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CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY

Understanding a problem that affects the whole family



COOLTURA

Introduction

Drugs have been present in human history since remote times, when man discovered the effects of the alcohol contained in fermented fruits (or in certain plants that produce altered states of consciousness); but it is a remarkable fact that, over the centuries, different isolated events have boosted the consumption of certain substances in some cultures. Nevertheless, drug consumption only became extensive during the '60s.

We can mention numerous examples of drugs throughout history, such as opium consumption in China, which resulted in the infamous Opium Wars.

In this text, we will discuss a phenomenon that is expanding rapidly; to the point that it resembles an epidemic, even a pandemic, as it has spread beyond country borders. Currently, the mass media make any kind of information immediately available (anything happening in a particular place can be disseminated in only minutes through social networks and cellular telephony). The Internet defeats the dictatorships seeking to deprive people of information.

It is amazing how much information any teenager who knows how to use a computer, even rudimentarily, can access. In consequence, teenagers nowadays must be more prepared than they used to be forty years ago to avoid being seduced by this virtual bombing.

Another fact to take into account is the speed of change in all the aspects of life. It is so incredible that a few years ago I proposed a new type of pollution, the *time pollution*, as the pace of life we must adapt to demands that we develop extraordinary abilities to try to live as "superhumans". As a result, this lifestyle favors drug consumption, as they are offered as the ideal fuel to reach a state that is beyond the possibilities of the human condition, a state we may define as robotic. Many colleagues and I consider cocaine the epitome of this reality as it causes a similar effect to that of spinach for Popeye, the famous cartoon character who acquires superhuman strength by eating this plant.

Man is the only animal that intends to surpass the limitations of its biological condition. The so-called "awakening" or "accelerator", or psychoactive drugs, which allow people to go days without sleeping, are the trend (cocaine, amphetamines, methamphetamines, energizing drinks, etc.) but they have detrimental consequences. However, no one seems to think about what will happen next, the consequences are no longer relevant, as one famous song repeats as a motto: "live fast, die young".