

Research Article

Exploring the Life of Drug-Addicted Males: Socioeconomic and Cultural Milieu on Society in Faisalabad City

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ABSTRACT

The drug addiction has become one of the major and alarming social issues of Pakistan. The low-income areas in major cities of Pakistan have become the breeding places of addiction, gambling, prostitution and crimes. Faisalabad is the economic hub, largest textile industrial town and the third largest city of Pakistan. The shantytowns/slums in this city like others are booming with addicts and carrying many socioeconomic evils. A research study was conducted to explore the socioeconomic milieu on society. A sample of 80 respondents was selected randomly out of five settlements having a maximum number of addicts. The primary data was collected from the field in face-to-face interviews. The results of the study showed that majority of the addicts are teenagers, belong to low-income, having low-level education (85%) and belong to the labour class (71.3%). It revealed from an analysis that majority of the addicts are aware of effects of drugs such as it breaks cells, breaks home, brings misery and stiffness, and so on. But they cannot get rid of it because their body demands it badly. At the end the two-plug strategy, reduction in demand and curbing the supply, is proposed.

Keywords: Opium, Abuse, Miseries, Addiction, Psychoactive, Broken homes, Strife

INTRODUCTION

The theory of drug use is as old as civilisation. There is no society in the world that does not use drugs. In older times, drugs were used for medical purpose and

pleasure. The people of Middle East used opium as pain killer, thousands of years ago. Today drug addiction has become one of the most serious problems of the world. Not only it is threatening but its circle is also widening. Men, women or even children are falling prey to this abuse. It has no boundary line and it is not limited to anyone nationality, colours or class of society. It is a world-wide phenomenon, which is threatening lives, wasting potentials, creating broken homes and bringing miseries to humanity. It also causes destruction, strife and unhappiness in family life and even it leads to death. The most important is that this evil has increased the crime rate. The drug addiction has many harmful effects on the society.

It is important to realise that the drug problem is not the problem of isolated families of a particular social stratum, but the problem of all members of society. Drugs have the potential to threaten our children's lives, disrupt our educational institutions and scattered families.

The drug addiction has become one of the major and serious social issues of Pakistan that needs immediate attention and its amicable solution. A survey was conducted ~15 years ago in Pakistan and according to that survey the central jail superintendent, Mr. Khan Ahmed Shujja, informed that 'at present there were 482 addicted persons in the jail and among them Heroin addicted were 298, Chars addicted were 88, Affine addicted were 35, various tablets addicted were 88, Alcohol addicted were 15 and Bhang addicted were 10' (Sujja, 1993). This data shows that majority of addicted jailors were Heroin addicted, which is very dangerous.

Today Pakistan is exposed to a serious drug abuse problem. The production and irrational use of narcotic pose is an alarming challenge to the nation. Emotional disorders, mal-adoption in society pressures in daily life, human problems in the continuing process of technology changes, coupled with wide-spread production and processing of narcotic drugs and their transshipment for profit motives in the domestic and international markets have stimulated the growth of drug abuse problem.

A survey conducted by the frontier post in the year 1989–90 reported that nearly 2 million drug addicts falling in the age group of 15–25 years have been detected whereas in total 1 million patients were found entangled in the cobweb of heroin (Frontier Post, 1991).

According to an estimate nearly 5 million regular drug users are living in Pakistan, 40% are living in urban areas and 60% are living in rural areas. Main users are young people belonging to 15–30 years of age (Daily Nawa-e-Waqt, 2000).

