

## THE MODERN PHENOMENON OF DRUG ADDICTION IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF SOCIOLOGICAL CONCEPTS

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**Abstract:** Dynamism of modern social and economic, political processes in Russia, a crisis situation in various areas of social life promote growth of deviations among which and practice of consumption of narcotic substances. Studying of a modern phenomenon of a drug addiction is impossible without the appeal to fundamental categories of sociological science, without definition of theoretical approaches for an explanation of the reasons, drug addiction consequences. The drug addiction phenomenon research methodology presented in this article is based on integration of the fundamental theoretical principles of sociology of deviant behavior and the functionalistic analysis. For the analysis of obvious, latent functions of a drug addiction, its dysfunctional consequences structurally functional approach became necessary. In the theory-methodological analysis sociological concepts of deviance, anomy, stigma, and social exclusion were important. In article concepts of a drug addiction, various properties of its categorical field allowing speaking about variety of manifestations of this phenomenon are analyzed. The phenomenon of a drug addiction is presented in this text as manifestations in real acts, in activity as result of symbolical determination of deviant behavior by subjects of social actions. The carried-out analysis allowed authors to define a modern phenomenon of a drug addiction as the difficult phenomenon which is expressed in deviant practitioners of narcoconsumption and exposed to social control.

**Keywords:** drug addiction phenomenon, functionalistic analysis, deviance, anomy, stigma, exclusion.

### 1 Introduction

The social phenomena, processes and problems happening in society are comprehended in a different way: by studying social institutes, systems of ideas, ways of production, forms of art and situations of daily interaction. Social phenomena, processes and problems occurring in society, are learned in different ways: studying social institutions, systems of ideas, modes of production, forms of art, situation of everyday interaction. As a methodological basis for the study of the phenomenon of drug addiction, unifying methodology based on functional analysis and the sociology of deviant behavior was chosen.

In the process of development society takes new shapes and structures and produces various forms of deviant behavior. There are three components of deviance: an individual having a certain type of behavior; norm acting as a measure of assessment of deviant practices; another person, group and institution reacting to a deviation. On the one hand, deviance is expressed in behavioral acts and activity; on the other hand it is a social construction, product of the process of symbolic determination of deviant behavior by the subjects of social action. Deviant behavior leads to positive and negative consequences: deviant positive - geniuses, creators, contributing to progress; negative deviants are people who destroy their deviant behavior by physical or moral health, creating threats and problems to others (Komlev, 2014). Drug use is behavior that is condemned by society and entails sanctions. The focus of most researchers is negative deviance, scale and differentiation of which in the form of crime, drug addiction, alcoholism, suicidal behavior, prostitution, gambling, phreak - an urgent world social problem.

To determine the semantic meaning of the concept of drug addiction were undertaken by many authors. For example, expanded definition of drug addiction, which underlines the mutual influence of various spheres, aspects, consequences, constructing the content of the phenomenon, E. Gasanov (Gasanov, 2009). "Drug addiction is a negative social phenomenon that includes social, legal, criminological, economic, biological and environmental aspects that affect the social, legal, criminological, economic, biological and

environmental spheres, respectively, characterized by a high degree of public danger, expressed in the incidence of drug addiction, causing harm to the health of consumers of narcotic drugs and a set of unlawful acts related to drugs or committed with a view to obtaining funds for the subsequent acquisition of drugs or in the state of drug intoxication, among which crimes related to drugs form an independent type of crime - drug crime, and the organization of the latter, which turned the most dangerous part of drug crime into a kind of organized crime". Important characteristics of the phenomenon, in our view, reflect a definition that simultaneously includes its social and epidemiological aspects, according to which narcotics are "social phenomenon, expressed in a relatively widespread, statistically stable consumption of a part of the population of narcotic (or other toxic, illegal psychotropic) means, entailing certain medical (incidence of drug addiction) and social consequences" (Gilinsky et al, 2001; Metlenkov, 2018).

Thus, based on the fact that the phenomenon of drug addiction (which is one of the objects of deviantology) is a social construct that includes deviance, causality, functional manifestations and social consequences, mass character, and also on the social signs of the phenomenon fixed in the above definitions, we came to the following conclusion. Drug addiction should be viewed systematically, as a complex statistically stable social phenomenon (associated with a set of antisocial actions), manifested in deviant practices of drug use and subject to social control.

### 2 Methodology

The methodology of this article is based on the integration of the fundamental theoretical principles of the sociology of deviant behavior and structural functionalism. In the study of explicit, latent functions of narcotics, its dysfunctional consequences, structural-functional approach of R. Merton became necessary. Important in the theoretical and methodological analysis were the sociological concept of deviance of J. Gilinsky, J. Komlev, anomaly E. Durkheim, R. Merton. Also methodologically valuable for the sociological interpretation of the sources and consequences of modern narcotics are the theories of stigmatization of I. Hoffmann, modern concepts of social inequality and exclusion.

