



ISSN: 0976-3031

Available Online at <http://www.recentscientific.com>

CODEN: IJRSFP (USA)

International Journal of Recent Scientific Research
Vol. 9, Issue, 7(F), pp. 28132-28135, July, 2018

**International Journal of
Recent Scientific
Research**

DOI: 10.24327/IJRSR

Research Article

SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC ASPECTS OF DRUG ABUSE AMONG STUDENTS OF JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY

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DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.24327/ijrsr.2018.0907.2400>

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 15th April, 2018
Received in revised form 7th
May, 2018
Accepted 13th June, 2018
Published online 28th July, 2018

Key Words:

Marijuana, Glue, Heroin, Adult

ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to measure of the Drug Abuse among the student of Jadavpur University. A total of 100 samples were randomly taken from various department of Arts, Science and Engineering faculty of Jadavpur University. As a tool of data collection the researchers used 'Drug abuse screening test' (DAST) developed by Dr. Harvey A. Skinner (York University, Toronto) and adopted in Bengali version by the present researcher. The rate of prevalence of drug abuse related mental and emotional problems or academic problems, social crime are mild. Few students were involved in treatment programmed. But to eradicate the problems those students who are engaged in more or less drug abuse need counselling

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INTRODUCTION

Carroll (1989) sees drug as any substance which upon entering the body changes the body function and structure. Drug abuse is the substance abuse or disorder that is characterized by a destructive pattern of using a substance that leads to significant problem or distress (njoku, 2004). Coleman (2010) sees drug abuse as the scenario when drug is taken more than it is prescribed. It could also be seen as the use of illicit drugs, or the abuse of prescription or over – the – counter drugs. Carroll (1989) further noted that drug abuse as the deliberate use of chemical substances for reasons other than intended medical purposes and which occasioned physical, mental, emotional or social impairment to the users. Drug addiction also called substance dependent or chemical dependency is a disease that is characterized by a destructive pattern of drug abuse that leads to significant problems involving tolerance, to or withdrawal from the substance, as well as other problems that use of the substance can cause to sufferer, either socially or in terms of their work or school performance (akus, 2010); According to UN Convention Reports on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in 1961, 1971 and 1988, it is estimated that, in India, by the time most boys reach the ninth grade, about 50% of them have tried at least one of the gateway drugs. A larger proportion of teens in West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh have been using gateway drugs (about 60% in both the states) than Uttar Pradesh or Haryana (around 35%). Smokeless

tobacco in the form of gutka is commonly used by children and adolescents in certain states. Every year, about 55,000 children take up to smoking generally hailing from low socio-economic strata with poor social support, broken homes and victims of deprivation and discrimination. This risky behavior is often initiated during childhood and adolescence, as more than 70% of adult smokers report that they started smoking on a daily basis prior to age 18.3. Odejide (2014) observed that the reasons advanced by the students for taking drug are: to feel on top like adults, to feel good, to get excited, to be like friends and to be like stars. The abuse of these drugs which leads to addiction among these students gradually progresses to affect their academic performance and cause a host of evil happenings on the campus and in our society, such as incessant occurrence of road traffic accidents as a result of effects of these substances, in fact some students indulge in exam-malpractices while others breakdown during examinations leading to failure and eventual drop-outs, some become rude and arrogant to lecturers and parents and occasionally causing riots and chaos on the campuses while some grow up to become criminal in the society leading them into prison-yards. However, the present study is an attempt to explore the Social and Academic Aspects of Drug Abuse among Students of Jadavpur University

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Research Questions

1. To what extent students of JU are facing mental, emotional, academic, family and friends problems?
2. Whether they have involved in any illegal activities due to drug abuse?
3. Whether they have undergone any treatment programme related to drug abuse?

Objectives of the Study

The study was conducted with the following objectives

1. To assess the level of drug abuse and addiction among JU students.
2. To assess the prevalence of drug abuse related mental and emotional problems; family and friends problems; academic problems; and legal problems among JU students.
3. To identify percentage of students involved in treatment programme related to drug abuse among JU students.

METHOD

It is a descriptive survey type research. 100 respondents (boys and girls) in the age group 18 to 30 years were taken as the sample of the study from Jadavpur University. Random sampling technique was adapted.

As a tool of data collection the researchers used ‘Drug abuse screening test’ (DAST) developed by Dr. Harvey A. Skinner (York University, Toronto) and adopted in Bengali version by the present researcher. DAST consists of 20 items to be answered in a 2 point scale of two options namely YES or NO.