Keeping in view the prevailing situation of drug abuse in Pakistan in general and the increasing number of drug addicts in particular and its socioeconomic and cultural consequences on society it must be the duty of sociologist, planners, social workers, researchers and administrators, to see what they can do personally for the elimination of this social evil. The previous empirical researches provide contradictory and inconclusive evidence on the different aspects of addicts' life and its socioeconomic and cultural milieus in society. Faisalabad is the industrial hub of Pakistan and the third largest textile town of the country. The city is expanding rapidly and many low-income settlements—shanty towns of labourers—have sprung up. These settlements are the Ghettos and breeding places of drug addicts. Therefore, the present research is designed to find out the life style, life pattern and status of drug-addicted males and subsequently what are its socioeconomic and cultural consequences on the individuals as well as upon our society due to illicit addiction in low-income areas of Faisalabad city.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

From the early 1900s one of the important issues is drug abuse and the variation in deviant behaviour in different societies. Durkheim explained how variation in deviant behaviour within and between societies depends on the social structure. Here we are relating his theory to 'drug addiction', which is deviant behaviour. According to this report, result in break down in the power of social norms, regulate and discipline men's action (Durkheim, 1931).

Rosen (1972) found in his research study that addicts are markedly oral, intolerant of frustration hostile narcotic and with low self-esteem. They come from unhealthy homes and frustrated, poor, low-income and un-serviced locality backgrounds.

Rehman (1982) conducted a study under the topic 'Drug Addiction and its Sociological Perspectives'. It has been concluded that association with deviants, the lack of good direction and also liberty that a student has after secondary level or during higher education may be the factors, which affect young person's decision whether or not to use drugs as well as including parental relationship, attitude toward living environment, sense of value, and so on.

Graham (1975) found one of the most important differences between drug users and non-users. It was the degree of separation forms of their parents they felt. Drug users felt rejection at home that their parents did not trust them. Disruption of ties with parents may be expected to occur more frequently in broken families. Drug addiction is found associated with broken families and with loss of parents.

Shahid (1978) conducted a survey under the title 'A Study of Causes and Effects of Narcotic Addiction in the Walled City of Lahore'. The researcher concluded that majority of addicts' stated using narcotic for the sake of company and to

some extent to remove mental depression but almost all the respondent started using narcotic in the company of friends.

Mufti (1979) studied that opium addiction in the light of Cohen's theory of subculture and Sutherland's theory of learning mechanism. He found that opium was used to overcome the stress of life. The addicts take rescue under its cover as a result of rejection by their families, neighbourhood and working colleagues. They used drug in association with other peer addicts.

Riaz (1973) conducted 'An Investigation of Drug in Use and Abuse in the City of Lahore'. The researcher concluded that majority of the respondents included in the universe of the study are the uneducated young males. The results of his study also showed that they are coming from lower socioeconomic status.

Dean (1984) conducted interviews of 700 addicts in a neighbourhood called 'Lyari' in Karachi. She found that 36% of respondents told pleasure as the main reason for starting drugs by them, while 15% of respondent gave a number of socioeconomic and psychological reasons for the use of drugs. Some of the respondents also took drugs on experimental grounds to satisfy their curiosity.

Estone (1987) conducted his research study in New York City and Chicago and from his findings suggested that the use of heroin and other opiates instance is learned through association with peers in the sub-culture of street corner society.

Farooq (1996) conducted a research on addicts and found that majority of the respondents acquired this habit from their friends. He further concluded that majority of the addicts did not realise their responsibilities toward their families and in this way they become a burden for the family.

Habib (1998) conducted a research on addicts. He found that majority of addicts were teenagers, usually they started taking heroin for seeking pleasure, which is of quite different nature from opium and chars. He found that 68% of the addicts were literate and unmarried, respectively.

Din and Qureshi (1998) reported in a special study conducted in Northern areas of Pakistan typically abusers of their heroin were up to 24 years of age and 61% of them were literate and they belong to better socioeconomic class abusers of other drug. About 76% of the addicts pointed out that heroin were introduced by some intimate friends.

Khan (1999) conducted a research on 'sociocultural factors in drug addiction'. He found that majority of the respondents started using narcotics for the sake of company. The main reason for the involvement in drug addiction was the lack of parental supervision, peer group influence, frustration in loving affairs and criminal sub-culture.

Nabeel (1999) conducted a research on ‘Drug Addiction among Youth’ and found that the peer group was a vital factor that implemented the habit of drug use. Huge majority (85%) respondents started the use of drugs under the pressure of peer groups, and lack of healthy recreational activities and bad company led them to this path. Parent’s negligence made these things easy for the addicts.

