

Expansion Sample

- **1977 says In the past drugs were for special occasions and rituals not just used whenever like in todays society.**
- **Example, in the past only the royals in south American allowed to use coca.**

Previously a large number of communities in the world used drugs specifically for certain occasions such as social gatherings, religious ceremonies and other special occasions. (Asuni, 1977). However, in the present day era, it is rare to see patterns of drug use confined to special occasions or that are strongly socially and culturally regulated (Asuni, 1977). For example, the natives of Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia traditionally used Coca as a divine drug reserved exclusively for the royal Incas, the supreme priests and members of the Incas royal family.

- **Drug use is strongly linked to production.**
- **Durrant and Thakker (2003) say this is why cocaine is big in Americas but not in countries far away from where they make it.**
- **Also a big problem in America because the strength is different.**
- **Noya, 1977 talks about how people like to go to Bolivia because their cocaine is almost pure and the dose is 4-6gr.**
- **Rest of the world is only 0.15gr. Bolivia's strong cocaine makes people addicted easily**

A common theme in drug abuse is that consumption is positively correlated with production. Areas which are in close proximity to major production sites are likely to abuse the relevant drug. This could explain why the problem of cocaine is so big in North America as well as South America. Durrant and Thakker (2003) for example point out that Cocaine abuse is practically unheard of in Countries such as New Zealand, as the supply is very small. However, there are other reasons for the abuse of cocaine in the region, such as differences in the strength of the Cocaine supplied to different countries. The cocaine supplied to the rest of the world does not have such a high degree of purity and the usual dose is approximately 0.15gr. This is in contrast to Bolivian cocaine which is the purest (97%), cheapest, and the usual dose is between 4gr and 6gr. (Noya, 1977). These factors combined mean that people who use it in the Americas are likely to experience a very strong psychological dependence on the drug resulting in them taking increasingly large doses. Indeed addicts are known to travel to Bolivia solely for the Cocaine.

- **De wijngaart et al (1999) – talk about culture within a bigger culture.**
- **The kids of today have their own drug, and use it in their own social.**
- **Also Arbor, 2000 talks about young kids liking to experiment with drugs.**

When examining drug abuse from a multi – cultural perspective, it is important to realise that the word culture can be interpreted from many angles. There are cultures within cultures. (A relatively new pattern of drug abuse currently exists and is associated with youth subcultures that are into the dance scene. These subcultures are responsible for a large amount of ecstasy and amphetamine consumption which has increased with the popularity of dance culture. (de wijngaart et al (1999). In addition Drug use rates can be up to 3 or 4 times higher among the youth than for general population among various parts of the world, and there is a concern that young people have become more tolerant to the idea of experimentation with drugs. (Arbor, 2000).