

Effects of Some Social-Psychological Factors on Trend of Drugs

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Abstract: This paper aims to study some social - psychological factors affecting trend of drugs and the relationship of depressive symptoms with methadone dose. Method of This study is cross-sectional survey and data collection is done by questionnaires. In this study, 500 available samples were used. Inferential statistics results of this study showed that between dependent variable (trend of drugs) and some independent variables (attitude towards drug, awareness about drugs, methadone use and depression), there was a significant correlation. If between dependent variable in this study and other independent variables (age, gender, feelings of alienation) there was no significant correlation. Results of Stepwise regression analysis indicated that Knowledge about drugs, attitude toward drugs and methadone, respectively, were the most influential factors on drug tendency and Based on the analysis it was found that rates of depression can play a role of interface variable between methadone dose and desire for drugs.

Key words: Drugs • Attitude • Awareness • Depression • Methadone

INTRODUCTION

One of the major problems in today's society is drug addiction issue. Addiction is something that has gripped human for a long time. Those who use drugs more likely, show legal and illegal actions, such as smoking, alcohol use and sexual behaviour disorders [1]. Drug problems are not only in Iran, but also it is the plague of the twenty-first century. Every world countries are involved in drug problems in some way; in fact our planet is a supermarket of mental irritating chemicals or drugs.. History of addictive drug and their abuse goes back to the thousands of years ago. This sinister phenomenon, long ago in Iran and other countries, destroyed foundation of many lives and every day severity of its impact is increasing.

Objective evidence and statistics show that despite all the efforts of government officials, NGOs and international efforts, prevalence of addiction issue, decrease in age at onset for drug use and trends of chemical narcotic substance abuse are worrisome, while some developed countries have succeeded to control the drug addiction chart which had an increasing growth in the late seventies and eighties [2].

Due to its adjacency to Afghanistan which is the largest opium producer in the world As well as being the main route of transit and transport of produced substance to the West, Iran is at highest risk for addiction. The alarming statistics and the problem of youth drug addiction and its individual and social tragic effects can become one of the most important challenges facing the state and Iranian people. To control and improve this situation, proper planning, coordination of all forces, national determination and optimum use and, most importantly, education and practical knowledge are needed. In fact maybe more than 20 percent of national crimes and 10 percent of violent crime are due to the use of illegal drugs. If we estimate two million addicts in Iran as a base number and If each addict in his life involves at least one other person, It is likely that the number of drug addicts and highly exposed people will be more in the future [3].

Statistics of the country's prison population show that there are about 48 percent of those who are addicted or have been arrested on charge of buying and selling the drugs. Addiction as a phenomenon affecting both the individual and the social and can

have both physical and psychological complications such as cardiovascular, pulmonary, renal, hepatic and neurologic complications.

In 1964 the World Health Organization concluded that the term "addiction" is no longer a practical term and 'Drug dependence' was instead recommended. The concept of Drug dependence has had ordinary and a formal meaning during many decades. Basically in relation to the definition of dependence, two concepts have been used: behavioural dependence and physical dependence. [4]

The most important psychological complications for the individual are inappropriate behaviours and psychological characteristics such as depression, phobia types, antisocial personality and associated addictions (e.g., alcoholism) and the most important complications of addiction on society are loosening of the family ties, divorce, poverty, unemployment, prostitution and illicit sexual relationships.

Careful consideration of economic and social damage of addiction requires many integrated activities because damage of family and other social elements, reducing the performance of individuals and relatives, addiction involvement in acts of violence and other crimes and many other problems should be considered. Counselling and group therapy is an evolved structure that has several objectives. One of the most important objectives is eliminating the behaviour that caused the failure and lack of self confidence. The second objective is to change a person's character and behaviour so that people around consider him as an effective and useful person for the community. Studies show that this treatment method is efficient and cost effective, Implementing in other countries for decades. In the treatment of an addict, He should be investigated from various angles so that importance of the problem can be better understood and thus we can provide the perfect solution [5].

