Opium Cultivation- Idu Mishmi Ladies from Roing object

“People (Digaru and Taraon Mishmis) across all sections of life in Lohit and Anjaw districts support opium cultivation on the grounds that they are poor and that opium cultivation is traditional.

Their immediate western neighbours of Lower Dibang Valley district the headquarters of which is in Roing town fiercely oppose it. Their opposition has not been very successful as opiates use is increasing and in some lower parts even opium is being cultivated.

This pamphlet that they had prepared for the visit of the Governor in August 2013 is interesting for its zeal and optimism...... Romesh Bhattacharji"
Join hands against Opium

Issued by District Administration, Lower Dibang Valley district in conjunction with the Enjalumenda Women’s Empowerment Forum, Roing (EMWEF)
What is Opium?

Opium (poppy tears, lachryma papaveris) is the dried latex obtained from the opium poppy (Papaver somniferum). Opium contains approximately 12% morphine, an alkaloid, which is frequently processed chemically to produce heroin for the illegal drug trade. The latex also includes the alkaloid codeine and its similarly structured cousin thebaine. It also contains non-analgesic alkaloids such as papaverine and noscapine. The traditional, labor-intensive, method of obtaining the latex is to scratch ("score") the immature seed pods (fruits) by hand; the latex leaks out and dries to a sticky yellowish residue that is later scraped off, and dehydrated. The word "meconium" (derived from the Greek for "opium-like", but now used to refer to infant stools) historically referred to related, weaker preparations made from other parts of the poppy or different species of poppies.

The production of opium itself has not changed since ancient times. Through selective breeding of the Papaver somniferum plant, the content of the phenanthrene alkaloids morphine, codeine, and to a lesser extent thebaine, has been greatly increased. In modern times, much of the thebaine, which often serves as the raw material for the synthesis for hydrocodone, hydromorphone, and other semi-synthetic opiates, originates from extracting Papaver orientale or Papaver bracteatum.

Opium for illegal use is often converted into heroin, which is less bulky, making it easier to smuggle, and which multiplies its potency to approximately twice that of morphine. Heroin can be taken orally, by intravenous injection, intranasally, or smoked (vaporized) and inhaled.
Impact of Drug Abuse on Physical & Mental Health

The impact of the drug trade/abuse on the physical and mental health of the population can be categorized in terms of impact on the individual and on the society at large.

Impact on the Individual

a. Physical Health:
   - Physical symptoms related to abuse - states off dependency, abuse, psychosis, poisoning or over dose.
   - Indirect effects of drug use - cirrhosis, nutritional or metabolic disorders, viral infections such as HIV/AIDS or hepatitis, trauma resulting from traffic accidents, other accidents or personal attacks.
   - Requirements for medical attention/hospitalization - loss of earnings, depletion of savings, poverty.
   - The ultimate price - death.

b. Mental Health:
   Drug abuse can result in a number of disorders including:
   - Schizophrenia
   - Manic depression
   - Paranoia
   - Personality disorder
   - Depression
   - Anxiety
   - Panic attacks
   - Agitation
   - Lower self esteem

Ultimate price of opium addiction is - death
Impact on the Society

The cumulative impact of individuals represents impact on the society. In this regard the costs are very virtually incalculable. It is the society that ultimately bears the costs associated with individual abuse including:

- Treatment in public and private institutions, including hospital/rehab admissions and duration of stay.
- Deaths or serious injuries by homicide, accident, or suicide associated with psychoactive substance use.
- Increased stress and psychological burdens on society, especially in response to escalating serious crime rates associated with the trade including property loss, murders and kidnappings.

- Cost of premature death.
- Substance abuse reduction costs associated with creating awareness and encouraging attitudinal and behaviour change for current, past and non-users.

Current Patterns and Emerging Trends in Drug Use

- Increasing youth participation.
- Increase in drug-related problems, including crime and violence, susceptibility to HIV/AIDS and hepatitis, breakdown in the social order.
- Profile of the drug abuser - upper and middle class, not limited to youth, not mostly the poor.
Drug Laws

The major drug laws of India are the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (1985) and the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (1985).

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Bill, 1985 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 23 August 1985. It was passed by both the Houses of Parliament and it was assented by the President on 16 September 1985. It came into force on 14 November 1985 as The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (shortened to NDPS Act). Under the NDPS Act, it is illegal for a person to produce/manufacture/cultivate, possess, sell, purchase, transport, store, and/or consume any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance.

