

TARAQQIYOT TADQIQOTLARI: BARQAROR RIVOJLANISH ISTIQBOLLARI

ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯ РАЗВИТИЯ: ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ УСТОЙЧИВОГО РАЗВИТИЯ

DEVELOPMENT STUDIES: PERSPECTIVES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKING AS A SOCIAL PROBLEM

Distribution and trafficking of drugs as a social phenomenon People of different cultures have been using drugs for several thousand years. Many of the substances that have become the subject of illegal business in our time have been used for thousands of years for various purposes: for example, during religious ceremonies, to restore strength, to relieve pain and discomfort, mental suffering, or simply for pleasure.

Already in the pre-literate period, there is evidence that people not only knew but also used psychoactive plants, the consumption of which affects human consciousness. The very first plant with psychoactive properties that was mentioned in human history was poppy. It was used by the Sumerians, who lived in the lands of Lower Mesopotamia 5 thousand years ago.

It was there that the first written records of opium were found during excavations, which they called "gil", meaning "joy". Clay tablets found by archaeologists mentioned how to prepare and use opium.

Opium poppy, a member of the poppy family, was known as a medicinal plant. The discovery of poppy seeds and poppy capsules during archaeological excavations near Lake Constance in Northern Europe has led historians to believe that poppy plantations may date back to the Bronze Age (4,000 to 1,000 BC) [1].

In ancient times, people knew such drugs as opium, hashish, cocaine and used them to change people's consciousness. For example, to give courage to warriors in battles, to control human consciousness, so that people would feel a direct connection with otherworldly forces.

Another type of so-called drug is mushrooms with hallucinogenic properties, which were common in Northern Asia and Central America. Perhaps such mushrooms were used by the Vikings to raise their fighting spirit and overcome the fear of death.

In addition, the Indians living in America and Mexico used cacti with narcotic properties, used them in various rituals. Cacti with such properties, as historical sources say, protected from grief and evil [2].

The purely medical use of opium began with the work of Hippocrates (440-377 BC). In his works, he mentions "meconine" - one of the 300 different types of medicinal plants that has a narcotic effect. Theophrastus (c. 350 BC), an ancient Greek philosopher and naturalist, gave a more precise description of the milky poppy juice.

In his writings, "meconine" is reliably designated as opium, and he recommends its use for eye diseases and mental disorders. The ancient Greek military doctor, pharmacologist Dioscorides, considered the founder of pharmacology in Europe, in his book "Materia Medica" analyzes the activity of extracts of a number of plants, which he calls "meconine", and the juice of their capsules - "opium".

Roman doctors used opium to treat various diseases. They came to the conclusion that opium, being a remedy for "many diseases", was at the same time a deadly poison. The demand for it was constantly growing, the opium trade was expanding, although so far only for medical purposes.

The Roman physician of classical ancient medicine Claudius Galen (129-201 AD) was enthusiastic about the use of opium for treating patients. The poppy head is mentioned in many myths of Ancient Greece as a symbol of oblivion of pain, suffering, and torment.

The people of Ancient Greece were sure that the poppy flower grew from the tears of Venus, which she shed when she learned of the death of her dear Adonis, and considered it a necessary attribute of the god of sleep - Hypnos and his brother, the god of death - Thanatos.

Therefore, the god of sleep was always depicted by the ancient Greeks as a lying or sitting youth or an angel with lowered wings, who carries poppy heads in his hands. Sometimes his head was also decorated with a wreath of poppy heads [3].

As for the god of death, he was also represented as a young man with a wreath of poppies, only his wings were black. The Greeks also always imagined the goddess of the night entwined with garlands of poppy flowers, which was a symbol of the peace and rest descending on earth at this time. Morpheus, the god of sleep, and his home, the kingdom of sleep, were imagined in the fantasies of the ancient Greeks as planted with poppy plants.

Thus, gradually, beginning with the Greeks and Romans, opium spread throughout Europe. The methods of its use were constantly being improved. Thus, gradually, the preconditions for the patients' morbid addiction to this drug, habituation and irresistible craving for it were created [4].

It was during this period that the addiction to drugs began to be assessed by public opinion in an extremely negative way, as more and more people were drawn into drug addiction, even representatives of the upper classes, who had previously despised those addicted to drugs.

In fact, this is how the era of drug addiction began – as a kind of serious social disease that is completely impossible to eradicate. One of the first who tried to put a stop to the uncontrolled use of drugs was the great Ibn Sina (Avicenna), a doctor, philosopher, representative of Eastern Aristotelianism, who lived in Iran and Central Asia, near Bukhara (11th century).

The first medical prescription written for an opium-containing medicine with a special warning has been preserved, in which he wrote that if the substance is used for a long time, then dependence is formed. This indicates that already at that time doctors were trying to counteract the spread of opium.

