

# Evaluation of the Educational Program of Substance abuse on Preparatory Schools students' in AL-Sader city Baghdad

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**ABSTRACT**

A quasi-experimental study was conducted to determine the effectiveness of an educational program on knowledge of high school students about substance abuse and its health consequences AL-Sader city/ Baghdad for the period of 27th February 2021 through 29th July 2021. A probability sampling (simple random technique) was used, consisted of 50 students, that consist (25) male, (25) female, were from Preparatory Schools students' knowledge in AL-Sader city/ Baghdad. A self-report questionnaire was used to data collection, It was included in three parts part I deals with the students' demographic Information Part II students' knowledge about substances abuse. Part III: students' knowledge about the health effects of substance abuse Four Preparatory Schools in the Russafa Education Directorate were randomly selected to participate in the study. The researcher prepared a scale consisting 20 items which are distributed across two main parts to test students' knowledge about Substance abuse. Students will be tested on a variety of topics related to substance abuse. Using data from the research and control groups, special education students' understanding of substance abuse knowledge categories is significantly different. The research indicates that after implementing the curriculum, there is a significant increase in students' knowledge about substance abuse. This research suggests developing and implementing a similar training curriculum for special education about substance abuse to students for all schools in Iraq to increase knowledge about substance abuse.



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Substance abuse is becoming a dangerous ongoing community health problem, it affects almost every community and family in some way. Its uses among students have an important area of research because of its implications of early substance dependence on the future of the youth [1]. Substance is defined as any psychoactive compound with the potential to cause health and social problems, including addiction. These substances may be legal (e.g., alcohol and tobacco); illegal (e.g., heroin and cocaine); or controlled for use by licensed prescribers for medical purposes such as hydrocodone or oxycodone (e.g., Oxycontin, Vicodin, and Lortab) [2]. Substance abuse among adolescence is a significant problem globally. It is associated with

increased risk for a number of well-established consequences including impaired peer relationships, mental illness, increased risk for suicide, high-risk sexual behavior, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), disrupted learning, truancy, increased school dropout rates, and poverty [3]. Studies in Iraq have demonstrated that substance abuse by young people is on the rise. For example, according to the report of the Iraqi community epidemiology work group, there has been an increase in the use of alcohol, prescription drugs, and illicit drugs, especially among young people [4]. High schoolers may decide to experiment with drugs and alcohol for many reasons. Some simply enjoy the physical sensation of getting high because it activates the pleasure centers in their brains, others use drugs and alcohol as coping mechanisms to deal with stress, depression, social anxiety or emotional problems [5]. Academic pressure can also contribute to teen drug use. In one study, stressed-out teens with lower grades were seven times likelier to use marijuana and three times more likely to drink and use tobacco [6]. Studies have noted that the onset age of drug abuse has decreased globally, and teenagers are more likely vulnerable to using illegal drugs due to less information regarding serious complications of drug abuse [7]. Also, substance abuse extends through different age levels, but it seems to be more common among adolescents who are usually in high school and college [8]. Many factors influence whether an adolescent tries substance abuse, knowledge is one of the factors that influence students' decision to use substances, with inadequate knowledge about substance use and its consequences, a student will be less likely to make a fact-based and informed decision [9]. A large body of research has examined the efficacy and effectiveness of prevention programs for adolescent substance abuse. Findings display that the most effective programs target salient risk and protective factors at the individual, family, and/or community levels, and are guided by relevant psychosocial theories regarding the etiology of substance use and abuse [10].

## 2. Materials and Method

A descriptive design was carried out from 27th February 2021 through 29th July 2021 assess students' knowledge on Preparatory Schools about Substance abuse in AL-Sader city/ Baghdad. A probability sampling (simple random technique) was used, consisted of 50 students, that consist (25) male, (25) female, were from Preparatory Schools students' knowledge in AL-Sader city/ Baghdad. Part I the general information this part contain information about sociodemographic of students which included 20 items, Part II: Students 'Knowledge about smoking this section was comprised of 17 items concerned with the measurement of the students ' knowledge about the a smoking, Part III Knowledge about alcohol this section was comprised of 19 items concerned with the measurement of the students ' knowledge about the alcohol, Part IV Knowledge about drug and other substances this section was comprised of 18 items concerned with the measurement of the students ' knowledge about the drug. The course was broken down into five major sessions, each of which was taught to the study group's fifty instructors over the course of four class meetings. The Cronbach Alpha Correlation coefficients for these scales were calculated using the split-half approach. The study's scales, methods, and procedure will be validated by a panel of ten experts from various domains related to the present research. Scale format was examined for clarity and appropriateness as part of this study.