“In the statements, ‘drug abuse’ refers to (1) the use of prescribed or over the counter drugs in excess of the directions and (2) any non medical use of drugs. The various classes of drugs may include: cannabis, (e.g. marijuana, hash), solvents or glue, tranquillizers (e.g. valium), barbiturates, cocaine, stimulants, hallucinogens (e.g. LSD), or narcotics (e.g. heroin).”

The DAST total score is computed by summing all items that are endorsed in the direction of increased drug problems. Two items: #4 (Can you get through the week without using drugs) and #5 (Are you always able to stop using drugs when you want to), are keyed for a “No” response. The other 18 items are keyed for a “Yes” response. For example, if a client circled “Yes” for item #1 he/she would receive a score of 1, whereas if the client circled “No” for item #1 he/she would receive a score of 0. With items #4 and 5, a score of 1 would be given for a “No” response and a score of 0 for a “Yes” response. When each item has been scored in this fashion, the DAST total score is simply the sum of the 20 item scores. This total score can range from 0 to 20.

Analysis and Interpretation of Data

For analysis and interpretation of the collected data the researchers used simple percentage analysis, crosstabs, mean, column- charts and bar- charts as descriptive statistics with the help of Microsoft Excel and SPSS. Here data are analysed objective wise.

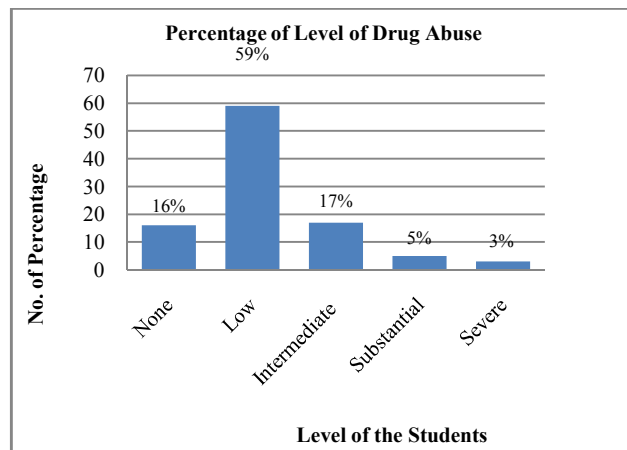
Objective 1: To assess the level of drug abuse and addiction among JU students.

Table 1 Showing the level of drug abuse among JU students

Level of the Problem	Level of the Score	Action	ASAM	Students Percentage
None	0	Monitor		16 %
Low	1-5	Brief Counseling	Level I	59 %
Intermediate	6-10	Outpatient(intensive)	Level I or II	17 %
Substantial	11-15	Intensive	Level II or III	5 %
Severe	16-20	Intensive	Level III or IV	3 %

ASAM: American Society of Addiction Medicine Placement Criteria

Table 2 & Chart-1 Showing the level of drug abuse among JU students



On the of cut points from the above table we can see that out of the 100 students, 16% students have scored 0, 56% students have scored 1-5, 17% students have scored 6-10, 5% students have scored 11-15, 3% students have scored 16-20. A score of zero indicates that no evidence of drug related problems were reported. As the score increases there is a corresponding rise in the level of drug problems reported. The maximum score of 20 would indicate substantial problems. Thus, as the total score increases one may interpret that a given individual has accrued an increasingly diverse range of drug-related consequences. Then, one may examine the tem responses to identify specific problem areas, such as the family or work.

Data revealed that 59% students have considered to be Addiction level -i (i.e mild range) they need Brief Counseling. 17% students have considered to be Addiction level – ii (i.e intermediate range). They need Intensive Counseling. 5% students have considered to be Addiction level – iii (i.e Substantial range). They need Intensive Counseling. 3% students have considered to be Addiction level – iv (i.e Severe range). They need Intensive Counseling.

