

**Seminar Report****Efforts Urged for Drug free Lahore**

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**Editor**

Every individual, collective political will, every institution, role of a female, civil society and media are required to create clean and healthy drug free atmosphere in Lahore.

This was stated by Federal Secretary Anti Narcotics Control Chaudhry Iftikhar Ahmad during a seminar. The seminar titled "Free Drug Lahore, How and Why" was held at a hotel by Mir Khalil-ur-Rehman Memorial Society (MKRMS) with the collaboration of the Ministry of Narcotics Control and Anti Narcotics Force. Speakers from various walks of life spoke on the occasion and highlighted the causes of effects of drugs and preventive measures to stop their spread. They all agreed that the education, awareness, planning, treatment, political and civil society can help make Lahore a drug free city. Chaudhry Iftikhar, who was the chief guest on the occasion said that this was the time when everyone would not only have to come forward but share his or her commitment and cooperation to make the project successful. He urged the leadership of all political parties to add drug free project into their manifestos. He said that as family was a key component of a social mobilization, it should play its part to create a drug free atmosphere in the city and added that without the participation of NGOs, Civil Society and the Media, the goal could not be achieved.

Anti Narcotics DG Major General Shakil Hussain said that it was need of the hour to educate young generation in colleges and universities as they are falling victim to the menace. He asked the rich to come forward and play their role by helping the poor addict financially.

Anti Narcotics Control Deputy Director, Altaf Qamar said that 600,000 people were taking to addiction every year so we all should stand up by joining hands to root out the menace from country. Ex-Secretary Excise and Taxation Shumail Ahmad Khwaja said the government was ready to include a chapter on narcotics in the curriculum in this regard.

Muhyuddin Wani, Secretary Information, Culture and Youth Affairs said that religious leaders should also be on board in the critical matter. He said social networking sights like the face book and twitter and celebrities could be used effectively to draw the public attention to the harms of drugs. Prof. Khalida Tarin said economic division was the main cause of promotion of drugs as people used them to get some satisfaction.

Dr. Azhar Masud Bhatti, Director Health Punjab said a committee should be constituted in every town and government should facilitate it overcome drug dealing.

Punjab University VC, Dr. Mujahid Kamran, Dr. Aslam, Dr. Zahid and Mian Zahid said that our youth had become a major victim of addiction and a major strategy needed to chalk out to save our youth as well as our future. Shahzad Ali Malik, President LCCI Lahore, offered his and his office bearer's financial and social help for making the city drug free. Wasif Nagi described the history of drug use in the world. Chief Executive of the Guard Group of Companies Iftikhar Ali Malik, members from civil society, NGOs, government officials, officers and media persons attended the seminar.