

Substance Use Among Female Sex Workers in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

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Aims. This systematic review aimed to quantify the prevalence of substance use among female sex workers (FSWs) in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Methods. Design: The review protocol was registered with PROSPERO (CRD42021242048). We searched Ovid, PubMed and Web of Science databases for peer-reviewed, quantitative studies from inception to 6th March 2023. Study designs included: cross-sectional, case-control, cohort study, case series analysis, or experimental studies. Study quality was assessed using the Centre for Evidence-Based Management (CEBM) Critical Appraisal Tool.

Setting: FSWs in LMICs.

Participants/Inclusion criteria: any measure of prevalence or incidence of substance use (not alcohol or tobacco) among FSWs aged 18+ years.

Measurements: A narrative synthesis was conducted across all studies meeting the inclusion criteria. Pooled prevalence estimates for 'ever' and 'recent' drug use were calculated using a random effects model.

Results. 3135 papers were identified; 161 papers reporting on 102 studies with 167,333 FSWs from 39 LMICs met the inclusion criteria. 26 studies scored high, 61 scored moderate, and 15 scored in the lower quality range. Only 4/102 studies used a validated measurement tool to assess levels of substance use dependence. The mean age of study participants was 28.9 years (SD 7.7). The pooled prevalence for recent (past month to past year) substance use among FSWs in LMICs is: illicit drug use 29% (95% CI: 14–34%), cannabis 20% (95% CI: 8–30%), cocaine 21% (95% CI: 9–32%), amphetamine type stimulants 19% (95% CI: 12–26%), opioids 8% (95% CI: 4–12%), sedatives and sleeping pills 6% (95% CI: 0–12%), inhalants 4% (95% CI: –4–12%), hallucinogens 0% (95% CI: 0–0%), and recent drug use during sex work 42% (95% CI: 15%–68%). Only 5/102 studies reported a substance use intervention. Key study limitations include the lack of a validated measurement tool by most studies (96%) meaning it was not possible to distinguish between any drug use vs. harmful drug use. The criminalisation of drug use may have led to under-reporting and an underestimate of true substance use prevalences.

Conclusion. FSWs in LMICs report a high prevalence of recent drug use – including during sex work – with cannabis, cocaine and amphetamine type stimulants the most commonly used. There is an urgent need for effective low-cost substance use interventions. Future studies should use validated substance-use measurement tools to assess the burden of substance use disorders.

Abstracts were reviewed by the RCPsych Academic Faculty rather than by the standard *BJPsych Open* peer review process and should not be quoted as peer-reviewed by *BJPsych Open* in any subsequent publication.

Systematic Review: Dementia Post-Diagnostic Support in UK Rural Communities: Experiences of People Living With Dementia, Informal Caregivers, and Healthcare Professionals

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Aims. The aim of this systematic review is to identify and describe the experiences, barriers and provision of post-diagnostic support in UK rural areas; from the perspective of people living with dementia, healthcare professionals and informal family caregivers.

Background.

People living with dementia in rural areas experience numerous barriers to accessing post-diagnostic support.

Methods.

Systematic Review.

Systematic searches will be conducted in the following databases; SCOPUS, PubMed, PsychINFO and CINAHL Plus. Systematic review tool Rayyan.ai will be used to screen titles and abstracts, prior to full-text review. Following data extraction, The Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) tool will be used to appraise the quality of studies and assess risk of bias. The data will be deductively analysed through the lens of the Candidacy Framework's 6 dimensions, with a secondary inductive analysis capturing any themes that fall outside of the framework.

Results. 242 papers have been screened by first and second reviewer. 15 papers included. Papers still being analysed for full review. Will be complete by March 2024.

Conclusion. This systematic review will help improve understanding of the rural barriers and experiences of post-diagnostic support, and allow researchers and stakeholders to develop and optimise specially tailored dementia interventions in line with the needs of people residing in UK rural communities.

First reviewer: Danielle Bilkey, Second Reviewer: Dr Ellena Businge, Supervisor: Dr Nicolas Farina.

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An fMRI Based Study of the Neural Correlates of OCD Sub-Types

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Aims.

1. To study the neural correlates of OCD using functional MRI.
2. To compare the neural correlates of the pure washer dimension of OCD with other dimensions of OCD and healthy controls.