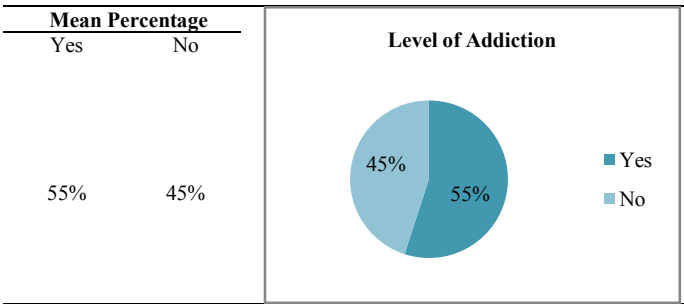
Table 2 Showing the level of addiction among JU students

A	Level of Addiction					
No of Item	1	2	3	4	5	17
Percentage of Yes	88	33	37	80	86	14
Item No	22	67	63	20	14	86

From the above table item no 1 have showed 88% students have used drugs other than those required for medical reasons and 22% haven't. Item no 2 represents 33% have abused prescription drugs and 67% students haven't. According to Item no 3 it is observed that 37% students abuse more than one drug at a time and 63% students don't. According to Item no 4 it is observed that 80% students can get through the week without using drugs and 20% students cann't. Item no 5 represents 86% students are always able to stop using drugs

when they want to and only 14% students aren't able to stop. Item no 17 only 14% students have experienced withdrawal symptoms (felt sick) when they stopped taking drugs and 86% students haven't felt seek while stopping drugs.

Table 3 & Chart -2 Showing the level of addiction mean percentage among JU students



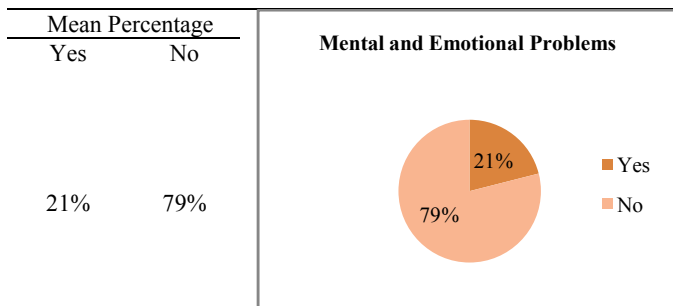
Objective 2: The prevalence of drug abuse related mental and emotional problems; family and friends problems; academic problems; and legal problems among JU students.

Table 4 Showing the prevalence of drug abuse related mental and emotional problems among JU students

B		Mental and Emotional Problems		
No of Item	Yes	6	7	18
percentage of Item	Yes	31	19	13
	No	69	81	87

From the above table according to item no 6 it is observed that 31% students have felt "blackouts" or "flashbacks" experience as a result or drug use and 69% students have not felt such those experience. According to item no 7 it is observed that 19% student have felt bad or guilty about their drug use and 81% students have not felt such those experience. From the Item no 18 it is observed that 13% students have faced medical problems as a result of their drug use (e.g. memory loss, hepatitis, convulsions, bleeding, etc.) and 87% student haven't.

Table 5 & Chart 3 Showing the mean percentage of drug abuse related mental and emotional problems among JU student



The data of the present study shows 21% students have possessed drug abuse related mental and emotional problem and 79% students haven't. Hence it is concluded that the rate of prevalence of drug abuse related mental and emotional problems among JU students being mild level.

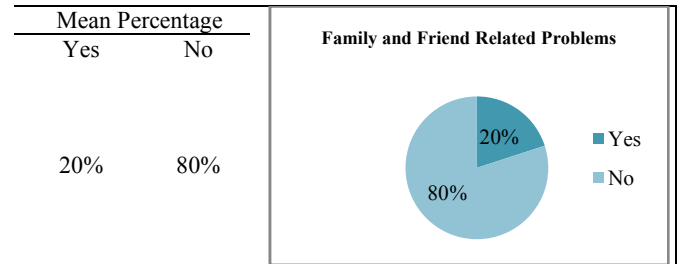
Table 6 Showing the prevalence of drug abuse related family and friends problems among JU students

C		Friend and Family Related Problems			
No of Item	Yes	8	9	10	11
Percentage of Item	Yes	40	17	10	11
	No	60	83	90	89

From the above table item no 8 it is observed that 40 % parents of the JU students ever complain about their involvement with drugs and 60% parents do not. According to Item no 9 it is observed that 17% students are agreed that drug abuse has created problem between the students and their parents and 83% students do not agree.

Accord to Item no 10 it is observed that 10% students have lost friends because of their use of drugs and 90% students do not. Item no 11 have showed only 11% has neglected their family because of their use of drugs and 89% students haven't.

