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Awareness about effects of drug addiction in Faisalabad District, Pakistan

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Abstract: Modern age with depression and anxiety has forced people to use different types of narcotics in order to alleviate their sorrows and suffering. The aim of present research is to create awareness about the effects of drug addiction. 200 male drug addicts' patients are interviewed admitted in Government Hospitals, private rehabilitations and clinic of Faisalabad district through questionnaires. Chi-square test is applied to analyze the data in order to create the awareness about effects of drug addiction. From the analysis, it can be concluded that drug addiction is more common in youngsters, low income class and in illiterate people.

Keywords: Awareness, Effects, Narcotics, Drugs addiction, Faisalabad district.

1. INTRODUCTION

Drug addiction is wide spread problem in all over the World. It has gripped all the societies of the world, but Pakistan is the worst victim of this evil. It has paralyzed our social, political, economic and moral institutions (Aziz, 1995; Niaz, *et al*, 2005). Drug addiction rapidly increased from last two decades in Pakistan (Mufti *et al.*, 2004). Pakistan has long unsecured border with Afghanistan, one of largest opium producing country in the world which makes it more vulnerable to drug addiction. In Pakistan the Federally administered Tribal Areas (FATA) is famous for cultivation of illicit narcotics (UNODC, 2006). Annually 68 billion US dollars are generated from illicit drugs trade across the world. Smuggling of illicit drugs from Afghanistan to world via Pakistan is worth 30 billion US dollars annually (UNODC, 2012). There are 6.4 million drug addicts in Pakistan and 10% are female amongst them. Higher increase rate of 0.60 million addicts per year is extremely dangerous to society (Ashraf, 2013).

There are many reasons for drug addiction like experimental curiosity, peer pressure, poverty, unemployment, lack of parental supervision, improper residential areas, bad company, to seek pleasure, lack of awareness about effects of drugs, stress, illiteracy, easy access to drugs, family background, to enhance the sexual performance & lack of proper treatment facilities (Salik, 2004; Zafar, 2013; Lone, 2013; Haladu, 2003). The best way to protect the society from the effects of drug addiction is to create awareness amongst the Awareness campaign about the effects of drug action can be made more effective at educational institutions (Shafiq, 2006). The problem of drug addiction can be tackled by including the drug education in curriculum of schools, colleges and universities (Kausar, 2011). Print and electronic media can also play vital role to explore the negative effects of drug addiction (Abbas, 2007).

There are many strategies to cope with the increasing drug addiction but awareness is best tool to explore the negative effects of drug addiction amongst the masses. Present research is also an attempt to determine the level of awareness about the effects of drug addiction among drug addicts of different age, education and income groups.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area: With the population of 54,29,547 the Faisalabad district is third largest City of Pakistan. Administratively Faisalabad is divided in six Tehsils Saddar, Faisalabad City, Chak Jhumra, Jaranwala, Sammundri, and Tandlianwala (CDGF, 2013)].

Sampling Process: 200 male drug addicts have been interviewed from the hospitals, private clinics, and rehabilitations centers of Faisalabad district.

Statistical Analysis: The collected data than edited, tabulated and statistically analyzed by using Statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). Chi-Square test is applied in order to determine the level of awareness among the respondents.

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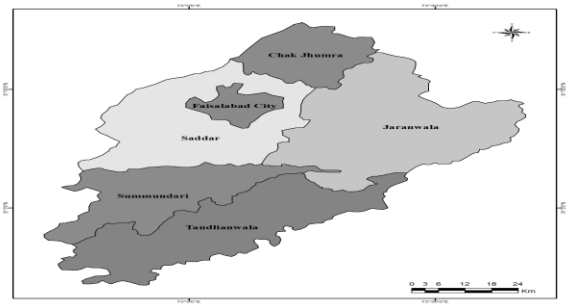


Fig: 1 Geographical location of Faisalabad district. 2013

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Hypothesis 1:

The awareness about the effects of drug addiction will be higher in elders and Young people are more vulnerable to drug addiction because of lack of awareness.

Young people are more vulnerable of drug addiction because of lack of awareness. This age group is considered a productive age group for any nation. They do not have enough knowledge about the merits and demerits of drug addiction (Fareo, 2012; Mubeen 2007). **(Table 1)** shows the relationship between the respondent's age and about their effects of drug addiction awareness. The value of chi-square (24.11) indicates highly significant (P=.000) association between the two variables. The value of gamma indicates the positive strong association between the two variables that is age of respondent and awareness about the drug addiction. It means addicts of low age (20-24 & 25-29) had less awareness as compared to elder addicts (30-34 and 35 & above). Therefore the hypothesis show "elder addicts will be the higher awareness about the effects drug addiction is accepted.

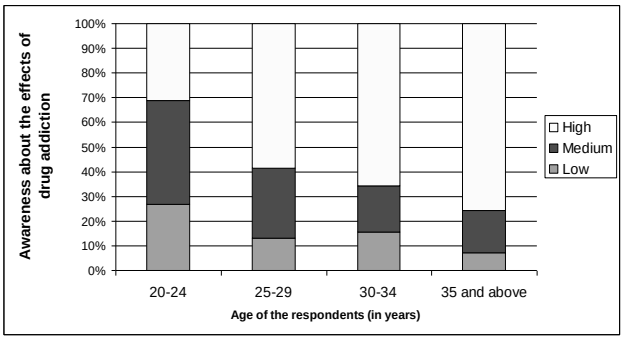


Fig: 2 Association between age of the respondent and their awareness about the effect of drug addiction.

