

A Study to Assess the Attitude Towards Psycho-Active Substance Use Among College Students.

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Abstract

Aim and Objective: to assess the attitude towards psycho-active substance use among college students in Coimbatore.

Materials and Methods: A descriptive study was adopted to assess the attitude towards psycho-active substance use among college students of selected colleges, in Coimbatore. Who filled the inclusion and exclusion criteria? The convenient sampling technique were used to select the samples. The tool was prepared and the validity of the tool was obtained from Subject experts. Descriptive and inferential statistics were administered The study revealed positive attitudes regarding psycho-active substance use and negative attitudes regarding psycho-active substance use among 30 male students.

Results: *26.6% of positive attitude towards psycho-active substance use, *31.2 % of negative attitude towards psycho-active substance use, and *43.2% of both attitudes towards psycho-active substance use.

Conclusion: The study revealed a positive attitude regarding psycho-active substance use and a negative attitude regarding psycho-active substance use among 30 male students.

Keywords: attitude, psycho-active substance

I. Introduction

Adolescence is a transitional stage for a young group of people between the ages of 10 and 19. According to the World Health Organization adolescents are often thought of as a healthy population but many serious issues in adulthood have their roots in adolescence one of the problems is related to substance use.

It is a phase when the mind is automatically motivated to experiment and the first initiation of substance use usually takes place during the period adulthood. Substance use includes tobacco, alcohol, non-prescription pharmaceutical medication, narcotics, and other addictive substances.

Increasing cases of substance use are associated with many factors like encouragement by peer groups, the lure of popularity, availability of drugs, changing values, increasing economic stress, dwindling supportive bonds, etc.

Earlier initiation of drug use is found to have more impairment, crime, and difficulty to quit, and is also associated with accidents, violence, high-risk sexual behavior, interpersonal problems, a decline in academic performance, etc.

The rising worldwide phenomenon of drug abuse among the younger generation has been causing great public concern. It not only affects the health and lives of individuals but it also affect the individual and surrounding political, social, and cultural foundation of all countries. Through various surveys, it is

found that initiation of substance use has affected the comprehensive health of adolescence and their family which in turn hampers the development of the country.

Substance use also interferes with adolescent brain development. Adolescents are needy to the effects of substance use and are at increased risk of developing life long consequences, such as mental health disorders, underachievement in academics, a substance use disorder, and higher rates of addiction if they regularly use substances/drugs during adolescence and youth.

Statement of the problem

A study to assess the attitude towards psycho-active substance use among male students.

Objectives of the study

The study aimed to find out attitudes towards psychoactive substance use among male students.

Hypothesis

H1: There will be negative attitude towards psychoactive substance use among college students

II Materials and Methods

A descriptive study was adopted to assess the attitude towards psycho-active substance use among college students, in Coimbatore. The study conducted over a period was conducted in Ganga College of Nursing at Coimbatore on 2nd March 2024. The independent variable of this study that was reflected as the empirical aspect of the concept was male students' attitudes. The dependent variable was the resulting change in the dependent variable psychoactive substance. The study was conducted at Ganga College of Nursing, Coimbatore. The study sample includes late adolescent Nursing students studying at Ganga College of Nursing. The sample size consisted of 30 male students (Who fulfilled the inclusion and exclusion criteria) selected by non-probability convenient sampling technique. The study included adolescents available during the time of data collection and samples included boys only. The study excluded the late adolescents who were not willing to participate in the study.

The tool consisted of two parts i.e., a data collection tool and a structured questionnaire tool. The data collection tool consists of two sections.

Section A consists of demographic variables and **Section B** structured attitude questionnaire (5 points Likert scale) regarding attitude towards psycho-active substance use, Permission to use the tools was sought from the experts through email. In the majority of occasions, the original English versions of the scales and questionnaires were utilized.

