

# Factors of Drug Addiction among Adolescents: A Case Study

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**Abstract:** Substance abuse and addiction among youth and adolescents constitute a public health issue, given the dangers and repercussions this behavior poses on physical and mental well-being. In this study, a review of the scientific literature on the subject is undertaken with the aim of gaining a better understanding of the contribution of psychological and familial factors to this trajectory. The results of a case study will be presented as a means to illuminate the role of these factors, identified through semi-structured interviews with a young individual undergoing addiction treatment. The study employed the Thematic Apperception Test (TAT) to assess comprehension of the topic, revealing the weight of these factors as both risk and protective elements.

**Keywords:** Drugs, Addiction, Adolescents, Case Study.

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## Introduction

The current era witnesses a significant evolution in the field of drug addiction. The landscape of the problem has fundamentally shifted, as individuals grappling with addiction, as described by some clinicians, are no longer confined to a specific societal segment, contrary to prevailing beliefs. Rather, substance use has gradually encompassed predominantly young individuals in search of images for challenging-to-obtain or even elusive parental role models. The deprivation in role-playing capabilities, coupled with the inability of these youth to integrate basic shared violence common among all children within a more emotionally mature developmental and relational context, may lead them towards formulating this violence through creative methods and channels (Bergeret, J, 1994, p.24).

The widening scope of the drug phenomenon cannot be regarded as a transient or passing trend, as we are confronted with a reasonable and continuous extension that cannot be swiftly extinguished. This is a result of the current addiction's addictive nature, characterized both quantitatively and qualitatively. Drug addiction is no longer limited to a specific social or cultural class, nor is it solely attributable to the availability of substances or recent acquired

habits. Drug users have discovered the diverse effects of a wide range of natural or synthetic substances. Therefore, the current circumstances necessitate an emphasis on the multidisciplinary approach in research on personality, taking into account all possible origins without excluding any cause. The comprehensiveness of the personal problem is understood as the intersection between the individual and the substance in a specific environment (Rapport Pelletier, Chapter V14).

The attention to the phenomenon of addiction suggests shedding light on the associated problems. The focus revolves around the position of adolescents in contemporary society, situations of deviation and marginalization, observed personality disorders in users, the meaning that users attribute to the substance, the patterns that facilitate addiction and habituation, and the individual and familial conditions experienced by users that contribute to their transition to drug use.

This necessitates a departure from scientific approaches centered around biological aspects and directs research towards conflict situations and emotional interactions. It involves assessing the individual's natural ability to withstand frustrations, the role of biological factors in emotional responses, and the significance of defense mechanisms. Approaching drug users in the context of their lived experiences with substance use allows us to delve into a level of the phenomenon where multiple factors interweave, some related to the individual, the user, others to the psychotropic substance consumed, and still others to the environmental conditions surrounding the user and what they consume. In this context, our attempt is to support understanding the interplay of these factors and the responsible interactions leading to the manifestation of drug use behavior.

**Objective:** This article, drawing on scientific literature, aims to elucidate various factors associated with drug use and addiction among adolescents and young adults. The study primarily relies on a case study to achieve a deeper understanding of the contributions of personal, psychological, familial, and social factors to the emergence and evolution of addictive behavior.

**Methodology:** Semi-structured interviews were conducted with a case under addiction treatment and follow-up by clinicians, supplemented by the Thematic Apperception Test (TAT).

## 1. Factors Associated with the Individual User

### 1.1 Biological Factors

Under this category, all genetic factors, known as indices or biological influencers, are included. It is important to note that research on genetic factors in our context, drug addiction, has primarily focused on alcohol addiction. Studies examining addiction to other psychoactive substances remain relatively scarce and are limited in their ability to answer many questions surrounding the phenomenon. Therefore, when discussing genetic factor research and its role in substance use behavior and addiction, we often draw insights from studies primarily focused on alcohol addiction.

Research on genetics indicates that some individuals using psychoactive substances or alcohol possess a specific biological makeup that makes them more susceptible to developing substance dependence. Studies have suggested that individuals with addicted parents (family studies) may inherit predispositions, as demonstrated by twin studies comparing identical twins to non-identical twins of addicted parents. Twin studies have shown that identical twins of addicted parents may lead to significantly higher addiction rates. Notably, research by L. Kaij revealed that the prevalence of alcohol addiction among identical twin pairs is about half the rate among non-identical twin pairs, with percentages of 58% and 28%, respectively (Saad Al-Obaidi, 2003, p.120). Studies conducted in Sweden, Denmark, and the United States all indicate the prevalence of genetic factors. Offspring of addicted parents are four times more likely to develop addiction compared to offspring of non-addicted parents (Anthenelli, 1992, p.113).