METHODOLOGY

According to Nachmias and Nachmias (1992) ‘the scientific methodology is a system of explicit rules and procedures upon which research is based and against which the claims for knowledge is evaluated’. The first step is to select the universe of the research. As Dixon and Marry (1957) said that any set of individuals or object having common observable characteristics constitute a population or universe. This research was conducted in low-income areas of Faisalabad city. A list of all low-income areas situated in Faisalabad city was collected from the office of Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA). Afterwards a list of settlements where many cases of drug-addicted males are registered was obtained from local office of Anti Narcotics Control Department working in Faisalabad, which was used as the sampling frame of this research. Then five low-income settlements keeping in view their geographical location (equally distributed in whole city) were selected randomly as universe of this study. There are ~800 addicted male persons in selected five settlements. Keeping in view the total population, 10% sample (80 respondents) was taken. Afterwards a proportionate number from each selected settlement was taken. The Snow-ball Sampling Technique was used to identify the respondents.

A well-conceived and well-structured ‘Interviewing Schedule’ was prepared as the data collection tool. The interviewing schedule was pre-tested on 10 respondents. Finally, the interview schedule was consisted upon 51 questions in the light of pre-testing.

According to Chaudhary (1984) the most important part of statistical work is perhaps data collection. The data was collected in 20 days by the researchers in a face-to-face interview and many difficulties were faced. All efforts were made to enhance the reliability and validity of the data. The data were statically analysed by using computer software called ‘Statistical Package for Social Science’ (SPSS). Both descriptive and inferential analyses were carried out as detailed below.

Frequency and Percentage Calculation

Each item of investigation was analysed in to a frequency distribution. The percentages were calculated by using the following formula:

$$P = F/N \times 100$$

Where

P = Percentage

F = Number of observations frequency

N = Total number of frequencies

Hypothesis Testing

A hypothesis testing is a method of making statistical decisions using experimental data. The relationship of two variables (independent and dependent) was explored through hypothesis testing that is also called sometimes as conformity data analysis. The validity of this relationship (between independent and dependent variables) was confirmed through Pearson's chi-square (χ^2) test. The formula for chi-square is as under:

$$\chi^2 = \frac{\Sigma (O-E)^2}{E}$$

Where:

O = observed value

E = expected value

Σ = denotes total sum.

To know the significant relationship, the calculated values of chi-square were compared with corresponding table values at 0.000 levels of significance. The results were considered significant, if the calculated values of chi-square were greater than the table values. On the other hand if calculated values of chi-square were smaller than the table values then it was regarded as insignificant. Following hypotheses were tested:

H1: Lower the monthly income of the respondent, higher will be the rate of drug in taking daily.

H2: Using more quantity of drug daily will lead towards more chances for cancer.

H3: Addicts who did not try to get rid of addiction, higher will be chances for committing suicide for them.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Socioeconomic and Cultural Attributes of Addicts

The religion, age composition, educational level, marital status, monthly income and occupation of the addicts were explored. The socioeconomic attributes of the

respondents collected from the field survey for this study are given below. It is surprising that addiction is prohibited by God in *Quran* even then majority (73.8%) of respondents is Muslims. The data reveal that majority is from the age of 16 to 36 years-productive folk, illiterate or having primary level education, from low income (Rs. 5000–8000 per month) and belong to the labour class (71.3%).

Different Aspects of Drug Using by Addicts

The different aspects related to drug usage such as type of drug, causes of using drug, rate of daily taking drug, techniques of drug taking and source of money spending on drugs were explored during this study and the summary of results is presented in Table 1. It is evident from the results that majority are taking heroin (63.8%), main causes are social and economic(56.3%), majority (92.5%) are taking drugs twice, three or more times per day by smoking, inhaling and injecting, which is very dangerous and majority of addicts are using money on drugs from parents, own salary/earnings and money collected through begging.

Socioeconomic and Cultural Milieus in Society

The main purpose of this research study was to explore that how our society is being affected by the drug addicts. The effects of drug abuse are presented in the proceeding paragraphs.

