

A Sociological Study of Factors that Involve Adolescence towards Drugs

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Abstract

Human society is facing many problems from inceptions of society. They solved many problems time to time but there are some problems which could not be solve from day of inception to till the day. Non medical usage of drugs is also one of the problems which increasing generations to generations. Drug addiction, use and its abuse exists in all classes of the society. This research paper focused specific target group which is called adolescence aged between 13 to 19 years and found reasons why adolescents are getting involved in drugs in the early ages. With this in mind, Study focused on Quetta city which is called corridor of drug trafficking from Afghanistan to rest of the world. A qualitative research with exploratory research method was conducted with snowball sampling methodology because it was the accurate method to dig out information from respondents with probing. The number of respondents in the study was 60 from different parts of city which try to engage all ethnic and religious communities of the Quetta city.

Key Words: Adolescence drug usage, Factors of drug usage, Drug Abuse.

Introduction

Human civilization has constantly been under threat from different type of social problems which affected their lives individually and collectively. Drug is also one of the particular social problems which effected human society from day of inception till the date.

Pakistan is one of the most important Muslim nations in the world. Pakistan's geographical location boosts up its importance. Pakistan shares four international borders with neighbors like Afghanistan, Iran, India and China. Pakistan's recent reported population is 20777.452 Million. Pakistan's youth

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and adolescence population is more than 65% of overall population.(1998 Census) In 2014, Pakistan 12.4 percent of population lives below the poverty line. This percentage was 8.3% in the year of 2012. (Basic Statistics, 2016) It means its level of poverty increased within two years. Moreover, an estimated 6% of the population in Pakistan, or 670,000 people, aged between 15-64 had used drugs in the past year, Together with those who had used at least once as well as regular drug users (UNODC, 2013). Pakistan's neighbor country, The total part under opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan was estimated at 201,000 hectares in 2016, which represents a 10% increase from 2015 (Afghan Opium Survey, 2016). Which easily reach Quetta city.

Balochistan, the biggest of the four provinces of Pakistan, spreads over an part of 347,190 Sq. Kms., occupying 43.6% of the total land of country. This province population, according last census, is total five percent of overall population. Balochistan shares his boarders with two international and three provincial boarders. It shows his direct connections and trades are wider than other provinces. According to United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates 40% of the drugs (heroin & hashish) produced in Afghanistan are routed through Pakistan including Balochistan.(UNODC, 2013)

Quetta is the capital city of Balochistan and the only wider place for business and dealings. It's converted in a multi ethnic city due to higher ratio of urbanization. People comes here for seeking of jobs, education, treatments, business and trades as well as dealings. Initially, foreign refugees were dominant on drugs business but now local people of city doing this business in streets. So, drugs are easily accessible in city due to geographical factors.

What is Drugs?

Central Intelligence Agency of United States of America defines drugs as "Drugs are any chemical substances that effect a physical, mental, emotional, or behavioral change in an individual." (CIA)

What is called drug abuse?

The American Intelligence Agency defines drugs as "Drug Abuse is the use of any licit or illicit chemical substance that results in physical, mental, emotional, or behavioral impairment in an individual." (CIA)

Division of Drugs

There are two major types of drugs which used widely.

- **Licit drugs**
- **Illicit drugs**

Licit drugs, The major licit drugs caffeine, nicotine, and alcohol are socially approved legal drugs. Alcohol is only approved for medical purpose in Pakistan it is not allowed for leisure anyhow alcohol considers in non Muslim nations as a licit drugs. So I will discuss it in licit drugs portion. Tobaccor, Cigars, Cigaretters, Gutkha, Naswar, Sheesha, E-Cigarette, Coffe, Tea, Chocolates, Cola drinks are example of licit drugs.

Illicit drugs are variety of drugs that are prohibited by international law. These drugs include Cannabis, Cocaine, Heroin, Opiods, Ecstasy, MDMA Tablets and Alcohol are examples of illicit drugs..

Justification of the Study

- a) This study will give new directions to social institutions for social control.
- b) Previous researches couldn't get satisfactory knowledge from said age group.
- c) This study will go through factors which involves adolescences towards drugs.