Advances in technologies which are due to some phenomena such as urbanization, poor growth, increasing population, poverty, war, immigration and etc, according to Durkheim's interpretation, will cause norm of social dissociation and will increase traumatic social factors. In this situation some phenomena such as substance abuse, suicide, loneliness, depression, lack of emotional and other social-psychological problems will be highly increased. Besides these phenomena which are the result of technological advances. Other cultural changes are also occurring, causing extensive developments in different social, cultural and emotional dimensions of people life. Changing of the family performance and the role of parents and elders and growth of individualism in

society, cause family organization to be weakened. Addictions can double it by isolating people and cause changes and disruptions in the relationships between people including relations of parents with children and relationship between parents in family [6].

As experts say, save of an addict is the save of society because this person lives in society and is infected [7].

In this study, researchers sought to explore and analyze some of the factors affecting trend of drugs use. In line with this study, the main objectives are as follows:

- Assessing the rate of tendency and desire to use drugs.
- Examining the significance relationship between respondents' attitudes and trend of drugs.
- Examining the significance relationship between respondents' awareness and trend of drugs.
- Examining the significance relationship between methadone use and trend of drugs.
- Examining the significance relationship between methadone use and the level of depression symptoms.
- Examining the significance relationship between background variables and trend of drugs.
- Examining the significance relationship between level of respondents' Feeling of alienation and trend of drugs.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

With the beginning of the twentieth century, most physicians believed that addiction is a disease and were trying to treat the disease. Dare to say that today almost all countries of the world have drug problems. This problem is perhaps the most important cultural, educational and social phenomenon. Many various factors such as discoveries and inventions, war and peace, movement of people towards cities and other countries, Change of social structure, cultural tastes of youth, poverty, drought, factors and natural disasters, Customs, policies and finally, the purchasing power of people, all have been effective. In such a case, each individual has the potential to be caught in its trap [5].

In term of attitude, Fish Bein and Ajzen in the theory of planned behaviour emphasize that behaviour follows the attitude toward a reasonable method. If a person thinks behaviour is related to certain attitudes and has the desired result and can easily be carried out, so the person continues to engage in behaviour [12]. According to this theory, behavioural intentions include personal factors

(attitude and perceived control) and social factors (social norms) and are determined by three types of beliefs: Beliefs about the consequences of the behaviour (attitudes), the control of the individual belief (perceived behavioural control) and social or normative beliefs (subjective norms) [13]. According to Gordon Allport, Attitudes is mental and stagnant state of readiness shaped by experience and impacts the individual response to objects and situations with which he is associated [12].

According to these views we can say that attitude is relatively constant desire of every person to feel and behave in a manner specific to a topic or particular phenomenon. This idea can be used in forming the research hypothesis regarding the relationship between respondents' attitude and trend of drugs.

In term of awareness, Fish Bein and Ajzen in the theory of logical action argue that we treat according conscious intentions based on rational calculations about the potential consequences of our behavior and how others treat us [14]. According to Chalmers, awareness is a state that we have all the information and we use them to control the behaviour [15]. Rogers in diffusion theory, consider awareness as the first step to changing behavior. He interprets awareness as becoming aware of one's own behaviour [16]. Gregory and Di Leo also suggest that awareness (e.g., consequences, recognition and opportunities), directly affect the behavior. In their opinion, the awareness influence both unconscious behaviours (habits and involuntary reactions) and conscious behaviours (attitudes, intentions and self-perception) [17].

Based on above views it can be argued that Human behavior is influenced by the information he obtains and in relevance of knowledge, human behavior changes. This idea can be used in forming research theory, based on the relationship between awareness about drugs and the amount of drug use. The term of estrangement and alienation In Marx's terms thoughts means that people are feeling alienated from the social life of their own, have no control over their social life. Process of alienation is associated with a feeling of worthlessness, aversion to self and others, powerlessness, distrust of others, indifference and so on, which eventually these feelings lead to aggressive and delinquent behaviours. In this condition, people will reject values and social norms and seek to change them. Marx's theory of alienation can explain relationship between social alienation and trend of drugs.

