

The Association Between Islamic Lifestyle and Addiction Potential Among Adolescents



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Ardenoush Padarvand¹, Seyed Mohammad Kalantarkousheh¹, Younes Doostian², Omid Massah^{2*}, Hamid Reza Varmazyar³, Moslem Arian⁴

1. Department of Counseling, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran, Iran.

2. Substance Abuse and Dependence Research Center, University of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Sciences, Tehran, Iran.

3. Translator and Researcher, National Medical Academy of Iran, Tehran, Iran.

4. University of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Sciences, Tehran, Iran.



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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study was conducted to investigate the association between Islamic lifestyle and addiction potential among adolescents residing in Eslamshahr City, Iran.

Methods: This was a cross sectional study. The statistical population consisted of all students attending public high schools during 2012-2013 academic year in Eslamshahr City. The sample size was 211, who were selected through multi-stage cluster sampling method. The Islamic lifestyle and addiction potential questionnaires were used to collect data.

Results: The Pearson correlation coefficient showed significant and inverse associations between the components of Islamic lifestyle and addiction potential, except for 'timeliness' ($P < 0.01$).

Conclusion: Those adopting an Islamic lifestyle are less prone to substance abuse.

1. Introduction

Adolescence is often described as an important psychological period in one's life. No doubt, it is particularly an important period among the various stages of human life, as it has specific and unique characteristics. Adolescence is a period associated with special behavioral traits and even disorders and symptoms such as anxiety, depression, repeated bouts of anger, academic dysfunctioning, wearing weird clothes, casual cigarette smoking and use of other narcotics, iso-

lation and running away from school. The consequences of these disorders and behaviors can later result in failure in academic achievement, unemployment, unsuccessful marital relations, unwanted pregnancy, addiction and so on (Cazenave & Michel, 2008).

Adolescence is a period filled with severe turbulence and stress. It is likened to the time when the human race went through turbulent stages of urbanization (Hall, 1916). Moreover, adolescence has depicted as a critical period of turbulence, stress, and rebirth (Visser, Van der Ende, Koot, & Verhulst, 2000). Studies have shown a worri-

* Corresponding Author:

Omid Massah, MD

Address: Substance Abuse and Dependence Research Center, University of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Sciences, Koodakyar Alley, Daneshjoo Bldg., Evin, Tehran, Iran.

Tel: +98 (21) 22180097

E-mail: omchomch@gmail.com

some rise in psychological and emotional problems among students in recent years; abnormal phenomena such as suicide, addiction, academic failure, etc. have surfaced as new barriers and hindered students' progress (Farhoudian et al., 2006; Yousefi-Nooraie et al., 2009).

Addiction is one of the causes of physical and psychosocial disabilities that needs many rehabilitation services (Compton, Thomas, Stinson, & Grant, 2007; Henderson Jr, 1991). Given the demographic structure of Iran and the spread of drug addiction among young people, more than half of our population are at risk. Drug abuse in many people begins since high-school age, so one of the most important strategies for reducing drug use is its control in adulthood (Bashirian, Heidarnia, & Allahverdipour, 2013). Statistics show a rise in opiate abuse among adolescents and youth and a decline in the age of onset of drug abuse (Botvin, 2000; Narenjiha et al., 2009; Sarrami, Ghorbani, & Minooei, 2013).

Different factors may be involved in addiction potential. According to research, the sensation seeking and absence or shortage of healthy recreational activities predispose adolescents and youngsters to addiction, which is very dangerous indeed (Massah, HoseinSabet, Doostian, A'zami, & Farhoudian, 2014). It appears that many healthy or unhealthy habits adopted during a person's adolescent years tend to persist later in life and turn into a lifestyle. Lifestyle is defined as a person's overall framework for achieving goals and overcoming difficulties in life. A person's specific way of life is labelled as 'lifestyle.' This concept has used through different interpretations such as self, character, individuality, shaping one's creative activities, and method of coping with problems (Dreikurs, 1991).

