The Relationship between Factors of Drug Abuse and Perception among Youth in Malaysia

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Abstract: Drug abuse or substance abuse refers to the use of certain chemicals for the purpose and it is a common problem among people especially youths. Statistics on National Anti Drug Agency Malaysia in 2019, 20157 total cases detected with the majority as a youth (19-39 year). Most of the youth especially students are easily involved in drug abuse. This problem will effect the generation who would one day become the leader of the nation. The main purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship of factors that influence the involvement of youth in drug abuse and 20 respondents who range 13- 21 years old have been conducted by face to face interview. Three factors applied as the independent variables such as family relationship, academic stress and peer's influence. Descriptive and correlation analysis were applied to get better and precious factors drug abuse among youth. The case study shows a bad relationship with the family tend to involve in youth to taking the drug as a tension reliever.

Keywords: Drug abuse, Youth, Descriptive analysis, Correlation analysis

1. Introduction

Nowadays drug abuse is common problem among people, especially youth. There are many reasons why youth nowadays been an influence with this problem such as curiosity and peer pressure, target pain relief, recreational purposes and creative inspiration (Kelly *et al*., 2017). Many types of drug can be taken by youth such as alcohol, tobacco, cocaine from coca, opium and opioids from poppy plants, hashish or marijuana from cannabis and synthetic drugs such as heroin, ecstasy and lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) (Chan *et al*., 2016). Youth are the group that more tendency to involve in drug abuse recently. Based on statistics from the National Anti-Drugs Agency of Malaysia, total cases in 2019 was 20,157 cases with youth 19-39 years old, Malay ethnic and Male gender (Yun and Yusof, 1988). Hence, serious action should be taken for drug abuse among youth problem. The important factors that been highlight in this study based on the previous study to discover the problem and overcome drug abuse among youth. Three factors were family relationship, peer's influence and academic stress are the factors that are clearly has seen in this drug abuse problem.

Family is one of the main factors that play role in youth live. family factors causing drug abuse are parents' behaviour, the relationship between parents and the individual, the relationship between the parents, the family atmosphere and, family's economic standing (Kropenske and Howard, 2004). Besides that, observations of the family to their children are important and family will respond for youth in everything. The family is important to be analysed and one of factor that contributes to drug abuse. This is further proven in the study of 657 adolescents that found them modelling father's marijuana use and mother's cigarette's use if the parent-child relationship was relatively moderate or good (Rosdi *et al*., 2019).

The Peer can be defined as a person of the same age, status, or ability as another specified person. Based on the survey, most of the youth spent their times with their friends in any environment. This is because half of the youth's day spent in school and many activities with their friends. Furthermore, most of the youth usually trusts their friend more than others. Peer influence is the outcome of socialization; that is, the peers an individual has to influence his or her behaviour (McAuley *et al*., 2012). According to the social development model that explains the growth of pro-social and anti-social behaviour along human's life course, amount of involvement with and reinforcement from individuals who use a substance is an influence for a person's increased substance use while the amount of pro-social involvement such as volunteer work is an influence for a person's decreased substance use (Williams *et al*., 2009).

Academic stress in school and higher institutions in Malaysia is increasing due to prolonged strikes resulting to subject loaded, lack of financial back up for students and economic hardship currently experienced in Malaysia (Chiam, 1993). These problems put together have compelled students to take to irrational behaviours such as drug abuse as stress and tension reliver. Besides, with these entire factors on drug abuse among youth, a study should take action to reduce and overcome this problem and will give back a big impact if serious actions are not taken.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Participants

The sample consist of twenty respondents who ranged in age from 13-21 years and face to face interview has been conducted. The respondents from all towns in the district of Perak Tengah which are
- Sri Iskandar
- Parit
- Kampung Buluh Akar
- Tanjung Belanja
- Bota Kanan
- Titi Gantung
- Kampung Gajah

It takes three days to collected and completed the questionnaires from respondents. The respondents are all in the youth category because the main objective of the study is to determine the relationship between factors and perception on drug abuse among youth in Malaysia.

Since this study has a big population, multi-stage sampling applied as a sampling method. Firstly, this study chooses one state in Malaysia which is Perak because it is convenient and easy to get respondent since researchers stayed at Perak that moment. Perak Tengah district was chosen in this study because it is closer and certain town chosen as sampling area to get the respondents.

2.2 Data Collection

The questionnaire that will be answered by respondents consists of 30 questions A self-administered question has been developed to measure the research variables, as well as to collect demographic information. The questionnaire consists of five sections which are Section A was demography information and included 5 open-ended questions, section B was perception on drug abuse and included 6 closed questions, section C was family relationship and included 7 closed questions, section D was academic stress and included 6 closed questions and section E was peer's influence and included 6 closed questions.

