

Factors That Influence Drug Addiction: An Analysis of Tokhang Surrendered Institution-Based Rehabilitation



Faye Lorraine P. Mina

University of the Visayas & P-5, Lower Lamac, Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental, Philippines

ABSTRACT: This is a descriptive research which aimed to determine the factors influencing drug addiction extending the Dislocation Theory of Addiction. Selected variables from this theory were operationalized through indicators which were then translated into a self-reported questionnaire. In selecting the respondents, it employed homogeneous purposive sampling, with 150 Tokhang surrenderers chosen who had completed MODTRC's 6-month in-house program. The data from the survey was analyzed thru simple linear regression using IBM SPSS Statistics (version 20), and the Cronbach's alpha (1951) coefficient was used to assess the validity of variables. To determine the causal relationship of variables, data were processed using licensed versions of IBM SPSS AMOS (version 26) to perform Structural Equation Modelling (SEM), which will further show the account for a specific impact of household income (HI) and family type (FT) on substance use (SU).

The findings reveal that FT appears to be the most significant on SU with $p < 0.001$ while HI has a significant impact on substance use, with $p < 0.05$. Basing from the data, the study concludes that substance use (SU) is influenced by their low-income status and a product from a broken or single parent family.

KEYWORDS: Drug Addiction, Philippines, Tokhang Surrenderers, Household Income, Family Type

I. INTRODUCTION

Drug addiction has become a major problem in the Philippines due to its implications on the quality of Philippine society, business, and corruption index. Addiction is a complex disease of the brain resulting from recurring drug intoxication and is modulated by genetic, developmental, experiential, and environmental factors (Goldstein and Volkow, 2002). Moreover, it is also referred to a disease that affects a person's brain and behavior and leads to an inability to control the use of a legal or illegal drug or medication (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, 2017). According to the Dangerous Drugs Board in the Philippines most of the drug user lies on the average of 31 years old. Mostly are coming from urban cities specifically in the NCR which corresponds to 42.41%. Commonly the substances used are methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu), cannabis (marijuana) and MDMA (ecstasy). There are about 13.1% female who uses drugs and mostly are male (Dangerous Drugs Board, 2017). There are various reasons why individuals from different genders, age groups, social status, economic status, educational attainment, and stressors resorted to drug intake and substance abuse resulting to drug addiction. In a study of Tien (2012), findings indicate that curiosity, depression, paranoia and other mental illnesses, wanting to "have fun," peer pressure, religious pressures, loss of a loved one, and heartbreak, are a number of the reasons that compelled the participants to use illegal drugs (Tien, 2012). Several research gaps exist in the research on family setting factors and poverty on substance use. Firstly, few studies have been carried out to understand the differential paternal and maternal influences on substance use among adolescents and the findings are inconclusive. Secondly, studies examined the correlation between neighborhoods' disorganization and the onset of drug use (Tucker et al., 2013; Keyes et al., 2011). To fill this gap, it is necessary to investigate on certain factors that influence the substance users by extending the Dislocation theory of Drug Addiction. Specifically this research sought to answer: How do the family structure and household income of Tokhang Surrenderers receiving treatment at the Misamis Occidental Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center (MODTRC) significantly affect their substance use?

II. LITERATURE

Poverty and Drug Addiction

According to Erikson's (2018) findings, among the key socioeconomic issues that may affect substance use include homelessness, living in a criminal or underprivileged environment, committing crimes, and having parents or family members who use drugs or are in prison. Teens who had one or more of these risk factors frequently faced unfavorable expectations from others and internalized a picture of themselves based on this suggested impression of themselves. According to the labeling theory (McIntosh and Rock, 2018), which examines the complexity and multidimensionality of people and their social interactions, this is known as

Factors That Influence Drug Addiction: An Analysis of Tokhang Surrenderees Institution-Based Rehabilitation

"prophecy that is self-fulfilling" (Lemert, 1974). The stigma and the criminal stereotype are connected to these ideas (Ciampi, 2017). Moreover, adolescents who grow up in underprivileged neighborhoods, have drug- or justice-involved parents, or are stigmatized in other ways frequently engage in criminal and antisocial behavior as teenagers and into adulthood (Adlaf et al., 2009; Luther, 2016; Massarwi and Khoury-Kassabri, 2017). Similar to this, Jacob (2005) investigated the experiences of young people who were moved from public to private housing by the Chicago Housing Authority. Comparing the group of young people who relocated to different locations with the group of young people staying in a public house, the author found no indication of the negative effects of public housing poverty and disadvantage situations. These findings highlight the significance of taking into account additional variables, such as individual and family components, which may moderate adulthood outcomes, particularly during development. Based on these, this study hypothesized that:

H1: Household Income (HI) influences the substance use of Tokhang Surrenderees.

