Social Factors Acting as a Catalyst for the Drug Abuse: A Case of District Kech Balochistan

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study aims to determine the factors affecting entry into drug abuse in the District Kech of Balochistan.

Study Design: Cross-Sectional study

Place and Duration of Study: This study was conducted at the District Kech of Balochistan from April to June 2022.

Materials and Methods: Data were collected from 285 drug-addicted people. Partial Least Square Structural Equation Modelling was used to analyze the data.

Results: The findings of this study shows that access to drugs, family background, parental control, peer group influence, and unemployment have a key role in the entry into drug abuse for the drug adductors of the district Kech Balochistan. While Family cohesion, street gangsters, and stress have no significant role.

Conclusion: From the findings of this study, it is concluded that access to drugs, family background, parental control, peer group influence, and unemployment should be controlled to avoid more drug addiction in district Kech of Balochistan.

Key Words: Kech, Balochistan, Drug Abuse

INTRODUCTION

Kech District is a District in southern Balochistan and is primarily populated by Baloch people of various castes and creeds. The ugly truths of drug crimes are hidden in every part[1]. Despite having many services, District Kech, the second-largest district in Balochistan, has many residents affected by this drug abuse threat [2]. Drug abuse means using illegal drugs, prescription pharmaceuticals, over the counter medications, or both in excess and for purposes other than designed for them[3]. Drug abuse is considered a social crime. Since ancient times, it has dominated the social structure. Different medicines are used differently according to other habits[4]. Several factors are responsible for the entry into drug abuse[5]. These factors are the lack of parental control, family ground, family cohesion, peer group influence, easy access to drugs[6], stress, unemployment, and the emerging street culture of gangsterism[7].

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Drug abuse is a widespread social and health issue that affects people of all ages. But nowadays, the growingly young generation is highly moving towards this and being involved in this[8]. Drugs are unfavorable to human health. Drug abuse is a highly chronic issue rapidly increasing among the young generations and destroying society[9]. The dismal reality is that drug misuse among young people in Pakistan is on the rise. Every year, Pakistan adds 50,000 new drug users to the country's drug addict population[10]. Drug abuse is a global problem. Hence policies have been developed at all levels, from the international to the national, to combat the issue. Nearly every culture, including Pakistan, is plagued by drug abuse. It is an expensive burden that impedes a nation's development. But drug misuse is more common than you may think, and various populations use drugs differently [11].

Several studies have found several factors for the entry into drug abuse. Lack of parental control is a vital issue that will motivate children to enter drug abuse. Parental control means the degree to which parents watch over their kids, their choices regarding their kids' extracurricular activities and friends, and the limits they set for their kids. Family background is one of the critical factors that will clear the routes for the newcomers to the family to enter drug abuse. If a person is already involved in drug abuse, this will automatically affect the other family members [12]. Drug selling is the primary source of income for gangster groups. If gangsters in any area sell drugs for their

economic survival, if the drug is sold on the doorstep, this will encourage the youths to enter quickly into drug abuse. Family cohesion means the emotional bonding between the family members[13]. Suppose the bonding between the family members is neither dynamic nor weak. In that case, this will automatically engage the family to be bonded with the outer environment more, and I'll be a reason to enter drug abuse. A Peer group is a group of people with the most common age, status, interest, and job [14].

A person's habits are highly dependent on the behavior of their peer group. It has been observed that most people involved in drug abuse are due to the influence of their peer group. It is common sense marketing philosophy that a product will sell higher if it is in the approach of most people in easy access. If the drug is available easily in a town's street automatically, the people of that town will be more involved in drugs than the others where it is not readily available. Another cause of drug abuse may be stress [15]. Stress means a person's emotional or mental state to be adverse or demanding circumstances [8]. Several researchers have identified stress as a significant cause of entry into drug abuse. Some people with low psychological power to face the stress will move towards drug abuse to divert their intention [16]. It has been observed that drug abuse and unemployment are positively correlated in different societies [17].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

