

CONVENTION AND THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD DRUGS AND ISSUES.

06/02 February 2020

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Article 33

- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) stands out among the core UN human rights treaties in setting out a human right perspective to protect children.

Article 33 provides that

- “States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social and educational measures, to **protect** children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances.”

Article 33 contains two clauses

- One relating to drug use and one to involvement in the drug trade.
- Second,
- is connected via Article 33 to the three UN drug control conventions: The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961 (“Single Convention”), the Convention on Psychotropic Substances 1971 (“1971 Convention”), and the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances 1988 (“Vienna Convention”).

Drug use and involvement

- Children are used in many parts of the world as an illicit drug consumers market
- Purposes of illicit production,
- Distribution and
- Trade in narcotic drugs

States have an obligation to protect children from drugs

- To control those drugs in certain ways.
- The drug supply chain imperils children at each stage, from production to use.
- Harmed through drug use, parental drug dependence, drug-related violence, exploitation in trafficking, and a range of other ways

Article 33 is an important check on state actions in drug control

- Protecting children from drugs will be carried out in the context of drug policies.
- States parties have consistently provided periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of the child, and the Committee has welcomed and encouraged such laws.
- States parties must take appropriate measures to prevent the use of children in the illicit drug trade.
- Article 33 and the drugs conventions are complementary to the Vienna Convention.

Article 33

- The guiding principles of the Convention include non-discrimination;
- Adherence to the best interests of the child;
- Right to life,
- Survival and development;
- The right to participate.

Article 33 of the UNCRC says that

- Children and young people have a right to be protected from all harmful drugs.

Rights

- To be protected from drugs, children and young people should be taught about their effects. Teaching of this nature should take the views of young people into account, and should be carried out at both primary and secondary level.
- If a child or young person is affected by drugs they shouldn't be judged for taking them, but should be treated in a way that helps them get better.

Article 33 and parents

- Children and young people should be protected from the effects of a parent's drug use and that their lives shouldn't be made more difficult because of it

Reality is that drug use can harm teenagers in several ways:

- Contribute to poor judgment and making bad decisions
- Poor performance in schools
- Increasing the chances to get into fights, accidents and other dangerous situations
- Damage the growing body and developing brain
- Lead to addiction during adolescence

“EASY TO START, HARD TO QUIT”

Risk factors for drug abuse

- Home environments.
- Lack of parent child attachments and nurturing.
- Poor social coping skills.
- Affiliation with peers displaying deviant behaviors.
- Perception of approval of drug –using behaviors in the environment.
- Adolescents in transaction sex use drugs as a way to cope with the cold sleepless nights, male clients, courage and confidence, peer influence/socializing, lessen hunger, forget negative thoughts/feelings

Reasons why not all teenagers use drugs

- Disapproval of drug use by significant people in their lives
- Fear of legal consequences
- Has a strong interest in being responsible and a good role model
- Develop future career goals
- Uses spare time e.g. several hobbies, a part-time job, voluntary work
- Has negative prior experience with drugs
- Fear for addiction
- Concern about losing control.
- Has several alternatives sources for excitement e.g. sports, theater, music and other school interests.

Protective factors

- Strong and positive family bonds.
- Parental monitoring of children's activities and peers.
- Clear rules of conduct that are consistently enforced within the family.
- Involvement of parents in the lives of their children.
- Other alternatives like MDD, sports, scripture union.

Way forward

- We need to avoid or be careful when legislating about narcotics.
- Legalization and users point of view (market users, export, medical and billion) as children defenders.
- Similar experiences with Tobacco, Alcohol, safeguard
- Violation of child protection of rights and international law.
- And its narcotic laws.
- Keeping children free from harm and be healthy
- Safety of our children.



Asante sana



Thank You for listening to me

(Special thanks to Stephan Dahgren et.al 2012 ; Damon Barret2017 Paper and UYDEL and WFAD material)