

Use Of Intoxicants And Its Effect On Educational Achievement: A Comparative Study Between Adolescent Boys And Girls

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ABSTRACT:

Drug addiction, smoking and tobacco use are some of the evils of the society which are responsible for different kinds of social chaos. Mostly these evil habits are formed during the adolescent period of one's life. These are first used generally out of curiosity, pursuit of fun and pleasure. No one is born drug dependent and smoker but actually becomes so in emulating the behaviour of parents, friends and other members of the society. The use of intoxicates is socio-psychological problem. The highly competitive and success oriented style of living in this era creates many odds for a large number of young people. These situations may lead to stress and one tries to seek instant relief from it by using intoxicants. The current paper is a study to know if the adolescent boys and girls show different attitudes while it comes to use of intoxicants. The influence of intoxicants on educational achievement is also a major concern of the study.

Keywords: intoxicants, adolescents, educational achievement, society

Introduction:

The use of intoxicants is a socio-psychological problem which is responsible for many of the chaotic situations in one's life. There are lots of examples of people who have been in misery for the excessive use of intoxicants. In this era of competition and stress, many people seeks the shelter of different types of intoxicates for the temporary relief from their tensions. In many cases, it has been noticed that these habits are formed in the adolescent stage of one's life. Curiosity, peer pressure or the influences of media are some of the causes one starts to use intoxicants. According to American Lung Association, adolescents start smoking for the following 5 reasons- they have parents who smoke; peer pressure; to show independence; they believe everyone else is smoking and tobacco advertisements. It is very important to study about the attitude of young boys and girls towards intoxicants as these young people are the future of one nation. The parents, teachers and educational institutions should be aware what factors are responsible for injecting a positive attitude for intoxicants in the young minds.

Removing those factors from social situations can be instrumental in developing negative attitude towards using the intoxicants.

Objectives: The objectives of the current study are-

- To find out the gender difference of adolescents in using intoxicants.
- To study the impact of intoxicants on interpersonal relationships.
- To study the effect of intoxicants on the educational achievement of the adolescents.

Significance of the study:

It was hoped that this study would provide important information to students, teachers, parents and other members of the community to introspect into the adolescents' world in terms of using various intoxicants. This paper revealed the various causes of using intoxicants by the adolescents, the influence of family and peers in doing so. It can also be studied that whether interpersonal relationships were being disturbed because of using intoxicants.

Delimitation of the study:

The present study was delimited to the use of intoxicants by the adolescent boys and girls of Goalpara District, Assam. It was also delimited to the study of drug abuse, smoking and taking tobacco only.

Methodology used:

Descriptive survey method was adopted for the current study. For the present study, 300 students of adolescence (150 Boys and 150 Girls) of Goalpara District, Assam were taken. The sample was selected through Random Sampling Technique from 3 provincialised colleges and 2 schools. For the purpose of collecting data Questionnaire was used.

Interpretation and analysis of data:

The responses given by the samples can be interpreted and analysed through different tables given below-

TABLE 1 (Family type)

Gender	Nuclear	%	Joint	%
Boys	130	86.67	20	13.33
Girls	120	80.0	30	20.0

Table 1 clearly showed that 86.67% of the boys taken as sample were from nuclear family whereas 13.37% of them belong to joint family. Among girls, 80% have come from nuclear family and 20% were from joint family.

TABLE 2 (Use of Intoxicants)

GENDER	YES	%	NO	%
Boys	110	73.33	40	26.67
Girls	70	46.67	80	53.33

It was evident from Table 2 that 73.37% of adolescent boys use intoxicants and 26.67% of boys did not use the same. 46.67% of girls said that they have a habit of taking tobacco with Betel nut while 53.37% of girls did not take any kinds of intoxicants.

TABLE 3 (Average age of using intoxicants)

GENDER	13-16 years	%	17-19 years	%
Boys	0	0	110	100.0
Girls	65	92.86	5	7.14

Table 3 reflected the fact that 100% of boys have told that they used intoxicants during the age of 17-19 years for the 1st time; while 92.86% of girls were being reported to use intoxicants during the age of 13-16 years and 7.14% of girls used during 17-19 years of age.

