

Third Lesson: Addiction and its repercussions on the individual and society

Year after year-records corroborate the fact that the number of drug abusing consumers in the country under study is startling. Following the findings

arrived at by ONLCDT, Algeria involved more than 37600 drug abusers in 2016, majorly young men who could be (ex)-prisoners, criminals, psychiatric cases or simply ordinary drug addicts. Whatever their socio-economic (privileged or under- privileged background-) situation: (primary, middle, high) school pupils; university students; (non-) workers, they all succumb to the psychoactive temptation. The results obtained by the office in this same year show clearly that cannabis resin is still the most consumed. 226 foreigners have been caught among the population below.

- 7392 traffickers and 22352 users of cannabis resin
- 158 traffickers and 37 users of cocaine
- 1 trafficker of crack
- 28 traffickers and 18 users of heroine
- 3898 traffickers and 3718 users of psychotropic substances
- 11 cultivators of cannabis and 1 cultivator of opium.

Their age varies as follows: the highest rate of drug abuse embraces the population between 16 and 25 years old with the equivalent of 39.47% (8489) followed by the population between 26 and 35 years old users with 38.18% (8212), then the population being more than 35 years old with the percentage of 19.48% (4189) and finally individuals under 15 years old with 2.87% (617). Concerning sex, 90.11% (19379) are male consumers while 9.89% (2128) are females. 73.41% (15789) of them are single, 23.19% (4987) are married whereas 3.40% (731) are indicated by ONLDCT as others.