

**Effects of Paternal Heroin Addictive Behavior on Academic Grades of their Children at
Secondary School Level**

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Abstract

This study is aimed to figure out the effects of paternal heroin addiction and their impact on the academic performance of their children in Rawalpindi and Islamabad, Pakistan. The present research has adopted a qualitative design which comprised of heroin-addicted fathers and the teachers of their children who were studying at secondary school level. Data were analyzed by using Pearson Correlation methods and the results indicate that the paternal heroin addiction habit is negative, non-significantly correlated to the academic performance of their children. We hypothesize that the weak negative correlation between paternal heroin-addicted habits and academic performance of children is due to their low dependence on their father than their mother. In under-developing countries like Pakistan, the father is involved in outdoor jobs or activities and does not spend more time with their children.

Keywords: Academic Grades, Education, Heroin addiction, Paternal Behaviour, Habit

Introduction

Parents are truly significant figures in the mind of their children's universe (Farquhar, 2014). Parental early age association with children leaves a constructive effect on their learning accomplishment which help to look after into youth and later in life (Taggart et.al, 2015). Involvement of parents into children's education has optimistic effects on the child's academic performance and provides highly positive results for primary or early age education (Christenson, Rounds & Gomey, 1992). Gonzalez-DeHall, Willems, and Holbein (2005) highlighted that when parents express their interests in a child's education, then children are more likely to obtain challenging chores in everyday life as well as educational tasks and experience fulfillment in their assignments. International evidence also suggests that the mindsets and ambitions of parents help children to accomplish their academic goals. In Italy, the involvement of parents through Montessori child school education is common as the first Montessori school was in Italy (Marshall, 2017). Parental involvement and family-school corporations are proved as one of the most successful strategies for the educational development of students (Epstein, et al. 2009). Hence, parent's role and engagement in children's education has become a crucial subject in learning development policies.

Parent's association in a child's educational development is found highly clearly correlated with academic achievements at the secondary school level (David, 2010). It has been stated that parents and child relationships and child-care practices have significant impacts on the academic development of children (Topor, 2010). However, those students who experience a family disruption might not able to achieve their educational goals in comparison to children in stable and two-biological-parent happy families. According to Breiner, these parenting practices are correlated to the good family structure, problem-solving, and positive discipline (Breiner, 2016)

It has been found that many factors disturb family life and hence affect the children's educational development. However, over the past years, it is well established that heroin addiction of parents is one of the most significant among all other parental issues which can harmfully affect the child's educational development and life carrier. There are several reports which highlighted that categorized parents who are mistreating and ignoring children frequently have heroin addiction issues (Lander, 2013). It is also identified that those children living with parents with heroin addiction habits

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have higher rates of internalizing and externalizing issues as compare to the children in the normal family system (Solis, 2012). According to the research from National Survey on Drug Use 2009 and Health (NSDUH), the children related to heroin abuse parents has at higher risk of diversity issues including neglect, shyness as well as anxiety which could badly affect their mental and physical health (Peleg-Oren & Teichman, 2006; Rockville, 2009).

According to Leshner (1997), heroin abuse is considered a mental disease. It is compound and multifaceted, related with inspirational, sentimental, learning, adapting, and behavior of the mind control system (Goldstein & Volkow, 2011; Haney, 2009; Hyman, Malenka, & Nestler, 2006). Substance abuse can result not in anti-social and harmful behavior but also disturbing in terms of physical health particularly HIV, hepatitis, respiratory problems, and mental health such as depression, anxiety, suicide and further leads to many social issues and criminal and violence factors (DH, 2006; NCCHM, 2008). It is also found that drug dependence is generally more common among people with the bad financial situation, low educational levels and the one who lives alone (Anthony, 1994). A preoccupation with drug abuse can compromise a parent's capability to be emotionally active, supportive, kind, and responsible (Schuler, 2002). A significant problem of family setting is associated with a lack of parental capability to pay their best parent's role and obligations (Hans, 2002). Over the past years, medical issues such as psychological, emotional, and mental difficulties among children living with drug dependents remained studied exclusively but their educational development has gained less attention. Parent's substance abuse habit is associated with self-confidence, attention, or discipline issues in students at school which also result in low attendance and high school dropout (Torvik, 2011). However, the academic performance of those students living with drug-dependent parents can also be depending on the factor that which one of the parents (mother or father) is abusing drugs (Torvik, 2011). Drug intakes during pregnancy have major consequences for the child's academic performance due to the neurodevelopment of the fetus, which could lead to fetal alcohol syndrome to many intellectual deficits, attention, shyness, and learning issues (Gray, 2009; Alati, 2013).

