

# A Comparative Analysis of Drug Abuse among Adolescent Boys and Girls: A Case Study of Anantnag District of South Kashmir, India

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**Abstract:** Drug abuse is a major public health problem all over the world. The use and abuse of drugs by adolescents has become one of the most disturbing health related phenomena in India and other parts of the world. This paper reveals the variations of drug addiction with respect to education, locale and family backgrounds among adolescent's boys and girls and the problems associated with drug abuse that why adolescents are vulnerable to take drugs. The study investigated and made a comparison on the prevalence of drug abuse among adolescent boys and girls in Anantnag district of South Kashmir. Snowball Sampling Technique was used for the selection of respondents in the study area. With the help of personal interview and questionnaire technique, the required data was collected from the selected respondents. Collected data was coded and entered in SPSS program where it was analyzed with the help of T-test statistical tool. The research that has been used in this study was descriptive in nature and to make inferences and conclusions to the study findings.

**Key Words:** Educational Status, Locale, Family Background, Adolescents, Drug abuse, Health risks.

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

In today's world we are facing more challenges, like poverty, corruption, begging, underdevelopment, unemployment etc. and all these problems contribute to form a new problem and that is one of the fast growing problems that is, drug addiction. As the time passes through the range of drugs increased to alarming level, drugs like Narcotic: Analgesics, Morphine, Opium, Heroin, Brown Sugar, Pethedine: Stimulants, Cocaine, Amphithemine, Depressants: Alcohol, Barbiturates, Diazepam, Hallucinogens d-lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), Mescaline, Phencyclidine, Psilocybin and Cannabis: Ganja, Charas, Hash Oil etc. are now frequently abused. If the world statistics on the drug scenario is taken into account with a turnover of \$500 billion, it is the third largest business in the world next to petroleum and arm trade. About 190 million people all over the world consume one drug or other (Carballo and Nerukar, 2001). India too is caught in this vicious circle of drug abuse, and the number of drug addicts is adding day by day. According to (Drugs, 2004) 1 million heroin addicts are registered in India and unofficially there are as many as 5 million.

Use of tobacco, alcohol, heroin and other locally available drugs/substances is one of the crucial problems of Kashmir adolescents and adversely affects our young youth in their physical, mental and emotional strength and its stability. Today's competitive social order, our young world go ahead in involving many risks including drug abuse, violence, illegal issues, harassment etc. Among such unhealthy practices, drug abuse is highly severe that can adversely affect successful future resulting in serious health consequences including addiction and even death. Abuse and addiction also can impact either in academic performance or in relationship with friends and family. The epidemic of substance abuse in adolescent's strata has considered alarming dimensions in India. Drastic shift in cultural values, enlarging financial stress and dwindling supportive bonds are resulting to cause for substance use. The processes of industrialization, urbanization and migration have led to loosening of the traditional methods of social control rendering an individual vulnerable to the stresses and strains of modern life (Aggarwal et.al 2009).

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Aley.K.M, studied in 1976, "The adolescent boys and girls of secondary schools in Bangalore city with special reference to their common and distinguishing problems in adjustment and academic field". Descriptive survey method was followed with a random sample of 240 students (120 boys and 120 girls) drawn from denominational schools, Government schools and aided schools. The tools used were 1. Academic Problem Checklist, 2. Adjustment scales, 3. Socio Economic Status scale by Kuppuswamy. The major findings were: 1) there is a significant relationship between SES and adjustment problems of girls. 2) There is no significant relationship between academic problems and SES status of both boys and girls. 3) Many academic and adjustment problems are common for both and girls. 4) Some academic and adjustment problems are more acute for boys and some other is more acute for girls.

Priyanka and M. sarada Devi studied in 1994, "Gender differences in the parenting style perceptions and Identity styles of Adolescents". Descriptive survey method was followed with random sample of 300 adolescents between age group 16 to 22 from degree colleges,. The tools used were the modified format Parenting Interactional Style questionnaire developed by Viveken Reddy (1996) Style Identity Inventory developed and standardized by White et al (1948). It was used to study the identity style of adolescent. The major findings were: 1) Boys had more information identity style than girls. 2) Girls had more normative identity style than boys.

