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Drug abuse among the college students in India

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Abstract

The present study finds the association between drug abuse and demographic factors. In the research work sample size of 300 students from different PG & UG colleges of engineering, commerce, management, arts, medical, pharmacy, science etc. were being considered, the sampling technique used was purposive sampling. Results of the survey concludes that 70% students have admitted that the drug abuse have severely affected their socioeconomic status. The reason for drug abuse among students of private colleges or institutions is due to the easy availability of drugs as compared to government colleges.

Keywords: Drug abuse, socioeconomic, LSD

1. Introduction

The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, (NDPS) 1985 of India forbids the transferring, storing & consumption of drugs which makes the drug abuser a victim and is being considered offender against law. Recently increase in number of drug abusers in prison is alarming sign for the country.

In the present study the association between drug abuse and demographic factors such as age, gender and type of institute or college was being identified. Various questions related drug abuse were being asked from the respondents. The statements included were tried to avoid drugs, socioeconomic status, easy availability of drugs to students, drug abuse increasing, smoking is preferred over alcohol and over used the drugs also the study covered the comparison of different statements related to drug abuse based on gender (male, female), comparing different statements related to drug abuse based on private and government institutes & comparing different statements related to drug abuse based on age group.

2. Related Work

Drug abuse or misuse is a worldwide health problem. Although people use the drugs for various reasons, after long term use of drugs it becomes very essential for their lives and they feel that they cannot live without taking them. The people using drugs become dependent on them. People with drugs use are always seen with disgrace and are humiliated in society and they are not accepted in society and communities. According to author Ikenna Daniel Molobe (2020) in the research work focused on the study of drug abuse among the university students in Nigeria. Various factors were being identified related to drug abuse among the students such as anxiety, depression, peer pressure, personality disorder and schizophrenia. Mostly the drugs used were benzodiazepines, stimulants, antihistamines, opioids, and LSD. The author concluded that drug use among students have reached very high world-wide. Mainly male students were more drug abusers as compared to females and also private institute students were high drug abuse ratio as compared to government sector.

According author Tufael Baba (2013) ^[3] the drug abuse disorder is one of the leading health issues in the present-day world as it causes human suffering in terms of mortality, morbidity, economic loss etc. It was found that students were more susceptible group as they start taking drugs from this age. The main objective of the study was to identify the association between demographic aspects and sociocultural aspects. In the research design, sample size of 1300 respondents were taken and sampling technique used was multi-stage random sampling.

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In the research work “A Study on Substance Abuse among Professional College Students of Northern Western Rajasthan” author Abhimanyu Agarwal (2019) ^[1] found that many people all over the world drug abusers taking the substances like nicotine, alcohol, cocaine, morphine, methamphetamine, heroin, marijuana etc. Survey method various questions were asked for primary data collection related to substance abuse and associated socio-cultural and demographic aspects. 37.5% male students were found have higher occurrence of substance abuse as compared to female students with 19.6%. The drugs commonly being used were tobacco products with 22.5% & solvents with 10%. Finally, it was concluded that drug abuse was found to be significant problem among the college going students and now it is necessary to reduce the drug abuse. Was being used to find the substance abuse among students form professional colleges in Bikaner city Rajasthan. The primary data collection instrument used was a well-structured questionnaire which included questions related to substance abuse. The total occurrence of substance abuse was found to be 29.5%.

According to Anuj Jhakar (2017) ^[2] the mobile street children population was found to be highly vulnerable to drug or substance abuse. The main focus was to find the association between substance abuse and various factors such as family history, age, peer pressure, out of curiosity and increase in confidence. The study was being conducted in city Jaipur and the population consists of children between the age group of 5-15 years. Finally, it was concluded that overall frequency of substance abuse was found to be 46.0% and 86.4% children were having the family history of drug abuse.

3. Methodology

The research work was basically carried out to find the drug abuse among college students in India. In the study sample size of 300 respondents was being considered, they were basically from different PG & UG colleges of engineering, management, commerce, medical, arts, pharmacy etc.