Under one of the provisions of the act, the Narcotics Control Bureau was set up with effect from March 1986. The Act describes itself as "An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to narcotic drugs, to make stringent provisions for the control and regulation of operations relating to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, to provide for the forfeiture of property derived from, or used in, illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, to implement the provisions of the International Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and for matters connected therewith."
Narcotics Control Bureau
The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is the chief law enforcement and intelligence agency of India responsible for fighting drug trafficking and the abuse of illegal substances. It was created on 17 March 1986 to enable the full implementation of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (1985) and fight its violation through the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (1988).

Punishment:
Anyone who contravenes the NDPS Act will face punishment based on the quantity of the banned substance.
- where the contravention involves small quantity, with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to 6 months, or with fine which may extend to 10,000 or with both;
- where the contravention involves quantity lesser than commercial quantity but greater than small quantity, with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to 10 years and with fine which may extend to 1 lakh;
- where the contravention involves commercial quantity, with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 10 years but which may extend to 20 years and shall also be liable to fine which shall not be less than 1 lakh but which may extend to 2 lakh.
Repentance of an Opium Addict

Bellai a resident of Cheta Village employed in the State Transport Department has been very ill for the past 10 months and therefore not been able to go to work. He shared his thoughts with the members of Enjalumenda Women’s empowerment forum who on hearing of his ill health dropped in to visit him and understand his condition.

He has five children, the oldest is in jail due to possession of drugs. The second and third children are away with their relatives in Tezu and Anjaw for their studies and keeping them away from the environment at home. While the youngest daughter, aged 8 and fourth child attends school, apart from doing all household chores and taking care of both their parents who are very ill due to adverse impact of opium addiction.

Bellai, for almost 9 years he was an alcoholic consuming local liquors like ‘Roksi’ and took opium or ‘Kani’ for more than a year, which eventually proved to be a deadly cocktail, with adverse impact on his health, economy and family life. The ripple effect of the drug abuse by father created ripple effect on his children; who too are drug addicts and steals from home to meet their drug needs and one of them is in prison.

He has become very frail, weak and his liver is damaged and is living his days counting, hoping for salvation through his death- the ultimate price that an opium addict pays.
Filled with remorse and guilt at his wasted life, Bellai says, when one sits down to eat opium, it is hard to move from the lure of the "puffing". Once addicted to opium, one goes deeper and deeper into it and that's how his life has been, unable to turn the wheel of his life back on track. He stresses, that he tried giving it up a couple of time but went back to his habits again. He regrets for ruining his life, his children's lives and that of his spouse. He admits that sometimes there is no money for food, firewood and other necessities, as all the money earned is spent on paying off the debts.

Moreover, his wife too is also an alcoholic, and all his urges and pleas to her to give up alcohol fell on deaf ears, and now he has resigned to the knowledge that she is heading in the same road as himself.

With tears in his eyes, he recalls that during his initial days, when he took to opium for 'fun sake', his children had then protested against his deadly habits of consuming alcohol and eating opium at the same time. Now, at the sunset of his life, realizing his folly he persuades his addicted children and their friends, to stay away from "Opium"; but he is ridiculed and laughed at, for it was he who had set the example for them to emulate. Now two of his children are addicted to drugs.

He cannot forgive himself and he is trying to get them back on the track with the help of his relatives. He earnestly prays that his other children learn from his mistakes.
Alternative Sources of Income

Piggery

Home made products

Candle making

Finished products
An Appeal

Shri. Mukut Mithi,
Hon'ble Member of Rajya Sabha

Opium is one of the biggest social issues being faced by our society and state at large, if not checked now it will have a catastrophic effect in years to come.

Appreciating the efforts put in by the District Administration and the NGO, EMWEF and all others lending their hands for this noble cause; I appeal to all the people from all walks of lives to participate in the campaign against drugs and strive to make our society "free from drugs."

Shri. Laeta Umbrey,
Hon'ble MLA, Roing

I am extremely happy to learn that Enjalu Menda Womens Empowerment Forum, an NGO working since last many years for the cause of Women in the male dominated society is bringing out a Booklet on Opium and Drug abuses in the District with the help of the Lower Dibang Valley District Administration during the maiden visit of His Excellency, the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, LtGen (Retd) Nirbhay Sharma.

The NGO has been spearheading the campaign against the Drug abuses in the district for the last few years. The campaign is being appreciated and supported by various other NGOs, the Public and the Government.

I extend my gratitude to the women group for their untiring team efforts in fighting against the menace of Drugs. I sincerely hope the team of women engaged through this NGO will maintain the same spirit until their Goal of Drugs Free Society is achieved.

I appeal everyone to support and wish the NGO a grand success in their endeavor.
A spark neglected burns the house, in the same way an ounce of drug used will ruin a person’s life.

Therefore, I appeal to all the people to stay away from any form of psychotropic drugs and actively support and participate to eradicate the drug menace from our district.

Let us free our society from drugs and make it a better place to live.

