

**IMPACT OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE ON RELATIONSHIP WITH HOME ENVIRONMENT AND
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AMONG THE ADOLESCENTS OF THRISSUR DISTRICT IN
KERALA STATE**

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Abstract

Substance abuse by adolescents is a growing issue for the society as well as the government. Abuse of substance affects not only the adolescent, but also the family and society as a whole. Therefore, this issue becomes a matter of national concern and priority. Various factors cause the adolescents to fall into the risk of substance abuse. In order to guide the psychiatric and medical social workers in their service relating to the treatment and rehabilitation of substance abusing adolescents, the impact of such abuse on the home environment and academic achievements need to be assessed. The present study provides a model to make such an assessment of damage or impact occurred on a substance abusing adolescent. The study is based on a convenient sample of 400 respondents who have addicted to one or more substances and brought to the non-governmental organization for treatment and rehabilitation. The researcher found that average impacts of all dimensions were computed and level of substance abuse among the respondents of the present sample is 93.2 percent. About 66 percent of the respondents had very high level of substance abuse while 18.5 percent were having high level of substance abuse. However, overall 65.3 percent of the respondents have had a low level of positive home environment for the substance abuse adolescents whereas 34.8 percent of the respondents have had a high level of favourable home environment for the substance abuse adolescents. Further, overall level of academic achievements, 67.2 percent of the respondents have had a high level of negative perception towards academic achievements of adolescents due to their substance abuse whereas 32.8 percent of the respondents have had low level of negative perception towards academic achievements. Medical social work practitioners and non-governmental organizations within the social service field can utilize this information to devise proper interventions for the substance abusing adolescents and take more efficient steps in decreasing substance use tendencies among adolescents. The findings of the study would be useful for administrators, policy makers, social workers, voluntary organizations, school authorities and parents dealing with the issues relating to substance addicted adolescents.

Keywords: Substance Abuse, Academic Achievements, Home Environment, Non-Governmental Organization, Rehabilitation

1. INTRODUCTION

Substance abuse among the adolescents is a growing problem across the world including India. Substance abuse is the use of a drug in amounts or by methods which are harmful to the individual or others. It is a form of substance-related disorder. Kushal Singh, Chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (2019), stated that use of substance among children is basically due to curiosity, peer pressure and also low perception of harm, migration, poverty, street life etc, adds to the menace. Substance use among children and adolescents is of urgent public health concern (Bardhan, Saikia and Baruah 2018). Substance use at a younger age interferes with normative age appropriate development and makes children more vulnerable to several health and psychosocial consequences. It has also been reported that generally children in conflict with law are associated with one or other form of substance, further complicating the issue of protecting them from such a situation (Moore et al. 2018). Adolescents are recognized as the most vulnerable group towards substance abuse. According to World Drug Report, UNDCP (2018) substance abuse was earlier considered to be a problem of street children, working children and trafficked children but it has now become a wide spread phenomenon affecting all segments of the society. Substance abuse especially among adolescents has become an issue of concern throughout the world (Bugbee et al. 2019 and Koch 2019).

Complications due to substance use may include Psychological problems such as shame, guilt, low self esteem, depression, anxiety, cognitive difficulties such as attention and memory problems interfere with learning at school or acquiring the work skills, poor academic performance such as low grades, learning difficulties, at risk of dropping out, familial problems such as mistrust of parents, scolding, relationship problems, Social problems such as loss of relationship with non-substance using peers, out-cast, Anti- social activities such as engaging in stealing/lying to procure substances, risky behaviours such as driving under influence such as accidents, road rage, violence, unsafe sex, exposure to sexually transmitted infections/HIV, teenage pregnancy, health damage such as lowered immunity, risk of infectious illnesses, inhalant use may affect multiple organs, including heart and brain, and even sudden death may occur with inhalant use, due to suffocation, choking, heart rate disturbances (Gobbi et al., 2019 and Jiloha 2017). Substance abuse in any form by adolescents is of high concern for public health and social living. Studying the impact of substance abuse among the adolescents is important not only to control such abuses but also to understand factors influencing such substance abuse among the adolescents and to rehabilitate the victims of substance abuse. The profession of Social work, in the form of medical social work and Psychiatric social work, provides overall care for the victims of substance abuse by rehabilitating them, making them acceptable by the society and bringing them back to the normal life (Katoki, Bhagabaty and Kalita 2016). At this juncture the present study conducted to analyze the level of substance abuse among the adolescents and its impact on home environment and academic achievements, so that level of rehabilitation and treatments could be planned for them by the medical / psychiatric social worker.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Substance abuse by adolescents cause a lot of negative impact on their well being and also on their relationship with family members, peers and the society around them. Many researchers have attempted studies on the abuse of substance by adolescents and have come out with valuable findings and suggestions. A review of past studies relating to the substance abuse and its impacts on adolescents' home environment and academic achievements is presented as follows:

Bugbee et al. (2019) examined approximately one-fourth of participants had never used cigarettes, alcohol, or other drugs during their lifetime and 8% used at least one substance during their lifetime but not during the past year. The study found that many 12th graders have abstained from all substance use during their lifetime and these adolescents experience better academic outcomes than their substanceusing peers. Substance use is associated with academic performance among adolescents. Similarly, Gobbiet al. (2019) attempted to provide a summary estimate of the extent to which cannabis use during adolescence is associated with the risk of developing subsequent major depression, anxiety, and suicidal behavior. Another study examined the prevalence of co-morbid severe substance use and trauma exposure and age of first trauma, prevalence of abuse history, prevalence of extensive abuse histories, prevalence of sexual abuse histories, and prevalence of multiple exposure to trauma in adolescents seeking substance use treatment (Koch 2019 and Milburn et al. 2019). A study conducted by Winstanley and Stover (2019) who fund that adolescents who grow up in households with opioid misuse and opioid use disorders may experience a myriad of adverse consequences, including: increased risk of mental health problems and drug use; accidental opioids poisoning; increased risk of developing a substance use disorder and family dissolution that results from parents' incarceration, foster care placement, or loss of parent to an opioids overdose. An attempt has been made by Bardhanet al. (2018) shows that age, sex, religion, caste, schooling status, occupation, living status of parents and respondents, peer usage, and

relationship with the friends showed significant association with substance use of respondent adolescents. Similarly, Moore et al. (2018) emphasized that the usage of tobacco, cannabis and alcohol has been determined by the level of influence of peer group. Supports from friends were associated with higher cannabis use and worse mental health among pupils with lower family support. According to Moore et al. (2018) revealed that the family communication, family support, relationships with school staff were significantly associated with usage of tobacco, cannabis use and alcohol. A recent study by Roncero (2018) analyzed the longitudinal studies conducted on adolescents associating early cannabis use with the subsequent occurrence of mental disorders. An association was found between early one set of cannabis use and mental disorders particularly psychosis.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The study aimed to find out the level of substance abuse behaviour among the adolescents and find out the impact of substance among the adolescents towards their home environment and academic achievements. A descriptive research design is adopted in this study. The universe present research confine to the entire Thrissur District in Kerala, India. The population of the study includes all the adolescents having the behaviour of substance abuse in Thrissur District. There are 16 substance abuse de-addiction/rehabilitation centers are serving for victims of substance abusers in Thrissur district, Kerala State The universe consists of 1005 substance abuse adolescents were undergone treatment in the above mentioned centers during the data collection period from May 2019 to August 2019. For the present study 400 substance abuse adolescents were selected from the universe. 25 substance abuse adolescents were selected from the each de-addiction & rehabilitation centers. They were selected through stratified disproportionate random sampling method.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents

The study observed that a majority (88.5%) of the respondents are in the age group of 16-19 years, 60.8 percent of the respondents are Hindu, half of the respondents were studied VI Std. 59.2% of the respondents are from government aided schools, 77 percent of the respondents are hailing from semi-urban areas, 95 percent of the respondents were from nuclear families, 85 percent of the respondents' family size is 3-4 members, 69 percent of the respondents have two siblings, 52.8 percent of the respondents' fathers and 62 percent of the respondents' mothers have completed primary level of education. It is shows from the study that 31 percent of the respondents' fathers are engaged in business, 72.7 percent of the respondents' mothers are housewives, two-thirds (64.2 percent) of the respondents' family monthly income is Rs. 10000 to Rs. 20000.