Table 4 (Introducing intoxicants to adolescents by)

GENDER	FAMILY	%	FRIENDS	%
Boys	0	0	110	100.0
Girls	38	54.29	32	45.71

It was evident from the Table 4 that 100% of boys agreed that they were introduced to intoxicants by their friends. 54.29% of girls said that they were introduced to intoxicants by the elder member of the family while 45.71% of girls said that friends introduced intoxicants to them.

TABLE 5 (Kinds of intoxicants used)

GENDER	DRUGS	%	TOBACCO	%	CIGGARETTE	%
Boys	10	9.09	80	72.73	20	18.18
Girls	0	0	70	100.0	0	0

Table 5 was a clear reflection of what kinds of intoxicants were used by the adolescent boys and girls. 9.09% of boys said that they use drugs, 72.73% use tobacco and 18.18% of them use cigarettes. Among girls, 100% use tobacco only.

TABLE 6(Reason behind using intoxicants)

GENDER	PEER PRESSURE	%	DEPRESSION	%	CURIOSITY	%	INFLUENCE OF MEDIA	%	OTHERS	%
Boys	20	18.18	20	18.18	60	54.55	0	0	10	9.09
Girls	0	0	0	0	30	42.86	0	0	40	57.14

Table 6, showed the different reasons behind using intoxicants by the adolescent boys and girls. Among boys, 18.18% use intoxicants due to peer pressure, 18.18% because of depression, 54.55% use intoxicants because of curiosity and 9.09% said that they use intoxicants because of their habit. While among the girls, 42.86% use intoxicants because of curiosity and 57.14% said that they use intoxicants because it has become their habit.

TABLE 7(Disturbed interpersonal relationship)

GENDER	YES	%	NO	%
Boys	50	45.45	60	54.55
Girls	0	0	70	100.0

According to Table 7, 45.45% of boys undergo disturbed relationship with family and friends due to the habit of using intoxicants; while 54.55% of boys denied any kind of disturbance in interpersonal relationship because of using intoxicants. 100% girls responded that there was no disturbance in relationship with family or peers because of intoxicants.

TABLE 8(Skipping classes for intoxicants)

GENDER	YES	%	NO	%
Boys	70	63.64	40	36.36
Girls	0	0	70	100

Table 8 revealed that, 63.64% of adolescent boys skipped their classes for intoxicants, while 36.36% did not do the same. 100% of girls said that they did not bunk classes for intoxicants.

TABLE 9 (Effect on educational achievement)

GENDER	YES	%	NO	%
Boys	45	40.91	65	59.09
Girls	0	0	70	100.00

It was evident from Table 9 that about 40.91% of adolescent boys admitted that their academic performance degraded due to intoxicants while 59.09% did not think so. 100% of girls think that their habits of taking intoxicants i.e. tobacco, did not affect their studies.

Major Findings of the Study:

1. There was a difference in the attitude of boys and girls in terms of taking intoxicants.
2. Both boys and girls were influenced by the peers and family members to take intoxicants.
3. The findings also revealed that there was a difference in case of interpersonal relationship between boys and girls due to the use of intoxicants.
4. It has also found that the effect on educational achievement of boys and girls due to the use of intoxicants were different.

Conclusion:

The study has revealed some factors about the adolescents' use of intoxicants which are anxious for the greater society. Adolescents are having disturbed interpersonal relationships, poor academic achievement due to this. This habit will definitely cause harm to their physical health as well as their social bonding may be in danger. The teachers and parents along with the other members of the society should keep an eye so that the intoxicants are not become available for the adolescents. The elder members of every family should realize the fact that their habit of taking intoxicants may affect their children. The teacher and parents should work hand in hand to overcome the problem of using intoxicants by the adolescents, making home and school environment friendly and democratic.

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