Drug abuse is a serious problem ailing our society today. It has affected more or less all the countries of the world and people from all strata of the society, particularly the youths are falling its prey. Not only there is a quantitative change in their pattern of abuse, but there is an alarming rise in their delinquent activities. Whereas in the past cannabis types of drugs were more popular in most of the parts in the world, today the youths are more crazy for more powerful and dangerous opium derivatives and other psychotropic substances. Totally unaware of the ill-effects of these drugs, most of the youngsters take to these merely out of curiosity. Like the proverbial fish which nibbled at every bait, the youngsters are caught in the clutches of these drugs.

Of late the menace of drug abuse has been spreading like a devastating wild fire and all our efforts to contain them have remained more or less superficial. The reason for this situation is that very powerful criminal organizations are operating all over the world, flooding the international market with variety of drugs which are not only highly active but also causing serious damage to the social, economic and moral health and prosperity of the addicts as well as the society at large. The profit earned from this illicit trade and trafficking of drugs is so high that the drug syndicate has succeeded in creating a parallel economy.

Man's craze for pleasure has provided a steady market for these anti-social elements to continue their illicit trade. Trade and trafficking in drugs as well as its abuse have polluted the entire social environment. The problem has acquired such a magnitude that the entire world is caught by
this epidemic. The criminal activities of the young addicts are very much on the increase having gone out of all proportions to what actually prevailed yesteryears.

Today we face the twin problem of drug abuse and consequent rise in the delinquent activities of the children/adolescents. Our country's geographic location between the two major illicit supply/source regions viz-the Golden Triangle spreading over Burma (Myanmar), Thailand and Laos in the South East Asia and the Golden Crescent spreading over Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran in the South West Asia, has added to our problem. Sandwiched between these two source regions, India has emerged as a major transit country for smuggling of drugs. Proximity to the infamous Golden Triangle and the presence of porous-less-manned border have made the North Eastern Region of India more vulnerable and prone for trafficking and abuse of drugs. In the recent years the drug abuse-situation in the North Eastern Region of India has become worst. Sustained efforts at regional, national and international levels have failed to eradicate and contain the menace of drug abuse and consequent juvenile delinquencies of young people.

The present work is based mainly on drug abuse and causation of juvenile delinquency. An analysis of the problem of drug abuse and consequent juvenile/drug delinquencies of children has been attempted in the present study. Attempt has also been made to assess the causal factors for such widespread abuse of drugs by the young people. In the following pages a modest attempt has been made to analyse the problem of drug abuse and juvenile delinquency in its socio-legal context at national level with special emphasis on the North Eastern Region.

The thesis comprises of seventeen chapters-- ten full chapters and seven sub-chapters. The first chapter presents a brief historical perspective of drug abuse and the basic facts about drugs. The contents also highlighted the history of drug abuse in India. The content also attempted to highlight the socio-economic implications of drug abuse.
The second chapter presents a classification of different toxic-habit forming legal and illegal drugs and their effects on the human body and mind. The third chapter presents an analysis of general causes/factors for drug addiction. The content of this chapter also attempted to ascertain the causal factors available in the social settings of different societies.

The fourth chapter has been devoted to a discussion on delinquency and its causes. This chapter dealt at length with the causation of juvenile delinquency. The fifth chapter presents a brief sketch of the international as well as national sources of illegal drugs.

In the sixth chapter a brief of the problem of drug addiction in India has been presented. In the seventh chapter, a brief introduction of the problem of drug addiction in the North East Region of India has been presented. The chapter seven is followed by seven sub-chapters of chapter seven.

In sub-chapters -7(I), 7(II), 7(III), 7(IV), 7(V), 7(VI) and 7(VII), the Menace of Drugs in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh respectively have been discussed. Each of these sub-chapters presents a brief sketch of the incidence of drug abuse; nature and types of drugs used; supply, availability & accessibility of drugs; profile of drug users; causes of drug abuse and the steps taken by the respective state to contain the menace of drugs and enforcement of anti-drug laws.

The chapter eight deals with the legislative measures in combating drug abuse and juvenile delinquency. This chapter presents a brief of the role of judiciary in combating drug abuse and juvenile delinquency in our country. The ninth chapter deals with the role of different agencies, viz, the Government, the United Nation organisations, the Non-Governmental Organisations, the educational institutions and the family and the society in combating drug abuse and juvenile delinquency.

The chapter tenth is the concluding chapter of the thesis and presents the conclusion with suggestions of remedial measures for combating
the menace of drug-abuse and consequent delinquent activities of children/adolescents. It is hoped that the present work will help in creating more awareness on the problem and prompt the concerned agencies to implement the various suggestions made here.

Dated Guwahati
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(Tarani Pathak)