

Prevalence of Drugs Use among Secondary-School Students in Al-Diwaniya City

Noor Adil Mayeh¹, Kareem Rishaq Sachit²

¹M.Sc., Department of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing, College of Nursing, University of Baghdad, Iraq, ²Assist. Prof. Department of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing, College of Nursing, University of Baghdad, Iraq

Abstract

A descriptive study design using a convenience random sample of (N=423) students. This sample is distributed throughout AL-Diwaniya Teaching Directorate. Data were collected through the use of an online questionnaire; and analyzed through the descriptive and inferential statistical approach. This study aims to identify the prevalence of Drug abuse among secondary school students. Results indicate that drugs use is low prevalent among secondary school students. Conclusion and Recommendations: Drug use prevalence is associated with students' gender, age, family member, residency, house ownership, monthly income, parents' education, and mothers' occupation. The Ministry of Health should prioritize the Drug use in public health by educating the parents and adolescents the health hazards of substance use through health programs and social media.

Keywords: Drug use, Nursing, Secondary School Students.

Introduction

Substance misuse is linked to a variety of social and health issues, as has been shown in recent years. Substance misuse is the leading cause of death and disability in the world. UNODC estimates that about 5.2% of the world population has used illicit drugs ⁽¹⁾.

Using of illicit drugs and the misuse of therapeutic drugs has elevated over the last two decades and has spread to every corner of the globe; nearly 7 billion people abuse narcotics worldwide, with 76 million suffering from their effects; the youth in this country are the most affected ⁽⁷⁾. Studies on substance abuse among young people conducted in different parts of the world show that there is a growing trend in drug use among this population. According to a study conducted in Nigeria on social demographic factors correlated with psycho active substance abuse by motorcycle operators, those who used drugs the most were those who were younger in age ⁽⁴⁾. In secondary schools, the use of psychoactive substances and other

medications tends to be widespread and varies across African countries. Senior students in Ghana, for example, have been found to misuse different forms of substances at a lower rate than in other parts of the African continent and West Africa as a whole ⁽⁸⁾. Kenya is also grappling with the widespread use of narcotics and other addictive substances in secondary schools. Alcohol, tobacco, bhang, and miraa were the most frequently abused substances in Kenyan schools, according to a survey. These results revealed that substance abuse was widespread in secondary schools, with 57.9% of students admitting to having used drugs ⁶. In Eastern countries, substance abuse has skyrocketed to the point that it has become a major social issue. According to figures from 2003, the average age of initiation of substance addiction has dropped to 14-16 years. According to statistics, addiction and issues linked to substance abuse was the cause of 34% of divorces ⁽⁵⁾. Substance abuse most often starts in early adolescence as a result of social economic issues and cultural norms prevalent

at this period. Long-term studies of drug misuse have discovered that the use of tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs occurs in this order⁽³⁾.

Methodology

A quantitative descriptive study used assessment approach with questionnaire items is conducted to explore prevalence of drug use among secondary-school students in AL-Diwaniya City for the periods of 27.2.2021 to 8.4.2021.

Students were informed that their participation was voluntary in the study. The purpose and the benefits of the study was explained by the researcher. After they agreed to participate in the study, anonymous questionnaire was published online for the participants to participate in present study.

A convenient sample of (N=423) students is selected throughout the use of non-probability

sampling approach. The study sample is distributed throughout AL-Diwaniya Teaching Directorate.

The students test their prevalence of drug use with the constructed questionnaire. This questionnaire was created as a screening method to identify those who are likely to have drug use or not. A constructed questionnaire was used as a method for collecting data.

After completing the required approvals, data was collected by the use of a present questionnaire with the self-report techniques with students online. The researcher introduced himself to the participants and explained the purpose of the study in order to get oral agreement. The questionnaire fill out an answer by the participants (students). The researcher gathered the questionnaire after participant's self-administration online on individual bases. Approximately each self-report took (15 to 20) minutes. Data collection was performed for the period of 27.2.2021 to 8.4.2021.

Results of the study

Table 1: Prevalence of Drugs Use among Secondary School Students

Prevalence	F	%	M	SD
None	383	90.5	2.91	8.157
Low	24	5.7		
Moderate	16	3.8		
High	0	0		
Total	423	100		

f: Frequency, %: Percentage, M: Mean for total score, SD: Standard Deviation for total score, None= 0 – 14, Low= 15 – 28, Moderate= 29 – 42, High= 43 – 56

This table indicates that drugs use are prevalent low among 5.7% of students, and prevalent moderately among 3.8% only.