However, the question arises: How does this inheritance occur? What elements are passed from ancestors to descendants, increasing the likelihood of offspring using psychoactive substances and becoming dependent on them? Explanations suggest that some individuals experience metabolic deficiencies, enhancing their predisposition to using psychoactive substances or alcohol. Research in this field has focused on various proteins, antigens, and hormones based on the notion that these compounds, under genetic influence, play a role in various tissues of the body (Kandel, R & P Singh, 2022). Studies on these biochemical factors have mainly examined proteins of significant importance in metabolism, such as ethanol (alcohol) and Monoamine Oxidase (MAO).

It is important to note that while biological genetic factors play a crucial role in individual substance use behavior, their effectiveness remains limited in the absence of other contributing factors. These factors include individual self-readiness, social, environmental, and economic factors. The interaction of these factors may contribute to the development of addiction in an individual.

## 1-2 Psychological Factors

Many individuals initiate psychoactive substance use in pursuit of pleasure, avoiding pain, and achieving a sense of happiness, relaxation, and overcoming the distressing effects of withdrawal or illness. Numerous psychological studies on addicts have demonstrated a significant percentage experiencing personality disorders. Winnick identified certain traits prevalent in the personalities of addicts (Aafaf Abdel-Moneim, 2003, p.80), including:

- **Immature Personality:** Unable to establish relationships with others, lacking self-reliance or independence.
- **Self-Indulgent:** Incapable of delaying gratification, compulsively seeking immediate satisfaction.
- **Sexually Weak:** Experiencing sexual weakness or deviation.
- **Self-Repressed:** Experiencing anxiety when expressing anger, resorting to alcohol or other psychoactive substances to alleviate anxiety.
- **Depressive:** Tense personality, using substances to alleviate anxiety.

The substance user is aware of the harm inflicted upon themselves but compulsively needs the substance to induce a state of numbness, escape, or relief from bodily harm. The substance becomes a false antidote, providing temporary euphoria and unrealistic solutions to problems the individual struggles to address in the real world. Particularly, those suffering from anxiety and depression turn to psychoactive substances to achieve a sense of satisfaction and coping.

The noteworthy aspect in psychological factors facilitating substance use is the concept of "positive and negative initiation." This characterizes the initial steps of substance users when embarking on this behavior. "Positive initiation" refers to the user acknowledging that they are the cause and actively seeking to discover substance use, not influenced by others. On the other hand, "negative initiation" reflects the user feeling they began their journey under the pressure of others in their environment, regardless of the nature of this pressure.

In this context, extensive research has highlighted a clear reality in the field of substance use, indicating that the majority of users initially started their journey with substances under "negative initiation," influenced by the pressures of those around them. A study conducted by the Arab Foundation for Studies (1998) found that individuals who fall into the "negative" category, associating their initiation with responding to various pressures from others, constitute the majority, consistently observed among high school students and university students, with percentages of 85% and 81.34%, respectively (Mustafa Sweif, 2003, p.75). Similar results have been replicated in various research studies, across different samples and time periods.

Several studies have shed light on justifications and excuses provided by substance users for their substance use and its continuation. Various studies, whether Arab or Western, such as the 1994 study on substance use among Egyptian university students or the 1998 field study on psychoactive substances among high school students in Paris (INRP. Paris), have revealed psychological factors motivating substance users. These studies demonstrated varying degrees of prevalence for different psychological reasons among users, indicating their significance and consistency across diverse user samples. Users rationalize their substance use based on factors such as curiosity, peer influence, and escape from reality.

**1. Facing Physical Pain and Daily Troubles:** Individuals turn to psychoactive substances to confront physical pain and daily challenges.

**2. Belief in the Psychological Benefits of Psychoactive Substances:** Users believe in the psychological benefits of substances, such as mood elevation, vitality, and increased activity. They perceive substances as providing pleasure, happiness, and having a "magical" effect that makes them consume them unconsciously.

In the realm of psychological factors, users often exhibit a notable "psychological readiness" towards the process of substance use, surpassing what non-users typically display. This psychological readiness is a crucial aspect in the issue of substance use.

Addiction is a convergence of substance, individual, and society, and given the diverse forms and desired effects of substances, multiple psychological contexts become sources and origins of

individual substance use behavior. Considering the above, the key psychological factors underlying substance use include:

- **Psychological Disorders:** Some individuals, experiencing anxiety, depression, or certain fears, turn to substance use to alleviate their suffering.
- **Desire for Independence and Self-Identity:** The aspiration to achieve independence and self-identity can drive individuals towards substance use.
- **Desire for Power and Control:** Seeking a sense of power and control in the face of feelings of powerlessness can contribute to substance use.
- **Search for Group Acceptance:** The need for group acceptance, the desire for exploration, and filling leisure time can motivate substance use.
- **Escape from Daily Problems:** Individuals may turn to substance use as a means of escaping various daily problems, loss of self-confidence, and the psychological sense of alienation and social oppression.
- **Attraction to the Forbidden and Prohibited:** The attraction to what is forbidden, rejecting traditional values, and the influence of contradictions observed in daily life can contribute to substance use.
- **Adolescent Issues:** Adolescents, expressing their struggles through substitutional behavior, may replace dependency on parents with dependency on psychoactive substances.