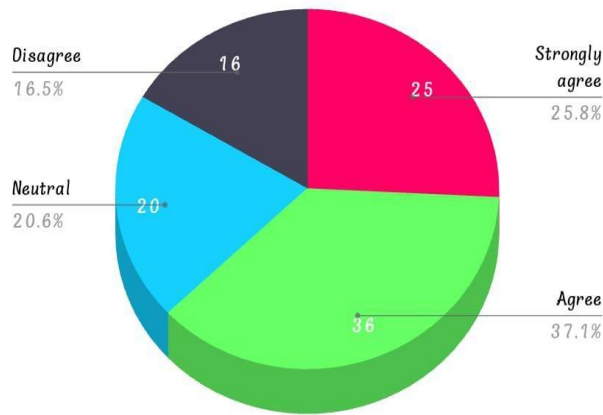
Ethical consideration

Ethical approval was obtained from the Institutional Ethics Review Board and formal approval was obtained from the management of Ganga College of Nursing Coimbatore to conduct the study in the nursing college and also from the heads of the respective college. The researcher has followed fundamental ethical principles like the right to freedom from harm and discomfort and respect for human dignity. The researcher gave full freedom to the participant to decide voluntarily whether to participate in the study or to withdraw from the study and the right to ask questions at any time during the study. This questionnaire consists of five positive and negative questions. The questionnaire was distributed to every class by their respective class coordinators. The contact number was provided to address any inquiries or concerns regarding the questionnaire. The questionnaire was distributed to about 30 participants. Two days were given to participate before completing the questionnaire. A clear explanation was given to every participant before including them in the study oral consent forms were obtained from the participants. After collecting the questionnaire from every participant a thank you note was given.

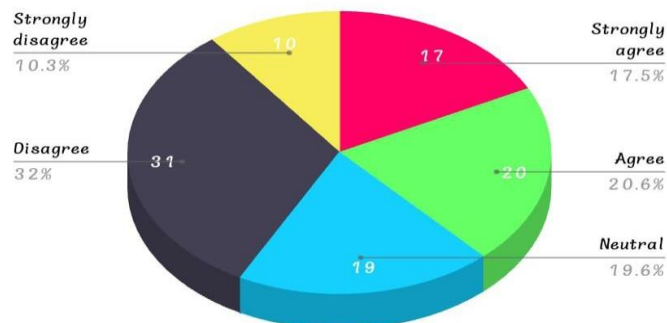
Statistical Analysis

The Data from the proforma were entered in Microsoft Excel 2016 and analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 17.0. Descriptive statistics was used to describe the demographic variables. Mean \pm SD was used to summarize the total modified AHPS score. A multiple linear regression model was used to assess the positive & negative attitudes towards psycho-active substance use. **III Results**

POSITIVE ATTITUDE REGARDING PSYCHO-ACTIVE SUBSTANCE USE



EGATIVE ATTITUDE REGARDING PSYCHO-ACTIVE SUBSTANCE USE



The study revealed that positive attitude regarding psycho-active substance use and a negative attitude regarding psycho-active substance use among 30 male students. **The positive attitude questions**

include: Strongly agree - 25.8% Agree -37.1%, Neutral -20.6%, Disagree -16.5%, Strongly disagree - 0%. **The negative attitude questions include:** Strongly agree - 17.5%, Agree - 20.6%, Neutral - 19.6%, Disagree - 32%, Strongly disagree -10.3%

IV Discussion

The outcome of this research has provided the attitude towards psycho-active substance use among selected male students, in Coimbatore. The study revealed that positive attitude regarding psycho-active substance use and a negative attitude regarding psycho-active substance use among 30 male students. The positive attitude questions include, Strongly Agree - 25.8%, Agree -37.1%, Neutral -20.6%, Disagree -16.5%, Strongly Disagree -0%, and the negative attitude questions include, Strongly Agree - 17.5%, Agree - 20.6%, Neutral -19.6%, Disagree - 32%, Strongly disagree -10.3%. The study concluded that *26.6% of positive attitudes towards psycho-active substance use, * 31.2 % of negative attitudes towards psycho-active substance use, and *43.2% of both attitudes towards psycho-active substance use.

Chassin et.al (2005) focused on the 'parental attitude towards substance use' of children under the age of 18 in the United States who lived with parents. This study used longitudinal design surveying among 3,627 adolescents & their parents at baseline. Adolescents whose parents were more permissive about substance use were 2.5 times more likely to initiate substance use and 3.5 times more likely to develop substance use disorder.

Limitations

The study was limited only to the late adolescent age group due to nonavailability of samples.

V Conclusion

The study aimed to find out attitudes towards psychoactive substance use among male students. The study comprised 30 male students. The study revealed that positive attitude regarding psycho-active substance use and a negative attitude regarding psycho-active substance use among 30 male students. The positive attitude questions include, Strongly Agree - 25.8%, Agree -37.1%, Neutral -20.6%, Disagree -16.5%, Strongly Disagree -0% and the negative attitude questions include, Strongly Agree - 17.8%, Agree - 20.6%, Neutral -19.6%, Disagree - 32%, Strongly disagree -10.3%. The study revealed that *26.6% of positive attitudes towards psycho-active substance use, * 31.2 % of negative attitudes towards psycho-active substance use, and *43.2% of both attitudes towards psycho-active substance use.

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