

Knowledge & Crack Abuse Side Effects

Maryam Nooritajer

Department of Health and Family Planning, Faculty Basic Sciences,
Islamic Azad University, Islamshahr Branch. Islamshahr, Iran

Abstract: *Introduction:* Regarding the increasing rate of crack abuse in Iran and also regarding that 25% of Iranian drug abusers (90% of which are under 24 years) use this substance, the necessity for interventions by various social group,. The most effective approach for determining an appropriate is analysis educational content. The aim of present research is determining students' knowledge of long term and short term crack abuse side effects in Islamic Azad University, Islamshahr branch; in the 2009 – 2010 academic years. *Materials & Methods:* The present descriptive and analytical research investigated students' knowledge assessment towards crack abuse side effects; therefore a student needs education if he/she scores 50% or less in each area. The research population (n = 906) consisted of all the students of different faculties of Islamic Azad University, Islamshahr Branch The research data were analyzed using the T-test and also Chi-square and ANOVA tests and the Pearson' correlation coefficient. *Results* The results obtained regarding students' needs assessment towards crack abuse side effects namely their knowledge Average short-term and long-term were 36.77 and 40.48, respectively, which showed a statistically significant correlation ($p \leq 0.000$; $t = 5.13$; $df = 905$). *Discussion & Conclusion.* The results of the present research regarding students' needs assessment towards short-term and long-term crack abuse side effects revealed to short-term. According to the results the short-term knowledge at the compared with the long term knowledge was Weak side. Generally, Students Priority in is providing educational programs on short-term outcome which means their needs assessment at the beginning were on short term dimensions.

Key words: Knowledge • Side effects • Crack abuse

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, due to drug abuse the world community has suffered considerable losses, resulting from productivity loss; transmission of infectious diseases; physical, mental, social and family problems and disabilities; increased crime rates; the need for providing health care practices; threatened personal safety; and decreased life quality [1]. Addiction has also caused many social problems in Iran. Several important socio-economic events such as a petroleum-related economy, the 8-year war against Iraq, population overgrowth, expanding global communicative technology, increased expectations of the young generation, the trend of industrial development and the related complications such as immigration and unemployment, are all issues that make the Iranian society more vulnerable to addiction [2]; Hence, in Iran addiction considered as the part of three

dilemma components related to health problems is classified besides poverty and unemployment, that the main victims are adolescents and young people [3].

Recently, individuals are attracted towards substance abuse at a lower age and the import of chemical and industrial psychoactive drugs has caused a novel trend in the addiction dilemma. The main characteristics and the main reasons for widespread substance abuse [4].

In a study performed in Australia 6.1% individuals over 14 years old had a positive history of substance abuse; crack abuse ranks fourth in this country after cannabis, amphetamine and ecstasies abuse [5]. In New Zealand, crack abuse among individuals 15-45 years old has increased from 1.5% in 1998 to 3.4% in 2001. In Denmark, crack and ecstasies were the most frequent and the most important illicit street drugs in 2000. In Turkey, crack and ecstasies abuse among high school teenagers has increased from 2.65% in 1998 to 3.13% in 2001.

In Taiwan, crack abuse showed an increasing trend among the young as compared to other CNS- stimulants such as amphetamine and other substances such as ketamine [6]. Crack abuse has recently prevailed among the young population of Iran and has become the second substance most abused by the addict population; this high prevalence is due to the misunderstanding that crack is a low-risk and high-freaking substance, as 95% of crack abusers know it as a psychoactive drug with energy-giving and delighting properties causing no dependence, but after initiating abuse, they realize that it is a highly-addicting drug [7]. In Iran addiction is now considered as the most ruinous socioproblem by which an addicted person will lose all his social status, the youth especially boys are prone to this server problem [8].

Crack abuse is nowadays considered the leading cause of consulting withdrawal institutes, which reveals the increasing addiction rate with this high-risk substance in Iran [9]. It could be claimed that crack abuse has become a silent epidemic and 25% of Iranian drug abusers (90% of which are under 24 yrs. old) use this substance [10]. Nearly 11% of the young substance abusers in Iran don't believe these substances cause addiction and the satisfaction achieved after abuse often causes tendency for continuous abuse [5, 10]. It is reported that 76% of drug addicts were found to fulfill the diagnostic criteria for psychological disorders particularly mood, anxiety and behavioral disorders [11]. Therefore, neglecting the accelerated widespread prevalence of substance abuse and the related complications among the students population; and the production of laboratory synthetic substances such as crack, ecstasies and crystal (suggesting an impending and widespread threat) on one hand and the lack of related research, reliable and basic statistical data; unknown motives, methods, patterns and prevalence of substance abuse among students; unknown relationship between substance abuse and problematic situations (such as motiveless and decreased efficacy of learning, living away from family members, living in dormitories, organic and mental illnesses, feeling loss of identity and promiscuous sexual behavior) on the other hand [12], reveals the necessity of intervention by different social groups (especially health care professionals), as they can play an important role in formulating educational programs; and as the first step in formulating an educational program is determining students' needs assessment, the most effective approach for determining an appropriate educational content is need-analysis. Therefore, coordination between educational programs and needs assessment is an

