A Study on Causes and Risk Factors in Tendency towards Addiction among the Youth (Case Study: Asaluye Special Economic Zone)

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ABSTRACT

The following research tries to study the causes and risk factors in tendency towards addiction among the youth in 'Asaluye County. Using research-made questionnaire, data was collected from 100 addicted young adults who were chosen through random sampling. SPSS software was used to analyze the data. Research results suggest that there is a relationship between tendency towards addiction and age, income, education, occupation, lack of family affection, domestic violence, lack of religiosity, physical and mental illnesses, ethnicity and family aspect. However, there was no relation found between tendency towards addiction and birthplace. Research results indicate that the simultaneous knowledge of individuals and their families are among significant factors in the lack of tendency towards addiction; that is, by the increase society's individuals' – which includes individuals and their family members – knowledge, decrease in the rate of the youth tendency towards addiction could be expected. Hence, it is proposed that by providing consultations for families,the government tries to increase the awareness of families against negative effects of addiction, so that it could decrease the tendency towards addiction among the youth.

KEYWORDS: addiction, drugs, the youth, 'Asaluye, Iran

INTRODUCTION

Addiction is a condition and a state which is formed by the constant use of stupefacient either naturally or artificially. Addiction is a defense mechanism which some individuals connect to in order to skip their suffering situation. (Naiji, 2011) Addict is a person who is addicted to drugs due to the constant use of drugs or a person who is identified as a victim of any kind of physical or mental dependence towards drugs. (Yazdkhasti, 2011) The following research tries to study the causes and risk factors in tendency towards addiction among the youth in 'Asaluye region. It seems that due to the immigration and accommodation of young workforce in this part of Iran, being away from family and birthplace, lack of family control and also weakening of social supervision, more young adults in this region become addicted to drugs. Therefore, studying the causes of the tendency of the young adults towards addiction in this region is of significance. Unfortunately, various reports indicate that the number of addicts is growing. (Sadeqi, 1392 and Sediq Sarvestani, 2008) According to the official statistics it is estimated that there was more than 2 million drug addicts in Iran. However, unofficial statistics state that the number of drug addicts surpass four million. Urbanization and urbanism, formation of slums, poverty and material needs, excessive welfare, lack of religious beliefs, peer group, bad friends, age, occupation, illiteracy and low illiteracy, false beliefs, and physical and mental illnesses are among the factors which have been mentioned in previous studies as addiction factors. (Yazdkhasti, 2011, Taqavi, 2011, AsadAfruz, 2008, Mirzai, 2013, Sarafi, 2011 and Abhari, 2001)

Addiction is a destructive phenomenon which was first formed by the identification of opium by humans thousands of years ago and today's human has inherited that. (Ahmadi, 2013 and AsadAfruz, 2008) due the unfavorable effects which addiction to drugs have on individuals' and society, studying this social phenomenon is of importance. (Sediq Sarvestani, 2008) Study results indicate that drug abuse has a direct effect on central nervous system which includes three parts of: stimulants, such as cocaine, crack, caffeine, nicotine, amphetamines, depressants such as alcohol, opiates (opium, heroin, morphine, and aspirin) and barbiturates, and hallucinogens such as LSD and ecstasy. (Ahmadi, 2013 and Sediq Sarvestani, 2008) Research results in Iran suggest that 70% of drug addicts are married and 87% of these drug addicts have children. If each family has two to three children, each drug addict affects four of their family members. This fact indicates that addiction is a social issue which targets not only drug addicts' individual lives, but also their social lives. Therefore, it could be considered as a social threat. Another destructive impact of addiction is the disintegration of family foundation and increase in divorce rate so that 43% of divorces in Iran are due to addiction and issues related to drugs. Increase in crime is also another destructive impact of drug addiction and 60% of prisoners in Iran are drug addicts. In the meanwhile 15-20 percent of crimes is related to addiction in a way or another. Demonization of community and economic damages such as road accidents are among addiction effects. The following research tries to study the causes and risk factors in tendency towards addiction among the youth in 'Asaluye region. The following research tries to study the causes and risk factors in tendency towards addiction among the youth in 'Asaluye region, and also, a comparison with other regions.