Effects of Drug on the Individual (Addicts) Level

The researchers explored that what are the destructive and awful effects, which the drug abuse brings on the individuals? The respondents' views are narrated in Table 2.

It is evident from Table 2 that majority of the respondents agreed that drug abuse has destructive effects on the individuals (addicts). The majority was of the view that addiction leads to death (63.3%), addicts become emotional (68.8%), behaviour of addicts is miserable and irritating (63.8%), addicts lose confidence (71.3%) and lose will to work (72.5%), addicts become frustrated (87.5%) and commit suicide (90%), addicts are not capable of doing anything (78.8%), addiction breakdown living cells (95%) and addiction leads to cancer (95%). It can be concluded that addiction has very severe and negative effects on the individual level. But they (addicts) cannot get rid of it because their body demands drugs; they could not feel relax till they do not get drug. Moreover, they give tough time to their families as well as friends and other society members.

Socioeconomic and Cultural Milieus at Family and Society Levels

The cumulative impacts of addicts are very alarming at family and society levels. The addicts themselves reflected and their views are presented in Table 3.

Table 1: Summary of socio-economic attributes of addicts

Socioeconomic factors	Frequency	Percentage
Religion of the respondents		
Muslim	59	73.8
Christian	20	25.0
Other	1	1.3
Total	80	100.0
Age composition of respondents (years)		
5–15	2	2.5
16–26	27	33.8
27–36	32	40.0
37–46	11	13.8
47–56	2	2.5
>57	6	7.5
Total	80	100.0
Educational level of respondents		
Illiterate	40	50.0
Literate	4	5.0
Primary (1–5)	16	20.0
Middle (6–8)	8	10.0
Secondary School Certificate	6	7.5
Higher Secondary School	4	5.0
Graduates	1	1.3
Post-graduates	1	1.3
Total	80	100.0
Total monthly income of household (Rs.)		
5000–8000	62	77.5
9000–12000	8	10.0
13000–16000	4	5.0
>20000	6	7.5
Total	80	100.0
Occupation of respondents		
Agriculture	2	2.5
Business	4	5.0
Government employee	3	3.8
Self-employed	7	8.8
Labour	57	71.3
Other	7	8.8
Total	80	100.0

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Table 2: Different aspects of drug used by the addicts

Different aspects of drug usage	Frequency	Percentage
Types of the drugs being used by addicts		
Cigarette	6	7.5
Heroin	51	63.8
Opium	8	10.0
Morphine	1	1.3
Chars	12	15.0
Other	2	2.5
Total	80	100.0
Cause of using drugs		
Social cause	24	30.0
Economic cause	21	26.3
Psychological cause	6	7.5
Geographical cause	28	35.0
Other	1	1.3
Total	80	100.0
Rate of daily used drugs		
Once	6	7.5
Twice	28	35.0
Three times	27	33.8
More	19	23.8
Total	80	100.0
Techniques of using drugs		
Smoking	21	26.3
Inhaling	30	37.5
Injection	26	32.5
Other	3	3.8
Total	80	100.0
Source of money spending on drugs		
Parents/guardians' money	15	18.8
Own salary/earnings	45	56.3
To beg from others	17	21.3
Get money by theft	1	1.3
Any other source	2	2.5
Total	80	100.0

Table 3: Summaries of different individual level effects on addicts

Different aspects of drug usage	Frequency	Percentage
Addiction leads to death		
Strongly agree	53	66.3
Agree	25	31.3
Indifferent	2	2.5
Total	80	100.0
Addicted person become emotional		
Yes	55	68.8
No	25	31.3
Total	80	100.0
Changes that occurred in the behaviour of addicted person		
Polite	19	23.8
Ruddy	4	5.0
Humble	6	7.5
Miserable	42	52.5
Irritating	9	11.3
Total	80	100.0
Addicts lose self-confidence		
Yes	57	71.3
No	23	28.8
Total	80	100.0
Addicted persons lose will to work		
Yes	58	72.5
No	22	27.5
Total	80	100.0
Addicted persons become frustrated		
Yes	70	87.5
No	10	12.5
Total	80	100.0
Addicted persons commit suicide		
Yes	72	90.0
No	8	10.0
Total	80	100.0
Addicted persons are not capable of doing any thing		
Strongly agree	33	41.3
Agree	30	37.5
Indifferent	1	1.3
Disagree	16	20.0
Total	80	100.0