Research study Objectives

1. To evaluate the academic output of children who belongs to heroin-addicted fathers.
2. Explore the association between paternal heroin addiction and the academic performance of their children.
3. Identify the relationship between paternal heroin abuse habits and the academic performance of their children.

Research Questions

1. What are the risk factors involved in Children's academic who belong to parental heroin addiction?
2. Do children's lower grades and poor performance in class caused by their father's heroin addiction?
3. What extent association exist between father's drug-taking habits and their children's annual grades?

Research Hypotheses

For our study, we hypothesized that children of drug user fathers will have lower grades and poor performance in class, the association between father's drug-taking habit and their children annually grades will strongly affect the academic behavior and we also hypothesize that there are no associations between paternal drug-taking habit and their children grades.

Method

This study was aimed to figure out the effects of paternal Heroin addiction and their influence on children's academic feat. The present research was based on a quantitative paradigm and reason to develop an understanding of how children belong to a heroin-addicted family suffer in school. Self-developed questionnaires were used to get insight into the research.

The present study was descriptive. This research was designed to study the effects of heroin addiction on parents on the academic performance of their children. The population of this study was comprised of all drug addiction and rehabilitation centers working in Rawalpindi and Islamabad. The permission was taken from the head of the rehabilitation centers and clients and the data was collected from those clients only who were willing to be the part of the study. The study was delimited at the secondary level only. Children and teachers were selected by simple random sampling technique from 10 public

and private schools of the city Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Permission was taken from the head of the schools and colleges as well as from the child’s parents to keep their privacy safe in general.

Participants

A total of (N = 52) heroin-addicted fathers were interviewed with the help of the staff of drug addiction centers to fill up the questionnaires. Heroin-addicted fathers were approached by the heroin addiction and rehabilitation center in two different cities of Pakistan (Islamabad, Rawalpindi). Convenient sampling techniques were chosen to gather the data. The sample for this research was focused on only those children who are studying up to the secondary school level. The present study is conducted for a total (N = 52) of children belonging to addicted parents (father). The respective schools of their children are contacted which consist of 10 different public and private academic institutes of Pakistan in two different cities (Islamabad, Rawalpindi). The percentage of annual grades of the desired students has been collected from their school records and included in calculations. The research presented here is descriptive. The total sample size for this study is (N = 104).

Study Instruments

A couple of questionnaires were used based on the literature review on the co-relation of paternal heroin addiction habits and their children’s classroom performance. Paternal questionnaires were consisting of various items which include the habit and history of their heroin addiction and the immersion in children’s progress and social needs. The parental questionnaire comprised of 56 items indicating Parent’s drug involvement (1-4), Troubles in social life due to drugs (5-9), health-consciousness (10-17), confusion to communicate and help their children(18-22), Social ignorance (23-24), Dissatisfied desires (26), Children’s help in academics (26-33), Interaction with family (34-35), Parent’s children Focus Care(36-41), Sense of rejection (42-43), Social company (Friends) (44-45), Level of parents support in children dropout and absentees(46-48), Sense of Responsibility in children’s daily routine (49-56).

The education level of drug addictive fathers was also figured out which is related to the importance of education in a particular family. Self-made questionnaires helped to understand the level of addiction and responsibility of a father towards his children. The test sample was consisted of 56 items and scored on a 5-point Linkert scale given in table 1.

