to recent data, more than 60 % of addicts are people aged 18-30 years and almost 20 % are schoolchildren. According to Public Health Ministry of Russian Federation the average age of familiarising with drugs in Russia is 15-17 years. At the same time the first drugs abuse by children aged 11-13 have become more frequent occurrence and what is more occurrences of drugs abuse by children aged 6-7 have been noted [www.pmed.ru/article1].

Swift increase in drug addiction over last years testifies that the society and the state have appeared to be incapable of withstanding this phenomenon in full measure. Nowadays there is a real lack of institutions closely engaged in leisure organizing and problem –solving connected with the youth environment. Teenagers are often on their own, neither school, nor family are engaged in their education therefore the rising generation searches for ways of self-realisation in the street companies which indispensable attributes are alcohol and drugs.

Results of sociological researches show that attitude of the modern Russian society to addicts is rather tolerant. Consumption of drugs is not considered as danger an «outstanding» phenomenon any more. So, drugs cause an interest overstepping the household inquisitiveness limits within a considerable part of youth. Distance between a norm and a deviation has considerably reduced a borderline between admissible and unlawful is becoming obliterated. In some youth circles it has become «stylish» and fashionable to be «gowed-up», «stoned». According to sociological surveys, jargony phrases of addicts become widely common among teenagers, enter the youth slang steadily. Alcohol as an attribute of youth pastime is being replaced by drugs which are becoming an integral peculiarity of youth subculture, an intercourse component within teenaged-youth environment. Lately a social-demographic structure of youth narcotisation has undergone considerable changes. Currently socially adapted and quite safe people even more often become drug users. According to researches, about 3/4 respondents out of teenagers using drugs substances or having propensity to their abuse live in full middle class families.
Drug abusing to get intoxicated takes a lot of pastime, group intercourse among the youth. It is time to speak about real vulnerability of rising generation to drugs temptation expansion.

Mass media influence the rising generation outlook formation in an extremely adverse way. TV and radio tolerate to broadcast films, musical clips, songs propagandising a lifestyle implying drug abuse. Information on ways of manufacturing and use of drugs, places of their sales is openly offered to the Internet users, drug intoxication condition is described in an attractive way. A particular role in familiarising with abusing drugs is played by various night clubs.

Availability of separate drugs should be entirely estimated as high. Drugs are purchased in discos, bars and cafes, in widely known places in the streets, parks, apartments at drug dealers and even at schools.

Analysis of the situation existing in the country connected with non medical consumption of drugs shows that till now measures taken to decrease narcotisation level and to reduce drug trafficking volume are obviously insufficient.

The teenage drug addiction problem is as extremely urgent for Krasnoyarsk region as for whole Russia. The high level of drug abuse pathology prevalence among minors remains that stipulates necessity of strengthening measures aimed at prevention of alcohol, drug and psychotropic substances abuse, at arrangement of medical and rehabilitation events for the given category of patients in Krasnoyarsk region. According to official data about 3500 minors with drug abuse pathology [www.krskstate.ru/netnarkotikam/smi] were registered in regional drug abuse clinics at the beginning of 2009.

Over last years educational establishments have become an attractive location for drugs distributors.

Certainly, the state policy is aimed at drug addiction prevention and increase in efficiency of medical and social-psychological rehabilitation of the addicts.

According to the President’s Decree № 690 on June, 09th, 2010 «On assertion of the State strategy of anti-drug abuse policy of Russian Federation till 2010» one of the preferable directions of anti drug abuse activity is inclusion sections on prevention of psychoactive substances abuse as well as programs aimed at corresponding target audiences in the basic and additional educational curriculums of educational and vocational training establishments. Thus, implementation of target programs should cover, first of all, children and teenagers under 17.

However, despite it, over last years the tendency of increase in the number of addicts is being recorded. Many modern researchers connect low efficiency of primary anti-drug abuse prevention with insufficient scientific reasonableness of preventive events and programs.

Absence of the state system of drug abuse situation monitoring negatively affects efficiency of the state anti-drug abuse policy. Today the new approach providing working out events after comprehensive study and definition of actual scales of drug addiction expansion, drug trafficking and losses connected with it both in all territory of the country, and in its concrete regions is necessary. The choice of forces and means should fit the true drug addiction scale of the country’s population.