It's important to note that addressing the psychological factors contributing to an individual's addiction to drugs requires formulating them within a three-dimensional perspective, encompassing the positive or negative orientation towards substance use, justifications given by users for their behavior, and the psychological readiness involving acceptance and continuation of substance use, revealing oneself in various aspects of the behavior (Azieze, G., 2017).

## 2. Factors related to the Substance Used

Psychoactive substances are considered social and communicative supports for individuals who use them. Users establish a connection with these substances due to the pleasurable effects they experience, providing a means to alleviate anxiety and demand. Substance use becomes a message of violence and blame (Bergeret, 2004, p21). Addiction cannot be conceptualized without being associated with a specific substance, as only psychoactive substances have the pharmacological properties capable of inducing dependence. They impact the activity of higher neural centers referred to as "psychological processes" when consumed by an individual.

The behavior of addiction contains a qualitative attempt to adjust internal conflicts arising from conflicting needs that are challenging to satisfy intellectually. The passage to substance use becomes necessary to address these needs. The psychoanalytic perspective terms this as a "need" that corresponds to a state of pressure, leading to the search for satisfaction in action. This need is associated with primitive relationships, especially with the mother, termed "pre-birth needs" (D. Braunschweig and M. Fain). In individuals with depressive tendencies, their intrinsic capabilities seem halted, leading to an immediate need for action that allows for the alleviation of these requirements.

The use of psychoactive substances is subject to various interrelated factors that shape the phenomenon of substance use. The most important include:

### **2.1. Availability of Substances**

The availability and ease of obtaining a substance increase the likelihood of use. Some substances may be more challenging to acquire than others, but widely consumed substances, such as cannabis, are readily available in spaces frequented by young people.

The current reality suggests that today's youth enter the job market early, making these substances affordable for them, thereby increasing their purchasing power. Additionally, the widespread availability of illegal psychoactive substances contributes to experimentation, especially among the youth. Discussions about these substances are prevalent in daily life, further indicating their accessibility.

The increased availability and visibility of these substances in society make them more appealing and, consequently, contribute to a growing interest in experimenting with them (Debock.C, 1995, p83).

Studies on a global scale have demonstrated the evolution of youth substance use in tandem with various social changes. For example, recent Canadian research (Rapport, 2018) indicates that alcohol is the most commonly consumed psychoactive substance among young people, followed by increasing trends in cannabis use. Smoking is prevalent among individuals aged 20 and below, with two-thirds of them smoking on a daily basis. Prescription drug use is the least common among young people, while cannabis remains the most widely used psychoactive substance, with over one-third of individuals aged 14 to 24 addicted to it compared to other substances.

### **2.2 - Method of Substance Use**

The method of substance use enhances its effectiveness. Intravenous injection is considered one of the fastest forms of addiction, while inhaling or ingesting through the mouth also plays a role (Afaf Abdel-Moneim, 2003, p79). The frequency of use and the absorbed quantity are additional factors. Continuous and daily substance use increases the likelihood of addiction compared to occasional or situational use, which reduces the chances of developing dependence.

### **2.3 - Society's Perception of the Substance Used**

Current social, cultural, and economic-social systems adopted by any society can influence the aspects of addiction and conditions for the rapid expansion of this individual and collective issue. The societal view of psychoactive substances changes based on the decisions and laws adopted or in effect within a given society. D. Mandon attempted to define the culturally deviant person through H.S. Becker's studies. He concluded that substance use is a deviation from a social perspective. Social reactions pose questions about the tolerance thresholds for this behavior, oscillating between absolute rejection and indifference. This stance depends on legal, institutional mechanisms (such as in Britain), or medical-hospital mechanisms (as in France with the 1970 law) to influence the prevalence rates of substance use.

The relationship between the prevalence of individual deviation and the level of society's tolerance for the meaning assigned to this behavior is closely linked. The diversity of cultural

backgrounds, where psychoactive substances interact with medicines in intertwined uses, has sparked heated debates within scientific, medical, and legal circles regarding the extent to which law can be used to reduce the spread of addictive substances (Mac.Coum, 1993, p204).

#### 2.4 - Chemical and Biological Properties of Drugs

Scientifically, each substance has its properties and effects on humans. After trying different types of substances, an individual tends to prefer certain varieties and becomes addicted to them. There is a type of compatibility between the substance and its effects on the individual's personality. According to some authors, individuals seek substances that align with their personality (Austin.A, 1977, p180).

The increase in experimentation rates is evident, particularly in smoking among all age groups between 14-18 years, with a substantial rise compared to 1999. Cannabis has seen a remarkable increase in experimentation rates among teenagers, doubling for females from 17% to 43%. In the same period, males aged 18 experienced an increase from 1/3 to about 6/10 of those who had experimented with the substance (Landry, M, & al. 2000).

