The rate of attitude’s students toward drugs and its related factors (All of universities in hamedan province, Iran)

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ABSTRACT: The present research is about study of rate attitude of students of all universities in hamedan province toward drugs and it's related factors. The research method which are used descriptive of survey and the used tools researcher's made questionnaire. The statistical populations of the research are all the students of universities in hamedan province during 2008-2009. Which 400 of them are selected through stratified sampling method. The results this research shows that %71.25 of respondents have low attitude toward drugs. However %28.25 high and %.5 very high attitude toward drugs. The average attitude rate of respondents toward drugs are %41.64 from the total rate of 88. It is conclude that there is a relations between the significant of independent variables of divorce, family conflict, family control on students of universities, addiction of one the member of family or other relatives, friends addiction, educational performance, religious beliefs, individualism, anomie, social-economical class, sexuality and age with attitude toward drugs. But there is no relationship between of martial status with attitude toward drugs. The statistical method used in the research includes Frequency distribution table, bar chart, two independent-samples t-test and simple regression analysis.

Key words: Drug, Addiction, Individualism, Anomie

INTRODUCTION

Today one of the basic problems of the world which is threatening the health of millions of people is addiction to drug (Sotude, 1995). Attitude to the drug is one of the social problems in most countries, so it is a problem in our country too. In this field, young people are among the most vulnerable groups, because due to the identity crises, psychological crisis, hedonism, diversity seeking and adventure they are more than others exposed to drug use (South, 1995). Historical anthropological studies indicate that in past times drug use was limited to adults: young people and teenagers did not incline to drug. In early 1970s drug use among younger people increased; it turn into a global problem and its effects like a huge wave moved on from one continent to another (Sotude). Published statistics from international institutions specifically world health organization, world drug control committee and UNESCO all indicate the increasing use of these drugs worldwide (Rahimi, et al, 2006). In recent years drug use has tripled and such increase in its use has put drug as one of the most critical problems worldwide (Mooney, 2006). In developed countries young people's problems is on the top level of social problems and it attracts most researchers to itself. Based on available statistics the rate of crimes committed by youngsters is increasing yearly. It is repeatedly reported that there is a significant relationship between attitude to drugs and doing risky sexual behaviors as well as car accidents (Lenne, 2001). Based on the results of census conducted in 2006, more than 35% of the 70 million population of the country consists of youngsters and teenagers. Andra lugan, a French scientist expressed that: because youth are getting far more than any other time, they are source of fear and anxious (Ahmadi, 1998). Our country is also known as a young society and one of the basic obsessions of our society is the issues related to youths which already have attracted the attention of officials and scientists. A young person as a potential source of power, energetic and talented, has its own specific qualities and potentialities as well as problems. This ever dynamic, creative force will have the future of each country in its own hands. Victory or defeat, prosperity or adversity of the country's future can be foreseen in the face of its young generation.

In most studies, conducted out of the country, the starting age of drug use is low and this reduction in the age level has increased in recent years (Malcom & Dieter, 1999). Based on the report of the prevention and control of diseases in USA , 79% of the youths have experienced alcohol, 72% smoking cigarettes and 47.1
percent have experienced hashish (Sneed, 2001). In our country a low age for starting has been reported too. Based on ghoreshi-zade (2002) in our country 46% of the addicted people are between 20 to 29 years old. Farhadian (1992) reported that drug use in Kermanshah is more prevailed in people under 20. Considering the reasons for attitude toward drug, different reasons have been proposed, namely reduction of informal social control (Osgood), deficiency of collective feelings (Doukim) attitude for social upgrading and lack of necessary regulation for up gradation (Cohen) Etc. In our country addiction has gained prominent importance and every day, every month and every year many people are trapped in this swamp. The evidence for this is all those youths and teenagers whom we can see in the streets. Among our young generation there is an increased attitude to drug use more than past generations, thus regarding the role of colonization and cultural attack in this issue and solutions applied to fight culturally against this problem to stop ruining our young generation by this ominous issue, this article aimed at investigating the extent of attitude of university students of hamedan province to drug use and also it tries to study the related effects of this issue.

Review Of Related Literature

Flay et. al (1989) showed that having smoker friends as well as smoker parents predict the experience of trying cigarette.

In a study (Anonymous, 1998) it was indicated that there is less probability for those who are aware of the negative consequences of addiction in comparison with unaware ignorant people to go toward drugs and alcohol use.

Yakubian & Peters (2002) investigated the relationship between ecstasy drugs and anthropological variables in USA in a sample obtained from student groups. The results indicated that the probability of using ecstasy drugs is less among those who religion has a significant role for them as well as those who don’t have smoker friends.

