

## Collegian Student's Awareness Regarding Drug Uses Consequences at Al- Muthanna University

By

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### Abstract

**Background:** The importance of this research comes from the danger involved in drug use, which poses a real threat to our Iraqi society due to its targeting of the most important component of it, namely the youth who represent the mainstay on which our society is based. This is achieved by raising awareness among young people, especially students. **Objectives:** To assess Student awareness to word drugs use consequences. **Methods:** A descriptive study design was conducted on (372) Collegian Student's in Al- Muthanna University. The study period started from (January 10th, 2021, to April 10th, 2022). Awareness about the concept of drug use and its consequences used in this study. **Results:** This study show that high level of student's awareness to ward drugs use consequences (53.5%). **Conclusions:** The awareness of Al-Muthanna University students regarding the consequences of drug use was high.

**Keywords:** Awareness, consequences, drug use.

### Introduction

Drug uses are among the greatest challenges to health, wellbeing, and the sense of independence and freedom for which we all strive and yet these drugs are present in the everyday lives of most people and has medicine cabinets stocked with possibly outdated but still potentially deadly drugs. Almost everyone has a friend or loved one with an addiction-related problem. Almost everyone seems to have a solution neatly summarized by word or phrase: medicalization, legalization, criminalization, war-on-drugs. (Walker, 2014; Ali, 2021).

Drug use is characterized as every substance that, when ingested by a living organism, alters one or more of the organism's physiological tasks. The word is commonly applied to drugs used for both medicinal and recreational purposes (Vert et al., 2012; Atabek & Burak, 2020).

Both the drugs discussed in this dissertation, alcohol and marijuana, are used for similar purposes and in similar situations. The most common motives for using drugs are to improve one's mood and environment, as well as to increase one's enjoyment of recreational activities (Hall, 2017; Aytac, 2020).

Drugs use might start out as a bad habit, but it can become a harmful disease. The use and abuse of alcohol and drugs are serious issues that should not be ignored or minimized. If

left untreated, use and abuse can develop into drug dependence or alcoholism. As a result, it is important to recognize the signs and symptoms of alcohol and drug abuse early. (Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion,2020).

## **Method**

### ***Design***

A descriptive cross-sectional design was conducted on students in the faculties of the University of Al-Muthanna, for the period of (12 January to 23 February2022). The study was conducted to assess the awareness of Al-Muthanna collegian students about drug use and its consequences.

### ***Administrative Arrangements:***

As part of the research process, after obtaining the approval of the College of Nursing Council at the University of Baghdad, the protocol was submitted as an initial request to produce the study, and then approval was obtained from the Ministry of Planning / Central Statistical Organization and Information Technology (CSOIT). Then an attachment from the College of Nursing, University of Baghdad to the University of Al-Muthanna, an important attachment was obtained from the University of Al-Muthanna to a group of its college for the purpose of collecting data from the target sample.

### ***Ethical Considerations***

After signing the protocol from the College of Nursing / University of Baghdad, the approval of the Ministry of Planning - the Central Statistical Organization was taken. Then the approval of the ethical committee was taken in the college. After that, a letter was sent from the College of Nursing / University of Baghdad to the university of AL-Muthanna to obtain their approval for collecting samples in the targeted colleges. Then a letter was sent From Center for Educational Research and Studies in the university of AL-Muthanna to the targeted colleges to facilitate sample collection.

### ***Setting of the Study***

The study was carried out in al-Muthanna city / university of AL-Muthanna, which included (9775) male and female students distributed over (9) college, with excluded the medical specialization. It is considered the only governmental university in this governorate. It was established in 2007 and includes fourteen colleges distributed between the scientific and human departments for the morning and evening studies.

### ***Sample of the Study***

A non-probability (purposive) sample of (372) students in AL-Muthanna university, which were selected after the approval of the Center for Educational Research and Studies. Google form was used to collect data from students. The self-report is used to select the students who will be recruited into the study.

### ***Study Instrument***

The research tool used in this study consists of two parts A questionnaire designed by a Saudi researcher was used to assess students' awareness of drug use and its consequences, after the researcher's approval. The questionnaire contains four parts in addition to demographic information about the student. The research tool has been previously evaluated and reviewed. Several experts from inside and outside the College of Nursing have been modified to suit the research.

### Methods of Data Collection

The information was gathered using the Arabic version of the self-report questionnaire as a data collecting tool, as well as a self-report with collegian students. Except for a few of them, who has rejected participation in the study, the students completed the questionnaire in this circumstance. The questionnaire takes roughly 10 to 15 minutes to complete.