In summary, studies on substance use among adolescent students consistently show an increase in experimentation levels, especially with inhaled substances. The overall trend is on the rise, supported by the findings of a 2001 study. As indicated in the following table (01) :

Total	Females	Males	Substances
92.6%	91.9%	93.3%	Alcohol
79.7%	80.7%	78.7%	Smoking
50.5%	45.2%	55.7%	Cannabis (Marijuana)
16.7%	31.1%	12.4%	Medications
4.8%	3.7%	5.8%	Inhalants
3.9%	2.7%	5.0%	Ecstasy
1.9%	1.2%	2.5%	Amphetamines
1.8%	1.3%	2.3%	LSD (Lysergic Acid Diethylamide)
1.9%	1.3%	2.5%	Cocaine
0.9%	0.8%	1.0%	Heroin
0.8%	0.6%	1.0%	Crack

Source (INSERM study, 2001)

The presented figures raise several noteworthy observations, which can be formulated in the following points:

- High level of daily smoking: At the age of 18, more than four out of ten teenagers smoke.
- Gender difference in alcohol consumption: At the age of 18, males are four times more likely than females to permanently and regularly consume alcohol.

- Clear male prevalence in cannabis use: At the age of 18, one in two teenagers has consumed cannabis.
- Weak experimentation with other substances, while medication use is prevalent among females compared to males (1/3 of females consumed medication at the age of 18).

### 3.Environmental Factors

In this context, we will discuss the social environmental factors in which users live, including cultural, societal, familial, and peer group frameworks, to detail the relationships between users and society at all levels.

#### 3.1. Cultural Framework for Users

Most anthropological studies have pointed to the way social fabric deals with the process of substance use. In an almost absolute sense, we face a disturbance and imbalance in the customary relationship between the user's personality and culture, as cultural intermediaries do not accept individuals who use substances and label them with low behaviors, negatively impacting the structure due to the deprivation of role models and symbols used.

Following historical epochs of societies, the cultural framework played a fundamental role in giving meaning to the process of substance use, directing minds to the impact of behavioral outcomes. This emphasizes the necessity of following certain rules that determine what is allowed and prohibited (Jones 1975 and Codere 1973 research). Addiction appears as a complete social phenomenon affecting the framework and quality of life, and its laws as well. As Pr. Lucas indicates, the user harms his social surroundings in situations where it becomes difficult to define him in a specific space or within a defined identity. The world of the user is not opposed to the culture it contains but represents its caricature, making the user unacceptable and intolerable in the eyes of the public and society in general, making him an easily forgettable victim.

#### 3.2. Substance Use and Society

We have previously emphasized the need to distinguish between the role played by the evolution of civilization and the responsibilities often given to any other social choice. The community's choice does not appear as a fundamental and specific element for the growth of local trends towards dependence on different psychoactive substances, especially among the youth (Bergeret.J, 2004, p. 89).

In this context, it is more appropriate to look for the most important elements within this cultural evolution that can play a role in the emergence of dependency behaviors and submissiveness in these individuals. Attention is focused here on the most significant developments and changes that have affected the family environment in our civilization path and the relationships connecting children with parents. How these changes have played a role in the emergence of various emotional imbalances currently encountered in the family environment, with a closer look at the economic and social aspects.

All research and studies agree on describing the evolution that has affected and continues to affect societies worldwide—manufactured, advanced societies marked by changes in family

structures, communication, and the nature of needs. The individual is now faced with the artificial and mechanized. All these changes encourage dependency. Family life has fallen under the influence of this new pattern (women entering the workforce, parental mobility, absence duration, etc.). Numerous and complex educational systems have been created and developed to fill the diverse family voids, but they are closely related to material and economic factors.

In the midst of this technological frenzy (which does not always reassure the individual about his capabilities and future), anxiety and fear of the future and the ability to cope with this information and scientific proliferation multiply. In such situations, only a few emotionally satisfied individuals who possess a strong psychological structure formed by positive identifications and sublimated aggressive tendencies can comprehend and live with their surroundings (Bergeret.J, 1981, p. 150).

An individual who did not have a childhood or adolescence surrounded by positive role models, as mentioned earlier, finds himself unable to choose between adapting to the new reality's requirements or adopting an aggressive stance contrary to lived reality. Here begins a lengthy process of challenge, essentially marginalizing a group of individuals who develop in various directions, where substance use, among other forms, occurs in individuals who believe that the happiness they have preserved in their imagination will be magically granted to them externally." Modern studies on the most common emotional disorders today show that individuals perceived by society as "addicted" are, in reality, reflections of a stage marked by contradictions, incapacity, anxiety, mystery, anger, despair, or failed attempts at adaptation—conditions experienced by the majority of individuals. In this context, Wolf confirmed that statistical data indicate the prevalence of substance use among the less fortunate, poorly educated individuals living in harsh living conditions. K. Tcherman, a consultant on drug issues at the New York Mental Health Institute, added that most users come from impoverished backgrounds, residing in crowded and underprivileged neighborhoods where deviance is widespread.