PLS-SEM methods and PLS-Smart software were used to properly analyze the data because our model is based upon complex variables relationships like several constructs with multiple indicators. The conceptual model of this study is composed of nine abstract constructs. Of which eight are independent, and one is dependent. Several items or several questions gauge each construct. All the items of all the constructs are adopted or adapted from several past studies. Primary data for this study was collected through a closed-ended questionnaire from the drug-addicted people of district Kech of Balochistan. In contrast, secondary data was collected from different journals, books, articles, thesis, and magazines and from electronic sources to enhance the quality of gathered secondary data. The total population of drug-addicted people in district Kech is unknown, so the researcher used nonprobability sampling (snowball sampling) for the data collection. Data were collected from 285 drug-addicted people from district Kech to meet the minimum criteria of a sufficient sample for regression analysis. It has been observed from the study of different primary data researchers that a minimum of 285 samples will be enough for the structural equation modeling analysis by Smart PLS.

RESULTS

Table 1 of the demographic of the research participant shows that there are 285 participants. All of them were males. The first section of the table shows their age distribution. Among these, 88 were less than years, 64 were 20 to 30 years, 84 were 31 to 40 years, 37 were 41 to 50 years, and 12 were above 50 years. The second section of the table shows their educational level. Among these, 70 were illiterate, 42 were primary pass, 59 were middle pass, 65 were matric pass, 34 were intermediate, and 15 were graduates or postgraduates.

Table No.1: Participant's Demographic

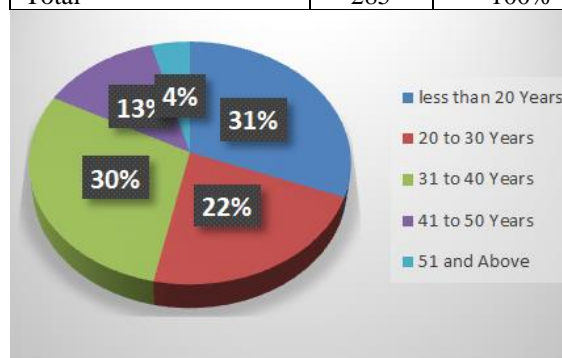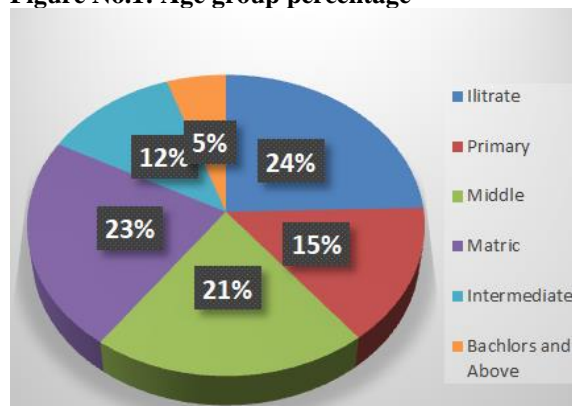| Age Group	No	Percentage
less than 20 Years	88	30.9%
20 to 30 Years	64	22.5%
31 to 40 Years	84	29.5%
41 to 50 Years	37	13.0%
51 and above	12	4.2%
Total	285	100%
Educational Level	No	Percentage
Illiterate	70	25%
Primary	42	15%
Middle	59	21%
Matric	65	23%
Intermediate	34	12%
Bachelor's and above	15	5%
Total	285	100%

Figure No.1: Age group percentage

Figure No.2: Educational level percentage

Table 2 of the reliability and validity shows the reliability and validity of the data collected. Item loadings value shows the item reliability; the threshold value for the loading is 0.7, but they are also acceptable at the 0.5 level. As per the table, all the values are more significant than the threshold value, which shows that all the items are reliable. In contrast, Cronbach alpha and composite reliability show the overall construct reliability. The threshold value for them is 0.7. the table shows that all the values are more significant than the threshold value, which indicates that all the constructs are reliable. While AVE values show the convergent validity of the data. The threshold value for the AVE is 0.5. all the construct shows that their AVE values are more significant than the threshold value, indicating that all the constructs are convergently valid.

