NEED OF THE STUDY
Chapter 2

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A number of studies have reported presence of enormous variety of substance misuse and abuse including prescription opioid abuse and associated public health problems from North-eastern states of India. National Family Health Survey-2, Government of India, has also highlighted a significant prevalence of alcohol use in Sikkim (32% and 17% among above 15 years of age in both males and females respectively). Until date, any systematic information on prevalence of analgesic misuse, more importantly NSAID misuse, i.e. either extent as well as pattern of misuse in Sikkim is not available. Therefore, the information on prevalence and predictors of analgesic misuse in Sikkim is needed for the effective prevention and treatment of analgesics and substance misuse and further substance abuse related problems in Sikkim.

The purpose of this research study is also to get a better understanding of the relationship between pain and misuse of analgesics i.e. whether participants with pain misuse analgesics and the extent of such misuse. This study will help to describe demographic variables (age, sex, religion, marital status, community, occupation; etc.), socioeconomic variables (income, education; etc.), drug use pattern (types of drug, duration, route of use etc.) and quality of life. This study will also help to find out if any association exists with alcohol use and smoking among misusers of analgesics. Information from this study will also help to find out the differences in various socio-behavioural characteristics like migration (either analgesic misuse seen more or less in migrants), level of education etc. therefore results of this study will contribute in
developing more effective strategies for analgesic misuse prevention and control of analgesic misuse.