

SUBSTANCE USE IN INDIAN-OCCUPIED KASHMIR

An introduction to the deadly epidemic and the role of colonizing powers

Heroin or "Brown Sugar" use has been on the rise in Kashmir since 2016.

Previously, heroin use was scarce, despite high rates in neighboring countries/regions.

Intravenous heroin use was found to be the **most common issue** among patients in a hospital-based drug de-addiction center in Srinagar (Bhat, Dar & Hussain, 2019).

Drug rehabilitation centers run by Indian state police have been criticized for further stigmatizing substance use treatment by making it less of a medical issue and more of a criminal one.

Kashmiris also fear they will be used for civilizing propaganda, turned into informants, and other potentially **unethical practices**.

Advocates call for more community-based public health initiatives

“ Gateway drug is now straight away heroin - Kashmiri Psychiatrist

“ Here drugs are as easily available as a cigarette. What do you expect will happen? - Kashmiri Psychiatrist

“ It is progressing from neighborhood to neighborhood. Either the state is passively letting this happen or the state is deliberately doing this. -Researcher

“ India is supporting drug abuse in Kashmir for their own interest... These past few years are like nothing I have seen before. -Kashmiri in Recovery

SHARE YOUR STORY

October is Substance Abuse Prevention Month.

We invite you to share as little or as much of your story as you like with our community. See below for an anonymous survey.

<https://tinyurl.com/KashmirDrugSurvey>

Photo: Muzamil Bhat

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