



**Dr Kawal deep Kour**

South Asian drugs and Addictions Research Council

**Supported by:**

Empower India

**Candidate for:**

Deputy Chairperson

My initiation in the research on Narcotics began in the year 2008 when I joined the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati for pursuing my Ph.D in the History of Intoxicants and Intoxication. While my Research opened up new vistas of understanding substances, their use and misuse throughout history, my association with the Institute of Narcotics Studies and Analysis (INSA) from 2011 to January 2018 as Research Analyst shaped my sense and sensibilities towards contemporary issues around drug policy and drug policy reform. Engagement with policymakers and stakeholders through various seminars and workshops as well as conduct of surveys enabled me dive into the complex world of drug use and users as well the myriad perspectives from which to view the drug scenario, including treatment and harm reduction approaches.

However, it was in 2018 when, with the inception of SADARC, that presented an opportunity to delve into the science of Prevention. At SADARC, we are interested in exploring, devising and implementing applied prevention systems which can impact communities, families and individuals and serve as protective factors to offset the risks posed by vulnerabilities to drug use.

We sponsor a number of outreach initiatives by local mutual help groups and engage with FBO's as part of prevention initiatives. Just before the pandemic struck, SADARC had been engaging with the schools to develop a Substance Abuse Prevention Curriculum for ages 9- 18 years. As part of our long term plans for the years 2022-2025, we intend to engage with the Criminal Justice system for reaching out to the most vulnerable and marginalized section to ensure that proper screening, assessment, treatment, recovery and reintegration can be facilitated.

I have had the honour of being associated with VNGOC since 2018 and it has been an extremely empowering journey. The multitude of experience and opportunities of networking has enabled both learning and discovery. I sincerely look forward to contributing to VNGOC and believe that the members will be able to repose their faith in me and support my candidature.