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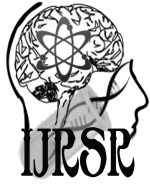
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Research Article

A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE OF DRUG ADDICTION AMONG ADOLESCENT BOYS IN SELECTED PRE-UNIVERSITY COLLEGES IN PUNE

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ABSTRACT

Background of the study: The rising worldwide phenomenon of drug abuse among the younger generation, and in particular among students is an epidemic form that has been causing great public concern. India is a country which is growing at an incredible pace. Its culture, social values, demographics and economy is rapidly changing, stressors such as family problems and social media are having an impact on people causing increased use of illicit drugs. The reported numbers point to over 3 million drug addicts in India. Maharashtra has the largest number of people registered for drugs de-addiction in the country. Pune is a city that typifies the kind of narcotics crisis the state is facing. The burgeoning IT industry and robust educational system in Pune has created a massive influx of professionals and students (expatriate and Indian). These groups have emerged as groups fuelling the demand for narcotics in Pune. **Aim:** The present study was undertaken to assess the knowledge and attitude of drug addiction among adolescent boys in selected pre-university colleges in Pune city. **Methods:** This descriptive study was carried out in four pre-university colleges with a sample of 100 adolescent boys. A self-developed knowledge questionnaire was given along with a self-developed 5 point Likert scale. Appropriate statistical tests were used for analysis. **Results:** 73% of the adolescent boys had average knowledge, 22% of them had poor knowledge and 5% of them had good knowledge regarding drug addiction. 59% of the adolescent boys had neutral attitude and 41% of them had positive attitude regarding drug addiction.

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INTRODUCTION

According to World health organisation, 230 million people, or 1 in 20 adults, are estimated to have used an illicit drug at least once in 2010. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (United States Department of Health and Human Services, 2007) in a report stated that the mean age of getting exposed to drugs is 13 years.

The rising worldwide phenomenon of drug abuse among the younger generation, and in particular among students is an epidemic form that has been causing great public concern (Madan C. Paul, 2003). It has already engulfed the vulnerable sections of societies in different parts of the globe (Zinberg N, 1984).

The population of India has reached over 1.2 billion (Government of India, 2011) and Its culture, social values, demographics and economy is rapidly changing, and these

stresses, family problems and social medias are having an impact on the people which causes an increasing use of illicit drugs and reported numbers point to over 3 million drug addicts in India (Bhowmick S, 2014).

Over the last three years, Maharashtra has had the largest number of people registering for drugs de-addiction in the country. Pune is a city that typifies the kind of narcotics crisis the state is facing. "Seven National Highways and two big rail lines cross Pune. So you can imagine the potential to pump in drugs here," said Sanjay Bhagat of Mukatangan, a de-addiction centre in Pune. The burgeoning IT industry and robust educational system in Pune has created a massive influx of professionals and students both expatriate and Indian. These groups have emerged as groups fuelling the demand for narcotics in Pune. Creating awareness is critical to solving this growing problem (Kartekeya, 2010).

Hence the investigator was interested in identifying adolescent's knowledge and attitude towards drug addiction.

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Statement

A study to assess the knowledge and attitude of drug addiction among adolescent boys in selected pre-university colleges in Pune city.

Objectives

- To assess the knowledge regarding drug addiction among adolescent boys.
- To assess the attitude of adolescent boys regarding drug addiction.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in 4 different pre- university colleges of Pune city for the period of two weeks (15-02-2016 to 27-02-2016). Target population were all the students studying in 11th and 12th standard irrespective of their course.

A Non experimental Descriptive Research Design was adopted for the present study. A simple random sampling technique was used where 25 samples were collected from each college, with a sample size of 100. A tool consisted of section A: demographic variables like age, level of education, course, type of family, type of stay, family income and number of siblings; Section B consisted of knowledge questionnaire on drug addiction and Section C consisted of Likert scale. An informed consent was taken from the authorities of the colleges for the data collection as well as from the subjects.

Table 1 Description of adolescent boys based on their personal characteristic

Demographic variable	Frequency	Percentage
N=100		
Age in years		
16	36	36%
17	33	33%
18	26	26%
19	5	5%
Level of Education		
11th standard	56	56%
12th standard	44	44%
Course		
Science	54	54%
Commerce	37	37%
Arts	9	9%
Type of stay		
Staying with family	51	51%
Staying in Hostel/ PG	34	34%
Staying with friends	15	15%
Type of Family		
Nuclear	44	44%
Joint	52	52%
Extended	4	4%
Parents Education		
Diploma	26	26%
Graduate	49	49%
Post- Graduate	25	25%
Family Income		
Above 4 lakhs/ annum	37	37%
2- 4 lakhs/ annum	30	30%
Below 2 lakhs/annum	33	33%
Number of siblings		
None	21	21%
One	38	38%
Two	30	30%
More than 2	11	11%
Does anyone in your family consume alcohol or smoke cigarette?		
No	72	72%
Yes	28	28%

Sampling Criteria

Inclusion Criteria

- Boys between age group of 16-19 years of age.
- Pre- university college students of any stream.
- Adolescent boys who are present and willing to participate in the study.
- Adolescent boys who can read and write English.

