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Comparative Study

A Comparative Study of Personal Values Among Addicted and Non – Addicted Adolescents with Respect to their Socio – Economic Status

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ABSTRACT

Personal values create the premise for the judgement and decisions of an individual and these values have a deep affect on behaviour. In evaluation, drug addiction among adolescents consequences in clinically sizeable impairment on their selection taking ability in addition to affect their personal values. In the present study, an attempt has been made to assess the effect of drug addiction among adolescents having different socio-economic statuses (SES) with respect to their personal values in the Kumaun region of Uttarakhand, India. Results revealed that addiction status and socio-economic status of adolescents affect their personal values but the addiction status has a higher negative impact on values among adolescents.

A person acts in conformity with the rules and regulations or norms of society which are based on social values from early childhood and through the process of socialization he has seen taught to do so. In every society some objects, attitudes and ideas are considered more important than others. Personal values are valued and experienced by an individual without any explicit interaction with any other person. They include one's joys, commitment, challenge, problem-solving, group work, discipline, hard work, honesty, sincerity, punctuality, self-dependence, cooperation, ambitions, personal, possessions and pursuits. It is supposed that in cherishing and possessing these values he does not affect others. Values regulate and guide human behavior and action in our day-to-day life. Values are entrenched in every word we select and speak, what we wear, the ways in which we interact, our perceptions and interpretation of others' reactions in what we say etc.

In India, several educational committees and commissions observed that there has been a tremendous erosion of values among adolescents in our society. Nowadays, the indiscriminate use of legal and illegal drugs steadily grows among the youth from different

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social classes in India and worldwide. The problem of drug addiction or, as suggested by the World Health Organization (WHO), the use of substances that cause dependence on psychoactive substances, is complex, no matter what viewpoint is adopted. Drugs are understood as those substances that cause drug addiction, that is, intoxication and habit and/or chemical dependency and which, due to their psychological and behavioral effects, are harmful to the individual and to society (Cecilia *et al.*, 2013). Drug addiction can be defined as the habitual taking of illegal drugs. Gelder and Cowen (2001) mention in their paper that substance abuse or drug abuse results in clinically significant impairment or distress, wherein the person may suffer from tolerance and withdrawal. Foo *et al.* (2012) found that parents substance abuse habits were the most influential factor in affecting a child's substance abuse.

Review of literature shows that factors which may affect adolescents negatively are peer pressure, poor self-esteem, low achievement at school, performance pressure, previous experience of drug addiction, family history of substance misuse and family instability. Lack of easily available support from family, friends and school performance lead the children towards addiction. Seeing substance use as a measure of growing up or for fun also makes the adolescents more vulnerable to substance misuse. Pressure from friends to try experiment an addictive thing, the urge to gain popularity in group and desire to experiment and curiosity to try out new things also cause addictive behavior. They have myths and misconceptions about using drug or other substance.

In recent times, several cases concerning drug addiction including some most severe criminal cases related to drug abuse or illegal use of drugs among adolescents of the Kumaun region of Uttarakhand, India have surfaced. Saxena and Upadhyay (2016) reported that the problem of drug addiction is acute in Kumaun where according to their sources, almost 50 per cent of those being admitted in de-addiction centers, are in the age group of 12-19 years. From secondary sources like magazines, newspapers and electronic media, it is revealed that in the community of school going children in India, marijuana has been the most popular drug. These secondary data encouraged us to make an attempt to assess the effect of drug addiction among adolescents with respect to their personal values in Kumaun region of Uttarakhand, India.

Given the limited research described above focusing on addiction and personal values among adolescents, we focused on two main macro variables Addiction Status and SES of adolescents to assess the impact on their personal values. We know of limited studies that have examined associations between these factors in adolescents.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the present study survey method was used to collect data from adolescents of the Kumaun region of Uttarakhand. The sample size of the study was 450 adolescents including 225 addicted and 225 non-addicted adolescents. In addition, addicted adolescents were selected from de-addiction centres situated in the Haldwani block of the Nainital district because addicted adolescents of the Kumaun region are mostly rehabilitated at de-addiction centres in Haldwani. It is not possible to reveal the names of selected de-addiction centres due to their privacy concern. On the other hand, non-addicted adolescents were selected from public schools of Kumaun region (Districts: Almora, Bageshwar, Champawat, Pithoragarh, Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar). For selection of non-addicted adolescents simple random sampling technique was used. The socio-economic status of adolescents had

been decided by using SES scale developed by Dr. Ashok K Kalia and Dr. Sudhir Sahu. The sample consists of 75 adolescents in each category i.e., low, middle and high SES of addicted and non-addicted adolescents. For assessment of the personal values, Personal Values Questionnaire designed by Dr. Archana Dubey and Mahendra Patidar (2013) was used. Following hypotheses have been formulated in the present study:

H_{01}: Addicted and non- addicted adolescents do not differ significantly on values

H_{02}: Addicted and non- addicted adolescents having high, middle and low socio-economic status do not differ significantly on values.

