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Examination of psychological characteristics of drug addicts: A case study of Isfahan, Iran

Hamed Alaghemandan¹, Elahe Khorasani², Mohsen Ghaffari Darab², Ehsan Namazi⁴, Mohammad Hossein Maniyan⁴ and Maryam Barati³

¹Engineering Research Institution of Natural Disaster Management, Iran

²Islamic Azad University, Iran

³Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Iran

⁴Shefa Drug Rehabilitation Center, Iran

Background: Addiction is one of the most important social damages which due to its progressive nature adversely affect psychological health of people. Identification of behavioral factors is essential to effectively prevent addiction. Hence this talk investigates the characteristics of drug addicts in a drug rehabilitation center in Isfahan.

Methods: In this analytical cross-sectional study performed in 2012, the population consisted of all addicts who referred to Shefa Drug Rehabilitation Center. A sample of 201 individuals was randomly selected. Two questionnaires were used to collect data; the first questionnaire examined demographic characteristics and the second one was the 71 item Minnesota Multiphase Personality Inventory short form. Chi-square test, Fisher's exact test and Kruskal-Wallis test were used in SPSS20 to analyze the data.

Results: Findings showed that depression and hypomania were the most and least prevalent disorder among individuals with high-risk psychological profiles of clinical scales respectively. Psychopathic deviate and schizophrenia were seen among unemployment more than employment people. Depression and hypochondriasis were the most frequent disorder among employees.

Conclusion: This study suggested that those therapies which lack pre-assessment of predisposing factors for addiction and are not defined according to personal characteristics of patients lose the chance for complete treatment. It is then necessary to include psychological therapies in treatment programs. Also various drugs have different effects on personality disorders. Finally it is essential for treatment of drug addicts that therapist considers a triangle of demographic characteristics, type of drug, and personality disorders in their analysis of patients.

khorasani.elahe@yahoo.com