The group of scientists of criminal law chair of the SFU Law Institute carries out complex research on «Social-legal aspects of counteraction to drug-related offences committed in secondary and higher educational institutions of Krasnoyarsk region».

Urgency of drug addiction research as a social-legal phenomenon in the educational
environment is stipulated by its specificity in Krasnoyarsk region, characterised by considerable scales defined both by economic, and other conditions: presence of the developed transport infrastructure, a local raw-material base for drugs manufacturing, active migratory streams as well as drug traffics passage across Krasnoyarsk region territory, etc.

It should be noted, that the modern condition of drug addiction expansion problem in Krasnoyarsk region is characterised by insignificant improvement on separate indicators that has been a consequence of the regional target program realisation «Complex measures on overcoming drug addiction, drunkenness and alcoholism expansion in Krasnoyarsk region» over 2007-2009.

However, the noted decrease in some characteristics of a drug abuse situation does not mean decrease in the problem of struggle against drug trafficking urgency. The indicator of drugs consumers registered in regional drug abuse establishments accounts for 422.5 people in 100 000 population that exceeds an average Russian indicator almost twofold [www.krskstate.ru/ econom/socialeconomic]. According to a regional bureau of forensic examination 1199 people died of drugs overdose in the region only during 2005-2008 [www.krskstate.ru/netnarkotikam/koncept].

In 2008 against more than 4000 people, 60 % aged from 18 to 35 criminal proceedings for drug trafficking were instituted in Krasnoyarsk region [www.krskstate.ru/netnarkotikam/smi].

Thus, more than half of all crimes are committed by the youth. At the same time the given indicators do not entirely reflect the whole situation of drug addiction expansion owing to considerable latency of this phenomenon.

Taking into account stated above, the situation in the sphere of illegal distribution and consumption of drugs within teenage and youth environment can be characterised as serious and capable instantly in the absence of due measures from public authorities and local government of developing into a more serious form comparable with epidemic.

One of the basic directions of regional policy in this sphere is working out and implementation of preventive measures on decrease in negative social and economic consequences caused by drug addiction, drunkenness and alcoholism expansion in the region. The Concept of the long-term target program «Complex measures of counteraction to drug addiction, drunkenness and alcoholism expansion in Krasnoyarsk region» for 2010 – 2012 has been developed for this purpose in Krasnoyarsk region. The scientific research conducted by the criminal law chair of SFU Law Institute lecturers fully corresponds to regional policy in this sphere and has practical value as well.

Demand for such workings out for effective counteraction to drug addiction among teenagers and youth in Krasnoyarsk region keeps within frameworks of the Krasnoyarsk region Anti-drug addiction commission policy and the RF Federal service on drug trafficking control activity in Krasnoyarsk region.

Drug addiction prevention problem is interdisciplinary. It should be studied from the point of view of criminology, criminalistics, criminal and administrative law with the obligatory account of provisions and conclusions formulated by sociology, medicine, biology and psychology on drug addiction prevention matters.

At the first stage of research work the concrete-sociological method of research carried out on the basis of unity of system-structural, functional methods and a method of modelling was widely applied. Within the frameworks of a concrete-sociological method such methods as supervision, questioning, interviewing and other
methods used in sociological researches were used.

The following groups were questioned during the poll: 1000 schoolchildren of 7-9 forms, 1000 schoolchildren of 10-11 forms, 1000 students of higher educational institutions. 100 officials of Department of Federal service on control over drug trafficking of Russian Federation for Krasnoyarsk region, 100 members of youth public organisations, 100 school teachers were interviewed during the expert poll.

The choice and application of methods and various techniques of research work are determined by the studied phenomenon nature, problems which have been set to achieve the research work objectives.

Representativeness, trustworthiness and objectivity of research are stipulated by respondents’ number, scientific-methodical approach to questionnaire elaboration and interview questions.

At the same time implementation of measures on drug addiction prevention should be based on the rules of law system regulating prevention subjects’ powers, grounds for their application and rights of persons to whom these measures are applied. Legislation analysis obviously shows that it is far from being perfect and contains some gaps. The convention on the child’s rights passed by the resolution of General Assembly of the United Nations № 44/25 on 20.11.1989 and ratified by the decision of the Supreme Counsel of the USSR on 13.06.90 № 1559-1, recognises as the child every human being under 18 if under the law, applicable to the given child, he does not come of age earlier. Convention article 33 obliges state-participants to take all necessary measures including legislative administrative, and social ones as well as measures in the sphere of education to protect children from illegal use of drugs and psychotropic substances the way they are defined in corresponding international treaties, and not to admit use of children in illegal manufacturing such substances and trade in them.

