

As members of society it is our duty to strive to improve the world daily by attempting to prevent or control drug abuse problems. There are numerous ways members of society can achieve this goal. These ways include but are not limited to increasing drug resistance education, investigating the cause of the individual's drug abuse, and implementing various activities through community, school, or faith based organizations to serve as alternatives to drug use.

Drug resistance education can be very effective if it is tailored to the community and their members. Factors that must be considered when developing a program include age, gender, and ethnicity (Oetting, E, Edwards, R. Kelly, K and Beauvais, F., 1997). It is interesting to note that this type of education can be delivered as early as preschool to assess risk factors for drug abuse (Webster-Stratton, C., 1998). I believe that a change in approach to traditional drug resistance education would be more successful in improving the quality of the lives of young people. If these types of programs are to be continued into high school, I believe students will respond better if personal stories and guest speakers are utilized rather than regurgitated facts and scare tactics. Also, the education should stress the negative effects on an individual's life now other than health related issues that may occur later in life. I believe students will be more concerned and motivated to change behaviors if the education includes immediate social, physical, and emotional consequences.

Investigating the cause of the individual's drug abuse could halt the use of the drug completely. When the source of the problem is discovered, such as family issues, a traumatizing event, or an illness, then that individual can receive whatever prescribed treatment is necessary to treat the underlying cause of the drug abuse. Services to treat

these underlying causes include school counseling, family therapy, private counseling, peer counseling, and health care (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2003).

For those who have previously abused drugs or are currently trying to stop abusing drugs, a change in daily routine makes all the difference. Communities can create activities that are of interest to young people. These activities could include organized sports, non-traditional classes offered at community sites, and peer support groups. When creating these activities communities should consider how they will develop a prevention program, how they will assess the level for drug abuse, and most importantly ask themselves if their community is ready for prevention (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2003). Also, faith-based organizations, clubs, and school-based activities are most effective when used in combination with one another (Battistich, V., Solomon, D., Watson, M. and Schaps, E., 1997).

Increasing drug education, investigating the cause of the individual's drug abuse, and various activities including community, school, or faith based organizations to serve as alternatives to drug use are all effective ways that society can control drug abuse by today's young people. In order for these methods to be successful, every member of society must contribute to this cause. It will benefit both those abusing drugs, their families, our schools, and promote a stronger sense of community.