



PREDICTING THE ATTITUDE TO DRUG ABUSE IN ADOLESCENTS

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ABSTRACT

This study aims at predicting the attitude to drug abuse in adolescents based on the family risk factors in 2014. This research has descriptive correlative type. The statistical population consists of 378 male and female students (193 males and 185 females) in all educational degrees of Qaemshahr City in Mazandaran Province. They are selected by multi-stage random method based on Cochran Formula. The participants responded to Diana Baumrind's parenting style questionnaire (1972). The confirmatory factor analysis is utilized to test the research hypotheses. The results indicate that there is a significant direct correlation between the parenting styles in predicting the attitude to drug abuse.

Keywords: Attitude to Drug Abuse, Adolescents

INTRODUCTION

Drug abuse is one of the most serious human problems which undermines the bases and foundations of human society in recent years. Its prevention requires the application of several theories in different scientific fields as well as diverse methods and techniques [12], The research results indicate that all age groups are equally vulnerable to drug addiction. The more the age is raised, the more the drug addiction

processes is reduced. Accurately, about 14% of addicts are under 19 years of age and 28% of them become addicted from 20 to 24 years of age, but the people tendency to drug addiction is reduced after this age, so that approximately 4% of addicts tend to this destructive scourge at 50-56 years of age, thus the maximum vulnerability occurs in young people and adolescents who are at the early stages of social experiences and

strengthening the ties with their peers (Sotoudeh, 2008, p. 81). According to the research findings in Iran, it is found that 80% of addicts consider the tension and conflict as the reasons of drug addiction, and 87.14% the improper parenting styles, and 42.8% the turbulent environment. According to a research, 0.79 percent of addicts turned to drug addiction due to parents' negligence or family conflicts [3], According to the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Prevention in 2007, Iran has the maximum number of drug abusers [14], Robert, C., Schlauch, R., Ash, L., Christian, M. and Joy, S. Kaufman [8], have found that the drug abuse is more in conflicting families, where the adolescents have emotional and behavioral problems, than those conflicting families where the adolescents' families have higher mental health. Burke and Burke [2], have concluded that the father-mother cold relationships with children and excluding them are correlated with adolescents' drug abuse.

Therefore, the attitude to drug abuse is important in adolescents. In this regard, the drug abuse and addiction should be considered as one of the most prominent bio-psycho-social problems which can easily weaken the foundation of personal, familial, social and cultural life for an individual and society. Despite the

detrimental personal and social effects of drug abuse, it is natural that this issue is one of the priorities of research in the field of mental health in communities within the framework of timely identification, prevention and treatment of drug abuse. It is more important among adolescents, young people and educated class of communities first because this class of population is in fact the main capital of community in science and technology production and is considered according to the human resources as the fundamental bases of progress and empowerment in any community; and second, this era is considered as the most risky periods of tendency to drug abuse due to its physical and mental characteristics. Fortunately, the significant advances have been created in development of programs affecting the prevention of drug abuse in adolescents during the past two decades. The preventive approaches focus on risky and protective factors associated with attitude to drug abuse and teach the teenagers in this regard [1].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research, which is conducted on high school students in Qaemshahr City during 2013-14, is applied in terms of objective and is descriptive-correlative according to the research method. The statistical population of this research consists of 26593 male and

female adolescents in Qaemshahr City and 373 subjects (193 males and 185 females) are selected as the samples by multi-stage random sampling and through Cochran formula. Afterwards, the students responded to Diana Baumrind's parenting style questionnaires (1972) and the confirmatory factor analysis is utilized to investigate the hypotheses.

RESULTS

As noted, the permissive parenting variable has a mean of 3.40, median of 3.0, the maximum frequency of 4.0, the standard deviation of 1.03, the minimum value of 1 and maximum value of 5. The authoritarian parenting variable has a mean of 3.47, the median of 3.0, maximum frequency of 3.0, standard deviation of 1.01, minimum value of 1 and maximum value of 5. The authoritative parenting variable has a mean of 3.33, the median of 3.0, maximum frequency of 3.0, standard deviation of 1.04, minimum value of 1 and maximum value of

5, and finally the parenting variable (total) has a mean of 3.40, the median of 3.33, maximum frequency of 3.0, standard deviation of 0.88, minimum value of 1 and maximum value of 5.

According to the **Table 2**, the results of confirmatory factor analysis and the factor loading of each component of abuse attitude, the social effects with standard factor loading of 0.95 has the greatest impact on explaining the attitude towards drug abuse, but the physiological effects with standard factor loading of 0.63 has the least impact.

According to the **Table 3**, the results of confirmatory factor analysis and the factor loading of each component of social-economic status of family, the father's income component with standard factor loading of 0.83 has the greatest impact on explaining the family status, but the mother's job has the least impact with standard factor loading of 0.72.

