

Article: 0290

Topic: EPO02 - e-Poster Oral 02: Cultural Psychiatry, Epidemiology and Social Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatry and Neuroimaging

Prevalence of Psychoactive Substance Use Disorders Among Adolescent Students in Upper Egypt

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Objective: The aim of the present study was to estimate the prevalence and forms of psychoactive substances among adolescent students in Assiut Governorate, Egypt.

Methods: This study was cross sectional community survey conducted during academic year (2010 -2011) .The sample size was 5476 students from preparatory and secondary schools were subjected to a standardized questionnaire of substance misuse questionnaire of Egypt in an Arabic version and modified Arabic version of socioeconomic scale .

Results: 22.9 % of sample stated that they used psychoactive substance. Substance use disorders in age group (12 – 16) was (50.0%), (> 16 – 19) was (49.68%), and (> 19) was (0.32%) . Males reported higher prevalence (94.59%) than females (5.41%). Substance use disorder was prevalent in Secondary Public schools (48.17%), Technical (24.84%), Preparatory (23.09%) and then Secondary Private (3.90%). Students from Rural areas reported higher prevalence (83.36%) than Urban areas (16.64%).Tobacco smoking in males (89.31%) and in females (98.53%) , Marijuana (Hash)in males (5.56%), Alcohol in males (1.94%), Tramadol in males (1.60%), Marijuana (Bhang) in males (0.93%), Opium in males (0.34%)and in females (1.47%), Benzodiazepines (Clonazepam , Alprazolam)in males (0.25%),and lastly Amphetamine like (Foula) in males (0.08%). Recreational pattern (34.63%) *that was higher* in males than in females (36.20% &7.35%) .Dependence was (28.50%) that was also higher in males than females.

Conclusion: Tobacco and Hashish were the major substance problem for most of Students, that needs to be addressed in treatment programs.