

THE ROLE OF SOCIAL NETWORKS IN PREVENTION DRUG ABUSE IN SCHOOL

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was analytical study, effect of the social networks in prevention drug abuse. This article is considered from the perspective of social capital and social network-informal communication. Therefore, relying on the literature of sociology in relation to the individuals and social networks. The theoretical framework of this study is borrowed from James Colman's theory and Bourdieu's theory. The development of informal communication and participation in social networks, through the formation of peer groups and networks of community-based with the aim to strengthen social skills. The remarkable results, the impact of informal social communication networks in the prevention of addiction, through informal control, and it is identity similarity. The tendency of individuals to drug abuse, formation of the informal social networks, in level of educational setting, it can be useful to safety of students to the tendency of the material drug.

Keywords: Social networks, Prevention, Addiction, Social Capital, Community- Based Networks.

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1. Introduction

Despite extensive efforts to combat drug abuse in the social, economic, cultural and even political security of is the nail challenges of government. Government strategy in the fight against drugs can be in three parts dealing with supply and entering drug treatment and harm reduction and prevention of addiction summarized it. The incidence rate and prevalence of addiction in the country, appears to be drug prevention programs, especially educational systems was not successful. In other hand the drug is one of four global crises, and according to a research, rapid assessment of the drug abuse in year of 2007 for drug users to over 2 million people, has announced. According to this research the growth rate of addiction in the country has been reported 8 percent.

However, the reports and analysis conducted in 1382 indicated that "The age of onset of drug use in our country has reached 14 to 16 and schools and universities of the country are in Contamination of the drugs." (Tavasoli 1379)

Considering the age and psychological characteristics of adolescence and young (the feeling of power, tendency to independence, the feeling of belonging and acceptance and etc) the most affection are made from friendship groups that according to research in the age of 14-18- friends have the most affection in person's life.

Hence the denial of addiction among students is just omitting the problem and does nothing to resolve the situation. According to rapid assessment in 2007 report, 10.8 percent of addict are from students in universities or educated students, the start point of 45.1 of addicts was recommendation of their friends.

According to the statistics of undoc in 2008 Iran Proportion to the population has the highest rate of using narcotics between countries, hence activity of harm reduction in the schools should be 10 times more. (sarafi 1388)

Based on result of the research in 1382 by Olum Behzisty university and Tavan bakhshi that was taken from 1403 students in second grade school rather governmental or non governmental 25 percent has tendency to use drugs and 5 percent has already experienced it, also 9 percent believe that using drugs has no harm. on the other hand spending more than 15000 hours of students in education and decreasing of the age of experiencing drug in the country and the statistics that estimated 5 percent of students are involved with drug (because of not having the official

statistics) are some of the reasons that shows doing researches about methods of prevention of addiction don't need any extensive reasoning specially based on what director of cultural and drug Prevention committee said so far programs of prevention have less or no effect. This problem has more importance between adolescence and young that are educating. That in this article we tend to the effecting of the groups of friends and peers in the socialization of individuals and analyzing non official social networks and impact of social capital in these networks to preventing people to drug abuse. It's clear that what it mean by the word "social networks" is non official communication is network with positive identity.

2. The essential of research

The reason that why we analyze the influence of unofficial social networks and social capital on drug prevention programs is contradictions and social consequences of drug use. However using drug lead to consequences in many issues. The matter of quarreling in courts, prisons, therapists, intoxication, dependency, criminal actions. In fact crimes and not social behaviors related to using drugs are clearly observable. Of course most of the crimes related to drugs are not just because of using drugs, but the crimes like robbery, prostitution, violence or even murdering are for obtaining drugs.

