Government of India
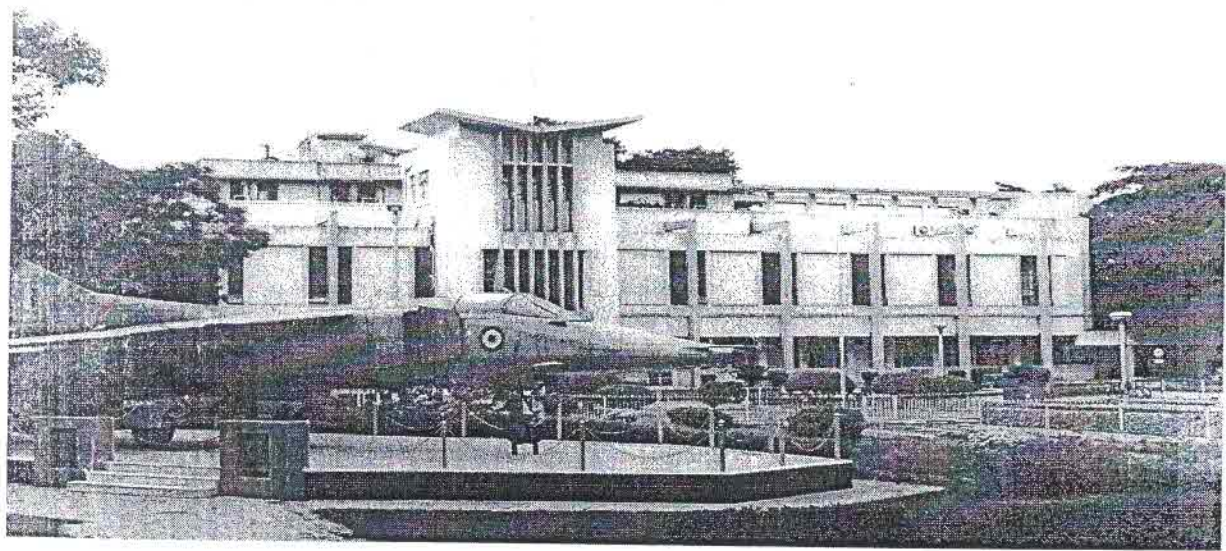**Ministry of Human Resource Development**

Interdisciplinary National Conference on
"Intervention of Science and Technology, Social Problems and Sustainable Development"
17th June, 2018

Editor
Dr. G. N. Nimbarte

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On

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40. Addiction-A Stigma on Indian Society

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Introduction

A social problem has been defined as "a situation confronting a group or section of society which inflicts injurious consequences that can be handled only collectively". Social problems changes with the passage of time. What was not considered a social problem a few decades ago may become a crucial social problem two decades hence. A social problem exists whenever we become conscious of a difficulty, a gap between our preferences and reality. A social problem, thus, involves a value judgement, a feeling that a condition is detrimental and requires change.

Social problems need to be analyzed in terms of the influences upon them by group processes and social relationships. Social problems are interrelated and interdependent in the sense that they are cumulatively promotive and provocative, that is, they foster and encourage one another. There are unfortunately many social problems in India still existing. One need to overcome them collectively with proper analyzing and awareness. Addiction is one of the major social problems in India.

According to Wikipedia, Addiction is a state characterized by compulsive engagement in rewarding stimuli, despite adverse consequences; it can be thought of as a disease or biological process leading to such behaviors. The two properties that characterize all addictive stimuli are that they are (positively) reinforcing (i.e. , they increase the likelihood that a person will seek repeated exposure to them) and intrinsically rewarding (i.e. , they activate the brain's "reward pathways", and are therefore perceived as being something positive or desirable). According to Medilexicon's Medical Dictionary: Addiction is Habitual psychological or physiologic dependence on a substance or practice that is beyond voluntary control.

What is the difference between a habit and an addiction?

Addiction - there is a psychological/physical component; the person is unable to control the aspects of the addiction without help because of the mental or physical conditions involved.