It can be assumed that the rulers, in order to subjugate people to their will and use them, purposefully forced and encouraged the population to use various types of drugs and narcotic plants. At the same time, opium addiction spread with irresistible force, gradually covering more and more new territories with its influence.

Near and Middle East, Central and South Asia, Europe. Doctors of the 16th century in Europe widely used opium in their practice. All capitals had "opium salons" where wealthy citizens came. Although for a Christian the use of a narcotic substance was a sin, which should have been a restraining mechanism for the spread of such a fashion. However, these salons flourished.

In addition to opium, people discovered other plants that have a hallucinogenic effect, such as the hemp plant, datura, fly agaric mushroom, coca leaves, etc. A little later, stronger narcotics were obtained from them through physical and chemical transformations: morphine and heroin.

In 1700, a new period in the history of drugs began when the physician John Jones (1645-1709) published his work "The Secret of Opium Revealed". Jones was firmly convinced that opium substances help relieve pain, cause euphoria, which is similar to the state of a drug addict with a persistent, but still controllable addiction to this substance.

He recommended opium for the treatment of many diseases, such as gout, dropsy, catarrh, asthma, dysentery, cholera, measles, smallpox. D. Jones did not deny the destructive properties of opium. He described long-term and immoderate consumption of raw opium as a severe, dull addiction and compared it to chronic alcoholism.

The attitude of Western society towards drugs has changed since the 1820s. In this decade, De Quincey's "Confessions of an English Opium-Eater" became a cult book. Morphine, discovered shortly before, gained wide popularity not only among doctors but also among patients. In 1803, the German pharmacist Zertuner, who isolated morphine from opium, tried the new drug and was convinced that it was 10 times stronger than opium.

The German scientist Zertuner was very impressed by the effect of morphine, which caused a drowsy state. Therefore, he called it morphine in honor of the god of sleep Morpheus. Morphine very quickly spread across all continents and a new type of drug addiction appeared - morphinism. Towards the end of the 19th century, opium acquired large-scale distribution and production.

This primarily concerns countries such as Persia, India, Türkiye, China, many regions of Europe, Australia. Metropolises most often specially grew drug-containing plants, and after producing drugs, they actively sold them.

Thanks to such activities, they not only gained considerable profit from the sale, which in turn led to the conquest and colonization of peoples. An example is England, which used India as a land for growing and a territory for selling opium.

Narcotics could be possessed for any purpose and it was not considered illegal until the 20th century (except in some cities in the US, where such laws existed since the 1870s). In the early 19th century, opium was considered a "killing medicine."

And already by the middle of the 19th century, doctors, describing case histories, compared drug addicts with offender's incapable of self-control. The industrialization of society contributed to changes in the consumption of narcotic drugs, and the condemnation of their open use in society especially increased.

In the early 19th century, drug addiction was compared to a vice, and drug addicts were compared to devils who condemned themselves to eternal damnation. The production and distribution of drugs turned out to be a highly profitable business, which involuntarily led not only to conflicts between countries, but also to armed clashes in the struggle for the market for their sale. A striking example of this are the "opium" wars of the mid-19th century, the first of which was the Anglo-Chinese War of 1840-1842.

During the war, opium distributors from England exploited the Chinese market, which led to China becoming the first place in opium consumption. England, in turn, received huge profits from this. The Chinese government passed many laws to control the import of opium, but they had no effect.

There was even an attempt to introduce the death penalty for the consumption and distribution of opium, but it was also unsuccessful. In 1856, the second "opium" war began, ending in 1858. According to the terms of the Treaty of Tianjin, opium continued to be imported into China.

However, this time China could already set high duties on its import. The amount of opium imported into China was growing and its import volume increased 15 times by the end of the 19th century. This terrible trade ceased only at the beginning of the 20th century, which was facilitated by the campaign for the permission to use narcotics for medical reasons.

It is interesting that in China, opium trade was only permitted to the Chinese themselves. The number of drug addicts increased significantly during wars. For example, during the American Civil War (1861-1865), the Austro-Prussian War (1866), and the Franco-Prussian War (1870-1871), soldiers received opium not only after being wounded to relieve pain, but they were often given the drug for courage.

It was during this period that improved hypodermic syringes appeared and methods of their use were developed. A certain role in the propaganda of drugs was played by the young Viennese doctor Z. Freud.

Having accidentally tried cocaine, he wrote in his work entitled “On Coca” that, thanks to its amazing qualities, cocaine will take its rightful place as a general tonic, causing joyful excitement and long-lasting euphoria, a painkiller, and also for the treatment of asthma, depression, and various neuroses.

Illiterate and uncontrolled use of cocaine marked the beginning of the so-called “cocaine epidemic” of the 1880s, and it even got to the point that cocaine began to be added to some drinks, including the popular Coca-Cola.

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