

Short Communication

Determinants and Consequences of Drug Addiction in Faisalabad–Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

The present study was explored the main determinants and consequences of drug addiction in Faisalabad. Through convenient sampling technique, 108 respondents were selected from seven localities of Faisalabad city. Majority (59%) of respondents started the use of narcotic drug when they were 17 to 23 years of age. Majority of the addicts (81%) were literates and only 19% were illiterate. Majority of the respondents i.e., 61% were employed while, 39% were unemployed.

Key Words: Addiction; Faisalabad; Pakistan

INTRODUCTION

Drug addiction is composed of two words drug and addiction. The term drug is simple but it arouses very strong emotional reaction. Yet a drug is simply, any chemical substance that affects a person in such a way as to bring about the psychological, physiological, emotional and behavioural changes in the body chemistry (Ausubell, 1958). Drugs addiction has become one of the burning problems of the world now-a-days due to its dangerous effects on the individual as well as on the society. Addiction problem has been a part of all the societies. Today, the problem has become so acute that every Government is seriously utilizing its sources to over come this menace. Cannabis and opium have been used in Indo-Pakistan. Opium was freely available in this part of world. Heroin was introduced in Pakistan in 1980 and this being a new drug; the society had no protected attitudes against its use. Nabeela (1999) conducted a research on drug addiction among youth and found that the peer group was a vital factor that implanted the habit of drug use.

This study was carried out to a) find out the determinants of drug addiction, b) find out the types of drugs being used, c) study the effects of drug on health and psycho condition of addicts, d) find out the consequences of drug addiction, and e) suggest some remedial measures for the eradication of drug addiction.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in the seven localities of Faisalabad city: D-type colony, Gujjar Basti, Sidhu-pura, Raza Abad, Gulberg colony, Jinnah colony and Peoples colony. Using convenient sampling technique, 18 to 20 respondents were selected from each selected locality of

Faisalabad city. The data thus obtained were edited, tabulated and statistically analyzed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The distribution of respondents was: 37% from 18 to 23, 35% from 24 to 29, and 28% from 30 to 36 years of age. It was found that generally the people of younger age are an easy prey of drugs.

Data indicate that 26% of respondents started the use of narcotic drug when they were 10 to 18 years of age; while 59% started at 17 to 23 years of age and the rest of them i.e. 15% fell in the age group 24 to 30 years. The teenagers were involved more in addiction as compared to the older people. The data also show that 76% of the respondents were unmarried, while only 24% were married. These findings agree with those of Habib (1984) and Shafique (1987). It appeared from the data that addicts are getting late in marriage. It may be due to their bad habits that either they cannot afford expenses of marital life or they cannot find a life partner. Predominant majority of the addicts (81%) were literates and only 19% were illiterate. Among those who were educated 50% were either primary or middle. Only 17% were matric and remaining 14% had got college education. Education does not seem to be a factor affecting positively or negatively the use of drugs. Majority of the respondents i.e., 61% were employed while, 39% were unemployed.

It was found that 49% of the respondents did not do any thing or were students. Only 20% of them belonged to agricultural occupation, 17% were doing their own business; while 13% were in private service. Those referred in skill labours were 18% and the rest of them were unskilled labours. The results showed that majority of the businessman are skilled workers were involved in addiction.

Large proportion (30%) of the respondents was found to spend 1 to 7 hours in economic activities; while, 18% of the respondents spend 8 to 11 hours in economic activities daily, and 13% were not engaged in any economic activity.

Greatest proportion of the respondents i.e. 44% belonged to low-income group i.e. up to Rs. 2000 per month; while, 13% of them fell in the medium income group of Rs. 2001-4000 per month. A small proportion (4%) of the respondents was in high income group. It appears that more than 83% of the respondents were either in low-income group or did not earn any thing. These findings support those of Habib (1984), and Sabir and Azhar (1979).

Results revealed that 52% of the respondents reported that there were people in their locality who committed some kinds of crimes. While, 15% reported that there were no criminals in their locality and the remaining one third did not know whether any crimes were being committed in the locality they lived in.

The identity of association during adolescent age (11 – 19 years) showed a variable pattern the during childhood age. The respondents in their childhood reporting an intense relationship with good people were depressed from 96% in childhood to 19% in adolescent age, and further, in childhood age those 4% having intense association with unbecoming individuals rose to 70% in adolescent age, while respondents who had no relationship with criminal at all during childhood have now risen to 11% association with criminal in their adolescent age.

The intensity of association during adult age (18 + above) showed a more variable pattern then during adolescent age and childhood age. Of the respondents, 19% and 70% in adolescent age had intense association with good people and unbecoming individuals respectively, swelled to 42% with increasing proportion in adult age association with criminals 42% in spite of 11% in adolescent and zero% in childhood. The results are showing different patterns of association at these ages.

Most of the respondents i.e., 22, 24 and 26% were using narcotics firstly for mental satisfaction, pressure of peer group and because of curiosity respectively. While, remaining the 7, 6 and 15% were using for increasing working efficiency, to enhance sexual pleasure and due to drug craze. It is indicated that main reasons were bad company or peer pressure, curiosity and their attempt to get rid of worries and tensions.

There was a highly significant association between self income of the respondents and their monthly expenditure on drugs. This is quite logical because the more money one has the more he is likely to spend on his urgent needs. These findings are also consistent with those of Farooq (1983).

CONCLUSIONS

The present research was to study the determinants and consequences of drug addiction in Faisalabad, types of drug used and the sources of availability of these drugs. As many as 87% of respondents were using the drugs due to socio-psychological factors and remaining due to economic or other factors. As far as the types of narcotics are concerned, heroin and charas were found to be the main items being used by the respondents. The major sources of availability of these drugs were their friends, other drug addicts or peddlers.

Majority of the respondents started using drugs for the sake of company, but all the respondents started using narcotics in the company of friends. The main reasons were the lack of parental supervision, improper residential areas and to some extent frustration in love. In one way or other the victim suffered from some kind of deprivation that he sought resort in the drug abuse (psychological reason).

Availability of drugs with out ant hindrance is also a responsible factor in these phenomena of drug addiction. It is found that law enforcing agencies are responsible for illicit trafficking of drug to a considerable extent.

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