Unit Five: Social Problems

A social problem: is a social condition that has negative consequences for individuals, our social world, or physical world.

A social problem has objective and subjective realities.

1. **Objective reality** of a social problem comes from acknowledging that a particular social condition does negatively impact human lives.

2. **Subjective reality** of a social problem addresses how a problem becomes defined as a problem. Social problems are not objectively predetermined. They become real only when they are subjectively defined or perceived as problematic. This perspective is known as social constructionism.

The Elements of Social Problems:

1. They cause physical or mental damage to individuals or society.

2. They offend الاساءةthe values or standards of a large segment of society.

3. They persist استمرارfor an extended period of time.

4. They generate competing المنافسةproposed solutions from different groups which delays reaching consensus on how to solve the problem.

Social problems:

1. **Crimes:** broadly as behavior in which individuals obtain resources from others via force, fraudتزوير, or stealthالاختلاس. **Crimes** usually are defined as acts or omissions forbidden by law that can be punished by

imprisonment and/or fine. Murder, robbery, burglary, rape, drunken driving, child neglect, and failure to pay your taxes all are common examples.

Causes: poverty, inequality, disrupted المفككةfamilies, inadequate socialization, and the presence of criminal opportunities all seem to be important correlates of crime.

2. **Unemployment:**البطالة

Governments in developed and undeveloped countries alike these days face the mounting social problem of unemployment. unemployment has become one of the major social problems. The unemployed are those who currently in search of a gainful job and are dependent on somebody else for their living. There are other categories like the underemployed; these are those who are engaged in a job that does not match their level of expertise or training.

3. **Youth and Drug Addiction**

The problem of drug addiction is now a number one social problem, particularly in developed societies. The problem is becoming rampant in the world as well. It is now common to hear from the electronic media and to read from the print media that the tradition of drug usage is a growing one in many large urban centers in the country. Many have become dependent on the stimulant drug and it seems that without it some fail to efficiently carry out their tasks.

4. **Growth of Urbanization, Urban Poverty**الفقر**, Housing Problem, Homelessness and Begging** التسول**:**

The problem of urban slums, increasing poor quality of life and poverty, shortage of basic social services such as clean water, electricity, communications facilities, housing, etc, and the growing rate of crimes and deviance. Urban slums are centers for undesirable social behaviors such as commercial تجارة sex work, theftسرقة, robberyسلب, drug trafficking تجارة and use, sanitation problems الصرف الصحي, among others. With the growing number of urban population, access to good housing is becoming increasingly problematic. Studies indicate that many urban people live in substandard houses and many more even lack accesses to housing. Thus, homelessness has now become a growing social problem in many urban centers. Many people are thus forced to spend their entire lives in the streets. Available data show that number of people taking to the streets is increasing rapidly, particularly in major urban centers. The health and living conditions of these categories of people is very appalling. The street children and adolescents are often among the risk groups to contracting STIs including HIV/AIDS. They lack access to basic social and health services. The main means of making a living for these categories of people is usually begging and sometimes engage in commercialتجارة sex. Begging itself has become a major social pathology in some large urban centers.