The statistics proclaim that the reason of 49 percent of murdering, 68 percent of quarreling that lead to murdering, 5 percent of deaths of accidents, 52 percent of rape, 35 percent of death of poisoning by drug, 50 percent of wife abuse and 38 percent of child abuse are related to using drug and alcohol. So that by what the prisons organizations declare, now more than 58 percent of prisoners are because of crimes related to drug .(Amiri ,1383,9)

Based on report of UNESCO in 1980 social behavior research shows that the behavior caused by abusing addictive drugs and alcohol and drugs are the reason of delinquency, suicide and depressing between youngsters over the world. (Farjad ,1383, 152)

In the US more than 1.5 million of arresting are related to drugs, also that country spend more than 12 million dollar for controlling drugs trading. (Kesir ,2008, 28)

Not preventing youngsters (as the productive and creative source of the society) from social deviations will cause persistence of deviations in later ages (adulthood) and disintegration of society, hence the importance of planning for this massive force is that some countries have referred it as the young issue. Social networks force a sort of informal social control on non-normal behavior

such as smoking taking alcohol and drug and etc. Where ,there is a high social capital in society and people have their own commitment to each other or social groups. They don't want to lose their trust, thus they have less request to todrage also participating and belonging to a group, give the confidence the in stressful situations taking the help of the group.

Research of Estfenson (2001) in Russia , show that weakness social network(as the parameters social networks) can predict homeless ness or vagrancy. This research by analyzing these parameters we want, nothing analyze the effect and role of positive informal social networks with giving a new pattern, it prevention executing the effective drug prevention programs at school.

3. Theoretical framework

Social capital, a multifaceted concept is competing with a number of definitions. So below are some of the definitions:

James Colman is defined, social capital by function. In his view, social capital, is created when the relations between the parties, be changed in a way that makes interaction easy. Thus, social capital, to a single object, but it covers the different aspects of social structure. To promote the collective and individual action. Colman believes that social capital in society, whit the horizontal grid, in the form of associations, institutions, organizations, informal, and communication between them, linking horizontal networks, to vertical networks and formal institutions.

From the perspective of Pierre Bourdieu, social capital, the sum of actual and potential resources that the ownership of durable networks of institutionalized relationships between individuals and simply put, is membership in a group. His ties to durable and dense, is of special importance. The amount of social capital per person, depending on the number and investor relations (cultural, social and economic) is owned by the relationship. (fild2003)

The Pekstan, social capital refers to those social relation, that can produce material goods of immaterial facilitates.(Pekstan2002,256)He believes social capital, are the two main dimensions:

- 1-concrete relations between individual from one side and
- 2-The conceptual links between the people on the other hand (Fild2003, 152)

The two later, this definition of social capital encompasses the relationship between people .Colman, who had insisted on it, and that in fact, this relationship must be based on Bourdieu's theory, based Bratman mind and be positive.Social capital networks, refers to tools and

support resources, through access to social ties, are available in person, and in this way, one can, to a diverse range of support, access .that it can support, psychological support person, and people tend to abuse drugs, to prevent.(salehi Heikoi,1384,138)

Putnam theory: social capital in their work, defined by three components:

A: Network

Putnam, like other theorists, social capital, social relationship, and interaction with one another, as the most fundamental part of social capital, and in fact, the central idea of social theory, is introduced(Putnam and Goos,2002,6)

B: The norms of cooperation

Putnam, knows that certain norms of cooperation, of productive social capital, Even then, the criterion of social capital considers and that is principle of cooperation extended.(Putnam,2000,134)

C : Confidence

Another component of social capital , from the perspective Putnam, is trust.Trust is an essential element to strengthen cooperation, the predictability of the behavior of others and in small community of close acquaintance with others, are achieved. But the larger and more complex societies, a more reliable non-specific, non-direct with the network of trust is essential.(Putnam,2002,292)

D: Combined

Combining elements of social networks, which it claims Putnam .Interaction outside the group, with people from different social backgrounds, links to the interaction within the group, with people who have common features, more information is transferred and have more influence. Will strengthen and collective action, then encourages. On the other hand, the tip of the effected person's view of his close friends, with strong communication, influenced by his friend, with weak links.