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Drug breaks down living cells		
Yes	76	95.0
No	4	5.0
Total	80	100.0
Addiction leads to cancer		
Yes	76	95.0
No	4	5.0
Total	80	100.0
Attitude of family members towards addicted persons		
Normal	13	16.3
Kind	9	11.3
Polite	3	3.8
Harsh	39	48.8
Cruel	16	19.1
Total	80	100.0

Table 4 reveals that the consequences of addiction on social, economic and cultural stratum of families and society are very severe, destructive and alarming. The same data portrays the details about these impacts as explored from the addicts: reaction of majority (93.8%) of families is negative with addicts, addiction destruct lives (98.8%), addiction brings severe strife in life (85.0%), addiction brings unhappiness up to large extent in family and society (93.8%), addiction is serious threat to lives (86.3%), addiction is wasting potential of youth (86.3%), addiction is creating broken homes (82.5%), addiction is bringing miseries of humanity (93.8%) and the crime rate is increasing due to addiction (87.5%).

Hypothesis Testing

The conformity test (hypothesis testing) is used to find out the relation between two variables (X , Y , independent and dependent) in the data. It explores the concept of association between two variables. The association is based on how two variables simultaneously change together, that is, the notion of convention. It is usually undertaken to see if one variable is related to another variable. Following hypotheses were tested.

Hypothesis No. 1: Lower the monthly income of the respondent, the higher will be the rate of daily drug consumption.

The results of Table 5 show that the monthly income of the respondents has no effect on the rate of consumption of drug daily by the addicts. So there is no significant association between independent variable (monthly income) and

Table 4: Different impacts of addiction on family and society

Different impacts of drug usage	Frequency	Percentage
Reaction of familiar and non-familiar persons towards addicts		
Positive	5	6.3
Negative	75	93.8
Total	80	100.0
Addiction is destructing lives		
Yes	79	98.8
No	1	1.3
Total	80	100.0
How much strife addiction is bringing in life?		
Severe	68	85.0
Normal	12	15.0
Total	80	100.0
How much unhappiness addiction is bringing in life?		
Up to large extent	75	93.8
Up to some extent	5	6.3
Total	80	100.0
Perception of respondents regarding addiction is serious threat for lives		
Up to large extent	69	86.3
Up to some extent	8	10.0
Not at all	3	3.8
Total	80	100.0
Frequency		
Perception of respondents about addiction wasting potential of youth		
Up to large extent	69	86.3
Up to some extent	8	10.0
Not at all	3	3.8
Total	80	100.0
Addiction is creating broken homes		
Strongly agree	66	82.5
Agree	13	16.3
Disagree	1	1.3
Total	80	100.0
Addiction is bringing miseries of humanity		
Up to large extent	75	93.8
Up to some extent	5	6.3
Total	80	100.0
Addicts indulge into crime and crime rate is increasing		
Yes	70	87.5
No	10	12.5
Total	80	100.0

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Table 5: Association between monthly income of respondent and daily rate of drug consumption by the respondent

Monthly income (Rs.) of respondents	Distribution of respondents regarding Rate of Addiction				Total
	Once	Twice	Three times	More	
5000–8000	4 (6.5%)	22 (35.5%)	22 (35.5%)	14 (22.6%)	62 (100.0%)
9000–12 000	0 (0.0%)	2 (25.0%)	3 (37.53%)	3 (37.5%)	8 (100.0%)
13 000–16 000	1 (25.0%)	1 (25.0%)	1 (25.0%)	1 (25.0%)	4 (100.0%)
>20 000	1 (16.7%)	3 (50.0%)	1 (16.7%)	1 (16.7%)	6 (100.0%)
Total	6 (7.5%)	28 (35.0%)	27 (33.8%)	19 (23.8%)	80 (100.0%)

Pearson chi-square value=5.229(a); Ssignificant values = 0.814; df=9

dependent variable (rate of daily drug consumption). Thus, the hypothesis ‘Lower the monthly income of the respondent, the higher will be the rate of daily drug consumption’ is rejected.

