

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

The rate at which drug abuse is spreading throughout the world regardless of economic development, political ideology, state of technology, race and culture is reason enough to justify a serious investigation of its causes.

Recent newspaper headlines painted a frightening picture of how society is being affected by the widespread of Amphetamine, known in Thailand as “ya mah” but Amphetamine is more commonly known in public as “ya baa” the insanity drug (Bangkok Post, 1996). The problem of Amphetamine use spreading to schools is a matter of grave concern and must be solved urgently.

The young people of today are the future leaders of tomorrow, yet many of our children are being spoiled by drugs including Amphetamine use. This is a very emotional topic for professionals to consider objectively. Most young people use drugs because they perceive taking them as a new, interesting or exciting experience to share with their friends and peers and as a way of belonging, to identify with, and be accepted by a particular group. For many people, however, whether they are aware of it at the same time or not, involvement in drug use could be or is a response to an

escape from some complex personal or family problem or conditions in their lives which appear insoluble. Those for whom drug use serves these latter purposes tend to be the youngsters who use drugs in a more extreme, unbalanced, and self-destructive way. Such youngsters may also be more likely to engage in behaviour that is confusing, erratic, violent, or disturbing to their families and others, and as a result of these drug effects and behaviour, they tend to become psychologically and socially dysfunctional and thus more likely to require treatment. Youngsters take drugs for many different reasons and under many different circumstances and conditions. However, if we do not look at the history of teen drug use and consider its complex and intertwined variables, we will not be able to solve the drug use problem of that age group easily. To be effective in working with young people who are using drugs, we need to understand what present drug-use patterns are and what their implications are for the future. History has taught us that drugs-use trends and patterns are not constant. Therefore, we must continue to monitor how these trends and patterns are changing and reassess the needs of young people.

This paper examines the seriousness of Amphetamine use in Bangkok, especially, among Assumption University students. The findings of the related studies and a literature survey of drug problem is mentioned in order to provide the background information. In this aspect, I aim to contribute to them by conducting a research program focused on Assumption University students' use of Amphetamine.

The conceptual frame work is presented with its assumptions. Then the research proposal is submitted as a separate chapter followed by data analysis of a pilot study.

To reassess the needs of young people I choose to undertake this study which consists of four parts, namely essay, proposal, data exercise and presentation. In the essay, I explain what is Amphetamine, what are the effects and trend of Amphetamine use in Thailand. In the proposal, I present the rationale of the study, research methodology, operational definitions, limitation of study, budget allocation and time table for survey implementation.

In the data exercise, I explain about the data collection of the pilot study, material, the findings, the limitations and the lessons learned from the pilot study. In the presentation, I presented the rationale of the study, conceptual framework, objectives and research methodology of the proposal, findings of the pilot study and conclusion.