4. Approach to network analysis

Net per person, based on the links and relationship formed. Links the individual with their network members, including relatives ,friends and colleagues and peers, it makes up in his daily life, to a considerable extent, a variety of support, it provides that members of the network, using to. Turns of the network, the resourced are where necessary, can refer to them. To receive social

assistance from the network. Causing the people in dealing with problems, which have the capacity to fight. So synonymous with some of the social network of social support, considered, and that personal network, most people living in crisis support and even claim that recipients of personal support, physically and mentally, that those who lack this support, a healthy trend. In the discussion of the characteristics of personal networks.(Wellman,1992,210) Base on factors such as size, density, homogeneity, ect ,are emphasized

4.1. Network size

The network size, complex individuals, which are interconnected in a network. They know each other, and are linked together, which can include relatives, friends, neighbors and colleagues.(Wellman,1992,1-20)

4.2. Similar and homogeneous

Similar and homogeneous, a feature is network relationships, and means that members of the network, with people looking for employment, age , sex, etc, are similar, and to the extent that any resemblance between individuals in a more be more willing to support and communicate with each other, and have increased mutual understanding.(Wellman,1999,65)

4.3. Intimacy and connection strengths

Granovetter , who has done the research, sees a strong link, that all three criteria, duration of connection, intimacy and emotional intensity, and interaction is required. For him , the links plays, the role of bridge between people.(Granovetter1973,31)

4.4. Proximity and interaction

In fact, in this discussion, we want to measure, the interaction of individuals in a network, both from the perspective of the number of calls and contacts.Wellman believes that, through our attention to these links, we can see, we have a different support, that person will receive through heir social networks.(Wellman1992,210)

Horvitz, believes that , because of a weakness to be drawn with a community that is diverted. Small intimate groups with strong ties, by providing a sense of belonging and attachment and bonding with family members or community standard, finds the power to influence behavior. (Horvitz,1990,230)

Sampson and Laub, are convinced that, with the recognition of individual bonds. With the effectiveness of social control, which it can impose on a person, would predict, control, social networks, can be indirectly, on impose on the person, can be prevented his addiction.(Sampson and Laub1993,145)

5. Variety

Diversity in the network, provides a better position to members, and makes the network members, more resources and a variety of different people, achieve.

5.1. **Informal social control:** Social control, from a perspective of both, is possible:

A-through social pressure. Forcing people to accept the norms, and observe them in action takes place. It means the laws, regulations and ensure its implementation, the armed power. This way, indeed is the weakest, realization on social control. This method is very vulnerable. Usually does not penetrate the depths of human existence. Not be built, and because it haven't the belief, also creates a negative reaction. Hence community or informal social networks communication, which, reputation and legal rights are not formal.

B-through persuasion to penetrate deep into people's beliefs, and worldview transformation, and the impact on people's conscience, belief and thinking members of society or group, or any member of it, not only faithful to the norms and values their acceptance, and follow him to enforce, but to protect and guard him all this admitted all, makes(Sarookhani,1370,168). To, informal social control, is control of the second type. In fact, the means and methods, which use them, a group of its members to accept the norms, behavior, rules of conduct, and even customs in accordance with what is considered desirable, it leads.

6. Social learning theory

Bandura social learning theory emphasize that how a person's environment, can affect his behavior. In other words, this theory, the pattern of variability, are particular highlights. Bandura, states that people's social behavior through observing others behavior, and social consequences of these behaviors are learned in social networks. From the perspective of theory, given the large impact of peers, and with little regard for the impact on adolescents and young adults, can be argued, than peers taught by adult education, is more effective.

7. **Social identity theory**

This theory is based on the concepts of inside and outside of group. Researchers have established that individuals are influenced by people with whom they share a social identity. Join a group (network), one of the two major mechanism, will be affected. That include, social influence (norms and expectations) and effectiveness through data. Research done in this area suggests that members of a group agree of peers teachings than teaching adults. In other words, young people. People that have shared identity and social views are more accepting to people outside of the scope.

