



iQuestions Faculty, Dr. David Eckman

Question:

Is addiction just an American phenomenon?

Answer:

Addiction is not an American phenomenon. Addiction is a human phenomenon.

A couple of months ago, I was in Beijing, China, at a medical conference, and the whole center of the conference seemed to be internet addiction for Chinese youth. Literally, they would send health workers into internet centers, computer centers, to check to see if these kids are alive. They'll spend day, after day, after day, after day at a computer terminal.

Addiction typically is specific to a culture. That is, alcoholism may sweep through an Eskimo culture, just as pornography is sweeping through the American culture—but it's not an American phenomenon. It's the condition of the human heart, and it's the chaos and stress that cultures invite onto themselves.

And so, it's not unique to ourselves, but we do have some unique challenges, and the unique challenge facing us right now is the internet challenge in pornography.

But this is part of the human condition. It's not just an American condition.