### 3 Results and Discussion

The methodology of studying the structure and functions of the phenomenon of drug addiction was based on the structural-functional approach of R. Merton. According to him, in the center of functional research is a social structure, which consists of four criteria: 1) focus on relationships that link different components of society; 2) emphasis on the repetitive nature of the relationship; 3) a composite criterion of social structure - the concept of a deep, hidden, basic level (the concept of latent functions); 4) idea of a deterrent effect on Real social phenomena (behavior, beliefs, motivations). Functionalism is defined by the complex concept of "functionality", according to which the interrelation of society and individual parts is provided by various and specific functions that can be observed and repeatedly repeated in specific objects and facts. The methodological tool for observation and study of functions is proposed by R. Merton in the form of a "medium-range theory": "theory located in an intermediate space between private but also necessary working hypotheses, in a multitude of emerging in the course of everyday research, and all-inclusive systematic attempts to develop a unified theory that will explain all the observed types of social behavior, social organizations and social changes" (Merton, 1968). For the analysis of narcotics and its consequences, functionalist theory that explains the properties of social structures through their investments in preserving the social system becomes important. R. Merton defines the functions as follows: these are such notable consequences that contribute to adaptation or adaptation of the system (Merton,

1936). Institutions, structures cannot only promote the preservation of other parts of the social system, but also have negative consequences for them (Rittser, 2003). R. Merton also adds the category of "sociological ambivalence", which means that some form that performs positive functions can play a dysfunctional role in the same system. For example, existence of the problem of narcotics is functional in terms of the formation of demand and jobs in centers, clinics to combat drug addiction. However, such consequences are dysfunctional for drug users, authorities, and society as a whole.

R. Merton belongs to the distinction between the concepts of "explicit and latent functions" that determine the direction of functional analysis. Explicit functions have a deliberate intentional character; latent functions are unintentional (Merton, 1996). These ideas are combined with the Merton concept of unforeseen consequences. According to R. Merton, latent function is a kind of unintended consequence having for a certain system a functional character. To detect unintended consequences, it is necessary to conduct a sociological analysis. So, we systematize the consequences of narcotics for drug users, society. Drug addiction performs a number of functions. The obvious functional consequences of narcotics for a drug user include: finding him pleasure, relieving stress, stress, possibility of avoiding domestic, social disorder, facilitating communication processes, desire to be included in a certain group. The latent consequences of narcotics are imperceptible for consuming drugs, for example, need for large financial costs of paying for drugs that cause material instability. And such unforeseen consequences are dysfunctional for drug users.

Among the latent consequences for the drug user is the emergence of legal risk. Drug addicts gradually stop going to study, work, and ready to even steal for the exchange stolen on drugs. In the aftermath of drug abuse - dysfunctional concomitant diseases and accidents, premature deaths, the common cause of death is an overdose, although there is a risk of death from a lack of dose. For society as a whole, drug abuse also has such dysfunctional consequences as the need for additional resources, for example: content of the criminal justice system, fight against drug trafficking, and other drug-related crimes; formation of a national system for the comprehensive rehabilitation and resocialization of drug users. The unintended consequences of narcotics are multifaceted in the sphere of medicine, health (Haffajee & Mello, 2017). In connection with its spread in society, growth of such "social" diseases as HIV, AIDS, and associated infections can be traced. In addition, it can be said that narcotics destabilizes the structure of the health system as a whole, contributing to the diversion of the resources and resources necessary for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. Thus, consequences of drug consumption are: social risk (associated with the inability to adequately fulfill social, including family, educational, professional functions), health risks, financial and legal risks. All these risky consequences are confirmed, reflected in numerous real stories from the life of "former drug users" (Mead et al, 2011).

As you know, narcotics is one of the objects (along with various crimes, dependencies, deviations) deviantology. People sometimes deviate from the accepted rules, norms, falling under the category of deviants. Let us analyze the phenomenon of drug addiction in the context of concepts of deviance and anomie. Deviant behavior can be defined as behavior deviating from the accepted, socially acceptable one in certain society. A number of St. Petersburg researchers point out the deviantologic consumption which is multiplied today (Belousov et al, 2010), and which shows in the absorption of deviations by the norm. Studying the phenomenon of drug addiction, authors reason that its existence is not determined by political and economic structures as drug addiction is present in economically developed countries and in less developed countries with absolutely different political systems. Researchers prove empirically that drug addiction does not depend on social and material status. The results of the research show that crime rates do not correspond to the level of material security but to the size and sharpness of inequality in security. The concept of exclusion

characterizes the persons who have happened to be on the roadside of economic progress. The exclusion occurs gradually by accumulation of difficulties, break of social binds, disqualification and the crisis of identity. As Y. Gilinsky notes, excluded are the ones who make a social base of deviations among which there is drug addiction (Gilinsky, 2004). Exclusion is a disadvantage from the point of view of education, qualifications, employment, financial and housing resources. Drug addiction can be a result of social exclusion (Zaslavskaya, 2002; Villalobos Antúnez, 2015). And the main reason for involvement in drug addiction according to the semantic approach is the loss, deformation of the system of the person's meaning-forming values, its life-affirming meanings.

