



SOCIO-PHILOSOPHICAL AND AXIOLOGICAL INTERPRETATIONS OF THE PHENOMENON OF DRUG ADDICTION

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 20 th April 2026 Accepted: 14 th May 2026	The phenomenon of drug addiction represents one of the most complex social problems of contemporary civilization. It affects not only individual health and behavior but also social stability, cultural values, and the moral foundations of society. This article examines drug addiction from socio-philosophical and axiological perspectives, focusing on its social determinants, value-related dimensions, and implications for human existence. The study explores the transformation of value systems under conditions of globalization, social alienation, and cultural uncertainty, identifying drug addiction as both a social and existential phenomenon. Through socio-philosophical analysis and comparative examination of theoretical approaches, the article reveals the relationship between value crises, identity fragmentation, and addictive behavior. The findings suggest that effective prevention and rehabilitation strategies require not only medical interventions but also the restoration of moral, cultural, and social values that contribute to human flourishing.
Keywords: drug addiction, social philosophy, axiology, values, social alienation, identity crisis, social pathology, human dignity, cultural transformation, addiction	

INTRODUCTION. Drug addiction has become one of the most pressing challenges confronting modern societies. The rapid expansion of global communication networks, economic inequalities, social disintegration, and cultural transformations has created conditions that facilitate the spread of addictive behaviors. While drug addiction is frequently examined through medical and psychological perspectives, its socio-philosophical and axiological dimensions remain equally important for understanding its underlying causes and consequences.

From a socio-philosophical perspective, drug addiction cannot be reduced solely to an individual pathology. Rather, it represents a multidimensional social phenomenon reflecting broader transformations within social structures, cultural environments, and systems of values. As social institutions undergo significant changes, individuals often experience uncertainty, alienation, and loss of meaning, which may increase vulnerability to addictive behaviors [1, p. 1–5].

The phenomenon of addiction has attracted the attention of numerous philosophers, sociologists, and social theorists. Classical sociological approaches emphasized the relationship between social disorganization and deviant behavior. Contemporary scholars increasingly focus on the influence of globalization, consumer culture, and identity crises on the emergence of addictive practices. According to Bauman, modern individuals frequently encounter conditions of insecurity and uncertainty that weaken

traditional social bonds and contribute to existential anxiety [2, p. 34–36].

The axiological dimension of drug addiction is particularly significant because addiction directly affects value orientations, moral choices, and individual perceptions of meaning. Values constitute the normative foundations guiding human behavior and social interaction. When value systems become fragmented or weakened, individuals may struggle to establish meaningful life goals and social commitments [3, p. 45–48].

Drug addiction also raises fundamental questions concerning human dignity, freedom, responsibility, and self-realization. Philosophical inquiry into addiction therefore extends beyond clinical diagnosis and enters the realm of ethical reflection regarding the conditions necessary for a meaningful and fulfilling life. The growing prevalence of drug addiction among young people has intensified concerns regarding its long-term social consequences. Addiction contributes to family instability, educational failure, unemployment, criminal behavior, social exclusion, and deterioration of human capital. Consequently, understanding the socio-philosophical and axiological foundations of drug addiction is essential for developing comprehensive prevention and intervention strategies.

The purpose of this study is to analyze the socio-philosophical and axiological interpretations of drug addiction and to examine the relationship between



social conditions, value transformations, and addictive behavior in contemporary society.

MATERIALS AND METHODS. The study employs qualitative research methods grounded in socio-philosophical analysis, axiological examination, comparative theoretical evaluation, and interdisciplinary synthesis.

The socio-philosophical method is utilized to investigate drug addiction as a social phenomenon influenced by cultural transformations, institutional changes, and social relations. This approach facilitates the identification of structural factors contributing to the emergence and persistence of addictive behavior.

The axiological method is applied to examine the relationship between value systems and addiction. Particular attention is devoted to analyzing how shifts in moral orientations, cultural norms, and life priorities influence individual vulnerability to substance abuse.

Comparative analysis is used to evaluate different theoretical perspectives regarding addiction, including sociological, philosophical, psychological, and cultural interpretations. This method enables the identification of common explanatory patterns and conceptual differences among various approaches. The study also incorporates elements of hermeneutic analysis to interpret philosophical texts addressing freedom, responsibility, alienation, and human self-realization. These concepts provide valuable insights into the existential dimensions of addiction. Additionally, interdisciplinary synthesis is employed to integrate findings from philosophy, sociology, psychology, and public health research, thereby producing a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon.

