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**PERSONALITY DISORDERS IN SUBSTANCE DEPENDENT WOMEN  
COMPARED TO NORMAL WOMEN**

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**ABSTRACT**

Drug addiction is a social, mental and health problem in the communities. The current study was to compare personality disorders in substance dependent women with non-substance dependent women in the city of Shiraz in 2014, given the severity and prevalence of substance abuse among women in the past two decades and their high vulnerability.

This is a descriptive study on 61 women admitted to a rehab centers in Shiraz and sampling was done randomly. And a control group of 61 women who were not substance dependent were selected with the most closeness with the subjects in terms of age, education level, economic status, marital status. Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory-MCMI-III has been used to explain personality disorders, the obtained validity and reliability of the results indicate the adequacy of the test.

Results: Multivariate analysis showed that there is a significant difference in regard to personality disorders between substance dependent women and normal women ( $P < /0001$ ). It is concluded that

The comparison of personality disorders in substance dependent women contains important information for the definition, identification and treatment of this group of addicts.

**Keywords: Women addiction, Personality disorder, Substance dependent**

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**INTRODUCTION**

Mental health is defined as successful psychological functioning in terms of thinking, mood and behavior leading to constructive activities, and the ability to adapt to change and cope with adversity. Psychologically normal people are in harmony with themselves and the environment and compatible with the requirements of cultural and social facilities (Sadock, Sadock, 2003).

Substance abuse is one of the phenomena discussed by mental health and psychology, and considering the increasing number of substance abusers the need to check the personality traits behind this phenomenon, as well as the prevention and early treatment is important not only in terms of scientific research, but also in terms of humanity in such a degree that it can be considered a duty (The UN, 1997; quoted by Aziz Mohammadi, 2007).

Drug abuse, in addition to physical and psychological harm to those involved also puts public health at risk. So that the research shows that with the increasing number of addicts and substance demand social security reduced (Sadock, Sadock, 2003). Research suggests that addicted women are involved in delinquencies and criminal behavior alongside men; although the ways of doing these

activities are different from that of men model because women are involved in crimes with less physical risks. Miller researches (1981), which were conducted on women in Philadelphia, showed that there is a huge difference in the criminal acts of female addicts and non-addicts (Jamshidi Manesh, 2004).

Substance abuse and personality disorders are divided into separate topics and since then, research on co-morbidity of substance abuse and personality disorder due to its importance in prognosis was necessary. In most studies, personality disorders and substance dependence co-morbidity were reported with 44% to 79% for alcohol and drug abuse, respectively (Ball, 2005; Walton & Roberts, 2004; Krueger, 2002). Sadeghi and Shakeri (2002) also found that antisocial personality disorder and borderline personality disorder among drug addicts are the most common disorders with 25.5% and 11.4%, respectively.

Ballahang et al (2002) in another study showed that borderline and dependent personality disorders, with 15.2% and 13% are more among addicted individuals than other criminals. The results of Pahloyan et al (2003) indicate that addicts had higher scores in all measures of personality disorder than the

general population. A large number of drug abusers simultaneously exhibited conduct disorder and antisocial personality disorder criteria (Saber, 2004).

Jazayeri, et al (2004) in the study of the relationship between borderline and antisocial personality disorder and drug addiction concluded that among men, there are significant differences in paranoid and schizotypal personality disorders scales, sadistic, aggressiveness, passivity, dependence, social, and schizoid personality disorder at 99% confidence level between drug abusers and control group in addition to borderline characteristics and antisocial personality.