important issue that needs to be considered. Thus, the researchers aimed at determining the needs assessment towards crack abuse side effects in Islamic Azad University, Islamshahr branch in order to provide a perspective of the current situation for authorities in the area of addiction and to take a step forward in decreasing the tendency of the Iranian young population towards this internecine disaster.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present descriptive and analytical research investigated students' needs assessment "knowledge" towards crack abuse side effects. Therefore a student needs education if he/she scores 50% or less in each area. The research environment consisted of all the faculties of Islamic Azad University, Islamshahr Branch (including the Basic Sciences, Humanities, Engineering, Art, Architecture and Physical Education faculties); the subjects were selected using the stratified sampling method and allocated to respective groups according to gender. Assuming that half the students had a high-level knowledge, the sample size (at a 95% confidence interval and a maximum estimated error of 0.05) using the formula: $n = f/N$ was estimated to be 906 subjects.

In the present study, short-term side effects consisted of: a feeling of increased energy level, increased agility and euphoria, increased vital signs, hydrias, pallor, diaphoresis, agitation and excitement, restlessness, tremors (especially in hands), severe sensory hallucinations, motor ataxia, confusion, angina pectoris, nausea, fever, muscular spasm, convulsion and even death; and long-term side effects consisted of: weight loss, constipation, impotence, respiratory depression, hesitancy, anemia, gastrointestinal disorders, muscular twitching and rigidity, hepatitis, continuous rhino rhea, dermal ulcerations and inflammation and rashes, anxiety, severe decreased threshold for convulsions, paranoia, time and place disorientation, violent behavior, depression, aggressiveness, suicide tendency, hallucinations, sensory (esp. visual, auditory and tactile) disorders, delusional thoughts and psychosis.

Descriptive statistical methods (including statistical indices, formulating frequency distribution tables and drawing related diagrams), analytical statistical methods (including discussing point estimates and interval estimates for mean and ratio, the t-test, the Chi-square test, the ANOVA test and the Pearson' correlation coefficient correlation coefficient) and the SPSS software (version 14) were used in order to meet the research objectives.

RESULT

Of the subjects who were 18-35 years old, 40.2% were female and 542 were male. 33.1, 33.9, 11.5, 10.7 and 10.5 percent of the subjects were selected from the Humanities & Management faculty, the Engineering faculty, the Basic Sciences faculty, the Physical Education faculty and the Art faculty, respectively. 48.5, 50.9 and 0.5 percent were studying at the associate, bachelor and master levels, respectively. Most (30.8%) of them were the first child of their parents and most (55.8%) of them had 4 other family members. Most (44.2%) of their fathers and most (44%) of their mothers had not completed high school. Most (85.9%) of their parents lived together,

Data related to the measurement of the students' knowledge regarding the short-term and long-term crack abuse side effects are shown in Table 1. The results obtained revealed that students' needs assessment towards crack abuse side effects at the, namely their knowledge was lower than 50%; such that 58.2% had a low-level knowledge, table 2 shown the mean and standard deviation students' need assessment (knowledge) towards crack abuse side effects, result of table 3 the mean and standard deviation students' needs assessment (knowledge) towards crack abuse side effects According use of doping drugs and doping athletes.

The findings related to the comparison of the mean male and female students' knowledge regarding crack abuse side effects revealed a statistically significant correlation (mean knowledge among females and males was 39.9 and 38.19, respectively); Accordingly, the findings of Torabi, revealed a statistically significant correlation between gender and smoking [13] and the results of a research performed by Zia-Eddini showed that 26.5% of the males and 11.5% of the females had a positive history of substance abuse on at least one occasion, which were consistent with the results of our study [14].