Family and Drug Addiction

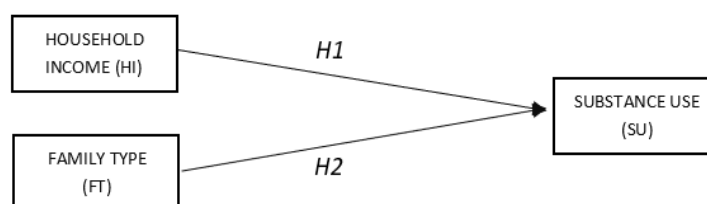
Although the family is where a person's personality is first formed and guided, family members' lack of education has a significant impact on how likely teenagers and young adults had to take new drugs (Naeim and Rezaeisharif, 2021). In several studies (World Health Organization, 2010; Piko and Balazs, 2012; Thomas et al., 2013; Buelga et al., 2017), the significance of family relationships and family climate was emphasized. These studies took into account parental support and communication, parental drug use, and parental incarceration. In fact, a poor relationship between parents and children may make a child feel abandoned and encourage them to use violence as a coping mechanism (Kann et al., 2016). Teenagers who believe their parents are gone and unable to shield them from a dangerous situation likewise feel uneasy and uncomfortable (Garrido et al., 2018).

In a similar note, the findings of a brief review on the matter (Saladino et al., 2020b) supported these findings, reporting that participants who have parents who engage in illegal activities and are frequently away from home are more likely to report a lack of family support and cohesion and are more likely to develop binge drinking and marijuana smoking habits. Instead, having parents around increases the participants' perception of their support, which reduces risky behavior (Brown and Shillington, 2017). Tucker et al. (2013) claim that in addition to a lack of parental involvement, other family risk factors that can affect a child's substance addiction behavior include the availability of drugs at home and how their parents view alcohol and illicit drugs. Depending on the substance, the influence of these factors is linked to a change in the familial situation. For instance, a comparison between regular marijuana users and never or less frequent lifetime marijuana users shows that marijuana misuse appears to be more correlated with relationships with parents, with the first category of users being more likely to feel a lack of family support (De Looze et al., 2015). Considering parent criminal activity and its link to a higher risk of substance abuse and delinquency, this factor is frequently connected to a history of physical abuse, maltreatment, parental neglect, and a bad family environment, which, as mentioned above, is strongly linked to criminality and substance abuse (Lee et al., 2012; LoBraico et al., 2020; Saladino et al., 2020b). Parental incarceration may be a factor in the rise in externalizing behaviors among teenagers, according to data from the 2016 Minnesota Student Survey on 126,868 children enrolled in public schools (Ruhland et al., 2020). These findings, which connected parental incarceration with young people's self-reported delinquent behavior, were verified by NeMoyer et al. in 2020. The Baltimore Prevention Project found that parental incarceration is also linked to an increased likelihood of acquiring substance misuse (Furr-Holden et al., 2011). According to this study, teenagers with incarcerated fathers (13 percent of the sample) are more likely to use drugs and engage in delinquent behavior than those whose fathers are not involved in the criminal system (Furr-Holden et al., 2011). According to Kjellstrand et al. (2019), having parents who have been institutionalized can result in poor developmental trajectories such as suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts, teenage delinquency, and substance misuse (Kjellstrand et al., 2019). Based on these, this study hypothesized that:

H2: Family Type (FT) influences the substance use of Tokhang Surrenderees.

This research used a linear regression model (Figure 1), wherein the independent variables HI and FT were hypothesized to be associated with the dependent variable SU. The model was modified to fit the study's context, as shown in Figure 1:

I: Research Model



Notes: Legend: * $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.001$ (statistically significant)

Source: Mina et al., 2022

Factors That Influence Drug Addiction: An Analysis of Tokhang Surrendered Institution-Based Rehabilitation

III. METHODOLOGY

A. Data Gathering Techniques

In order to answer the questions and provide enough data to achieve the objectives of this study, the researcher utilized an online self-reported survey questionnaire (Easterby-Smith et al., 2002) using Google forms. Due to the government restrictions and protocols, the online self-reported survey questionnaire was distributed, filled up and collected online. Prior to fielding, the survey questionnaire was pilot tested to ensure proper statement, format and wording.

