

Studies and research

1- Summary of structural framework and the approach adopted in study and research

There are many research centers in the Islamic Republic of Iran that are involved in studying subjects related to addiction. The Drug Control Headquarters in order to better recognize the current situation and an ideal condition has conducted major studies through the Headquarters' "Center for Research, Study and Training".

In addition to conducting research by its skilled researchers, the Drug Control Headquarters' Center for Research, Study and Training has sought to make maximum use of the country's research and scientific capacities in relation with studies on the subject of addiction and narcotic drugs and has extended support to researchers who have conducted research on such subjects.

The following items constitute major issues addressed by the Drug Control Headquarters' Center for Research, Study and Training:

- Setting research priorities in the field of the campaign against illicit drugs, drug abuse and drug trafficking;
- Directing, giving orders and supervising national researches on drug-related subjects;
- Technical evaluation of researches on drug-related subjects for their confirmation, correction or rejection;
- Planning the professional and technical training to be offered to experts and specialists involved in the fight against drug abuse;
- Formulating and preparing educational pamphlets and books in the field of prevention;
- Formulating educational solutions in proportionate with the country's social and cultural circumstances for preventing drug abuse in the society.

In line with this, the Drug Control Headquarters' Center for Research, Study and Training has made it possible for researchers to learn about the research priorities of the Drug Control Headquarters by referring to its website. These priorities are approved by the members of the research council.

2- Study plans and the festival on the best written works

A variety of study plans have been presented last year and researchers from different research institutions have commenced their activities in this regard. In the meantime, the Center for Research, Study and Training has prepared a number of articles and presentations in the current year.

This Center held a festival on the best written works in the field of narcotic drugs in 2007 in the course of which more than 80 dissertations at M.A. and Ph.D. levels, 85 research papers, 110 books and 350 library studies and articles were evaluated and the following were selected as the best ones:



2-1- Selected books

No book was selected so as to stand in the first place. Two other books including a guide book on treatment of addiction and a book on addicts' group-therapy stood in the second place. Another book titled *the Thirst for Recovery* stood in the third place.

2-2- Selected researches

A research paper by Dr. Ali Delawar on the preparation and standardization of a survey questionnaire on narcotic drugs and its relationship with individual and family parameters among nationwide middle school and high school students stood in the second place.

Dr. Alireza Mohseni Tabrizi was selected as the best researcher for conducting two researches on etiology and epidemiology of addiction in Tehrani families and formulation of comprehensive research matrix on awareness and preventing drug abuse.

2-3- Selected student researches

- Ph.D. dissertation of clinical psychology on evaluating the elements of endurance among individuals who are exposed to the risk of drug abuse by Dr. Masoud Mohammadi stood in the first place;
- Ph.D. dissertation of clinical psychology on psychological and social elements of projection on drug abuse among young adults and reasons for prevention and treatment by Dr. Farhad Taremian that stood in the second place.
- Ph.D. dissertation of health education on development of EPPM model for preventing drug encounter by male students in Tehran high schools by Dr. Hamidollah Verdipour stood in the third place.

The following theses stood in the second and third places:

- M.A. theses of criminal law and criminology on impacts of unemployment on addiction by Hassan Khalil Khalili that stood in the second place;
- M.A. theses of criminal law and criminology on evaluating addiction to psychotropic substances from the view of forensics and criminal law with special concentration on ecstasy by Fatemeh Sho'a Kazemi that stood in the third place.

Best articles written on drug control related matters in 2008

Row	Article	Subject
1	Smuggling of narcotic drugs, terrorism and organized crime in the region	Supply Control
2	Rapid assessment of the situation of drug abuse and dependency on drugs in Iran	Prevention
3	Analysis of the points of weakness and strength as well as opportunities and threats in relation with community-based preventive plan in rural and urban communities	Prevention
4	Psycho-social projecting factors in relation with drug consumption among youngsters: argumentations on prevention and treatment	Prevention
5	Formulating comprehensive research matrix and psycho-social prevention plans on drug abuse	Prevention
6	Various approaches for preventing addiction	Prevention
7	Assessing the consumption of ecstasy among youngsters (aged 15-25) who have referred to coffee shops in five districts of Tehran and its determining factors	Demand Reduction
8	Impacts of sports on reducing tendency to drug abuse among youngsters in the city of Tehran	Demand Reduction
9	Comparative assessment of three counseling models in treatment of patients that undergo Methadone maintenance treatment	Treatment
10	Neurological and behavioral assessment of addicts in Iran, domestic experiences, verified tools and future of treatment	Treatment
11	Necessity for social support with regard to treatment and preventing relapse	Treatment
12	Comparison of dependency to mother, father and the peer group among youngsters with no record of drug consumption with youngsters who have the record of smoking or using drugs	Harm Reduction
13	Genetic vulnerability in drug abuse and drug dependency	Harm Reduction

3- Think-Tanks

In order to amend the regulations and adopt balanced strategies and approaches in dealing with the issue of drugs, the Drug Control Headquarters in addition to using field researches conducted

by universities and academic centers and the Headquarters' research activities, has called on strategists, elites, scholars and university professors in the fields of medicine, sociology, psychiatry, psychology, law, criminology, communication sciences, economics, strategic management, etc to participate in sessions that are held every fortnight.

The most important achievements so far are as the following:

- Setting a new discipline on addiction prevention at scientific centers with the aim of offering training to specialized staff;
- Monitoring the future of addictive substances;
- Reviewing the Anti-Narcotics Act in order to come up with a comprehensive, up-to-date and efficient law;
- Strengthening the national approach and enhancing an integrated and dynamic interaction among relevant institutions;
- Accelerating the implementation of plans and avoiding parallel activities as well as standardization and implementing technical plans;
- Evaluating the plans as well as the effectiveness of the implemented measures.