Miller researches (1981), which were conducted on women in Philadelphia, showed that there is a huge difference in the criminal acts of female addicts and non-addicts. Bruner et al (1997) showed prevalence of antisocial personality disorder by 4.33%, Major depressive disorder (MDD) of 7.8% in men and 7.23% in women among the highest prevalent disorders, respectively. Grillo et al (1997) demonstrated that borderline personality disorder in patients with substance abuse is significantly higher. And a research by Ron Zavini et al., (1997) showed that 57% of addictive

drug abusers are affected with personality disorders types, the most common are antisocial personality disorder (27%) and borderline disorder (4.18%) (Bakhsipoor & Roodsari, 2008). Morgensters et al (1997) showed that individuals with antisocial personality disorder, borderline personality disorder and paranoid exhibited more severe symptoms of problems related to alcohol and other drug abuse and other problems associated with addictive disorders. Goldstein et al (1999) in a study on substance abusers showed that drug abuse more quickly becomes chronic among individuals with antisocial personality disorder with longer substance abuse. Trull et al (2000) suggest that borderline personality disorder and substance abuse disorder are two psychological problems often diagnosed in individuals prone to substance abuse, eating excessively and or Impulse control problems.

Verhol, (2001) suggests that personality disorders are significantly common among psychiatric patients and addicts. In both groups personality disorders are about 4 times more prevalent than the general population. A study by Grant et al (2004) showed that that alcohol abuse disorder is strongly related with antisocial, dependent and histrionic

personality disorders. Also, the relationship between obsessive-compulsive personality disorder, and histrionic, schizoid and antisocial personality disorders and alcohol abuse disorder is stronger among women than men. Ball, (2004); Patton, Bentler, & Anderson (2000) studied the role of personality traits on addictive behaviors. The studies suggest that personality traits play roles in the onset, spread and persistence of drug dependence.

Fridell & Hesse (2005) in a study considering the severity of psychiatric disorders and death in substance abusers concluded that 26% of them are affected with disorder in the DSM-IV I, including schizophrenia, depression, and anxiety and 84% had a personality disorder, among them antisocial personality disorders with the highest rate of 32%. A survey by Knežević et al (2011) on the personality traits of both experimental and control groups concluded that there is a significant difference between the two groups, and antisocial, borderline, depressed and dependant personality disorders are at risk of the substance abuse.

## METHODS

In the current study, to collect data, first a list of female drug abusers who have been admitted at rehab center in the city

of Shiraz was prepared. Then, 61 subjects were randomly selected and the research objectives were explained for each. Next, the survey questionnaire was distributed among the subjects. In this regard, a group of 61 women who were not addicted were selected as control group in terms of age, education level, economic status, marital status closeness to the subject group. Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory-MCMI-III has been used to explain personality disorders. MCMI-III is a self-report composed of 175 true-false questions in 24 clinical scales consists of and 3 main indices, revealing (X), social desirability (Y) and somatoform (Z). The next two sections consist of main scales of personality disorder and clinical disorders.

The first part consists of the pathology of severe the schizoid personality to masochist and the second part consists of the pathology of more severe character namely the schizotypal, borderline and paranoid and the final part includes the clinical scales. Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory-MCMI-III is a standardized self-assessment scale. The original version of the test was presented by Theodore Millon in 1977 and since then it has been revised twice (MCMI-II) Millon, (1987), and (MCMI-3) Millin,

(1994) (BioTrooski& Zoloski, 1994; quoted by Fathi-Ashtiani, 2009).

MCMI-III inventory has a complex grading and interpretation system which is briefly described.

Literacy levels of grade 8<sup>th</sup> are set to complete the MCMI-III. The majority of respondents complete it in the 30 to 40 minutes (Millon, 2004). MANOVA was

used to analyze descriptive statistic data of the test the hypotheses after collecting data (mean and standard deviation).

**FINDINGS**

Table 1 shows mean and standard deviation of the study subjects age of both groups: two group have a same age and two groups don't have significant difference.

Table 1- mean and standard deviation of group age

	Mean	SD
Addicted	31.87	9.93
Normal	31.82	9.45

Table2- The mean and standard deviations of the variables studied in both control and experimental groups

Variable	Index	Mean	SD
Dependent	Addicted	60.72	27.93
	Normal	40.06	22.75
	Total	50.39	27.4
Histrionic	Addicted	45.75	29.31
	Normal	74.8	22.4
	Total	60.27	29.79
Narcissistic	Addicted	43.01	22.98
	Normal	49.85	19.35
	Total	46.43	21.43
Antisocial	Addicted	55.91	21.99
	Normal	34.34	18.8
	Total	45.13	23.07
Borderline	Addicted	59.37	18.14
	Normal	46.8	15.10
	Total	53.09	17.78