Table 1: Descriptive indices of parenting variables

| Variables | No. | Mean | Median | Mode | Standard deviation | Skewness | Kurtosis | Minimum | Maximum |
|-------------------------|-----|------|--------|------|--------------------|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| Permissive Parenting | 378 | 3.40 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 1.03 | -0.194 | -0.616 | 1 | 5 |
| Authoritarian Parenting | 378 | 3.47 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 1.01 | -0.186 | -0.284 | 1 | 5 |
| Authoritative parenting | 378 | 3.33 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 1.04 | -0.253 | -0.319 | 1 | 5 |
| Parenting (total) | 378 | 3.40 | 3.33 | 3.0 | 0.88 | -0.201 | -0.320 | 1 | 5 |

Table 2: Status of variables which explain the attitude to drug abuse

| Sub dimension (sub component) | Standard loading factor | Coefficient of determination (R ²) | Result | Priority of component in explaining the variable |
|--|-------------------------|--|-------------|--|
| Attitude towards physiological effects | 0.64 | 0.40 | Significant | Fifth |
| Attitude towards psychological effects | 0.71 | 0.50 | Significant | Fourth |

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|---------------------------------|------|------|-------------|--------|
| Attitude towards social effects | 0.95 | 0.90 | Significant | First |
| Attitude towards risks | 0.65 | 0.42 | Significant | Third |
| Attitude towards consumption | 0.93 | 0.68 | Significant | Second |

Table 3: The status of variables which explain the family situation

| Sub dimension (sub component) | Standard loading factor | Coefficient of determination (R ²) | Result | Priority |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------|----------|
| Mother's job | 0.72 | 0.52 | Significant | Fourth |
| Father's job | 0.73 | 0.53 | Significant | Third |
| Mother's income | 0.77 | 0.59 | Significant | Second |
| Father's income | 0.83 | 0.68 | Significant | First |

CONCLUSION

First hypothesis: The parenting styles have direct effect on the attitudes to drug abuse.

The results indicate that there is a significant positive correlation between the conflict with mother and the attitude towards the drug abuse; in other words, the mother-child relationship affects the child tendency towards the drug abuse. This is almost consistent with the results of this hypothesis (Salafari, 2009). The results indicate that the adolescents, raised with democratic educational model (authoritative), have higher self-esteem than the other two groups, use the adaptive and rational problem-solving skill and show less tendency towards the drug abuse (Hekmatpour, 2010). The results also indicate that the addicted adolescents consider their parents' disciplinary approaches, the violence and exclusion factors, the parents' authoritarian styles, the less expression of affection and participation in life affairs more than the normal adolescents. The findings indicate

that the authoritarian limiting and violent parenting style is the disciplinary model ruling the families of opium and heroin addicts [10].

Schlauch, Ash levitt, Christian, Connell, and Kaufman, (2013) have concluded in their research that the parenting style and familial conflicts are the factors accelerating the drug abuse among the teenagers. According to the results of research by Schlauch et al, the parenting styles affect their attitudes to drug abuse and their results are consistent with the findings of first and second hypotheses in this research [10].

Second hypothesis: The parenting styles have indirect effect on the attitudes to drug abuse. The results indicate that there is a significant correlation between the parenting styles and the attitude towards the drug abuse. According to the results of research by Liaghat (1996), we should pay attention to family and parenting styles in order to prevent the drug abuse. Pasha Sharifi and Rezaei (2010) have found that there is a correlation between the insecurity in the

family and students' attitudes towards the effects of drug, their interest in drug abuse as well as their unrealistic assumptions about the dangers of drug. Furthermore, the results indicate that not only the parents' drug abuse, but also their attitudes towards the drug abuse play the important roles in this field and there is a positive correlation between the parents' attitudes and their children's interest in drug abuse.

According to the research by Robert [8], in the United States, the family problems and the mental health problems are higher in high-risk group than two other groups. He has found that paying attention conversely predict the adolescents' involvement in high-risk behavior such as the drug abuse.

According to a research by Boys, Farrell, Taylor, Marsden, Goodman, and Brugha (2013), the more a family is coherent, the more it is predicted that there is less chance to experience the drug abuse. Furthermore, there is a negative correlation between the parents' control by authoritative parenting style and the problems of drug abuse. Moreover, the results indicate that the interaction between the family and teenager is a strong guarantee for non- drug consumption.

According to a research by Chalidzby et al (2000), it is found that the parental supervision and desired friendly relations reduce the disorders in children and drug

abuse in adolescent. Wiils et al [13], have found in their research that there is an inverse correlation between the parents' emotional support with drug abuse; and the barriers also have mutual impact on the drug abuse. The proper parental support and communications are correlated with the reduced deviance and inappropriate behavior.

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