Drug addiction is also a kind of anomie. E. Durkheim believed that the anomie showing in deviant behavior is a mismatch within the world of values, shaking of basic values and moral standards and confusion of the legal/illegal. The author saw the sociology task in establishing the normal through identifying deviant behavior which points out what is considered normal by everyone and results in sanctions (Durkheim, 1995). Developing Durkheim's concept of anomie, R. Merton (Coser & Stein, 1977) defined it as a symptom of inconsistency between the aspirations determined by the culture and socially organized devices and ways to meet them. Some individuals are not able to act in compliance with standard values precisely because of their position in social structure. This imbalance can result in deviant behavior in the form of drug addiction as a behavioral reaction to anomie. R. Merton formulated five ways of individual's adaptation to the conditions existing in a group or society. They are conformism, innovation, ritualism, retreatism, rebellion. Narcoconsumption can be considered a version of adaptation to anomic situations. It can be a temporary innovative and renovating activity for some persons and leaving society for narcotic practices for others. All this is expressed in deviant self-determination, deviant career, leading to the social isolation which makes the probability of additional deviance even higher. The researchers from the Sector of the Sociology of Deviance and Social Control (The Center of a Deviantology) in Sociological Institute of RAS view drug addiction as one of the forms of retreatist behavior in the conditions of anomie when a person rejects both the aims and the socially approved means of their achievement at the same time.

It is also necessary to dwell on such kind of deviant behavior as addictive behavior i.e. behavior deviating from the generally accepted standards and rules, caused by a mental disease or a social attitudes of the subject, doing harm to people around and (or) subject themselves. The narcodirected behavior as one of the types of addictive behavior shows, first of all, as obsession and aspiration to escape from reality by artificial change of the mental state by means of using psychoactive substances (Begun, 1976). The phenomenon of drug addiction as a form of deviant behavior can be also comprehended from the point of view of the concept of gluing labels, branding, which enables considering the phenomenon of drug addiction through the concept of identification. I. Goffman noted that "society establishes ways of categorizing people and determines a set of qualities which are considered normal and natural for each of the categories. When meeting a stranger the first impression of his or her appearance enables us referring him or her to this or that category and determining their qualities, i.e. "social identity" (Travers, 1994). In a society where the norm of non-consumption of psychoactive substances is dominant, culture of a healthy lifestyle and the legitimacy of the anti-drug activity, people who violate the relevant norms, principles, rules, can some extent be stigmatized.

Stigmatization, transmission of negative attitudes towards drug addicts, promotes the development of a "culture of fear" in society. Fear is capable of disarming people, causing panic and disorganization and acting as a factor accelerating negative processes and strengthening the current problems and dangers (Sargeant & Faugier, 1997). However, an active reaction to fear shows not only in destructive, but also in constructive behavior. The pragmatic approach to the fear (Matveeva & Shlyapentokh,

2000). accentuates the search for social forces that could contribute to strengthening positive processes in society, improving the survival of people, ability to confront problems. And fear can be seen as a restraining beginning, formed under the influence of various factors, which persists as a significant element of the emotional background of social life. In fact, activities to educate, prevent drug problems, inform about the consequences of drug use are examples of ways to prepare people for a constructive response to stress situations, moral panics. Thus, concept of stigmatization allows one to interpret deviation as a process of interaction between people with deviation and without it and to focus attention on the effects created by social institutions when classifying drug use practices as deviant.

#### 4 Summary

The theoretical and methodological basis for investigating the phenomenon of drug addiction has become a unifying methodology that integrates several sociological concepts. The firstly, it concerns the functionalist concept of R. Merton, which opened up the possibility of interpreting the functional manifestations of the phenomenon of drug addiction. The approaches of the sociology of deviant behavior, anomies that promote understanding of drug addiction: as manifestations in real activity and the result of the symbolic definition of deviance by the subjects of social actions became necessary; as a social structure, including deviance (systematic deviations), causality (involvement in consumption), consequences (social, medical, legal nature) and mass (part of society). Debating the processes of deviance, its consequences would not be feasible without consideration of structural changes in society, social inequality, exclusion processes. Analysis of the concepts of narcotics, various properties of its categorical field (including legal, social features, medical and personal characteristics of drug users) allowed the authors to emphasize the inherent modern features.

#### 5 Conclusion

The article substantiates the legitimacy and expediency of applying the research approach to the study of the phenomenon of drug addiction, combining several sociological theories (structural functionalism, sociology of deviant behavior). The integration of these conceptual approaches contributed to the development of the author's definition of narcotics from sociological positions as a social phenomenon manifested in deviant practices of drug use under social control. The conducted analysis promotes awareness of the prospects and ways of necessary changes in solving modern problems of narcotics.

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