Wills et al (2003) studied the effect of negative incidents (being sick, jobless parents, etc.) and the protective effect of religion against drug use in a longitudinal study. Based on the results, along with increasing education level in people, attitude for using drugs has also increased. Being a pious person in all educational levels has a meaningful negative correlation with drug use variable. Contrary, negative incidents of life have high positive correlation with drug use. Theses findings all indicate the preventive effect of religion on drug use.

Preston & Goodfield (2006) compared the influential factors on drug use, especially the effect of groups of 12 years and 65 years old. Their aim was testing the expressing ability based on social learning in different age groups. The results showed that social learning variables have direct relation with alcohol miss use in ach age group. Meanwhile, this results indicated that the effect of social learning on miss using alcohol is more on teenagers than on older people.

Salehi (1992) in his research study showed that conflict and paradox in the family, parents’ addiction, affective shortages in the family and low coherence within family, lack of supervision and lack of controlling children, religious believes are all influential on attitude to drug use.

Sadri (1993) in his study concluded that too many restrictions or on the other hand too much freedom of the young peoples and also parents’ conflicts are among influential variables on addiction.

Majdzade et al (2002) also in their study showed that seeing adding materials in the family can stimulate other family members to use and try to test drugs for the first time.

The result of the study conducted by Ghoreishi zade and Torabi (2002) proved that peer (friend) pressure & visiting unsuitable friends (28%), hedonism and using as fun (26%), pain escaping and physical illness (19%), life problems and psychological pressure (12%) are among the most prevalent causes of drug use. Based on the results of this research, in fact in 35% of the studied cases there were another family member (parent, brothers or sisters) who has experience of drug use.

The results of Satar’s study (2003) indicated that the extent of attitude to drugs in groups such as jobless people, illiterate people, and rural people, those who live around cities, families with history of drug use in their members and large families with many members is more than other groups.

The results obtained by Jazayeri et al (2003) showed that 4% of students are in danger of using drugs. The levels of attitude to the drug among guidance school students of Tehran are as follows: not having attitude to drugs is 60/1 percent, low level of attitude to drugs 36percent, high attitude to drugs is 3.3 percent and very high level of attitude to drugs is 6 percent. The extent of prevalence of drug use in this group is 5 percent.

The results obtained by fazelpur et al (2004) showed that there is a meaningful relationship between education level, person’s income level, income level of the parents, education level of the parents (social economic class) and the number of smoker friends.

According to assariyan and amiri (2004) the marital statue is influential on attitude to drug use in a person.

Based on forue din et al (2004) the age for starting smoking is meaningfully lower in addicted people in comparison with non- addicted people. Also young addicts communicate more with addict people than with non- addicts.
Results obtained by Golchin (2009) proved that deviation of teenagers is under the influence of factors such as sex, age, social status of the family, the extent of religiousness of the family, the extent of contact with deviant friends, membership of criminal groups, education status etc.

Serajzade and Feizi (2007) showed that variables such as sex, social status (position), anomie feeling, hope to future education status and future job status, and being religious all have meaningful relationships with using opium and alcohol. Meanwhile the quality of the relationship between these variables and using opium or using alcohol was different. Using alcohol was more than using drugs among university students. square R is 0.14 which indicates that variable totally explains 14 percent change of opium use among students.

**Theoretical Framework**

There are different theories in the field of deviations. Biological as well as psychological theories consider drug use as the result of some personal characteristics such as intelligence, personality (extrovert or introvert), depression, hedonism, curiosity, adventure etc. But sociology is more considering environmental, historical variables such as being job lese, peer pressure, family situation (plant, 1995). Hugan divides the theories of social deviation into three general categories:

a) functionalist approach: includes durkim’s social anomie theory, merton’s structural pressure, Kohen, Miller’s subculture, Ohlin’s different opportunities, Park, Mack, Bergs, Shaw and Mack’s lack of social organization, reckless, Hersh and Nil’s social control.

b) Symbolic integrationist approach: includes Soutterland’s differential communication (discriminatory relation), Matza’s neutralization, Lemert, Baker, Sicorel and Guffman’s Stigma.

c) Contrast approach: includes theories of Vold’s group contrast, tork’s crime, rule, NAZM, Queeni’s realism, Taylor, Walton and Spiter’s Marxism theories, Younger and Hugan’s power control.