LITERATURE REVIEW. The phenomenon of addiction has been examined through diverse theoretical perspectives. Early sociological analyses emphasized the role of social environments in shaping deviant behavior. Durkheim argued that conditions of anomie emerge when social norms lose their regulatory capacity, resulting in increased social disorientation and maladaptive behavior [4, p. 241–245].

Merton further developed this perspective by suggesting that social strain resulting from disparities between cultural goals and institutional means contributes to deviance and social pathology [5, p. 132–135]. These theories provide important foundations for understanding addiction as a response to structural and social pressures.

From an existential perspective, philosophers have emphasized the relationship between meaninglessness and self-destructive behavior. Frankl argued that individuals experiencing an existential vacuum often seek substitute forms of satisfaction that

temporarily alleviate feelings of emptiness [6, p. 108–112]. Addiction may therefore be interpreted as an attempt to escape existential suffering rather than merely a physiological dependency.

Bauman's analysis of liquid modernity similarly highlights the instability of contemporary social life. He suggests that weakening social ties and the erosion of long-term commitments contribute to psychological insecurity and identity fragmentation [2, p. 71–75]. These conditions may increase susceptibility to addictive behaviors.

Axiological scholars emphasize the significance of values in shaping human conduct. Rokeach defines values as enduring beliefs concerning desirable modes of behavior and life goals [7, p. 5–9]. Stable value systems provide individuals with meaning, direction, and social integration. Conversely, value disorientation may create conditions conducive to addiction.

Contemporary researchers increasingly recognize addiction as a multidimensional phenomenon involving biological, psychological, social, and cultural factors. According to Alexander, addiction often emerges within environments characterized by social dislocation and weakened community bonds [8, p. 59–63]. This perspective reinforces the importance of socio-cultural conditions in understanding addictive behavior.

The existing literature therefore suggests that drug addiction should not be viewed exclusively as a medical disorder. Rather, it constitutes a complex social and axiological phenomenon reflecting broader crises of meaning, identity, and value orientation within contemporary societies.

RESULTS. The analysis demonstrates that drug addiction is not merely a medical or psychological disorder but a multidimensional socio-philosophical phenomenon deeply connected with transformations occurring within contemporary society. The findings reveal that addiction emerges through the interaction of social, cultural, economic, and axiological factors that influence individual behavior and collective consciousness.

Drug Addiction as a Manifestation of Social Alienation. One of the most significant findings concerns the relationship between drug addiction and social alienation. Contemporary societies are characterized by rapid social change, increasing individualization, and weakening traditional social institutions. These processes often generate feelings of isolation, loneliness, and loss of belonging.

The study indicates that individuals experiencing social alienation are more vulnerable to addictive behaviors because they frequently lack meaningful social relationships and support networks. Social isolation



reduces opportunities for positive social interaction and increases the likelihood of seeking alternative forms of psychological comfort.

Marx viewed alienation as a condition in which individuals become disconnected from their social environment, productive activities, and authentic human potential [9, p. 84–89]. The findings suggest that addiction can be interpreted as one manifestation of this broader process of alienation. Substance use often functions as a temporary mechanism for escaping social dissatisfaction and emotional distress.

The research further demonstrates that communities characterized by social fragmentation, weakened family structures, and low levels of social cohesion tend to experience higher rates of substance abuse. This observation supports the argument that addiction reflects not only individual vulnerability but also broader social conditions.

Value Crisis and the Emergence of Addictive Behavior. Another major finding concerns the relationship between value disorientation and addiction. The analysis indicates that significant transformations in cultural norms and moral orientations have contributed to the emergence of value crises within many contemporary societies.

Traditional value systems previously provided individuals with stable frameworks for interpreting reality and guiding behavior. However, processes of globalization, cultural pluralism, and technological change have weakened many traditional sources of meaning and authority [10, p. 51–55].

The findings reveal that individuals who lack clear value orientations often experience difficulties in establishing long-term goals, maintaining social commitments, and developing a coherent sense of identity. Such conditions may increase susceptibility to addictive behavior.

