

Editorial

Drug Abuse Among Adolescent Workers: Egyptian Sample

Prof. Dr. M. Abd El Wahab

M.D., F.A.P.A., M.R.C. Psych.

Introduction

Screening for substance abuse in adolescents is very important in the field of prevention and management of the problem of drug abuse. The battery of chemicals that can be used to create an alteration in mood is extensive and adolescents have found access to all of them. Among adolescents aged 12-17 years referred to mental health services, the prevalence of drug use was 13.1% (Swadi, 2000). It is to be noted that the median reported age of initiation of illicit drug use in adults with substance use disorders is 16 years and with 50% of cases begin between age of 16-18 (Antony and Helzer, 2003). It was found in the National survey on Drug use and Health (NSDUH) in 2004 that among all youth aged 12-17, 10.6% were on marijuana, 3.6% on prescription type drugs users, 7.6% were on marijuana, 3.6% on prescription type drugs non medically used, 1.2% inhalants, 0.8% on hallucinogen and 0.5% on cocaine. Among youth aged 12-17, 14.4% used tobacco products and 11.9% used cigarette (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2003).

Aim of the work.

This work was carried out by the General Egyptian Association for Prevention of Alcohols and Combat of Narcotics with the support of National Council for Maternity and Childhood. Adolescent workers constitute one of the main risk groups of drug abuse. This work aims to study a group of Egyptian adolescent workers, to illustrate: -

- The prevalence of drug abuse.
- The demographic data of the drug abusers among them.

Subjects and Method

One hundred adolescent workers in workshops and small Factories in Midtown were randomly selected with age between 12-18 years old, All of them were males.

The sample was subjected to questionnaire prepared by scientific team of the research, stressing on the following items:-

- Demographic data of the group.
- Family circumstances.
- Work situations.
- History of drug abuse.

Steps of the research:

- The workers in all workshops and small factories in two district areas in Midtown were surveyed.
- The field force was chosen from social workers and psychologists. They were subjected to training course on the questionnaire, and how to manage the situation with subjects and conflicts with the owners of the workshops and factors.
- Application of the questionnaire on the subjects.
- Statistical evaluation of the results.

Results

(1) Age of subjects was between 12-18 years old, distributed as follows:-

- 20 subjects between 12-13, years old 20%.
- 25 subjects between 14-16 years old 25%.
- 31 subjects between 16 and less them 18 years old. 31%.
- 24 subjects 18 years old 24%.

(2) According to Level of Education:

Level	No	%
Illiterate	18	18%
Can read of write	14	14%
Primary school	42	42%
Preparatory school	13	13%
Secondary school	23	23%