Functionalist approaches concentrate on organizations such as family, school, university which socialize people in order to orchestrate their behavior with main values of society. From point of view of an integrationist with symbolic interaction a deviate is someone who is questioned by other members of the society. This view point about deviate person pays attention to intentions, pressures and interactions between him and others who consider him as a deviate. Integrationists examine the causes which result in considering a person or a group as deviate (Givons, 1992). Contrast approach also concentrates on the rule of the dominant social groups on imposing legal stigma on members of marginal social groups (Golchin, 2006).

CONFLICT THEORY (Contrast theory) generally relies on the consequences of wealth and power monopoly in the hands of some limited persons.

**Anomie Of Dorkim**

Dorkim considers deviate behavior as result of defect of collective feelings and also the result of prepotency of personal demands in the weakness time of the authority of the whole (Dorkim, 1994). He emphasizes on the anomie concept while he is trying to express social deviations. From dorkim’s view anomie is referred to as a situation in a society in which the social norms loose their effect on individuals (Serajzade & Feizi, 2007).

**Robert Merton’s Anomie Theory**

From the view point of merton, anomie is a situation in which norms has been gone away or has been weakened or a situation in which existing norms in the society are in conflict with each others. Merton used anomie to show the difference between the goal which is accepted by the society and the means to reach this goal (Rafie pour, 2008). In merton’s view conflict of the values and norms or the conflict of the common norms with social reality is the source of the appearance of anomie. Norms to be unmatched with accepted goals (based on the values the society) or movement of the social values ahead of norms or having norms falling back relative to values and social goals will result in prevalent anomie (lack of norms) in the societies (Moeedfar, 2000). Based Merton’s view about anomie, individuals will choose one of the following ways: conformity, creativity, ritualism, withdrawal with revolt. From Merton’s view point different levels (classes) have different relation with theses five models. For example people from upper classes or middle classes because legal means are more available to them will choose conformity method, but lower level classes due to having less opportunities and having less means at hand, will consequently choose creativity (Taylor, 1973).

**Albert Cohen’s theory**

Cohen believes that the main cause of deviant behavior among youth in lower levels of the societies is desire for social up gradation (promotion) and lack of necessary rules for this up gradation. He believes that if a young person accepts subculture of crime, it is for solving his problems. Thus the most important problem which a young person is exposed to is attainment of a social status (base). From Cohen’s view incompatibility of the goals and means which Merton referred to them, by itself will not result in deviation except that an
intervening variable such as disillusionment and frustration of position is added to it. Therefore Merton believes that gap between goals and means is the source of deviant behavior, but Cohen believes: the gap between aims and means which is the result of frustration of position is the source deviation (Sekhaavat, 2005).

**Coward And Ohlin’s Theory Of Illegal And Differential (Discriminatory) Opportunities**

unequal opportunities is the basis of cloward and ohlin’s theory. These two researchers relate the kind of crime of zones with a lot of crimes to availability of illegal objects. They believe that the social structure as well as the availability of illegal ways and means identifies the kind of crime. They like cohen accepted the Merton’s core concept of gap between aims and means, but they claim that this gap will result in deviant behaviors with the interference of intervening variable of illegal differential (discriminatory) opportunities.

**Travis Hersh’s social control theory**

Hershi considers appearance of deviation as the effect of weakness and lack of correlation in groups, institutions and social organizations as well as the result of weakening of available social I believes in society (Hershi, 1969).

He believes that there exist a relationship between social correlation and deviation. In fact the higher is the bilateral social correlation between members of the society, the higher will be the possibility of imposing control over members by society; as much as stronger control is imposed there will be less deviation. For example hershi about youth believes that: if the correlation between youth, parents, adults and peers be high, then it is less probable for them to become deviant and criminal.

**Walter Reckless ’s theory of control (restraint)**

Reckless believes that individuals’ conformity is the result of control and group pressure. In another word, he believes that conformity behavior is a response to pressure and group's domination. He thinks that deviation phenomenon is under the control of social pressures.

Accordingly one of the causes of devotions in society is considered the lack of outer power controlling, meanwhile he believes that in the case of weakness of external control in society, control of devotion will be left to internal control and personal conscience. It can be expressed that this theory within different tools of social control will notice to controlling through values and emotions, considers them as effective solution to expose deviation.

**Edwin Sotherland’s theory of differential (discriminatory) communication**

Sotherland believes that deviation is taught to a person by others; increasing relationships with deviant people will cause deviation (Sutherland & Cressey, 1978). He adds: people will become deviant because their deviant contact will be more than their non-deviant contacts. In this theory, crime is a behavior which a criminal will learn it. Increasing contacts, relation with confirmative messages of deviant behavior will result in deviation (Robingten, 2004).