In 1993 the Supreme Counsel of RSFSR passed the «Concept of the state policy on drug control in Russian Federation» which recognised necessarily to carry out consistent actions for administrative and financial assistance to psycho-preventive work with population both on federal and regional level. The federal target program «Complex measures of counteraction to abusing drugs and their trafficking», developed for 1995 – 1997 and prolonged till 2001, is basically aimed at events which are in the sphere of law enforcement bodies’ competence.

The federal law «On drug and psychotropic substances» (1998) is mainly devoted to matters of drugs medications manufacture and trafficking control. It concerns preventive work matters insufficiently. Therefore, issues on prevention of drug addiction and abuse of inhalants expansion, treatment and social rehabilitation of addicted patients required additional legislative regulation.

The Federal target program was developed to implement provisions of the named Federal law «Complex measures of counteraction to drugs abuse and their trafficking for 1998 – 2000», providing a number of actions aimed at prevention of drug addiction and abuse of inhalants expansion, treatment and social rehabilitation of the drug addicted.

It devised the events targeted at pupils and students, in particular, it was offered to include additional themes (courses) on problems of abusing drugs, their trafficking and drug addiction prevention into curricula of secondary special and higher educational establishments on training and retraining specialists working with teenagers and the youth. It specified necessity of working out manuals for pedagogical workers of educational establishments, parents, social workers on teenagers’ formation of negative
attitude to drugs consumption, on psychological-pedagogical rehabilitation of the minors inclined to drugs abuse. It was required to prepare trial samples of television materials of anti-drug abuse orientation and to develop scientifically proved methods of their efficiency estimation.

The federal program aimed at work continuation on creation of psychological-pedagogical service in departments on education, educational establishments and specialised establishments of social rehabilitation of minors. Psychologists should have been introduced into preschool and educational establishments' personnel in the course of conditions creation.

Thus, it is possible to ascertain, that at the state level the drug addiction problem is elaborated basically in a context of fight against drug trafficking, organisation of education of the population from the point of view of legal responsibility and medical aspect of diseases.

The federal law on June, 24th, 1999 FL № 120 «On bases of the prevention system of child neglect and juvenile offences» limits the sphere of its operation to a certain circle of persons (article 5) and grounds for conducting individual preventive work (article 6) which are significant for drug addiction prevention in educational establishments audience.

The regulatory act conclusive advantage is the definition of the system of subjects of prevention of minors and families deviant behaviour who are in socially dangerous position as well as powers on their social-pedagogical rehabilitation and (or) prevention of committing any offences and antisocial actions by them. Thus, agencies and establishments of prevention system comprise education authorities which develop and introduce in practice of educational establishment programs and techniques aimed at formation of minors’ law-abiding behaviour and educational establishments providing revealing minors, being in socially dangerous position (including those abusing drugs) and within their competence carrying out individual preventive work with such minors. Article 18 of this Federal law also provided duties of public health authorities and public health establishments as subjects of child neglect and offences prevention to carry out round-the-clock reception of minors who are under alcoholic or narcotic intoxication to render medical aid based on indications of medical character; to conduct detection, record, examination based on indications of medical character and treatment of minors using alcoholic and alcohol-containing production, beer and drinks made on its basis, drugs, psychotropic or intoxicating substances as well as to implement other measures falling within their competence on prevention of alcoholism, drug addiction and abuse of inhalants of minors and deviation behaviour connected with it.

The first step in purposeful realisation of the state policy on use of existing means and education system resources in drug addiction prevention was made by passing the Ministry of Education Order of Russian Federation on 28.02.2000 № 619 «On the Concept of prevention of abusing psychoactive substances in the educational environment» together with Plan of measures of Ministry of Education of Russia on realisation of the Concept on prevention of abusing psychoactive substances in the educational environment for 2000 – 2001. Psychoactive substances under the sense of norms of the specified Concept are chemical and pharmacological means influencing physical and mental condition, causing pathological addiction; drugs, tranquilizers, alcohol, nicotine and other means are referred to them.