Table No: 1
Distribution of the respondents according to their perception towards home environment

S.No	Perception towards home environment	Low	%	High	%
1.	Control	294	73.5	106	26.5
2.	Protectiveness	270	67.5	130	32.5
3.	Punishment	224	56.0	176	44.0
4.	Conformity	289	72.3	111	27.8
5.	Social isolation	149	37.3	251	62.8
6.	Reward	163	40.8	237	59.3
7.	Deprivations of privileges	72	18.0	328	82.0
8.	Nurturance	159	39.8	241	60.3
9.	Rejection	151	37.8	249	62.3
10.	Permissiveness	148	37.0	252	63.0
11.	Overall level of Home environment	261	65.3	139	34.8

Table 1 depicts that more than half of the respondents have had a low level of perception towards various dimensions of home environment such as control (73.5 percent), protectiveness (67.5 percent), punishment (56 percent) and conformity (72.3 percent). However, more than half of the respondents have had a high level of perception towards various dimensions of home environment such as social isolation (62.8 percent), reward (59.3 percent), deprivations of privileges (82 percent), nurturance (60.3 percent), rejection (62.3 percent) and permissiveness (63 percent). However, overall 65.3 percent of the respondents have had a low level of positive home environment for the substance abuse adolescents whereas 34.8 percent of the respondents have had a high level of favourable home environment for the substance abuse adolescents. The home environment is an important factors influence the substance abuse behaviour among the adolescents. The adolescents who are using substance highly their home environment may be low level of control, protectiveness, punishment and conformity. They may also have high level of home environment in social isolation, deprivations of privileges nurturance, rejection and permissiveness.

Table No: 2
Distribution of the respondents according to their perception towards Academic Achievements

S.No	Perception towards Academic Achievements	Low	%	High	%
1.	Decreased level of commitment to education	126	31.5	274	68.5
2.	Fall in short-term memory	153	38.2	247	61.8
3.	Poor judgment	168	42.0	232	58.0
4.	Declining and Failure in grades	130	32.5	270	67.5
5.	Frequent absence for school and other activities	145	36.2	255	63.8
6.	High Truancy	190	47.5	210	52.5
7.	Conflicts with teachers	136	34.0	264	66.0
8.	Present obstacles to learning for their classmates	164	41.0	236	59.0
9.	Increased potential for dropping out of school	100	25.0	300	75.0
10.	Expulsion	114	28.5	286	71.5
11.	Overall level of Academic Achievements	131	32.8	269	67.2

Table 2 shows that more than half of the respondents have had a high level of negative perception towards various dimensions of academic achievements such as decreased level of commitment to education (68.5 percent), fall in short-term memory (61.8 percent), poor judgment (58 percent), declining and failure in grades (67.5 percent), frequent absence for school and other activities (63.8 percent), high truancy (52.5 percent), conflicts with teachers (66 percent), present obstacles to learning for their classmates (59 percent), increased potential for dropping out of school (75 percent), expulsion (71.5 percent). However, overall level of academic achievements, 67.2 percent of the respondents has had a high level of negative perception towards academic achievements of adolescents due to their substance abuse whereas 32.8 percent of the respondents have had low level of negative perception towards academic achievemem

Table No: 3

Association between the Type of school of the respondents and perception towards home environment

