Analyzing the social exclusion and extent of drug addiction among youth in rural areas of Dir Lower, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

Majid Khan* | Intikhab Alam | Asad Ullah

Department of Rural Sociology, Faculty of Rural Social Sciences, The University of Agriculture, Peshawar, Pakistan.

*Corresponding Author Email: majid.uoa@gmail.com

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Abstract

The study was formulated to analyse social exclusion and extent of drugs addiction among youth in rural areas of Dir Lower, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. A sample of 266 was randomly selected for data collection through interview. Statistical tools were used to measure the association between dependent and independent variables. The results show significant associations between drugs’ addiction led to severe form of social exclusion, social exclusion limited the access of drugs addict to basic facilities, deprived drugs user from employment and extent of drug’s addiction. Similarly, significant associations were depicted between social exclusion prevents the participation of drugs addict in religious/cultural events; restricted the social relationship with family and extent of drug’s addiction. Moreover, significant associations were accorded between socially excluded youth shows a greater level of social stigma, social exclusion leads to formation of risky behaviour, drugs addiction changes the life pattern of youth which evoked to social exclusion and extent of drug’s addiction. Thus, the government should make strategies for youth pertaining to preventions of drugs addiction with implementation at all institutional were put forward as the recommendation in the light of the current study.

Keywords: social exclusion, social relationship, social stigma, drugs addicts, drugs addict youth, extent of drugs addiction.

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1. Introduction

Human beings are encountering with numerous challenges and problems like illiteracy, over-population, poverty, poor health facilities, internal and external migration, corruption, food and water crises, price hiking and unemployment etc. These social problems give birth to new burning issue, which is dangerous and growing at a fast rate and effecting a large number of human populations including youths i.e., drug addiction. With the passage of time and change of human nature due to modernization and advancement, the variety of drugs has been raised to disturbing level. Drugs like: Opium, Heroin, Alcohol, Cannabis, Ganja, marijuana, and ices etc. are now frequently used by youth. If we look to the world statistics, drugs earned revenue of $500 billion along with large a number of people are engaged with drugs trade. It’s next to petroleum and arm trade and accounted with third world largest business. An estimated of 190 million people across the world consumes drugs in one or other form (Carballo & Nerukar, 2001).

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2015) reported that an estimated 208 million people of the world’s population consuming illegal drugs at the ages of between 15 and 64 including youth. 162 million of world’s population people are taken hashish, which is the most widespread drug along with many other illicit substances like opiates and cocaine etc. A total of million peoples were utilized amphetamine; 16 million peoples were abused opiates and 13 million peoples were consumed cocaine. Furthermore, recent research studies in western countries have revealed an alarming increased in cannabis and other form of drugs among youth. The Czech Republic had reported 44% and Ireland had documented 39%, United Kingdom having 38 % and France had reported 6% of drugs users’ youth. Similarly, the use of cocaine among youth is also increased in Spain, Italy, France and Denmark. In addition, Napa (2015) argued that drugs addiction among the youth is also affected superpower countries like China. The report confirmed that youth whose age between 14 and 30 years consumed two major categories of drugs i.e. alcohol and cocaine. in addition, in this research study, author has pointed short-term effects connected with drug’s abuse among youths included liver failure, Brain damage, Sexual dysfunction, aggressive behavior, financial problem, personality disorder, Mal-nutrition, High blood pressure, heart-related diseases, reduce of tolerance and physical dependency. On the other hand, enduring effects of drug’s addiction included damage to heart, liver and kidney damage, Lung Infection (hepatitis, HIV), suicide ideation, prostitution, school dropout, unproductively at work and many more (Donna, 2011).

