

# SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF DRUG CONSUMPTION AMONG TEENAGERS

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**Abstract.** The article proposes to identify, on the basis of the consultation of the specialty literature, the factors which influence the consumption of drugs amongst teenagers, as well as the sense in which their main dimensions act. The studies performed on teenagers (Rășcanu, 2008) highlighted amongst the internal causes of drug consumption: the curiosity, the temptation in the form of the “forbidden fruit mechanism”; the desire of high sensations; the lack of maturity/responsibility; personal problems, troubles, despair, loneliness, the lack of friends; boredom; the lack of some interesting preoccupations; emo girls /the need to stand out; and the external causes are: the ill-fated influence of the entourage, of the “fishy” group of friends, of the unfavorable family climate, the reduced educational and cultural level; the lack of information or skewed information with regard to drugs; the imitation of film models, from newspapers or magazines. Drug consumption is tightly related to life problems, to the questions and searching of the teenagers and youngsters. The most important social entourages are: the family, the school and the group of entourage (friends, spare time). So drug consumption amongst teenagers represents one of the challenges with which the humanity has to confront, its direct and indirect effects designing it as a worrying phenomenon.

**Keywords:** drugs, teenagers, risk, family, friends, school, spare time.

## Introduction

We consider that one of the most alarming compulsions to the address of the population’s health and integrity constitutes the growth of drug consumption. Daily, on the whole Earth, millions of people use drugs. Drug consumption isn’t happening only in modern societies. Some drugs are used in medicine as remedies against pain for example: the opium, the heroin and the morphine, or for the

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improvement of the state in different affections, as well as in the actions of detox of drug consumers. Thus some drugs *can be used for*: the treatment of insomnia and anxiety as “sleeping pills” or “soothing”, but also for persons who are too restless or anxious all the time (barbiturates), as anesthetic (narcotic drugs, alcohol) against poisonings and to stop the effects of heroine (methadone), in the treatment of Epilepsy (benzodiazepan); for the treatment of coughing, and to determine a state of psychological indifference (opium), in the treatment of persons with mental diseases, junkies, alcoholics, (hallucinogens); to treat narcolepsy and hyperacidity at children, producing a calming effect (apsathas); to make anesthesia in throat, nose surgery, to reduce bleeding in surgeries(cocaine); as antidiarrhoeal, analgesic, cough suppressant (codeine) (Chipea & Stanciu, 2007).

Drug consumption starts from psychic effects, bliss state, a high perception of sounds and colors and it ends with catastrophic physical, psychical and social effects. The drug removes the person from a state of normality or of disorder and puts him/her into a world of false joy and after this throws him/her brutally in big pain affecting as much the soul as the body. The invoked reasons for the consumption of psychoactive substances are varied, can be multiple and can modify by the course of life of a patient. These include: search for a “high” state; a search or the repeating of the pleasant effects; cultural norm in some under cultures; self-medication for states of anxiety, social phobia, insomnia etc.; self-medication for negative symptoms of mental diseases; to prevent the installation of withdrawal symptoms (Blume, 2011).

*The risks associated with the consumption* of psychotropic substances vary depending on the taken substance, the dose and the route of administration, as well as depending on the status of the patient. These include: acute toxicity, psycho behavioral effects (for example the consumer jumps from a height believing that he can fly), the toxic effects of the substances associated to drugs; secondary medical affections; secondary psychiatric disorders due to drug consumption; the risk of developing dependency; negative social effects; professional difficulties; intra familiar problems; medico legal consequences (Drăgan, 1994).

Some variables were studied which can predict drug consumption. These can be conceptualized as reflecting many domains: the cultural/social medium; interpersonal forces (school, colleagues, family); psycho behavioral factors (personality, attitude, activities); biogenetic influences, the individual being exposed to risks because of some factors or forces from each of these domains.

One single factor can't predict if a person becomes a drug consumer. The global risk of dependency is influenced of the biologic matrix of the individual and this can be influenced by genus or ethnicity, his/her state of development and the social medium (for example the conditions at home, at school and in the neighborhood).

In terms of the reasons why the young consume drugs, Ruxandra Rășcanu affirms that: “the reasons why some people are attracted by drugs are extremely different and hard to explain, what seems easy to accept is the fact that they represent a

major danger for the body, a real trap for the targeted, especially for the uninformed” (Rășcanu, 2008, p.11). The most important social mediums are: the family, the school, and the group of entourage (friends, spare time).