Objectives and Research Question

The objectives of the study are:

- a) To know the most dominated factors which involve adolescence in drug usage.
- b) To know implications of drug usage on behavior of adolescence.

Literature Review

Balochistan has geographic value and smugglers are tacking fully advantages from this land's of open borders. Drug smugglers know that this way has significance for them as well because Balochistan shares its border with Afghanistan from many districts; there are 9 drug trafficking ways, crossing into Pakistan through Afghanistan, 6 major routes are in Balochistan only. (The Global Afghan Opium Trade, 2011) then these supply to the other city of Pakistan and world.

The peak popularity of opiate users was identified in Balochistan, where 1.6% of the inhabitants uses heroin and opium or both and 0.2 % citizens took methamphetamine in this province last year, picturing 70% of national use although they make up only 5% of the Pakistan's population. (Drug use in Pakistan, 2013). Furthermore, main sanitation line as know as city Nala is famous as home of homeless drug addicts. Where the age group of 10-25 years

old youngsters and street children are foremost drug abusers. (Huma Zafar, Balochistan Review, 2013)

Findings of a research study conducted by Health Promotion and Therapeutic Communities (HPTC, 2011) discovered that 83% of teenagers under arrest in juvenile prisons of Pakistan are involved in diverse drugs. Additionally, there is lack of extra curriculum opportunities for children and adolescence in Quetta city this is why it is reported that children are abused and exploited at internet cafes, mini cinemas, snooker clubs and restaurants. (The Tribune, 2011).

In addition to, Rose, Ambreen and Fayyaz (2017) identified causal factors of young criminal behavior (Including drug) also know as juvenile delinquency in Balochistan that social influence, personality, educational institution related and financial factors. Ericson (2011) found that drugs easily push up user towards crimes.

EMCDDS (2017) discusses in selected issues that regular drug use till age 15 is most often found in highly challenging group of the population, in whom drug use in combined with other concurrent or preceding psychological and social-disorders and might often be a indicator of social problem. While studying child development, children whose parents or family use drugs are higher risk on early age drug because of problems in the psychological and social family functioning or due to neurobiological.(Bancroft et al, 2004, Obat et al, 2001, Repetti et at, 2002). Alcohol use in the family is dominated risk of drug use among children. (Clerk et el, 2005). Subsequently, Children from low level educated families, joblessness and low affluence or poor may have a high risk of drug use. (Prince's Trust, 2004).

Subsequently, (Rafiq.S, 2012) pen down that there are many risk factors for drug abuse such as social, biological and psychological risks. Similarly, (Umer, 2012) found children of addicted parents are easily inspires for drug abuse. They copy and try to use drugs like theirs parents, neighbors and relatives.

Research Methodology

This study was done with qualitative research. Exploratory research method was selected for the study because it suits the nature of study. Through in-depth interview 60 respondents got engaged in the study from various areas of the city.

Sampling Technique

Snowball sampling technique used in the study. Initially researcher approached his own personal relations to approach the respondents because direct approach did not suit sensitive research topics.

Sample Size

The sample of study was 60 respondents aged between 13 to 19 years.

Research Tools

Audio recorder and questionnaire used as a research tools.

Respondents

Currently living in Quetta City aged between 13 year to 19 years.

Limitation of the Study

Quetta is the capital of province and high populated city. It is divided in many ethnic divisions and languages. From two decades this city is badly affected from sectarian violence specially Hazara Shia community is the peak of vulnerability. So due to security reasons it is difficult to go to every area of city easily in order to collect information from targeted group. Furthermore, targeted age group may be do not feel comfortable to share information with researcher because in schools, colleges and domestic level they will hesitate to disclose this phase of their lives. In addition, collecting information from girls might be a close to impossible task because traditionally they hardly discuss such kind of information with stranger even though traditionally tobacco smoking through Hukka is common in some tribes of the city who traditionally offers this to their guest as importance components of hospitality.

Result and Discussion

There were three main objectives of the research which are following.

- a) To know the most dominated factors which involve adolescence towards drug usage.
- b) To know implications of drug usage on behavior of adolescence.

Most Dominated Factors

Study found following are the most dominated factor which motivating and engaging adolescence towards drugs.

