

Review of: "[Perspective] The possibility of a silent methamphetamine catastrophe in Bangladesh"

Ochuko E. Nabofa¹

¹ Delta State University, Abraka

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This short article beautifully exposes an emerging prevalence of methamphetamine abuse and addiction in Bangladesh. However, the following few technical issues need to be addressed:

1. The title can be improved by making it read "Emerging Prevalence of Methamphetamine Abuse and Addiction in Bangladesh" instead of "The Possibility of a Silent Methamphetamine Catastrophe in Bangladesh." It is because there is nothing that is apparently silent and catastrophic shown in the article.
2. This article did not really indicate the effects of the drug on various segments of society as claimed in the abstract, other than its prevalence among young people.
3. "Past three years in 2021 cannot remain so in 2024." This sentence can therefore be better stated as "The highly addictive recreational white crystalline drug, crystal methamphetamine, commonly known as "Ice," has been reported as being smuggled into Bangladesh every month, some of which is reserved for domestic consumption (Khan 2021)."
4. The sentence "At present, about 7.5 million drug users are in the country, compared with only 1 million back in 1990, and by the age of 15, 65% of them were drug abusers (Star Online Report 2020)" should read "As at 2020, about 7.5 million drug users were in the country, compared with only 1 million back in 1990, and by the age of 15, 65% of them were drug abusers (Star Online Report 2020)" since what was reported as 'At present' in 2020 cannot remain so in 2024.
5. It is necessary to show how 'crystal meth is still a glaring omission in Bangladesh', especially when it has been established by Staff Correspondent (2019) to be more addictive than the Yaba pill, with one gram equal to 10 Yaba pills.
6. Yaba can only be said to have been associated with these crimes and not contributed. It is because Das (2021) only reported perpetrators of these crimes were found to have used drugs.
7. It is necessary to show or state what the 'excellent work the security forces have done' is to be meaningful to readers.
8. Was there a previous war declared on recreational drugs? If so, it is necessary to make reference to it so that this sentence should be like "the country would need to declare a new war on recreational drugs in the upcoming days, as was done previously in the year....., to successfully curb the menace of drug addiction in the country."
9. I agree with **Asha S. Ripanda** that the article could be enhanced by providing more context (linking the meth use in Bangladesh vs. global status), specific policy recommendations, and ensuring the inclusion of the latest information on the issue.