**Richard Queen’s theory of social reality**

Queen was after knowing the effect of power structure and society on reaction of different definitions for human behavior and this issue that how they have changed into a part of social world. He claims that the characteristics of capitalist economy are the main cause of crime. He thinks, in the continuous process of recreation of capitalist system the ideology of exploitation of producer force, policies of suppressing people and governmental organizations which are responsible for production and for keeping order and regularity will be dominated by capitalist class and this domination and exploitation will cause different deviations (Sakhavat, 2002).

**METHOD**

The method of the present study is descriptive survey. The sample population consists of all university students in Hamedan province in year 2008-2009. The amount of sample population based on Morgan table was identified as 400. Because the sample population in this study has different parts (different majors, different universities such as state run university, payam noor university, Azad university,etc.) and different parts have homogenous structures, thus strata sampling was applied. Here the units of the society under study are classified in groups which are more homogenous in sense of adjective variable, so that differences and changes are less in the groups. As the research method in a study is proportionate to the data gathering tools and because the method of the present study is survey, thus researcher made questionnaire has been applied to obtain required data. The following steps were done to produce the needed content of the questionnaire:

1) Sentences were designed based on the aims and hypothesis.
2) Sentences were prepared from research studies, books, creditable reliable journals.
3) Sentences were submitted to some experts and they were asked to identify on a 6 level scale that how much each Sentence will examine the related considered variable (very much, much, to some extent, low, very low, none).

After collecting their views, cases which were identified as to some extent, low, very low or none by most of the experts were omitted.
4) Sentences were delivered to the supervisor of the project and based on his view some corrections were done about the repetitive, or some irrelative cases. In order to increase the reliability of the sentences of the questionnaire the following lines were observed:
1) The questions were totally clear. There was no vagueness in such questions.
2) Instead of criteria of one sentence, criteria of some of the sentences were selected.
3) The time of filling questionnaire was the free time of students.
4) It was noticed not probably dedicate to one question different codes. Correct code was dedicated to each question. In order to calculate reliability, Cronbakh Alpha was used. Coefficient of cronombkh Alpha was calculated for variables of attitude to drug use, family conflict, religious compliance, individualism and anomie feeling. The results are presented in table 1.

Table 1. independent variable and related obtained Cronbakh Alpha for each variable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>variable</th>
<th>Cronbakh Alpha Coefficient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>attitude to drug use</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family conflict(paradox)</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious compliance</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individualism</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anomie feeling</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Accordingly (internal reliability) internal consistency of applied variable is on an acceptable level and it reflects a good level of reliability of the used questions in the questionnaire.

RESULTS

49.2 percent of the subjects are female and 50.8 percent of them were male students. 84 percent were single and 16 percent were married. 33 percent of the respondents were between 19-21, 44% were between 22-24, 16.5% were between 25-27 and 2.5% were between 28-30 and only 4% were between 31-35. 92.8% of respondents claimed that their parents live together, 2.75 said their parents were divorced. 56.5% of the respondents said that nobody among their family members or other close relatives is addicted. 43.5% has said one of their family members or close relatives is addicted. The findings express that 69.75% of the respondents have no addicted friend. 30.25% of them has addicted friend. 15.25% was from lower classes of the society, 73.5% was from middle classes and 11.25 was from higher classes of the society. Moreover findings indicated that 71.25% of the respondents have little attitude to drugs. Meanwhile 28.75% high and 0.5% have very high attitude to drugs the mean attitude of respondents to drug was 41.64 from 88 score. Other information which is presented in the table is as follows: analysis of two variables is: between divorce of the student's parents, addiction of one of the family members or near relatives, addiction of friends, sex, marital status and the attitude to drug there exist a difference. Results show that between family paradox (conflict), performance in the area of education, religious compliance, individualism, anomie feeling, social economic class and attitude to drugs there exist a relationship.

DISCUSSION

Based on the findings of the present research study 71.25% of the respondents have low attitude, 28.25% have high attitude and 0.5% have very high attitude to drugs. Also mean attitude of students to drugs was 41.64 from score 88.

