

A Study on Awareness About Substance Abuse among School Going Male Adolescents of Coimbatore District

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ABSTRACT

Adolescent boys are recognized as a vulnerable group to substance abuse. Substance abuse is a growing problem in India. Earlier considered to be a problem of street children, working children and trafficked children, it has now become a wide spread phenomenon affecting all segments of the society. Adolescents start on drugs for several reasons, from curiosity, recreation for pleasure, and as a need to cope with stress. The present study has the objective to study the biosocial profile and habit pattern of substance abusers. The study was conducted on 200 male adolescents, students of 9th to 11th class from the four intermediate schools of the Coimbatore district. This study concludes that (64%) of the respondents are having moderate level of awareness about substance abuse among school going male adolescents, (23%) of the respondents are having high level of awareness about substance abuse among school going male adolescents and the remaining (13%) of the respondents are having low level of awareness about substance abuse among school going male adolescents.

KEYWORDS: Male adolescent, Substance abuse

INTRODUCTION

The substance abuse by adolescents and their negative consequences are becoming progressively a major public health concern. Many adult drugs had initiated the habit as adolescents. Substances abuse in adolescents may also be a marker of other harmful life styles such as engagement in illicit drug use, alcohol use, psychiatric illnesses and sexual intercourse. The type of substances used has varied depending on the society and age of the adolescent. Adolescents start on drugs for several reasons, from curiosity, recreation for pleasure, and as a need to cope with stress. The present study has the objective to study the biosocial profile and habit pattern of substance abuse among adolescent. The study was conducted on 200 male adolescents, students of 9th to 11th class from the four intermediate schools of the Coimbatore district.

DEFINITION

Substance abuse refers to the harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive substances, including alcohol and

illicit drugs. Psychoactive substance use can lead to dependence syndrome - a cluster of behavioural, cognitive, and physiological phenomena that develop after repeated substance use and that typically include a strong desire to take the drug, difficulties in controlling its use, persisting in its use despite harmful consequences, a higher priority given to drug use than to other activities and obligations, increased tolerance, and sometimes a physical withdrawal state. -WHO.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

She ley, McGee & Wright (1992) surveyed gun related violence among inner city schools in which 75% of the students were African American. Twenty percent of the subjects reported being threatened with a gun and 12% reported having shots fired at them at least once. Fifty percent of males and 26% of the females in Windle's (1990) sample of 14 and 15 year-old adolescents reported being involved in a fight at school or work. Forty-seven percent of males and 3

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1% of the females reported having threatened to hit someone else, and 14% of the males and 7% of the females studied reported physically attacking someone with the intent to injure or kill. Farrell et al (1992) surveyed adolescents; 19% and 6% of the seventh grade males and females reported having threatened someone with a weapon during the past thirty days.

Olsen and Holmes (1986) studied national data on abuse and found that 192,000 12-17-year-olds were reported to have been abused or neglected in 1980. Adolescents represented 42% of all substantiated cases of abuse. Most abused adolescents were White. In this study, 85% of them others and 95% if the fathers were reported as the perpetrators. Adolescent abuse is more common in females than males (Erikson & Rapkin, 1991, Miller & Miller, 1986, Olsen & Holmes, 1986, Powers & Eckenrode, 1988, Rosenthal, 1988).

Hoagwood & Stewart (1989), abused children tend to perceive their families as having poor communication skills, more role confusion, and more general pathological functioning than non-abused children. Abused females tend to have poor problem solving skills and report more general dysfunction in their families than males.

Finds of the Study

Factors	MEDIUM	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Age	Below-16	127	63.0%
Education qualification	9 th Standard	129	64.0%
Family income	15000-35000	123	61.0%
Type of family	Nuclear family	156	78.0%
No of dependents	2- 4	145	72.0%

Simple Percentage Analysis

- More than half (63%) of the respondents is in the age group between below-16 years.
- More than half (64%) of the respondents having 9th standard.
- More than half (61%) of the respondents family income level is 15000 -35000.
- Majority (78%) of the respondents are nuclear family.
- Majority (72%) of the respondents are No of dependents are 2-4.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS BY LEVEL OF AWARENESS ABOUT SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG SCHOOL GOING MALE ADOLESCENTS

S. No	Level of Awareness about Substance Abuse	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Good	47	23
2	Moderate	128	64
3	Poor	25	13
TOTAL		200	100%

INTERPRETATION

The above table shows that (64%) of the respondents are having moderate level of awareness about substance abuse among school going male adolescents, (23%) of the respondents are having good level of awareness about substance abuse among school going male adolescents and the remaining (13%) of the respondents are having poor level of awareness about substance abuse among school going male adolescents.

Methodology of the Study

Objectives of the Study

- To study the demographic profile of the respondents.
- To level of awareness about substance abuse among school going male adolescents.
- To access the difference between demographic profile and level of awareness about substance abuse among school going male adolescents.

Research design: The researcher followed descriptive research design for the study.

Universe of the study: The universe of the present study is contact from Coimbatore district, 10 schools in private and government schools.

Sampling: 200 students were selected for data collection by a Convenience sampling is a non-probability sampling technique where subjects are selected because of their convenient accessibility and proximity to the researcher.

Tools for data collection: The researcher made use of interview schedule questionnaire. The researcher prepared own questionnaire 5 point likert scale. The Question 32 consists of awareness about substance abuse among school adolescents.

The data were analyzed using various statistical tools like simple percentage, and ANOVA.

Influence of Socio Economic Factors and level of awareness about substance abuse among school going male adolescents

Variables	Statistical tool	Value	Result
Age and awareness about substance abuse.	ANOVA	F= .640 t>0.05	Not-Significant
Educational qualification and awareness about substance abuse.	ANOVA	F= .030 T<0.05	Significant
Family income and awareness about substance abuse.	ANOVA	F= .000 T<0.05	Significant
No of dependents and awareness about substance abuse.	ANOVA	F= .843 P>0.05	Not-Significant

There is no significant difference in the age and awareness about substance abuse.

There is significant difference in the educational qualification and awareness about substance abuse.

There is significant difference in the family income and awareness about substance abuse.

There is no significant difference in the No of dependents and awareness about substance abuse.

Recommendations

- Be a positive role model yourself. Walk the talk. Don't expect teens to stop drinking or stay away from drugs if you don't.
- Seek family counseling or psychotherapy for any family issues about substance abuse, violence, divorce or illness in your family.
- Talk about drinking and drugs not just the statistics, but the science behind it. This requires research on the brain science of what substances do to the body.
- Research your state's laws around underage drinking and drug use. Then, sit down with your teenager and review the legal consequences of getting caught.
- Learn about community and school activities that may interest your teen and encourage him/her to participate. Teenagers who are active in sports, volunteering, social or church groups are less likely to get bored, or seek out drugs and alcohol for fun.
- Encourage your teenager to seek and find a positive mentor outside the family who will reinforce your family's beliefs and values.
- Regularly spend time with your teenager and give your loving, undivided attention. Some sample activities to share: a walk, bowling, playing tennis, a bike ride, a quiet dinner out, or cooking together.

CONCLUSION

The study is indicative of need for developing a supportive environment involving both parents and teachers so that adolescent can decide and sustain with the right choices for healthy life. This study concludes that (64%) of the respondents are having

moderate level of awareness about substance abuse among school going male adolescents, (23%) of the respondents are having high level of awareness about substance abuse among school going male adolescents and the remaining (13%) of the respondents are having low level of awareness about substance abuse among school going male adolescents.

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