

How Drugs Affect The Mind

Information for parents and
students who want to know
the truth about drugs.



Provided by NARCONON®
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How Do Drugs Affect the Mind?

The mind is man's most important tool. With his mind, man solves the problems he faces in life.

Your mind is actually composed of "mental image pictures." If you close your eyes for a few seconds and think of a cat, you will get a picture of a cat. It doesn't matter if the picture is clear or just a hazy impression, this picture is a mental image picture.

A person records all that he perceives in the form of mental image pictures. The consecutive record of mental pictures which accumulates through a person's life is called the "time track." When we talk about a person's experience, we are mainly talking about his time track, what he has seen and what he has done. This is all recorded in these mental image pictures.

Drugs do several things which harm a person's ability to think or to be fully aware of his present surroundings. These effects continue not just while a person is on a drug, but long after the effects of the drug appear to have worn off.

Drug users, for instance, have blank spots in their time track. their ability to concentrate can be injured.

Drugs tend to throw people out of the present and park them in pictures of their past. A person can be stuck in literally hundreds of different past moments. A person can be so stuck in the past that he doesn't even see his present surroundings.

Because of the effects of drugs on the mind, a person with a history of drug use isn't quite tracking with what is going on around him. Right before your eyes, while apparently in the same room as you are, doing the same things, he is really only partially there and partially in some past events.

There are actually an infinity of types of reactions to drugs. What is constant, however, is that the drug taker is not moving in the same series of events as others. This can be slight, wherein the person is seen to make occasional mistakes. Or it can be as serious as total insanity - where the events apparent to him are completely different from those apparent to anyone else. And it can be all grades in between.

It isn't that the drug user doesn't know what's going on. It is that he perceives something else going on instead of the actual series of events that are happening around him.

What are the Symptoms of Someone Taking Drugs?

A person on drugs has blank periods. He has delusions that remove him from the present. Thus, a drug taker in a position of responsibility may go blank and miss a menacing situation and not handle it because he is “somewhere else.”

As the drug taker is, at least to some degree, not perceiving the same events going on that others around him are, he will make mistakes or behave in an apparently illogical manner. A person who has been long and habitually on drugs may appear “anesthetized” (unfeeling.) Someone on drugs or who has taken drugs may be forgetful, insensitive, stupid and unemotional.

A person who has been on LSD is disassociated - meaning he is separated from anything he is doing. Whatever occurs has nothing to do with him. He feels no responsible for his own actions or anything else. Consequences mean little or nothing to him. He can be vicious or irrationally cruel. His emotions are shut off to a greater or lesser extent. These conditions may persist even long after he has taken drugs.

Why Does Someone Take Drugs?

Drugs are considered valuable by the people who take them to the degree that they produce some “desirable effect.” Drug takers are usually bothered by something which drove them to drugs.

An individual habitually on drugs or alcohol took up drugs or alcohol because of some unwanted pain or sensation or undesirable emotion. The person looks on drugs or alcohol as a cure for unwanted feelings. To understand why someone takes drugs now, it is necessary to understand what was wrong before they took them.

A drug may be taken to drive a person out of an unbearable present time or out of consciousness altogether.

Do Drugs Increase Ability?

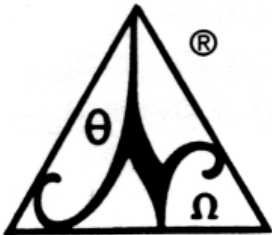
Evidence shows that drugs impede learning. Learning rate - the length of time it takes someone to learn something - is slower in drug users than others. Drugs can prevent a person from becoming educated.

There is even such a thing as a “drug personality.” It is artificial and is created by drugs. Drugs can apparently change the attitude of a person from his original personality to one secretly harboring hostilities and hatreds he does not permit to show on the surface.

What this means is that drugs reduce a person’s abilities. They make him less capable of succeeding and doing well in life. They make a person less able to be happy and achieve his goals.

There is a lot of propoganda put out about some drugs, like how they can make a person more creative, more sensitive or more aware. But these are all lies. Creativity, awareness and intelligence are the result of a mind in good condition, not one that has been messed up with drugs. Drugs make it harder for you to be and do what you want.

For more information on Narconon drug education and prevention programs available in your area, contact:



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