The socialization of the young, their personal development is taking place in the limits of different mediums (family, school). If the development of the personality is blocked from diverse causes, or soul crisis appears, different mediums of correction take the place of the primary social mediums.

The way of development of the young willing to different traumas, fighting with some social disturbia or being in an unfavorable situation can follow several directions. A part can stagnate at different sectors of development (states, physically, intellect etc.) and another part, provisionally, (as a response to traumatic situations) begin to search diverse critical situations, building on it the way of life. The illicit drug consumption represents one of these critical ways of adaptive behavior. Behind drug consumption (especially in teen-age) can stand the most variable problems, causes. As result of the figure below the social factors, respectively the social attitude, social beliefs, the availability of the drug, the relation with the family, social pressure, the urbanization and the unemployment influence the decision of the psychoactive substance consumption: alcohol, tobacco, and later cocaine, heroin. These factors are those which will determine to carry on the consumption of psychoactive substances, besides the biological and psychological ones.

### **The role of the family in drug consumption**

In the last decades, in the life of the families, deep changes took place generated by various factors: (unemployment, low incomes, crisis situations provoked by the high number of divorces, etc.) which contributed/can contribute to the growth of the number of persons who find their shelter in drug consumption.

On the one hand, the ordinary functions of the family have changed. More and more tasks are picked up by different social institutions. As a result of the changed social relations, the role of the social sphere has increased, and its tasks have multiplied. On the other hand, the function of protection of the family is diminishing because parents have less time for children, both of them being engaged in extra familial tasks. Thus the education of the child, its formation is not guided in the family surroundings; instead the school cannot assume the family role.

Changes took place in the size, structure and lastingness of the family. In the place of the large families which included many generations, ample kinship relations, the nuclear families have appeared composed of parents and children. Along with the growth of the number of divorces the number of monoparental families has also increased in which the place of the mother or father remains unoccupied. The number of marriages has decreased drastically (6/7 marriages at 1000 inhabitants). In the interior of the family the relation between its members is changing. The

“modern” life style and the loss of harmony have made the decrease of problem solving in the family (Ghebrea, online ebook).

The changes in families are the consequences of the social modifications. Modernization, urbanization, industrialization, education, all these contribute to the transformation of the role of the family. The social structure and the traditional way of life have fallen apart, the order of conviviality has changed nowadays the consumer society and the individualist point of view become more powerful. This meant also the change of the order of social values. The modifications of the way of life and occupation have broken the cultural and social continuity (Formoso, Gonzales & Aiken, 2000).

The primacy of the family as group represents an important link between the individual and society. In the ideal case, the family is intact structurally and functionally: respectively parents are living together and they are able to provide for their children spiritual, moral and material safety. The family spreads values, example of behavior, spreads lived experiences, fulfills at the same time also social functions (Fitzpatrick, 1997).

The national and international researches highlight the existence of more strata at the level of parental influence (Dekovic, 1999). In the life of families there are events which can lead to drug consumption. Evidently, this doesn't mean that in any disbanded family the child will become drug consumer.

Also, parental monitoring was associated with behavioral problems. If the children feel themselves neglected or ignored the possibility that they imply themselves in risky behavior is amplifying because the monitoring of the behavior is missing. This fact will contribute to the appearance of some behaviors that will generate problems related to drugs (Blume, 2011).

The risk factors as regards to the family (predictive) are (Lorion, 1991):

- manners of education of the parents (exaggerated kindness or the contrary)
- the destroyed family structure (divorce, new formed families, monoparental families etc.)
- bad relation with parents (the non-existence of a strong relation)
- hardships, soul problems, sentimental poverty in family relations
- tainted familial environment (violence in family, physical and sexual violence)
- the use of psychoactive substances by parents and their attitude towards them.

The researches of the familial medium of teenagers have analyzed more indicators: *the family structure, deviations in the interior of the family, disharmony in their interior*

## The structure of the family

One of the causes of drug consumption represents *the disorganization of the structure of the family*. The family which is not complete represents a risk factor for drug consumption amongst teenagers, mentioning that sometimes in the complete families there is no harmony all the time (Formoso, Gonzales & Aiken, 2000).

The value of life prevalence of forbidden substances consumption is decreased among teenagers raised up in whole families; instead it is increased among those who live in restructured families.