One of the findings of the present study is that there exist a relationship between parents’ separation and attitude to drugs. This is inn accompany with results obtained by wills et al (2003). In explaining this it must be said that in families with only one single parent the role of father and mother is practically trivial in the family. In families with father as a single parent, due to his disordered presence at home, he may ignore some issues. His faded role in the family and lack of his physical presence due to his job as well as economic problems not only affects on model making of the son from father but also this vacancy will result in an increasing gap between young person and his family; consequently father cant train and educate him properly. In a family with only mother as a single parent, mother has bimodal situation. She cant perform responsibilities properly, she cant fill the empty place of father, thus it can be claimed that in a family with only one parent in which two parents are divorced, rules, regulations, order and control is very low and it has a cyclical pattern. In fact supervision system and control over children's behavior becomes weak. In such a situation the probability of
deviation in children's behavior will increase. The result of this research indicates that family conflict is influential on attitude to drug use. This is in harmony with obtained results from ghoreishizade and torabi's study (2002), sadri (1993), salehi (1992). The obtained results in accompany with salehi (1992), sadri (1993) show that lack of controlling of the students by family will influence attitude to drugs. The results show that 43.5% of university students at least one of their close relatives or family members is addicted have more attitude to drug use. Because based on Sutherland's theory, those who observe more deviant behaviors around themselves in the family or among their friends and those who have more connections with deviant people will more probably commit deviant behaviors. On the other hand, it must be mentioned that this is learning process inside family structure and the action methods which provide the deviation roots. Usually behavioral models of an addicted father or mother will be transmitted to children. If an addicted person is responsible to manage a family, drug use by such a person has direct as well as indirect effects on children and family members; it will probably raise their curiosity to try drugs. This is in line with obtained results by priston (2002), goodfieio (2006), majdzade et al. (2002), serajzade nad feiz (2007), sattari et al (2003), ghoreishizade and torabi (2002), salehi (1992). Also in the same line with the obtained results by priston, goodfieio (2006), yakubian and Peters (2002), seyedfazelpour et al (2004), Foruedin adl et al. (2004), ghoreish zadeand torabi (2002), serajzade and feizi (2007) show that the addiction of friends has relationship with attitude to drug use. In explaining this relationship it can be said that after family, friends is named as the second factor of accepting society. Generally youth along with their growth spend more time with their friends. A young person usually is under the influence of the behaviors, actions, talks and taught of his friends. With increasing influence of friend pressure, the influence of parents will decrease. This group by praising, criticizing or sanctions for conformity or lack of conformity of its members for its norms will leave great influence on the behavior and personality of its members. Doubtlessly a deviant friend can easily mislead his friend; specifically that youth more than any other life time is under the influence of their peers. Because in this period youth reduces his dependence on his family members, so he searches for another anchorage which is in most cases his friends. In incorrect friendships, teenagers and youth will positively answer to his deviant friend's invitation for using and testing drugs for the first time and this will ruin the rest of his life. Thus friends' group of a person which consists of addicted guys this can have great influence on his attitude to drug. Also based on southerland and hirshi, having more connections and social relations with deviant culture and less connection with normal people will result in increasing deviation in a person. Another influential variable on attitude of students to drug is performance of students in the field of education. Another finding of this research is the effect of individualism on attitude to drug use. Individualism increases in a society when social participation decreases. Other finding of this study is about the relationship between drug use and religio economic status of the society has not enough influence on drug use tendency. In order to explain this issue based on merton's anomie theory being pious to cultural goal will reduce the unbalance between goals and means for reaching goals and will consequently reduce the probability of deviation. The findings of this research are in line with findings of serajzade and feizi (2007). Theses results indicate that anomie feeling has influence on drug use tendency. In order to explain this issue based on dorkim's theory it can be said that when norms of the society has not enough imperative power and there is no creditable norm order in the society, the probability of committing crime will increase. Another finding of the research is about the relationship between social economical classes of the person with drug use. Based on the results, attitude to drug use in higher classes is more. This confirms the findings of seyedfazelpour et al (2004), serajzade and feizi (2007), salehi (1992). Religion has diverted relation with drug use. This issue can be expressed under confrontation of religious culture with drug use. Based on Merton's anomie theory being pious to cultural goal will reduce the unbalance between goals and lack of control and supervision. Because in most societies men have more power source and less control is dominated over them, risk taking, committing criminal deviant behaviors is more probable among them. Also based on southerland and hirshi having more social relations with deviant culture and less connection with normal people will result in more deviation in people. According to learning theory of southerland and hirshi having relation with deviant subculture will increase the learning of deviant behaviors. Due to fewer connections of women with deviant subculture in Iran, consequently they will have fewer tendencies to deviant behaviors. Another finding of this study is the amount of attitude of married people as apposed to attitude of single people to drug use. This is in line with asarian and amiri (2004). Higher attitude of singles is probably due to more pressures which they tolerate relative to married guys. Theses pressures are related to their vague future job position, vague marriage future etc.
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