Picnic

Picnic is founded the most dominated factor among adolescence which engages them to use drugs in a social pressure-free environment. 60 out 60 respondents said that they go to picnics and use soft or hard drugs there. Furthermore, another unknown respondent expressed that “Drugs is an

addiction and you cannot enjoy it in fear so when I go to picnic I feel free and fearless so love to use drugs in fear free atmosphere.

Hostel Life

This study interviewed 11 students who lived in different governmental and private hostels. It is founded that they were not using any drug before admitted in hostels but the weekly or monthly gathering of friends make them habitual to start using drugs. It is found that there is a trend in hostels that using drugs like cigarette, beer or hashish improve concentration level for studies.

Cultural Events

During the study it is also found that drugs usage increases during cultural events like Eid, Holli, Diwali, Shirwartri, Chrismats, Birthday parties and wedding parties. Youth often go for outings and picnics during cultural events and use different type of drugs there. This shows that events that make people happy also a factor of drug usage. 59 respondents out of 60 accepted that they use drugs in cultural events.

An unknown Hindu respondent said that “I, first time in life tested a drugs that was Bhang on Shirwartri event”. Shirwartri is an event celebrated by Hindu community and all community use Bhang as a norm of said event. So an unknown respondent explain that “We use Bhang in Shirwartri with Maraaajs (Religious Scholars) and other elders of community”.

Family Member Drug Uses

Ratio of drug usage also found higher among that adolescence whose family members specially father or brother use or used drugs. 49 out of 60 said that their fathers are/were drug users. 11 respondents said that their brother or uncles are also drug users. Among them 15 Respondents said that they used to buy Cigarette or Naswar for father and one day they tested them. A respondent said “My father send me to buy cigarette so I bought one extra and went to roof and tested it.

Single Family Factor

Study found that the ratio of adolescence drugs users were high in single family system. There were 50 respondents out of 60 who were living in single family. Those who lives in single family their majority used hard drugs like Hashish, Beer, Wine, Bhang, Sheesha, Light-Bulb but those 10 respondents who belong to joint family they were using light and common drugs like Cigarette, Naswar and Sheesha and none of them uses any drug in front of any family member. Data shows that norms and values and respect of elders are comparatively less in single families as compare to joint family.

Lack of Physical Sports Opportunity

Physical sports playing ration was very less among all 60 respondents. 36 out of 60 were those who do not play any physical game. 19 of them play games among 19 respondents 10 play cricket in street and 9 were those who lives in hostel and having a ground near hostel. It means only 9 of them having opportunity of proper ground so they play but majority of them do not have any ground near where they can play or at least observe and support sports teams. Further 5 respondents said they play body building game but not regularly because this game needs proper food for improvement.

Regular Hostelling

Adolescence doesn't have any extra curriculum opportunity so they mostly pass their time on hotels with friends. 45 respondents out of 60 were those who regularly go for hotels for taking tea and 5 respondents said they go sometimes but not daily. One respondent said that "Tea has nicotine and cigarette also have so cigarette with tea develop the taste". 49 respondents agreed that they can easily access to drugs near hotels one of them said that "You can get Tablet-K, XTC, Hashish and other hard drugs easily from a famous hotel of Killi Ismail" One respondent said "There are some suppliers in shape of baggers who sale drugs near famous hotels of railway station" similarly one respondent added that "there are specific shops or persons near hotels who only provide drugs to known people not everyone".

Pre adolescence aging drug use

Study explored that 42 respondents of 60 started to use any drug in preadolescent age (7-12). A respondent said that "in childhood I use to eat Chalia then slowly started King Gutka which cost only 1 rupee" A respondent from Hindu Community said that "At the age of eight years I started Bhang on Shirwartri event because everybody in community use Bhang so it is not a big matter" Another respondent said "when I was 10 years old I was standing in street near a general store so I saw a person who was smoking and inhaling smoke in a good style so I thought it must give pleasure so I bought for me so then became a regular smoker" It was observed those adolescence who attracted from drugs in between ages 7 to 12 letter they also used hard drugs like Hashish, Wine, Beer and Light Bulb.