Table 1. Code assigned to drug-addictive father’s response to the questionnaire.

Response	Codes
Always	5
Often	4
Usually	3
Somewhat	2
Never	1

Teacher-related forms were comprised of 28 items indicating social and classroom behavior.

Social behavior		Class/Academic behavior	
1-	Anger	1-	Classroom activities
2-	Motivation	2-	participation
3-	Boredom	3-	Grades
4-	Anxiety	4-	Cooperation
5-	Shyness	5-	Responsibility
Anger			
1	Does a child feel irritation anger while studying?		
Motivation			
1-	Does he/she participate in class discussion?		
Boredom			
1-	Does he feel bored in his studies?		
2-	Does he is following the rules and regulations in class and school? (boredom)		
Anxiety			
1	Does the student torn his /her books or showing aggressive behavior in class?		

- How frequently he/she remain upset in class?
- Does he become afraid of any unusual situation?
- Do he /she often remain ill or suffering from any other health problem?
- Does the student feel fear from parents and teachers?
- Does he/she ever get disturbed by the mere presence of other people?
- Does he/she feel just miserable?

Academic grades are the best way to judge the academic performance of any student at the secondary level. To make the assessment, we collected final annual academic grades from student’s records of their previous academic year. This measure represents a combination of homework, quizzes, and other assessments depending upon the teacher’s approaches and marking system of a particular school.

Procedure of Data Collection

Data collection was done by survey method which consisted of close-ended questions. A convenient sampling technique was used to select the children. The convenient sampling method is a set of techniques in which respondents are selected by convenience due to their proximity, availability, accessibility, or another way that the researcher decides (Abrams, 2010). It is considered a fast and easy method to use. However, results seldom are representative of the population (Meyer, 2009). When the corresponding questionnaire has been answered by parents, the academic performance questionnaires related to the same students were distributed to the respective schools and teachers of those students. The answered questionnaires were taken back individually from all the teachers involved, by approaching those individuals personally in their staff room at school. Questionnaires were regulated to all schools and teachers who were part of the study sample.

Data analysis

The collected scores have been presented individually through the evaluating of correlation was applied to figure out the effects of paternal heroin addiction habit on their children's performance in academic. Advanced statistical analysis is done by calculating bivariate correlations using SPSS Statistics 17.0 software.

Results

Drug abusing habits of parents are negatively correlated with the academic performance of their children however the relationship is weak and no sign as $P > 0.05$ as listed in table 2. According to our study in table 2, the results indicate that paternal heroin addiction habit is negative, non-significantly correlated to the academic performance of their children $ASR = -.076$, and $p > .05$, which is higher than the alpha level with a significance of 0.05. Hence, our hypothesis that the children of heroin abuser fathers will have lower grades and poor performance in secondary school, is accepted.

Table 2 Statistical analysis of drug addictive fathers and their children’s academic grades

		Correlations	
		Parents drugs habit	Students’ academic performance
Parents Heroin Habit	Pearson	1	-.076
	Correlation		
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.593
Students’ academic performance	N	52	52
	Pearson	.076	1
	Correlation		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.593	
	N	52	52

In addition, these results also indicate that the literacy level is quite low among heroin addiction parents, hence, they have no serious thought or knowledge on how to deal with their children and educate them at home. Figure 1 shows that the high proportion of illiterate and primary education patients relate to drug usage problems. It is found that the education level of 75% of respondent fathers is below secondary level. The academic performance of each of 52 students has been collected from their schools and their percentages have been plotted in figure 2 which helps to determine the academic performance of students.