8. **Assumptions**

The main hypothesis is that, poor communication and lack of capital in informal social networks, and can be a factor underlying the tendency of people to be drugs. If that is proven to increase social capital, in between developed and reinforced through informal social networks, and enhance collaborative behavior, and trust, can be important step forward, toward the prevention of drug addiction, among groups of students.

The author's premise is that, where social capital in informal communication among social networks, due to increased confidence and participation is high, fewer people tend to trust their networks to lose. And try to make the commitment to preserve and promote the ideals of the network. Also belong to the group, causing people in stressful situations, they have the support network. As a result, they shift, less of the drug. If this is the realization, can be associated with the development of social networks, and provide opportunities for participation, and trust them through the process of informal social control, towards the prevention of drug addiction, educational environment, steps taken.

1-How much informal social control, in a smaller community, the tendency of individuals to drug abuse is more.

2-However, the degree of membership in informal social network, less is the tendency of individuals to drug abuse is more.

3-However, the level of social trust and participation, than is the tendency of individuals to drug abuse is more.

4-However, the characteristics and dimensions of the network, is the stronger and the tendency of individuals to drug abuse is more.

9. Definitions of concepts:

9.1. Informal social communication networks

Face to face relationships between a few people know each other, and through kinship ties, friendship, and neighbors are interdependent. Base on trust and cooperative relations between members of network that shared social identity of their own, think similar, they interact with each other. These networks, based on not written law, and based on informal norms and values, are managed and controlled.

9.2. Formal social communication networks

Face to face relations between people based on rules and laws are defined, Relations, usually is president and subordinate, are only within rules, together with associated.

9.3. Prevention of drug addiction

Prevention includes measures to prevent, stop or slow progression of disease or injury, is used. Based on this concept, and the different stages of disease, can be used to prevent, by granting various levels. Classified according to NIDA's (1997) new institute are as follows: Public programs include all the people, that includes all people to be healthy. Selective application of the following groups at risk or subsets of the general population to be included. Applications of high-risk individuals include.

9.4. Social capital

Social capital is a multifaceted concept with many competing definitions. In this article, social capital, social network perspective, is considered. Social capital networks, is refers to tools and support resources, through access to social ties, are available in person , and the person can access a wide variety support.

9.5. Drug Abuse:

Those who take the drug, but the drugs use are not high enough to be considered a dependent, this group use frequently the drugs, as far as the symptoms they endure.

9.6. Addiction:

The term addiction is the repeated use of drug dependence, with the quantity and time specified, the consumer was required, with the following features:

-Create physical dependence

-Create intellectual dependence

-The phenomenon of tolerance in the body of material.

-To obtain the required material in any form and by any means.

-Detrimental impact on consumers, families and communities.

- physical dependence, a condition that, after repeated drug use, the person will develop. And if not consumed or neutralized the effects of the substance, a person is with severe physical disorders, such as leg pain, runny nose, severe bone pain, restlessness, cramps, etc .The dependence of the base is thought to depend, in other words, if the material being used is considered.The dependence of thought, a condition that the person, after talking the drug, will satisfaction, and a kind of persuasion. In addition, this great desire to re- use, the person creates.In fact, this kind of, is conditioning, the person actually finds that, at the time of distress, drug use, along with the elimination of discomfort. (Aghbakhshi,1388)

10. Methodolgy

Statistical population of youth between the ages of 15to18 years, studying in high school, school district .Is the city of Arak .Sample size, using Cochran's formula, including 340 high school students (both female and male) have been using simple random sampling, were selected. And the survey methodology and questionnaire construction techniques, and utilizing the likert range, is used.In order to determine its validity, initially as a pilot, over 30 high school students, tasted the validity of the original scale of Cronbach's alpha coefficient, is used.Groups of high school students. Four high schools located in the city of Arak(2 girls high school and 2boy high school ,with respect to social class, economic characteristics, have been chosen)number of 170 female student and is male students as well the170.Respondernt's average age, were 16.5 years, and all unmarried. Analyses were based on informal communication social networks; social capital has been at a lower level than the informal communication social networks.Hence, the membership of individual, informal communication social networks and their tendency to drug abuse, there is a negative relationship.In other words, however, membership of people in informal social communication networks, have much less tendency to drug abuse. The dimensions of social capital

(such as social participation, trust, self- esteem, and self-esteem, respect for others, and avoid self-centered etc.) two self-esteem and confidence, meaningful impact on social networks, and intrinsic values of the prevention of addiction.