## 3. Results and Discussion

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

No.	Characteristics			
		f	%	
1	Age (year)	15 – 17	32	64
		18 – 20	18	36
		21 ≤	0	0

		<i>Total</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>100</i>
		<i>M±SD</i>	<i>17±1</i>	
2	<b>Gender</b>	Male	25	50
		Female	25	50
		<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>
2	<b>Father's occupation</b>	Employee	22	44
		Free works	15	30
		Retired	7	14
		Died	6	12
		<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>
3	<b>Mother's occupation</b>	Employee	12	24
		Housewife	33	66
		Retired	1	2
		Died	4	8
		<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>
4	<b>Study</b>	Scientific	25	50
		Literary	25	50
		<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>
5	<b>Scholastic stage</b>	Fourth	16	32
		Fifth	16	32
		Sixth	18	36
		<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>
6	<b>House ownership</b>	Owned	32	64
		Rented	6	12
		Random	7	14
		Farmland	5	10
		<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>
7	<b>Income</b>	Insufficient	12	24
		Barely sufficient	25	50
		Sufficient	13	26
		<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table (2):** Assessment of Students' Knowledge about Smoking among Study

Levels of knowledge	(N= 50)		
	Pre-test	Post-test I	Post-test II

	f	%	M	S.D	f	%	M	S.D	f	%	M	S.D
<b>Poor</b>	26	52	<b>7.28</b>	<b>2.601</b>	0	0	<b>16.99</b>	<b>0.099</b>	0	0	<b>17.00</b>	<b>0.000</b>
<b>Fair</b>	24	48			2	4			3	6		
<b>Good</b>	0	0			48	96			47	94		
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>			<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>			<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>		

**Table (3):** Assessment of Students’ Knowledge about Alcohol Drinking among Study

Levels of knowledge	(N= 50)											
	Pre-test				Post-test I				Post-test II			
	f	%	M	S.D	f	%	M	S.D	f	%	M	S.D
<b>Poor</b>	12	24	<b>9.92</b>	<b>2.527</b>	0	0	<b>18.98</b>	<b>0.155</b>	0	0	<b>18.98</b>	<b>0.155</b>
<b>Fair</b>	38	76			3	6			3	6		
<b>Good</b>	0	0			47	94			47	94		
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>			<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>			<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>		

**Table (4):** Assessment of Students’ Knowledge about Drug Use among Study

Levels of knowledge	Study Group (N= 50)											
	Pre-test				Post-test I				Post-test II			
	f	%	M	S.D	f	%	M	S.D	f	%	M	S.D
<b>Poor</b>	38	76	<b>7.65</b>	<b>2.977</b>	0	0	<b>19.97</b>	<b>0.182</b>	0	0	<b>19.93</b>	<b>0.262</b>
<b>Fair</b>	12	24			2	4			3	6		
<b>Good</b>	0	0			48	96			47	94		
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>			<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>			<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>		

**Table (5):** Correlation between Students’ Knowledge with regard to their Age among Study

Knowledge Age	(N=50)		
	N	Mean	SD
15 – 17 years	32	1.62	.503
18 – 20 years	18	1.76	.428
21 ≤ years	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>.479</b>

<b>Correlation</b>	<b><math>r = 0.178</math></b>	<b><math>p\text{-value} = 0.011</math></b>	<b>Sig. = S</b>
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**Table (6):** Correlation between Students' Knowledge with regard to their Scholastic Stage among Study

Knowledge Stage	(N=50)		
	N	Mean	SD
Fourth	16	1.57	.498
Fifth	16	1.69	.467
Sixth	18	1.77	.458
<b>Total</b>	50	1.68	.479
<b>Correlation</b>	<b><math>r = 0.160</math></b>	<b><math>p\text{-value} = 0.022</math></b>	<b>Sig. = S</b>

#### 4. Discussion

The results of the study showed that the largest percentage of ages for studied groups were at age group [15-17], are equally between males and females in the study, Concerning to the occupational status of their fathers this study show that 44% of the sample had government employee while 30% of sample had fathers free work, Concerning to the occupational status of their mothers this study show that 66% of the sample had housewife, The results of this study showed that the majority of participants in the study are had Owned house 32% for the study, This study found that the majority of students had barely sufficient the monthly income 50% for results table (1). Table (2) The study found that the level of students' knowledge about smoking was poor level 52% for study group and 58% in the pre-test, while in post-test1 responses the results appeared that the level of knowledge turn into good level 96% also in post-test2 show the majority of study group still in good level 94%. Table (3) The study show that the level of students' knowledge about Alcohol Drinking was fair level 38% for study group and 37% in the pre-test, while in post-test1 responses the results appeared that the level of knowledge turn into good level 94%, also in post-test2 show the majority of study group still in good level 94%. Table (4) The study found that the level of students' knowledge about drugs was poor level 38% while in post-test1 responses the results appeared that the level of knowledge turn into good level 96%, also in post-test2 show the majority of study group still in good level 94%. Table (5) The results of the present study showed that there is significant relationship between students' knowledge and their age. Table (6) In this study founded that there is positive significant relationship between students' knowledge and their scholastic stage.

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