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## **The Attitude among Rural and Urban Adolescents towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Alcohol and drugs are the oldest substances abused by man and woman in almost every society around the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that alcohol use disorders affect 76.3 million people worldwide (WHO, 2004). Various risk factors of alcohol and drugs abuse have been identified by the researchers, e.g., genetic factors (Carmelli et al., 1993), peer and parental influences (Etz, Robertson, & Ashery, 1998; Svensson 2000), media influence, social learning (Akers & Sellers, 2004; Bahr, Maughan, Marcos, & Li, 1998), psychological problems, etc., that put one vulnerable towards alcohol or drugs abuse. People drink alcohol or use drug for a variety of reasons and fall to various disorders and diseases. Studies in U.S. have shown that 80% of American adolescents have used alcohol by the end of 12th grade (Johnston et al. 2001). According to a survey by center for addiction and Substance (CASA), "60 percent of college woman who have

acquired sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS and genital herpes, were under the influence of alcohol at the time they had intercourse, 90 percent of all reported campus rapes occur when alcohol is being used by either the assailant or the victim, and 95percent of violent crime on campus is alcohol-related (Commission on Substance Abuse at Colleges and Universities, 1994)." Similar trends are being reported in other parts of the world. The important point of think over is that how one develops a favorable or soft attitude towards alcohol or drugs abuse during ages.

### **ATTITUDE TOWARDS ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USE:**

Attitude plays an important role in developing both positive and negative behaviour. Parents and other significant others influence attitudes and behavior of adolescents. If adolescents see their parents or other significant adults using alcohol and drugs or if the attitudes of the prominent figures are tolerant of alcohol and drugs use, adolescent is more likely to experiment with drugs, acquire accepting attitudes towards alcohol and drug use and choose friends who drink or use drugs. Very little attention has been given to how attitude towards alcohol and drug influences adolescent alcohol and drug use. If one has a soft attitude towards alcohol and drug abuse at early ages, it is likely that he/she is more likely to take alcohol or drugs at that time or later. Therefore attitudinal influences are very significant in developing interest towards alcohol and drug use. Therefore, this further highlights the importance of the present measure.

### **ALCOHOL AND DRUGS USE IN ADOLESCENTS:**

Adolescents abuse alcohol and drugs for many reasons such as right of passage to adulthood, peer pressure, media influences and family environment. Within the families where alcohol is

used, adolescents may observe alcohol use, acquire favorable attitudes towards alcohol use, and begin using alcohol themselves (Wills, Mariani, & Filer, 1996). Similarly, if their friends drink alcohol, adolescents are likely to receive positive social reinforcement from their friends towards drinking (Petraitis, Flay, & Miller, 1995). Peer usually introduce one to a drugs and encourage its and adolescents rarely use drugs if none of their friends use drugs (Khavari, 1993; Moon, Hecht, Jackson, & Spellers, 1999). According to Barnes and Welte (1986), when parents disapprove of drinking, students are less likely to drink and if they drink, they consume less alcohol. McDermott (1984) reported that parental drug attitudes, as perceived by the adolescent, have stronger effects on adolescent drug use than does parental drug use. Thus, families and peers are important source of developing soft attitude towards alcohol and drug use among adolescents.

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

People drink and abuse drugs for many reasons such peer pressure, media influences, to cope with life stress, family conflict, etc. Theory and research indicate that parental influences have significant impacts on the risk of adolescent drug use (Etz, Robertson, & Ashery, 1998; Petraitis, Flay, & Miller, 1995; Svensson, 2000). Media is also an important source of developing positive attitude towards alcohol and drugs use. Advertisement in both electronic media and print media portray celebrities enjoying drinks and drugs that that have a negative impact on adolescents. They start thinking that there is no harm in drinking in parties and on special occasions when other are doing.

Belonging to male- dominated society, (e.g, in India) also increase the likelihood of engaging in heavy drinking behavior. Landdrine et al. (1988) have suggested that drunkenness may be an aspect of the concept of masculinity. In western cultures,

for example, advertisements display excessive alcohol usage exclusively as a men's activity (Ratiff & Burkhart, 1984). Further, evidence suggest that stories about drunken behavior are an important part of identify construction (Giles, 1999; Moore, 1990). Youth must be aware that alcohol and drug abuse are associated with physical, psychological and behavioural problems. Therefore, early identification of such vulnerable youth is essential.

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

**“To Study the Attitude among Urban and Rural Adolescents towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse”.**

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. To study the attitude among rural and urban adolescents towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.
2. To study the attitude among rural boys and urban boys towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.
3. To study the attitude among rural boys and urban girls towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.
4. To study the attitude among rural girls and urban boys towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.
5. To study the attitude among rural girls and urban girls towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.

## **HYPOTHESIS**

**H01.** There is no significant difference between the attitude among rural and urban adolescents towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.

**H02.** There is no significant difference between the attitude among rural boys and urban boys towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.

**H03.** There is no significant difference between the attitude among rural boys and urban girls towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.

**H04.** There is no significant difference between the attitude among rural girls and urban boys towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.

**H05.** There is no significant difference between the attitude among rural girls and urban girls towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.

## **DELIMITATION**

Delimitations are the boundaries of the study. The present study was undertaken in order to study the attitude among urban and rural adolescents towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.

- The research is delimited to Bilaspur District.
- The research is delimited to the intermediate students of Bilaspur only.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The researcher has adopted the method of descriptive of survey type to study the attitude among urban and rural adolescents towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.