S. No	Type of school	Various dimensions of Home Environment		Statistical Inference
		Low	High	
1.	Control	n=294	n=106	$\chi^2 = 20.744$ df = 2 0.000<0.01 Highly Significant Contingency Coefficient=0.234
	Government School	59	20	
	Aided School	178	59	
	Private School	57	27	
2.	Protectiveness	n=270	n=130	$\chi^2 = 22.333$ df = 2 0.000<0.01 Highly Significant Contingency Coefficient=0.230
	Government School	61	18	
	Aided School	170	67	
	Private School	39	45	
3.	Punishment	n=224	n=176	$\chi^2 = 11.277$ df = 2 0.004<0.01 Highly Significant Contingency Coefficient=0.166
	Government School	33	46	
	Aided School	148	89	
	Private School	43	41	
4.	Conformity	n=289	n=111	$\chi^2 = 16.243$ df = 2 0.000<0.01 Highly Significant Contingency Coefficient=0.198
	Government School	44	35	
	Aided School	175	62	
	Private School	70	14	
5.	Social Isolation	n=149	n=251	$\chi^2 = 13.799$ df = 2 0.001<0.01 Highly Significant Contingency Coefficient=0.183
	Government School	25	54	
	Aided School	105	132	
	Private School	19	65	
6.	Reward	n=163	n=237	$\chi^2 = 23.128$ df = 2 0.000<0.01 Highly Significant Contingency Coefficient=0.234
	Government School	48	31	
	Aided School	95	142	
	Private School	20	64	
7.	Deprivations of privileges	n=072	n=328	$\chi^2 = 8.312$ df = 2 0.016<0.05 Significant Contingency Coefficient=0.143
	Government School	7	72	
	Aided School	53	184	
	Private School	12	72	
8.	Nurturance	n=159	n=241	$\chi^2 = 44.948$ df = 2 0.000<0.01 Highly Significant Contingency Coefficient=0.318
	Government School	34	45	
	Aided School	118	119	
	Private School	7	77	
9.	Rejection	n=151	n=249	$\chi^2 = 11.168$ df = 2 0.004<0.01 Highly Significant Contingency Coefficient=0.165
	Government School	27	52	
	Aided School	104	133	
	Private School	20	64	

10.	Permissiveness	n=148	n=252	$\chi^2 = 24.059$ df = 2 0.000<0.01 Highly Significant Contingency Coefficient=0.238
	Government School	18	61	
	Aided School	81	156	
	Private School	49	35	
11.	Overall level of Home Environment	n=261	n=139	$\chi^2 = 28.524$ df = 2 0.000<0.01 Significant Contingency Coefficient=0.258
	Government School	46	33	
	Aided School	178	59	
	Private School	37	47	

Hypothesis 01

H_a= There is a significant association between the type of school of the respondents and their perception towards overall level of impact of substance abuse on home environment among the adolescents.

H₀= There is no significant association between the type of school of the respondents and their perception towards overall level of impact of substance abuse on home environment among the adolescents.

It is exhibited from the table 3 that there is a highly significant association between the type of school of the respondents and their perception towards home environment and its impact on substance abuse among the adolescents such as control, protectiveness, punishment, conformity, social isolation, reward, deprivations of privileges, nurturance, rejection and permissiveness. Further, there is a highly significant association between the type of school of the respondents and their overall level of perception towards home environment and its impact on substance abuse among the adolescents ($\chi^2=28.524$, 0.000<0.01). It is found from the statistical analysis that type of school of the respondents has influence on the level of perception towards home environment and its impact on substance abuse among the adolescents. The respondents who are studying in the government aided schools have had a high level of perception towards home environment and its impact on substance abuse among the adolescents such as control, protectiveness, punishment, conformity, social isolation, reward, deprivations of privileges, nurturance, rejection and permissiveness. The respondent's parents who are following more controlling, protecting and autocratic style of parenting towards their children which leads to increase their level of substance abuse among the adolescents.

The contingency coefficient has explained that the strength of association between the type of school of the respondents and their overall level of perception towards home environment and its impact on substance abuse among the adolescents is at 25 percent. It is also observed from the statistical analysis that the type of school of the respondents is strongly associated with their perception towards home environment and its impact on substance abuse among the adolescents such as control (23 percent), protectiveness (23 percent), punishment (16 percent), conformity (19 percent), social isolation (18 percent), reward (23 percent), deprivations of privileges (14 percent), nurturance (31 percent), rejection (16 percent) and permissiveness (23 percent).