The HBSC studies (see online [www.hbsc.org](http://www.hbsc.org)) show that a quarter of teenagers are living in monoparental families, mostly in families characterized by the absence of the father. A part of these teenagers don't live with their biologic parents but with relatives adoptive parents. The percentage of families composed of more generations is reduced.

For the young who are living with both biologic parents, the probability that they will resort to the consumption of forbidden substances is lower. The point of view of the investigators is different in terms of the teenagers who are living with one parent, respectively when to one of the biologic parents is attached a step parent. Some studies show that the customs of consumption of some teenagers from a monoparental family are similar to the ones from a newly formed restructured family. When after other researches the monoparental families present a high risk factor instead the reorganization of the family presents a bigger risk (Ackerman et al., 2001).

The percentage of the teenagers who consume drugs is over average and also in the case of teenagers who don't live at persons who are not their relatives or those who have step mother.

Analyzing the role of the structure of the family in the consumption of forbidden substances by young it can be kept the idea according to which the complete family in which every parent practices the family role in normal conditions, practices a protective role against the consumption of forbidden substances, while the teenagers who are living in families from which one of the biologic parents is missing are more exposed to danger.

## Deviations in the interior of the family

The consumption of substances by parents constitutes also a risk factor in trying to consume forbidden substances. The alcoholism of one of the parents is frequent or other chronic diseases. The deviations from the interior of the family respectively the harmful habits of consumption increase the probability of consumption of substances. The statistical data (Piko, 2000) show us that for a large portion of high school pupils' families the problematic behaviors are not unusual (tobacco, regular alcohol consumption, attempted suicide, prison sentences, drug consumption, etc.).

The consumption of forbidden substances is the most widespread in the circle of those teenagers in whose family such substances are consumed. The harmful habit of substance consumption not just by parents but also by the elder brother it is in a significant relation with the consumption of substances by teens (Piko, 2000).

Smoking in families influences the least the habit of consumption of the teenagers but in a lesser extent, any deviation increases the probability of forbidden or illicit substance consumption.

### **Disharmonies in the framework of the family**

The quality of relation with the parents is one of the variables which influence the behavior of the young. The good relations with the parents represent a protecting factor but any nonconformity from this leads to a relation in negative sense and increases the risk of trying illicit substances. That's why it is important that the teenagers discuss their problems with their parents. Therefore it is important the safety of devotion for a teenager. A weaker attachment or the lack of attention of the parents influences the consumption of substances at teens (Bahr, 2005).

The family conflicts, the negative relations with the parents or between the parents, the lack of trust in the family all these correlate positively with the problematic behavior (Fitzpatrick, 1997).

The percentage of dissatisfaction for the mother is the same at the level of those who consume legal or illicit substances while the dissatisfaction for the father is lower among those who consume illicit substances (Dekovic, 1999).

A cohesive family characterized by high interest of the parents in their own children with strong feelings of love and an education based on respect diminish the probability of the appearance of some antisocial behaviors. On the other hand, exaggerated exigency, the violent punishments and the lack of love stay behind many unwanted forms of behavior.

Besides the negative social climate the rigid *style of education* and the *exaggerated protection* destroy the stages of adaptability of the teenagers (Jackson, Henriksen & Foshee, 1998).

### **The results of some studies concerning the role of the family in the consumption of forbidden substances**

In terms of family environment of persons who are consumers of different drug types we dispose with the most information about teenagers who consume opium (Seldin, 1972). About the consumption of stimulants and cannabis we have less information.

The opium consumers perceive their mother as being protective, more controllable in comparison with those who consume stimulants or cannabis. In relation to the father more negative feelings are connected. The opium dependents are more charged with negative feelings they see more hostilely and dominant their mother.

Among the young opium consumers the percentage is higher at those who are living in mono parental families. Instead, the percentage of those who are living in complete families is the lowest. The mother who imposes barriers in the autonomy of the children can play a role in the blocking of the evolution procedure of self-regulation while the father is a negative model.

Among the family features of the persons consuming stimulants the most remarkable are the cultural factors and these make harder the description of their familial features. In a large measure we can suppose a cold familial environment, more distant, while less exacting. The models of the parents are missing, the personal ideals are not formed, the function "on the self" is weak. In relation with this rigid parental environment is the hurting of the intimate life, the spiritual emptiness, the lack of desire to have a relationship. The familial environment of refuse, the sentimental poverty, leads to the impoverishment of the sentimental life, at the constraint, ending of conflicts, aggressions. The living of the feelings, devotion, will provoke fear in the teenager. The use of stimulant substances will make possible the living of those feelings or conflicts which only in this way can be lived being all about intimacy or aggression. The problem of self -assessment can be related to the cold parental environment. The stimulants have a compensatory role.