Table 2. Assessment of Drugs Use Prevalence among Secondary School Students (N=423)

List	Items	Responses	f	%
1	Do you take some medications for non-medical purposes?	Never	372	87.9
		Rarely	23	5.4
		Sometimes	26	6.1
		Often	2	0.5
		Most of time	0	0
2	Have you used more than one drug at a one time?	Never	360	85.1
		Rarely	47	11.1
		Sometimes	13	3.1
		Often	3	0.7
		Most of time	0	0
3	Do you consume drugs more than once a week?	Never	361	85.3
		Rarely	24	5.7
		Sometimes	37	8.7
		Often	1	0.2
		Most of time	0	0
4	Have you misused medication in the past?	Never	372	87.9
		Rarely	22	5.2
		Sometimes	27	6.4
		Often	2	0.5
		Most of time	0	0
5	Have you tried to stop using a certain drug and found it difficult?	Never	372	87.9
		Rarely	13	3.1
		Sometimes	23	5.4
		Often	14	3.3
		Most of time	1	0.2
6	Do you feel guilty when using drugs?	Never	372	87.9
		Rarely	22	5.2
		Sometimes	2	0.5
		Often	26	6.1
		Most of time	1	0.2
7	Are your relationships affected by drug abuse?	Never	372	87.9
		Rarely	12	2.8
		Sometimes	25	5.9
		Often	14	3.3
		Most of time	0	0
8	Do you find it easier to be in the company of friends who use drugs than people who don't?	Never	372	87.9
		Rarely	23	5.4
		Sometimes	26	6.1
		Often	2	0.5
		Most of time	0	0

Cont... Table 2. Assessment of Drugs Use Prevalence among Secondary School Students (N=423)

9	Has anyone ever indicated that your abuse is a big problem?	Never	372	87.9
		Rarely	11	2.6
		Sometimes	25	5.9
		Often	14	3.3
		Most of time	1	0.2
10	Does drug use make you violent?	Never	372	87.9
		Rarely	24	5.7
		Sometimes	13	3.1
		Often	12	2.8
		Most of time	2	0.5
11	Does drug abuse negatively affect your ability to work?	Never	372	87.9
		Rarely	22	5.2
		Sometimes	28	6.6
		Often	1	0.2
		Most of time	0	0
12	Have you ever been arrested for drug use, possession or driving?	Never	384	90.8
		Rarely	23	5.4
		Sometimes	16	3.8
		Often	0	0
		Most of time	0	0
13	Have you ever had physical symptoms of withdrawal when you stopped using drugs?	Never	372	87.9
		Rarely	23	5.4
		Sometimes	24	5.7
		Often	3	0.7
		Most of time	1	0.2
14	Have you ever lost consciousness while using drugs?	Never	383	90.5
		Rarely	23	5.4
		Sometimes	12	2.8
		Often	3	0.7
		Most of time	2	0.5

M.S: Mean of Score, Assess: Assessment

This table presents the assessment of drugs use prevalence; the table shows that 6.1% of students are sometimes taking some medication for non-medical purpose; 11.1% of them are rarely used more than one drug at a one time; 8.7% are sometimes consume drugs more than once a week; 6.4% are sometimes misused medication in the past; 5.4% are sometimes tried to stop using a certain drugs and found difficulty to do; 6.1% are often feel guilty when using drugs; 5.9% are sometimes have affected relationship because of drug use; 6.1% are sometimes find it easier to be in the company of friends who use drugs than people who

don't; 5.9% are sometimes indicated by others that abuse is a big problem; 5.7% are rarely violent due to drug use; 6.6% are sometimes have affected ability in works due to drug use; only 5.4% are responding they rarely arrested for drug use, possession or driving; 5.7% are sometimes have physical symptoms of withdrawal when they stopped using drugs; and 5.4% are rarely lost consciousness while using drug.

Discussion of the Study Result

The table 1 indicated that drugs use are prevalent low among 5.7% of students, and prevalent moderately among 3.8% only. The table 2 showed

that 6.1% of students are sometimes taking some medication for non-medical purpose; 11.1% of them are rarely used more than one drug at a one time; 8.7% are sometimes consume drugs more than once a week; 6.4% are sometimes misused medication in the past; 5.4% are sometimes tried to stop using a certain drugs and found difficulty to do; 6.1% are often feel guilty when using drugs; 5.9% are sometimes have affected relationship because of drug use; 6.1% are sometimes find it easier to be in the company of friends who use drugs than people who don't; 5.9% are sometimes indicated by others that abuse is a big problem; 5.7% are rarely violent due to drug use; 6.6% are sometimes have affected ability in works due to drug use; only 5.4% are responding they rarely arrested for drug use, possession or driving; 5.7% are sometimes have physical symptoms of Withdrawal when they stopped using drugs; and 5.4% are rarely lost consciousness while using drug. The low prevalence of drug use may be explained by the religious and tribal factor in the governorate, as the use of narcotic drugs is considered socially unacceptable behavior. In addition, the role of the Ministry of Interior that limits the spread of such phenomena is not lost because they are crimes punishable by law. Although most studies indicate an increase in drug use prevalence, one study supports the current results that found 9.8% of adolescents are using illegal drugs ⁽²⁾.

Conclusion

Drug use is low prevalent among 5.7% and moderately prevalent among 3.8% of secondary students. Drug use prevalence is associated with students' gender, age, family member, residency, house ownership, monthly income, parents' education, and mothers' occupation. Cultural factor, socioeconomic factor, and level of education are key moderators in prevalence of substance use among secondary schools.

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Conflict of Interest: None to declare.

Ethical Clearance: "All experimental protocols were approved under the College of Nursing and carried out in accordance with approved guidelines".

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