

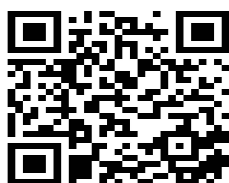


Preparatory Students' Knowledge Regarding Drug abuse in Mosul City

Khalid Hamood Ibrahim¹ | Luay amjed Mahmood²

¹Nineveh Health Directors

²University of Mosul/College of Nursing



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Abstract

Background and objective:

The utilization of illicit substances by adolescents places a significant strain on individuals, families, and communities. Furthermore, there exists a correlation between drug consumption and other forms of violence, such as adolescent homicides and victimization within relationships. Hence, the primary objective of this study is to assess the level of students' understanding pertaining to Drug Abuse in Mosul City.

Method:

From October 16, 2023, until December 11, 2023, a descriptive study was undertaken at a Governmental Preparatory School for males located in Mosul City. A method known as purposeful sampling was utilized in the study to select a sample of 60 students who had been accepted at a Preparatory school for boys. A questionnaire comprising two sections was employed, encompassing demographic data and students' understanding of drug abuse (comprising five sections).

Results:

The findings related to students' comprehension of drug abuse revealed that 73.3% (22) of the participants had a poor level of knowledge in relation to drug abuse. There was a lack of statistically significant associations observed between knowledge outcomes and demographic factors, including age and parental educational attainment.

Conclusion:

The typical conclusion drawn by the researcher is that students studying at the preparatory school in Mosul city lack sufficient and comprehensive understanding pertaining to drug abuse. Insufficient evidence exists to establish a significant association between students' knowledge and demographic variables.

Keywords: Knowledge, Drug Abuse, Preparatory School Students.

Introduction:

Drug abuse is a common phenomenon in the world and affects human society as a serious social problem(1). Rates of drug abuse among children and adolescents are higher than among the general population. The main reason for this is that youth is a time Experimentation and Establishment Identity(2). Adolescence is a stage of life that often involves risk-taking and experimentation, including substance abuse(3). In schools, the main objectives will be to prevent or delay the emergence of drug abuse and to develop the personal and social skills of young people to support healthy lifestyles and public decision-making(4). Drug abuse among young people is a serious problem in the world. It has several damages, including Bad relationships with peers Increased risk factors such as mental illness, suicide risk, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, school failure and early school dropout(5). Iraq's drug problem has reached a critical level. The Iraq has become a major transit point for illicit drugs, especially Captagon, the stimulant amphetamine According to report of The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). This gainful business encourages crimes and terrorist groups that threaten regional security(6). A sharp increase in the amount of crystal meth in Iraq in the 2021 report, warning that it is now being produced in the southern regions of the country is revealed by The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (7). There are many factors that can increase drug addiction and abuse among young people. Your teen's personality, family interactions, and comfort with peers are among the factors associated with teen's drug use(8). The number of drug addicts and traffickers in Iraq has increased in recent years, although the Iraqi government has taken drastic measures to curb the problem(9). There are many factors that affect whether a teenager will try drugs or not, the student's decision to use drugs is influenced by many factors, the knowledge is one of them. If there is not enough information about drug use and its effects, the student will not be able to make an informed decision(10). Factors such as knowledge and attitudes towards drugs, the

accessibility of illicit drugs, cultural and societal influences all contribute to the emergence of this global issue.(11). Consequently, illicit drug use in communities is a topic of significant concern, prompting governments to prioritise it as a public health issue. Many countries have conducted research and activities in various schools, families and public institutions to change society's knowledge and behavior regarding drugs illegal and thus reduce the rate of drug abuse(12). Multiple studies have indicated that students' lack of information about drug usage is a significant factor in their abuse(13). The function of schools in enhancing the health of young individuals is of the highest priority. Students can acquire information from multiple places like media, family, school, and peers, but, the school curriculum is the most reliable primary source of information(14). The aim of the study of assess knowledge of the students regarding drug abuse in Mosul city.

Methods:

From October 16, 2023, until December 11, 2023, a descriptive study was undertaken at a Governmental Preparatory School for boys located in Mosul City. The sample selection for the current research employed a non-probability (purposive) sampling method. The sample for this study comprised 60 students who were studying at a Governmental Preparatory school for males. The students selected for this study were Omar bin Al-Khattab, Khalid bin Al-Waleed, AL-Yarmouk, Al-Amjad, Al-Shihab, and Nazar Al-Mokhtar. The selection process followed a systematic method. A questionnaire was developed and given to students to assess their knowledge, comprising two sections. This section comprises demographic information, whereas the subsequent section focuses on students' knowledge pertaining to illicit drug usage, encompassing five distinct areas. The estimated assessment of the students' knowledge is as follows: poor = (0-2): fair = (3-4); good = (5-6);

Results

Table (1): The Demographic Variables of the Respondents in the Study

The Demographic Variables	Items	The sample	
		F.	%
Age	15 Years	5	8.3
	16 Years	18	30.0
	17 Years	15	25.0
	18 Years	15	25.0
	19 Years	7	11.7
Level of education(father)	Unable to read & write	4	6.7
	read & write	5	8.3
	Primary school certificate	13	21.7
	Middle school certificate	19	31.7
	Preparatory school certificate	7	11.7
Level of education(mother)	Unable to read & write	3	5.0
	read & write	9	15.0
	Primary school certificate	29	48.3
	Middle school certificate	10	16.7
	Preparatory school certificate	2	3.3
	University/Institute certificate	7	11.7

Table (1) The study sample's demographic characteristics are as follows: 30% (18) of the sample are 16 years old. In terms of educational

level, 31.7% (19) of the father have a middle school certificate, while 48.3% (29) of the mother have a primary school certificate.

