CHAPTER – VII
THE SUMMING UP

The problem of drug abuse and drug addiction has gained the attention of the world community and social scientists alike. Drug addiction has emerged as a cancer and has brought within its fold almost all segment of the society. The magnitude of drug addiction throughout the world has shown an upward trend and the addiction wave is fast spreading. The abuse of drugs is posing a serious problems in Thailand and Singapore, much in other countries like India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, China, Japan, Hongkong and Malaysia. The youth throughout the world constitute a majority of the addict population. Thailand is one of many countries where narcotic drugs are spreading in alarming proposition among the youth, both in big cities and rural areas. The socio-economic implications of drug are most obvious for a country like Thailand which is still struggling to overcome its basic problems like literacy, poverty and disease.

In this piece of research work the investigator has made an attempt to study the problems, the effects and the factors affecting the consumption of narcotic drugs in rural areas in the north east region of Thailand which is the poorest region of the country. The aims and objectives of the present study are

i. To find out the major socio-cultural and economic factors affecting the drug addict youth.

ii. To find out the impact of drug addict youth on their family life.

iii. To assess the attitude, beliefs and Thai values on the drug addict youth.
iv. To attempt at some possible remedies to check and control the problem of drug addiction.

The study also focuses on the problem of rural Thai drug addict youth and the impact on socio-cultural dimensions of Thai society. The following hypotheses were formulated in this context.

i. Youth making demands on their parents and family members are at great risk of getting drug addicted.

ii. The incidence of drug addiction among youth is high among the higher socio-economic group of Thais. Drugs and substance smelling which are cheap (cost-wise) would have more clientele in rural set up.

iii. There is direct relationship between drug addiction and the family of the drug addict. Both cause and the remedy of drug abuse lies within the family itself; parents are the primary agent of de-addiction.

iv. The incidence of drug addiction is higher in broken families. Broken families and peer group pressure are the two primary agents of youth drug addiction.

v. Drug addiction, by and large, is a male activity. Takers of opium heroin and morphine are exclusively males.

vi. Though religion plays a very important role in the way of living in a Thai society, its significance in the cause of remedy of drug addiction is negligible or limited.

vii. Drug addiction leads to crime and other illegal activities.
The techniques of data collection included sampling method, survey questionnaire, interview – schedule, parent attitude questionnaire and case study.

The collection of data was made from primary and secondary sources. A random sample consisting of 100 drug addicts and 100 non-addict youth, aged between 14 and 25 years, were chosen from two districts of Sisaket Province of Thailand. Actual fieldwork was conducted in two phases – one, from September, 2001 to January, 2002 and second, from September to November 2002. For the analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, tabular presentation and statistical treatment of percentage, mean, standard deviation and student ‘t’ test have been made.

The findings of this piece of research work, based on the formulated hypotheses are discussed as sunder:

i. Youth making demands on their parents and family member are at great risk of getting drug addicted. The stated hypothesis is invalidated in this study.

ii. The incidence of drug addiction among youth is high socio-economic group of Thais. Drugs and substance – smelling which are cheap (cost - wise ) would have more clientele in rural set – up. The first part of the hypothesis is partially validated whereas the second part is totally validated.

iii. There is a direct relationship between drug addiction and the family of the drug addict. Both cause and the remedy of drug abuse lies within the family itself; parents are the primary agent of de-addiction. The hypothesis is validated.
iv. The incidence of drug addiction is higher in broken families. Broken families and peer group pressure are the two primary agents of youth drug addiction. Incidence of drug addiction is higher in broken families could not be substantiated in absolute terms but peer group pressure is a strong agent of addiction is, by and large, validated.

v. Drug addiction, by and large, is a male activity. Takers of opium heroin, and morphine are exclusively males. The hypothesis stands validated.

vi. Though religion plays a very important role in the way of living in a Thai society, its significance in the cause of remedy of drug addiction is negligible or limited. Religion certainly is not a cause for drug addiction but its role in remedial measures is valued, though in a limited way.

vii. Drug addiction leads to crime and other illegal activities. The hypothesis stands validated.