Statistical Inference:

' χ^2 ' test was used to test the above hypothesis and it was found that there is a highly significant association between the type of school of the respondents and their perception towards overall level of impact of substance abuse on home environment among the adolescents ($\chi^2=28.524$, 0.001<0.01). It is observed from table that the calculated value of the ' χ^2 ' test is more than the table value at the 1 percent level of significance.

Hence Research Hypothesis is accepted.

Table No: 4
One way Analysis of Variance among the Father's educational Qualification of the respondents and perception towards home environment

S. No	Source	SS	Df	MS	\bar{X}				Statistical Inference
					G1 =		G4 =		
1.	Control				G1 =	19.5500	G4 =	17.2000	F=8.517 0.000<0.01 Highly Significant
	Between Groups	344.701	4	86.175	G2 =	20.8389	G5 =	18.8750	
	Within Groups	1971.377	395	4.991	G3 =	20.1835			
2.	Protectiveness				G1 =	17.0000	G4 =	16.8500	F=11.005 0.000<0.01 Highly Significant
	Between Groups	58.580	4	14.645	G2 =	16.9384	G5 =	15.6500	
	Within Groups	1849.170	395	4.681	G3 =	16.6330			
3.	Punishment				G1 =	22.9500	G4 =	20.3500	F=20.059 0.000<0.01 Highly Significant
	Between Groups	122.699	4	30.675	G2 =	20.5640	G5 =	20.1750	
	Within Groups	1055.051	395	2.671	G3 =	20.8991			
4.	Conformity				G1 =	20.7000	G4 =	23.8500	F=19.903 0.000<0.01 Highly Significant
	Between Groups	216.981	4	54.245	G2 =	20.5261	G5 =	20.1500	
	Within Groups	818.769	395	2.073	G3 =	20.7523			
5.	Social Isolation				G1 =	19.0500	G4 =	19.0000	F=12.352 0.000<0.01 Highly Significant
	Between Groups	18.355	4	4.589	G2 =	18.8152	G5 =	19.5250	
	Within Groups	662.405	395	1.677	G3 =	18.8257			
6.	Reward				G1 =	21.5500	G4 =	21.6500	F=7.173 0.001<0.01 Highly Significant
	Between Groups	292.306	4	73.077	G2 =	21.9763	G5 =	19.2000	
	Within Groups	1920.671	395	4.862	G3 =	20.8991			
7.	Deprivations of privileges				G1 =	21.9500	G4 =	19.0500	F=17.436 0.000<0.01 Highly Significant
	Between Groups	166.626	4	41.657	G2 =	19.9100	G5 =	19.1750	
	Within Groups	1490.414	395	3.773	G3 =	19.1193			
8.	Nurturance				G1 =	23.7000	G4 =	18.8000	F=14.063 0.000<0.01 Highly Significant
	Between Groups	491.190	4	122.797	G2 =	23.0237	G5 =	20.9000	
	Within Groups	2240.560	395	5.672	G3 =	21.8899			
9.	Rejection				G1 =	20.9500	G4 =	18.2500	F=22.143 0.000<0.01
	Between	329.163	4	82.291	G2 =	20.6967	G5 =	19.6750	

	Groups				=		=		Highly Significant
	Within Groups	2743.714	39 5	6.946	G3 =	18.8532			
10	Permissiveness				G1 =	21.1500	G4 =	18.8000	F=11.700 0.000<0.01 Highly Significant
	Between Groups	207.285	4	51.821	G2 =	18.7014	G5 =	19.2000	
	Within Groups	1982.193	39 5	5.018	G3 =	20.0367			
11	Overall level of Home Environment				G1 =	208.550 0	G4 =	193.800 0	F=30.937 0.000<0.01 Highly Significant
	Between Groups	5694.811	4	1423.70 3	G2 =	201.990 5	G5 =	192.525 0	
	Within Groups	28273.18 9	39 5	71.578	G3 =	198.091 7			

G1= No formal Education, G2= Primary, G3= Secondary, G4= High Secondary, G5= Degree

Hypothesis 02

H_a= There is a significant association between the respondents' fathers educational qualification and their perception towards overall level of impact of substance abuse on academic achievements among the adolescents.

