

A Descriptive Study to Assess the Attitude towards Drug Dependence among Adolescents in Selected Schools of Punjab

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Abstract: *AIM: This study set out to assess the attitudes of Adolescents at a few chosen schools regarding drug dependence. BACKGROUND: Drug abuse is a problem affecting the whole world including India. The abuse of drugs poses both immediate and long term threats to life and health of the users. It inhibits the individual's potential for growth and achievements. Though drug abuse is found in all age groups, the prevalence is highest among adolescents and young adults. The adolescents being an asset to the society, the increasing concern about drug abuse among adolescents is justified. Good awareness is an important protective factor for keeping adolescents away from substance abuse. Therefore, the goal of the current study is to investigate adolescents attitude on drug dependence.*

MATERIAL AND METHODS: The current study used a non-probability convenient sampling strategy to obtain a sample of 50 participants. A Self structured Attitudes scale instrument was used to assess the attitude of adolescents toward drug dependence. Throughout the analysis, statistics for both descriptive and inferential reasons will be used. Results indicated that (4%) of adolescents had a positive attitude toward drug dependence, the majority of adolescents (96%) had a negative attitude toward it.

CONCLUSION: The study found that (96%)of adolescents had a negative attitude toward drug dependence (4%) adolescents had a positive attitude toward it.

Keywords: Assess, Attitude, Drug dependence , adolescents, Selected Schools

I. INTRODUCTION

According to community-based surveys from India, adolescents commonly use tobacco, alcohol, cannabis, opioids, and inhalants. In the National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India, 2019 (NSEPSU) the prevalence of substance use in children aged 10-17 years has been reported as 1.3% for alcohol, 1.8% for opioids, 1.17% for volatile solvents, and 0.9% for cannabis. Some school-based studies from different regions of India have reported varying prevalence of substance abuse in adolescents ranging from 11 to 47%. The degrees of awareness regarding substance abuse also vary with different regions in school-going children.

Until the 1980, drug abuse in Punjab is confined to alcohol, opium, poppy husk, tobacco and cannabis but since 1980 the trend shifted tremendously towards more powerful semi synthetic illicit opioids i.e. heroin. By the 1990s, along with injectable heroin, injection of other powerful prescription opioids became common such as morphine, pethidine, pentazocine but most commonly buprenorphine (often as a cocktail with diazepam and antihistamine injections). Along with injecting drug use, the 2000s witnessed heavy oral abuse of prescription or pharmaceutical opioids and other medical drugs, locally known as "medical". These included codeine containing cough syrups and other oral opioids such as dextropropoxyphene capsules. Finally the current decade is also witnessing use of stimulants like cocaine and amphetamine-like stimulants. So this made the drug situation in Punjab extremely complex and of great concern, resulting in high rate of crime, family disruption, social instability and lack of productivity. Therefore counseling and awareness among youth regarding ill-effects of drugs is the current need of the hour. Adequate medical services along with social support, positive community response and intervention in associated social issues can result in containing the problem of addiction.



II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

A Descriptive study to assess the Attitude towards Drug Dependence among Adolescents in selected Schools of Punjab.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To assess the Attitude Towards Drug Dependence Among Adolescents .
- To determine the association of the Attitude Towards Dependence among Adolescents with their selected socio-demographic variables

Operational Definitions

- **Assess:-** According to the present study, it refers to apprising/evaluating the attitude of Adolescents towards Drug Dependence .
- **Attitude:-** Attitude refers that how Adolescents feel and think about Drug Dependence.
- **Adolescents:-** Adolescents are students who are 15 -18 age group in selected schools of Punjab.
- **Drug Dependence:-** It is a state characterized by compulsion to take the drugs on continue or periodic basis in order to enjoy its psychic effects and person may dependent on one or more drugs
- **Selected Schools:-** A selected Senior secondary schools where the data is collected.

Assumptions

Assumptions includes:

- 1.It is assumed that drug dependence is more common in adolescents.
2. It is assumed that drug dependence is more common in males than females.

III. MATERIAL AND METHODS:

RESEARCH APPROACH AND DESIGN:

A quantitative descriptive research approach and design

DESCRIPTION OF TOOL:

Structured questionnaire consisted of two sections:

Section I: Demographic variables of study subjects included were age, Gender , educational status , religion , area of residence, Type of family, Father's and mother's education, Father's and mother's occupation , family income, parental marital status ,drug used in family.

Section II: It consisted of 3 Likert scale questions regarding attitude towards drug dependence.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Ethical clearance was obtained from:

- Permission from the concerned authorities of selected Schools of, Punjab.
- Informed consent from the candidates willing to participate in the study.
- Routine of the selected Schools and protocols was not interrupted.

IV. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

SECTION-I

Finding related to the socio-demographic of Adolescents in selected Schools of Punjab.

Table 1: Socio-demographic profile of Adolescents in selected Schools of Punjab.

