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## The Relationship between Religiosity and Demography Factors with Narcotics Abuse in University Student

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### Abstract

The purpose of the present research was to investigate the relationship between religiosity and demography factors with narcotics abuse in university student. The statistical community of this study was including all male and female students in Tehran University, who were enrolled in the 1388-89 academic year. The sample group was included 182 college student that have been chosen via multistage random sampling method. Assessment instruments were the «Religiosity Scale, Bastami & Bahrami Ehsan, 2009 & «Risk Behaviors Questionnaire» (2007)». Data was analyzed by using Pearson correlation coefficient and Stepwise multiple regression. Finding demonstrated that religiosity had a negative correlation with narcotics abuse. Stepwise regression analysis showed that gender and religiosity in two steps, could explain 0/146 and 0/088 of variance in alcohol and narcotic substances. In addition Stepwise regression analysis demonstrated that gender, religiosity and marriage could explain 0/144 of variance to smoke.

*Key words:* Religiosity; Demography Factors; Narcotics abuse; Student

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### 1. Introduction

Narcotics abuse is an old phenomenon but it has become more diverse and variegated as synthetic and semi-synthetic narcotics appear each day. It is becoming increasingly easy to have access to illegal drugs (Hawkins, Catalano & Miller, 1992) and this has become a major social pathos. Narcotics not only endanger the user's and the societies health and well being but also pave the way for moral and intellectual degeneration and can have lasting consequences for the user's mental health as well as for the mental health of those closely associated with him/her (Sinha, 2001). University students are one of guilds among whom narcotics abuse is rife. University students are commonly aged between 18-24 (Redican, 2004).

Epidemiology studies indicate that smoking and consumption is on the rise among students (Botvin, 2000; Ference & et al, 2000). One mitigating factor is thought to be adherence to religiosity. Religion is defined as a structured system of beliefs which incorporates tradition, moral values, rituals and cooperation in a religious society for maintaining a belief in god or a higher power (Chatters, 2000).

Many studies have reported a meaningful negative correlation between religiosity and narcotics abuse. Studies by Tomase & et al, 2008; Janson & et al, 2005; Katherine & Saunders, 2002; Brown & et al, 2001; Stewart 2001, George & et al, 2000 have targeted possible relationship between demographical factors such as age and marriage

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and narcotics abuse. Results show that there is a meaningful relationship between gender and narcotics abuse, Men being more prone to narcotics abuser which tendency intensities with age.(Bahreinian & et al, 2004; Serajzadeh& et al,2007) . Other studies, however, have not reported a Meaningful relationship between narcotics abuse and marital status (Serajzadeh& et al, 2003). Considering the manifold damages caused by narcotic abuse (Physical, mental and economical damages to the individual as well as to his/her family members) and the probable role of religion as an inward, potent and personal factor in preventing abuse of drugs (Myers , 2006). we have conducted the current study to establish whether there is a relationship between 1-religious faith and narcotics abuse and 2-demographic variables such as gender, age and marriage and narcotics abuse. We have also tried to establish the extent to which each of these independent variables can determine a subject's likelihood of being engaged in narcotics abuse.

## 2. Method

This research is a correlative one. All male and female students of Tehran University were the members of the statistical population of this research. The sample of the population consists of 182 students taken by multistage random sampling method. The data were analyzed using multiple regression and Pierson correlation method.

## 3. Measures

*3.1. Religious Faith Scale:* The scale was compiled by Bastami & Bahrami Ehsan , 2008. It comprises 15 articles. Higher scores indicate higher inclination towards religion. In a preliminary run conducted on a sample of 360 comprising 120 physically ill subjects, 120 Mentally ill subjects and 120 healthy subjects, a validity of 0.96 was calculated for the scale (using kronbach alpha coefficient method). Face validity of the scale was also confirmed by a number of experts (Bastami, 2007).

*3.2. High Risk Behaviours Questionnaire (rev. 2007):* This questionnaire has been prepared for the national study of the hazardous behaviors of American students and used to annual researches. The main version of this questionnaire contains 96 questions regarding hazardous behaviors of different fields such as security, violence, suicide, smoking, alcohol consumption, narcotics abuse, hazardous sexual behaviors, nutrition, and physical activities. To determine the reliability, two methods of internal consistency and retest has been used. According to internal consistency, the kronbach alpha coefficient is equal to 87 %, which shows a high and acceptable correlation of the scale. To determine the cutting point of the questionnaire, ROC curve has been used. Based on the analysis of results, the cutting point of the questionnaire is equal to 74. This questionnaire with such a cutting point is capable to distinct the individuals with hazardous behaviors from the individuals without such behaviors with the sensitivity of 85.5 and specialty of 72.2 (Rahimi, 2009). In this research, the kronbach alpha coefficient of the questionnaire has been equal to 0.67.

## 4. Result

Table 1. The Correlation Matrix of Research Variables

variable	B	SE	$\beta$	t	P
gender	1/46	0/402	0/261	3/63	0/0001
religiosity	-0/048	0/019	0/178	-2/47	0/0014
marriage	1/22	0/580	0/149	-2/12	0/0035

The results of the table (1) indicate that there is a meaningful negative relation between alcohol consumption, cigarette smoking and religiosity ( $P < 0.05$ ).