For statistical analysis of the data SPSS v.23 was utilized. Statistical techniques such as mean, standard deviation (SD), t-test and ANOVA with interaction design were used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A comparative dimension wise analysis of Personal values among addicted and non-addicted adolescents is summarised in the following table 1.

Table 1: Comparison of Personal Values among addicted and non-addicted adolescents.

S.N.	Personal Values	Category	n	Mean	SD	MD	p – value
1.	Commitment	Non-Addicted	225	7.06	2.36	-1.50	0.000*
		Addicted	225	8.56	2.25		
2.	Challenge	Non-Addicted	225	9.80	2.46	1.54	0.000*
		Addicted	225	8.26	2.38		
3.	Problem Solving	Non-Addicted	225	10.63	2.73	2.09	0.000*
		Addicted	225	8.54	2.59		
4.	Group Work	Non-Addicted	225	7.25	2.60	-0.79	0.001*
		Addicted	225	8.04	2.38		
5.	Discipline	Non-Addicted	225	9.05	2.30	1.07	0.000*
		Addicted	225	7.98	2.30		
6.	Hard Work	Non-Addicted	225	10.53	2.50	1.76	0.000*
		Addicted	225	8.77	2.62		
7.	Honesty	Non-Addicted	225	9.89	3.16	0.96	0.001*
		Addicted	225	8.93	2.63		
8.	Punctuality	Non-Addicted	225	7.60	2.61	-0.08	0.719
		Addicted	225	7.68	2.36		
9.	Self-Dependence	Non-Addicted	225	8.59	2.67	0.60	0.009*
		Addicted	225	7.99	2.42		
10.	Cooperation	Non-Addicted	225	9.98	2.42	1.81	0.000*
		Addicted	225	8.17	2.25		
	Overall Values	Non-Addicted	225	91.37	2.81	7.45	0.000*
		Addicted	225	83.92	10.51		

Significant at 5% and 1% level of significance.

From the table 1, it is evident that there is a significant difference in commitment (MD = -1.50; p = 0.000) among non-addicted and addicted adolescent. In addition, it was observed that the commitment in addicted adolescents is higher than Non-addicted adolescents. Hence the feelings of confidence to complete any work in addicted adolescents is higher than that

of Non-addicted adolescents. Regarding the dimension challenge (MD = 1.54; p = 0.00), addicted adolescents have lower level when compared with non-addicted adolescents and the mean difference among these two groups is statistically significant. Problem solving value (MD = 2.09; p = 0.00) among non-addicted adolescents is higher than the addicted adolescents and the mean difference is found to be significant. The result implies that the addiction negatively influences the problem-solving value of adolescents. Considering the dimension group work (MD = -0.79, p = 0.001), addicted adolescents show a higher score than non-addicted adolescents and the mean difference between scores is highly significant. Hence when compared with non-addicted adolescents, the addicted adolescents have more capacity to work with the group to complete the task and work effectively. It is observed that, non-addicted adolescents have high discipline values (MD = 1.07; p = 0.00) among them as compared to addicted adolescents. The mean difference is statistically significant. A similar result is observed for the dimensions Hard Work and Honesty. These results indicate that discipline, impartiality in doing in work and morality in behavior are affected by drug addiction among adolescents.
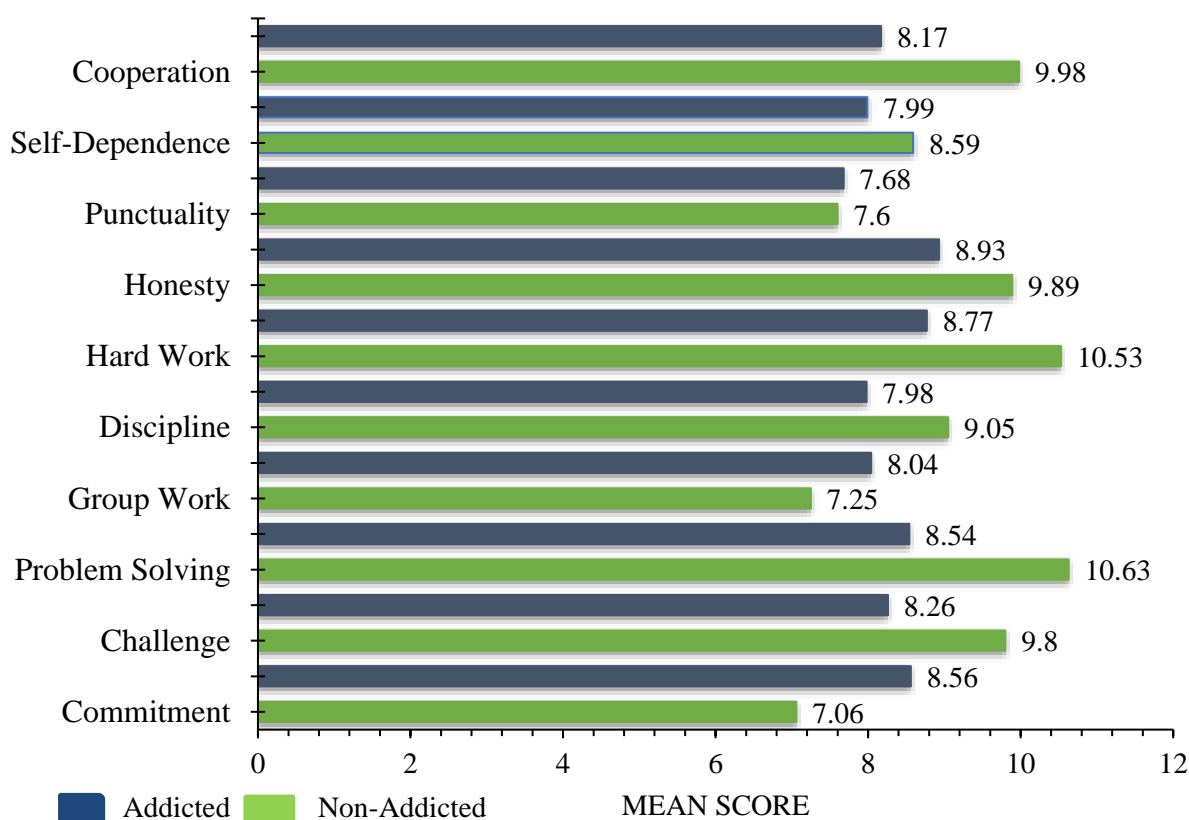

