

## ATTITUDE TOWARDS DRUGS AND ALCOHOL AMONG SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN RELATION TO THEIR LOCUS OF CONTROL

Monika Bhagat, MA, MEd, NET\*

### ABSTRACT

*The aim of the present study was to investigate the attitude towards drugs and alcohol among senior secondary school students in relation to their locus of control. The study was conducted on Senior Secondary School students of Ludhiana district of Punjab. In the present study descriptive method was used. So it was decided to get data from 200 Senior Secondary School Students to see the Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol in relation to their Locus of Control of Senior Secondary School students. Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol Attitude Scale by Sunil Saini and Sandeep Singh and Locus of Control by Sanjay Vohra (Indian Adaptation of Levenson Scale) were used to collect data. After analysis results revealed that attitude towards drugs and alcohol of rural and urban students at senior secondary school students do not differ significantly from each other. It was also concluded that locus of control of rural and urban students at senior secondary school students differ significantly. The study further concludes that attitude towards drugs and alcohol and locus of control of male and female students at senior secondary school students not differ significantly. The results of correlation analysis indicated that there was a negligible correlation between attitude towards drugs and alcohol and locus of control of Senior Secondary School Students. The value of correlation was found to be on positive side but not significant at both of the level of significance.*

**Keywords:** Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol, Locus of Control, Senior Secondary School Students, Drug Addiction.

### INTRODUCTION

Drugs are the medicines prescribed by a doctor at the time of problem faced by an organism. When these medicines are taken without doctor's advice and in such a way that they harm our body it is termed as drug abuse. In other words, the overdose of drugs which put adverse effect on our body can be termed as drug abuse. In these days, most of the families are nuclear and both father and mother are in job field so they do not give proper time and attention to their children. In fact, parents give money to children to fulfil their needs but they take drugs to escape from loneliness. Most of the time, they spent their whole money to purchase drugs to escape from their loneliness.

---

\*Assistant Professor, Sadbhavna College of Education For Women, Raikot, Ludhiana, Punjab, India

---

One more reason for drug abuse is lack of patience. People get angry and frustrated often and just to remove their frustration, they start taking drugs. Addiction is not limited to drugs and alcohol. People can be addicted to many things such as food, gambling, shopping or most anything that gets in the way of a healthy lifestyle.

In every field, today either in studies or business, the competition has increased. Some are not strong enough to bear the stress or pressure of this competition world. They do not understand the fact that the thing which they are considering to be the solution of their problem is actually going to create a new problem for them. There are several factors and causes to consider with addiction. First there is genetic component, Personality and Peer pressure.

Drug addiction occurs when the pathways in system are altered by repeated use of a substance. Once a person becomes addicted to drugs he cannot leave them easily. If one tries to leave them his body does not work properly. He feels restless, gets tired, and remains irritated the whole day. This problem is growing day by day and has become a serious problem with intake of drugs body goes on weak day by day. Drug addicted person gets away from his family and finally he loses them.

Locus of control refers to the person's perception of the underlying cause of events in their life. If the individual has an external locus of control they will tend to view their own behaviour and experiences to be the result of external forces. When people have a more internal locus of control it means that they believe that their behaviour and experience is mostly due to forces that they actively control. Those individuals who believe that they are in charge of their own destiny benefit from such an attitude because by feeling in control of their future the person feels motivated to take action. If a person feels like their future is out of their hands there will be no motivation to take any positive action. Those people who have an internal locus of control are far more likely to engage in behaviours that will improve their life. Blaming other people or life for problems tends to be an ineffective strategy. It turns the person into a passive victim instead of an active participant. The person is driving to do things and does not waste time with excuses to justify inaction. Success does not tend to fall from the skies – people have to make it happen.

Drug addiction is a chronically relapsing disorder, characterized by a compulsive drive to seek drugs and a loss of control over drug intake. Multiple lines of evidence indicate that drug addiction is associated with significant disruptions in brain systems underlying self-control. Person with internal locus of control less prone to drugs because, of their willpower and ability to control their own actions. They are self motivated to improve their life.

Internally controlled individuals believe that successes or failures in life are due to their own efforts and abilities, whereas those with an external sense of control believe that control is out of their hands and that outcomes in life are determined by forces such as other people, luck or fate. People with external locus of control have no or less control over their actions and are guided by external environment. They are influenced by other

people and fate. People with external locus of control are more likely to take drugs. The present study is an attempt to explore the relationship between attitude towards drug and alcohol and locus of control. This study will help teacher, psychologist, and doctors to design a drug education programme according to the needs and Attitude of the students' towards Drugs and Alcohol. This study will also help us to find out the relationship between Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol and Locus of Control. The results of the study will help professionals to provide counselling to the parents, teachers, friends and other society members. Many Times youngster fails to get job according to their ability due to competition and lack of chance of employability in India. As a result, they are being attracted by the drugs.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To study the difference in Locus of control of rural and urban Senior Secondary School Students.
2. To find out the difference in Locus of Control of male and female Senior Secondary School Students.
3. To find out the difference in Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol of male and female Senior Secondary School Students.
4. To find out the relationship between Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol and Locus of control of Senior Secondary School Students.