The main purpose of study was to find the reason for drug use and abuse and also identify the pattern of drug abuse and other objectives were as follows: comparing different statements related to drug abuse based on gender, comparing different statements related to drug abuse based on private and government institutes or colleges and comparing different statements related to drug abuse based on age group. The sample technique used was purposive sampling. Prior to the final survey, pilot survey was being conducted with 60 respondents from different colleges or institutes of India. Various reliability measures were found to be significant enough. The research instrument was found appropriate although some small changes were being done to improve the instrument. Further the appropriate statistical measures such as frequency, percentage analysis etc. were being used to find the association between drug abuse and demographic factors.

4. Results

Based on the survey conducted about the substance or drug abuse from various colleges of India it was found that 210 respondents which account for 70% have admitted that the drug abuse have badly affected their socioeconomic status. Accordingly, the study reveals that about 66% (approx.) respondents have used the drug because of easy availability. Similarly, 66% respondents were with the opinion that the drug abuse is increasing day by day, 53% (approx.) students were confirming that drug abuse is common in college students as compared to others.

Table 1: Responses based on various statements related to drug use

S. No.	Statement based on drug use	Responses	
		Yes	No
1	Tried to avoid drugs	138	162
2	Socioeconomic status	210	90
3	Easy availability of drugs to students	200	100
4	Drug abuse increasing day to day	198	102
5	Smoking is preferred over alcohol	150	150
6	Over used the drugs	142	158
7	Drug abuse is common in students as compared to others	160	140

The figure below shows the various aspects related to drug abuse among the college going students in India. The results

clearly concludes that socioeconomic status factor was found to be the major factor when it comes to drug abuse.

