



Effects of Drug abuse on academic performance of senior secondary schools in Malwa region of Punjab.

¹ Dr. Manisha Gupta., ² Budh Ram Garg

¹ Principal, Punjab School Education Board, Adarsh Senior Secondary School/Kotbhai, (Shri Muktsar Sahib)/ Punjab, India.

Email- manishagupta59@gmail.com

² Retired Head Master GSSS MEEMSA (Sangrur) Punjab, India.

Email- guptagarg88@gmail.com

Abstract: *The objective of the study was to find out the effects of drug use and abuse on the academic performance of senior secondary schools in Malwa region Punjab. The descriptive survey design was used by the researcher. A sample of 300 respondents from 4 senior secondary schools of Punjab from Malwa region was taken. As data collection tool interviews and surveys method was used. Questionnaires were used to collect data from students. Whole study is done by taking two research questions based on two hypotheses. Study revealed that: students of peer group are commonly influenced by using alcohol & hot drinks, tobacco, Marijuana over the counter medication etc. As a result poor academic performance, school drop-outs, early marriages, addiction, aggressive behaviour in students is seen in schools. It revealed that there was no drug abuse program in schools therefore, after study it is recommended that both parents and teachers should educate about the effects of drug abuse and students should be given special program regarding awareness about the effects of drug use and abuse.*

Key Words: *Drug abuse, addiction, adolescence, aggressive, academic performance.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

Drug abuse is a psycho-social problem which affects the society and particularly the young people. As we see drug abuse cases are rising day to day. In Malwa region drug abuse negatively affects the normal life of the people. It creates society which has no aim in life. As by Johnson et al (2011), the effects of drug abuse apart from addiction can cause dangerous changes in the mind, body and spirit. Many people around the society are more and more become addicted to dangerous changes in the mind, body and spirit. Drug abuse of substances such as alcohol, nicotine, marijuana, cocaine etc. seriously affects the abuser and the community.

The future of any nation or society depends largely on the quality of her youths. But in Punjab, students have become the target of drug sellers. A study by Kirby (2006) indicates that adolescence students that take drugs are more likely to commit suicide. The effects of drug abuse affect the students socially, psychologically and physically. Students in high schools constitute a good source of right wealth, human capital and capital agents for technological innovations, socio cultural development of every state. (Adu-Mireku, 2003).

A report by United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP, 1998) shows that 60% of students abuse drugs. A survey by National Council against Drug Abuse (NACADA, 2006) shows that substances abuse is widespread. It affects the youth mostly although it cuts across all social groups. This has been a major contributor to the spread of HIV/AIDS due to the fact that they share syringes. Other drugs like alcohol can lead to risky sexual behaviour as they affect judgement and decision making.

Despite various efforts to curb drug abuse in secondary schools in many countries (including Punjab) the effects of drug are dangerous. The effects of drug abuse have negatively strangled the youth population. Drug abuse has developed into a threat to the lives and success of the students (Abdu-Raheem, 2013). Abdu-Raheem explained further that this has obviously become a source of distress to the parents, guardians and relatives of students and has also become a big challenge to the nations. In addition the study by Abdu-Raheem 2013 also confirmed that, there is a substantial relationship between family cohesiveness and drug abuse among students. This was in support of the study by Ngesu et al (2008) who recognised that children from broken homes who are often characterized by child abuse, intolerance,



violence, insecurity and hostility are potential members of secret cults and anti-social behaviour. It was also discovered that drug abuse leads to poor student academic performance in students in secondary schools (Abdu-Raheem 2013).

Early initiation of substance use is linked to drug and dependency. Purris and Mach Innis (2009) revealed that more than 40% of individuals who began drinking before the age of 14 developed dependency behaviour on alcohol. In comparison only 10% of those who began drinking at the age of 20 and above developed alcohol dependency. This study focuses on secondary school students who are more likely to develop high dependency on drugs. Thus, it is a thing of importance to examine the importance of “drug abuse” among secondary school students in Malwa region of Punjab.

2. RESEARCH DESIGN:

A sample of 300 students from 4 senior secondary schools (taking 2 govt. and 2 private schools) of Malwa region were taken. Two research questions were taken for the research design. Descriptive survey method was used. Questionnaire technique was used for the collection of data. The questions were administered on the students with each randomly selected from a school.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

Main objective of the study is to examine the causes and effects of drug abuse amongst senior secondary schools in Malwa region of Punjab state. We include as following.

1. To examine the causes of drug abuse among senior secondary school students.
2. To determine the effects of drug abuse among senior secondary school students.

4. METHOD:

Following two research questions have been followed.

1. *What are the causes of drug abuse among senior secondary school students?*
2. *What are the effects of drug abuse on senior secondary school students?*

Whole study adopted a survey design and target population consisted of 300 students taken from the Malwa region of Punjab. These students were taken from four senior secondary schools (taking two govt. and two private schools). Random sampling techniques were used for the collection of the data. The instrument was developed by the researcher helped by two experts.