Deviation and departure from community values, along with adopting unhealthy methods to express desires and interests, result from various causes experienced by young people, strengthening their potential for antisocial behaviors. This personality, as described by Boutefnouchet, is far from coherence and compliance, characterized by extreme change and diversity due to economic class multiplicity, social obstacles, and changing cultural models (Boutefnouchet.M, 1994, p. 45).

A careful examination of prevailing values and standards in any society is crucial, as they can sometimes create space for substance use by society's tolerance towards users, as seen in the case of qat consumption in Yemen. Patterns of substance use may vary in societies depending on how the substance is dealt with, and we must not overlook societies that show significant reactions of concern and rejection towards addiction while being tolerant and lenient towards alcohol and cases of intoxication. This difference and division extend to public authorities' positions through the activities of associations, ministries, and other channels operating within the world of drugs.

Among these social mechanisms receiving attention from researchers are the media, which serve as a source from which young people draw their information about drugs. Studies by D. Fejer indicate that students who do not use drugs rely on media tools to obtain information related to addiction, while drug users rely on their personal experiences and friends. Practical experience shows a correlation between the extent of young people's exposure to this information and their likelihood of drug use.

The overall failure of preventive approaches is described by Henri Chabrol, who states, "The evaluation of the majority of education-based programs has shown their ineffectiveness or negative effects. The issue is not only about increasing consumption and use but can also take on the character of a salted challenge and incentive to experiment with these drugs." A study involving 935 high school students revealed that among those who participated in awareness programs and developed knowledge about drugs, some also turned to alcohol, cannabis, and LSD use (Chabrol.R, 1992, p. 112).

#### 4. Family Factors

Family has received considerable attention from researchers and scholars regarding its contribution to influencing young people's inclination towards or aversion from engaging in psychotropic substance use. It has become common in social circles to observe emotional disturbances within substance users, a conclusion supported by D.G. Hunt's research on cannabis use. Hunt's findings indicated that if the parent-child relationship is characterized by neglect and disintegration, the likelihood of the children engaging in substance use increases. Conversely, if the relationship is marked by parental dominance, the likelihood of substance use among children is moderate. This probability diminishes when the parent-child relationship is characterized by love and understanding (Hunt, 1975).

From an epidemiological perspective, research by F. Davidson and M. Choquet (1976) revealed that less than half of the surveyed substance-using youth lived with both parents, and one-third of them belonged to separated families. Only a quarter reported living in families where one parent had passed away. In the control group, 85% of individuals spent their youth with both parents living together, while among substance users, this situation accounted for only half of the individuals.

The study also highlighted the presence of an alcoholic father in 3.4% of families and an alcoholic mother in 0.3%. In contrast, among the substance-using sample, the ratio was three to one for alcoholic fathers and eleven to one for alcoholic mothers. JabrAwad's (1988) results suggested that addiction tends to spread in families with less emphasis on education and those with elevated relational tension between parents.

Research conducted by various groups at the national level (e.g., Algeria - CENEAP), in France (OFD, ESPAD), or in Canada (CRT) consistently leads to parallel observations. These observations suggest that the primary cause of substance use within families is not necessarily emotional events such as divorce but rather the absence of foundational values. Such absence

may stem from the death, separation, or simply the inability of one or both parents to provide acceptable gendered role models for the child and adolescent.

On another note, it has become apparent that the crucial factor lies not in the nature of the substance used by one or both parents but in the habitual use itself. The definite risk for a child living with parents addicted to alcohol or any other psychotropic substance is higher when dealing with secretive habitual behaviors. Such behaviors lead to significant consequences for children, as a mother using psychotropic substances daily for years or a father following a similar path with other substances makes the child think that any problem or psychological stress can only be resolved through external, seemingly magical, chemical interventions.

This perspective aligns with Cosnier's research in 1996, focusing on the level of familial interactive relationships in childhood and adolescence. At this level, parental role representations gain importance again in their connection to various forms of emotional addiction. Substance use in these representations becomes the most dangerous solution.

The situation becomes more complex during adolescence as it requires essential role representations beyond the narrow family framework. To be able to receive diverse role models during adolescence, an individual needs to be prepared early in their early childhood for such interaction, facilitated by a good initial process of exchanges between individual biological means and external models proposed by parents. It seems that this capacity is rarely granted to those who eventually become drug addicts.

Thus, the family plays a crucial role in shaping the youth's decision to engage in psychotropic substance use, as revealed by various studies. Whether in affluent or impoverished families, a fragmented family environment lacking sufficient care and attention tends to foster a climate conducive to actions contrary to tradition or law. Families where the mother is single or deceased, and where familial care and sufficient attention are absent, or those where the father is absent, deceased, imprisoned, or a substance user, increase the likelihood of the children's substance use. Some studies have confirmed that the substance use of some youth in certain families is associated with the educational and cultural level of the parents (Naji Mohammed Hilal, 1999, p. 122).