H₀= There is no significant association between the respondents' fathers educational qualification and their perception towards overall level of impact of substance abuse on academic achievements among the adolescents.

It is evident from the table 4 that there is a highly significant variance among the educational qualification of the respondents' father and their perception towards home environment and its impact on substance abuse among the adolescents such as control, protectiveness, punishment, conformity, social isolation, reward, deprivations of privileges, nurturance, rejection and permissiveness. It is understood from the statistical analysis that there is a highly significant variance among the educational qualification of the respondents' father and their overall level of perception towards home environment and its impact on substance abuse among the adolescents (F=30.937, 0.000<0.01). It is concluded from the table that the educational qualification of the respondents' father influences their level of perception towards home environment and its impact on substance abuse among the adolescents. The mean score (\bar{X} =208.5500) indicates that the respondents' father who did not have formation education have had a high level of perception towards home environment and its impact on substance abuse among the adolescents such as control, protectiveness, punishment, conformity, social isolation, reward, deprivations of privileges, nurturance, rejection and permissiveness.

Statistical Inference:

' χ^2 ' test was used to test the above hypothesis and it was found that there is a highly significant association between the educational qualification of the respondents' father and their perception towards overall level of impact of substance abuse on academic achievements ($\chi^2=30.937$, 0.000<0.01). It is observed from table that the calculated value of the ' χ^2 ' test is more than the table value at the 1 percent level of significance.

Hence Research Hypothesis is accepted.

Table No: 5

Two way Analysis of Variance among class studied and Type of school of the respondents and perception towards overall level of Impact of Substance Abuse on Academic Achievements

Tests of Between-Subjects Effects					
Dependent Variable: Overall level of Impact of Substance Abuse on Academic Achievements					
Source	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	92.674 ^a	6	15.446	6.235	.000
Intercept	20748.146	1	20748.146	8374.814	.000
Class Studied	60.617	2	30.309	12.234	.000
School Type	40.689	2	20.345	8.212	.000
Class Studied * School Type	17.732	2	8.866	3.579	.029
Error	973.636	393	2.477		
Total	109110.000	400			
Corrected Total	1066.310	399			

a. R Squared = .087 (Adjusted R Squared = .073)

Profile Plots

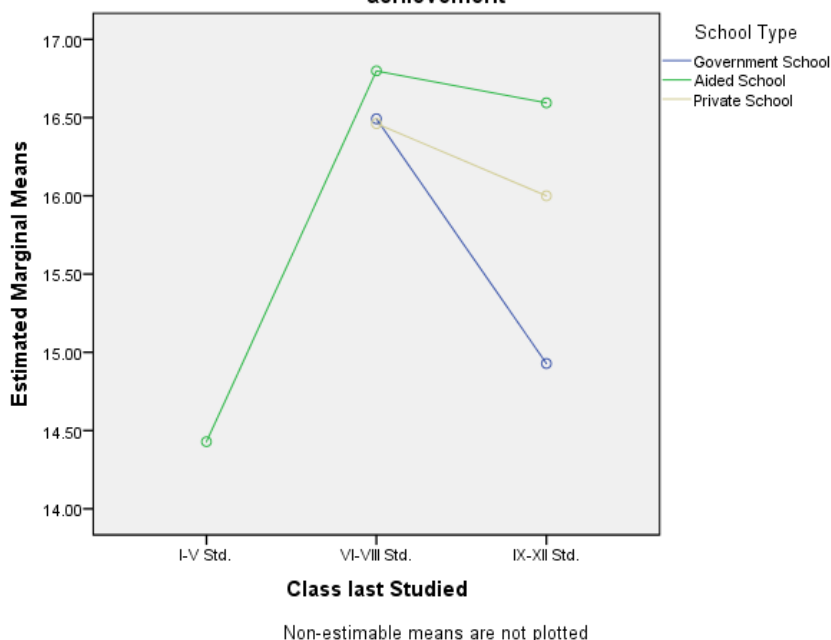
The plot of the mean "overall level of impact of substance abuse on academic achievements" score for each combination of groups of "class studied" and "school type" are plotted in a line graph, as shown in below figure. An interaction effect can be seen as a set of non-parallel lines. The lines crossing each other confirm the interaction effect from the independent variables.