Sepehrmanesh [11] in his paper entitled "The effect of methadone on depression among prisoner injection drug users," has been analyzed the problem. This type of quasi-experimental study was conducted among injection drug users in prison. A questionnaire was used in this study consists of two parts: demographic characteristics and depression test of BECK. They were provided by clinical psychologist of prison. After recording the participants, filling out the questionnaire and interviewing by three psychiatrists, methadone was given orally to participants and after 3 months methadone use, with BECK test and a psychiatric interview based on DSM-IV, were reassessed. The results were analyzed using the Paired T-Test. from total of 37 subjects, 35 persons were enrolled and participants were examined in terms of age, education, occupational status, marital status and type of crime. Based on clinical interviews, from 35 subjects, 26 people (74.28%) were diagnosed having a depressive disorder. Two of them, due to suicidal ideation, were referred for treatment and were excluded from the study and 9 peoples (25.71%) had no depression. after treatment, from the total of 24 subjects, 19 cases (79.16%) showed relative to optimal recovery in depression And 5 ones (20.83 percent) remained unchanged. A significant decrease in the mean depression score of subjects, based on Beck Test, was seen after treatment ($p < 0.001$). Diagnostic value (positive predictive) for the Beck test in this study was 47.28 percent. This study showed that taking methadone in drug abusers reduces depression severity.

Based on the above materials and the research model (Fig. 1), assumptions presented in this paper are as follows:

- There is a significant relationship between respondents' attitude and trend of drugs.
- There is a significant relationship between respondents' awareness and trend of drugs.
- There is a significant relationship between methadone use and trend of drugs.
- There is a significant relationship between methadone use and the level of depression.
- There is a significant relationship between background variables (age and gender) and trend of drugs.
- There is a significant relationship between general health of respondents and trend of drugs.
- There is a significant relationship between rate of respondents' Feeling of alienation and trend of drugs.

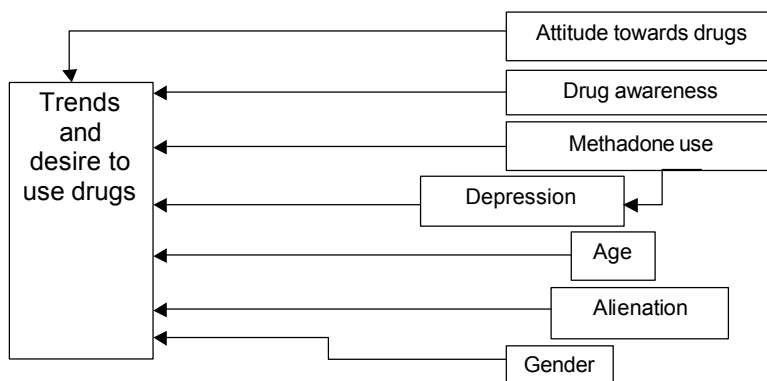


Fig 1: Research model

The current study was a descriptive-analytic study where cross-sectional survey has been used. Data collecting tool in the survey is a questionnaire and in the library, is taking notes and using Internet resources. Statistical population include all participants (individuals affiliated with drug, addicts) who have been treated and cured in Addiction Treatment Clinic of Imam Reza Hospital which is located in the city of Mashhad.

Random sampling is sometimes difficult and sometimes even impossible, in such circumstances; the researcher uses a Convenience Sampling (8 and 9). In this study, Convenience samples from 500 subjects were used.

Data analysis is based on two methods, descriptive and inferential statistics. First, according to the purposes of research and to gain an understanding of the study population, data obtained from the sample were evaluated and the statistical techniques were used. To test the research assumptions, inferential tests were used proportional to the scale of the variables. In this regard, the SPSS software was used.

