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Presenting a Causal Model of Bias towards Drugs in Students based on Academic Failure and Hyperactivity and Attention Deficit with the Mediating Role of Hedonism

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Purpose: Considering the decreasing age of addiction and the many problems faced by addicts, the present research was conducted with the aim of presenting a causal model of bias towards drugs in students based on the academic failure and hyperactivity and attention deficit with the mediating role of hopelessness feelings.

Methodology: The current research in terms of purpose was applied and in terms of implementation method was descriptive from type of correlation. The research population was all the junior and senior high school students of one district of Mashhad city in the 2020-2021 academic years, which number of 310 people of them were selected as a sample by cluster random sampling method. The tools of the current research were the questionnaires of addiction potential, academic failure, hyperactivity and attention deficit and hopelessness, which whose psychometric indicators were confirmed in previous researches and in this study. Data were analyzed by structural equation modeling method in SPSS version 24 and AMOS version 24 software.

Findings: The findings of the present study showed that the causal model of bias towards drugs in students based on the academic failure and hyperactivity and attention deficit with the mediating role of hopelessness feelings had a good fit. Also, the variable of academic failure on the hopelessness feelings and bias towards drugs, the variable of hyperactivity and attention deficit on the hopelessness feelings and the variable of hopelessness feelings on the bias towards drugs had a direct and significant effect ($P < 0.05$), but the variable of hyperactivity and attention deficit on the bias towards drugs hadn't a direct and significant effect ($P > 0.05$). In addition, academic failure and hyperactivity and attention deficit had an indirect and significant effect on the bias towards drugs with the mediating of hopelessness feelings ($P < 0.05$).

Conclusion: The results indicated the effective role of academic failure and hyperactivity and attention deficit with the mediating of hopelessness feeling on bias towards drugs. Therefore, the planners and specialists of cultural and educational activities of adolescents in order reduce to bias towards drugs can seek to design and implement programs to reduce academic failure, hyperactivity and attention deficit and hopelessness feelings.



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Extended Abstract

Purpose: Addiction is a bio-psychosocial or biological, psychological and social disease that sufferers face many problems in economic, social, political and cultural fields. Drug addiction means acute and chronic intoxication caused by natural and industrial medicinal substances, which is harmful for person and society and causes many mental and physical complications. The problem of drug addiction and abuse is one of the most important problems of the present age of human societies, which has a global scope and its rate is increasing every year. The bias towards drugs that some people are more prepared or vulnerable to drug abuse, while others are less prepared and vulnerable to it. In the other words, some people are susceptible to addiction and if they are exposed to drugs become addicted, and others are not susceptible to addiction and even if they are exposed to drugs, they either do not become addicted or they either become addicted much later. People with bias towards drugs are more prone to negative health problems, high risk of injuries and death due to interpersonal violence, accidents and involvement in high-risk behaviors such as sexual behaviors. One of the effective factors in the bias towards drugs is the academic failure of students, which is not only an individual problem, but also a social problem and its consequences affect the society. Students who fall behind and drop out of school are more at risk of crime, drug abuse, physical and sexual abuse, and personality and psychological disorders. The issue of academic failure is one of the worrying issues for families and those involved in education, and every year a large number of students face the phenomenon of academic failure or dropout. Academic failure means a decrease in students' performance from a satisfactory level to an unfavorable level. Therefore, academic failure occurs when there is a difference between the potential and actual ability and talent of students or their previous and current academic performance. Another effective factor in bias towards drugs is hyperactivity and attention deficit of students, which is a stable pattern of inattentive, hyperactive and impulsive behaviors. The hyperactivity and attention deficit disorder is one of the common problems of children and adolescents to see a psychiatrist, and if it is not identified, it leads to academic failure and rejection by peers. The hyperactivity and attention deficit disorder is a complex, multifaceted and neuro-behavioral disorder that is characterized by a continuous pattern of hyperactivity-impulsivity and unwanted inattention and although it is considered a special childhood disorder, it sometimes continues into adulthood. This disorder in addition to the drop in academic performance, causes weakness in the cognitive, emotional, social, and family functions, and in adulthood, it has a negative effect on job performance and marital relationships. One of the variables that can play a mediating role between academic failure and hyperactivity and attention deficit with bias towards drugs is the hopelessness feeling. The hopelessness feeling as a negative emotional state refers to negative expectations about the future, which is a subset of the emotion of sadness and causes helplessness and depression. The hope is a sign for the health of the body and soul in order to have a better future, but hopelessness is the opposite of hope, which eventually causes helplessness and depression by eliminating motivation and reducing effort. The hopelessness feeling as a passive and harmful mood both paralyzes the human will and causes the unwillingness to escape from the existing situation and make efforts in this field. The hopelessness feeling causes truancy from school, depression, having suicidal thoughts, shyness, loss of self-esteem and quality of life, tendency to destructive behaviors and tendency to risky behaviors such as substance abuse. Considering the decreasing age of addiction and the many problems faced by addicts, the present research was conducted with the aim of presenting a causal model of bias towards drugs in students based on the academic failure and hyperactivity and attention deficit with the mediating role of hopelessness feelings.

Methodology: The current research in terms of purpose was applied and in terms of implementation method was descriptive from type of correlation. The research population was all the junior and senior high school students of one district of Mashhad city in the 2020-2021 academic years, which number of 310 people of them were selected as a sample by cluster random sampling method. In this study, the number of junior high school students was equal to 21265 people and the number of senior high school students was equal to 15969 people, which makes a total of 37234 people. Also, since the minimum sample size in modeling is 200 people, and if the sample size is small, the probability of fitting the model decreases, and in addition, due to the large size of the population, in this study, 350 students were selected as a sample; So that 200 people of them were studying in the junior high school and 150 people of them were studying in the senior high school. Due to the fact that some questionnaires were not completely completed, they were left out of the analysis (40 items) and finally, the analysis was done for 310 students. The tools of the current research were the questionnaires of addiction potential, academic failure, hyperactivity and attention deficit and hopelessness, which whose psychometric indicators were confirmed in previous researches and in this study. Data were analyzed by structural equation modeling method in SPSS version 24 and AMOS version 24 software.

Findings: The findings of the present study showed that the causal model of bias towards drugs in students based on the academic failure and hyperactivity and attention deficit with the mediating role of hopelessness feelings had a good fit. Also, the variable of academic failure on the hopelessness feelings and bias towards drugs, the variable of hyperactivity and attention deficit on the hopelessness feelings and the variable of hopelessness feelings on the bias towards drugs had a direct and significant effect ($P < 0.05$), but the variable of hyperactivity and attention deficit on the bias towards drugs hadn't a direct and significant effect ($P > 0.05$). In addition, academic failure and

hyperactivity and attention deficit had an indirect and significant effect on the bias towards drugs with the mediating of hopelessness feelings ($P < 0.05$).

Conclusion: The results indicated the effective role of academic failure and hyperactivity and attention deficit with the mediating of hopelessness feeling on bias towards drugs. Therefore, the planners and specialists of cultural and educational activities of adolescents in order reduce to bias towards drugs can seek to design and implement programs to reduce academic failure, hyperactivity and attention deficit and hopelessness feelings.