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Focus

Approaches to Substance Abuse among Children

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Introduction

Substance abuse among children is a seriously growing universal problem. Not all parents and communities are aware of the seriousness of this problem which stands as a big threat for the future generation. The professional social workers have a major role to play to deal with this problem from the grass root level. Early abuse often includes such substances as tobacco, alcohol, inhalants, marijuana, and prescription drugs such as sleeping pills and anti-anxiety medicines. If drug abuse persists into late adolescence, abusers typically become more heavily involved with marijuana and then advance to other drugs, while continuing their abuse of tobacco and alcohol. Abuse of drugs in late childhood and early adolescence is associated with greater drug involvement. Social scientists have proposed various explanations. One explanation points to family history of drug or alcohol abuse and another claims affiliation with drug-abusing peers exposing the individual to drugs.

Scholastic factors

General dissatisfaction with school increased the likelihood that school-age children would smoke as the academic stress increased (Hee-Sooon, Yeanghee, Jung-Ja, 1995). Conversely, Oakley, Biannen, and Dodd (1992) found that scholastic satisfaction had beneficial effects on the decrease in smoking behaviours. Karatzias, Power and Swanson (2001) found that school stress was the factor that most accurately predicted a student's likelihood to try alcohol.

High school seniors who were expected to attend college had a significantly lower rate of substance