To determine the validity of the questionnaire, the following steps are performed: Referring to related and similar studies using their questionnaire sample, A number of interviews with knowledgeable people and experts, using opinions of experts and professionals in the social sciences, Consultation and survey of university professors, setting the preliminary questionnaires, taking pre-test during which 50 Preliminary questionnaire were distributed among statistical samples. During the implementation and completion, the authenticity of some specific questions was determined and Improvements were made in them. Reliability for each variable was measured by Cronbach's alpha (Table 1).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results of factor analysis and Cronbach's alpha

Independent T-test Results: The results of the independent t-test show that the rate of desire for men (38.96) and women (32.8) is not much different with their parents'. The results suggest that the t-statistic and significance level are equal to -2.73 and 0.155, respectively, which are not satisfactory. In this regard, statistically, there is no significant relationship between gender and trend of drugs.

Correlation Test Results: The results of the Pearson test between respondents' attitude and trend of drugs show a significant relationship. The correlation coefficient is about 0.46 and a significance level of 0.000. Since this coefficient is positive, it can be concluded that there is a direct relationship between respondents' attitude and trend of drugs, so the assumption is not rejected.

The results of the Pearson test between respondents' awareness and trend of drugs show a significant relationship. The correlation coefficient is about -0.68 with a significance level of 0.000. Since this coefficient is negative, it can be concluded that there is an inverse relationship between respondents' awareness and trend of drugs. In this respect, this relationship is statistically significant; therefore, this assumption is not rejected.

The results of the Pearson test between age of respondents and trend of drugs do NOT show a significant relationship. The correlation coefficient is -0.001 with a significance level of 0.092. Since this is not an acceptable level, the relationship is not significant, thus this assumption was rejected.

Table 1: Results of factor analysis and Cronbach's alpha coefficients of the main variables

No.	Dependent variable	Number of deleted Items	Cronbach's alpha coefficient
1	Trend of drugs	3	0.71
2	Drug awareness	No deleted Items	0.86
3	Alienation	1	0.91
4	Depression	No deleted Items	0.69
5	General health	4	0.85
6	Desire to use drugs	2	0.76
3.	Research findings		

Table 2: Frequency distribution of respondents in terms of measured variables

Variable	Low (%)	Average (%)	High (%)
Drug awareness	47.2	32.5	19.3
Alienation	16.1	23.8	60.1
Depression	15.1	29.8	55.1
General health	29.2	44.3	26.5
Desire to use drugs	29.6	24.1	46.3
Methadone use	19.2	64.7	16.1
Total respondents	500		

Table 3: Independent t-test results of respondents' gender and the desire to drugs

Gender	Number	Average desire rate	Standard deviation	Standard error of the mean	T	Sig.
Male	386	38.96	10.82	0.76	-2.73	0.155
Female	114	32.08	11.94	0.84		

Table 3: Correlation test results (dependent variable: trend of drugs)

Dependent variable	Pearson correlation coefficient(R)	Sig.	Reject / accept
Respondents' attitude	0.46	0.000	Accept
Respondents' awareness	0.68	0.000	Accept
Age	-0.001	0.92	Reject
Feeling of alienation	-0.13	0.132	Reject
Methadone use	-0.48	0.01	Accept

Table 4: Correlation test results (dependent variable: depression)

Dependent variable	Pearson correlation coefficient(R)	Sig	Reject / accept
Methadone use	-0.31	0.000	Accept

Table 5: Multivariate regression results about factors influencing attitudes towards drugs

No.	Predictor variables	R ² adj	?	T	Sig. T	F	Sig. F
First step	drug awareness	0.041	0.88	-38.364	0.000	-1.472	0.000
Second step	attitude towards drugs	0.092	0.42	13.837	0.000	1.184	0.000
Third step	methadone use	0.129	0.163	6.458	0.000	-5.02	0.000

The results of the Pearson test between feeling of alienation and trend of drugs also do NOT show a significant relationship. Its correlation coefficient is -0.13 and significance level is 0.132. Since this is not an acceptable level, the relationship is not significant, thus this assumption was rejected.

