

# **Drug Addiction among Street Children: Exploring the Influencing Factors**

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## *Abstract*

Children living on the streets are a common and pathetic picture of Bangladesh. A disproportionate number of these children are addicted in drugs and engaged in various risks as coping mechanism. The present study aimed to explore the social and environmental factors influencing street children to become drug abusers. The study is based on a primary questionnaire survey conducted on 29 participants selected through comprehensive sampling method from Addiction Rehabilitation Residence (APON). The study reveals that about 82.8% children have no family attachment. Among them, 69% children leaving home for different circumstances. 96.6% children influenced by peer pressure to became drug user. 62.1% children mentioned that they were used drugs to provide a sense of being connected with their friends. 58.6% reported they used drugs to relief physical pain and make it easier to steal. Low price and availability of drugs are the main environmental causes for drug addiction of street children. Among them 100% children used Ganja and 93.10% children used Glue and Cigarettes which was low price and available drugs in Bangladesh. 79.30% participants used sedative type of tablets which is also available in dispensary. Scavenging rubbish dumps (82.8%), stealing (65.5%) and smuggling drugs (37.9%) were the primary sources of reported income. Considering the findings, appropriate intervention program should acknowledge to improve street children issue.

**Key terms:** Drug addiction, street children.