

## **Current Trends and Patterns of Heroin Use Among Construction Workers (With Special Reference to Colombo District)**

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### **Abstract**

Drug use in building construction workplaces can cause a variety of problems and a person using drugs while working is putting not only himself but also other people at risk. In this context, it is important to identify their drug use tendencies and patterns when designing prevention and treatment programs for drug use workers. In order to identifying drug use trends and patterns among construction workers, The National Dangerous Drugs Control Board has conducted a survey on construction workers at Colombo. Identify the trends and patterns of heroin use among construction workers was a specific objective. Survey method was used and structured questionnaire, in-depth interviews and observation were used as primary data collection techniques. The problem of the study was 'what are the current trends and patterns of drug use among construction workers who work in building construction workplaces'. The research was conducted at eight selected building construction workplaces in Colombo and sample size was 400 workers. Individuals represented in the sample (n = 125, 31%) reported that they have ever used Heroin in their life. All the workers were poly -drug users and there was a tendency among the workers to use Heroin (n = 36, 9%).17% of the total sample had used heroin in the past year and 10% in the past three months. Out of the total Heroin users, 28% were daily users and 17% were occasional users. The highest percentage of workers (92%) use Chase the Dragon method for heroin use. 8% of heroin users embodied Heroin by inhalation and 2% by injection. It was further revealed that a majority of 72% procured heroin from a dealer they knew personally. It can be concluded that there is a tendency of using Heroin among the construction workers.

**Keywords:** construction workers; drugs; Heroin; social problem; workplaces

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