Role of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board in Prevention and Control of Drug Abuse in Sri Lanka
Establishment of NDDCB

The National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB) which was established by the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board Act No.11 of 1984, is the principal national institution charged with the formulation and review of a National policy relating to the prevention, control treatment and rehabilitation of drug abuse. This Board is the pioneer Government Institution that discharges its functions with the aim of eradicating drug menace from Sri Lanka.

Role of the NDDCB

In terms of the Sri Lanka National Policy for Prevention and Control of Drug Abuse, NDDCB plays a pivotal role at National and International level with regard to prevention and control of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances abuse and precursor chemicals. NDDCB has been designated as the focal point for control of Narcotic drugs and Psychotropic substances in Sri Lanka in terms of International Conventions.
NDDCB ensures the availability of internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes and in the case of precursor chemicals, to ensure their legitimate industrial use and preventing the diversion of controlled substances into illicit drug market.

In order to achieve above objective, NDDCB, being the National Focal point, work closely with the International Narcotic Control Board (INCB), Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the main UN agencies involved in International Drug Control.

NDDCB ensure implementation of the following International Conventions, additional control measures adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to enhance their effectiveness and bilateral agreements.

a. Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,

c. United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988

d. SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

It is the NDDCB which is responsible to the world Body for reporting and controlling the illicit trafficking, use and abuse of dangerous drugs in terms of the International drug control conventions.
Powers of the NDDCB

The NDDCB is empowered by Section 7 of its establishment Act with the following specific functions;

- Formulate and review a national policy relating to the prevention and control of the abuse of dangerous drugs and to advise and make recommendations to the Minister on such policy
- Call for such information and particulars from individuals, organizations, government departments and public corporation as may reasonable be necessary to exercise the powers of the Board
- Receive donations and grants from local and foreign sources for the purpose of exercising the powers of the Board
- Co-ordinate the activities of agencies engaged in the prevention and control of dangerous drugs
- Promote treatment and rehabilitation measures for drug dependant persons and conduct national drug abuse and preventive educational programmes for children and adults
- Conduct and undertake researches studies into the prevalence, aetiology and legal, medical, social cultural and economic implications of the abuse of dangerous drugs; and
- Maintain liaison with national, regional and international organizations and agencies involved in drug control activities
NDDCB’s Role and Responsibilities

• In terms of the Sri Lanka National Policy for Prevention and Control of Drug Abuse and as per mandate given by *NDDCB Act No. 11 of 1984*, NDDCB monitors and review the Sri Lanka National Policy and coordinate the drug control activities of all relevant agencies.

• In terms of the Sri Lanka National Policy, NDDCB plays a pivotal role at National and International level with regard to prevention and control of Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances abuse.

• NDDCB’s responsibilities includes the following:
  
  ✓ *Articulating and advocating evidence – based policies and strategies.*
  ✓ *Catalyzing change and enhancing partnerships*
  ✓ *Managing information*
  ✓ *Conducting research*
  ✓ *Setting and Validating norms and standards*
  ✓ *Developing and testing new technologies tools and guidelines*
Coordination activities of NDDCB

As the National institution that empowered with formulating and reviewing the National Policy on drugs of abuse from time to time, the NDDCB assists the Government in incorporation of Law relating to this field which is very important to combat with illicit traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic substances & Precursor chemicals.

The NDDCB is entrusted with the responsibility of assisting the Government and to advise the Government regarding the amending of existing laws, incorporation of new laws and on implementation of National Drug Policy. For these purposes the NDDCB convenes subcommittees;

**Legislation subcommittee**
- Assist and advice the Government regarding the amendment of existing laws and incorporation of new laws

**Law Enforcement subcommittee**
- Co-ordinate with all the Drug Law Enforcement agencies for effective enforcement of Law

**Legislations related to the Functions of the NDDCB**
- Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance and amendment Acts
- Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic substances Act No. 1 of 2008
- Drug Dependant Persons (Treatment and Rehabilitation) Act No.54 of 2007
Organization of the NDDCB

Constitution of the NDCB
- Chairman of the NDDCB (CEO)
- Members appointed by the Minister (02 members)
- Secretary to the Ministry of Education or his nominee
- Inspector General of Police or his nominee
- Director General of Health Services or his nominee
- Director General of Customs or his nominee
- The Government Analyst
- The Commissioner of Ayurveda

Technical Divisions of the NDDCB
- Research Unit
- The National Narcotics Laboratory
- Precursor Control Authority
- Treatment and Rehabilitation Unit
- Designated and Private Treatment Centres Unit
- Preventive Education and Training Unit
- Outreach Unit
- Information centre – 1984 Hotline
Research Unit

- The Research division is one of the main divisions in NDDCB. According to the Section 7 (a) and 7 (b) of the NDDCB Act, the research division is responsible for conduct and undertake research, drug related studies and surveys, producing publications including annual hand book of drug abuse information. producing drug related information for the policy makers, service providers, agencies involved in drug prevention and control, facilitators, other national and international organizations for drug prevention and control activities. Research division collects information from the government and non-governmental agencies, civil societies, general public in order to asses and monitors the drug problem in the country and provides information for revision of the policies, to introduce new policies and for decision making.