The results of the Pearson test between methadone use and trend of drugs show a significant relationship. The correlation coefficient is -0.48 and significance level is 0.01. Since this coefficient is negative, it can be concluded that there is an inverse relationship between methadone use and trend of drugs. This relationship is statistically significant; therefore, this assumption is not rejected.

The results of the Pearson test between use of methadone and depression show a significant relationship. The correlation coefficient is -0.31 and significance level is 0.000. Since this coefficient is negative, it can be concluded that there is an inverse relationship between methadone use and depression. This relationship is statistically significant; therefore, the assumption is not rejected.

Multivariate Regression Results: The results indicate that among the independent variables in this study, 3 variables of drug awareness, attitude towards drugs and methadone use have been entered in equation in order of effectiveness. Stepwise regression results are shown in the following table:

Path analysis diagram and direct and indirect effects of independent variables

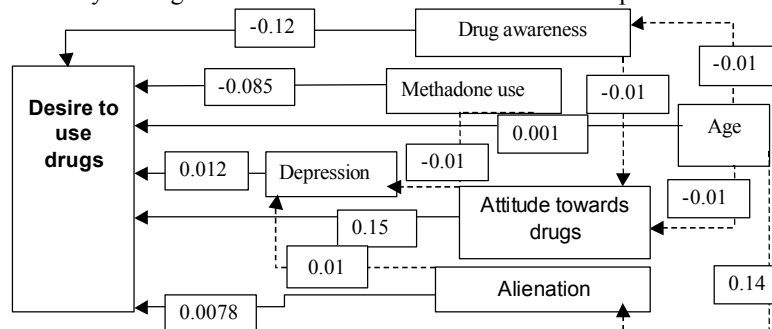


Fig. 1: Path analysis diagram

Table 6: direct and indirect effects of independent variables

independent variables	Effect		Total
	Direct	Indirect	
Drug awareness	-0.12	-0.01	-0.13
Attitude towards drugs	0.15	-	0.15
Alienation	0.0078	0.01	0.0178
Depression	0.012	-	0.012
Methadone use	-0.085	-0.01	-0.095
Age	0.001	0.12	0.121
Total respondents	500		

First Step: Based on the above table, the first predictor variable entered in regression equation was drug awareness variable. Nearly 4.1 percent of the adaptation variance of young people and their parents was determined.

Second Step: In the second step, the variable of attitude towards drugs was entered in regression equation and about 9.2 percent of adaptation variance was obtained.

Third Step: in the third step, the variable of methadone use was entered in regression equation and about 12.9 percent of adaptation variance was obtained.

CONCLUSION

Attitude is a combination of beliefs and emotions that can prepare a person in advance to have negative or positive view about people, things and different groups. Attitudes are summary evaluations of objects and thus, predict future behavior or conducting actions [10]. According to Fish Bein and Ajzen, The best predictors of voluntary behaviours are their behavioural intentions. Beliefs and attitudes towards a behavior which a person can have, is one of the determinants of behavioural intentions. Accordingly, in this study assumptions associated with attitude towards drugs, are tested.

Another assumption was awareness about drugs that was examined in relation to the trends of drugs and the results showed that between these two variables, there is a significant correlation. This means that more and more negative attitudes to drugs, he tends less to these drugs and the more he becomes aware, his tendency to drugs will be less.

Methadone is from opioid family of drugs to treat dependence on other opioids such as heroin, codeine and morphine. Methadone maintenance dose in the treatment of addicts is not alone, but as part of the process is used to treat opiate addicts. Methadone is a powerful industrial drug that is less addictive than morphine or heroin. And often is used as a maintenance medicine to control drug addiction. Methadone is considered as the most effective treatment for heroin and other drugs. Substance abuse is associated with a high prevalence of psychiatric disorders and these disorders also include mood disorders, especially depression. Sepehrmanesh [11] in his paper entitled "The effect of methadone on depression among prisoner injection drug users," has been analyzed this issue. The results of this research have approved the effect of methadone use on depression. In the present study direct effect of methadone use on reduction of depression and desire to drug use, also was also confirmed where depression was the interface variable.

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