B. Respondents

This research employed a purposive homogeneous sampling in choosing the participant. The participants in this study were 150 Tokhang Surrendered who had completed the MODTRC's 6-month in-house program. The participants comprised of most male adults and a minority of male senior citizen who came from different municipalities in Misamis Occidental, Philippines.

C. Treatment and Analysis of Data

The respondents' demographic profiles were treated using descriptive statistics and frequencies using IBM SPSS Statistics (version 20). Anderson and Gerbing (1988) explain that when computing covariance estimates between pairs of latent variables, the discriminant validity of variables must be tested. To test the hypotheses the level of significance denoted as alpha p-value of ≤ 0.05 and $p < 0.001$ (statistically significant) was used to assess the hypothesized variance (Fisher, 1962). Thus, to determine the causal relationship of variables, data were treated by obtaining the mean and then using licensed versions of IBM SPSS AMOS (version 26) to perform Structural Equation Modelling.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

II. Frequency and Percentage Distribution According to Family Type

| Family Type | F | % |
|----------------------|----|----|
| Single Parent Family | 53 | 35 |
| Extended Family | 22 | 15 |
| Broken Family | 68 | 45 |
| Complete Family | 7 | 5 |

Table 2. shows that 45% of the Tokhang surrendereds come from a broken family, 35% of them come from a single parent family and mostly with their mother alone, 15% come from an extended family, and 5% come from a complete family. The data indicate that most of the Tokhang Surrendered come from broken and single parent families. It can be gleaned from the findings that since child raising entails various responsibilities, broken and single parent families may not have enough time for the children and may result to behavioral problems like using illegal drugs. These findings support the study of Jorge Arias-De la Torre et al. (2017) which found out that the prevalence of drug consumption increased as the level of perceived family support is weak. This can also be explained by the findings of Kann et al. (2016) that negative parent-children relationship could lead to a sense of lack support and to use violence as a strategy to survive.

III. Frequency and Percentage Distribution According to Household Income

| Household Income | F | % |
|------------------|----|----|
| 5,000 and less | 90 | 60 |
| 5,001-10,000 | 37 | 25 |
| 10,001-15,000 | 8 | 5 |
| 15,001-30,000 | 8 | 5 |
| 30,001 and above | 7 | 5 |

Table 2. shows that 60% of the Tokhang surrendereds has a household monthly income ranging from Php 5,000 and less, 25% of them have incomes ranging from Php 5,001-10,000, 5% of them have incomes from Php 10,001-15,000, 5% have incomes from Php 15,001-20,000, and 5% have incomes from Php 20,001 and above.

The data reveal that majority of the Tokhang surrendereds have income which falls below poverty line. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, a family of five needed at least Php 6, 329, on average, every month to meet the family's basic needs and at least Php 9,064, on average, every month to meet both basic food and non-food needs. Since, 60% of the Tokhang Surrendered have an average household income of Php 5,000 and below, the data indicate that most of the Tokhangsurrendered fall below the poverty line yet sadly they are capable to buy and take illegal drugs. This is supported by the study of Bertrand Redonnet, et al., 2012 wherein it found out in his study that those participants with low socioeconomic position generally initiated substance use than those with high socioeconomic position.

IV. Relationship of Independent Variables to Dependent Variable

Factors That Influence Drug Addiction: An Analysis of Tokhang Surrendered Institution-Based Rehabilitation

| Relationship | Regression Weights | S.E. | C.R. | P-value | Hypothesis |
|--------------|--------------------|------|--------|---------|------------|
| HI → SU | -.129 | .063 | -2.039 | .041 | Accepted |
| FT → SU | .453 | .055 | 8.287 | *** | Accepted |

Note: Legend: ***p<0.001 (statistically significant)

Data shows that there is a significant association between Household Income (HI) to Substance Use (SU) with ($p < 0.05$), and Family Type (FT) to Substance Use (SU) wherein ($p < 0.001$) statistically significant, indicating that the hypothesis is accepted at the 0.05 alpha level of significance.

