

**DRUG CULTURE OPENING NEW**  
**GENERATION GAP**

**PARENTS MUST WAKE UP TO HIDDEN WORLD OF  
PICK AND MIX CONSUMPTION BY THE YOUNG'**

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Drug-taking has become an integral part of youth culture and a significant part of the lives even of schoolchildren. But the attitude of adults is opening a new generation gap by forcing them into secrecy, according to the authors of a study published yesterday.

More than half (51 per cent) of more than 700 young people in north-west England, questioned over three years between the ages of 14 and 16, had tried drugs. Many more, 76 per cent had been offered drugs.

Howard Parker, professor of social policy at Manchester University and head of the project, said half of those, now aged 17, who had not tried drugs expected to do so within the next year. He takes of pick n' mix consumption by young people, who would as readily smoke a spliff or drop some amphetamines on a Friday night as a down a designer drinks or buy a round at the pub. The availability of drugs »is a normal part of the leisure-pleasure landscape«, the report says.

»Over the next few years, and certainly in urban areas, non-drug trying adolescents will be a minority group. In one sense, they will be deviants. Professionals in education, health care and the criminal justice system, politicians and parents, urgently need to acknowledge that for many young people taking drugs has become the norm.«

The trend observed in the report, published by Institute for the study of Drug Dependence, is mirrored in research at Exeter University and the British crime Survey, Prof Parker said. The danger is that adult society is refusing to acknowledge it and pushing young people often by expulsion from school, if they get caught.

»We are not having a debate about what is going on, and we are stacking up problems for the future. Real social anger is going to develop,« said professor Parker

In the semi-private world of youth culture, where the over30s rarely browse, drug information and images abound. Mainstream youth magazines, available in newsagents, run features on the positive and negative effect of drugs. House music titles and lyrics tell of

getting high. Examples cited by the study included Ellis Dee, Pure XTC, Easy E, High on a happy vibe, The Rush, Overdose and Acid Heads.

Advertising and marketing executives are well aware of youth drug culture and use images, music and language to tap into that drug culture, the report claims. Thin, unhealthy junkie lookalikes model grunge fashion on the cat walks and in magazines.

A covert vocabulary of drug slang excludes unknowing adults. M25s, Pink Pigs, Red Indians, Shamrocks, Brown Biscuits and Dovse are all ecstasy tablets. Bart Simpsons, Batman's and Penguins are LSD trips. The adults think the overheard conversation is about television watching, not a hallucinogenic experience.

The extent of the permeation of youth culture with drug is shown up in the brake down of old stereotypes. Girls are taking them as much as boys, says the report, and middle-class youth as much as working class. Drugs are readily available at school, in the street, in the pub and the car.

»We must take seriously the possibility that what is officially defined as a soluble social problem is in the fact a functional and powerful social process. If we begin to view this generation's engagement with drugs as a form of consumption...than our conclusions about the management of the present and influence on the future look very different,« says the report.

The biggest problem, says Prof Parker, is the growing generation gap . »You don t get families discussing drugs. There is no open discussion between the head teacher and the lower sixth because he is just expelled someone for drugs. Young people are convinced that any whiff of drugs from the bedroom or anywhere else will.«

### **integral (adj)**

- celoten
- necessary and important as a part
- Drug-taking has become an **integral** part of youth culture.
- He is an **integral** part of our team and we cannot do without him.
- /'ɪn·tɪ·grəl/

### **minority (n)**

- manjšina
- a smaller number or part
- »Over the next few years, and certainly in urban areas, non-drug trying adolescents will be a **minority** group.«
- It is a privileged **minority** of people who can afford two homes.
- /maɪ'n rɪ·tɪ/

### **acknowledge (obj)**

- priznati
- to accept, admit or recognise
- Professionals in education, health care and the criminal justice system, politicians and parents, urgently need to **acknowledge** that for many young people taking drugs has become the norm.
- She **acknowledged** that she had been at fault.
- /ək'n lɪd /

### **society (n)**

- družba

- a large group of people who live together in an organised way (all people in a country can be referred as a society)

- The danger is that adult **society** is refusing to acknowledge it and pushing young people often by expulsion from school, if they get caught.

- We must also consider the needs of younger members of **society**.

- /sə'saɪ·ə·ti/

### **illicit (adj)**

- nedovoljen

- illegal or disapproved of

- Mainstream youth magazines, available in newsagents, run features on the positive and negative effect of **illicit** drugs.

- The police are trying to stop the illicit trade in stolen cars.

- /ɪ'lɪs·ɪt/

### **expulsion (n)**

- izključitev

- forcing someone, or being forced, to leave somewhere

- The danger is that adult society is refusing to acknowledge it and pushing young people often by **expulsion** from school, if they get caught.

- This is the second **expulsion** of a club member this year.

- /ɪk'spʌ·n/

### **extent (n)**

- obseɪdʒ

- area or length

- The **extent** of the permeation of youth culture with drug is shown up in the brake down of old stereotypes.

- You can see the full **extent** oh Manhattan from here.

- /ɪk'stɛnt/

### **stereotype (n)**

- stereotɪp

- disapprovɪŋ

- The extent of the permeation of youth culture with drug is shown up in the brake down of old **stereotypes**.

- Many parents are concerned that racist **stereotypes** are being passed on to children through toys and books.

- /'ster.i.ə.taɪp/

### **claim (v)**

- t'reɪdɪtɪ

- to say that something is true or is a fact, although you cannot prove it

- Advertising and marketing executives are well aware of youth drug culture and use images, music and language to tap into that drug culture, the report **claims**.

- An unknown terrorist group has **claimed** responsibility for this bomb attack.

- /kleɪm/

### **engagement (n)**

- dogovor
- an arrangement to do something at a particular time
- If we begin to view this generation's **engagement** with drugs as a form of consumption...
- The band have **engagements** in New York this weekend.
- /ɪ 'geɪd ˌmɛnt/

### **SUMMARY**

The study published yesterday has shown, that today drug-taking is a part of all adolescent's life. But the difference in attitudes of parents and children is opening the new generation gap.

We can get drugs everywhere, so it is not so surprising that more than half of adolescents tried drugs and even more want to do that. In next few years there will be a very small group of pupils who did not try drugs. There is no difference between sexes and the level of standard. Talk of adolescents is using changed vocabulary, so adults don't know what are they talking about.

This breakdown of old stereotypes is opening the new generation gap. We don't talk about this problem enough and someday problems from the past will catch us.