Cheap or Easily Access to drugs

There are some drugs which can easily and cheaply available in common general stores like Cigarette, Naswar, Gutka, Pan Parag, King Gutka and J.M or Speed etc. This stuff cost cheap and their access is not an issue for anyone and even shopkeepers give them to kids without any query. During Interview

there were 25 respondents who were using only Cigarette, Pan Parag, Gutka and Naswar. 40 respondents said they started drug usage with light drugs like gutka and cigarette. Christian and Hindu community respondents said they have easily access to drugs like alcohol shops are common in Christian's community and with other drugs Bhang is very common in Hindu community's towns.

Impressed from celebrities or Personalities

Study found that Box office celebrities and political personalities are also factors which motivate fan and followers for drug usage. Likewise, there were 60 respondents in the interview and 30 out of them responded that they like their favorite celebrities or personalities to seeing those using drugs on screen or photos. Bollywood stars Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Ranbeer Kapoor, Amitabh Bachhan and photos of Political Leaders Che Guevara, Dr Allah Nazar, Khalid Langove and Shaikh Rasheed while smoking as well as Pakistan Classical Singer Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan Songs found motivational factors of drug usage for fan and followers.

Playing indoor games

The study found that lack of physical sports opportunities increased the trends of indoor games like Snooker, Rad Patti, Video Games, Cram board in clubs. There were 26 respondents out of 60 who were play indoor games and use drugs however Cigarette and Hashish was common among snooker players. Subsequently, a respondent said that "A players looks very attractive when hit the ball with stick then inhale the smoke"

Member of Musical or Traditional dance group.

There are several musical clubs in Quetta city and there are also trends where boys or males dance culturally on weddings in Balochi and Brahvi they are called "Cheap Group" where a captain leads the group who called "Chief" same group in Pashtoon culture called "Attan Group". So, Study found that 23 respondents out of 60 were part of any Chaap or Attan group among these respondents only 3 were not part of any group but when they perform chaap they use drugs. 11 respondents said they use Wine, Beer or Hashish during traditional dance. 9 respondents belong to light drugs like cigarette and Gutka categories. Similarly, 3 respondents were musical players and singers they said that "Wine makes sound of singer better so in musical clubs Beer and Wine are common; sometimes Bhang and Hashish also use during practice or performance".

Not considering Miner drugs as drug

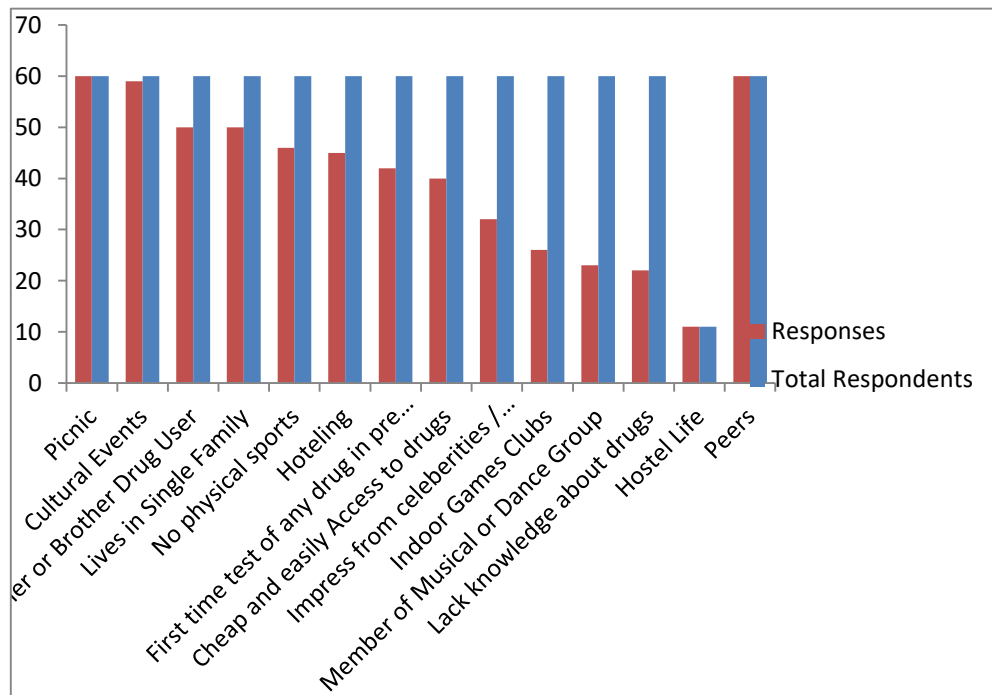
Lastly, Study found that adolescence have lack knowledge of drugs, there were 60 respondents and 22 of them said they do not consider Naswar, Gutka, Speed, King and Pan Parag as a drug because drugs are something like “Hashish, Heroin or Wine”. Therefore, they even don’t know about harms of said drugs.