### 3. NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

There is a need for the government enforcement agencies, the non- governmental philanthropic agencies, and others to collaborate and supplement each other's efforts for a solution to the problem of drug addiction through education and legal actions. At this juncture, teachers, teacher educators and educational institutions have a significant role to stand out an excellent platform to explore their commitment to the society by creating awareness and conscientizing the prevailing social evils which affects the whole humanity. This can be substantiated that the role of communication and extension activities help our coming generation to prepare and disseminate conscientization and education about drug abuse that act as an important tool for creating students who would believe strongly in prevention and preparedness. This can be supported by Government of Kerala to create proper awareness programme of various dimensions of drug addiction and its preventive practices. But we can think over the extent of the effectiveness of these awareness programmes. In this situation, the project assume significant, and the investigator make an attempt to develop certain strategies for conscientizing adolescents- high school and higher secondary students of Kashmir against drug addiction.

### 4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Methodology plays an important role in the research process. The researcher has examined the existing literature cautiously in the area of research and assessed the ground realities existing in the study area to develop a methodology, particularly sampling design for the present study. The study aims to examining the variations of drug abuse among adolescent boys and girls with respect to educational, locale and family backgrounds. In order to study the variations in drug abuse among adolescent boys and girls, the investigator has selected 110 respondents with the help of snowball sampling methods. The researcher has used questionnaire and interview techniques for the collection of required data from the selected respondents in the study area. The study is predominantly based on primary data and secondary source of data also has been mobilized in respect of problem of the study. The aim of the present study was to identify the different demographics correlates of adolescents drug use.

#### 4.1 Objectives

The study has been carried out with the following objectives:

- To study the variation in drug addiction between different educational statuses.
- To study the variation in drug addiction between different locales.
- To study the variation in drug addiction between different family backgrounds.

#### 4.2 Hypothesis:

In view of the objectives of the present study, the following hypotheses are framed:

- Drug addiction does not vary significantly between different educational statuses.
- Drug addiction does not vary significantly between different locales.
- Drug addiction does not vary significantly between different family backgrounds.

#### 4.3 Research Design

The study is a descriptive in nature and both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used in data collection. In general the methods and techniques of a particular study are determined by the nature of problem. Besides for an efficient and reliable research, various interviewing techniques are essential for having insight into the problem. As such the approach of the present study has been both empirical and theoretical in nature. Help was also taken both from the primary and secondary sources. District Anantnag of the Jammu and Kashmir state comprised the universe of the study where the field work was carried out. The Snowball Sampling Technique was employed in this study and respondents were categorised in terms of educational statuses, locales and family background characteristics.

**Sample:** - The sample of the study comprised of adolescent Boys and Girls of the Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir. In this study stratified random sampling technique has been employed to select the samples. A sample of 110 students has been chosen for the research study. A group of 110 adolescent students comprise 70 boys and 40 girls.

(a) **Tool Used:** - The tools which have been used for achieving the objectives of the research study were the **questionnaire** and **interview** method.

(b) **Data Analysis:** - Analysis has been done for obtaining meaningful interpretation of results from raw data by using **t test** analysis for the present research study.

## 5. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

### 5.1 Significant variations on Drug addiction with Educational Status

The variation in the drug addiction between in-school adolescents and with respondents of dropouts is defined in hypothesis-4 taken up and its results are shown in the table-4, as an outcome of Independent sample t test. From the results of this Independent sample t test, it can be inferred that the t value of 5.881 corresponding to drug addiction is found to be significant at 5 percent level. Hence, hypothesis-4 is rejected at 5 percent level of significance.

**Table-4: Result of t test for hypothesis-4**

variable	Educational status	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t-value	Sig
Drug Addiction	In-school Adolescents	30	10.154	0.734	0.472	5.881	0.001
	Dropout Adolescents	80	40.381	1.662	0.221		

**Variable: Drug Addiction**

**Source: Computed from primary data**

This result suggests that the drug addiction is varying significantly with educational status considered as grouping variable. More specifically the mean value of 40.381 estimated for respondents of Dropout Adolescents is significantly higher than the estimated mean value of 10.154 for the respondents of In-school adolescents. This result suggests that the drug addiction is significantly higher for the respondents of dropouts than that of the respondents of in-schooling.

### 5.2 Significant variations on Drug addiction with locale wise

The variations in the drug addiction between rural and urban area of respondents is defined in hypothesis-5 taken up and its results are shown in the table-5, as an outcome of Independent sample t test. From the results of this Independent sample t test, it can be inferred that the t value of 6.511 corresponding to drug addiction is found to be significant at 5 percent level. Hence, hypothesis-5 is rejected at 5 percent level of significance.