Globally, United States of America is greatly influenced by drug’s abuse. In developed countries like Mexico, Brazil and Arab countries, the situation of drug’s abuse is worst with the passage of time. Furthermore, ratio of alcoholic user in United Kingdom is higher as compared to Russia which having higher ratio of drug’s abuser as compared to United States of America. Another study conducted by Roy (2015) showed that, drugs entered from Mexico into USA and spread easily through well organized system of modern technology. He further urged that drugs resulted negative effects, which includes month cancer, kidney & lung infections, HIV, uncertain sexual relation, social exclusion, social stigmatization, tension, depression, financial difficulties which ultimately leading to school dropouts, homelessness and economic dependency. Continentally, drug’s addiction is not a new concept; their negative consequences are embedded in all countries of the world. According to the African Union Ministerial Conference on Drug Control in Africa report (2017) revealed that 16 African countries people had used opiates with occurrence rate from 0.01 to 0.8 % for the youth with...
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aged of 15 years. 12 African countries people have consumed cocaine with occurrence rate from 0.01 to 1.5 % for youth with age 20 year and above. Concurrently, youth who consumed drugs at early age are destroying their educational performance. This situation is more dangerous during war between countries where a large number of people experiencing high stress, while the young soldiers during the war are fed with chemical substance (drugs) to fight against the opponent.

Pakistan having a long history of drugs which was linked with Mughal and British Empire. Generally, low-income families and jobless people were the main target of drugs addiction in Pakistan’s society, which directly affects other members of the society with the passage of time. Pakistan has persistently faced drug misuse problems since its inception. Specifically, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa areas are considered one of the largest heroin buyer markets in the south-western region. The drugs trade affects the whole region of South Asia and Pakistan considers having the worst victim. Poppy and opium were historically growing in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa especially in tribal area, District Dir lower and Baluchistan areas. Prior partition of Indo-Pak, Opium was sold in permitted shops for long time. In Pakistani society, all kinds of drug use are strictly sanctioned, and violator is punishing under law. After a huge influx of Afghanistan refugees, Pakistan had faced many problem including accommodations of millions of Afghan refugees, arms, and drug propagation (Shaheryar, 2014). United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2013) reported that Pakistan is one of the fasts growing country of the world pertaining to drug’s user among youth. Recent survey of drugs addiction revealed that Pakistan had about 3.5 million drugs addict user of different forms with annual increased of 7%. Moreover, demographic research study pointed out that the percentage of drugs user youth were 71.5 % having age less than 35 years, while highest ratio of youth was between 20-30 years of age group. This report also revealed that almost 50 % of drug’s user was illiterate which are engaged with different kind’s jobs to earn their livelihood. Moreover, as far as the occupational categorization of drug’s addict is concerned, 50.8% drugs addict were skilled and unskilled labored, 16.8% drugs addict were sales workers, 7.4% drugs addict were engaged with agriculture and educational sector.

Moreover, According to World Health Organization (2017), the negative effects of drug’s addiction among young people included involvement in criminal activities, school dropout, involvement in social evils like prostitution, homelessness & indulged in lawlessness activities. Nathaniel (2014) argued that, the consequences of drug’s addiction among youth are shocking and disgraceful that both the local and worldwide organizations across the world shows their grave concerns at the fast spreading of drugs. The negative consequences of drug’s addiction included aggressive behavior, personality disorder, violation of norm & value, lack of respect for others, prostitution and many more.

2. Literature review

The extents of drug’s addiction have profound social, economic, and psychological effects on youth development. The effects of extent of drugs addiction are not limited to youth, but also affecting their family, friend and society. The repercussions of drug abuse has damaged the existing social system, social exclusion, marginalization, affecting crime ratio, hospitalizations, sexual harassment and illegal consuming public property. Youth who abuse substances may become introvert, irritable, restless, loneliness or having hostile behavior. Such condition frequently leads to family life deterioration, socially exclusion, peer group disintegration, and
worsen of education relationships (Derefinko et al., 2018). The extent of drug’s abuse is determined by type and nature of drug used, amount of substance is taken, the mean or mode in which the drug consumed, and reaction of drug on the individual. Substances abuse in youth is extremely harmful and destructive for their social life because it makes youth to be easily dependent on them (Hoffman & Frank, 1990).