Peer Group

This study approached 60 respondents in different parts of city and found that 58 of them have drug user friends and peer founds strong character in all factors like Picnic and outing is in top reason which can involve adolescence towards drugs peers are there, peers are present in hostel life, they are with each other on cultural events, They accompanying during hoteling, Peers are also present in Musical clubs and traditional dance, they are standing in indoor game clubs and peers are supporters and motivators in preadolescence age drug usage too. So the all environmental, psychological and biological factors mostly related to peers groups.

Table showing that most dominated factors of drug usage among adolescents

Implications of drugs use on behavior of adolescence.



Knowing the implications of drugs usage on behavior of adolescence was the second objective of the research. The purpose of the objective was to know socialization and social control of society whether the fear or respect of elders still exists or not.

This study found that 20 respondents accepted that they use drugs in front of family. 10 respondents among them were those whose mothers were alive and fathers were passed away and 5 respondents fathers were alive and 5 respondents both parents were alive. It shows that 20 drug users who uses in front of family, 15 of them having one parent alive. This figures indicated that they do not had proper socialization and did not learn norm and values from family. They all live in a single family system so after death of mother or father they did not get proper concentration from any other family member. The above mention figures also show that 15 respondent's mothers were alive who use drug in front of family so it means that adolescence have less fear from mother as compare to father. Furthermore, these all 20 respondents also acknowledged that they use drugs like Cigarette and Gutka, Naswar, PAN or Hashish in publically too like street and hotels. Hashish users have their some specific hotels where they use Hashish publically without any fear.

The percentage of drug users in front of family or public observed as 34% which indicates that our society is losing social control, values, norms and customs. It also shows that social institutions especially family and schools are not properly socializing teenagers. Furthermore, Urbanizations and nuclear family system make adolescence more vulnerable as compare to rural societies and joint family system. In contrast, 17% of targeted group belongs to joint family system and they denied using drugs in front of family members because the size of observation was higher on them in shape of cousins and uncles. This is also found during interview above mention teenagers publically shares their photos on Facebook while smoking cigarette and sheesha without any fear.

Conclusion

In the final analysis, this study got the answers of two research questions which were following.

- To know the most dominated factors which involve adolescence towards drug usage.
- To know implications of drug usage on behavior of adolescence.

It has been found that geological factors matters a lot because observed city is corridor of international drug trafficking so large number of local people are involved in drug trade and drug smuggling and rule of law is also very poor in

the city which causes openly selling of drugs in many famous hotels and medical store.

Cultural events are also factoring increasing of drug usage. Hindu Minorities specially use Bhang on Shirwartri event as a norm of event. In addition, it is found that adolescence agreed that they make gathering and outings on speciall cultural events like Eid, Holli, Diwali, Shirwartri, Chirmsats, Weddings and Birthday Parties.

Environmental Factors also involving adolescence towards drug usage especially those adolescence are on high risk whose father or elders brother use drugs or send them to buy Cigarette or Naswar for them. It is also found that political leaders and film stars are also motivational factors for teenager fan and followers.

Recommendations

I would suggest following recommendations for future researches which will make comfort to taking decision for similar researches in Quetta city.

- Quetta city is a multi ethnic city so target group should be focus.
- Religious factors in Hindu community involving adolescence towards drugs so said community need a focus study.
- Cultural events involving all age groups towards drugs so while focus study on cultural events study should not be bound on any specific age group.
- It's recommended for female researchers they should study drug usage as a cultural norm in Baloch family who serve tobacco to guests. I could not approach girls respondents so female scholar can easily cover particular target group.
- Celebrities and political leaders are also factoring for drug usage to fan and followers. It can be focused study about said concerning area and new policies can be applied for celebrities and leaders for not promoting their photos publically.

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