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Hence, without recognition of the current situation, planning is not possible. Accordingly, the significance of such studies in transitional society such as 'Asaluye County increases. 'Asaluye County is a city which has encountered social and security issues due to the increasing number of industrial and oil companies' workers and clerk entering the region. Considering the increasing rate of drug addiction in society, carrying out such studies is of importance. This could also help with the governmental institutions since they need data on the success or failure of their agents. In addition, this could help with the agents so that they can scientifically assess the success rate of their workforce during recent years and employ workers, clerks and agents who have a higher rate of physical and psychological health.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Various studies have been conducted around the world. However, studies which are related to the following research are going to be mentioned here. Hoseyni (1989) studied the family factors in tendency towards addiction among the youth and the results suggest that factors such as parents' family disputes, loss of parents, lack of awareness towards social damages and inappropriate family patterns affect the addiction among the youth. (Mo'ayedniya, 2006) In another research, Kamali (2000) studied the education causes in the tendency towards drug addiction among the youth and came to this conclusion that some educational factors such as educational weakness, school failures, smoker and addict teachers, traditional and passive methods, stressful situations at school (Mo'ayedniya, 2006) impact the youth's tendency towards drug addiction. Mo'ayedniya (2006) studied family and personal factors in the youth's tendency towards drug addiction and following results were obtained: The youth claim that coping with stress, depression, anxiety, loneliness, escaping from family problems, and a strategy for controlling emotions and in some cases curiosity were the reason for drug abuse. In a field study, Iran Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ) Office of Applied Studiesand Researches (1995) claimed that 62% of drug abuse reasons is due to the bad friends. This could justify the importance of avoiding socializing with bad friends. The rate of self-indulgence was also declared to be 9%. In a study under the title of "Addicted Youth and the Impact of parents on them", Yazdkhasti (2011) claimed that presence of addict parents, family poverty, cultural and educational deficiencies, parents' conflicts and separation, as well as families and affluent classes in which wealth and cultural poverty mix together, provide a base for addiction and as a result, the youth in these families move towards drug abuse by socializing with bad friends. In a study under the title of "Causes of Addiction among the Youth" in 330 cities in India, Indian Government (1989)came to this conclusion that the main causes of addiction among the youth included inappropriate family environment, peer pressure, unemployment, curiosity, poverty and roles related to the modern life. (Mo'ayedniya, 2006) In a study under the title of "The Effects of Family-Related Variables on the Youths' Drug Abuse", Androisclaimed that there is a negative correlation between the youths' drug abuse and the relation between parents and children; that is, the high quality of the youth's relationship with their parents could be the best factor in saving them from drug addiction. (Mo'ayedniya, 2006)

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is an applied research and considering the research topic and objectives, research method is survey field study. Data collection was carried out by questionnaire and simple sampling was used in this research.

Research Findings:
Research hypotheses related to the inferential statistics tests will be tested here.

Age and Tendency towards Addiction

Age	Freedom Degree	Sig.	Standard Deviation	Mean
29.85	99	0.00	0.50	1.55

Since the sig. in the table is 0.000 and it is lesser than the significance level $\alpha = 0.05$, H_0 is disproved; that is, there is a significant relation between age and dependent variable (tendency towards addiction).

ANOVA between Ethnicity and Tendency towards Addiction

Ethnicity	Group Total	Freedom Degree	Group Mean	F	Sig.
Intergroup	0.577	2	0.323	19.1	0.000
Intragroup	29.45	98	0.254		
Total	99.48	99			

Level of significance is 5percent, and since sig. in the table is lesser than 5 percent, there is a significant difference between tendency towards addiction and ethnicity.

ANOVA Table between Individuals' Education and Tendency towards Addiction

	Group Total	Freedom Degree	Group Mean	F	Sig.
Intergroup	0.329	4	0.234	0.705	0.000
Intragroup	06.59	154	0.278		
Total	98.98	98			

Level of significance is 5 percent, and since sig. in the table is lesser than 5 percent, there is a significant difference between tendency towards addiction and individuals' education.

ANOVA Table between Occupation and Tendency towards Addiction

	Group Total	Freedom Degree	Group Mean	F	Sig.
Intergroup	0.899	4	0.299	1.07	0.000
Intragroup	05.97	143	0.285		
Total	99.25	98			

Level of significance is 5 percent, and since sig. in the table is lesser than 5 percent, there is a significant difference between tendency towards addiction and occupation.

ANOVA Table between Family Income and Tendency towards Addiction

	Group Total	Freedom Degree	Group Mean	F	Sig.
Intergroup	0.899	4	0.287	1.05	0.001
Intragroup	32.95	149	0.295		
Total	99.33	98			

Level of significance is 5 percent, and since sig. in the table is lesser than 5 percent, there is a significant difference between tendency towards addiction and family income.

Table of Family Aspect and Tendency towards Addiction

Family Aspect			
	Number	r	p
Addiction	100	0.560	0.00

Considering the table above which shows Pearson correlation coefficient that is 0.560, and p that is 0, the hypothesis is approved; that is, there is significant relation between family aspect and tendency towards addiction. The better the welfare, the more positive seniors' attitude towards death. To put it another way, there is significant relation between family aspect and dependent variable (tendency towards addiction).