The variance analysis test showed a statistically significant correlation between age and function and the highest needs assessment regarding knowledge was observed among students under 20 years old (mean = 41.8) In addition, the 26-28 years old and the 20-22 year old-subjects had the best and the worst function levels (means = 84.7 and 73.84, respectively); The results of a research performed by Kumar revealed that substance abuse (esp. in combination form) has increased among the medical students, especially among the male students and that the long duration of education affects substance abuse [15].

Table 1: Frequency distribution of students' knowledge (long term and short term) of crack abuse side effects in Islamic Azad University, Islamshahr Branch

Related questions with measuring knowledge	Correct answers		Wrong answers	
	Numbers	percent	Numbers	percent
1 Crack substance cocaine treatment of stimuli that can be achieved.	667	73/6	239	26/4
2 Crack of heroin and other impurities in the secret lab is produced	468	51/7	438	48/3
3 Use of heroin to crack a few years no affiliation does not matter for the individual	453	50	453	50
4 Crack is causing severe psychological dependence on the individual consumer	310	34/2	596	65/8
5 One shortly after taking power to crack feel the loss	740	38/6	166	18/3
6 Dangerous infections such as hepatitis and AIDS is rare in consumer crack	556	61/4	350	38/6
7 A person suffering from hallucinations after taking crack is serious sense	482	53/2	424	46/8
8 Crack uses any digestive problems for the individual consumer does not.	525	79/9	381	42/1
9 Person consuming crack and confusing movements are not coordinated	482	53/2	424	46/8
10 Irritability and tendency to suicide is common in crack users	584	64/5	322	35/5
11 After taking the vital signs of individual crack (pulse, blood pressure, respiration and temperature) will decline sharply.	598	66	308	34
12 Wicked and aggressive behaviors from paranoid illness (suspected disease) in people who are consuming psychoactive substances are rare in the crack.	698	77	208	23
13 The most basic physical is effects of crack, chronic sore throat, hoarseness and shortness of breath	706	77/9	200	22/1
14 Crack 130 to 150 times more than the destructive power of heroin on the brain and nerves are individual consumers.	482	53/2	424	46/8

Questions 1 and 2, 5, 7 and 9 and 11 are relating to short-term side effects

Questions 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13 and 14 are relating to long-term side effect.

Table 2: The mean and standard deviation students' needs assessment(knowledge)towards crack abuse side effects in Islamic Azad University; Islamshahr Branch according Father Education

Father	Under diplomas	diplomas	Higher diploma	ANOVA results
Education Needs assessment knowledge	$\bar{x} \pm SD$ 38/7±25/7	$\bar{x} \pm SD$ 41/7±26/5	$\bar{x} \pm SD$ 35/7±27/4	P value p <037

Table 3: The mean and standard deviation students' needs assessment(knowledge)towards crack abuse side effects in Islamic Azad University; Islamshahr Branch According use of doping drugs and doping athletes

Use of doping drugs	Yes	No	Test Results
Effects	$\bar{x} \pm SD$	$\bar{x} \pm SD$	T test
P value knowledge	42/2±29	39±26	t =0/8 p <0/424

The findings of our research revealed a statistically significant correlation between our research showed a higher substance abuse rate among students whose fathers had a higher educational level, but the results of a research in Brazil revealed a statistically significant correlation between the educational level of the subjects' fathers and substance abuse, which were consistent with the results of our research [16].

The results of a research performed by Rezaei revealed a statistically significant correlation between the subjects' educational level and their parents' educational level and therefore she emphasized on increasing the students' educational level in order to provide more health related information regarding substance abuse and addiction [17], which was also consistent with the results of our research. In other words, the results obtained regarding students' needs assessment towards crack abuse side effects at, their knowledge revealed:

- The mean short-term and long-term knowledge were 36.77 and 40.48, respectively, which showed a statistically significant correlation ($p \leq 0.000$; $t = 5.13$; $NF = 905$).
- A statistically significant correlation was revealed between students having a positive history of smoking and crack abuse side effects, such that students who smoked had higher levels of knowledge.

In this regard, Mahler's research showed a statistically significant correlation between the substance being abused and the age of beginning substance abuse [18].

- The variance analysis test revealed that students who abuse illicit substances or perform doping had higher levels of knowledge as compared with those who don't (means = 42.26 and 39.4, respectively).

CONCLUSION

The results of the present research regarding students' needs assessment towards short-term and long-term crack abuse side effects revealed that short-term knowledge According to the results the short-term knowledge at the compared with the long term knowledge was Weak side. Rendering needs assessment towards short-term; in addition, students' needs assessment regarding long-term function trends towards unfavorable.

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