

AWARENESS ABOUT DRUG ABUSE AMONG MALE ADOLESCENTS IN RELATION TO DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

Geeta Rani, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, M.D. College of Education,

Abstract

Majority of drug abuse among youth starts in school, the school population is the best place for early detection and prevention of substance abuse in the adolescent population. Studies in adolescent population have demonstrated a positive association between awareness about drug abuse and their attitudes toward drugs. So there is a great need to aware adolescents about such type of hazardous problem. The sample of the present study included 100 male students studying in 11th and 12th class of 5 senior secondary schools of Mohali district of Punjab. Data were collected through a self developed questionnaire and analysed using mean, standard deviation and t-test. Study indicated that there was no difference in awareness about drug abuse between students belonging to rural and urban locality. Level of students' awareness about drug abuse was significantly increased with increase in the parental educational level. In addition, in the current study, adolescents belonging to higher income families showed higher level of drug abuse awareness.

Keywords: Adolescents, Drug Abuse Awareness



Scholarly Research Journal's is licensed Based on a work at www.srjis.com

There are millions of people in this world who cannot cope with hard realities of life which bring in them anxieties, frustration of everyday life. An individual always want pleasure; to achieve this end he seeks the solace of drugs and become drug abuser. The term Drug can be defined as any substance other than food for use in diagnosing, curing, relieving or preventive diseases. Additionally, a Drug can be defined as any narcotic or chemical agent other than food that is taken for other than medical reasons to produce physiological effects or to satisfy a craving. Drug abuse is the use of a drug or other substance for a non-medical use, with the aim of producing some type of mind-altering effect in the user. Often this involves use of the substance in excessive quantities to produce pleasure, to alleviate stress, or to alter avoid reality (or all three). Drug abuse and addiction have negative consequences for individuals and in general a threat for the entire society if the menace is not controlled. The world statistics on the drugs/substance abuse show a horrifying picture as it has become the third largest fast growing business in the world next to petroleum and arm trade and about 190 million people throughout the world are involved in the abuse of one substance or other.

Today on the basis of the vast literature available, we observe that almost every part of the world is facing challenges, like poverty, corruption, underdevelopment, unemployment etc. and all these problems contribute to form a new fast growing problem that is, drug addiction and trafficking. According to World Health Organization (WHO) by the year 2020 mental and substance use disorders will surpass all physical diseases and will be a major cause of disability worldwide (WHO, 2008). The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) World Drug Report, 2013 estimates that between 167 -315 million people aged 15–64 used illicit drugs at least once in the year and around 2 lakh people continue to die every single year due to illicit drugs. Adolescence is the stage that carries the greatest risk for initiating substance use as it is a transitional stage of physical and mental human development. There is cognitive immaturity and vulnerability to social influences at this age thus experimentation with addictive substances and other risky behaviours are most common in this age. Studies in adolescent population have demonstrated a positive association between awareness about drug abuse and their attitudes toward drugs.

DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

Demographic variables refer to personal statistics that include such information as income level, gender, educational level, location, race and family size. In the present study the investigator has taken locality, family income and parents qualification as demographic variables.

NEED OF THE STUDY

Drug abuse or misuse of drugs is a social problem. To remove this social evil, it is necessary for us to make people aware about this. In foreign countries many studies are conducted on the suggested topic, but in Indian literature, there is a narrow list of such type of studies. Alcohol and other drug use is a factor in many accidents, injuries, vandalism and crime on campuses and is frequently a key factor when students encounter problems with their course work. Illicit drugs have been factors in many tragedies including rape crimes, hospitalizations for over doses and sudden deaths. Alcohol and other drug use in the adolescent population carries a high risk for school underachievement, delinquency, teenage pregnancy, and depression. Majority of drug abuse among youth starts in school, the school population is the best place for early detection and prevention of substance abuse in the adolescent population. So there is a great need to aware adolescents about such type of hazardous problem. Keeping in mind the above factors the investigator planned the present study.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the significance of difference in awareness about drug abuse between male adolescents belonging to rural and urban locality.
2. To study the significance of difference in awareness about drug abuse between male adolescents belonging to high family income group and low family income group.
3. To study the significance of difference in awareness about drug abuse between male adolescents belonging to parents having more than graduate qualification and up to graduation qualification.

HYPOTHESES

1. There will be no significant difference in awareness about drug abuse between male adolescents belonging to rural and urban locality.
2. There will be no significant difference in awareness about drug abuse between male adolescents belonging to high family income group and low family income group.
3. There will be no significant difference in awareness about drug abuse between male adolescents belonging to parents having more than graduate qualification and up to graduation qualification.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Method: Survey method of research was used.

