



The role of friends in the tendency towards addiction between the youths of Sari

Monireh Parsian ^{*1}, Hossein Nazoktabar ²

[1] Assistant Professor of Psychology department, Adib Mazandaran University, Sari, Iran.
[2] Assistant Professor of Sociology department, Payame Noor University, 19395-4697, I.R of IRAN

*Corresponding author's E-mail: mparsian64@yahoo.com

Abstract

Undoubtedly, the current situation of young people in our country depends on numerous factors such as economic, social, cultural, educational and welfare. Given the importance of the role of youth in society, the present study try to investigate the role of friends in the tendency towards addiction in order to provide strategies for reducing these problems in society.

The research method is documents and survey and the population are young prisoner boys (21-30) of Sari. The 58 sample are selected by using Cochran formula and simple random sampling.

The results of hypothesis suggests that there is a significant difference between the role of friends and the tendency towards addiction at the significant level of 95% and among friends and the tendency towards addiction theory, the lack of emotional relationships has the most role and influence on addiction and other variables, environment, character stability and social status have an indirectly and low affect.

Keywords: Group of Friends, addiction, youth, environment, stability of personality, emotional relationships, social status.

1. Introduction

However, in spite of all forms and types of abnormality, and most behave like theft, murder, gambling, suicide, prostitution and drug addiction, etc. is caused by inconsistencies which governs on individuals relations in society whether its similar to deviations or on disease or disorder, nevertheless, it should be noted that in all periods of history, according to the nature of the structures, organizations, institutions and social relations of production on the one hand, and biological and psychological nature of man on the other hand, forms, emerged and issuance of certain types of deviance, disorders and social abnormalities in human societies.

After the family, the peer group name as the second agent of socialization. Generally, children belonging to these groups have equal situation and clos relations and have allocated more time in parallel with their growth. Membership in the peer group puts children in a process for the first time that the highest socialization is done unconsciously and without any deliberate plan. Finally, children can choose your associates and friends, and have an equal interaction on the basis with others. Peer group is fully focused on the interests of members unlike school peer. The effect of peer groups peaks in adolescent; Peer group applies a strong influence on social behavior and personality through granting rewards, or criticized and sanctions for conformity of members with the norms of the group (Sotoudeh, 44: 2004).

The development of modern society in today's world, are exposed the human relations into more complex and continually changes. The modern civilization machine has brought the develop industrial cities, creating slums, changes of old simple life into a life of tolerance and complex, changes of the simple life based on emotional relationships and empathy into a life



based on formal relations and without soul with extreme egoism, difficult competition and weakening social cohesion and rationalism and failed dreams and a sense of frustration, and has also other consequences and it is the growing rebellion of people and especially the young generation against repressive social reality and external forces that tendency to addiction is one of the negative form of reactions against environmental response.

Many countries consider drug addiction as an acute social problem and know it as the main danger for the younger generation. Since that drug using has socially unknown effects, such as lowering the performance of the individual in society, and due to the fact that adjustment adolescence and youth in the community if they are not given appropriate response to their reactions, they withdrawn and pursue their subgroups (peers) and because are under the impression of them they are beginning the types of crime and such addiction. The effects of peers peaks in adolescence period, a time when an individual is different according to taste, cover mode, values and their heroes are ready to shape a distinct subculture.

So, if young does not have the full of social and emotional support from family is taken away and will be experience the first diversion (especially cigarettes) under the influence of the group of friends and if monitoring is not exactly on it, the compensation of it is impossible or difficult forever. The purpose of this plan is friends and their role in addiction, since, it has been proven that drug using by peers is as one of the strongest predictors of sustainable consumption among young people, this is definitely for people who have certain moral and behavioral characteristics (e.g. smoking and drug cravings) make a friendly relations with advised people (Journal of Rozhaye Zendegi, 15: 2006).

The aim of this study is that to examine the issue of youth addiction and the role of friends by using objective data based on current sociology and psychology theories, and find out the influence of peer groups and friends in tendency to addiction in current living conditions between the youth of Sari.

Therefore, the research questions are: Does the group of friends involved in the tendency to addiction? ; Does the personal living environment (youth) involved in the tendency to addiction? ; Does the personality instability involved in the tendency to addiction? ; And does the low social status involved in the tendency to addiction?

2. Literature of Review

Most social and religious experts agree that if the child from the very childhood grow in the context of peace and free of stress in the family and society will have less to chaos and confusion in their youth. Sociologists believe that should be recognized and eliminated or modified to create changes of causative or contributing factors and these crises.