## Results

**Table 1:** *Distribution of Sample According to their Socio-demographic Characteristics*

List	Characteristics	n	%
1	<b>Gender</b>	Male	188 50.5
		Female	184 49.5
2	<b>Age M±SD= 23.19±2.562</b>	18 – less than 21 years	37 9.9
		21 – less than 24 years	215 57.8
		24 – less than 27 years	82 22
		27 – less than 30 years	27 7.3
		30 ≤ year	11 3
3	<b>Specialization</b>	Scientific	214 57.5
		Humanistic	158 42.5
4	<b>Residency</b>	Rural	100 26.9
		Urban	198 53.2
		Suburban	74 19.9
5	<b>Monthly income</b>	Insufficient	42 11.3
		Barely sufficient	143 38.4
		Sufficient	187 50.3
6	<b>Scholastic stage</b>	First	44 11.8
		Second	104 28
		Third	115 30.9
		Fourth	109 29.3
7	<b>Marital status</b>	Married	112 30
		Unmarried	258 69.4
		Widowed/er	1 .3
		Divorced	1 .3
8	<b>Father of education Level</b>	Primary school or less	193 51.9
		Intermediate school	41 11
		Secondary school	56 15.1
		Diploma	33 8.9
		Bachelor	38 10.2
		Postgraduate	11 3
9	<b>Mother of education Level</b>	Primary school or less	272 73.1
		Intermediate school	48 12.9
		Secondary school	0 0
		Diploma	38 10.2
		Bachelor	13 3.5
		Postgraduate	1 .3
10	<b>Father occupation</b>	Governmental employee	98 26.4
		Free works	140 37.6
		Doesn't work / housewife	64 17.2
		Retired	70 18.8
		Governmental employee	47 12.6
11	<b>Mother occupation</b>	Free works	21 5.6
		Doesn't work / housewife	295 79.4
		Retired	9 2.4

N: number, %: Percentage, M: Mean, SD: Standard deviation

**Table .2** *Assessment of Students' Awareness about Effect of Drugs Use.*

<b>Awareness</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Assess.</b>
Low	52	14	70.2	16.759	High
Moderate	121	32.5			
High	199	53.5			
<b>Total</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>100</b>			

n: number, %: Percentage, Assess.: Assessment

M: Mean for total score, SD: Standard Deviation for total score Low: 30 – 50, Moderate: 50.1–70, High: 70.1– 90

## Discussion

Among the total of 372 students' participants in study at the University of Al-Muthanna. The findings of data analysis that were shown in table (1) presented (50.5%) of the study sample were male while (49.5%) are female. In relation to age the study showed that the result show that most of study sample age was (21-23years) with the average mean 23.19 . In regarding of specialization more than half of study sample were in sciences specialization (57.5%) . The present study ensures that the majority of student resident was in urban with approximately (53.2%) .Concerning to monthly income, (50.3%) of the students perceive sufficient monthly income and (38.4%) perceive barely sufficient monthly income. The scholastic stage refers that 30.9% are from third stage, (29.3%) of them from fourth stage, 28% from second stage. In regarding marital status the study result show that most of study sample were single (69.5%), The highest percentage among the fathers and mothers of the students indicated those who were of "primary stage or less", where the percentage of fathers was (51.9%) and mothers were (73.1%) .percentage among students' fathers refer to( 37.6%) who work with "free works" and 26.3% who work as "governmental employee". Among students' mothers, 79.4% of them are housewives and only 12.6% are working as "government employee". The reported sources of information about drugs use shows that percentage of university students haven't information about drug use, is high of them are obtain their information from internet, moderate are informed from friends and relatives, and others are got their information from different sources is low.

This table 2 assessment of students awareness about effect of drug use show high level (70.2±16.759).with study conduct by Theou et al.,2015 who founds that most of students had high awareness about the effect of drug uses with (90%) percentage .Also this result where identify with study conduct by Mohiuddin et al., (2019)which show that most student where had aware to effects of drugs use and addiction (81%) percentage . Zaman et al., (2013) was carried out a cross-sectional study among 120 students of National Ideal School in Dhaka city in Bangladesh and suggests that the secondary school students have poor knowledge about the effect of drug use Because the researcher has studied school students, most of whom have little knowledge because of their age. Azad et al., (2010) conducted a survey among students of different public and private universities in Bangladesh and found that substance use such as cigarettes and other drugs is associated with poor health in general and a variety of short-term adverse health effects A sign of underlying mental health problems, such as depression and social problems such as troubled family relationships, physical and economic problems, especially the high unemployment in society, at a rate of (55?) percent. There is an African study by Atwoli et al.,2011 on "the prevalence of substance use among university students Eldoret and its psychological, mental and social effects" 55% of the participants in the study reported that they suffered from health, psychological, physical as well as academic problems. Akhter (2012) found that nearly 17 percent of female students residing at Dhaka University are addicted. She also indicated that substance use is correlated with the fact that most students

agreed that addiction leads to disruption in the family, lack of parental attention and a wide range of frustration with regard to school and the future. Because they tried to use drugs for long periods of time, until they became addicted, The scourge of drugs has begun to destroy societies, and the effects they cause are not hidden from everyone. Crimes have become widespread, family disintegration, murder, corruption and violence, traffic accidents, and suicide accidents are heavy losses in the economies of countries, that bleeding that burdens societies and destroys individuals and groups, and drugs also lead to the rejection of morals. Falling into the arms of vice are all consequences of the wrong and continuous use of drugs, which has become an issue of public opinion.

## Conclusions

Al-Muthanna University students reported their high awareness about the harms and consequences of drug use (social, psychological, physical and economic).

## Ethical Considerations Compliance with Ethical Guidelines

This study was completed following obtaining consent from the University of Baghdad.

## Funding

This research did not receive any grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or non-profit sectors.

## Author's Contributions

Study concept, Writing, Reviewing the final edition by all authors.

## Disclosure Statement

The authors report no conflict of interest.

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