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## Male, female students take phensidyl Drug addiction spreading in epidemic form on RU campus

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RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, 28:- Phensidyl, a highly addictive drug, is gaining massive popularity among the drug addicts on the Rajshahi University (RU) campus where the number of drug users is increasing at a horrifying scale.

Phensidyl is as available as water on the campus and its adjacent areas. A bottle of phensidyl costs Tk 80 to 120. Demand for phensidyl is growing not only among the male students but also female students and a section of junior teacher also. The other drugs now on alluring demand include hemp, wine, morphine, sedative tablet, opium, cocaine, cannabis herbs and pathedrine injection.

Sources said students active in politics have become the worst victims of drug abuse, although the abuse has crossed all boundaries of class, sex and age on the campus.

According to a survey conducted by the Statistics Department of the university in collaboration with a local non-government organization, some 5.95 per cent male and 1.25 per cent female students of the higher educational institution in Rajshahi city take phensidyl. Besides, 2.45 per cent young teachers of different colleges and other private and public universities also take phensidyl regularly. The survey found that some 29.73 of the drug abusers are involved in student politics.

Campus sources said a strong network is active in the drug business in and around the campus. Some spots surrounding the campus area are considered as dens for selling the drugs, especially ganja, phensidyl. The spots are Kazla, Binodpur, Meherchandhi, university railway station, Buthpara, Majar near university

and Vadra residential bazar adjacent to RUET, Rajshahi.

Most of the addicted students collect drugs from any of these spots and use it at different places on the campus. Floating drug retailers and a section of canteen boys are involved in supplying the drugs to the students and young outsider on the campus, the sources added. The addicts have found Senate Bhaban and Central Library premises of the university as safe havens for drug consumption. Besides, some much talked about places of the varsity like Iblish Chattar, love corner, Adda Chattar, Tukitaki corner, Vocate Cattar and railway adjacent areas near campus are also safe places for drug users. The addicts generally gather at these spots around 10 pm and the gathering continues till dead of night. For safety, they manage to keep the areas darks by allegedly damaging the street lights. When observed closely, one can easily detect the fumes and flames produced from some brown or white powder in a tin foil.

Moreover, phensidyl consumption is also going on unabated in the residential halls, classrooms and even in the Central Library of the varsity. Every day, a large number of empty bottles of phensidyl are removed from the toilets of halls, classrooms and Central Library. It is alleged that the drug addicts are getting involved in various anti-social activities inside and sometimes outside the campus.

A source said most of the students have been familiarised with drugs by their classmates, fellow students or friends, who initially offered them drug on complementary basis. Thus, most of the addicts became addicted. A large

number of drug addicts are suffering from various chronic diseases, the sources added.

Dr. Mirza Wazed Hossain Beg, the Chief physician of the Rajshahi University Medical Centre (RUMC) said, "Rajshahi University will face a catastrophe in the not-too-distant future if the alarming drug abuse is not effectively checked through extensive motivation."