Table No. 2: Reliability and Validity

Construct	Items	Loading	C A	C R	AVE
Access Drug	AD1	0.883	0.833	0.900	0.750
	AD2	0.901			
	AD3	0.812			
Drug Abuse	DA1	0.86	0.815	0.890	0.729
	DA2	0.855			
	DA3	0.847			
Family Background	FB2	0.909	0.708	0.716	0.571
	FB3	0.561			
Family Cohesion	FC1	0.585	0.713	0.789	0.489
	FC2	0.778			
	FC3	0.578			
	FC4	0.821			
Parental Control	PC1	0.815	0.776	0.870	0.691
	PC2	0.841			
	PC3	0.837			
Peer Group	PG1	0.865	0.840	0.904	0.757
	PG2	0.871			
	PG3	0.875			
Street Gang	SG1	0.927	0.710	0.790	0.658
	SG2	0.675			
Stress	ST1	0.816	0.756	0.857	0.666
	ST2	0.848			
	ST3	0.784			
Un-employment	UP1	0.566	0.786	0.696	0.512
	UP2	0.540			
	UP3	0.848			

Table 3 of the path coefficient shows the significance of all the direct relationships in the model. As we know, this study only have 8 direct relationships upon which this study hypothesis stands. The table shows that access to drugs, family background, parental control, peer group influence, and unemployment have a key role in the entry into drug abuse for the drug adductors of the district Kech Balochistan. While Family cohesion, street gangsters, and stress have no significant role.

Table No.3: Path Coefficient

Hypothesis	β	t	P
H1: Access Drug -> Drug Abuse	0.09	1.96	0.050
H2: Family Background -> Drug Abuse	0.06	3.88	0.000
H3: Family Cohesion -> Drug Abuse	0.07	1.241	0.215
H4: Parental Control -> Drug Abuse	0.24	4.007	0.000
H5: Peer Group -> Drug Abuse	0.41	8.425	0.000
H6: Street Gang -> Drug Abuse	0.02	0.595	0.552
H7: Stress -> Drug Abuse	0.15	0.187	0.852
H8: Unemployment -> Drug Abuse	0.13	3.234	0.001

DISCUSSION

This study aims to examine the impact of the different factors contributing to the entry of drug abuse in the district Kech of Balochistan. From the literature, several factors have been identified which are the causes for entry into drug abuse. Some of them are supported by the results of this study, while some of them are not supported. Hypothesis one suggests that drug access is the main factor for entry into drug abuse. This statement is backed by the results of this study and the different researcher's studies[6,11]. The second hypothesis suggests that the family background may be a significant cause of the entry into drug abuse. The findings of this study also support this. Different researchers' studies on drug abuse have also pointed out that family background is a significant cause of drug abuse entry [13,14]. Parental control and peer group are the leading causes of entry into drug abuse. These two causes are also supported by this study's findings, which align with the results of the different studies conducted in other contexts [14, 15]. Unemployment was also considered a significant cause of entry into drug abuse. The findings of this study also claimed that unemployment is the leading cause of entry into drug abuse in district Kech. It was observed that different researcher findings also align with this, suggesting that unemployment was a leading cause in their context [10, 17].

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study shows that access to drugs, family background, parental control, peer group influence, and unemployment have a key role in the entry into drug abuse for the drug adductors of the district Kech Balochistan. While Family cohesion, street gangsters, and stress have no significant role. From the findings of this study, it is concluded that access to drugs, family background, parental control, peer group influence, and unemployment should be controlled to avoid more drug addiction in district Kech of Balochistan.

Author's Contribution:

Concept & Design of Study:	Mansoor Ahmed
Drafting:	Farah Ahmed, Sameera Muhammad
Data Analysis:	Sameera Muhammad, Farah Ahmed
Revisiting Critically:	Mansoor Ahmed, Farah Ahmed
Final Approval of version:	Mansoor Ahmed

Conflict of Interest: The study has no conflict of interest to declare by any author.

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