We dispose little information *about the family environment of the teenagers consuming cannabis*. On the basis of the studies we can say that the family environment is similar in the case of those who consume stimulants. One difference is that the parental hostility and the control seem to be less emphasized (Hunt, 1974).

The less cohesive family relations, the emptiness of relations with parents characterize these families. To these we can add the lack of parents' interest and their exaggerated kindness, affecting the development of the teenagers' ideals. The indulgent family environment supposes less interior tension, less aggression.

### **The role of friends in drug consumption**

People use frequently the concept of friendship, beginning with the relations in groups, to fellows and to best friends. The studies (Pikó, 2000) show that the number of friends is decreasing in every social category and increases the number of those who haven't got friends at all. In our country the grownups have few friends so that there are few persons with whom they can discuss the problems of their lives.

Probably the situation is other at the level of teenagers, who even live the moment of detachment of family and attract them to the group of friends. However, the statistical data about friendship don't refer to teenagers too (Pikó, 2000).

Besides the familial influences in the formation of the self at teenagers an important role has got the friends. The role of the parent can't detach from the group of friends because the two are conditioning each other. The parental influence can modify significantly the influence of the group of friends.

A distinct research would be necessary related to the way in which the so called friend relationships are formed. In my opinion the base of these relations is not always the friendship; in many cases we can observe the disposition of association in groups of those who have the same social condition. In other situations the personal notes can become defining criteria. But it happens often that at the beginning of the organization of the group the negative features of the members become dominant criteria of acceptance in the group, which will make that the members of the group will be “defeated” from the beginning.

Certainly the influence of the group of friends it is not negative because the group plays an important role of the teenagers’ identity development. C. H. Cooley (1902, apud. Bădescu, Dungaciu & Baltasiu, 1996) proposes a theory of interactional style “looking-glass self theory” according to which the self of the individual is formed only in interaction with others and these “others” being like some mirrors in which the individual perceives himself. For Cooley and for the other internationalists it is not important the functioning of the social, just the way in which the other social actors build and represent the social reality. Thus it is imposed the idea of constructing the social by the social actors more than that it is about a subjective construction which determines a certain course of evolution of the objective reality (Bădescu, Dungaciu & Baltasiu, 1996).

In this case it is defining the measure in which the problematic behavior represents a modality of strengthening of the group’s conformity because the consumption of substances can become an instrument of adaptation. In this case it has to be mentioned that the parental relations generally as well as the influence of the group of friends together define the behavioral direction. Thus the influence of the group of friends becomes a risk factor when the relations with the parents deteriorate.

*The environment of the group of age* of friends represents an important factor in drugs consumption by teenagers (Kandel, 1985) which acts especially on the following dimensions.

- The use of psychoactive substances by the group of friends and its attitude towards it
- The identity given by the group of age which plays the role of a model (“you are somebody when you take drugs”)
- The influence of friends in the sense that they want to try anything without limit; they don’t have the sense of responsibility (the pressure exercised by the group of friends).

The group of age, of friends or the “gang” disposes of features, own habits and culture which form the base of its own identity consciousness. This prescribes the expectations to his members who have to cope with, to adapt, if the teenager wants to belong to that group.

That’s the reason why in one friend group the main form of spending time is marijuana, it is very hard to remain in the group for someone who refuses to consume the substance. In a group the drug attempt, consuming the drug together,



can be designed as a form of initiation. The frequency of marijuana consumption is determined significantly by the internalization of some norms. The attitude of respecting the norms of the group constitutes a principal risk factor. The recent researches have demonstrated that the influence of the group of friends on the consumption of drugs is higher than the influence of the parents (Windle, 2000).

In the life of the young the period of teen-age is very dangerous because this represents a critical point of transformation. At the same time appear the endeavor for autonomy and the necessity for intimacy. In this period of life the processes of individualization predominate, which structure the framework of some adequate relations with the group of friends.

If in the stage pre teen-age the opposition is characteristic, the rebellion against parents, that is to say the model of the group is stronger than the parental one, after a time appears a balance in which both types of relations will fulfill their specific role.

This period of life especially the one between 15-17 years is characterized by the desire to try noxious experiences.