2.3 Methods

(a) Descriptive Analysis

Descriptive statistics are used to describe the basic features of the data in a study. Descriptive analysis provide simple summaries about the sample and the measures such as the distribution (percentages), the central tendency (mean, median and mode) and the dispersion (range, standard deviation and variance)

(b) Correlation Analysis

Correlation is used to test relationships between independent variables and dependent variable. In other words, it is a measure of how things are related and how variables are correlated is called correlation analysis.

$$r = \frac{\Sigma(x_i - \overline{x})(y_i - \overline{y})}{\sqrt{\Sigma(x_i - \overline{x})^2(y_i - \overline{y})^2}}$$

r = correlation coefficient

x_i = values of the x-variable in a sample

$\overline{x}$ = mean of the values of the x-variable

y_i = values of the y-variable in a sample

$\overline{y}$ = mean of the values of the y-variable

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Demographic Analysis

Demographic analysis is a technique used to develop an understanding the frequency and percentage for the gender, age, current status, staying with and describe the area live in by respondents in Table 1.

Table 1: Demographic information of respondents

Demographic	Details	Frequency	Percentage%
Gender	Male	13	65
	Female	7	35
Age	13-15 years old	2	10
	16-18 years old	10	50
	19-21 years old	8	40
Current Status	Secondary school student	10	50

	University/college student	6	30
	Working	3	15
	Others	1	5
Staying with	Your family	13	65
	Hostel	4	20
	Rented a house	3	15
	Others	0	0
Describe the area live in	Urban	6	30
	Rural	14	70

Demographic analysis shows out of 20 repondents 13 are male (65%) respondents while seven of respondents are female.

Two (10%) of respondents are from 13-15 years old, ten (50%) are from 16-18 years old and eight (40%) of the respondents are 19-21 yars old.

The number of secondary school student are ten (50%) respondents, six (30%) are from university or college student, three (15%) are working respondents and one (5%) is other.

Thirteen (65%) respondents stay with family, four (20%) stay at hostel and three (15%) rented a house for live.

Out of 20 respondents, 6 (30%) live in urban and 14 (70%) respondents live in rural.

3.2 Descriptive analysis

Descriptive statistics are used to describe the basic features of the data in a study and provide simple summaries about the sample and the measures such as mean and interpretation for perception on drug abuse, family relationship, academic stress and peer's influence variable as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Results of descriptive analysis

Variable	Mean	Interpretation
Perception on drug abuse	4.27	High
Family relationship	4.31	High
Academic stress	4.08	High
Peer's influence	4.19	High

Based on the results in Table 2, variable of family relationship has the highest mean value is 4.31. Follow by perception on drug abuse is 4.27, peer's influence is 4.19 and academic stress is 4.08.

3.3 Normality Test

The data in Table 3 shows that the Shapiro-Wilk test was used in this normality test because the respondent is lower than 50. Based on the table, the result shows that p-value is 0.001 which mean lower than 0.05 (0.000 < 0.05), thus the data is not normally distributed. Since the data is not normal, non-parametric test will be used.

Table 3: Results of normality test

	Tests of Normality					
	Kolmogorov-Smirnov			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	df	Sig.	Statistic	df	Sig.
Perception on drug abuse	0.304	20	0.000	0.804	20	0.001

3.4 Correlation Analysis

Table 4 shows Spearman's correlation coefficient between perception on drug abuse and family relationship is 0.930 and that this is statistically significant (p = 0.007). Moreover, Spearman's correlation coefficient between perception on drug abuse and academic stress is 0.540 and that this is statistically significant (p = 0.000) and Spearman's correlation coefficient between perception on drug abuse and peer's influence is 0.750 and that this is statistically significant (p = 0.001).

Table 4: Results of correlation analysis

	Spearman's rho	
	Perception on drug abuse	
Variables	Correlation Coefficient	Significant value
Family relationship	0.930	0.007
Academic stress	0.540	0.000
Peer's influence	0.750	0.001

There was a strong, positive correlation between perception on drug abuse and family relationship, which was statistically significant (correlation coefficient = 0.930, p= 0.007) and there also was strong, positive correlation between perception on drug abuse and peer's influence, which was statistically significant (correlation coefficient = 0.750, p = 0.001) and there was a moderate, positive correlation between perception on drug abuse and academic stress, which was statistically significant (correlation coefficient = 0.540, P = 0.000).

4   Conclusion

This study is about drug abuse among youths. Through the pilot study, the study manages to get 20 respondents where there are 7 female and 13 male of youths. Majority of the respondents are ranged from the age of 16-18 years old and as a secondary school students. Most of the respondents are staying with their family and mostly from the rural area which 14 out of 20 respondents.

Furthermore, based on the results that youth have a bad relationship with their family and tend to involve in taking the drug by the highest value of correlation. Besides that, family backgrounds are one of the factors that influence youths in drug abuse.

There are still much youths that doesn't realise that there are agencies that contribute to overcomig this drug problem. There are also youth don't know that Malaysia country taking drug problem as a serious problem and many campaigns that has been done by our government.

Drug abuse among youths can become a serious problem when this situation going on. Serious action should be taken to overcome this problem. Government and the non-government agency should take serious action such as be more active to tell people about the drug by doing more campaign, especially in the rural area.

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