## 5. Peers and Peer Groups

Many field studies in Europe and America emphasize the significance of peers and friends in shaping adolescent behavior toward psychotropic substance use (Parfrey, 1987, p. 145). The American committee report on cannabis use, as articulated by R. Schafer, highlights the current influential factors in determining adolescent behavior, stating, "One of the most influential factors in shaping the behavior of teenagers in the U.S. currently is the impact of peer groups. Associating with others who use marijuana encourages an individual's usage, and the presence of friends who use marijuana provides opportunities for social engagement" (National Commission, 1972, p. 43).

Certain forms of substance use do not align with isolation, and some can only emerge within a group context. The substance user often finds comfort within a group that provides rudimentary structures for organizing space and time, conducive to constructive utilization (Kaes, 1983, p. 87). This organization appears possible due to the collective participation in space and time, contributing to the formation of an imaginary intention for its role in social life.

These conceptual and intellectual developments are achievable through defense mechanisms provided by the group. In contrast, an isolated individual lacks sufficient defenses on this scale (Bergeret, 1981, p. 150). The discussion often revolves around the perceived contradiction between integration into a group and integration into the family. Adolescents consistently lean towards independence, preferring the company of friends over family (Andrews et al., 2002). This inclination does not necessarily signify neglect of family ties but rather an investment in social experiences extending beyond the family space. In this context, the results of Rodriguez's research (1993) are noteworthy, revealing that most teenagers acknowledge peers as more helpful in dealing with relational issues, while concerning financial matters, needs, and identity, teenagers tend to prefer peers' opinions.

Research by Kandel (D.) sheds light on the significant role of peers and companions in engaging in substance use, providing additional insights into the comparison between the influence of substance-using peers and substance-using parents on substance-using youth. The field results confirm that the influence of peers is stronger.

## 6.Economic Factors

Sociologists widely agree that rapid economic change leads to an increase in the prevalence of substance use. The availability of money heightens the inclination of young people towards substance use, turning wealth into a target for drug dealers and traffickers. Mahmoud Mohamed Sweif's study revealed variations in the degrees of correlation between economic activities and substance use.

In this context, it is essential to pay attention to specific data related to the relationship between substance users and their surrounding world in the context of intergenerational crises (MEDEL.G). The social and professional status transition within the social and economic reality is crucial. Many substance users are unable to maintain stable employment: 11% among individuals suffering from chronic use and up to 50% among less frequent users.

Such financial instability poses real problems that fuel the readiness for drug trafficking and smuggling. Consequently, individuals undergo a transitional path from the rank of a consumer (protected by law 85/05 if before treatment) to that of a trafficker in the opposite situation. This situation complicates the relationships of substance users with their environment. Substance users gradually face difficulties in social adaptation, particularly evident in the workplace, as these challenges begin to emerge early, even within the family, as observed in our practical experience with some cases of substance-using youth.

In conclusion, discussing the motives and reasons leading to drug addiction must consider numerous factors. The individual's psychological and health condition, personality traits, gender, and age play a role, alongside parenting styles and the prevailing climate of conflicts and emotional bonds within the family.

Moreover, social factors like negative peers, deteriorating social and economic conditions, environmental factors related to civilization, drug availability, and societal views all facilitate substance use and dependence. It is also necessary to highlight the ecological factors, referring to deviant spaces and addiction, as contributing factors. The enticing, stimulating, and attractive aspects of the environment play a significant role. Adolescents who escape from home, school, or work seek these spaces as a form of coping mechanism to alleviate the social pain they experience. On another note, it is crucial to acknowledge the role of religious factors as a motivational force to avoid substance use and addiction. It has a powerful impact on the psyche, embodying ethical principles and promoting upright behavior, keeping individuals away from deviations. Without delving into the metaphysical and theological aspects, it is clear that the prevalence of the importance given to "opium" or certain equivalent substances in some religious rituals, as seen in the practices of certain youth groups, serves as a collective sacred defense mechanism.

In general, the factors mentioned earlier do not have unanimous opinions on the emphasis on one factor over another or neglecting one factor over the others. Overall, the results of studies and research in this field indicate an interaction of multiple influencing variables that led to the emergence and subsequent spread of the addiction phenomenon among substance users.

### **Case Presentation**

A case of addiction was selected for the study, and the researcher conducted interviews with the individual, administering a test of topic comprehension within the case study framework. This process aimed to draw a clinical picture revealing various psychological conflicts and frustrations. This clinical example illustrates different psychological contexts related to addictive behavior in light of psychodynamic considerations and various clinical observations.

(M.S), a 21-year-old male, currently in the second year of high school, unemployed, residing in a rural area, was chosen as the subject. He is the youngest of four siblings, unmarried, and initiated drug use at the age of 14, with marijuana being the first substance. He sought treatment for addiction in the hospital.

