

PROLOGUE

The drug menace touches millions of lives in both developed and developing countries. Its most negative impact is concentrated amongst the vulnerable and marginalized in societies. A major part of this vulnerable section comprises women afflicted and affected by drug abuse. On the one hand, these are women who are drug abusers and on the other, they are those who are burdened by drug abuse through intake by family members.

Cognizant of this fact and in line with its mandate, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, Regional Office for South Asia (UNDCP, ROSA) and the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment have launched major initiatives in the area of drug demand reduction. One of these includes monographs on various thematic studies.

This monograph entitled 'Women and Drug Abuse: the Problem in India' highlights the various issues concerning drug abuse among women and burden on women due to drug abuse by family members. The aim is to make this data available to a wide section of people and provide understanding of the issues in drug use relating to women.

This monograph is an important step forward in the joint efforts of UNDCP, ROSA and the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to generate knowledge on vital drug related issues in the region. It is hoped that this research will also provide reference points for assessing long-term change in years to come. We hope to undertake a number of specialized studies in the future, with greater depth of analysis, to serve as useful tools for decision makers in the region.

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