In other words, how much self-belief and confidence in the people, is greater the tendency of individuals to drug abuse, is less. Also, the present findings, based on informal social control, and the tendency of people to addiction, exists negative and meaningful relationship. In other words, the results of Pearson correlation coefficient between the components of informal social control, informal communication in social networks, sense of belonging to such groups, in honor, fear of disapproval and rejection the group, religion and sense of obligation than interest groups and individuals to drug abuse, there is strong, people, because the desire for survival, and consequences of exclusion, and are exposed to undermine the dignity.

Also, the influence of network size, the recurring question. Asked so to write many people that are most associated with them in the school environment. The students, on average, 6 people link to your friends. We are noted as most people have associated with them. The findings show that, between addiction and the tendency of people to network size exists the inverse relationship. The same relationship, on the other network feature, such as bond strengths, extensive communication, and homogeneous, is true because the similarity of behavior. Also, between trust and participation in social networks of communication, there is a meaningful relationship, so that, driven by strengthening trust, responsibility, and through participation in the process, also adopted, by a group of people are less willing to in order to satisfy their number needs, the drug abuse, can lead.

11. Conclusion

Strengthening social capital, in informal networks, is strategy, that addictive system, well then is used in order to attract and retain human resources. In other words, there is widespread confidence and active participation in the international system of drug addiction is that, despite extensive efforts to prevent drug addiction, day to day is added the population of drug addicts. At this way, missing link in the nation's drug prevention policies, 1- is lack of attention to, informal social networks and 2- lack strengthen social capital, is between, groups of contacts. According to survey results, it seems, to strengthen the two cases mentioned, not only in an educational setting, can be fruitful, but also because of, the social character of man, it can call on other groups, prevention programs (such as families and workers, including workers employees), are useful

.Despite awareness of the benefits and positive effects of informal communication social networks, however, still some drug prevention programs to the public and from top to bottom are dictated. That this, exception of failure to plan and evacuate target communities, from social capital, will have not result. And just in contrast, can much less than the current cost (13 million dollars, for one year, for prevention programs), with the formation of peer groups, as an informal communication network, and strengthening social capital, to do implementation of drug prevention strategies, operate much more successful. The remarkable results, the impact of informal social communication networks in the prevention of addiction, through informal control, and it is identity similarity. That way, the informal social control, easily done in these networks, the one hand, the relationship between each student with 6 others, in exchange, will participate (unaffected and effected investment) such as community-based project(speech advice, etc), or health promoters, it can be inefficient .Therefore, establishing, strengthening and development of peer groups, the programs, collaborative, social-oriented features:

- 1-it is training, support and authority synergy of the main strategies.
- 2-it is designed the change in small communities, in order to achieve human goals.
- 3-Stakeholders of a small community, are in all stages of program participation.
- 4-Have a model environmental-community, it can also increase social capital, to strengthen the informal social networks, as well as lead.

Also, with attention to the negative relationship, and reverse components of social capital, and the tendency of individuals to drug abuse, formation of the informal social networks, in level of educational setting, it can be useful to safety of students to the tendency of the material drug .It was of constraints, the existence of administrative problems, in order to enter school.So, who should, it was achieved, with the long process of administrative bureaucracy. And on the other hand, the acquisition of necessary licenses, because the density and compactness education programs in schools (and neglect of farm programs) in the possession of students, except for a break between classes, it was almost impossible, that the same caused, prolonged, the process of completing the questionnaire, respectively.

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