Figure 1: Personal Values among addicted and non-addicted adolescents.

However, there is no significant difference found for dimension punctuality (MD = -0.08; p = 0.719) among addicted and non-addicted adolescents as the mean difference is small and insignificant. The result implies that the drug addiction does not have any impact on punctuality value among adolescents and they are very punctual at their works, school timings and committed to time. Non-addicted adolescents have higher self-dependence (MD = 0.60; p = 0.009) when compared to addicted adolescents since the mean difference between scores is highly significant. Moreover, addicted adolescents have less faith in self-

devotion and capabilities than that of non-addicted adolescents. The result indicate that the drug addiction negatively impacts the self-dependency of adolescents.

Concerning the dimension Cooperation (MD = 1.81, p = 0.00), addicted adolescents have low values than non-addicted adolescents. The mean difference between scores is highly significant which indicate that the addicted adolescents have lower desire to work in association with others with abilities than that of non-addicted adolescents. In addition, overall analysis of personal values of addicted and non-addicted adolescents suggest that drug addiction affects values among adolescents. Hence the hypothesis "Addicted and non-addicted adolescents do not differ significantly on values" is rejected.

Table 2 represents the mean and standard deviations (SD) for score of overall personal values of addicted and non-addicted adolescents categorised on the basis of their socio-economic status. There were three categories of socio-economic status viz. high, middle and low.

Table 2: Personal values of adolescents on the basis of their SES.

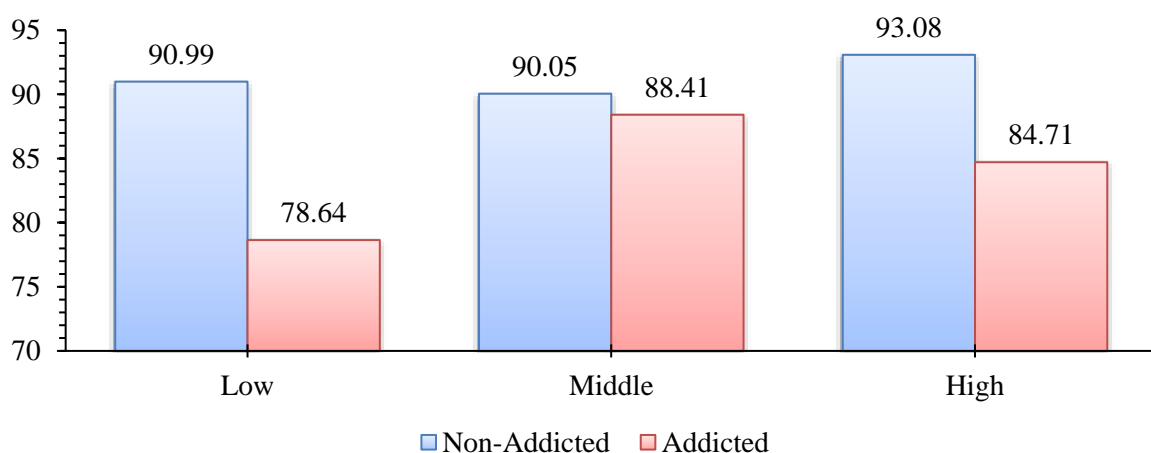| SES	N	Non-Addicted		Addicted		Total	
		Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Low	75	90.99	1.98	78.64	10.12	84.81	9.55
Middle	75	90.05	3.16	88.41	9.51	89.23	7.11
High	75	93.08	2.25	84.71	9.61	88.89	8.13
Total	225	91.37	2.81	83.92	10.51	87.65	8.54