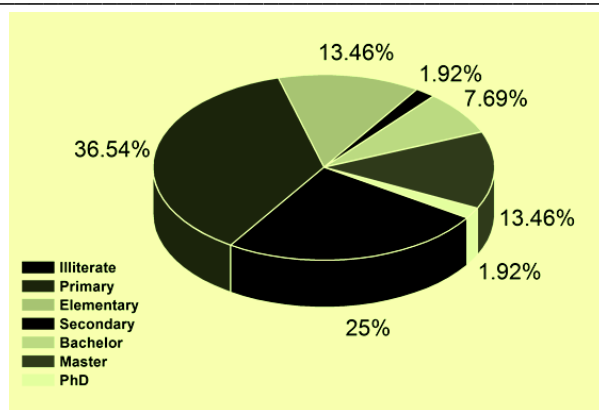


Figure 1. Literacy level among the respondent heroin addictive fathers

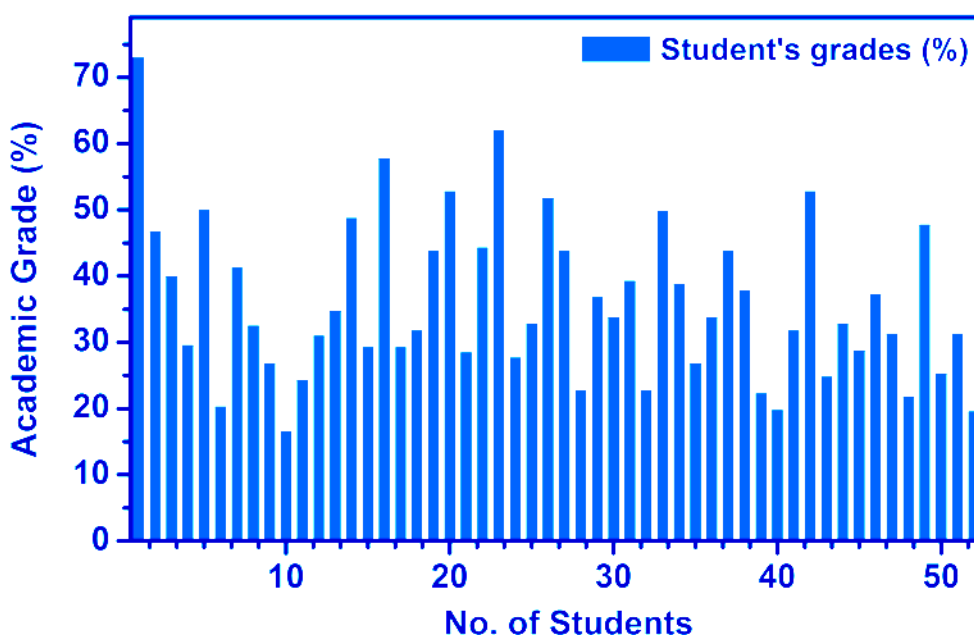


Figure 2. Annual academic percentage grades for each of 52 students are listed for evaluation of student performance.

Discussion of Findings

As national attention turns to why people use drugs and how it affects their own life as well as their children's social and academic life, our study is the first approaching research in Pakistan to inspect the association between the paternal addiction habit and their children's academic outcomes. The existing study intends to find out the major problems in Pakistan behind those child behaviors and failure in academic activities whose families are facing obstacles regarding the father heroin abuse problems. This study has important implications for people's interests. Our data show the results that the drug dependence habit of paternal is negatively, non-significantly correlated to the academic performance of their children. As we selected the secondary school level children because at this age level is particularly an important part of adolescence life and this period of development matches up around to the phase between the ages of 10 and 19. Adolescent development starts with screening in terms of social, emotional, cognitive, and mental growth and change. While it is usually accepted as true that adolescence is inescapably a period of storm and stress (G. S. Hall, 1904). Biederman et al conducted research to determine how to specify risks for those who are the victims of heroin addiction. It is highlighted in the literature that adolescence is an important stage in life for the harmful effects of exposure to parental substance use disorders. It supports the need to figure out early intervention methods and focused on adolescents however with high risk for SUDs. Furthermore, we found in our results that the children living with heroin abuse fathers have a negative and inverse relationship because of their substance abuse, and on the other hand paternal heroin addiction is leaving a worse effect on their child's academic grades as well as in their classroom activities although the relationship