Rokeach emphasizes that values serve as fundamental principles guiding human action and decision-making [7, p. 15–18]. When value systems become fragmented or contradictory, individuals may struggle to find meaningful alternatives to destructive behaviors. The study suggests that addiction frequently emerges within contexts characterized by moral uncertainty, existential confusion, and diminished commitment to socially constructive goals.

Consumer Culture and the Normalization of Addiction. The research identifies consumer culture as another important factor contributing to the spread of addiction. Contemporary consumer societies frequently emphasize immediate gratification, pleasure maximization, and material success.

These cultural orientations encourage the pursuit of short-term satisfaction rather than long-term personal development and social responsibility. As a result, individuals may become increasingly vulnerable to behaviors promising instant emotional relief or pleasure.

Bauman argues that consumer culture transforms human desires into commodities and promotes continuous consumption as a central aspect of identity formation [2, p. 92–96]. The findings suggest that addictive substances may be incorporated into this broader culture of consumption and instant gratification. The normalization of various addictive behaviors within popular culture further contributes to the erosion of social barriers against substance abuse. Media representations often trivialize the risks associated with addiction while emphasizing themes of pleasure, freedom, and personal experimentation.

Drug Addiction and the Erosion of Human Dignity. The analysis demonstrates that addiction significantly affects human dignity and personal autonomy. Human dignity is closely associated with the capacity for self-determination, rational decision-making, and responsible action.

As addiction progresses, individuals frequently experience diminished control over their behavior and increasing dependence on substances. This dependence undermines personal freedom and limits the capacity for autonomous decision-making [11, p. 203–207].

The findings indicate that addiction often leads to social exclusion, stigmatization, and deterioration of interpersonal relationships. These consequences further weaken self-esteem and reinforce cycles of dependency.

From an axiological perspective, addiction represents a challenge to fundamental values associated with human flourishing, responsibility, and self-realization. It disrupts the individual's ability to pursue meaningful life projects and participate fully in social life.

Youth and Value Transformations in Contemporary Society. The study highlights the particular vulnerability of young people to addiction under conditions of rapid social transformation. Adolescence and early adulthood represent critical periods for identity formation, value internalization, and social integration.

The findings indicate that many young individuals encounter conflicting value systems generated by globalization, digital media, consumer culture, and changing social expectations. These contradictions may contribute to confusion regarding personal goals and social responsibilities.



Educational institutions, families, and community organizations play crucial roles in supporting positive value development. However, weakening social institutions often struggle to provide consistent guidance and support [12, p. 143–148].

Consequently, some young people may become attracted to behaviors offering temporary escape from uncertainty, frustration, or social pressure. The evidence suggests that effective prevention strategies must address these broader socio-cultural dynamics rather than focusing exclusively on substance use itself.

DISCUSSION. The findings confirm that drug addiction should be understood as a complex socio-philosophical and axiological phenomenon rather than solely as a biomedical disorder. While physiological and psychological factors undoubtedly contribute to addiction, broader social and cultural conditions significantly influence its emergence and persistence.

One of the most important implications of the study concerns the role of social alienation. Contemporary societies increasingly confront challenges related to loneliness, fragmentation, and weakening communal bonds. These conditions create environments in which individuals may seek alternative forms of emotional satisfaction and belonging. Addiction often functions as a maladaptive response to such experiences.

The research also highlights the significance of value systems in shaping individual behavior. Stable values provide meaning, direction, and social integration. When individuals experience value confusion or moral uncertainty, their vulnerability to destructive behaviors increases. Consequently, addiction prevention should incorporate educational and cultural initiatives aimed at strengthening value orientation and ethical development.

Another important observation concerns the influence of consumer culture. The emphasis on immediate gratification and individual pleasure may contribute to attitudes that normalize risky behaviors and weaken long-term perspectives. Addressing addiction therefore requires critical reflection on broader cultural narratives and social priorities.

The study further suggests that effective responses to addiction should integrate medical treatment with social, educational, and cultural interventions. Rehabilitation programs are most successful when they address not only physiological dependence but also social relationships, personal identity, and value reconstruction.

Particular attention should be devoted to young people. Educational systems should promote critical thinking, ethical reflection, social responsibility, and

psychological resilience. Community-based initiatives can strengthen social cohesion and provide meaningful opportunities for participation and self-development.

