

Drug abuse as a social problem in Poland from the constructionist perspective. Part one: The Interwar Period

Abstract – Aim of the study is to understand a process of construction of national anti-drug policy in the period between the First World War and the Second World War.

The first part covers methodological and theoretical background, which I apply while analyzing the history of drug abuse as a social problem in Poland. I present main theoretical assumptions of the constructionist's view and describe analytical models (Lindblom's incremental model, Hayes's model and Kingdon's model).

In the second part, the history of drug abuse in the Interwar Period is presented. That history is analyzed from the constructionist perspective in sociology of social problems and in terms of public policy analysis.

The main conclusion is that at the beginning of the twenties drug abuse was an individual problem and became a social one in the years to come. Drug abuse was found dangerous in psychological and social sense. The first significant anti-drug action undertaken by the State was the Anti-drug Act of 22nd June 1923. From that year to the outbreak of the World War II political actors (the Government and the Parliament) as well as social actors (such as physicians) had been paying attention to drug abuse. The anti-drug policy as well as ongoing process of redefinition of drug problem was interrupted by the outbreak of the World War II.

Key words: drug abuse, social problem, constructionism, the Interwar Period