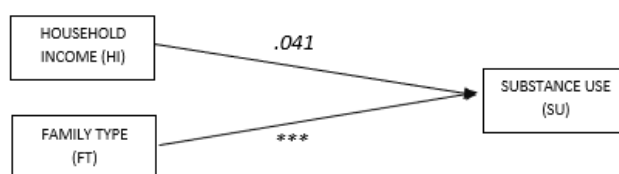
This depicts that household income (HI) is an indicator of substance use. Majority of the participants have low socioeconomic status. This finding is supported by Erikson's (2018) study, which proved that among the key socioeconomic issues that may affect substance use include homelessness, living in a criminal or underprivileged environment, committing crimes, and having parents or family members who use drugs or are in prison. Similarly, Hollingshead (1975) posed socioeconomic status as a major factor influencing criminality and substance use. Low-income neighborhoods may have a negative impact on children's and adolescents' mental health as well as externalized behaviors such as acting out, aggression, drug use, and delinquent behavior during childhood and adolescence (Saladino et al., 2020b). According to the Yonkers Project evaluation, adolescents who remained in low-income neighborhoods were more likely to become substance users, particularly of alcohol and marijuana (Briggs, 1997).

When it comes to family type (FT) it shows a high significance to substance use (FT). According to the data, parental support, communication, and family climate can protect teens from engaging in risky behaviors (Haverfield and Theiss, 2017; Pereyra and Bean, 2017; Saladino et al., 2020b). As seen by Montilla et al. (2020), the absence of parental supervision and the absence of parents while growing up, as well as exposure to various substances, are likely to have a relationship with drug addiction.

Implications to Theory

The Dislocation Theory of Addiction explains that addiction as an adaptive response to broader societal problems that dislocate the individual from a sense of meaning, purpose, and value, driving them towards addictive behaviors (Alexander, 2017). This study proves the determinants that influence the substance use of MODTRC's Tokhang Surrendered. HI appears to be significant to SU as proved in similar findings (Tucker et al., 2013; Keyes et al., 2011). This is made significant because The Dislocation Theory of Addiction (Alexander, 2017) explicit that societal problems are drivers of drug addition and such that poverty which is represented by household income in this study is deemed significant that influences Tokhang Surrendered to substance use. Moreover, another societal problem is a dysfunctional family (Tucker et al., 2013; Lee et al., 2012; LoBraico et al., 2020; Saladino et al., 2020b), which is represented by family type in this study, as per the findings it can be drawn that a broken and single-parent family influences the Tokhang Surrendered to substance use. This study draws additional inputs to the theory by identifying two societal issues which is poverty and dysfunctional family. Consequently, the results of this study has shown the roles of predictors (HI and FT) to SU in the context of this study, as seen in the validated research model (Figure 2), are the factors influencing the substance use of Tokhang Surrendered in Misamis Occidental Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center (MODTRC). Hence, this explains the clear contribution to the advancement of the literature on the drivers of drug addiction.

V. Validated Research Model



Notes: Legend: * $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.001$ (statistically significant)

Source: Mina et al., 2022

V. CONCLUSION

This study found that FT and HI are factors that influence SU, which explains why drug addiction is influenced by poverty and dysfunctional families including broken and single-parent households. The majority among those who responded to the survey live in poverty, which is the main factor driving their drug use and substance abuse, which eventually resulted in drug addiction. This is a call to action for the government; they must take steps to address the underlying problem rather than just the onset, give Tokhang Surrendered fair access to work so they won't revert to their former selves to lessen the country's chronic drug abuse. According to the findings of the study, a dysfunctional family is another factor. The majority of Tokhang Surrendered come from broken or single-parent families, which explains why drug use is linked to a lack of parental supervision as a support system. Programs of support and parent education should therefore be implemented for families in order to improve the interactions

Factors That Influence Drug Addiction: An Analysis of Tokhang Surrendered Institution-Based Rehabilitation

between parents and their children. Adolescent risk factors associated with dysfunctional family structures should also be addressed through familial interventions. As a result, in order to break the cycle of drug addiction, problematic family relationships must also be addressed. As stated in The Dislocation Theory of Drug Addiction looks beyond the individual considered to be Substance Users (SU) in this study, Alexander (2017) contends that we should first focus on resolving the societal issue of poverty and dysfunctional family in this research, rather than blaming the drug addicts. Finally, the government must ensure that Tokhang Surrendered who have been treated and rehabilitated receive after-care, as this is an essential component of the recovery process from drug addiction.

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Factors That Influence Drug Addiction: An Analysis of Tokhang Surrendered Institution-Based Rehabilitation

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Factors That Influence Drug Addiction: An Analysis of Tokhang Surrenderes Institution-Based Rehabilitation

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