#### **1. Interview Content with (M.S)**

The researcher conducted a series of semi-structured interviews with the case at the level of the Department of Psychiatric Disorders in a hospital where she was undergoing treatment. (M.S) recounts his life history with a sense of sadness and regret. His parents separated when he was only three years old, and since then, he has been living with his mother and aunts in a modest house, separated from his father, who remarried and now has a daughter. The relationship with his parents is described as positive with his mother being seen as peaceful and affectionate, though occasionally bothersome with her constant inquiries. On the other hand, he expresses

feelings of neglect and lack of concern from his father, who lives apart and engages in smoking and alcohol consumption.

(M.S) describes the positive relationship with his mother but emphasizes the negative role of his father, citing incidents of alcohol consumption and domestic violence that led to their separation. Despite being the youngest among his siblings, he feels a lack of attention and support from them, leading to a sense of isolation and distance from loved ones.

Living on the streets since a young age, (M.S) has taken care of himself and his needs, engaging in smoking since the age of seven and showing little interest in education. His social interactions revolve around a group of friends with whom he engages in drug experimentation, starting with cannabis and tranquilizers at the age of 14.

As (M.S) progressed in substance use, his dependence escalated, leading to increased doses and a variety of substances. Engaging in theft with his group to obtain drugs became a routine, causing concern from his aunts, resulting in stricter supervision and punishment. Feeling unrestricted in the city, he continued his drug use without interference from his resigned father. (M.S) views himself as a victim of early family breakdown, emotional deprivation, and parental love, which paved the way for his descent into drug abuse. As days passed and his addiction continued, (M.S) became progressively more at risk, experimenting with inhalants and hallucinogenic pills, negatively impacting his mental and physical health.

He was eventually apprehended by the gendarmerie with quantities of cannabis and clonazepam (Rivotril) in his possession, leading to his trial and imprisonment. Expressing a desire for treatment and volunteering to break free from the addiction, (M.S) appeared sad and tense during the interviews, indicating a noticeable decline in social interests.

Despite a somewhat bleak outlook, he remains hopeful for medical assistance to overcome this stage of abstinence. It should be noted that this case is under sedative neuroleptics and analgesics.

## 2.Protocol TAT for Case (M.S):

**Panel 01: 15"** "A child contemplates the violin, desiring to comprehend how to play it. Fatigue is evident on him, stemming from the mental strain of figuring out how to organize an event. He currently seeks relaxation amidst the weariness induced by contemplating." 2'11"

**Panel 02: 5"** "Two women, one pregnant and fatigued, have toiled extensively with her husband and now find respite. A man plows with a horse, and his daughter, on her way to school, gazes at her mother and expresses a desire to read and learn." 2'

**Panel 3 BM: 15"** "There could be a woman facing difficulties, shedding tears. She has experienced disappointment and fled from home due to anger towards her husband." 1'30"

**Panel 04: 5"** "A man and his wife, possibly accompanied by another woman behind them, an undressed woman gazes angrily at the man as he departs, and she clings to him." 42"

**Panel 05: 11"** "A mother peers into her children's room to ensure they are asleep." 1'25"

**Panel 06 BM: 10"** "A mother discusses marriage with her son. The child now contemplates his mother and how to approach her or discuss something significant with her." 2"

**Panel 7 BM 0: 8"** "Here, a man converses with his son, able to communicate well because they are not face-to-face." 1'10"

**Panel 08 BM: 9"** "Someone wounded has fallen to the ground, and a young man attempts to strike him mercilessly with a knife. A joke." 1'20"

**Panel 10: 15"** "A man and a woman, or perhaps his daughter, reunite after a long time. She missed him, and he greets her by touching her forehead." 1'3"

**Panel 11: 14"** "Here is a forest, a bridge, and a waterfall. I have nothing to add." 1'35"

**Panel 12: 15"** "A woman awakens, possibly dead. An elder goes to close her eyes. No story." 1'6"

**Panel 13: MF 9'** "A man with his wife; she is sleeping, and he has just awakened. A sexual encounter. He is exhausted, and his eyes hurt." 1'35"

**Panel 14: 15"** "This room is dark. A man opens the window, gazes outside, and ponders." 1'30"

**Panel 15: 10"** "What is this? A genie? A non-human girl standing in a graveyard, conversing with the dead." 2"

**Panel 16: 8"** "I haven't seen anything. Empty." 50"

**Panel 17 BM: 10"** "A naked man descends from his house. A rope descends with him." 1'3"

**Panel 18: 9'** "A man in a suit, someone holding him from behind. They want to restrain him to prevent him from fighting." 2'11"

**Panel 19: 12"** "A drawn joke. Snow-covered homes, flowing water. That's it." 1'25"

**Panel 20: 15"** "Here, your mind stops thinking. Night and rain. A car approaches the man." 1'6"

### 3. Quantitative Results for the Protocol

According to Rosine Debray's network (1997), the quantitative data for the topic comprehension test for case (M.S.) in Table (02) is as follows:

**Table (02) Quantitative Results for Topic Comprehension Test**

Initial Processes	Behavior	Grip		Flexibility			Hardness
E	D	C	F	N	M	B	A
12	3	23	17	11	2	16	25

### 4. Analysis and Discussion of the Case

The historical data of the case (M.S.) vividly depict various life situations that shaped Marwan's path towards drug abuse and entry into the world of suffering and pain, marked by the disorders and frustrations that have defined his life and lifestyle.