Table 7 & Chart 4 Showing the mean percentage of drug abuse related family and friend problems among JU students



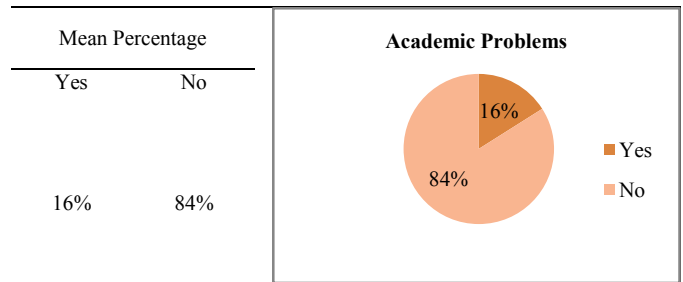
The data of the present study shows 20% student have possessed drug abuse related family and friend problem and 80% student haven't. Hence it is concluded that the rate of prevalence of drug abuse related family and friend problems among JU students being mild level.

Table 8 Showing the prevalence of drug abuse related academic problems among JU students

D		Academic Problems	
No of Item	Yes	12	13
Percentage of Item	Yes	14	18
	No	86	82

From the above table item no 12 have showed only 14% students have been in trouble at work (or college) because of drug abuse and 86% haven't. According to Item no 13 only 18% students have lost their job because of drug abuse and 82% haven't.

Table 9 & Chart 5 Showing the mean percentage of drug abuse related academic problems among JU students



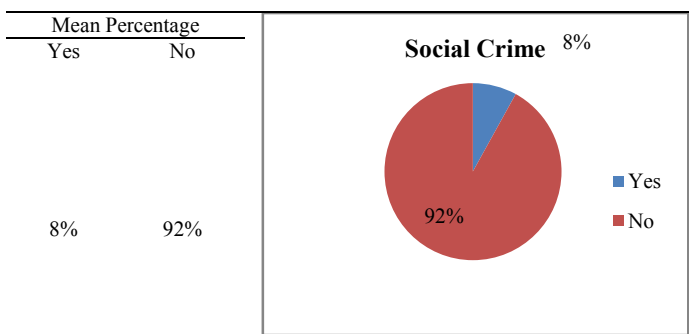
The data of the present study shows 16% students have possessed drug abuse related academic problem and 84% students haven't. Hence it is concluded that the rate of prevalence of drug abuse related academic problems among JU students being mild level.

Table 10 Showing the prevalence of drug abuse related legal problems among JU students

E		Social Crime		
No of Item	Yes	14	15	16
Percentage of Item	Yes	7	5	11
	No	93	95	89

From the above table item no 14 it is observed that only 7% students have gotten into fights when under the influence of drugs and 93% haven't. Item no 15 represents that only 5% students have engaged in illegal activities in order to obtain drugs and 95% students haven't. According to Item no 16 it is observed that 11% students have been arrested for possession of illegal drugs and 89% students haven't.

Table 11 & Chart 6 Showing the mean percentage of drug abuse related legal problems among JU students



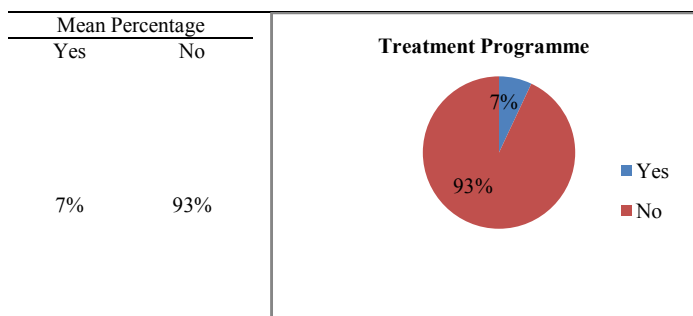
The data of the present study shows only 8% students have possessed drug abuse related social crime and 84% student haven't. Hence it is concluded that the rate of prevalence of drug abuse related social crime problems among JU students being minimal level.

Objective 3: To identify percentage of students involved in treatment programme related to drug abuse among JU students.

F		Treatment Programme	
No of Item		19	20
Percentage of Item	Yes	7	7
	No	93	93

From the above table item no 19 and 20 it is found that 7% students have gone to anyone for help for drug problems and they have been involved in treatment program. 93% students have not gone to any one for help for drug problems and they have not been involved in treatment program.

Table 12 & Chart 7 Showing the mean percentage of students involved in treatment programme related to drug abuse among JU students



Hence it is found that 7% students are involved in treatment programme and 93% students aren't.

CONCLUSION

Finally from the study, it can be concluded that the rate of prevalence of drug abused students are considered to be addicted in mild level. The rate of prevalence of drug abuse related mental and emotional problems or academic problems, social crime are mild. Few students were involved in treatment

programme. But to eradicate the problems those students who are engaged in more or less drug abuse need counselling.

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