The findings support the view that addiction prevention is fundamentally linked to broader processes of human development and social well-being. Strengthening families, educational institutions, civil society organizations, and cultural communities may reduce vulnerability to addiction by fostering meaningful social connections and positive value orientations.

Overall, the evidence demonstrates that drug addiction reflects deeper crises associated with social alienation, value disintegration, and existential insecurity. Addressing these underlying conditions is essential for developing sustainable and humane approaches to prevention, treatment, and social reintegration.

Quyida maqolaning yakuniy qismi keltiriladi.

CONCLUSION. The present study examined the phenomenon of drug addiction through socio-philosophical and axiological perspectives and demonstrated that addiction represents far more than a medical or psychological disorder. The findings reveal that drug addiction is a complex social phenomenon shaped by structural transformations, cultural changes, value disorientation, and existential challenges characteristic of contemporary societies.

The analysis established that social alienation constitutes one of the most significant factors contributing to addiction. Processes such as individualization, weakening social institutions, family disintegration, and declining community cohesion create conditions that increase vulnerability to substance abuse. Individuals experiencing social isolation frequently seek alternative mechanisms for coping with emotional distress, uncertainty, and loss of meaning.

The study further demonstrated that value crises play a crucial role in the emergence and persistence of addictive behavior. Stable value systems provide individuals with purpose, moral orientation, and social integration. Conversely, fragmented value structures often generate confusion, insecurity, and diminished commitment to socially constructive goals. Under such conditions, addictive substances may appear as temporary solutions to deeper existential and psychological problems.

Another important finding concerns the influence of consumer culture and contemporary patterns of social life. The emphasis on instant gratification, pleasure maximization, and material success contributes to attitudes that may normalize risky behaviors and weaken long-term personal



commitments. Consequently, addiction should be understood within broader cultural contexts rather than solely through individual pathology.

The research also highlighted the relationship between addiction and human dignity. Addiction undermines autonomy, responsibility, and self-realization by limiting the capacity for rational decision-making and meaningful social participation. From an axiological perspective, addiction represents a challenge to fundamental values associated with human flourishing, freedom, and moral responsibility.

The findings suggest that effective prevention and rehabilitation strategies require comprehensive approaches integrating medical, psychological, educational, cultural, and social interventions. Addressing the underlying causes of addiction necessitates strengthening social institutions, promoting positive value orientations, enhancing community participation, and creating conditions that support meaningful human development.

In conclusion, drug addiction reflects broader crises of social integration, value orientation, and existential meaning. Sustainable solutions must therefore address not only substance dependence itself but also the social and cultural environments that contribute to its emergence.

Scientific Novelty

The scientific novelty of the study is reflected in the following aspects:

- Drug addiction has been analyzed as a multidimensional socio-philosophical and axiological phenomenon rather than solely a medical or psychological disorder.
- The relationship between social alienation, value disintegration, and addictive behavior has been systematically examined.
- The influence of consumer culture and globalization on the transformation of value systems associated with addiction has been conceptually clarified.
- The connection between addiction, human dignity, personal autonomy, and self-realization has been theoretically substantiated.
- An integrated socio-philosophical framework explaining addiction through social, cultural, and axiological dimensions has been proposed.

Practical Recommendations. Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Educational institutions should strengthen value-based education emphasizing responsibility, self-respect, and social participation.

2. Community development programs should be expanded to reduce social isolation and strengthen interpersonal relationships.
3. Family support initiatives should be enhanced to improve communication, emotional stability, and socialization processes.
4. Prevention programs should address existential and value-related dimensions of addiction alongside medical and psychological factors.
5. Public awareness campaigns should promote healthy lifestyles and critical reflection regarding consumer culture and addictive behaviors.
6. Rehabilitation programs should integrate social reintegration, vocational training, and value reconstruction strategies.
7. Youth policies should focus on strengthening resilience, identity formation, and meaningful civic engagement.
8. Governments should support interdisciplinary research examining the socio-cultural causes of addiction and evaluating preventive interventions.
9. Media organizations should promote responsible representations of substance use and avoid normalizing addictive behaviors.
10. Civil society institutions should actively participate in developing community-based prevention and rehabilitation initiatives.

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