2.1. Social exclusion

In modern society, social exclusion is one of the most serious social situations, which is previously used for poverty (Winkler & Simikova, 2005). According to the European Commission (2009), “social exclusion is a social situation in which individuals, families or groups are deprived from access to basic facilities that are required for engagement in societal circumstance.” As a result, it demonstrates unequal distribution opportunities and access to resource for the individuals influenced by social exclusion. Social exclusion is a multidimensional phenomenon, either they are internal (personality disorder) or external (social stigmatization, etc.) Different factors are associated with social exclusion, who’s continuously working to reduce the chances of the social exclusion. The social groups that are vulnerable to social exclusion in contemporary society included individual with physical handicaps and mental disorder, unemployed people and drug’s addict (Steiner, 2014).

Mares and Sirovatka (2008) described the impacts of social exclusion of drug addict in the three aspects. Firstly, Economic aspect indicates restricted access to job opportunities. Secondly, Cultural aspect is interconnected with poor educational performance, which ultimately limited chances of contribution of un-excluded individuals in the identical culture. Thirdly, Social aspect is related with restriction of societal relationship and gathering of individuals within similar culture setup. Fourthly, symbolic aspect social is linked with social stigmatization among people which lead to social exclusion. This aspect often happens within social groups, where distinctiveness is observed by a large number of people and labeled them “deviant” (Radostny, 2005). In the contemporary society, the mentioned effects of social exclusion are explicitly applied to drug user as. Firstly, within economic aspect, drug’s addict youth face high costs of medical treatment and doses. Because of financial problems and restricted chances of generating money through legitimate means, such kind peoples find out different route to earn money and support their family (Todd et al., 2004).

The ratio of joblessness among habitual drugs user are approximately 50% to 75%. The high level of unemployment and joblessness among drug’s addict youth is related to the reality that 47% of drug’s abuser did not attain proper education (Byqvist, 2006). Secondly, within the cultural aspect, drug user’s youth form a “Sub-Culture of Drug’s”, which having its own regulation and rules, a way of lifestyle and earning procedure associated to drug abuse. Furthermore, within a sub-culture of drugs abuse among youth, some common interest and objectives are found, i.e. buying of drugs, searching for money to purchase drugs and minimized health hazard (Faupel et al., 2003). Thirdly, within social aspect, drug’s user is recognized by poor social relationship or low access to social gathering of people. There is a restriction of environment and social setting to establish a mean full relationship with addict because narrows mentality about drug user member. Fourthly, within symbolic dimension, drug’s abuser are often experience social stigma, which is based on the common perception and biasness of majority society, such kind of individuals experience social marginalization and exclusion (EMCDDA, 2009).
2.2. Social exclusion as a reason of drug’s abuse

Social exclusion can’t be measured as product or outcome of drug addiction. Several literatures regarding social exclusion and social disadvantages described that social exclusion as an important factor that leads to substance abuse among young people. Drug abusers usually come from poor family background and socially excluded groups. Buchanan (2005) analyzed and defines factors of social exclusion that are significant to understand the problem of drug abuse. Such as negative personality development at the early age upbringing, particularly for those individuals who countered with education problems, committed to attain higher education, but failed to get and involved in criminal activities. Furthermore, Neale (2008) added that these factors can also be included prostitution, corporeal punishment, low family support and social relationship, elimination from education institution or low level of psychological wellbeing. He further argued that social exclusion was the major problem for a significant number of youth, before enter into drugs addiction. Socially excluded people experiences feeling of detachment; alienation and hopelessness, due which they desire to consume drugs (Ryczkowski, 2009). Substance abuse, along with entertainment and refreshment, they may also acts as a source of enhancement in economic status, decrease of irritation and help individuals in the development of new personality. A drug’s user can be confronting with the complicated and hard challenge in life. However, he considers itself as a self-fulfillment of all needs which are essential for survival, especially if opportunities are limited or unavailable due to social exclusion (Adams, 2008). Social exclusion occurred as result family breakdown, insufficient accommodation facilities, inadequate health facilities; low education level, joblessness and criminal activities enhance the possibility of drug’s addiction among youth. The issue of drugs abuse further leads to social exclusion (family relation issues, accommodation problems, inadequate health facilities, chances of high rate of unemployment, a high ratio of criminal activities (Neale, 2006).