Figure 2: Personal values of adolescents on the basis of their SES

It is evident from table 2 that the overall personal values of addicted and non-addicted adolescents vary across different socio-economic classes. In low SES, addicted adolescents are found inferior in overall personal values as the mean ± SD of scores is 78.64 ± 10.12 while the mean ± SD of overall personal values of non-addicted adolescents is found 90.99 ± 1.98. Addicted adolescents belonging to middles SES have lower personal values since the mean ± SD of scores is 88.41 ± 9.51 whereas the non-addicted adolescents in the same group have mean ± SD of scores 90.05 ± 3.16. Furthermore, in high SES of adolescents the addicted adolescents have inferior values as the mean ± SD is found 84.71 ± 9.61 while the mean ± SD of scores for non-addicted adolescents is 93.08 ± 2.25. In addition, for all the

three categories of SES, the standard deviation of scores indicates a high variation in personal values of addicted adolescents in comparison with the personal values of non-addicted adolescents. Thus, a similar pattern observed in all three classes of SES of adolescents i.e., the addicted adolescents belonging to low, middle and high SES have inferior values when compared with respective non-addicted adolescents. On the other hand, addicted adolescents have high variability in their values across all the three socio-economic groups. Addicted adolescents who are from low SES families (78.64±10.12) have inferior values when compared with the addicted adolescents from high (84.71±9.61) and middle (88.41±9.51) SES families respectively. To verify these variations statistically, two-way ANOVA with interaction of Addiction Status and SES was performed and the results of the analysis summarise in table 3.

Table 3: Results of ANOVA with interaction of Addiction Status vs SES

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	Partial Eta Squared
Model	3467133.69	6	577855.62	11399.32	0.000	0.994
Status	6249.62	1	6249.62	123.29	0.000*	0.217
SES	1814.92	2	907.46	17.90	0.000*	0.075
Status * SES	2196.97	2	1098.49	21.67	0.000*	0.089
Error	22507.31	444	50.69			
Total	3489641.00	450				

Significant at 5% level of significance.

Table 3 revealed a significant main effect ($p < 0.05$) of socio-economic status on values of addicted and non-addicted adolescents. Nonetheless, the size of effect upon values of adolescents due to SES ($\eta^2 = 0.075$) is lesser than the size of effect due to addiction status ($\eta^2 = 0.217$) of adolescents. These results imply that addiction status has a higher impact on the values of adolescents than their socio-economic status. In addition, there is a significant interaction found between Addiction status and SES (p < 0.05) of adolescents with a comparatively smaller effect size ($\eta^2 = 0.089$). On the basis of above analysis, the null hypothesis, "Addicted and non- addicted adolescents having high, middle and low socio-economic status do not differ significantly on values" stands rejected. Thus, it can be inferred that the addiction status and socio-economic status of adolescents have a significant impact on their values.

In summary, the study found that drug addiction among adolescents affect their personal values. Addicted adolescents have inferior values than non-addicted adolescents. In addition, concerning the socio-economic status of adolescents, adolescents in lower SES shows lack of personal values among them when compared with the other socio-economic groups. The results support the studies of Kessler and Cleary (198) and McLeod and Kessler (1990), Mathur *et al.* (2013) which found that lower SES has been associated with mental health problems and values. Moreover, addiction status and socio-economic status of adolescents affect their personal values but the addiction status have higher impact on values among adolescents.

CONCLUSION

Notwithstanding the limitations, the present study is one of the first to study the combined effect of addiction status and socio-economic status on the personal values of adolescents. The result indicated that addiction among adolescents has a negative impact on personal

values, so, by early identification of drug abuse or substance abuse among adolescents, their values can be improved by helping them which may increase their quality of life and moral character. The findings can provide a framework to the community, community health programs, schools, de-addiction centres, and also to the families at risk to understand who can be affected. Steps can be taken for the timely prevention of drug abuse. A considerable number of adolescents can be saved from the grip of addiction.

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