An American sociologist Robert K. Merton (1968), who took over from Durkheim the concept of anomie, analyses the deviant behavior starting from the premise that the social balance is due to a general consensus upon a set of values. Two social structures are central in the explanation of deviant manner of life: the culturally defined *goals* and the institutionalized resources for achieving them. Between the two social structures there is not a constant relation, may be societies in which are allowed a multitude of resources for the achieving of the important goals and societies in which the general aspirations are forgotten becoming the central idea of respecting the limited resources made available. Between these two extremes there is a diversity of types of society with a higher or lower balance between the two structures. Thus sometimes discrepancies appear which make place for the *aberrant behavior* defined by Merton as a “symptom of dissociation between the culturally prescribed aspirations and the structured social pathways for the achievement of these aspirations” (Merton, 1968).

The friends in quality of group of reference prescribe the drug consumption as an ideal norm of behavior being able to practice strong pressure in the transmission of drug consuming models. A large part of the teenagers for example under the influence of friends light the first cigarette or consume alcohol for the first time but they also try illicit drugs together with friends. The researches show that the number of nights spent with friends is in relation with the consumption of substances (Aseltine, 1995).

Initially the drug is consumed in group because subsequently the toxicoman will want to be happy for the “dose” alone. The most frequent way of consumption remains the consumption in group for many reasons: the purchase of the drug is made more easily; the doses can be divided between the members of the group in the conditions when some of them don't have money; they can share their

impressions. The social context and the group of friends can be triggers in any toxicomania (Rășcanu, 2008).

The specialty literature assigns a raised influence of the consumption habit of *the elder brother*. The specific studies carried out the existence of some significant relations of drug consumption between brothers (Stormshak, Comeau & Shepard, 2004).

If the family doesn't fulfill its function/works dysfunctional, doesn't offer to the child human values then the child doesn't feel the importance of family links. Because it is not attached to family searches in other places the linking points, human relations. If the parents are working day and night in order to offer the teenagers the material and financial resources considering that these solve everything then the child feels that he is not important for his parents. Thus the child, the teenager is attracted to the group of friends being in the same situation because he identifies himself with them.

The international researches show that the influence of the group of friends, the pressure of the group even if it doesn't belong to the most powerful risk factors is associated to the consumption of drugs (Gilvarry, 2000).

### **The role of spare time in drug consumption**

In the life of teenagers the activities of their spare time represent the basic element of their way of life. The most important effect of modernization constitutes in the fact that the time granted to work and the spare time have changed. The time spent with studying has increased. Larson and Verma assigned social significance to time (Larson & Verma, 1999). The spare time has its own socializing role. The varieties of activities of spare time contribute to the development of the teenagers' identity. In the last decades new ways of spending the spare time have appeared.

There are varieties of spending the spare time which have an increased risk effect, respectively activities which have a protective role (creative activities, religion, intellectual activities).

Hendry and collaborators (1993) show that amongst the teenagers who go to disco the number of those who consume drugs is higher. The drug consumption has recreational orientation; it is linked to enjoyment in group. The teenagers who go to pubs, discos, represent the most active part which for the others represents models, especially by the way of life and the manner of spending the spare time. The amphetamine consumption, LSD and ecstasy are connected to places for dancing.

Their study show that in the last years the number of teenagers who spend their free time with sports has increased. The sport has a protective role in trying substances.

On the basis of the modes of spending the free time by teenagers 4 styles of spending the free time were identified.

- *Style of spending free time oriented towards consumption and friends:* distraction, visiting malls or commercial centers, discussions, TV viewing, video.
- *Intellectual and artistic style:* cinema, theatre, concerts, reading, discussions
- *Style which seeks experiences, technical:* computer, internet, sport, hobby, music
- *Conservative-traditional style:* housework, participating at religious events, reading

The style of spending free time oriented towards consumption and friends correlates with all the noxious passions while the other 3 have negative relations with the forms of substance consumption.

The structure of the teenagers' spare time is influenced by the social statute of the teen's family. The intellectual style and the one which seeks experiences is characteristic to the educated teens and with a better material situation. The one which is oriented towards friends and the traditional conservative are characteristic to children whose parents have a lower level of education. The style oriented towards friends correlates with negative output at school.

