

A QUALITATIVE EXPLORATION OF DRUG ABUSE RELAPSE FOLLOWING TREATMENT

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Drug use is an alarming issue in Bangladesh. Most drug users return to drugs after treatment, in what becomes a vicious cycle of treatment and relapse. This study explored why they return and what pathways they follow. We carried out 5 key informant interviews, 10 in-depth interviews, 2 focus group discussions, 3 case studies, 8 observations, and more than 22 informal discussions with male drug users and others. We found a number of factors at individual, familial, societal, and treatment provider-levels that worked in an interactive way. Some initiated, while others facilitated, several pathways that led to relapse. Our findings will be of help in formulating and implementing effective interventions to reduce the number of users returning to drugs.