

Assessment of Collegian Student's Awareness Regarding Drug Uses at Al- Muthanna University

Majed R. Assar, M.scN*

Aqdas D. Salman *Ph.D*

1. MSN, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Alramutha General Hospital, Muthana Health Department, Ministry of Health, Iraq. E-mail: maged.radi1205a@conursing.uobaghdad.edu.iq
2. Lecturer, PhD, Maternal and Neonate Nursing Department, University of Baghdad, College of Nursing, Iraq E: mail: aqbesdaood@gmail.com

Abstract:

Background: Globally, deaths directly caused by drug use increased by 60 per cent from 2000 to 2015. People over the age of 50 accounted for 39 per cent of the deaths related to drug use disorders in 2015. However, the proportion of older people reflected in the statistics has been rising: in 2000, older people accounted for just 27 per cent of deaths from drug use disorders. About 75 per cent of deaths from drug use disorders among those aged 50 and older are linked to the use of opioids. The use of cocaine and the use of amphetamines each account for about 6 per cent; the use of other drugs makes up the remaining 13 per cent.(UNODC,2018).

Aims: 1- To assess awareness of drug uses among collegians students.2- To find out the association between collegian students awareness of drugs uses, consequences and selected demographic variables (age, gender, residential area, class).

Methodology: A descriptive study design was conducted on (372) Collegian Student's in Al- Muthanna University. The study period started from (from November/2021 to march/2022.) Awareness about the concept of drug use and its consequences used in this study

Result: the results show that shows that 50.5% of university students are males and 49.5% are females. with age group of 21-less than 24 years. who are urban residency 53.2% of students are resident in urban areas, 26.9% resident in rural . 50.3% of the students perceive sufficient monthly income , 57.5% of scientific colleges and 42.5% of humanistic colleges , 69.4% are still unmarried,and fathers refer to 51.9% who "primary school or less". and mothers, 73.1% are primary school or less . Parents occupied the highest percentage of fathers 37.6% working "freelance" and mothers, 79.4% of whom are housewives, and most of them do not have a specific source about drugs. the results in this study showed that of students show high level of awareness about drug use .

Conclusion: Al-Muthanna University students demonstrated high awareness about the concept of drug abuse drug abuse

Keywords: Assessment, awareness , drugs use

Introduction

Drugs uses refers to any range of illicit drug use: e.g. heroin abuse, cocaine use, tobacco use, and these include the repeated use of drugs to produce pleasure, relieve stress, or alter or avoid reality ¹ .

Drug uses are among the greatest challenges to health, wellbeing, and the sense of independence and freedom for which we all strive and yet these drugs are present in the everyday lives of most people, and has medicine cabinets stocked with possibly outdated but still potentially deadly drugs. Almost everyone has a friend or loved one with an addiction-related problem. Almost everyone seems to have a solution neatly summarized by word or phrase: medicalization, legalization, criminalization, war-on-drugs. ²

Drug use has had a negative impact on the young people, both students and non-students, diminishing their productivity and wasting their lives at a time when they are most needed in society. Despite widespread awareness and education about the risks of substance addiction, the majority of high school students continue to participate in this risky conduct ³.

The exponential growth of drug use and its associated issues in students, as well as negative effects such as a loss of academic motivation, academic failure, physical and mental disorders, suicide, reckless

driving, vandalism, violent activities, a lack of a sense of identity, and high-risk sexual behaviors, introduced a new set of problems by Cooper and Perkins reveal the need for developing plans and preventive intervention strategies in schools and college ⁴.

There are drugs like marijuana, which used to be a difficult drug to obtain, and possession of marijuana was associated with a variety of legal implications. Currently, marijuana's negative connotation is dissipating, and access has increased in the last decade ⁵.

There are several motives for using substances, primarily curiosity, imitation, and the desire to change the mood. Until the use of such substance was in accordance with the framework and the culture that is traditionally bound, the problem or not, or were capable of being every local community without a problem solved itself. real problems have been caused by mixing of cultures, finding new and client ways of producing and transferring those funds to areas where there is no tradition of their use⁵

Method and material

The study was conducted at the University of Al-Muthanna in nine colleges in Al-Muthanna Governorate, for the period from December 12, 2021 to February 28, 2022 after obtaining official permission from the university.

Inclusion Criteria: The student is in the Al-muthanna university and Their student who approve to participate

Exclusion Criteria: student who refuse to participate in study and student at medical specialization

Data Collection Procedure: After signing the protocol from the College of Nursing / University of Baghdad, the approval of the Ministry of Planning - the Central Statistical Organization was taken. Then the approval of the ethical committee was taken in the college. And the informed consent taken from the student.