- In addition to above functions, NDDCB maintains Drug Abuse Monitoring System (DAMS) to determine the incidences, prevalence and characteristic of drug dependent persons, to monitor trends and patterns of drug abuse, identify “at-risk” groups in the population and for the implementation of early warning system.

The National Narcotics Laboratory

- The National Narcotics Laboratory (NNL) is a leading laboratory in Sri Lanka. The NNL provides laboratory and scientific services for effective implementation scientific evidence based drug prevention and control system in Sri Lanka. The NNL aims to better understand and monitoring the Nation’s drug problem and improve scientific capacity and capabilities to ensure healthy lives and peaceful societies free from drug abuse.

- Functions of the NNL includes conducting scientific research in drug demand and supply control, scientific support for the establishment of effective and fair criminal justice system, Promote Scientific evidence based operations and investigations for effective drug law enforcement, promote scientific evidence based prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, conduct scientific capacity building programmes on drugs/substances of abuse, scientific intelligence services, scientific evidence based policy and decision making and promote scientific based standards and best practices.
**Precursor Control Authority**

- Precursor Control Authority is charged with the responsibility of administering the provisions of Chapter II of the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic substances Act No. 1 of 2008 in order to prevent diversion of precursor chemicals for illicit manufacture of drugs of abuse. Authority is responsible to implement and take measures within Sri Lanka, relating to monitoring the imports, exports, manufacture, distribution and use of the precursor chemicals as required by the provisions of the 1988 United Nations Convention and as prescribed by regulations made under the Act.

- The Authority ensures import, export, distribution and use of precursor chemicals in terms of a valid license in the manner prescribed, taking into consideration the requirements of the respective industries; taking of such measures as are necessary for the registration of the premises of such licensees, conduct inspections and to ensure proper records are maintained and monitor diversions attempts, ensure the precursor chemicals are used only for the purposes they are imported or exported, ensure illicit manufacture of drugs are duly reported and appropriate action taken to punish the offenders;

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**Treatment and Rehabilitation Unit**

- The treatment and rehabilitation unit ensures the right of every citizen to get rehabilitated from addiction by getting admitted to the treatment centres and to socialize once again as individuals with good conduct through a systematic, methodical and scientific treatment program. There are four (04) treatment and rehabilitation centres in Colombo, Galle, Kandy and Nittambuwa and 02 counseling centres under the NDDCB.

- These treatment centres provide free services and drug dependent persons are admitted on voluntarily basis, intervention of parents, relatives or friends, referred by Courts, referred by Government and Non Governmental agencies, as directed by those who recovered from addiction or relapses. Treatment procedure includes pre-counseling session to identify the level of desire, withdrawals, tolerance level and psychological preparedness followed by psychological treatment methodology targeted to change behavior and attitudes according to an individual treatment plan and follow up activities.
Preventive Education and Training Unit

- Preventive Education and Training (PET) unit ensures quality preventive education to empower Sri Lankans towards a drug free life. The mission of this unit is to enable people in order to create a safer environment towards prevention and reduction of substance abuse through quality education and training.

- The PET unit conducts various awareness and training programmes and aims to reduce the desire and willingness to obtain and use drugs/substances of abuse and to prevent the uptake of drug/substances use. Awareness programmes are specially targeted for Government and international schools, vocational training centres, universities, Sunday schools, law enforcement sector, health sector, plantation sector Government and private workplaces, local communities and early childhood development programmes for parents. Special programmes such as Training of Trainers (TOT) are conducted for teachers, Government officers and Youth leaders.

Designated and private treatment centres Unit

- NDDCB treatment programme has extended with the implementation of the Drug Dependant Persons (Treatment and Rehabilitation) Act No. 54 of 2007 and regulation there under to register all the designated Prisons and two social services institutions and treatment centres controlled by Sri Lanka Army and 25 private treatment centres established within Sri Lanka.

- Special directions are provided by this unit as are necessary to ensure the efficient management of Treatment Centres to assist in the treatment and care of drug dependant persons at Treatment Centres designated or licensed under this Act.
Outreach Unit

• NDDCB has taken measures to expand its services to the provincial level. Provincial drug control programmes have been launched in order to strengthen the capacity of the provincial administrative institutions and civil society organizations for drug prevention and control.

• The Outreach Unit of the NDDCB is entrusted with the responsibility of extending Board’s services (prevention, treatment and rehabilitation) to drug dependent persons and their families, high risk groups in community and the general public by conducting community programmes, mobile awareness, conducting camps and establishment and maintaining a communication network between Divisional Secretaries, Schools administrators, Grama Niladharies, Samurdhi Officers, Social Service Officers, and Religious Leaders to develop programmes on discouraging the abuse of drugs. Further this Unit has to evaluate the effect and success of aforesaid programmes by carrying out continuous follow up activities.

Information centre 1984 Hotline

• Information centre has been established by NDDCB with a view to obtain information related to illicit drug trafficking and abuse. Two Hotlines such as 1984 and 011-2077778 have been opened to General Public in order to provide information and make complaints.

• Information related to drug trafficking is forwarded to drug law enforcement agencies and drug abuse related information will be forwarded to treatment and other divisions for prevention and rehabilitation services.
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