Table (2): Statistical Knowledge Results for students in regarding

knowledge	estimate	The sample	
		F.	%
1.students' knowledge regarding concept of drug abuse and its classification	Poor	54	90.0
	Fair	6	10.0
	good	0	0.0
2.students' knowledge regarding addiction	Poor	51	85.0
	Fair	9	15.0
	good	0	0.0
3.students' knowledge regarding Health consequences of drug abuse	Poor	46	76.7
	Fair	14	23.3
	good	0	0.0
4.students' knowledge regarding psychological, social and economic consequences	Poor	48	80.0
	Fair	12	20.0
	good	0	0.0
5.students' knowledge regarding methods of drug abuse prevention	Poor	46	76.7
	Fair	11	18.3
	good	3	05.0

Poor = (0-2) score for answer knowledge, fair = (3-4) score for answer knowledge, good = (5-6) score for answer knowledge. F represents frequency, while % represents percentage. Table (2) Presents the statistical findings on students' knowledge of drug abuse, indicating that 90.0% (54 students) have poor knowledge of the concept and classification of drug abuse. Approximately 85.0% (51) of students possess a low level of awareness on addiction. regarding of the health consequences associated with drug abuse Out of the entire sample, 46 students, which represents 76.7%, were categorized as poor. Student comprehension of the psychological, social, and economic effects 80.0% (48) of them are currently at a poor level. The majority of students, specifically 76.7% (46 individuals), exhibit a poor level of understanding on methods regarding drug abuse prevention.

Table (3): Statistical correlations between students' demographic variables and the obtained results.

The Demographic Variables	p-value	Sig
Age	0.530	NS
Father education level	0.986	NS
Mother education level	0.266	NS

Table (3) demonstrates the statistical associations among students' socioeconomic variables and their knowledge achievements. At a significance level of 0.05, None of the demographic variables exhibit a statistically significant association with the knowledge outcomes.

Discussion:

Table (1) The study sample's demographic characteristics are as follows: 30% (18) of the sample are 16 years old. In terms of educational level, 31.7% (19) of the father have a middle school certificate, while 48.3% (29) of the mother have a primary school certificate. This finding corresponds to a descriptive study undertaken to assess the knowledge regarding substance abuse among adolescent students of selected school in

Amritsar. The study indicated that the majority of the participants were (14-16) years old (94.0%)(15).Table (2) Presents the statistical findings on students' knowledge of drug abuse, indicating that 90.0% (54 students) have poor knowledge of the concept and classification of drug abuse. Approximately 85.0% (51) of students possess a low level of awareness on addiction. regarding of the health consequences associated with drug abuse, 46 students, or 76.7% of the sample, were categorized as poor. Student comprehension of the psychological, social, and economic effects 80.0% (48) of them are currently at a poor level. The majority of students, specifically 76.7% (46 individuals), exhibit a poor level of understanding on methods regarding drug abuse prevention. This research corresponds to a previous study titled "A Descriptive Study To Assess The Knowledge Regarding Substance Abuse Among Late Adolescents In Selected High School, Bhopal." The findings of this study indicate that 75% of the participants had an inadequate level of knowledge concerning substance abuse.(16).

Table (3) demonstrates the statistical associations among students' socioeconomic variables and their knowledge achievements. At a significance level of 0.05, None of the demographic variables exhibit a statistically significant association with the knowledge outcomes. The present research corresponds to a prior study that aimed to assess the level of knowledge relating to the prevention of substance abuse among high school students in a specific school in Mangalore. The study's findings suggest that there is no statistically significant relationship between differences in knowledge scores and particular socio-demographic characteristics, such as parental age and occupation.(17).

Conclusions:

Based on the current study, the researcher generally considers that the students of the preparatory school in Mosul city lack sufficient and comprehensive understanding regarding drug abuse. There is no statistically significant relation observed between the learning outcomes of students and their demographic factors.

Ethical Considerations Compliance with Ethical Guidelines:

Approval was acquired from the collegiate committee for medical research ethics at the University of Mosul to perform the study. The goal of the study and the procedures involved were clearly clarified, with a particular emphasis on respecting the participants' rights to self-determination, confidentiality, and anonymity. Finally, signed agreement was obtained from each participant.

Funding:

The present research project did not get any financial support from public, commercial, or non-profit funding sectors.

Acknowledgements:

We express thanks to the nursing colleges at the University of Mosul and the General Directorate of Nineveh Education for their assistance and facilitation in carrying out the study project. The authors express thanks to the study participants for their willingness to take part in the research.

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