Instrument of the study: The data was collected using sociodemographic, the clinical characteristics of the student, and questionnaire was created to assess the awareness of college student regarding drug use. Instrument contain four domains described as following, First domain :Awareness about the concept of drugs and addictions, second domain :Awareness of the symptoms caused by drug abuse

Third domain :How aware are you about the harms of drugs? Which
 forth domain :How aware are you that the following can help prevent drug abuse and its effects? Which contain 12 items, The scores were as follows, ranging from 1-3: the value is aware 3, slightly aware 2, and .not aware 1

Data Analysis Procedure: The collected data was statistically analysed using SPSS software version 26. There were sections in questionnaire

Section 1: Demographics: Section 1 Had questions regarding demographics of the participants including age, and Residency, marital status, level of education and occupation for parents , monthly income, source of information

Speciation of student , Scholastic stage

Section 2: Assessment of Students' Awareness about Drugs Use (concept , symptoms, effects ,and prevention)

Scoring for Assessment of Students' Awareness about Drugs Use: **these assessed by unaware =1 Slightly aware =2 aware =3**

Results:

Table (1): Distribution of Sample According to their Socio-demographic Characteristics

List	Characteristics	n	%
1	Male	188	50.5
	Female	184	49.5

2	Age M±SD= 23.19±2.562	18 – less than 21 year	37	9.9
		21 – less than 24 year	215	57.8
		24 – less than 27 year	82	22
		27 – less than 30 year	27	7.3
		30 ≤ year	11	3
3	Specialization	Scientific	214	57.5
		Humanistic	158	42.5
4	Residency	Rural	100	26.9
		Urban	198	53.2
		Suburban	74	19.9
5	Monthly income	Insufficient	42	11.3
		Barely sufficient	143	38.4
		Sufficient	187	50.3
6	Scholastic stage	First	44	11.8
		Second	104	28
		Third	115	30.9
		Fourth	109	29.3
7	Marital status	Married	112	30
		Unmarried	258	69.4
		Widowed/er	1	.3
		Divorced	1	.3
8	Father of education Level	Primary school or less	193	51.9
		Intermediate school	41	11
		Secondary school	56	15.1
		Diploma	33	8.9
		Bachelor	38	10.2

		Postgraduate	11	3
9	Mother of education Level	Primary school or less	272	73.1
		Intermediate school	48	12.9
		Secondary school	0	0
		Diploma	38	10.2
		Bachelor	13	3.5
		Postgraduate	1	.3
10	Father occupation	Governmental employee	98	26.4
		Free works	140	37.6
		Doesn't work / housewife	64	17.2
		Retired	70	18.8
11	Mother occupation	Governmental employee	47	12.6
		Free works	21	5.6
		Doesn't work / housewife	295	79.4
		Retired	9	2.4

n: number, %: Percentage, M: Mean, SD: Standard deviation

This table shows that 50.5% of university students are males and 49.5% are females.

The average age for the students refers to 23.19 ± 2.562 years in which 57.85 of them were associated with age group of 21-less than 24 years.

The specialization of colleges shows that among 57.5% of scientific colleges and 42.5% of humanistic colleges.

Regarding residency, 53.2% of students are resident in urban areas, 26.9% resident in rural, and 19.9% resident in suburban.

Concerning to monthly income, 50.3% of the students perceive sufficient monthly income and 38.4% perceive barely sufficient monthly income.

The scholastic stage refers that 30.9% are from third stage, 29.3% of them from fourth stage, 28% from second stage, and only 11.8% from first stage.

Regarding marital status, 69.4% of university students are still unmarried and 30% of them are show married.

The level of education for parents, the highest percentage among students' fathers refer to 51.9% who "primary school or less". Among students' mothers, 73.1% are primary school or less.

The occupation of father and mother , the highest percentage among students' fathers refer to 37.6% who work with "free works" and 26.4% who work as "governmental employee". Among students' mothers, 79.4% of them are housewives and only 12.6% are working as "government employee"

Table (2) : Overall Assessment of Students' Awareness about Drugs Use

Awareness	n	%	M	SD	Assess.
Low	38	10.2	179.54	34.386	High
Moderate	142	38.2			
High	192	51.6			
Total	372	100			

n: number, %: Percentage, Assess.: Assessment

M: Mean for total score, SD: Standard Deviation for total score

Low: 77 – 128.33, Moderate: 128.34 – 179.66, High: 179.66 – 231

This table indicates that 51.6% of students show high level of awareness about drug use (176.54±35.386)

Table (3) Assessment of Students' Awareness about Concepts of Drugs Use

Awareness	n	%	M	SD	Assess.
Low	45	12.1	48.42	10.120	Moderate
Moderate	165	44.4			
High	162	43.5			
Total	372	100			

n: number, %: Percentage, Assess.: Assessment

M: Mean for total score, SD: Standard Deviation for total score

Low: 22 – 36.66, Moderate: 36.67 – 51.33, High: 51.34 – 66

This table indicates that 44.4% of university students show moderate level of awareness about concepts of drug use (48.42±10.120).

