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Assessment of preparatory schools students knowledge about substance abuse in AL-Sader City

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Abstract---Background: The substance abuse and their knowledge are not contemporary issues, rather humans have known substance abuse since prehistoric times, were Sumerians and Chinese use them in their religious rituals. Human has abused substances from time immemorial in the form of leaves, roots, and herbs. They have used drugs as a mean of relieving pains and for managing certain ailments (1). This study aimed to assess the students' knowledge about substance abuse, to assess students' knowledge among substance abuse. A descriptive design was carried out of 27th February 2021 through 29th July 2021 to assess the students' knowledge about substance abuse in AL-Sader city. A probability sampling (simple random technique) was used, consisted of 50 students, that consist (25) male, (25) female, were from Preparatory Schools students' knowledge in AL-Sader city/ Baghdad. A self-report questionnaire was used to data collection, to achieve the objectives of the study. The findings of this study indicates that the level of students' knowledge towards substance abuse was low. The study concludes a considerable lack of towards substance abuse, this study recommends the urgent need to educate students and participate in courses learn about the dangers of drugs and how to avoid using them.

Keywords---Assessment, substance abuse, Knowledge.

Introduction

Psychoactive drugs have been used since the earliest human civilizations. Problematic use of substances was observed as early as the 17th century (2). Also, there are shreds of evidence that opiate was found by the Sumerians in the Middle East 6,000 years ago, and later was used as medicine and recreational drug amongst the Ancient Greeks, then by Chinese in the 7th or 8th century (3).

Established that the easy availability of drugs influenced the prevalence of drug use among students (4). There were also cultural beliefs that were tolerated including the great influence of peer pressure in schools. These and many more challenges made it difficult to control drug abuse, According to the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime the prevalence of substance abuse among people between the age of 15 -64 has risen from 4.9% in 2006 to 5.3% in 2015 this represents an increase of 0.4% since 2006 (5). Adolescence is recognized as the period for the onset of behaviors and conditions that not only affect health limited to that time but also lead to adulthood disorders. Unhealthy behaviors such as smoking, drinking, and illicit drug use often begin during adolescence; they are closely related to increased morbidity and mortality and represent major public health challenges. Unemployment, poor health, accidents, suicide, mental illness, and decreased life expectancy all have drug misuse as a major common contributing factor (6)(7). conducted a survey to examined the influence of drug abuse on secondary school students in relation to their family background, family cohesion, peer group influence, and students' academic performance(8). Drug prevention programs are a significant part of the national strategy to reduce the prevalence of substance use disorders. Schools are an important setting for these interventions because drug use typically begins during adolescence and schools provide easy access to large numbers of youth (9). Over 6% of all 12–17-year-olds (or 1.6 million youth) meet the criteria for a substance use disorder [SUD] (10). As well as a report from the United Kingdom (UK) estimated that over 20% of young people aged 16 engage in two or more substance use and delinquent behaviors (11). According to results of the Iraq national household survey conducted in Iraq from November 2013 – May 2015, adjusted for unequal gender, distribution indicate the self- reported lifetime and current use is (respectively): Tobacco: (29.0%, 23.4%); Alcohol (8.6%, 3.4%); Licit drug misuse (2.5%, 1.2%) and Illicit drug use (0.4%, 0.2%) (12). High schoolers may decide to experiment with drugs and alcohol for many reasons. Some simply enjoy the physical sensation of getting high because it activates the pleasure centers in their brains, others use drugs and alcohol as coping mechanisms to deal with stress, depression, social anxiety or emotional problems. Academic pressure can also contribute to teen drug use. In one study, stressed-out teens with lower grades were seven times likelier to use marijuana and three times more likely to drink and use tobacco (13,14,15,).

Results and Discussion

Table (1)

Distribution of the Sample According to their Socio-demographic Characteristics

No.	Characteristics			
			f	%
1	Age (year)	15 – 17	32	64
		18 – 20	18	36
		21 ≤	0	0
		<i>Total</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>100</i>
		<i>M±SD</i>	<i>17±1</i>	
2	Gender	Male	25	50
		Female	25	50
		<i>Total</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>100</i>

2	Father's occupation	Employee	22	44
		Free works	15	30
		Retired	7	14
		Died	6	12
		<i>Total</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>100</i>
3	Mother's occupation	Employee	12	24
		Housewife	33	66
		Retired	1	2
		Died	4	8
		<i>Total</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>100</i>
4	Study	Scientific	25	50
		Literary	25	50
		<i>Total</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>100</i>
5	Scholastic stage	Fourth	16	32
		Fifth	16	32
		Sixth	18	36
		<i>Total</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>100</i>
6	House ownership	Owned	32	64
		Rented	6	12
		Random	7	14
		Farmland	5	10
		<i>Total</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>100</i>
7	Income	Insufficient	12	24
		Barely sufficient	25	50
		Sufficient	13	26
		<i>Total</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>100</i>

Table (2)
Assessment of Students' Knowledge about Smoking among Study

Levels of knowledge	(N= 50)			
	Pre-test			
	f	%	M	S.D
Poor	26	52	7.28	2.601
Fair	24	48		
Good	0	0		
<i>Total</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>100</i>		

Table (3)
Assessment of Students' Knowledge about Alcohol Drinking among Study

Levels of knowledge	(N= 50)			
	Pre-test			
	f	%	M	S.D
Poor	12	24	9.92	2.527
Fair	38	76		
Good	0	0		
<i>Total</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>100</i>		

Table (4)
Assessment of Students' Knowledge about Drug Use among Study

Levels of knowledge	Study Group (N= 50)			
	Pre-test			
	f	%	M	S.D
Poor	38	76	7.65	2.977
Fair	12	24		
Good	0	0		
Total	50	100		

The results of the study showed that the largest percentage of ages for studied groups were at age group (15-17) , are equally between males and females in the study, Concerning to the occupational status of their fathers this study show that 44% of the sample had government employee while 30% of sample had fathers free work , Concerning to the occupational status of their mothers this study show that 66% of the sample had housewife, The results of this study showed that the majority of participants in the study are had Owned house 32% for the study, This study found that the majority of students had barely sufficient the monthly income 50% for results table (1) . Table (2) The study found that the level of students' knowledge about smoking was poor level 52% for study group and 58% in the pre-tese,. Table (3) The study show that the level of students' knowledge about Alcohol Drinking was fair level 38% for study group. Table (4) The study found that the level of students' knowledge about drugs was poor level 38%.

Conclusion

The findings of this study indicates that the level of students' knowledge towards substance abuse was low. The study concludes a considerable lack of towards substance abuse.

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