#### **HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY**

1. There will be no significant difference in the attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol of Rural and Urban Senior Secondary School Students.
2. There will be no significant difference in the Locus of Control among Rural and Urban Senior Secondary School Students.
3. There will be no significant difference in the attitude towards drugs and alcohol of male and female Senior Secondary School Students.
4. There will be no significant difference in the locus of control among male and female Senior Secondary School Students.
5. There will be significant relationship between Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol with Locus of Control of Senior Secondary School Students.

#### **METHOD & PROCEDURE**

In the present study descriptive method was used. The primary aim of the present study was to investigate the attitude towards drugs and alcohol among senior secondary school students in relation to their locus of control. The investigator used purposive sampling technique. The study was conducted on Senior Secondary School students of Ludhiana district of Punjab. So it was decided to get data from 200 Senior Secondary School Students for assessment of theirs the Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol in relation to their Locus of Control. The sample was divided into 100 male and

100 female. The sample was further decided into 50 rural and 50 urban Senior Secondary School Students.

In the present study the following standardized tools with adequate reliability and validity were employed to collect the relevant data-

1. Drug and Alcohol Attitude Scale by Sunil Saini and Sandeep Singh.
2. Locus of Control by Sanjay Vohra (Indian Adaptation of Levensons Scale).

After administering the tools the response was scored according to the direction given in the manual. To have a clear and meaning full picture for interpretation of data and testing of hypotheses, the data were subjected to the statistical techniques. Mean, Standard deviation, correlation and t- test were applied for statistical analysis of data.

### SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

**Table 1: Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol of Rural and Urban Senior Secondary School Students.**

Group	N	df	Mean	S.D	Level of Significance	Table Value	Calculated Value
Rural	100	198	69.98	14.848	0.05	1.97	0.0090
Urban	100		76.21	18.383	0.01	2.60	

Table No: 1 reveal that the mean value of rural and urban Senior Secondary School Students on attitude towards drugs and alcohol was 69.98 and 76.21 respectively. The standard deviation of rural and urban for the same variable was found 14.848 and 18.383 respectively. The calculated t- ratio of attitude towards drugs and alcohol among rural and urban Senior Secondary School Students was 0.0090 which was found not significant at both levels i.e. 0.05 and 0.01 levels of significance. So our calculated value is lower than the table value. So hypothesis, "There is no significant difference in the attitude towards drugs and alcohol of rural and urban students" remain accepted.

**Table No: 2 Locus of Control of Rural and Urban Senior Secondary School students.**

Group	N	df	Mean	S.D	Level of Significance	Table value	Calculated Value
Rural	100	198	79.26	9.580	0.05	1.97	5.914
Urban	100		71.17	17.21	0.01	2.60	

Table No: 2 reveal that the mean value of rural and urban Senior Secondary School Students on locus of control was 79.26 and 71.17 respectively. The standard deviation of rural and urban of the same variable was found 9.587 and 17.21 respectively. The calculated t- ratio of locus of control among rural and urban Senior Secondary School

Students was 5.914 which was found significant at both levels i.e. 0.05 and 0.01 levels of significance. So our calculated value is higher than the table value. So hypothesis, "There is significant difference in the locus of control of rural and urban senior secondary school students" remain rejected.

**Table 3: Attitude towards drugs and alcohol of male and female Senior Secondary School students**

Group	N	df	Mean	S.D	Level of Significance	Table value	Calculated Value
Male	100	198	74.69	18.99	0.05	1.97	0.1841
Female	100		71.5	14.56	0.01	2.60	

Table No. 3 reveal that the mean value of male and female Senior Secondary School Students on attitude towards drugs and alcohol was 74.69 and 71.5 respectively. The standard deviation of male and female for the same variable was found 18.99 and 14.56 respectively. The calculated t- ratio of attitude towards drugs and alcohol among male and female Senior Secondary School Students was 0.1841 which was found not significant at both levels i.e. 0.05 and 0.01 levels of significance. So our calculated value is lower than the table value. So hypothesis, "There is no significant difference in the attitude towards drugs and alcohol of male and female students" remain accepted.

