CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

INTRODUCTION

The devastating impact of drug abuse by young students appears very familiar today. This problem can be largely attributed to a strategy; which has ignored the medical and social aspects of the problem and has focused instead almost exclusively on law enforcement solution. Drugs affect the nervous system, brain, lungs, psychomotor skills and mental health.

Like other countries worldwide, Thailand has been facing the drug problem for so many years despite hard work of governments as well as private organizations to combat this evil. The number of addicts have increasingly grown day by day. The most worrying scenario of this problem is that it spreads to school students who are a great source of human power and hope of a nation. These innocents (future citizens) are falling prey to it.

Drug abuse in Thailand from 1950 has been regarded as a significant public health problem by the authorities. Medical facilities in Bangkok reported that more than 20,000 were drug abusers and 1,600 were new admission which indicate the high rate of recidivism (Report of the International Narcotic Control Board, 1988). The study by Chupikulchaisai (1990) reported that the students started to use drugs at average age of 11-16 in secondary schools.

Drug abuse affects all sectors of society and countries at all levels of development. Therefore drug demand reduction policies and programme
should address all sectors of society. Information utilized in educational and prevention programme should be clear, scientifically accurate and reliable, culturally valid, timely and where possible, tested with a target population. Every attempt should be made to ensure credibility, avoid sensationalism, promote trust and enhance effectiveness. States should, in cooperation which the media, seek to raise public consciousness about the hazards of drug use and to promote preventive methods protesting against the promotion of drug use in population culture.

Under article 38 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1978 Protocol-and under article 20 of the Convention are required to take all practicable measures for the prevention of abuse of narcotic drugs or psychotherapy substances and “for the early identification, treatment, education, aftercare, rehabilitation and social reintegration of the persons involved”. Article 14 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotherapy Substances of 1988 states that parties “Shall adopt, appropriate measures and aimed at eliminating or reducing illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotherapy substances, with a view to reducing human suffering and eliminating financial incentives for illicit traffic”. Taking into account the fact that the rise in global concern about the extent, nature and effects of drug abuse has created an opportunity and the will to intensify action


The rapid economic growth has a great impact on social changes. It has been a contributor to some of the social problems: health, poverty an Narcotic drugs. The more the economic development, the weaker the society becomes, which makes a loop to expand the narcotic drugs problem in Thailand.
Drug addiction in Thailand sight from 1950 has been registered as a significant public health problem by the authorities. Opium abuse persists and heroin addiction is spreading. Heroin abuse is prevalent both in rural and urban areas. In 1958, Thailand banned opium production, with the objective to eliminate opium addiction. A major treatment facility was set by the government to assist in the treatment of existing addicts. In the year 1985 a total of 48,914 opiate addicts were admitted for treatment (Report of the International Narcotic Control Board, 1988). Medical facilities in Bangkok reported that more than 200,000 drug abusers were admitted during the first half of 1985. The facts that 1,600 were new admission indicate the high rate of recidivism.

Thailand is one of the many countries where problems of narcotic drugs are spreading into educational institutions. This has certainly becomes a social problem, consequently the factors leading to crimes such as, AIDS, prostitution, unemployment and dropouts from schools. The citizens, who are addicted to narcotic drugs, work less efficiently. It deteriorates the growth of a country ad a whole. According to statistics, the number of addicts who were taken for therapy in 1982 was 31,482 and 58,073 in 1987. Recently, narcotic drugs have spread among young children and teenagers groups aged between 11-16 which amounts to 28% of all addicts. Out of this percentage, 1.6% of students are studying in educational institutions. According to statistics, the problem of narcotic drug tends to increase despite government’s preventive measures.

The addiction of narcotic drugs is rapidly expanding more and more. Thailand itself becomes the road to import-export narcotic drug from the productive areas, so that it is difficult to decrease the narcotic drugs abuse. The
hike in the drug abusers and narcotic drug problem in Thailand naturally affects the economical growth of the states.

Looking at the seriousness of the problem of drug abuse, it is important and necessary to study the effect of drug on mental health of secondary school students and their academic achievement.

In this research project, the researcher has made an attempt to study specifically the problem, the effects and the factors affecting the consumption of narcotic drug by students of secondary school in Lampang Province, Thailand which is a trade center for narcotic drugs because this province is a junction place for all sorts of transportation.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDY

On the basis of results obtained during the course of the present investigation, the following conclusions have been drawn.

5.1.1 Conclusions based on descriptive analysis

1. Non-drug user students proved better in the nine sub-components of Good, Intelligence and Happiness such as higher self-control, great-sympathy for others, responsibility of Good components, higher degree of motivation, decision making and solving problem, relationship of Intelligence components, self-pride, satisfaction in life and peace of mind of Happiness components respectively with reference to mental health.

2. The non-drug addicts performed both according to the academic achievement accepted to the drug user students.
5.1.2 Conclusions based on differential analysis

5.1.2.1 Mental health of drug users and non-drug user students

According to the conclusion drawn on the basis of the first hypothesis, different conditions of mental health of drug users and non-drug user students were observed.

There was significant difference found between drug users and non-drug user students in respect to Mental Health. The study was supported by Sharma (1979) found that mental health was significant related to self-concept; Parichat Wanwaisart (1990) results showed that there was no significant relationship between mental health and caring behaviors; Kumar (1991) found that mental health was a psychological condition characterized by peace, harmony and contentment. Hence the hypothesis No.1: "There will be a significant difference between drug users and non-drug user students in respect of mental health" is fully accepted.