**Table-5: Result of t test for hypothesis-5**

variable	Locale wise	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t-value	Sig
Drug Addiction	Rural	50	14.136	0.689	0.341	6.511	0.000
	Urban	60	35.432	1.590	0.221		

**Variable: Drug Addiction**

**Source: Computed from primary data**

This result suggests that the drug addiction is varying significantly with family statuses considered as grouping variable. More specifically the mean value of 35.432 estimated for urban area is significantly higher than the estimated mean value of 14.136 for the rural area. This result suggests that the drug addiction is significantly higher for the urban area than that of rural area among the respondents.

### 5.3 Significant variations on Drug addiction with different Family Backgrounds

The variations in the drug addiction between the respondents who belongs to addicted families and the respondents who belongs to non- addicted families are defined in hypothesis-6 taken up and its results are shown in the table-6, as an outcome of Independent sample t test. From the results of this Independent sample t test, it can be inferred that the t value of 7.455 corresponding to drug addiction is found to be significant at 5 percent level. Hence, hypothesis-6 is rejected at 5 percent level of significance.

**Table-6: Result of t test for hypothesis-6**

variable	Family Background	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t-value	Sig
Drug Addiction	Non-addicted Family	60	8.887	0.812	0.231	7.455	0.002

	Addicted Family	50	19.365	1.442	0.211		
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**Variable: Drug Addiction**

**Source: Computed from primary data**

This result suggests that the drug addiction is varying significantly with family backgrounds considered as grouping variable. More specifically the mean value of 19.365 estimated for the respondents belonging to addicted families are significantly higher than the estimated mean value of 8.887 for the respondents who are belonging to non-addicted families. This result suggests that the drug addiction is significantly higher for the addicted family respondents than that of non-addicted family backgrounds.

## 6. MAJOR FINDINGS:

The previous chapter discusses the broad analysis of collected data, regarding the present study entitled as “Drug Addiction among Adolescent Boys and Girls: A Socio-psycho study of South Kashmir particularly to District Anantnag students”. This chapter presents the major findings and conclusion arrived from the analysis carried out in the preceding chapter. The major findings of the study are summarized below:

### 6.1 Educational Status variations in Drug addiction

The variation in the drug addiction between respondents who are Dropouts and for those who are In-schooling shown in the table-4, as an outcome of Independent sample t test. From the results of this Independent sample t test, it can be seen that the t value of 5.881 corresponding to drug addiction is found to be significant at 5 percent level.

This result suggests that the drug addiction is varying significantly with educational status considered as grouping variable. More specifically the mean value of 40.381 estimated for respondents of dropouts is significantly higher than the estimated mean value of 10.154 for the respondents who are In-schooling. This result suggests that the drug addiction is significantly higher for the respondents of dropouts than that of the respondents of in-schooling.

### 6.2 Locale variations in Drug addiction

The variations in the drug addiction between rural and urban area of respondents shown in the table-5, as an outcome of Independent sample t test. From the results of this Independent sample t test, it can be seen that the t value of 6.511 corresponding to drug addiction is found to be significant at 5 percent level.

This result suggests that the drug addiction is varying significantly with family status considered as grouping variable. More specifically the mean value of 35.432 estimated for urban area is significantly higher than the estimated mean value of 14.136 for the rural area. This result suggests that the drug addiction is significantly higher for the urban area than that of rural area among the respondents.

### 6.3 Family Background variations in Drug addiction

The variations in the drug addiction between the respondents belongs to addicted families and the respondents belongs to non- addicted families shown in the table-6, as an outcome of Independent sample t test. From the results of this Independent sample t test, it can be inferred that the t value of 7.455 corresponding to drug addiction is found to be significant at 5 percent level.

This result suggests that the drug addiction is varying significantly with different family backgrounds considered as grouping variable. More specifically the mean value of 19.365 estimated for addicted families is significantly higher than the estimated mean value of 8.887 for the non-addicted families. This result suggests that the drug addiction is significantly higher for the addicted family’s respondents than that of non-addicted family backgrounds.

## 7. CONCLUSION:

Drug abuse inflicts immeasurable harm on public health and safety around the world and threatens the peaceful development and smooth functioning of many societies. The study concluded that adolescent boys and girls are vulnerable to slipping into drug abusing behaviours, this may due to educational factors, locale influence and family backgrounds. It has been found that there is variation of drug addiction with respect to education, locale and family backgrounds of the adolescent boys and girls. It was felt that educating the people on the ill effects of drug abuse through appropriate inputs in the school curricula can surely help them to prevent the adverse consequences of drug abuse. These practices will certainly conscientizing our young world with regard to varied dimensions (both theoretical and practical awareness) of drug addiction. Thus there is a need for changing the curricula and framing instructional approaches accordingly.

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