

Blog by international development student, Tolulope Akinola

Effects of drug addiction of parents on children.

'Once addiction moves into a home, it has a way of taking over, making itself one of the family - albeit the most unpredictable and destructive member' (Robertson, 2013). This statement aptly portrays the picture of addiction in a family. Aside from the risk of a child with alcoholic or drug-using parents developing the bad habit of addiction, stigma is addiction's equally dysfunctional sibling. Children are discouraged by stigma from bringing classmates home after school out of concern for humiliation. It compels a child to cover for a parent, tell lies to others, and invent justifications in order to flee the prying eyes of society. Drug addiction truly has terrible and heartbreaking repercussions on family, friends, and other people. Addicts have a kind of obscurity due to the physical, psychological, and spiritual aspects of addiction, and they will do whatever it takes to continue abusing drugs or alcohol, even if it means neglecting the people they care about the most. Indeed, addiction and stigma are like spoiled children, demanding all the attention until eventually, the family's true children become invisible. According to a research conducted by (Parolin et al., 2016), parents' addiction frequently involves a childrearing setting marked by poor parenting abilities, unfavorable circumstances, and negative childhood experiences, which results in dysfunctional outcomes. For these kids, maltreatment can range from mild neglect to severe physical, emotional, and even sexual abuse. The emotional and psychological growth of a kid may be irreparably impacted by a parent's substance usage, which can create great suffering for both parties. In a happy parent-child relationship, the parent assumes the position of caregiver, giving a child who is still growing a safe place to live, emotional support, and financial security. However, these roles are frequently flipped and the child takes on the role of the caregiver in parent-child interactions that involve substance abuse. Many kids aren't even conscious that they've accepted this duty. Some of the "obligations" of a child-parent are clear-cut, such as assisting an intoxicated father with cleanup after a night of binge drinking or taking a part-time job to help pay for groceries. All of these situations need the youngster to act at a level of maturity that they might not be capable of. The emotional boundaries that allow children to grow up independently are frequently crossed by addicted parents, converting the youngster into a skilled caregiver who lacks social skills or a sense of self (American Addiction Centers, 2021). They could thus

develop increased mental and emotional instability. Due to a parent's substance misuse, children may experience severe guilt and self-blame. In their adult years, they could start to feel unworthy or form unhealthy attachments. It is impossible to overstate how harmful drug use by parents may be to their offspring. The physical repercussions usually start before babies are even born, according to Extra Mile Recovery (2018). Pregnancy-related drug use has been linked to mental, emotional, and attention issues as well as physical deformities, stunted growth, and malformations of essential organs.

In Canada, the prevalence of parental addiction inflicted on children is about 20% for women and 16% for men. (Statistics Canada, 2013). Over a million kids in Australia live in families where at least one adult is addicted. In the US, alcohol or other drug use by a parent is a factor in 75% of child fatalities and more than 50% of all substantiated complaints of abuse. There are at least 9 million children and teenagers in the European Union who have alcoholic parents. According to research, 2.6 million school-age children in the UK alone are affected by parental alcoholism. Considering the nations throughout the world that are now not even assessing the issue, the number of youngsters living in homes that are wrecked by alcohol problems skyrockets. (Dünnebier, 2016)

Consequently, the state of having addicts as parents will undoubtedly lead to an infringement of the best interest of the child contained in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (Article 3, Article 18). This also includes the infringement of the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development (Article 27) and the right of a child to family (Article 9) among others.

The most effective technique to assist kids with parents who abuse drugs is for the parents to seek therapy, and in severe circumstances, especially one where the parent refuses to stop the drug abuse, the children may be taken from the household and placed in foster care. However, the stigma attached with addiction makes it almost impossible for children of addicts to voice out and seek help. Therefore it is paramount that the issue of stigma be continually addressed across all levels of education to compel children of addicts to speak and receive help.

References

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