**Table 4: Locus of control of male and female Senior Secondary School students**

Group	N	df	Mean	S.D	Level of Significance	Table value	Calculated Value
Male	100	198	71.49	16.78	0.05	1.97	0.00022
Female	100		78.94	10.57	0.01	2.60	

Table No. 4 reveal that the mean value of male and female Senior Secondary School Students on locus of control was 71.49 and 78.94 respectively. The standard deviation of male and female for the same variable was found 16.78 and 10.57 respectively. The calculated t- ratio of locus of control among male and female Senior Secondary School Students was 0.00022 which was found not significant at both levels i.e. 0.05 and 0.01 levels of significance. So our calculated value is lower than the table value. So hypothesis, "There is no significant difference in the locus of control of male and female Senior Secondary School students" remain accepted.

**Table 5: Relationship between Attitude towards Drugs and Alcohol and Locus of Control of Senior Secondary School Students.**

Variables	df	N	Mean	SD	R
Locus of control	198	100	75.215	14.48	0.030
Attitude towards Drugs and alcohol		100	73.095	16.95	

Description based on table 5 presents the relationship between attitude towards drugs and alcohol and locus of control of Senior Secondary School Students is 0.030, which is non-significant at both levels of significance levels. In this context, the null hypothesis, namely, "There is no significant relationship between attitude towards drugs and alcohol and locus of control of Senior Secondary School Students.", is rejected. The results indicated that there was a negligible correlation between drugs and alcohol and locus of control of Senior Secondary School Students.

### CONCLUSION

The conclusions drawn from the present study or the piece of research work are as:

It is concluded that attitude towards drugs and alcohol of rural and urban senior secondary school students do not differ significantly from each other.

It is concluded that locus of control of rural and urban senior secondary school students differ significantly from each other.

It is also concluded that attitude towards drugs and alcohol and locus of control of male and female senior secondary school students do not differ significantly from each other.

The investigator found that there is no significant relationship between attitude towards drugs and alcohol and locus of control of senior secondary school students.

It is found that there is a negligible correlation between attitude towards drugs and alcohol and locus of control of senior secondary school students.

### Reference

- Akers, R., & Sellers, C. (2004). *Criminological Theories: Introduction, Evaluation, and Application (4th Ed.)*. Los Angeles: Roxbury.
- Brody G. H., GE, X., Katz, T. & Ariet. I. (2000). A longitudinal analyses of internationalization of parental alcohol-use norms and adolescent alcohol use. *Applied Developmental science, 4*, 71-79.
- Carmelli, D., Swan, G.E., & Robinette, D. (1993). The relationship between quitting smoking and changes in drinking in World War 2 veteran twins. *Journal of Substance Abuse, 5*, 102-116.

- Fatoye, F. O. & Morakinyo, O. (2000). Substance used amongst secondary school student in rural and urban communities in South western Nigeria. *East Africa Medical Journal*, 299-305.
- Hampton, T.R. (2000) *Identification of children of alcoholics through use of children's drawing*. Dissertation Abstracts International, 61(1):97-A.
- Johnston, L.D.O'Malley, P.M., & Bachman, J.G. (2001).Monitoring the Future National Survey Results on Drug Use 1975-2000, vol. 1: Secondary School Students.NIH publication no. 01-4924. Rockville, MD: National Institute on Drug Abuse
- Landrine, H.,Bardwell, S., & Dean, T. (1988). Gender expectations for alcohol use: A study of the significant of the masculine role. *Sex Roles*, 19, 703-712.
- Markowitz, P., and Crag, R.J. (1992).Conscious and unconscious perceptions of self in children of alcoholics.*International Journal of the Addictions*, 27(6), 1187-1196.
- McDermott, D. (1984). The relationship of parental drug use and parents' attitudes concerning adolescents drug use to adolescent drug use. *Adolescence*, 73, 89-97.
- Moon, D.G., Hecht, M.L., Jackson, K.M.,& Spellers, R.E. (1999). Ethnic and gender differences and similarities in adolescents drug use and refusals of drug offers. *Substance Use and Misuse*, 34, 1059-1083.
- Morey, C.K. (1993).*Children of alcoholics: A comparative and intervention study*. Dissertation Abstract International 53(9):3150-A.
- Petratis, J., Flay, B.R., & Miller, T.Q.(1995). Reviewing theories of adolescent substance use: Organising pieces in the puzzle.*Psychological Bulletin*, 117, 67-86.
- Price, A.W., and Emshoff, J.G. (1997) Breaking the cycle of addiction: Prevention and intervention with children of alcoholics. *Alcohol Health and Research World*, 21(3), 241-246.
- Svensson, R.(2000). Risk factors for different dimensions of adolescent drug use.*Journal of Child and Adolescent Substance Abuse*, 9, 67-90.
- Wills, T.A., Mariani, J.,& Filer, M.(1996). The role of family and peer relationships in adolescent substance use. In G.R. Pierce, B.R. Sarason, and I.G. Sarason(Eds), *Handbook of Social Support and the Family* (pp. 521-549). New York: Plenum Press.
- World Health Organization (2004). *Global Status Report on Alcohol 2004*. Geneva: World Health Organization.