Hypothesis 3

H_a= There is a significant variance among the class studied and school type of the respondents and their perception towards overall level of impact of substance abuse on academic achievements.

H₀= There is no significant variance among the class studied and school type of the respondents and their perception towards overall level of impact of substance abuse on academic achievements.

Estimated Marginal Means of score overall impact of drug abuse for academic achievement



It is inferred from table 5 that there is a highly significant variance among the class studied of the respondents and their overall level of perception towards impact of substance abuse on academic achievements (F=12.234, 0.000<0.01, Significant). Moreover, there is a highly significant variance among the school type of the respondents and their overall level of perception towards impact of substance abuse on academic achievements (F=8.212, 0.000<0.01). This means that class studied and school type of the respondents have influence their perception towards overall level of perception towards impact of substance abuse on academic

achievements. Furthermore, when these factors are intersected with each other, it is clear that class studied and school type of the respondents influences their overall level of perception towards impact of substance abuse on academic achievements ($F= 3.579, 0.029<0.05$, Significant). The particular rows we are interested in are “class studied”, “school type” and “class studied* school type” which are highlighted above. These rows inform us whether our independent variables (“class studied” and “school type”) and their interaction (the “class studied*school type” row) have had a statistically significant effect on the dependent variable, “overall level of perception towards impact of substance abuse on academic achievements”. It is important to note that “class studied* school type” have had a statistically significant ($F=3.579, 0.029<0.05$) interaction at the 5 % level.

Statistical Inference

“Two-way analysis of variance” test was used to test the above hypothesis and it found that there is a significant variance among the class studied and school type of the respondents and their perception towards overall level of impact of substance abuse on academic achievements ($F=12.234, 0.000<0.01$ and $F=8.212, 0.000<0.01$). Furthermore, when these factors are intersected with each other, it is clear that class studied and school type of the respondents influences their overall level of perception towards impact of substance abuse on academic achievements ($F= 3.579, 0.029<0.05$, Significant). It is found from table that the calculated value of the “Two-way analysis of variance” test is more than the table value at the 1 percent and 5 percent level of significance.

Hence Research Hypothesis is accepted.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Prevention, awareness and life skill programmes have to be organized in schools. Professional counseling may be provided to the school going risky children in the school itself.
2. Specialized treatment services should be made available for children who are using substances. These services should be available in all government hospitals. Non- governmental and voluntary organizations coming forward for treatment and rehabilitation of substance addicted adolescents should be encouraged and supported by the district and state administration.
3. Non- governmental and voluntary organizations may be encouraged and supported in their rehabilitation efforts focusing on skill building and vocational training.
4. As boys Schools found to dominate in the prevalence of very high level of substance abuse, supply of tobacco and alcohol near residential areas and boys and co-education schools should be watched carefully and curbed fully.
5. Medical social work practitioners and non-governmental organizations within the social service field can utilize this information to devise proper interventions for the substance abusing adolescents and take more efficient steps in decreasing substance use tendencies among adolescents.

CONCLUSION

The severity of the menace of substance abuse by adolescents is well brought out in many studies worldwide. Hence, controlling the substance abuse by adolescents and rehabilitation of such adolescents has to be taken up with top priority by the public health authorities. Medical social work practitioners and non-governmental organizations within the social service field can utilize this information to devise proper

interventions for substance-abusing adolescents and take more efficient steps in decreasing substance use tendencies among adolescents. The present study's findings would be useful for administrators, policymakers, social workers, voluntary organizations, school authorities and parents dealing with the issues relating to substance-addicted adolescents.

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