The responses to the Questionnaire was analysed by using computer for finding the mean. Two research questions were developed. An item with mean value greater than 3 indicates positive effects and less than 3 indicates negative effect of drug abuse and mean value equivalent to 3 regarded as no effect of drug abuse.

Research finding related to *Question no 1.*

What are the causes of drug abuse among senior secondary school students?

For this purpose we took a table as given below.

Serial No	Causes	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Agreed/ Disagree
1)	Friendship with peer group	142	92	49	15	3.21	Agree
2)	To increase the academic performance	140	77	37	46	3.02	Agree
3)	Hereditary factors	130	96	50	24	3.07	Agree
4)	To wake and read at night	112	120	42	26	3.05	Agree
Total						12.35	

Mean= 3.9

Table 1

As the mean value in the above table from serial no 1 to 4 is greater than 3, therefore these four causes i.e. Friendship with peer group, to increase the performance, hereditary factors and to wake and read at night are the causes of drug abuse. Particularly the mean value of friendship with peer group is greater amongst these and it indicates friendship with peer group is the main reason for drug abuse.



Research finding related to Question no 2.

What are the effects of drug abuse on senior secondary school students?

For this purpose, we took a table as given below.

Serial No	Effects of drug abuse	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Agreed/ Disagree
1)	It has negative effects on memory/aggressive	155	92	32	17	3.20	Agree
2)	Makes students less serious in their academic year performance.	149	105	30	15	3.28	Agree
3)	Such students gained poor scores	129	93	56	20	3.09	Agree
4)	Such students attend less classes	122	95	50	29	3.02	Agree
						Total	12.59

Mean= 3.15

Table 2

Table 2 shows that students agreed with the statement from serial 1 to 4. As the mean value in the above table from serial no 1 to 4 is greater than 3, therefore these four causes i.e. Drug abuse has negative effects on memory, drug abuse makes students less serious in their academic year. Such students obtained poor scores and drug abuse attend less classes. Particularly the mean value of Drug abuse has negative effects on memory is greater amongst these and it indicates drug abuse has negative effects on memory is the main reason for drug abuse.

Effects of drugs abuse on students as observed by the teacher. Source: From the primary data 2020.

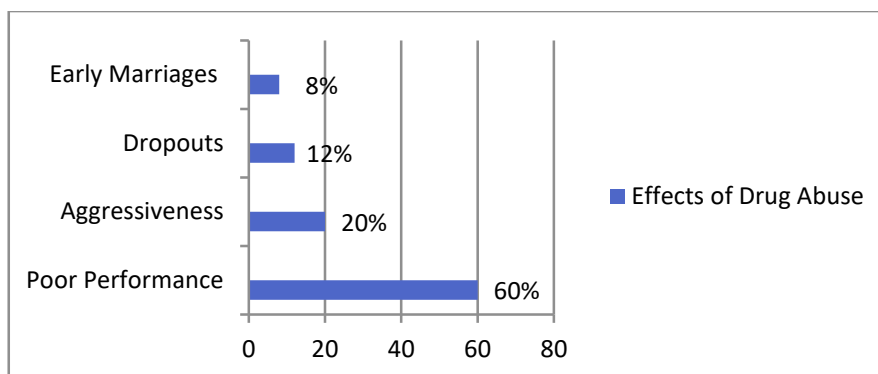


Figure 1

Figure 1 shows that due to drug abuse there is a high rate of poor performance which is 60%. Therefore most students who abuse drugs perform poorly in the examinations. 20% students are aggressive in behaviour and 12% students are withdrawals or dropouts and 8% students are engaged in early marriages.

FIGHTING WITH DRUG ABUSE: (Measures taken by the students and the teachers)

By the students	Responses %
Reading Novels	47.5%
Memberships in clubs	28.4%
Playing games	14.4%
Cultural Activities	9.7%
Total	100%

Table 3

By the Teachers	Responses %
Punishment	30%
Guidance and counselling	40%
Expulsion from school	20%
Seminars	10%
Total	100%

Table 4



Study will be of utmost benefit for the students, parents and school authorities. After primary education the authorities may care how they can prevent the students from drug abuse. The study will be helpful to the parents as well as other bodies.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Penalty must be fixed to any student who caught in drug abuse.
- There should be publicity through lectures, campaigns, rallies, seminars etc.
- Apart from examination there should be a special paper regarding merits and de-merits of drug abuse.
- The school environment should be properly fenced showing effects of drug abuse.
- Govt. agencies like NDLEA, NAFDAC should be engaged in drug abuse programs in schools.
- Political, religious and traditional leaders need to be involved in educating the public and the students.

6. CONCLUSION:

The study recommended that parents and teachers should strongly educate and encourage the co-curricular activities as a way of fighting drug abuse. It is a serious problem in schools; Government should take special measures to rid off this problem. Special chapters and examination should be conducted for this.

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