Table of Pearson Correlation Coefficient between the Variable of Individuals' Commitment to Religious Duties and Tendency towards Addiction

Individuals' Commitment to Religious Duties			
	Number	r	p
Addiction	100	0.559	0.00

Considering the table above which shows Pearson correlation coefficient that is 0.559, and p that is 0, the hypothesis is approved; that is, there is significant relation between individuals' commitment to religious duties and tendency towards addiction. The higher individuals' commitment to religious duties is, the lower the tendency towards addiction becomes.

Table of Pearson Correlation Coefficient between the Variable of Family Control and Tendency towards Addiction

Family Control			
	Number	r	p
Addiction	100	0.498	0.003

Considering the table above which shows Pearson correlation coefficient that is 0.498, and p that is 0, the hypothesis is approved; that is, there is significant relation between family control and tendency towards addiction. The higher family control is, the lower the tendency towards addiction becomes.

Table of Pearson Correlation Coefficient between the Variable of Family Attention and Tendency towards Addiction

Family Attention			
	Number	r	p
Addiction	100	0.569	0.000

Considering the table above which shows Pearson correlation coefficient that is 0.569, and p that is 0, the hypothesis is approved; that is, there is significant relation between family attention and tendency towards addiction. The higher family attention is, the lower the tendency towards addiction becomes.

Table of Pearson Correlation Coefficient between the Variable of Violence in Family and Tendency towards Addiction

Violence in Family			
	Number	r	p
Addiction	100	0.572	0.000

Considering the table above which shows Pearson correlation coefficient that is 0.572, and p that is 0, the hypothesis is approved; that is, there is significant relation between violence in family and tendency towards addiction. The higher violence in family is, the lower the tendency towards addiction becomes.

Table of Pearson Correlation Coefficient between the Variable of Mental Illness and Tendency towards Addiction

Mental Illness			
	Number	r	p
Addiction	100	0.599	0.00

Considering the table above which shows Pearson correlation coefficient that is 0.559, and p that is 0, the hypothesis is approved; that is, there is significant relation between mental illness and tendency towards addiction. The higher the mental illness rate is, the higher the tendency towards addiction becomes.

Table of Pearson Correlation Coefficient between the Variable of Physical Illness and Tendency towards Addiction

Physical Illness			
	Number	r	p
Addiction	100	0.561	0.000

Considering the table above which shows Pearson correlation coefficient that is 0.561, and p that is 0, the hypothesis is approved; that is, there is significant relation between physical illness and tendency towards addiction. The higher the physical illness rate is, the higher the tendency towards addiction becomes.

Table of Relation between Living Place and Tendency towards Addiction

Variable	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation	t	Sig.
Rural Areas	58	34.45	6.08	0.041	0.98
Urban Areas	42	43.54	10.32		

Considering the table above which studies the relation between living place and tendency towards addiction, it was indicated that there is no significant difference between these two groups in tendency towards addiction. (p>0.05)

Research results suggest that there are various factors in society which increase the tendency towards addiction among the youth. However, this research tries to study the factors which are more significant in 'Asaluye society. Also, this research studies the relation between variables of age, commitment to religious duties, family control, family attention, violence in family, mental and physical illnesses and drug abuse. It was concluded that there is a significant relation between ethnicity, education, parents' education, father's occupation, family income and family aspect and tendency towards addiction. Using T-test on two independent groups it was concluded that there was no relation between birthplace and living place and tendency towards addiction.

Conclusion:

Sir Watson believes that: One who is already informed, is already armed and equipped. Hence, it could be concluded that the recognition of government, private companies and institutions located in 'Asaluye on addiction could lead to more awareness about their workforce and personnel and as a result they could use their human resources, optimally. Governments and organizations related to them should be able to have the capability to employ, maintain and protect the human resources and human capitals in society and increase the health in their workforce and personnel to reach their goals. Accordingly, increase in addiction is costly for governments, institutions related to them, private companies and society in general, since large resources should be invested in security. Considering the need of Iran for investment in other economy sectors, this could lead to decrease in economic growth in society and as a result cause recession and economic crisis in various parts of society. In other words, addiction provides various problems and damages which on the one hand require payment of high economic and social costs and on the other, due to the problems mentioned above, cause several disadvantages as follows:

- Engagement of security forces and human resources in establishing order and increase in security costs, instead of spending in development in society
- Occupying managers' minds and their focus on security and social issues and ignoring government main objectives
- Social disadvantages of addiction due to the lack of security and negligence of addicted clerks and workers
- Political and regional issues
- Social issues such as theft, lack of security, prostitution, and other issues which are related to addiction which must be confronted. Since prevention is better than treatment, efforts must be made to prevent addiction. This could lead to achieving the main concern of the governments which is security and welfare for people and society. This could decrease the side expenditure, as well.

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