The overall objective which is put forward in the Concept, consisted in educational, social and medical measures pooling within the limits of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention, providing achievement of the common result: One of the tasks was reduction of demand and,
hence, distribution of drugs among children and the youth and their involvement in a narcogene situation and subculture. Thus, the circle of minors and influence possibility on them depending on their belonging to this or that kind of educational establishment was not differentiated.

Except this circumstance there were serious obstacles on the way of the stated prevention tasks decision.

Firstly, Federal law on 08.01.1998 № 3-FL «On drug and psychotropic substances» provides rendering drug abuse clinic (including rehabilitation) assistance exclusively in public health establishments. At the same time it is obviously necessary to ensure possibility of rendering rehabilitation help to minors and the youth in the education system establishments which have received in accordance with the order established by the law license for the specified kind of activity. Till now the Federal law «On socially-medical rehabilitation of persons sick of drug addiction» aimed to regulate the order of rendering rehabilitation help to persons (including minors), abusing drugs, including those committing socially dangerous acts (crime) has not been passed yet.

Secondly, current legislation allows physical examination of drug users only upon the decision of the Office of Public Prosecutor’s agencies, bodies of inquiry, an investigator or a judge. In this connection nowadays there are problems with operative examination of minors concerning drug abuse. Sometimes it takes weeks, within this time the drug is deduced from an organism and as a result the expert analysis of biological circles of a teenager suspected of drug abuse does not give positive result.

Besides, the given concept has not received its logic continuation in the special programs of anti-drug abuse prevention targeted at students of secondary educational and higher educational establishments.

The Russian Federation Government’s order on 13.09.2005 № 561 (issued on 26.01.2010) «On the Federal target program» Complex measures of counteraction to abusing drugs and their trafficking for 2005 – 2009» states the tasks – working on drug addiction prevention and drug-related offences expansion, conducting constant control over scales of drug and psychotropic substances abuse expansion in Russian Federation. One of the major target indicators and Program indices is the share of teenagers and the youth aged from 11 to 24 involved in preventive actions, in relation to an aggregate number of the specified category of persons. But it did not consider that drug affection of minors and the youth depends on degree of susceptibility to provoking influence of social surroundings which depends on an educational level and characteristics of educational environment where they are.

The Letter the Russian Federation Ministry of Education and Science on 06.10.2005 № AC-1270/06, Russian Consumption Supervision on 04.10.2005 № 0100/8129-05-32 «On the Concept of preventive training in the sphere of prevention HIV/AIDS in the educational environment» indirectly concerns issues of prevention of drug addiction expansion in the educational environment. The reason for such a situation is in recognition of drug abuse as one of the factors facilitating HIV-infection.

The idea of differentiation of programs on preventive influence concerning educational environment has not been reflected in municipal law making process, in particular in decisions of Krasnoyarsk city council on 12.10.1999 № 20-206 «On the Program «Prevention of drug addiction, abuse of inhalants, alcoholism and AIDS among the youth» and on 20.03.2001 № 2-19 «On the city target Program «Prevention of drug addiction and suppression of drug trafficking and psychotropic substances trafficking in Krasnoyarsk for 2001». 
Over 2007-2009 in Krasnoyarsk region the long-term target program on counteraction to drug addiction and alcoholism expansion which has been confirmed by the Law of Krasnoyarsk region on 25.01.2007 № 21-5717 (edit. on 26.05.2009) «On the regional target program» Complex measures on overcoming of drug addiction, drunkenness and an alcoholism expansion in Krasnoyarsk region» for 2007 – 2009» was in operation. It occupied the second place in Russia according to indicators of efficiency.

On December, 1st, 2009 the Regional Government confirmed the similar program for three forthcoming years. One of its directions is the anti- drug abuse propagation focused on familiarising of young generation to a healthy life stile. 240 thousand inhabitants of the region aged 11- 20 (60 % of age group) and 75 % of parents of schoolchildren will be involved in propaganda actions. The program also includes training experts for working with children and the youth.