Hypothesis 2:

The higher education of drug addicts will show the higher awareness about the drug addiction effects.

Previous study about drug addiction described strong relationship between education and awareness about the effects of drug addiction. Level of awareness amongst higher educated drug addicts were high as compare to lower educated (Muhammad, 2003; Masudi, 206). **(Table 2)** depicts the relationship among the education of the respondent and their awareness about the drug addiction effects.

The value of chi-square (30.60) indicates the highly significant (P=.000) relationship between the level of education of respondent and the awareness about drug addiction. The gamma value displays the strong positive relationship between two variables.

It means uneducated addicts had less awareness as compared to educated respondents. So the first hypothesis is accepted that is "elder addicts will be the higher awareness about the effects about the drug addiction.

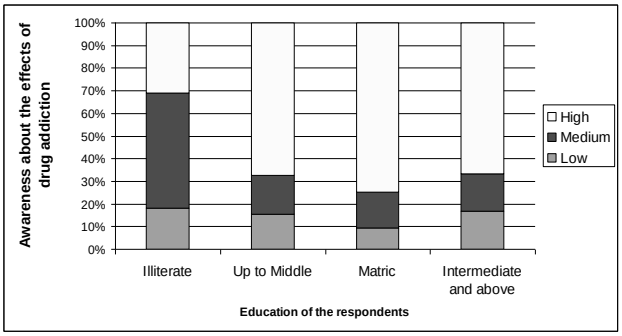


Fig: 3 Association between education and of the respondent and their awareness about the effect of drug addiction

Hypothesis 3:

High income level indicates the higher awareness about the drug addiction. (Table 3) indicates the relationship between the respondent's income and their awareness about the drug addiction.

The value of chi-square (17.46) indicates the highly significant (P=.000) relationship between the respondents income and their awareness about the effects of drug addiction. The value of gamma indicates the positive strong relationship between two variables. It means lower income addicts had low awareness about the effects of drug addiction as compared to high income respondents. So the third hypothesis is accepted that is "high income level indicates the higher awareness about the drug addiction". These results are coinciding with the study (Hanan, 2012) that lower income drug addicts have poor awareness about the effects of drug addiction.

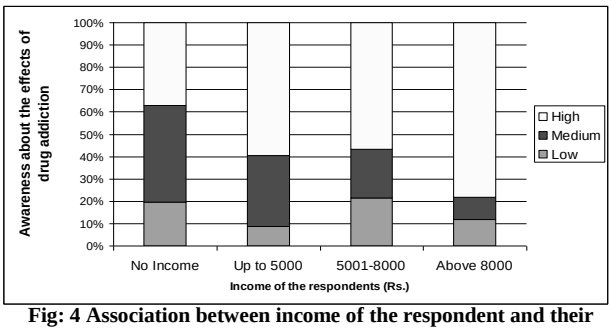


Fig: 4 Association between income of the respondent and their awareness about the effect of drug addiction

Table 1. Association between age of the respondent and their awareness about the effects of drug addiction

Age of the respondents (in years)	Awareness about the effects of drug addiction			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
20-24	12	19	14	45
	26.7%	42.2%	31.1%	100.0%
25-29	7	15	31	53
	13.2%	28.3%	58.5%	100.0%
30-34	5	6	21	32
	15.6%	18.8%	65.6%	100.0%
35 and above	5	12	53	70
	7.1%	17.1%	75.7%	100.0%
Total	29	52	119	200
	14.5%	26.0%	59.5%	100.0%

Chi-square = 24.11 d.f. = 6 P-value = .000** Gamma = .427 ** = Highly significant

Table 2 Association between education of the respondent and their awareness about the effect of drug addiction

Education of the respondents	Awareness about the effects of drug addiction			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
Illiterate	10	28	17	55
	18.2%	50.9%	30.9%	100.0%
Up to Middle	8	9	35	52
	15.4%	17.3%	67.3%	100.0%
Matric	6	10	47	63
	9.5%	15.9%	74.6%	100.0%
Intermediate and above	5	5	20	30
	16.7%	16.7%	66.7%	100.0%
Total	29	52	119	200
	14.5%	26.0%	59.5%	100.0%

Chi-square = 30.60 d.f. = 6 P-value = .000** Gamma = .344 ** = Highly significant

Table 3 Association between income of the respondent and their awareness about the effect of drug addiction

Income of the respondents (Rs.)	Awareness about the effects of drug addiction			Total
	Low	Medium	High	
No income	9	20	17	46
	19.5%	43.5%	36.9%	100.0%
Up to 5000	5	18	34	57
	8.8%	31.6%	59.6%	100.0%
5001-8000	8	8	21	37
	21.6%	21.6%	56.7%	100.0%
Above 8000	7	6	47	60
	11.7%	10.0%	78.3%	100.0%
Total	29	52	119	200
	14.5%	26.0%	59.5%	100.0%

Chi-square = 17.46 d.f. = 6 P-value = .005** Gamma = .341 ** = Highly significant

4. CONCLUSION

Hypothesis testing of effect awareness of drug addiction reveals that lower age drug addiction had low awareness about the effects of drug addiction. It was also concluded that illiterate drug addicts had low level of awareness about negative effects of drug addiction. Similarly lower income drug addicts had low awareness. Keeping view the results it is strongly recommended that a campaign about the negative effects should be launched with the help of print and electronic media as well as educational institutions.

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