Sample: The sample of the present study included 100 male students studying in 11th and 12th class of 5 senior secondary schools of Mohali district of Punjab.

Tools Used: A self-developed questionnaire was used by the investigator to collect the data. The first part of the questionnaire deals with personal information like name, age and class, locality, family income and parents’ qualification. The second part includes 23 questions related with the objectives of the study having answers in Agree or Disagree. Scoring was done by giving 1 point for each Agree and zero point for each Disagree.

Statistical Techniques used: Mean, Standard Deviation, t-test was used to analyse the data.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table 1 Difference in awareness about drug abuse between male adolescents belonging to rural and urban locality:

Locality	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Level of Significance
Rural	60	17.52	2.78	1.05	Not significant
Urban	40	18.1	2.57		

Table 1 show that mean score obtained by rural male adolescents on awareness about drug abuse is 17.52 and SD is 2.78 while for urban adolescents values of mean and SD are 18.10 and 2.57 respectively. t-value which shows the significance of difference between both the groups is 1.05 which is not significant at 0.05 level. Hence we can say that rural and urban male adolescents do not differ significantly in awareness about drug abuse. Therefore hypothesis 1 was accepted.

Table 2 Difference in awareness about drug abuse between male adolescents belonging to high family income group and low family income group:

Family Income	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Level of Significance
High	32	17.53	2.60	2.38	Significant at 0.05 level
Low	68	16.26	2.43		

Table 2 depicts that adolescents coming from high income families obtained mean score 17.53 and those coming from lower income families obtained 16.26 average score on awareness about drug abuse. t-value is 2.38 which is higher than the critical value at 0.05 level. Hence it can be concluded that male adolescents coming from higher income families have more awareness about drug abuse than male adolescents coming from lower income families and this difference is statistically significant. Therefore hypothesis 2 was rejected.

Table 3 Difference in awareness about drug abuse between male adolescents belonging to parents having more than graduate qualification and up to graduation qualification:

Parents' Qualification	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Level of Significance
More than Graduate	36	18.08	1.56	2.19	Significant at 0.05 level
Up to Graduate	64	17.17	2.19		

Table 3 indicate that adolescents belonging to parents having more than graduate qualification and having upto graduate qualification have mean score 18.08 and 17.17 respectively. Difference between both the groups is significant as t-value is 2.19 which is more than the critical value at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore hypothesis 3 was rejected.

CONCLUSION

The current study provided an insight into the awareness of drug abuse among male adolescent students of Mohali District of Punjab. Study indicated that there is no difference in awareness about drug abuse between students belonging to rural and urban locality. Level of student`s awareness about drug abuse was significantly increased with increase in the parental educational level. In addition, in the current study, adolescents belonging to higher income families showed higher level of drug abuse awareness.

IMPLICATIONS

Preventative science postulates that negative health outcomes, including those resulting from drug abuse, can be prevented by reducing risk factors and enhancing protective factors. National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) emphasizes the strategy of targeting modifiable risk factors and enhancing protective factors through family, school and community prevention programmes. Increasing family bonding and maintaining proper discipline at home can prevent adolescents from taking drugs. Parents should aware their children about consequences of drugs, their effects, their costs and ultimately their results. School base drug abuse awareness programmes can make students aware about hazardous effects of drugs. Drug awareness training for teachers can play an important role as teachers are the key factors to make students aware at school level. Government through the help of mass media should start drug prevention and awareness program.

REFERENCES

- Ahmad, B. & Sidiq, T. (2015). *Awareness of Drug Addiction among College Students of Kashmir Vally, International Journal of Medical Sciences & Pharmaceutical Research, 1(1), 01-14.*
- Belcher, H.M., & Shinitzky, H.E.(1998). *Substance abuse in children: prediction, protection and prevention. Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med, 152, 952–60.*
- Bovin, G. & Griffin, K.W.(2007). *School based programmes to prevent alcohol, tobacco and other drug use. Int Rev Psychiatry, 19,607–15.*
- Chakravarty, B.,Shah, S.& Lotfipour, S.(2013). *Adolescents Drug Abuse—Awareness and Prevention, Indian Journal of Medical Research, 137(6),1021-1023.*
- Hawkins, J., Catalano R. & Arthur, M.W.(2002). *Promoting science-based prevention in communities, Addictive Behaviour, 27,951–76.*
- Siddiqui,A.F. & Salim, A. M. A.(2016). *Awarenesss of Substance use and its associated factors in young Saudi Students, Journal of Medical and Allied Sciences, 6(2),61-67.*