Edwin Sutherland, present his theory regarding deviant cultural transmission, under the influence of Shaw and McKay's theories. Sutherland main hypothesis is that the intentions behavior are learned like a shadow of social behaviors through companionship conjunction with others. The guilty person is learned ideas, attitudes and values of diversion through continues communicate with others during his life. People become deviant based on companionship and association with outlaws and a number of factors determine this influence (Tabrizi,M. 2004: 101):

1. First, it is much contact is established with others, the deviant person under the influence of his deviant friends and family members.
2. The second factor is age specific when making calls to others. Influence in childhood and adolescence is higher than other times.
3. The third factor is the proportion of contact with deviance of society in comparison to contact with conformity.



People are learned the patterns of deviant behavior in the same way of non-deviant behavior. This current becomes internal through the interaction with other people. Sutherland knows delinquent behavior under the influence of contact with individuals in the learning process which are derived from especially personal relationships within the limited group, such as family, school, and neighborhood. In his opinion the mass media have an insignificant role in the development of criminal behavior (Keynia, 63: 1991).

Freeman and Scott believe that we will be closer to the root or cause addiction if we study the personality traits of addicted people. The most of researchers research is focused on guidance that person is familiar with these drugs and explore ways that lead to addiction. They say that contrary to popular opinion, a person do not be addicted through contact with drug vendor, but also through informal groups such as the parties, by peers and connect with those with whom they work, become familiar with the drugs. Ayzadvrchayn reported in the book (drugs, juvenile delinquency and government policies) that half of the addicted people were familiar with one of the drugs before the age of 18 , according to this book, most addicts have been living in areas that have high number of drug addicts (generosity, 2004: 11).

Hirschi, Reckles and Friderici as pioneers of social control theory try to devise and develop of this theory based on the theories of Durkheim's anomie theory. This theory is based on the assumption that the deviations caused by weakness or rupture belonging to the community caused by controls and social monitoring (Sotoudeh, 2004: 138-139). Hirschi believes that belonging in the community includes the following components (ibid.):

1. Connect with others
2. Taking part in role and social activities that have value and results for the future
3. The belief in moral values, cultural norms and etc.

Hirschi believes that a person who is more dependent on his parents are less likely to commit criminal deviant behavior, he believes that her position of youth in the social system, is the main cause of the deviation and crime (vold and Bernard, 1986: 243).

Cohen criticized the theory of cultural transmission that has been attributed to a less important role and have more attention to the role of environmental factors in the rise of crime and deviance. The Cohen's basic premise is that deviant and delinquent people have accepted goals and objectives of the society, however, due to the failure or lack and sufficient of opportunity to achieve acceptable and desirable social goals, has been deprived and therefore substitute the success of ideals and common goals and accepted norms and values in society with others to gain prestige and reputation and as a result, subculture of deviant create and thereby caused the people trying to surmount its problems (Harvlambus, 1991: 27-26).

Cohen believes that character is an important factor in the normalization of deviant behavior. Also believe that changing deviant behavior at least involves removing social deviating and his re-socialization in terms of non-deviation values. Therefore, Cohen is claimed that subculture of delinquency generally has an ugly face. This culture enjoys of damaging the property of others and upsetting people and maintain and satisfy the tendency to anti-social and immoral practices by disregard of the norms of accepted practice of the society (ibid). According to the main research question and theoretical framework based on the Hirsch's theory of social control and Sutherland's differential links the general hypothesis set out as below:

The group of friends have an important role friends in the tendency towards addiction between the youths of Sari.

In the form of above general hypothesis, some sub-hypothesis is formed as follows:

- A. If the personal environment of youth is safer, the rate of tendency to addiction is less.



- B. If the instability of personality of youth increase, the rate of tendency to addiction increase, too.
- C. If the emotional relations of youth increase in family, the rate of tendency to addiction increase, too.
- D. If the social status of youth increases, the rate of tendency to addiction increases, too.

3. Methodology

The research method is documents and survey and the population are young prisoner boys (21-30) of Sari. The 58 sample are selected by using Cochran formula and simple random sampling. The results of calculations to estimate the reliability of scales in the groups of friends in the test showed that the alpha coefficient for the scale of the environment, the stability of personality, lack of emotional relationships and social status are 57%, 59%, 68% and 71%, respectively. Therefore, coordination coefficient of components in friends group is on average of reliability coefficient.