Exclusion Criteria

- Adolescent boys who refuse to participate in the study.
- Adolescent boys who are not from 11th and 12th standard
- Adolescent boys who are absent or on leave during data collection.
- Adolescent boys who are from age group 10- 15 years.

RESULT

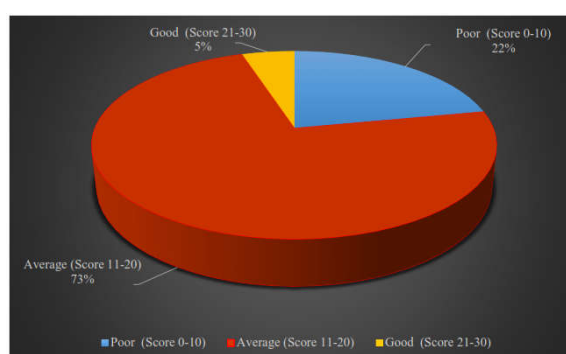


Figure 1 Knowledge of adolescents regarding drug addiction

Figure 1 reveals the classification of the respondents with respect to knowledge regarding drug addiction, the result revealed Majority of 73% of the adolescent boys had average knowledge, 22% of them had poor knowledge and 5% of them had good knowledge regarding drug addiction.

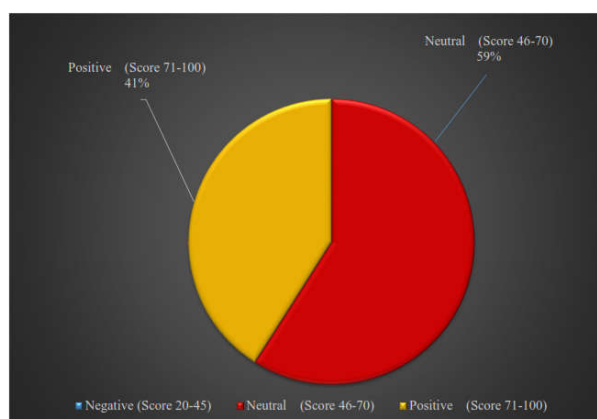


Figure 2 Attitude of adolescents regarding drug addiction

Figure 2 reveals the classification of the respondents with respect to attitude regarding drug addiction, the result revealed 59% of the adolescent boys had neutral attitude and 41% of them had positive attitude regarding drug addiction. Adolescent boys with poor knowledge had neutral attitude and Adolescent boys with average knowledge had a neutral attitude towards drug addiction.

DISCUSSION

A study was conducted on knowledge, attitude and perception of school going Adolescents regarding Substance and Drug Abuse in Bangladesh. This study investigated and explored the knowledge, attitude and perception of school going Bangladeshi adolescents on substance drug abuse in order to provide a health education programme. The result indicated that both the sexes had fair level of knowledge on different aspects of drug abuse (Syed Masud A *et al*, 2001). The present study also had similar findings to support. A study was conducted on knowledge, attitude and practice of drug abuse among public secondary school students in Lagos, Nigeria. The results revealed that the level of knowledge among students concerning drug abuse was fair i.e. 50% and 58.5% of respondents had a positive attitude to using illegal drugs (Adebowale AT *et al*, 2013). The present study also had the similar findings with respect to knowledge and attitude of adolescents regarding drug addiction.

A study was conducted to evaluate the knowledge and attitude of high school students towards addicting drugs. A cross sectional study was carried out in Isfahan province for collecting the data from 6998 students using an author- devised questionnaire. The result revealed that the knowledge level of high school students about addictive drugs is at a medium level (Nahid Germanian *et al*, 2012). The results of the present study had a slight increase in the level of knowledge regarding drug addiction.

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that the students had average knowledge and their attitude towards drug addiction was neutral. It is believed that less than 30 per cent of primary care providers perform screening for substance abuse and as many as 69 per cent do not offer any type of counselling (Klein JD *et al*, 1993). The 2010 NIDA Report emphasized both the role of family and community prevention programs as vital to deterring child and adolescent substance abuse (NIDA, 2010). A family-based prevention focuses on teaching family skills with parents and children together. These programs aim to improve family functioning, communication skills, and provide training to help families discuss and develop family policies on substance abuse, along with teaching parents how to effectively enforce these rules (Lochman JE *et al*, 2002).

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