is comparatively weak. A finding of very weak correlation is because many external and socio-economic and demographic factors affect the children's performance in Pakistan such as parental education, lack of attention, poverty, parental occupational status, and income level. Additionally, many children who belong to Pakistani societies are extra dependent on mothers as compared to fathers. Pakistani fathers become not more prominent in the accomplishment of child education as well as a care because fathers are participating in jobs and economic responsibility of a family. In social and cultural context mothers are used to handle the responsibility of home and children, hence may be maternal addiction effect more than father involvement in drugs but we did not monitor the connection with maternal addiction habit.

Parental educational status can also affect the academic achievement of a child and we found an additional point in our study that the high proportions of illiterate and low educational status fathers are linked with drug dependence whereas 75% of patients were illiterate and only 25% were educated. As our results confirm that people who start taking drugs are ignorant of the hurtful and pessimistic effects of the drug practice.

Parental role (mother and father) is incredibly crucial for healthy child development. Father drug Involvement creates a lot of problems for one parent to handle the children's duty and the economic responsibility for and above at the same time controlling their father's heroin addiction, as the involvement of one's family is very critical in controlling the heroin addiction. It is needed that parents should be well educated and aware of all those factors which can affects their children and take them to drug dependence and hence affect their academic performance. Furthermore, our findings indicate that the children who are facing the challenging paternal drug use behavior, lack of warmth and attention they need extra support and help as compared to other children whose father are not involved in drug use activities. Our study results are very constant with the study done by Dr. Justine Horgan, Senior Researcher, National Advisory Committee on Drugs, describes that the children related to heroin abuse parents are more likely facing the series of problems in their social and academic life as equal to those kids belongs to parents those are not connected with the drug use habit. Children associated with heroin abuse parents may suffer the social and mental health issues and academic failures (NACD, 2011)

Beyond this, parents also need to well take care of their medications and restrict their children to access or just keep away from their reach. In addition, a matched study by Hussong indicated that less rate behavioral problems among children had seen with only single parent who uses the drug as compared to both parents. (Hussong, 2008). Currently, the government, school, teachers, and society are trying their best to bring better education to all children around the country. A lot of awareness has been established on children's education. Scholars are more devoted and motivational to students and encourage their students to progress well in their classes. Combining all the factors, child academic behavior is improving maintaining less correlation with their parent's addiction habits. Hence, the low correlation has been noted in this research.

Conclusion

The findings of our study entail that paternal heroin addiction is associated with their children's educational attainment settings. It is negatively correlated so inversely interconnected with the child's grades in school as the paternal heroin addiction is increasing, the student's academic grades are decreasing. It is imaginable that paternal heroin addiction habit is the hazardous victim force for their children to raise their academic performance. Our results also designate a nuanced actuality, wherein the draw rounds of our results fluctuate as the affiliation of paternal drug dependence with child academic functions is weak and pathetic as the role of mothers in Pakistan is primary and significantly higher in child development. Our findings also raise the possibility that a mother's drug-taking habit can leave more ruinous belongings on children rather than father heroin addiction usage. This study's findings of parental drug dependence warrant further attention to scrutinize. The results presented here will pave the way for the development of counseling and guidance programs for children of heroin-addicted parents. In addition, this study gives the direction for future research which should consider necessary elements such as corresponding background, culture, social, environmental, and economic factors when dealing with heroin-addicted parents and their children. The study presented here spared most of these factors to determine their association with heroin abuse. The present study would help curriculum developers to focus on behavioral strengthen material including pleasing stimulus activities, emergency preparedness plans, knowledge of coping with parental violence or

abuse, and emotional adaptation. The concluded study is putting the lights on social issues specifically parental violence on children which could help policymakers to introduce new methods and structures of child protection. Further investigations must be done on various methods which are used to address Parental heroin abuse and their effect on children's mental health in schools.

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