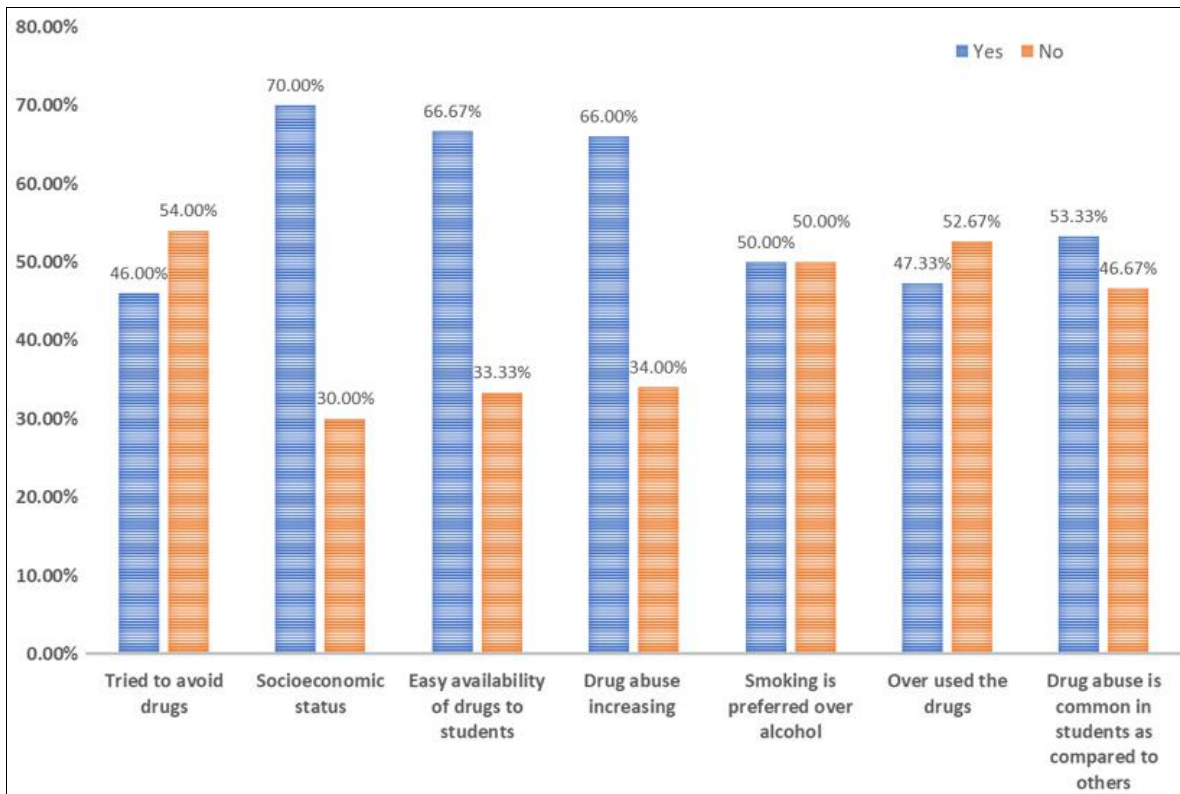


Fig 1: Responses based on various statements related to drug use

The table below shows the gender wise responses of college students related to the drug abuse statements.

Table 2: Comparing different statements related to drug abuse based on gender (male, female)

S. No.	Comparing different statements related to drug abuse based on gender (Male, Female)	Responses			
		Male		Female	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1	Tried to avoid drugs	78	72	60	90
2	Socioeconomic status	125	25	85	65
3	Easy availability of drugs to students	120	30	80	70
4	Drug abuse increasing day to day	99	51	99	51
5	Smoking is preferred over alcohol	90	60	60	90
6	Over used the drugs	100	50	42	108
7	Drug abuse is common in students as compared to others	110	40	50	100

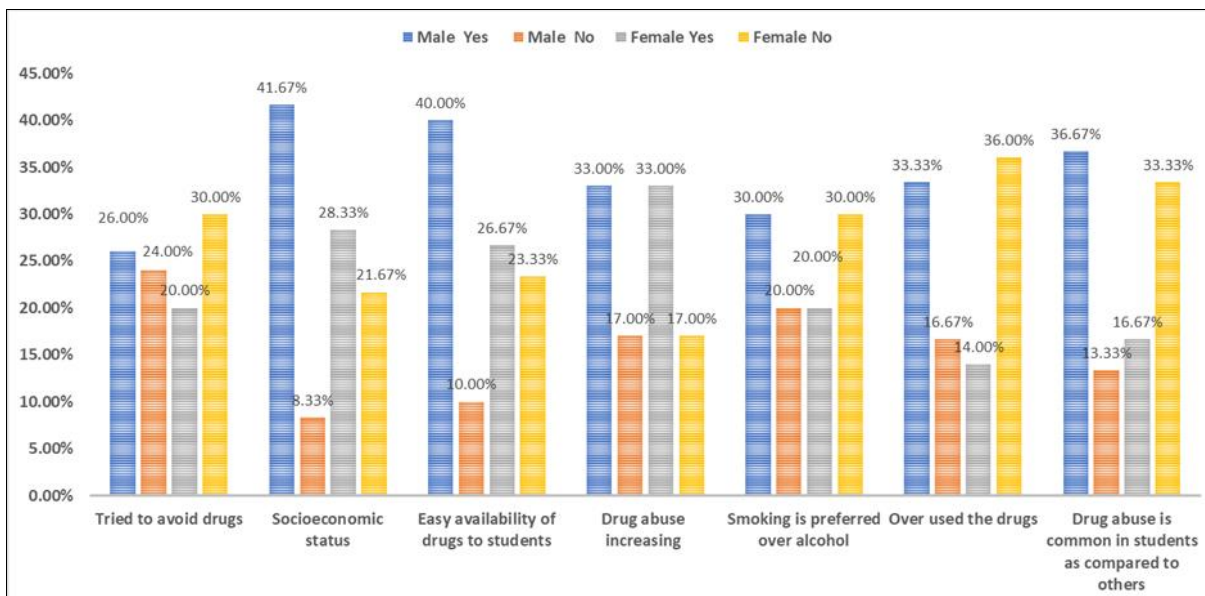


Fig 2: Responses related to drug abuse based on gender (male, female)

Table 3: Comparing different statements related to drug abuse based on private and government institutes