5.1.2.2 Academic Achievement of drug users and non-drug user students

Considerable difference was found between drug users and non-drug use students with regard to the performance in their Academic Achievement Hanson and Lacy (2001) supported it that drugs had a negative effect on academic achievement. Thus the hypothesis No.2 "There will be a significant difference between drug users and non-drug user students in respect of academic achievement" is accepted.
5.1.2.3. Conclusion based on the comparison of mental health and academic achievement of drug users and non-drug user students

Summing up the comparison between mental health and academic achievement, we find that there was a similarity of significant level of confidence of the three subjects. The findings show conformity of the result of the study with reference Sarker (1978) who studied that the mentally healthy group of children had no higher family tensions than the unhealthy group had; Sharma (1979) found that mental health was positively and significantly related to self-concept; Joshi (1979) and Gupta (1980) found the positive correlation of religiosity with anxiety, authoritarianism, rigidity and intolerance of ambiguity. Parichat Wanwaisart, (1990) results show that there was no significant relationship mental health and caring behaviours. Kumar (1991) found that mental health is psychological condition characterized by peace, harmony and contentment. Further t-value between the two groups for the academic achievement variable of the total group was also found to be significant (t-value=3.064 vide Table 4.2.2) at 0.01 level of confidence. The t-value between the two groups of sub variables of academic achievement i.e. mathematics, science and foreign language (English) were also found to be significant (t-value = 3.8181, 3.537 and 4.538 respectively vide Table 4.2.2) at 0.01 level of confidence.
5.1.3. Conclusions drawn on the negative effect of drug user students on mental health

Conclusion are made on the investigation of Pandina and Schucle (1983); Reilly (1984); Spott's et al. (1984); Marlow (1989); Miller and Russo (1995); and Botvin (1997) found that drugs had a significant negative effect on the mental health of drug user students. The high-spirited activities of the drug user students remain temporary and leave a long term effect on their mental health. Hence the hypothesis No.3 “Drugs will have a significant negative effect on the mental health of drug user students” is accepted.

5.1.4. Conclusions based on correlation analysis

5.1.4.1 Mental health and academic achievement of drug users

Finally a extensive study was made in finding out a significant relationship between mental health and academic achievement of students in respect of nine sub components of mental health and academic achievement in three subjects. The study was done separately dividing the students into drug users (n=200), non-drug (n=200) and total sample (n=400) respectively. The results of the study are as follows:
Summary, conclusion

a. Significance of mental health in academic achievement of mathematics of drug user students

The conclusions were drawn with reference to the values discussed in the table 4.3.1 that the values of Mental Health and Academic Achievement of drug user students is significant at 0.01 level of confidence in sub components of responsibility (Good), motivation, decision making and solving problem (Intelligence) and satisfaction in life and peace of mind (Happiness) in Mathematics.

b. Significance of mental health in academic achievement of science of drug students

Academic achievement in science in correlation with mental health of drug users. The above mentioned table shows, the values of sub components self-control and responsibility (Good) are significant at 0.01 level of confidence, whereas great-sympathy for others (Good), motivation and decision making and solving problem (Intelligence), self-pride, Satisfaction in life (Happiness) and peace of mind are not insignificant in the Mental Health of drug users in their academic achievement in science.

c. Significance of mental health in academic achievement of foreign language (English) of drug user students

Correlation between mental health and academic achievement of drug users in foreign language (English). The conclusion was made on the analysis of the values mentioned in the table 4.3.1. which are significant at 0.05 of confidence for, great-sympathy for others ad responsibility (Good). On the contrary self-control (Good), motivation, decision-making and solving problem
and relationship (Intelligence), self-pride, satisfaction in life and peace of mind (Happiness) is not significant.

5.1.4.2. Conclusions drawn on the mental health and academic achievement of non-drug users

It is concluded on the basis of the table 4.3.11 that all the sub-components of Good, Intelligence and Happiness are significant at 0.01 level of confidence with regard to the academic achievement of non-drug users in the performance of the three subjects {mathematics, science, foreign language (English)}.

5.1.4.3 Conclusions drawn on mental health and academic achievement of the total sample

In continuation with the study of the total sample in the table 4.4.1, the values are considered to be significant at 0.01 level of confidence for the mental health and academic achievement in total.

5.1.5. Conclusion drawn on relationship between mental health and academic achievement

To sum up, the hypothesis No.4 "There will be a significant relationship between mental health and academic achievement", is partially accepted. The results are confirmed by the findings of Malhotra and Murthy (1977) who demonstrated some common personality traits among the drug
Summary, conclusion

users, Konopka (1983) observed peer pressure and escape from problem as major reasons for taking drugs, Vaillant (1983), Tarter et al. (1985), Zucker and Gomberg (1986) and Nathan (1987) found that many drug users had a history of antisocial behaviour and a high level of depression or low self-esteem, Marston et al. (1988) surveyed users and non-user high school students reported non-users have better physical, mental health and academic achievement than users have.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Further investigations in the area can be extended to study the mental health and academic achievement of students at upper age and higher study level in classing the female students as sample in a region of Thailand.

1. Drugs Awareness Programmes: the use of drugs among students affects their psyche, which is injurious to their mental health. Hence the academic achievement of the students is very badly effected. It is better to follow the saying "prevention is better than cure" So there must be drug awareness programme in school to caution the children not to be attracted by the killer drugs. It is better to involve parents in these awareness programmes, so that much can be done to get rid of the perils of drug addiction.

2. Introduction of the topics effects of the drugs in academic (syllabus) curriculum: Introduction of the topics on the effect of drug and the life of the people addicted to the drugs can be included in the syllabi. It helps the students to know the practical problem of the drug addiction by exposing themselves to such live examples.