The results reveal specific stages in M.S.'s drug use story: before and at the onset of substance abuse, and Marwan's condition thereafter, including his attempt to seek treatment to overcome addiction. The interview presents us with the image of a young man experiencing deep pain and sorrow due to a strong sense of guilt for choosing a coping mechanism that has exhausted and shattered him. He resonates with Freud's assertion that "our lives are very heavy, bringing us a lot of pain, tragedies, frustrations, and disappointments... and to endure them, we cannot abandon sedatives" (Civilization and Its Discontents, 1929). Marwan's personality is characterized by

impulsivity, emotional reactivity, an inability to take responsibility, and a negative approach to problem-solving.

This deficiency is fueled by the continued turbulent family circumstances and the father's alcohol addiction. Analytical research indicates that the issue of drug addiction is fundamentally related to the problems of adolescence and carries a serious dimension.

Deprivation of parental care during adolescence opened new avenues for Marwan to seek alternative identities and coping mechanisms to establish new foundations in dealing with his reality and problems. The pursuit of happiness and protection became a defensive pattern, and the search for drugs served as an escape from this unconscious guilt, coinciding with the various libidinal excitations of this means. Freud often used the term "means" in the context of drugs when describing, "the most important means of protection against suffering are also those that aim to affect our organicity... the most violent but the most effective" (previous reference).

Results show that the case is susceptible to suggestion, making it vulnerable to the influence of others in drug use. M.S. responds to his peers' encouragement to alleviate anxiety and depression, facing insecurity and indifference from his siblings and father. The family and environmental factors provided the space for M.S. to join a group of peers who endorse and encourage drug use as a way to fulfill psychological needs.

The TAT analysis reveals M.S.'s struggle to establish self-identity and cope with conflicts, manifesting as a deficiency in self-realization and problem-solving ability. The case exhibits hostility, a disturbance in self-concept concerning the external world, and a disturbance in moral values. The weak ego and the sense of helplessness in problem-solving make M.S. perceive the surrounding environment as threatening and discouraging, motivating him to further sensory exploration to avoid its dangers and eventually resort to drug use.

Within this model, M. Lebrat suggests that the pursuit of pleasure and avoidance of the unpleasant state associated with drug absence drive repeated substance use leading to addiction. Continuous substance use in this trajectory is more about the person than the drug, as the addict's personality defines addiction. This emphasizes the psychological and emotional roots of addiction, consistent with the findings of the case study that the addicted personality suffers from psychological conflicts and frustrations.

These results are consistent with previous studies in the field, such as Feld Robert's study (1998), confirming that addicts experience conflicts and frustrations. The self-concept and self-esteem of addicts are lower compared to non-addicts. A study by Corcione et al. (1999) revealed that drug users suffer from psychological conflicts and disorders, including depressive tendencies, guilt feelings, anxiety, and obsessions. Studies by Kothar Ibrahim Rizk (1991) and Maher Naguib Elias (1994) confirmed the dependent relationship of the addict on others, especially the mother, and the loss of emotional warmth and the depressive nature of the addict.

These results align with Abdel Rahim Bakheet's study (1998), which focused on the clinical significance of drug addicts' responses using the TAT. The study concluded that the case suffers from psychological conflicts and disorders associated with addiction, manifested in depressive

tendencies, despair, guilt feelings, anxiety, and obsessions. The motives for behavior included sexual motivation, environmental influences reflected in the rejection by the father and society, harsh treatment, and affection from the mother, leading to internal conflicts.

## Conclusion

The issue of drug abuse and addiction, as perceived by modern societies, has evolved beyond the simplicity it once possessed a few decades ago. This evolution is evident not only in the variety of illicit drugs available in the market but also in their potential hazards to individuals' mental and physical health, as well as their impact on the conventional course of social life. Consequently, addressing this issue goes beyond mere reactive responses or spontaneous measures that lack effectiveness and objective evaluation of the phenomenon's magnitude.

We are confronted with a problem where organic, psychological, social, and cultural factors intertwine, necessitating an approach to tackle the complexities of this entanglement. Unraveling the mechanisms and processes is a prerequisite for formulating an appropriate therapeutic strategy. This, in turn, requires harnessing the available scientific knowledge and directing it towards a social force that contributes to the public entities' efforts in containing and controlling the addiction problem.

It is evident that the extensive efforts made by scientists and researchers in their respective fields regarding this matter continue to yield substantial scientific contributions. These contributions have generated a vast wealth of knowledge, encompassing diverse content and serving varied purposes. This knowledge serves as a foundation for addressing the issue of addiction, both in understanding and treatment.

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