The Espad researches distinguish 3 factors of spare time: *active, in motion*, (distractions, disco, rides) *active, individual*, (reading, sport, hobby), *passive* (they don't read, don't have hobbies, don't participate at distractions, instead they spend a lot of time in front of the computer) (Liteanu, Teodoru & Stoica, 2005). All the researches have a common idea according to which those activities of spending the free time which are connected especially to the group of friends encourage the attempt of legal or illicit substances. The activities which need creativity drop the inclination to drug consumption but the searching of sensational can increase the probability of trying drugs.

The research data show that the young junkies don't participate at valuable cultural activities.

The young who consume drugs highlight a weaker relation in the framework of the family, identify themselves with the deviant friends and they often participate at unconventional forms of manifestation (Lopez, Redondo & Angeles, 1989).

## **The role of school in drug consumption**

In the second part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as a result of the economic and social development, the developed countries are characterized by the appearance of the society based on science. The knowledge of people increased suddenly and it becomes accepted the idea according to which the assertion on the self and its social utility becomes the science.

The expectations connected to education have changed; thus instead the diligence for equal opportunities, the achievement of a high output has become important. The sudden transformation of the labor force requires whole life education. The people have to keep pace with the development, to develop their knowledge and

capability to keep their workplaces and to assure their statute in society respectively to be able to avoid isolation. Education has got a fundamental role in the social and personal development in the decrease of ignorance.

The relation between teachers has also changed: it has been formed a closer relation becoming “partners” in the educational process. Because the time allowed to each student has decreased, the chance to establish a personal relation also decreases (Delors, 1997).

The school is a social structure whose fundamental function is the regular transmission of culture. Besides the fact that it is socializing for the integration in an organized society, the school probably plays an important role in the sharing of science “of the symbolic capital” in the formation of social strata.

School fulfills 3 functions:

- the transmission of some socially important information
- to form attitudes which help the educational process
- to help the pupil in the preparation for a job

School has got other multiple functions. The school itself has formed over the centuries on the image of society. It plays a decisive role in the process of maturity. Coming out of the familial protector environment by the group of friends the horizons of the young are widening, we discover new values, we perceive new morals. Our knowledge becomes deeper by victories and by failures thus is formed the behavior which follows some norms or the one which becomes deviant.

Therefore school is the fundamental structure of formal education. It is the defining factor of late social institutionalization land of socialization. It represents defining interactions, relations between students-students, teacher-students. Unfortunately the formal education in this acceptance means just a transmission of ideas because school is unable to replace the talent care, the guarantee equal opportunities, the attention granted to each individual. This is not the mission throughout life, but the control of the familial-religious norms or of other norms is missing from the modern societies In my opinion the experience lived by educators, psychologists in the medium of a family center the one which is different in society from other reasons appears at some lonely teenagers.

Many researches demonstrate that the inadequate relations between teacher-student, student-student the dissatisfaction for school contribute to the formation of deviances.

School (in its framework the teacher too) has a defining function in the student's personal development. First of all this situation was created by the changes in families: the changed life environment of parents and the growth tension in the family have put under question mark the practical personality development of the child. To be more precise these changes often generated adverse trends in the children's development. The teacher should have replaced more and more these goals, deficiencies, these negative phenomena.

The young of forthcoming age classmates and other colleagues play an important role generally in the development of the student but especially in the relation between school and teenager. It can be seen that those pupils who succeeded to integrate in the school environment (have friends, are accepted by colleagues, are not excluded) they go with more pleasure to school than those who couldn't identify themselves with the school environment.

The school environment doesn't appear just at the level of student-teacher relation, but also in the group relations and maybe these are the most defining in the acquisition of a risky behavior.

Because the teenagers spend a great part of their time at school the suitable school environment (for example an accepting environment in the group, helpful colleagues) and the successful outcome (school results, normal attitude towards the school requirements, low stress) provide the sensation of success and proficiency) (Seiffge-Krenke et al., 2001).

At school a series of factors can exist which can lead to the attempt of trying substances:

- low school efficiency
- settling-in problems, behavioral difficulties (pupil's failure to get his remove, non-attending the classes, expulsion (Lorion, 1991).

The school efficiency is an important factor in the life of teenagers as it regards the spiritual life: induces positive and negative changes. The first school years from a psychological-evolutional point of view are critical periods. The young and his family now are meeting for the first time in an organized environment with the social expectations of the educator respectively with the evaluation of his behavior and output. The expectations cause deep traces in the teenager especially in the first years of school which on the one part can be incentive and on the other part can be regressive. A first problem for example is the absence of mind but the problems connected to writing and reading are also frequent, respectively disruptive behavioral problems of personality. The evolution is blocked by low grades, the fear of failure respectively the lack of self-confidence.