Furthermore, Goode (2008) investigated association of social exclusion with drug’s use. He confirmed that social exclusion was the outcome of drugs use. Drug use further cause to social exclusion, where drug’s abuser are vulnerable to another process and presented as different from the majority of people of the society. Moreover, the communities or areas are at high risk where drug’s users are present. The socially excluded surroundings of drug’s addict generated the most serious negative consequences on drug’s user. In contrast, people having a high standard of life, strong economic and political background and having resources could help drug user to solve their financial problems. Moreover, illegal productions of drugs are the main causes of socio-economic problems and therefore, many people couldn’t find out the legal way of earning profit through selling of illegal drug. The capital which is earned through an illegal and criminal mean not only used to fulfill their own need, but also used for support their family members. Such kinds of economic circumstance are an outcome of a violent cycle that makes the individual drug addicted and difficult for him to lead prosperous life (Galloway et al., 2009).

3. Research methodology

3.1. Universe of the study

For the selection of universe, there are no specified rules and standards of procedure regarding selection of particular universe. However, it’s dependent on study (Creswell, 2020). The
universe for present study is District Dir Lower which is narrowed down into District Headquarter Hospital Timergara, Kaleem Psychiatry Hospital Timergara, Rehabilitation Centre of drug addiction Thana, Madad Detoxification Centre and Da Haq Awaz drug Rehabilitation Centre. The Sample (Drug addict youth) is select as a sample unit for the present study.

3.2. Sample size and sampling procedures

Sampling can be defined as “the selection of small unit within a population, which represents the whole population”. Cooper and Schindler (2006) defined sampling as “a method which is used for choosing a subset (small representative part) from a given population which represents the whole population”. Selection of sample is a vital component of any research activity. Further, the sample also permitted research results generalization and exposed to the selection of tools for the study in form of questionnaires/interviews to get the essential information. According to the official records, the total population of drugs addict’s youth in rehabilitations centre and hospitals was 520. The required sample size of 266 drugs addict youth was proportionally allocated to each in rehabilitations centre/hospitals and selected through sample random sampling (Sekaran et al., 2016).

3.3. Tools of data collection

For the collection of data, an interview schedule was used as a tool for the gathering of quantitative information from drugs addict youth. “An interview schedule is a list of written questions; prepared by the researcher from face to face interaction with potential respondents” (Kumar, 2018). Furthermore, the interview schedule will be categorized into demographic characteristics, dependent variable and independent variables as a prerequisite to the research instrument.

3.4. Conceptual framework

The study was guided by the following conceptual framework.

Figure 1: Conceptual framework of study

4. Results and discussions

4.1. Univariate description: social exclusion

In modern society, social exclusion is one of the critical social conditions, which is earlier used for poverty. It represent imbalanced distribution opportunities and access to the resource for those individuals, affected by social exclusion. Social exclusion is a multidimensional phenomenon, either they are internal (personality disorder) or external (social stigmatization, etc.) Different factors are associated with social exclusion, whose continuously working to
reduce the chances of social exclusion. The social groups that are vulnerable to social exclusion in contemporary society included individuals with physical handicaps and mental disorders, unemployed people, and drugs addict (Steiner, 2014).

The table-1 shows social exclusion of drugs addict from the societal framework. Majority (71.8%) of sampled respondents reported that drugs addiction led to severe form of social exclusion among young people. However, only 28.2% respondents did not agreed with the statement. The effects of social exclusion on drug user youth can be seen in all dimensions. In economic dimension, it is important to identity that drug user face massive cost of treatment due to the financial problem and restricted opportunities to earn money through legal methods. This economic condition among drug users leads to engage an illegal way of earns income to support their family. Furthermore, almost 50% unemployment accorded among drug users and with the passage of time it’s increased up to 75%. In term of income, 32–77% drug users are reliant on government assistance. This situation of unemployment confirmed the fact that 47% drug users did not go to school or just pursue primary schooling only (Byqvist, 2006). Moreover, 75.2% respondents mentioned that social exclusion limited up to a greater extent the access of drugs addict to basic facilities, whereas 24.8% disagreed with the statement. It could be disclosed form findings of (Ahern et al., 2007) that social aspect of exclusion among drug consumers is described by poor access to basic facilities and social environment.

