CHAPTER III

PROBLEM AND HYPOTHESIS
Addiction of psychoactive drugs are becoming a menace all over the world, including Indian sub continent. Man has discovered various substances like tea, coffee, tobacco and different kind of drugs to reduce tension and enhance pleasure since time immemorial. Primitive man originated several drugs of plants such as opium in ancient times. Later in China, Coca leaves in high Andes were discovered. Some of these substances produce euphoria or relieve pain, and affects perception. Although drugs are mainly used for medical purpose but they have been used for non medical purpose also. However, in the broad sense drug may be defined as "any substances that when taken may modify one or more of its functions of the living organism." Its use may be "casual" or for 'recreational' purpose or just to see the effects of the drug. Drugs may also be taken for pleasurable effects or out of curiosity or peer pressure.

Drug is a chemical substance which affects bodily function, mood, perception and consciousness and has potential for misuse. Drug abusers are those persons who develop a psychological dependence on the taking of a particular drug or
drugs which means that even though the person does not need taking that drug, but the individual becomes so used to it that he feels that he just could not live without it.

Drug abuse is becoming a serious problem. young persons take to drug abuse to remove source of anxiety, pain and tension. It is also source of enjoyment for them. They think that drugs provide an escape from reality and provide strength. The adolescent lives at the intersection of three levels. At biological level, where certain hormonal changes and physical changes of puberty takes place. At psychological level there are inner struggle for identity and intense changes in desires and moods also take place. Then, there are socio-cultural level at which there are conflicting demands of family, school and various peer groups. The modern values and the social life are also in conflicting shape and thus cause tension.

The problem of drug abuse has assumed enormous proportions today. If seems that more and more individuals, who are taking interest in drug abuse want to escape from realities and search for something beyond normal human experience. It has also been reported that drug abusers are most maladjusted individuals in some spheres of life. Adjustment means the way one reacts to
the environment in which one exists. But condensation of cultural factors, unsatisfactory conditions at home, ill health, loneliness, frustration and conflict at work place could lead the individual to maladjustment and thus maladjustment ultimately lead to drug abuse.

The aim of the present study was to investigate the adjustment / maladjustment in home, health, social, emotional and occupational spheres of drug abuser and non drug abusers with reference to age group.

Keeping in view the importance of investigating the different factors, which could play a significant role in adjustment / maladjustment of drug abusers and non drug abusers in the home, health, social, emotional and occupational spheres the following hypothesis was formulated.

Hypothesis

1. The drug abusers would have poor adjustment in various spheres of life than the non drug abusers.

With this background, we may now pass on to the next chapter dealing with the design and method.