*The experience gained at school plays an important role in the appearance or refusal of drug consumption. Those teenagers who are dissatisfied with school will consume with a higher probability illicit or legal substances. As a result of the weak school results learning difficulties and the failures connected to learning conflictive relations can occur with the school environment and the teenager can turn against the school values. If this process can't be stopped a circle is formed which produce the decrease of school efficiency and it will lead to a lower learning motivation (Schulenberg et al., 1994). While the good school results and the positive attitude towards school, the school becomes a protective factor against the problematic behavior.*

An important role has got the *atmosphere at school* respectively the more the school affords greater attention to the pupils needs the most they will love school. Another important role has the pupils' attitude towards teachers that is to say the more the pupils see their teachers helpful the more they love school. The school stress follows which is having a negative note: the more the school assignments are tormenting the young the more they will have a negative attitude towards school. *School efficiency* has a defining role, respectively the attitude towards classmates.

Researchers from our country and abroad show that 10-15% of pupils are facing learning problems. This percentage has increased in the last years. The learning problems appear from the secondary school and high school and it is manifesting in the pupil's failure. Generally the researches demonstrated that the girls report better in school and have better results. Therefore the problems connected to the report towards school can constitute ominous signs of illicit or legal substances.

The links between school life and the consumption of substances were studied with the indicators of school efficiency and with the absences by missing classes. In both cases it turned out that there is a significant link between the *school results, the frequency of absences and the consumption of substances*. The school media is better at those pupils who don't consume substances. To this average are approaching those who consume legal substances and the weakest result are registered at those pupils who have consumed illicit substances.

The relation between absences due to missing the classes and the consumption of substances is significant in all countries (Hibell et al., 2004).

To the absences from school, missing classes respectively running away from home contribute a series of factors: the negative attitude towards school, settling-in problems, sentimental difficulties, respectively different familial influences.

Another important school problem constitutes the *settling-in difficulties*. A part of the teenagers underestimate some institutional norms. They are those who don't settle in the school rules, action against them, respectively and withdraw under the influence of them. Through their behavior they are disturbing the teachers and their colleagues. These difficulties of setting-in can be explained by exaggerated control. In the other category enter the behavioral difficulties. The behavioral problems can be different: for example if the pupil disturbs the class with comments, using obscene words, discusses with the desk mate, is disrespectful with the teacher etc.

## Conclusions

According to Rășcanu (2008, p. 26), the internal causes of drug consumption are: curiosity, "the forbidden fruit" temptation, the desire for high sensations, the lack of maturity/responsibility, personal problems, troubles, despair, loneliness, the lack of friends, boredom, the lack of some interesting preoccupations; the need to stand out; while the external causes are :the bad influence of the environment, of the group of "dubious" friends, the unfavorable family climate; the low cultural and

educational level; the lack of information or denaturalized information with regard to drugs; the imitation of models from films, magazines, newspapers.

The researches carried out on drug consumers have certified the fact that drug consumption is closely related to life problems, of the questions, searches of the teenager or the young. The most important social environments are: *the family, the school, the group of entourage, (friends, spare time)*. These social environments determine the drug consumption through some specific characteristics: the family by its structure, by the deviances and disharmonies of its framework, by the promoted style; the group of friends, by their own system of values, by the identity given by this, by the pressure of the group, by the ways of spending the free time; while the school with low school efficiency, failure, learning difficulties, settling-in problems, behavioral difficulties, (missing classes, expulsion), through the inadequate relation between pupil-teacher, pupil-pupil, through dissatisfaction towards school.

If a teenager doesn't find the expected support in the two fundamental environments-family and school-seeks other groups which support him, accept him, give him the sensation of success surpassing the frustrations and dissatisfaction. The social group which in most of the cases offers the teenager such an environment which increases his self-esteem is the group of friends, the peer group, principally with the conflicting values in relation to the ones promoted by the family and school.

On the basis of the identified ideas I will formulate some assumptions which will be tested through an extensive study achieved in the high schools from the county Satu Mare. This study will be an instrument of measurement of the risks of drug consumption to which are exposed the teenagers from the high schools in Satu Mare. The initiative starts from the observation according to which many students from Satu Mare have tried or have become dependent of drugs.

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