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EDUCATION IN DRUG ADDICTS (YASOUJ- IRAN) : A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

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Introduction: Drug addiction is one of the most common social disorders in Iran. It is estimated that about 2 million Iranian are addicted and the number is rising.

Aims: This study is done to investigate the educational history and its related issues of addicted participants.

Methods: Participants are a convenience sample of 71 drug addicted males who came to one of the 17 addiction treatment centers in Yasouj- Iran. Data were collected via a self administered questionnaire.

Results: Patients were all male, age from 19 to 50 years old. Only 1.4% (one patient) was illiterate, and 10.1% had university degrees. 59.9% did not started (1.4%) or finished (58.5%) their national compulsory educational program. Addiction was reported as the main reason for withdrawing from school (19.6%). More than 73% of the participants had educational difficulties (e.g. failed subject) and 74% used to be aggressive during their study period. More than 46% were under 18 years old (33.3% under 16) when they used drugs for the first time. School was the place of the first use of drug for 6.1% of the participants.

Discussion: Educational issues seem to be a common problem for the drug addicted participants. This is due to either addiction itself or educational problems can be considered as indicators for later attempt for using drugs or more precisely addiction. It would be reasonable to do further work to find out more specific educational difficulties which can predict later risk for addiction.