Kaviani believes that lifestyle examines an individual's behavior objectively, and goes beyond viewing cognitions and emotions as mere mental constructs. However, Islamic lifestyle is different from the aforementioned. The Islamic lifestyle is concerned with behavior, feelings, emotions, and cognitions (Kaviani, 2011).

Research studies have been conducted on the association between lifestyle and individual disorders and traits. One study illustrated an association between teenage girls' self-esteem and lifestyle (Sahebzamani, Fesharaki, & Abdollahi Mofrad, 2010). The results of studies conducted by Matud et al., Suzuki et al., and Suwazono et al. confirmed this relationship, too (Matud et al., 2004; Suwazono, Okubo, Kobayashi, Kido, & Nogawa, 2003; Suzuki, Kitaike, Miyazaki, & Nojiri, 2003).

Multiple studies have recognized the role of lifestyle in a person's potential for substance abuse (Pederson & Stavraky, 1987; Zimmerman & Maton, 1992). Another research performed by Baghiani-moghadam on addicts and nonaddicts showed a significant association between religiousness and addiction potential (Baghiani-Moghadam, Fazelpoor, & Rahai, 2008).

Elsewhere, studies conducted by other researchers have also addressed the significance of religion as a protective factor against substance abuse among adolescents (Johnson, Sheets, & Kristeller, 2008; Miri & Bahrami, 2001; Piko & Fitzpatrick, 2004).

Therefore, in light of the many physical, mental, social, familial and economic hazards of substance abuse, its significance during adolescence, and the dangers threatening this age group (who are our future generation), it seemed necessary to conduct this research and to find out any association between the Islamic lifestyle and addiction potential.

2. Methods

A cross sectional study was conducted in 2013 on high-school students. The statistical population consisted of all girls and boys attending Eslamshahr public high schools in 2012-2013 academic year. Based on sample size in similar correlational studies (Massah et al., 2014), the study sample comprised 260 subjects (130 girls and 130 boys), who were selected through random multistage cluster sampling method. After acquiring permission from Eslamshahr City Education Department, 6 public high schools were randomly selected (3 girl schools and 3 boy schools). Then, 3 classes were randomly selected from each school.

The questionnaires were administered after explaining the study's objectives, assuring confidentiality of data, and acquiring informed consent. Finally, information from 211 subjects (107 girls and 104 boys) were processed and analyzed. Inclusion criteria included being Muslim, enjoyment of physical and mental health, and consent to participate in the research. Physical and mental health of participants were examined and approved by a medical doctor who was expert in public health. Exclusion criteria included the presence of an addict in the family and nonhonest answers of samples to the questionnaire. The assessment tools applied were as follows:

Islamic lifestyle questionnaire: This questionnaire was developed by Kaviani and has two forms, the short and the long forms. It has 7 subscales (social, beliefs, ethical, familial, science & contemplation, timeliness, and health) in the long form, the total number of questions is

92. Each question has 4 response options, ranging from '1' (very little) to '4' (very much). The reliability and validity of the questionnaire have been evaluated on 300 subjects, where a Cronbach α of 0.78 was achieved (Kaviani, 2013). We estimated Cronbach α at 0.88.

Addiction Potential Scale (APS): It was developed by Weed and Butcher in 1992. This questionnaire was standardized in Iran by Zargar (2006). It has 41 items (36 items and an additional 5 lie-detecting items). Each question has 4 response options, ranging from '0' (completely disagree) to '3' (completely agree). Two methods were used to assess the validity of this scale. Criterion validity evaluation showed that the scale differentiated very well between addicts and nonaddicts. The construct validity of the scale was calculated at 0.45 through correlating it with the symptom checklist (SCL-25), which was significant (Weed, Butcher, McKenna, & Ben-Porath, 1992). The validity of the scale was calculated with Cronbach α and was estimated at 0.90, which was desirable (Zargar, Najarian, & Naami, 2008). The internal consistency of the questionnaire in present study is 0.86.

Ethical Considerations: In order to observe the ethical considerations, the study details were explained to participants who were assured of their information confidentiality. We used descriptive and inferential statistics to analyze the data. Pearson's coefficient was used to examine the association between variables by SPSS19.