Hypothesis No. 2: Using more quantity of drug daily, will lead toward more chances for cancer.

The results of analysis as presented in Table 6 reveal that use of more quantity of drug daily has no influence on more chances of cancer. Therefore, there is no significant association between the independent variable (using more quantity of drugs daily) and dependent variable (more chances of cancer). Thus, the hypothesis ‘Using more quantity of drug daily, will lead toward more chances for cancer’ is rejected.

Hypothesis No. 3: Addicts who did not try to get rid of addiction, the higher will be chances for committing suicide by them.

It is evident from the results of Table 7 that addicts who did not try to get rid of drug addiction have no impact on higher chances for committing suicide by them. So there is no significant association between the independent variable (who did not try to get rid of addiction) and dependent variable (higher chances for committing suicide). Thus, the hypothesis ‘Addicts who did not try to get rid of addiction, the higher will be chances for committing suicide by them’ is rejected.

Table 6: Association between quantity of daily use of drug and chances of cancer

Category of quantity daily used drugs	Distribution of respondents regarding addiction leads to cancer		Total
	Yes	No	
1–5 mg	21 100.0%	0 0.0%	21 100.0%
3–4 mg	19 95.0%	1 50.0%	20 100.0%
5–6 mg	14 87.5%	2 12.5%	16 100.0%
7–8 mg	8 88.9%	1 11.1%	9 100.0%
9–10 mg	11 100.0%	0 0.0%	11 100.0%
>10	3 100.0%	0 .0%	3 100.0%
Total	76 95.0%	4 5.0%	80 100.0%

Pearson’s chi-square =4.444(a); Significant value = 0.487; df=5
Addicts who did not try to get rid of addiction, higher will be chances for committing suicide for them.

Table 7: Association between will of addict persons to getting rid of drug addiction and committing suicide

Category of getting rid of addiction	Distribution of respondents regarding addicted persons commit suicide		Total
	Yes	No	
Yes	59 89.4%	7 10.6%	66 100.0%
No	13 92.9%	1 7.1%	14 100.0%
Total	72 90.0%	8 10.9%	80 100.0%

Pearson chi-square =154(b); Significant value = 0.695; df= 1

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The present research was conducted to explore the life of male drug addicts and socioeconomic and cultural milieu on the society in low-income areas of Faisalabad city.

Many respondents were using the drugs due to socio-psychological factors and remaining due to economic and other factors. As far as types of narcotics are concerned, heroin was found to be the main item being used by the respondents. Majority of the respondents belong to the poor labour class and were illiterate, so awareness of the hazards of the addiction was very low. The productivity in terms of useful members of the society and earning hand for the family both were decreased, which sometimes force them to indulge in different crimes.

In the light of above-mentioned severe and destructive effects of drug abuse on the addicts at the individual level as well as on the society level, the two plug strategy is suggested. On one side demand reduction efforts for illicit drugs must be initiated more affectively and vigorously. Simultaneously on the other hand the supply reduction strategy must be launched. The main thrust of this aspect should be geared towards reducing the production of such drugs in the country. At the country or national level such a reduction strategy will depend on the law enforcement involving investigation, prosecution and seizure of assets of drugs traffickers. But at international activities the Pakistan Government should don concerted efforts such as border banning, activating diplomatic efforts and cooperation with foreign governments and international organisations. This will culminate into encouragement of crop eradication program with income substitution and rural development programs with the support of international law enforcement program, support of international narcotics control program by other government.

Through a vibrant and dynamic campaign of lectures demonstration and tutorial group discussion in universities, colleges and schools, the youth may be persuaded to stop the use of drugs. Strong social pressure should apply on the parents, faculty teacher meetings.

Moreover, the parents should give company to their children as well provide good and pleasant and enjoyable atmosphere at home. Hence the role of family institution cannot be overemphasised in this respect.

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