S. No.	Comparing different statements related to drug abuse based on private and government institutes	Responses			
		Private		Government	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1	Tried to avoid drugs	102	48	36	114
2	Socioeconomic status	113	37	97	53
3	Easy availability of drugs to students	130	20	70	80
4	Drug abuse increasing day to day	99	51	99	51
5	Smoking is preferred over alcohol	120	30	30	120
6	Over used the drugs	104	46	38	112
7	Drug abuse is common in students as compared to others	120	30	40	110

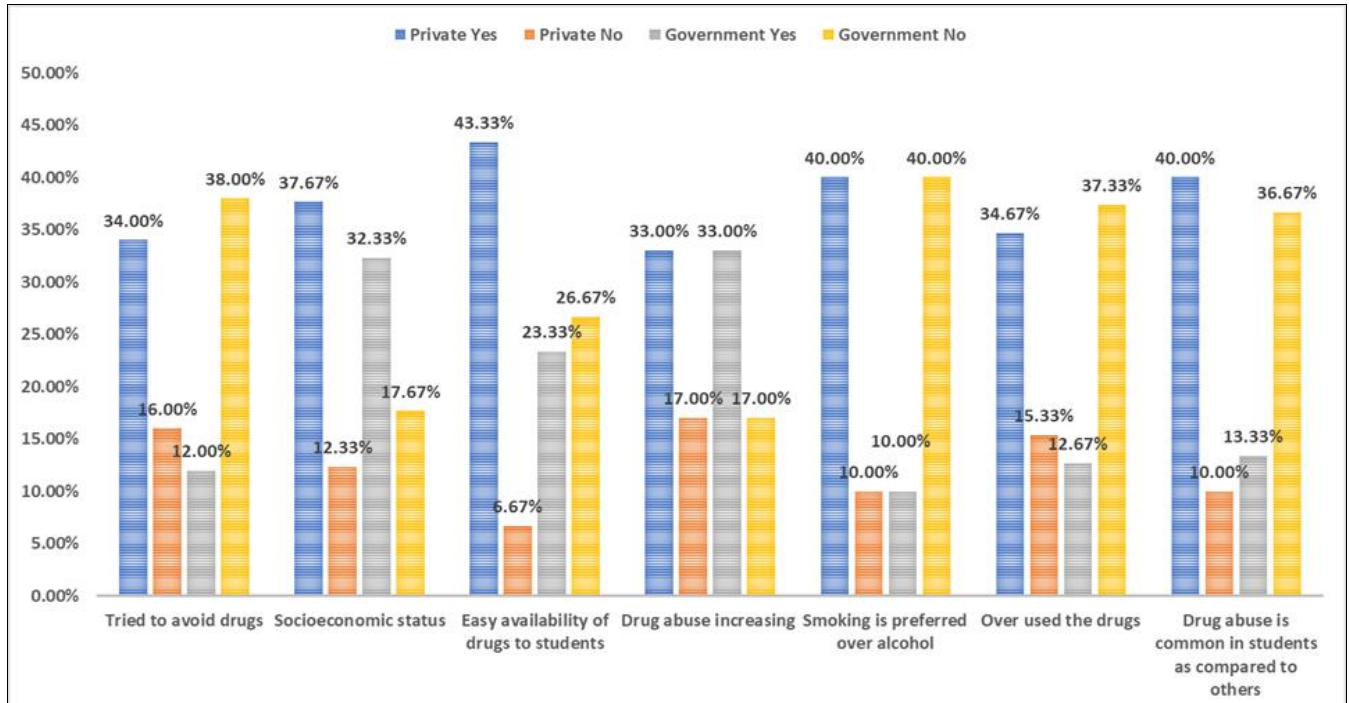


Fig 3: Responses related to drug abuse based on private and government institutes

Table 4: Comparing different statements related to drug abuse based on age group

S. No.	Comparing different statements related to drug abuse based on age group	Responses					
		17-19		20-22		23-25	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
1	Tried to avoid drugs	30	70	66	34	42	58
2	Socioeconomic status	47	53	98	2	65	35
3	Easy availability of drugs to students	45	55	90	10	65	35
4	Drug abuse increasing day to day	65	35	77	23	56	44
5	Smoking is preferred over alcohol	29	71	45	55	76	24
6	Over used the drugs	35	65	41	59	66	34
7	Drug abuse is common in students as compared to others	23	77	48	52	89	11