Variable	Mean	SD	1	2	3	4
1 cigarette smoking	2/66	2/81	1			
2 alcohol consumption	0/90	1/85	0/438**	1		
3 narcotics abuse	0/98	3/08	0/505**	0/452 **	1	
4 religiosity	35/43	10/37	-0/211 **	-0/319**	-0/226 **	1

Table 3. The Brief Statistical Features of the Stepwise Regression of the of the gender, religiosity, marriage on cigarette smoking

Model	Variable	Index	SS	DF	MS	F	P	R	R2	SE
1	gender	Regression	141/22	1	141/2	19/71	0/0001	0/314	0/099	2/67
		residual	1289/4	180	7/16					
2	gender+ religiosity	Regression	174/8	2	87/4	12/46	0/0003	0/350	0/122	2/64
		residual	1255/7	179	7/01					
3	gender+ religiosity + marriage	Regression	205/7	3	68/5	9/96	0/0001	0/379	0/144	2/62
		residual	1224/8	178	6/88					

The results of the table 2 and 3 indicate that the gender, religiosity and marriage are best indicators of smoking. F values are meaningful even at (P<0.0001) and 0.144 of the total variance of smoking is explained by marital status, gender and religiosity. Regression coefficients of predicting variables show that gender (t=3.63, β = 0.261), religiosity (t=-2.47, β =0.178) and marriage(t=-2.12 , β =0.149) can meaningfully explain the variance of smoking.

Table 4. The Brief Statistical Features of the Stepwise Regression of the of the gender, religiosity, marriage on alcohol consumption

Model	Variable	Index	SS	DF	MS	F	P	R	R2	SE
1	religiosity	Regression	63/13	1	63/13	20/4	0/0001	0/319	0/102	1/75
		residual	556/2	180	3/09					
2	gender+ religiosity	Regression	90/5	2	45/25	15/3	0/0003	0/382	0/146	1/71
		residual	528/9	179	2/95					

Table 5. The Brief Statistical Features of the Stepwise Regression of the of the gender, religiosity, marriage on alcohol consumption

variable	B	SE	β	t	P
religiosity	-0/048	0/013	-0/270	-3/80	0/0002
gender	0/797	0/262	0/216	3/04	0/0004

The results of the table 4 and 5 indicate that the religiosity and gender are the best predictors of alcohol consumption and age and marriage can be omitted from the regression model. Observed value of F is meaningful even at (P<0.0001) and 0.146 of the variance can be explained by religiosity and gender. Regression coefficients of predictor variables show that religiosity (t=-3.80, β =-0.270) and gender (t= 3.04, β =0.216) can meaningfully explain the variance of alcohol consumption.

Table 6. The Brief Statistical Features of the Stepwise Regression of the of the gender, religiosity, marriage on narcotics abuse

Model	Variable	Index	SS	DF	MS	F	P	R	R2	SE
1	gender	Regression	45/09	1	45/09	10/95	0/0001	0/240	0/057	2/02
		residual	740/9	180	4/11					

Table 7. The Brief Statistical Features of the Stepwise Regression of the of the gender, religiosity, marriage on narcotics abuse

variable	B	SE	$\beta$	t	P
gender	0/826	0/305	0/198	2/70	0/007
religiosity	-0/036	0/015	-0/180	-2/46	0/015

The results of the table 6 and 7 indicate that religiosity and gender are the best predictors of narcotics abuse and age and marriage can be omitted from the regression equation. Observed F values are meaningful even the ( $P < 0.0001$ ) and 0.088 of the variance can be explained by gender and religiosity. Regression coefficients of predictor variables show that gender ( $t = 2.70$ ,  $\beta = 0.198$ ) and religiosity ( $t = -2.46$ ,  $\beta = -0.180$ ) can meaning fully explain the variance of narcotics abuse.

## 5. Discussion

The current study was aimed as establishing the relationship between religiosity and demographic variables on one hand and alcohol consumption, smoking and narcotics abuse on the other hand. Pearson correlation coefficient analysis shows that there is a meaningful negative relationship between religiosity and the three mentioned behaviours, In other words people with a stronger system of beliefs are less likely to start substance abuse. These results conform to those obtained by Tomase & et al, 2008; Jonson & et al, 2005; Katherine & Saunders, 2002; Brown & et al, 2001; George & et al, 2000; Stewart & et al, 2001. One explanation is that religious belief offers a set program for individual's life and thus shields him/her from temptations (Koeing, 1995). It seems that religion, as an internal force, can be a powerful defence against addiction (Boudreaux & et al, 1995). It was also shown that gender, marriage and religiosity are best predictors of cigarette smoking and that these three factors account for 0.144 of the variance in relation to the dependent variable (smoking). Best predictors of narcotics abuse and alcohol consumption are religiosity and gender. Marriage and age, in fact, can be deemed as predictors of alcohol consumption.

As a consequence of the current study, It may be deemed possible to combat substance abuse by propagating religious beliefs among university students. We have only studied the relationship between religiosity and demographic variables on one hand and substance abuse on the other hand. Results thus can be deemed important only as indications of effect of the independent variables. There are limitations too. Most importantly generalizing results obtained here should be done with utmost caution, considering, among other things, the fact that our statistical population consisted of University students only. It is recommended that different aspects of religion (motivations, inner beliefs and outward direction, attitudes, etc) will each be taken as an independent variable whose separate effect on narcotics abuse is studied.

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