Drug addiction affects people everywhere threatening the health and welfare of youth and children, families and communities. Drug abuse continues to be a serious social problem and an obstacle to development. Young people, in particular, must be made aware of the dangers of these drugs. We can no longer concern ourselves merely with keeping illicit drugs out of the lives of the young, but we must join hands with the others to deal with this. We must vigorously enforce laws against those who indulge in drug trafficking.

Through the co-operative efforts of the various stakeholders involved, we can overcome this menace. While conveying my best wishes to the EMWEF, I would like to urge all concerned to work towards creating a drugs free environment for a healthy and peaceful society.
Consumption of any narcotics or psychedelic substance including opium or marijuana is not only an offence under NDPS act but also a social evil. This leads to a certain death to the person who consumes it. This leaves happily living families devastated.

I appeal to all the members of public of Lower Dibang Valley District to say a big "NO" to drugs, not to use drugs in any form, not to extend any kind of help to drug peddlers and to co-operate with Law enforcement agencies in eradicating this menace. Your timely, precious and active help will go a long way towards having a better, healthy and drugs free society.

I appeal to all the people of Lower Dibang Valley to refrain from using opium. As you all know it is the root cause of many hazards faced in society. It leads to degeneration of the self, the family unit and then the society as a whole.

There are stringent laws to deal with the Narcotics peddling as well as consumption of it. So I hope enough awareness is created to discourage anyone even contemplating trying it. If each individual takes up this responsibility then it is possible to make our society free from the shackles of drugs.
**EMWEF an introduction**

It is a collective platform to empower the educated women in and around Roing and; under the shadows of which, it aims to play an effective role in fighting for the rights and injustices against women and children. Its area of operation is Lower Dibang Valley and Dibang Valley districts.

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

EMWEF is committed to work on issues related to woman and child. It dreams to empower the women to stand for their rights and fight against injustice in all forms.

It hopes to achieve its objectives by organizing awareness programmes, workshops, seminars and counseling on various issues as an effort to guide and encourage the women and children towards adopting a healthy and meaningful life.

**BRIEF ACTIVITIES**

1. Organized an awareness program on adolescent related issues and sex education at Higher Secondary School Roing/Meka/Iduli/Mayu and Koronu.
3. Organized a door-to-door on harmful effects of illegal opium trade, joints and carried out a poster campaign against suspected peddlers in Roing Block.
5. Submitted a paper on violence against women to the UN special rapporteur in Imphal on 28/04/2013.

**About EMWEF**

**"ATTENTION"**

**OPENLY AND STRONGLY CONDEMN THESE DRUGS PEDDLERS**

It has come to the notice that the following citizens are indulging in the business of selling drugs. They possess the least interest in upholding the physical, social and social health of our society. Such criminals are neither a threat nor a blessing to children, the future of this society. Drug peddlers are equally to be considered as one of murder, may be even worse because of the hard and dangerous consequences cause to our families. Hence, these peddlers need to be brought to the task and condemned.

**EMWEF MESSAGE/APPEAL**

Let’s say no to drugs. Let’s join hands against drugs for the sake of our beloved ones. Let us enjoy and overcome the challenges of life and not fall an easy prey to drugs.

Also the EMWEF is thankful to those who have supported and cooperated with us in our endeavour to get rid of opium from the district; especially the District Administration under the Deputy Commissioner, Roing, Shiv Kumar, IAS, The Roing Police Department under the Superintendent of Police, B.K. Sing, NGOs, former ZPM, Anjite Menjo, Ms. Moloya Linggi of political leaders, print media personnel, Jiko Linggi, Roing correspondent of Independent Review, Raju Mimi of the Arunachal Times.
Women's group against drug, opium

Women group expresses solidarity against drug

Correspondent
ROING, 13 JUL

The Rajmahal Women's Empowerment Forum, a group of women fighting against drug and opium addiction, expressed solidarity with the women of Arunachal Pradesh. In a statement, the group said that they are fighting against the illegal drug trade and are determined to fight against the black market.

Two arrested on opium connection

Jiko Linggi
ROING, 14 JUL

The Roing Police Station recently arrested two persons in connection with trafficking and processing opium. The police have recovered the illegal substances from the accused and have remanded them to police custody.

"Parents' role vital in child's education"

Jiko Linggi
ROING, 13 JUL

The Roing Police Station recently arrested two persons in connection with trafficking and processing opium. The police have recovered the illegal substances from the accused and have remanded them to police custody.

The Roing police today arrested two persons in connection with trafficking and processing opium.
Opium kills you
your future, your family, your society, your nation
slowly—slowly—slowly—slowly
“Give it up, for the sake of your loved ones”

Ejala Menda Women Empowerment Forum.

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