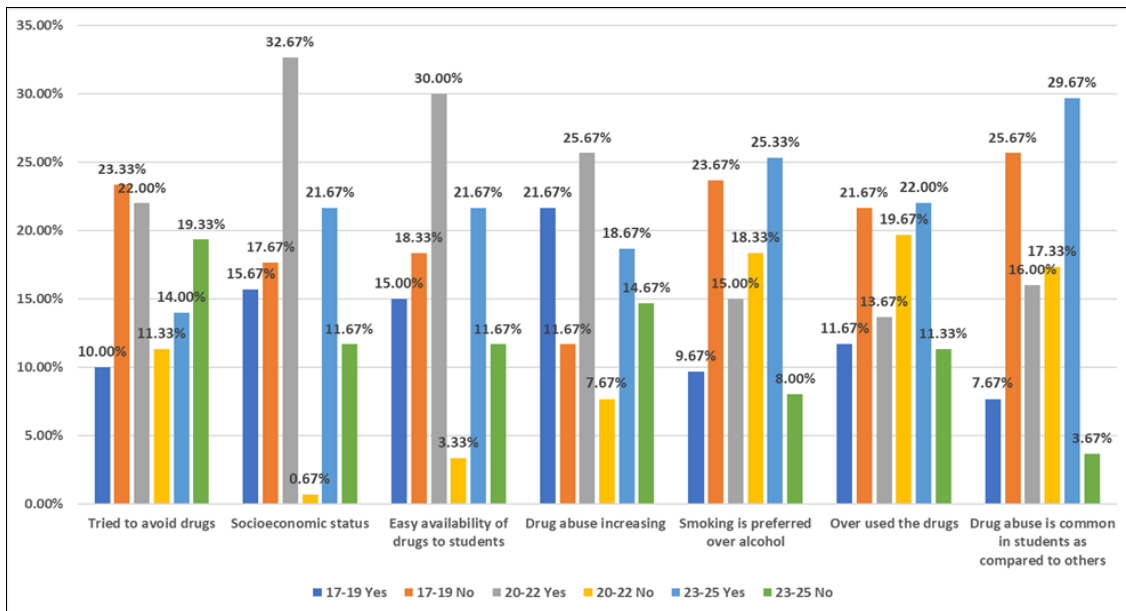


Fig 4: Responses related to drug abuse based on age group

According to the figure 2 it was found that 41% (approx.) male respondents were with the opinion that socioeconomic status is one of the reasons for drug abuse among the college students as compared to females with 28% (approx.). Similarly, Easy availability of drugs to students was the second factor which results in drug abuse in male with 40%, Drug abuse is common in students as compared to others was found be third factor which results in drug abuse among male students of colleges. In female students the factor drug abuse increasing day to day was found highest with 99 respondents in favour as compared with others. In comparison based on type of institution or college it was identified that easy availability of drugs to students in case of private colleges is the basic reason for drug abuse in case of male students with 43% responses in favour of the statement. Further detail comparison is shown in figure 3. Students of age group 20-22 years admitted that mainly the factors socioeconomic status, easy availability of drugs to students and drug abuse increasing day to day were the reason for drug abuse with respectively 32%, 30% and 25%.

5. Conclusion

Accordingly, it can be concluded that the main reasons for drug abuse were found to be socioeconomic status, Easy availability of drugs & drug abuse increasing day to day in both male and female students of different colleges. Female students have tried to avoid drug abuse. Easy availability of drugs in the private institutions is the biggest reason for drug abuse among students as compared to government institutions. All over 41% (approx.) male respondents were with the opinion that socioeconomic status is one of the reasons for drug abuse among the college students as compared to females with 28% (approx.). In all about 70% students have admitted that the drug abuse has severely affected their socioeconomic status.

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