Table (4): Assessment of Students' Awareness about Symptoms of Drugs Use

Awareness	n	%	M	SD	Assess.
Low	65	17.5	31.81	6.332	High
Moderate	149	40.1			
High	158	42.5			
Total	372	100			

n: number, %: Percentage, Assess.: Assessment

M: Mean for total score, SD: Standard Deviation for total score

Low: 13 – 21.66, Moderate: 21.67 – 30.33, High: 30.34 – 39

This table indicates that 42.5% of university students show high level of awareness about symptoms of drug use (31.81 ± 6.332).

Discussion:

It is known from the analysis provided in Table (1) that the high percentage with regard to the participating students were mostly males, whose ages ranged between 21-24 years, from urban residents and singles, and their level of education for the parents were primary school graduates or less, and the fathers were mostly self-employed. The mothers are housewives and work with sufficient monthly income, and they do not have a source of information about drug awareness. In relation to clinical characteristics in table (2) For Table 2, general awareness of drug use, most of the students had sufficient awareness about substance use, with 51.6% of the students showing a high level of awareness about substance abuse (176.54 ± 35.386). A study in Saudi Arabia by Aesha and Mohammad (2016) Most of the students who participated in the study had sufficient awareness (82.4%)⁶. Another study conducted in India by Theou et al., (2020) "A Study to Determine The Effectiveness of An Awareness Program on Knowledge on Substance Abuse And Its Consequences Among The Students of A Selected Pre University College of Udupi District, Karnatakain" the study showed that the awareness of students was very high⁷.

The result in study table (3) indicates that show (44.4%) of university students of Al-Muthanna show moderate level of awareness about concepts of drug use (48.42 ± 10.120). these result were disagree with study conducted by Hansadah & Sonalika, 2018 which reveale that most of study sample had insufficiency knowledge (72%) regarding drug use. The study opposed the results of the study, as the researcher had a lower age group than the study. Also, these result were agreed eith the result of (Mahmood et al., 2018) which found that (49.8) of study sample had moderate knowledge.⁸ As for school students, with age groups similar to those of the university, study conduct by Mohammed et al.,2021 agree with study result by (40%) of students had moderate aware to knowledge regarding drug use.⁹

table (4) indicates that 42.5% of university students show high level of awareness about symptoms of drug use (31.81 ± 6.332). A study was conducted by iBelshahan (2017) in Algeria on the phenomenon of drug addiction, and to reveal the features of the prevailing culture in the interpretation of this phenomenon, and awareness of its dimensions among the student group, and the symptoms were (78%).¹⁰ A study conducted by (Millones et al., 2021) in Latin America among some university students by Maher to find " Association Between Substance Use Behaviors, Developmental Assets and Mental Health". The study showed a very high rate of awareness and knowledge that the students had tried to use or that they were already addicted to most narcotic substances. where the percentage amounted to (83%). study conducted in Jordan "Personal attributes and attitudes to substance use disorder: A study among Jordanian undergraduate medical majors students" The study showed that the students had a high awareness of 69.7 about the symptoms caused by the use of drugs (Abuhammadin et.al ,2022).¹¹

This study shows that there is no statistical significant between students awareness and risedency, specialization, scholastic stage, fathers educational level, fathers occupation, and mothers educational at p value equal or less than 0.05

There is a highly statistically significant relationship between age, source of information, gender and monthly income

Conclusion:

- 1- The results in this study showed that of students show high level of awareness about drug use.
2. In regard awareness about drug use of moderate level for awareness about concept of drug use.
3. There were significant difference between awareness of drug use and gender, marital status, age, monthly income, mother level of education, and sources of information.

Recommendations:

- 1- The various media, audio and print, continue to educate young people about the dangers of drug use, and how to stay away from it.
- 2- Forming committees from several bodies, including the Ministry of Education, to work on drug prevention programs.
- 3- The link between the educational institution and the home and the follow-up of students

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