

Addictions as a product of social dislocation and family stress

Addiction can be termed as the over-dependence, by a person, on a substance, item, or activity on a daily or random basis, to physically and/ or psychologically get stimulated or excited through the achievement of 'a high'. Not only is addiction an unceasing disorder of the brain, it is also rooted in the socialization process and experience of a person. Accordingly, the ASAM American Society of Addiction Medicine defines addiction as not only a problem pertaining to the moral, criminal, and/or social arenas, but the resultant effect of brain disorder, which is manifested in the aforementioned areas.

Although addiction, can affect anyone in society, it is especially profound in the so-called free market societies where constant and widespread dislocation, of its members occurs. Truly 'free' market arenas, are devoid of such distortions as social responsibilities, ethnic tastes, religious values, social roles, charity, union rights and family responsibilities among others. Such arenas are characterized by the presence of free flow/ exchange of labor (force), currency, land, and consumer products that are guided by the market forces of supply and



demand.

Thus, as Adam Smith had warned, there was/ and is need for government resistance towards, and stand against the manufacturing base, which majorly as a result of its economic strength, has had the ability of intimidating the legislative arms of various governments. The resultant effects being either a relaxation or abhorrence of governing laws, the notions of extravagance and private luxury have come to surpass their limitations in the contemporary social system. The consequence, on the socio-cultural and economic perspectives of such a society, has been widespread disassociation/ dislocation of the populations, which has inadvertently resulted in insatiable mass addiction.

Not only is a large percentage of the overall population addicted on/ to drugs and alcohol, but also to other lifestyle attractions/ activities as gambling, sexual interaction, binge eating, raving interactions associated with the music/ entertainment angle, and other media interactions. The 21st century has become both cruel and unjust to the poor and rich alike with jobs vanishing everywhere, social systems becoming both unstable and weak and Man experiencing a myriad of interactions that have come to change fundamentally his ideals, perspectives and ultimately, his/ her way of life.

Not only are people changing, on a habitual basis, their families and

lovers, occupations, languages, skill-sets, ideologies and spiritual beliefs, social relations and nationalities, but also their basic social interactions. Globalization, as a product of Man's great evolutionary journey, has in turn resulted in the continued state of the environment's infeasibility, adding to the strain and stress of survival in the contemporary arena.

Addiction and dislocation go hand in hand as is supported by the fact that global populations, when unable to realize an acceptable degree of integration in the psychosocial arena, there is a tendency of increased and sustained substitution of lifestyles for more achievable ones. Through such 'substitute' lifestyles, as aforementioned, these people/ populations are able to achieve a sense of belonging and/ or meaning; thus sustaining their endurance against the painful void brought about by their social dislocation.

The above correlation between dislocation, especially if on a severe scale, and addiction is historically based. From the industrial era of Europe to the modern day capitalist society, the two notions go hand in hand, further adding to the levels of social disorder and dysfunction. Drugs, especially alcohol and cigarette smoking, among other vices, though in existence, were not as commonplace as is the case in the contemporary arena. This has been because of the 'free market ideology' that has been championed through Liberalism, by the contemporary dominant economic ideal of Capitalism.

Although still cherishing the ideal of the 'universality' of the Human race being achievable through proper utility of the free market ideology, modern day media has conversely aided in covering-up to the shortfalls towards this journey. Addiction, a resultant effect of both spiritual and political decadence in relation to socio-cultural and economic aspects, will continue on an ever-increasing pace in affecting negatively on the populations of the earth if psychosocial integration is not incorporated.

Vital in the control and apprehension of addiction, is the maintenance of social structures in which all members are integrated, with a sense of belonging/ identity and purpose/ meaning being existent. Political action, for its properly utility, will necessitate a paradigm shift in terms of the all-too well known deliberate on addiction. Current political ideals are based on the 'war on drugs' campaign, which being supportive of the notion of individual drug use/ dependency economically gain from the variety of professions and institutions that profit from its (addiction's) reduction, treatment, 'harm reduction' and/ or prevention.

Furthermore, free market policies/ tendencies, practiced to the extreme; continue to increase the levels of ecological, psychological, and socio-economic devastation on the society. There is need for cautious reflection on the overall notion of addiction, which is rooted in the resultant negative effects of both dislocations especially if on the

extreme end of the scale, and the workings of the prevailing 'free market economies'.

In conclusion, a working substitute, to the prevailing and extreme form of market orthodoxy is relevant in instilling upon the global populations a divine form of trust, which is aimed at protecting, promoting, and nurturing the existent intricate and delicate bonds within the social arena. This, not only is it applicable to the physical dimensions, but also necessarily so in the spiritual and humanitarian arenas.