Zina Antolin

Professor Neri

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Substance Abuse and How It Affects the Family

**Introduction**

* A significant proportion of the US proportion of the US population suffers from substance abuse

**Attention Getter**: Did you know that an adult in the US dies after every 19 minutes following an opioid or heroin overdose?

* The impacts of drug abuse go beyond the persons suffering from this behavior
* The consequences of substance abuse affect the family members, and it can result in similarly distressing consequences

**Thesis:** This outline analyzes the substance abuse and its impact on family

**Body**

**Main Point 1**: Substance abuse is prevalent in the US (McCance-Katz, 2019).

* The number of those who abuse substances in the country is much higher than people may think
* Statistics show that around 11.4 million persons abused opioids in 2017
* This is a problem that is common among old and young individuals, regardless of the gender
* Many laws have been implemented at the local, state, and national levels to minimize the abuse of the substance. However, this is a good that is far from being achieved
* Substance abuse is a problem which affects families and society at large

**Main point 2:** Financial instability (Nagelhout et al., 2017)

* Many persons suffering from the substance abuse condition are unable to work, and this means that as caregivers or parents, the household is at risk of poverty
* Further, the substance users are likely to spend a large proportion of their salary of substances, which means less amount is taken to the family.
* This can make it hard for the family to pay for rent, utilities, and food
* Often, they end up stealing money or valuables from other family members to purchase substances

**Main point 3**: Domestic violent

* Substance abuse and domestic violence are two inseparable things. This is because when one spouse is drunk (male), he usually ends up abusing children and wife
* A good number of substances abused are associated with some aggressiveness and this result in domestic violence
* This could aggravate to a point where a family member is severely injured or killed

**Main point 4:** Broken families or divorce (Sarkar, Patra & Kattimani, 2016).

* At other times, substance abuse is associated with broken families because one spouse is unable to withstand the violence and other behaviors that are common among the substance users

**Main point 5:** High risk of addiction (Mahmoodi, Behzadmehr, Salarzaei & Havasian, 2017).

* Children who are brought up in a family where some members are substance users have high chances of becoming addicts in the future compared to those from the normal family

**Conclusion**

* Substance abuse is a common problem in the US, and this calls for prompt actions to be taken to offset the problem
* In most cases, substance abuse is a problem that affects family institution very much, and it could lead to broken families

References

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