Table3- Comparison of personality disorders in both experimental and control Groups

		Sum squares	df	Mean square	F	P<	Eta coefficient	Statistical power
Dependent	Pretest	3098.18	1	3093.18	447.44	0.0001	0.79	1
	Group	13013.11	1	13013.11	20.05	0.0001	0.14	0.99
	Error	77870.00	120					
	The total	400702.0	122					
Histrionic	Pretest	443289.47	1	443289.47	651.38	0.0001	0.84	1
	Group	25737.57	1	25737.57	37.81	0.0001	0.24	1
	Error	81684.95	120					
	The total	550712.00	122					
Narcissistic	Pretest	263051.02	1	263051.02	582.88	0.0001	0.82	1
	Group	1425.32	1	1425.32	3.15	0.078	0.02	0.42
	Error	54154.65	120					

	The total	318631.00	122					
Antisocial	Pretest	248492.09	1	248492.09	593.38	0.0001	0.83	1
	Group	14195.54	1	14195.54	33.89	0.0001	0.22	1
	Error	50252.36	120					
	The total	312940.00	122					
Borderline	Pretest	343864.99	1	343864.99	1.23	0.0001	0.91	1
	Group	4822.04	1	4822.04	0.30	0.0001	0.12	0.98
	Error	33429.96	120					
	The total	382117.00	122					

The table shows dependent, histrionic, antisocial, and borderline personality disorders are significant. This suggests that drug-dependent women are affected with personality disorders. And the difference significance is shown in the table; the statistical power is the indicator of the significant difference between the two groups. Narcissistic personality disorder is not significant.

#### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

This study aimed to compare the personality disorders in substance dependent women with normal women. Therefore, according to the research objectives, questions and hypotheses were built and the data was collected to test them. The results of data analysis were presented in tables. The difference among histrionic, narcissistic, dependent, antisocial, and borderline personality disorders were examined in addicted and non-addicted women. All were significant except narcissistic personality disorder. These findings imply that normal women (non-substance abusers)

were healthier than different drug-dependent women in terms of personality traits. There was a significant difference between drug-dependent women and non-substance abusers in terms of personality traits.

This hypothesis aimed to compare the personality disorders in substance dependent women with normal women, the results indicated that substance abuser women show higher means than normal ones, in this scale. This difference was statistically significant. Most studies report co morbidity of substance addiction and personality disorders.

There have been ample studies conducted on the role of personality traits on addictive behaviors. These studies suggest that personality traits play roles on the onset, spread and persistence of drug dependence. There are some personality traits make individuals prone to addiction. According to studies, the personality is of a decisive role in the behavior of individuals, many studies have shown that addicts often have

serious personality disorders (Sarason & Sarason, 2003).

The research suggests that personality disorders prevalence in substance abusers is higher than that of prevalent in the general population. There is no significant difference between both experimental and control groups in term of narcissistic personality disorder. The probability reason of this insignificance is that non-independent group scores are slightly higher than the drug-dependent scores. Narcissistic personality disorder insignificant difference may be due to that the relatively high levels in the normal group caused insignificant difference. Two other cause of insignificance difference of narcissistic personality disorder can be 1) this personality disorder may be really high in the general population and 2) This increase can be attributed to sampling method, because controls were selected based on convenient sampling in terms of the demographic characteristics of substance abusers.

Consequently, many researchers have investigated these factors and their roles in the tendency toward drug abuse. In general, it can be inferred from these hypotheses that personality disorders are more in substance abusers. In other words, people who suffer from

personality disorders are more prone to the substance abuse. This issue is clear:

First, most of these people have problems in interpersonal relationships; secondly, people with personality disorder skills are very poor and third, these individuals are marginalized from society and family due to their behavior of personalities. This probably leads them to the substance use. All the research that has been done have confirmed the high rates of personality disorder especially antisocial and borderline personality disorders in substance abusers.

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