On December, 23rd, 2009 the vice-governor of Krasnoyarsk region Igor Chernokov held the session of the anti- drug abuse commission devoted to prevention of drug addiction among students of higher schools. For these purposes proposals on introduction of more effective system of monitoring of a drug abuse situation, active involvement of the youth into sports, creative activity participation in public life were elaborated. The commission charged the Regional Ministry of Education to prepare and submit to higher educational establishments recommendations to design thematic information stands in educational buildings and hostels, and the rectors were recommended to include courses on prevention of drug addiction among students in the curriculum. Moreover, the decision to recommend to Council of rectors of Krasnoyarsk region to create constantly operating interuniversity commission on anti-drug abuse work is made, to charge it to develop a comprehensive plan of preventive actions and to elaborate an issue on possibility of introduction of students’ drug testing. Thereby, directions of higher educational establishments’ activity on drug addiction prevention for a short-term perspective have been confirmed.

No regulatory legal act specially devoted to drug addiction prevention among schoolchildren and students of higher educational establishments has been passed in the Russian Federation as well as in Krasnoyarsk region since 1993 up to present time. Legal basis research of anti-drug abuse activity demonstrates a gap in educational establishments’ regulation. Introducing respective alterations into higher educational establishments Charters fails to provide the entire volume of powers for effective activity and interaction with other subjects on prevention.

The imperative need in acceptance of such a special regulatory act at federal or regional levels corresponds to provisions «Strategies of the state anti-drug abuse policy of Russian Federation till 2020», confirmed by the Decree of the RF President on 09.06.2010 № 690. The following will contribute to perfection of organizational provision of anti-drug abuse activity as article 42 sets forth:

a) Creation of the state monitoring system of the drug abuse situation in Russian Federation;

b) Working out and implementation of federal and regional target programs in the sphere of counteraction to abusing drugs and their trafficking;

c) Increase in the anti-drug abuse commissions role in the Russian Federation entities in the part dealing with legislative binding of compulsory decisions execution of commissions for
territorial bodies of federal executive authorities, executive authorities of the Russian Federation entities and local self-governments.

The similar program aimed at the students of higher educational establishments has been launched in one of the Siberian Federal District entity. According to Siberian business portal, on March, 23rd, 2010 Victor Kress the governor of Tomsk territory suggested an idea of implementation a pilot project on drug abuse prevention in Tomsk youth high school environment. Namely, it concerns the project «Working out and approbation of effective model of psychosocial prevention of the addicts among the highly educated youth in the conditions of the region transition to innovative development », elaborated by the Siberian state medical university (SibSMU). The given project was supported by the State antidrug abuse committee. Actually, they mean to create an experimental model platform for modern technologies approbation to implement the State antidrug abuse policy in Tomsk. Three Tomsk higher educational establishments: the Siberian State Medical University (SibSMU), Tomsk State University (TSU) and Tomsk State Pedagogical University (TSPU) will be three launching sites for the project implementation and approbation.

Considering, gradualness of reception of the higher vocational training and mutual influence of the general educational and student’s environment, we believe, that efficiency of preventive influence on students under considered purposes will increase at provision of a complex of the actions aimed simultaneously at schoolchildren and students of higher educational establishments.

The Krasnoyarsk region government regulation on 01.12.2009 № 625-p «ON affirmation of the long-term target program» Complex measures of counteraction to drug addiction, drunkenness and alcoholism expansion in Krasnoyarsk region» for 2010-2012» is to a greater extent the finance and economy-related document defining assigning money resources among different establishments of Krasnoyarsk region for purchasing express analysis tests detecting drug and psychotropic substances in a human body during preventive medical examinations for early detecting persons among minors and youth using such substances without doctor’s prescription does not contain legal measures of prevention from drug addiction expansion.

One of the conducted by the lecturers of the SFU Law Institute Criminal law chair research result should be the project of drug addiction prevention among schoolchildren and students of Krasnoyarsk region Program with the possibility of its introduction in Legislative Assembly of Krasnoyarsk region as a ground for the regional law passage.

Resume

The drug addiction among schoolchildren and students prevention problem requires immediate respond from the state and society by means of both social and legal measures.

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Проблемы профилактики наркотизма среди школьников и студентов вузов Красноярского края

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В статье дается оценка наркositуации в Красноярском крае, в том числе среди школьников и студентов вузов. Обосновывается актуальность темы исследования. Проводится анализ правовой основы противодействия наркотическим правонарушениям в образовательной среде.

Ключевые слова: профилактика наркотизма, школьники, студенты вузов, наркотические правонарушения, наркотические средства, психотропные вещества, образовательные учреждения.

Проект финансово поддерживается Красноярским краевым фондом поддержки научной и научно-технической деятельности