4. Findings

This section is examined the research hypothesis by using Chi-square test.

The first hypothesis test: If the personal environment of youth is safer, the rate of tendency to addiction is less.

Table 1. Chi-Square test of life environment

Test	Amount
Chi – square	24.8
d.f	16
Asymp.sig	0.76
Total	58

According to the data in Table 1 show that sig achieved in significant level of 0.05 and degrees of freedom 16 equals 0.76 percent, thus, the high level of environmental impact due to the effects of friend in addition, our hypothesis H1 is rejected and the H0 hypothesis is confirmed and an inverse relationship is proved.

The second hypothesis test: If the instability of personality of youth increase, the rate of tendency to addiction increase, too.

Table 2. Chi-Square test of instability of personality

Test	Amount
Chi – square	15.82
d.f	16
Asymp.sig	0.494
Total	58

According to the data in Table 2 show that sig achieved in significant level of 0.05 and degrees of freedom 16 equals 0.494 percent, thus, the high level impact due to the effects of instability of personality in addition, our hypothesis H1 is rejected and the H0 hypothesis is confirmed and an inverse relationship is proved.



The third hypothesis test: If the emotional relations of youth increase in family, the rate of tendency to addiction increases, too.

Table 3. Chi-Square test of lack of emotional relations

<i>Test</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Chi – square</i>	31.22
<i>d.f</i>	16
<i>Asymp.sig</i>	0.013
<i>Total</i>	58

According to the data in Table 3 show that sig achieved in significant level of 0.05 and degrees of freedom 16 equals 0.013 percent that the achieved amount is smaller than a standard table sig thus, our hypothesis H1 is confirmed and its inverse relationship is rejected, so there is a direct relationship between lack of emotional relations of youth and their addiction.

The third hypothesis test: If the social status of youth increase, the rate of tendency to addiction increase, too.

Table 4. Chi-Square test of lack of emotional relations

<i>Test</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<i>Chi – square</i>	19.71
<i>d.f</i>	16
<i>Asymp.sig</i>	0.233
<i>Total</i>	58

According to the data in Table 4 show that sig achieved in significant level of 0.05 and degrees of freedom 16 equals 0.233 percent, thus, the high level of impact due to the effects of lack of emotional relations in addition, our hypothesis H1 is rejected and the H0 hypothesis is confirmed and an inverse relationship is proved.

5. Discussion and Conclusion

According to the theories about the role of friends on drug abuse has been tried to define different theories about expanding drug abuse among young people. Thus, by raised theories about factors that exist in youth addiction by their friends can be explain that in this study, we applied Edwin Sutherland's model of the theoretical concept of differential companion as well as Hirschi's social bonding theory; that these two theorists have estimated important factor in youth drug abuse by their friends that is lots of contact with deviant people and a sense of commitment to their friends as well as are discussed individual relationships and beliefs that link with friends from school, family and community. Addiction and bonds of friendship is effective in the youth addiction. Albert Cohen also need to examine the personality characteristics of addiction. As well as, he believes that a person are more likely to be drawn to this way by contact with addicted person. The theory presented in this study is actually a combination of two theory groups of friends and addiction as well as the theoretical framework of this research. Relation of r theories with each other can be a comprehensive explanation of the relationship between addiction and friendship of youth. The results of the study from the role of friends in addiction of youth in Sari indicate that there is a significant



difference in this subject. We have chosen four hypotheses of this study that assess the variables of life environment, instability of character, lack of emotional relationships, low social status on addiction of youth.

In general it can be concluded that there is a relationship between the family and the addiction, means that the existence of some indicators in the family has a fundamental role on addiction. It is natural that in fractured families, less educated, with parents addicted, socialization not taking full figure and order of family is disrupted and there is not social control. Therefore, will effect on increasing of addiction. But addiction may also occur in healthy and complete families, or on the contrary in some traumatic families children with regard to personal characteristics or finding other families not infected by addiction.

Therefore, based on the results and findings of this study argued that the addiction is a complex phenomenon that only the direct cause of the addiction that exist from friends is a lack of emotional relationships and three other variables of life environment, instability of personality and social status have an indirect impact on youth drug addiction.

Among the recommendations of this study, the etiology and epidemiology of addiction which requires extensive scientific research on behalf of various individuals and organizations and applying its recommendations and instructions, completing and equipping existing treatments and the development of health organizations for addiction treatment and rehabilitation and care of addicted patients in long period of complete convalescence.

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