### **SAMPLING:**

In the present study researcher has applied random sampling technique for selecting from the population. For the purpose of present study, 200 students of intermediate in Bilaspur District is selected in which 100 boys and 100 girls of Rural and Urban area School is selected.

## VARIABLES

**Independent Variables- Alcohol and Drug Abuse Attitude**

**Dependent Variables –Urban and Rural Adolescents**

## TOOL USED IN THE STUDY

*Sunil Saini & Sandeep Singh.* **Alcohol and Drug Attitude Scale** (This scale consists 28 items. The present scale assesses the attitude of an individual towards alcohol and drug abuse. Age group 16-19.)

## ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA

**H01.** There is no significant difference between the attitude among rural and urban adolescents towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.

**Table -1**

Variables	N	Mean	SD	SED	t-test	df	Significance Level	Interpretation
Alcohol & Drugs Abuse Attitude Urban Boys	100	72.2	30.5	32.5	0.964	198	0.05-1.98	Accepted
Rural Girls	100	67.8	34.3				0.01-2.60	

### Interpretation of the value of t- test

The above table shows that, the calculated t- value is 0.964 which is less than the table value at 0.05 level i.e. 1.98 and .01 level i.e. 2.60 with df 198 . Hence the hypothesis there is no significant difference between the attitude among urban and rural adolescents towards alcohol and drugs abuse is accepted.

### Result

There is no significant difference between the attitude among urban and rural adolescents towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.

**H02.** There is no significant difference between the attitude among rural boys and urban boys towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.

**Table -2**

Variables	N	Mean	SD	SED	t- test	df	Significance Level	Interpretation
Alcohol & Drugs Abuse Attitude Urban Boys	50	73.9	31.7	35.4	0.972	98	0.05-1.98	Accepted
Rural Boys	50	80.8	38.7				0.01-2.60	

**Interpretation of the value of t- test**

The above table shows that, the calculated ‘t’ value is 0.972 which is less than the table value at 0.05 level i.e. 1.98 and .01 level i.e. 2.60 with df 98 . Hence the hypothesis there is no significant difference between the attitude among urban boys and rural boys towards alcohol and drugs abuse is accepted.

**Result**

There is no significant difference between the attitude among urban boys and rural boys towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.

**H03.** There is no significant difference between the attitude among rural boys and urban girls towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.

**Table -3**

Variables	N	Mean	SD	SED	t- test	df	Significance Level	Interpretation
Alcohol & Drugs Abuse Attitude Urban Boys	50	73.9	31.7	27.8	3.43	98	0.05-1.98	Rejected
Rural Girls	50	54.8	23.2				0.01-2.60	

**Interpretation of the value of t- test**

The above table shows that, the calculated t value is 3.43 which is more than the table value at 0.05 level i.e. 1.98 and .01 level

i.e. 2.60 with df 98 . Hence the hypothesis there is no significant difference between the attitude among urban boys and rural girls towards alcohol and drugs abuse is accepted.

## Result

There is significant difference between the attitude among rural boys and urban girls towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.

**H04.**There is no significant difference between the attitude among rural girls and urban boys towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.

**Table-4**

Variables	N	Mean	SD	SED	t-test	df	Significance Level	Interpretation
Alcohol & Drugs Abuse Attitude Urban Girls	50	70.5	29.5	34.4	1.49	98	0.05-1.98	Accepted
Rural Boys	50	80.8	38.7				0.01-2.60	

## Interpretation of the value of t- test

The above table shows that, the calculated value is 1.49 which is less than the table value at 0.05 level i.e. 1.98 and .01 level i.e. 2.60 with df 98 . Hence the hypothesis there is no significant difference between the attitude among rural girls and urban boys towards alcohol and drugs abuse is accepted.

## Result

There is no significant difference between the attitude among rural girls and urban boys towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.

**H05.**There is no significant difference between the attitude among rural girls and urban girls towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.



**Table -5**

Variables	N	Mean	SD	SED	t- test	df	Significance Level	Interpretation
Alcohol & Drugs Abuse Attitude Urban Girls	50	70.5	29.5	26.6	2.96	98	0.05-1.98	Rejected
Rural Girls	50	54.8	23.2				0.01-2.60	

### **Interpretation of the value of t- test**

The above table shows that, the calculated't value is 2.96 which is more than the table value at 0.05 level i.e. 1.98 and .01 level i.e. 2.60 with df 98 . Hence the hypothesis there is no significant difference between the attitude among rural girls and urban girls towards alcohol and drugs abuse is rejected.

### **Result**

There is significant difference between the attitude among rural girls and urban girls towards Alcohol and Drugs Abuse.

### **CONCLUSION**

Alcohol and drug use is associated with many physiological, psychological and behavioral problems. Therefore, if one has negative attitude towards alcohol and drugs during early ages, there are chances that he/she would not use alcohol and drugs. Everyday media has reported that most of the traffic accidents, alleged rapes, date rapes, peer violence, robberies, and other crimes are due to alcohol and drug abuse. Youths in university campus are more likely to involve in such crimes as they have no restrictions and are more susceptible to peer pressure to abuse these substances. Therefore, identifying youths with positive attitude towards alcohol and drug use should be the primary objective of school/college/university campus so that their attitude towards substances could be modified for further involvement in incurable in incurable like HIV infection. This further highlights the importance of developing alcohol and drug attitude scale.

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