3. Results

Demographic characteristics of study samples are shown in Table 1. Mean (SD) age of samples was 16.48 (2.17) years. Mean, standard deviation, minimum and maximum scores of the research variables are shown in Table 2.

Table 3 presents the results of Pearson correlation coefficient test between the addiction potential variable and Islamic lifestyle components. The findings presented in Table 3 show an inverse significant relationship between Islamic lifestyle and addiction potential at a P value < 0.01; those who have adopted an Islamic lifestyle exhibit lower addiction potential. According to the table, all subscales of Islamic lifestyle exhibit this association, apart from timeliness (0.08). The more the Islamic lifestyle is adopted, the lower the addiction potential among adolescents.

4. Discussion

This study was conducted to examine the association between Islamic lifestyle and addiction potential among students. The results showed that there was an inverse significant association between each component of Islamic lifestyle (except for timeliness) and addiction potential. In other words, those who adopt an Islamic lifestyle are less inclined to use substances. This finding is similar to those of Piko and Fitzpatrick, that showed religious beliefs deterrent effect on drug use (Piko & Fitzpatrick, 2004). Also is similar to Johnson, Sheets,

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of study samples

Variable		No.	%
Sex	Girl	107	50.7%
	Boy	104	49.3%
Grade in high school	First grade	65	30.8%
	Second grade	71	33.65%
	Third grade	75	35.55%

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Table 2. Mean, standard deviation, minimum and maximum scores of the research variables

Variables	Mean	SD	No.	Min Score	Max Score
Islamic lifestyle	550	60	211	351	711
Addiction potential	39	15	211	14	88

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Table 3. Pearson correlation coefficient test; the association between Islamic lifestyle components and addiction potential

Statistical Indices	Variables							
	Overall Lifestyle	Beliefs	Ethical	Health	Social	Familial	Contemplation	Timeliness
Correlation coefficient	-0.45	-0.43	-0.39	-0.35	-0.35	-0.29	-0.21	-0.12
P-value	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.08

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and Kristeller findings that showed deterrent effect of religious beliefs on alcohol use (Johnson et al., 2008).

For more explanation, a religious person, who follows the Islamic way or pious way of life, adheres to the sacred commandments, and his behavior and actions do not hurt himself, his family, or the society. Also, Miri and Bahrami-Ehsan have shown the influence of religiosity in discouraging drug use among students (Miri & Bahrami, 2001). If we were to explain our finding, we could say that Islam focuses on all human aspects; people have duties toward themselves, their families and community and addiction is treated as an affliction that harms the individual, family, and community.

A muslim who adopts an Islamic lifestyle is one who abides by Islam’s rules, whose actions and behavior do not harm one self, family, or community. Islam values family a great deal. A person who abides by Islamic rules will avoid actions and behaviors such as addiction that will harm his family (Kaviani, 2011). Therefore, it seems that the greater one adopts an Islamic lifestyle, the less one is predisposed to addiction. Our results approve the aforementioned statements. On the other hand, research shows that after high-risk teenage years, the risk of addiction greatly decreases (Eisen, Zellman, & Murray, 2003), Therefore, the results of this study can be considered in the planning of preventive measures.

Study limitations: The current study has only examined Eslamshahr high-school students; hence we face limitations in generalizing the findings to other academic levels and locations. Accuracy of responses due to respondent bias should be considered as an important limitation for the Islamic lifestyle questionnaire because of religious values in Iran and questionnaire is a self-report tool. Further studies are suggested in this regard.

Those adopting an Islamic lifestyle are less prone to substance abuse. The results of this study demonstrate the inhibitory effect of Islamic lifestyle on the propensity to addiction and highlight the importance of prevention

and education from an early age. We live in an Islamic country and Islam is one of the divine religions practiced by people. Thus, we recommend conducting further studies on Islamic lifestyle and its association with other psychological harms. Moreover, studies on the determinant factors of adolescents’ psychological and physical health are warranted.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declared no conflict of interests.

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