Methods. It was a cross-sectional, case-control study conducted from 2018 to 2021. OCD patients were recruited with purposive sampling from outpatient attendance at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi following the inclusion and exclusion criteria. The patients were divided into two groups i.e. washing subtype and non-washing/other subtype based on dimensional YBOCS score. The healthy control group consisted of age and sex-matched healthy individuals. Each group had 10 individuals. The participants underwent functional MRI with resting fMRI and activation task-based MRI. Activation tasks included a cognitive task i.e. Stroop test and an affective task which included trigger words for OCD tailored according to the patient's triggers for OCD.

The results were studied for significance within a group and also compared among the three groups and between OCD patients and healthy controls as well.

Results. In OCD-specific task using trigger words, the right frontal gyrus, right medial frontal gyrus, and left cingulate gyrus showed hyperactivation in the washer OCD subtype group. After correction for family-wise error, p -FWE (<0.05) corrected < 0.05 , there was no significant result. The non-washing subtype had no significant areas of activity on the OCD specific task.

But the combined OCD patient group (compared with controls), had hypoactivation of the right inferior frontal gyrus and fusiform gyrus at p -unc (<0.001) in the OCD task.

In the Incongruent part of the Stroop task, the non-washer subtype had hypoactivation of the right caudate body compared with healthy controls at p -FWE (<0.05).

In the congruent Stroop task, washer OCD subtype, the right insula was found to be hyperactive at p -FWE (<0.05).

Conclusion. Previous studies comparing activation on cognitive tasks in OCD patients and healthy controls have revealed differences in CSTC circuits as well as cerebellum and parietal areas. The washing symptom dimension is associated with insular hyperactivity in both emotional and cognitive tasks. It is associated with stimuli related to disgust. The role of the insula is being researched in functions like attention and response inhibition. Our study, with all its limitations, could replicate the insular findings in washing-subtype of OCD. With a better sample size, we may be able to explore further the findings that have not attained levels of significance in our study.

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Integrated Moving on After Breast Cancer and Culturally Adapted Cognitive Behaviour Therapy Intervention for Depression and Anxiety Among Pakistani Women With Breast Cancer: Randomised Controlled Trial

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Aims. Breast cancer is major cause of mortality in females, affecting 2.1m women annually. Annual mortality rates are double

within south Asian women compared with high-income countries. Pakistan has very high rates of breast cancer. Co-morbid depression and anxiety is reported in more than one third of breast cancer survivors and predict higher recurrence and poorer survival.

Objective:

To evaluate the clinical effectiveness of Moving on After Breast Cancer Plus Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (Moving on ABC Plus) to reduce depression and anxiety in breast cancer survivors in Pakistan.

Methods. A mixed method randomized controlled trial with 354 survivors of breast cancer recruited from the in- and out-patient services of oncology departments both from public and private hospitals of 5 major cities in Pakistan.

Individuals scoring 10 or higher on either the Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) or the Generalized Anxiety Disorder scale (GAD-7) were enrolled. All participants underwent assessments using the PHQ-9, GAD-7, Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy—Breast; EuroQol-5D; Multidimensional Scale for Perceived Social Support; Intrusive Thoughts Scale; and Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale at the baseline and were randomly assigned to one of two trial groups: Moving on ABC plus or routine care. Those in the intervention group received 12 individual sessions of Moving on ABC plus, facilitated by trained master-level psychologists over 4 months. Follow-up assessments were conducted at 3- and 6-months after randomization. Individuals in routine care group continued their standard care. Qualitative interviews were conducted with 15 participants from the intervention group upon completion of the intervention.

Results. The trial established the effectiveness of the integrated intervention, at 6-month follow up preserving 96% of retention. Intervention group reported a significantly higher reduction in depression, anxiety and intrusive thoughts, and improvement in health-related quality of life and self-esteem compared with routine care arm at end of the intervention. They endorsed the usefulness of intervention during qualitative interviews with improvement in psychological well-being, social support network, and interpersonal relationships. Fatigue was reported as a potential barrier to participating in the intervention.

Conclusion. Results of this trial are in favour of psychological intervention; therefore, such programs should be implemented as part of routine care to reduce psychological distress and improve quality of life of this vulnerable population.

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Exploring the Feasibility of Suicide Prevention Intervention for Individuals With First Episode Psychosis Experiencing Suicidal Ideation: A Multi-Center, Mixed Method Study From Pakistan

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Aims. First Episode Psychosis (FEP) emerges at a young age, significantly shaping the trajectory of the disorder. Literature