N=50

SR. NO	Socio-Demographic Variables	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
1.	Age (in years) a. 15 year	11	22



	b. 16 year c. 17 year d. 18 year	09 13 17	18 26 34
2	Gender a.Female b.Male	17 33	34 66
3	Class a) 9 th b) 10 th c) 11 th d) 12 th	11 09 13 17	22 18 26 34
4	Religion a) Hindu b) Sikh c) Christian d) Muslim	09 37 03 01	18 74 06 02
5	Area of Residence a. Rural b.Urban	42 08	84 16
6	Type of Family a) Nuclear b) Joint	13 37	26 74
7	Father Education a) illiterate b) High c) Secondary d Graduation e) Post Graduation	22 18 08 02 00	44 36 16 04 00
8	Mothers Education a) illiterate b) High c) Secondary d Graduation e) Post Graduation	33 09 08 00 00	66 18 16 00 00
9	Father Occupation a) Government job b) Private job c) Bussiness d) Labourer	06 09 22 13	12 18 44 26
10	Mother Occupation a) Government job b) Private job c) House wife d) Bussiness	00 08 36 06	00 16 72 12



11	Family income (Yearly) a) Below 1,00000 b) 1,00000 to 2,00000 c) 2,00000 to 3,00000 d) Above 3,00000	29 17 04 00	58 34 08 00
12	Parental Marital Status a) Living Together b) Separated c) Divorced	48 02 00	96 04 00
13	Drug used in family (Parents or Siblings) a) Yes b) No	37 13	74 26
14	If yes who take drugs in family. a) Grandfather b) Father c) Siblings	11 21 05	22 42 10
15	Ever used any Drug a) Never b) Once c) Occasionally d) Daily	40 06 04 00	80 12 08 00

Table 1: Shows the socio-demographic characteristics of adolescents students .

Table 2: Interpretation of scores according to their level of Attitude

Attitude	Score	Range
Positive Attitude	>61	61-90
Negative Attitude	<60	30-60

SECTION-II

Table 3: Findings related to the attitude of adolescents towards drug dependence in selected schools of Punjab.

N=50

Level of	Score	Range	Group (n=50)	
			F	%
Positive attitude	> 61	61 -90	02	4
Negative attitude	< 60	30-60	48	96

Minimum score=30

Maximum score=90

SECTION-III

Finding related to find out the association of level of attitude Towards drug dependence among adolescents with selected demographic variables.

Table 4: Association of level of attitude Towards drug dependence among adolescents with selected demographic variables.

N=50

S.no	Socio-Demographic variables	Attitude level		Chi-square value	Df	P VALUE
		Positive	Negative			
1	Age (in years) a. 15 year b. 16 year	00 00	11 09	1.451	3	0.2284 ^{NS}



	c. 17 year d. 18 year	01 01	12 16			
2	Gender a.Female b.Male	00 02	17 31	1.073	1	0.3003 ^{NS}
3	Class a) 9 th b) 10 th c) 11 th d) 12 th	00 00 01 01	11 09 12 16	1.451	3	0.2284 ^{NS}
4	Religion a) Hindu b) Sikh c) Christian d) Muslim	00 02 00 00	09 35 03 01	0.733	3	0.3919 ^{NS}
5	Area of Residence a. Rural b.Urban	02 00	40 08	0.397	1	0.5286 ^{NS}
6	Type of Family a) Nuclear b) Joint	01 01	12 36	0.623	1	0.4299 ^{NS}
7	Father Education a) illiterate b) High c) Secondary d Graduation e) Post Graduation	01 01 00 00 00	21 17 08 02 00	0.547	4	0.4595 ^{NS}
8	Mothers Education a) illiterate b) High c) Secondary d Graduation e) Post Graduation	01 01 00 00 00	32 08 08 00 00	1.599	4	0.2060 ^{NS}
9	Father Occupation a) Government job b) Private job c) Bussiness d) Labourer	00 00 01 01	06 09 21 12	1.103	3	0.2936 ^{NS}
10	Mother Occupation a) Government job b) Private job c) House wife d) Bussiness	00 01 01 00	00 07 35 06	1.895	3	0.1686 ^{NS}
11	Family income (Yearly) a) Below 1,00000 b) 1,00000 to 2,00000 c) 2,00000 to 3,00000	01 00 01	28 17 03	5.325	3	0.0210 ^{NS}



	d) Above 3,00000	00	00			
12	Parental Marital Status					
	a) Living Together	02	46	0.086	2	0.7693 ^{NS}
	b) Separated	00	02			
	c) Divorced	00	00			
13	Drug used in family (Parents or Siblings)					
	a) Yes	02	35	0.733	1	0.3919 ^{NS}
	b) No	00	13			
14	If yes who take drugs in family.					
	a) Grandfather	00	11	1.611	2	0.2044 ^{NS}
	b) Father	02	19			
	c) Siblings	00	05			
15	Ever used any Drug a)					
	Never	00	40	15.279	3	0.0001 ^S
	b) Once	02	04			
	c) Occasionally	00	04			
	d) Daily	00	00			

V. DISCUSSION

Objective-1: To assess the Attitude Towards drug dependence Among adolescents .The results of this study showed that adolescents (4 %) had positive Attitude towards drug dependence and (96%) adolescents had negative Attitude towards drug dependence.

Objective-2: To determine the association of the Attitude Towards drug dependence Among adolescents with selected socio-demographic variables Age, gender, educational status , religion , area of residence, Type of family, Father's and mother's education, Father's and mother's occupation , family income, parental marital status ,drug used in family. had no bearing on the current study's findings regarding the attitude Towards drug dependence Among adolescents with their selected socio-demographic variables.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

The majority of the adolescents (96 %) had negative Attitude towards drug dependence and (04%) adolescents had positive Attitude towards drug dependence.

Limitations of the study

The study is restricted to adolescents who were studying at government schools of punjab. Because of the study's small sample size, its findings cannot be generalized.

Recommendations

The following recommendations have been made based on the study's findings: • A large-scale investigation can be conducted to generalize findings.

- A Cross sectional experimental approach can be used to carry out a study of this nature.
- Adults could be the subjects of a similar study.

Summary

The conclusions, restrictions, and suggestions for further study were all covered in this chapter. The completion of the study gave the researcher a sense of joy and contentment. The study gave the researcher a deeper understanding of Attitude towards drug dependence among adolescents in selected schools of Punjab.



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