There is a restriction of social relationship and gathering with drug user’s relationship. Such kind of situation narrows down the chain of social relationship against drug users, which is established by other members of the society. While in the context of symbolic dimension, drug users are frequently encountered with social stigma and blame. These individuals are socially marginalized as result of general misconception and biases that prevail in society. Drug consumers are labeled as a weak, unethical and even hazardous for society. Furthermore, majority (67.7%) of sampled respondents told that social exclusion deprived drugs abuser from employment than other people, whereas 32.3% of respondents disagreed with the statement. Drug use is “motivating force” of evolution from ordinary life to social exclusion. When a dependent individual is separated from familial environment, friends, and employment and is indulged violent and distressing circle of drug addiction (MacDonald, 2006). Social Stigmatization, prejudice and biases connected with drug consume may leads to social exclusion of individuals from society. In many societies, drug use are deeply considers moralistic, and violation existing of norms and values faced social stigmatization and exclusion. In most situations, drug user was viewed more negatively compared to the person having a criminal history of rubbery or who doesn’t adequate take care of their children (Gee et al., 2007).

In addition, 70.7% of sampled respondents described that social exclusion prevents the participation of drugs addict in religious and cultural events at a large extent, whereas, 29.3% of respondents told that they were not in line with the statement. Drug users are mostly faced social exclusion because they encountered with accommodation problem, job problem, educational problem, social isolation and doesn’t participated in religious and cultural events (March et al., 2008). Moreover, 73.7% of respondents declared that social exclusion restricted the social relationship of drugs addict with family and friends at a large level, whereas 26.3% respondents disagreed with the statement. Neale (2008) acknowledged various factors that are critical for understanding problem of drug use which includes social relationship issues, sexual or physical exploitation, lack of support from family and society, social exclusion from
educational intuitions and mental health problem. He also confirmed that a significant number of people face social exclusion before entering into drug addiction.

Furthermore, 75.2% respondents argued that socially excluded youth shows greater levels of social stigma because of drugs addiction. However, 24.8% respondents disagree with the statement. The findings of table-1 were in line with the results of Buchanan (2005) that identified social factors that are related with problem of drug abuse which result social exclusion. Such as negative personality development at an early age of upbringing, particularly for those individuals who countered with education problems, social stigmatization, committed to attaining higher education, but failed to get and involved in criminal activities. The majority (70.7%) respondents reported that social exclusion leads to the formation of risky behavior among drugs addict at the macro and micro level, whereas 29.3% did not agreed with the statement. Social factors are also included prostitution, corporeal punishment, anti-social behavior, low family support and social relationship, loss of jobs, elimination from an education institution, or low level of psychological well-being along with social stigma. He further argued that social exclusion was a major problem for a number of youth, before entering into drug addiction (Neale, 2008).

Likewise, when responding to a statement, majority (67.6%) respondents said that drugs addiction changes the life of youth, which further deteriorates the existing societal pattern resultantly evoked to social exclusion, while 32.3% of respondents disagreed with the statement. Addiction to any chemical substance is harmful to both the individual and society. Drug abuse not only adversely affects the individual, but also their family, relatives, and other community members. Youth who abuse substances may become introvert, irritable, restless, loneliness or having hostile behavior. Such condition frequently leads to family life deterioration, socially exclusion, peer group disintegration, and worsen of education relationships. These youth faces poor educational performance, absenteeism and expulsion from educational institution as a result of their deviant behavior (Derefinko et al., 2018).

Table-1: Social exclusion

| Statements                                                                 | Yes       | No        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Do you feel that drugs addiction led to severe forms of social exclusion. | 191 (71.8%) | 76 (28.2%) |
| Have social exclusion limited up to greater extents the access of drugs addict to basic facilities. | 200 (76.2%) | 66 (24.8%) |
| Did social exclusion deprive drugs abuser from employment than other people. | 180 (67.7%) | 86 (32.3%) |
| Do social exclusion prevents the participation of drugs addict in religious and cultural events at a large extent. | 188 (70.7%) | 78 (29.3%) |
| Have social exclusion restricted the social relationship of drugs addict with family & friends at a large level. | 196 (73.7%) | 70 (26.3%) |
| Did socially excluded youth show a greater level of social stigma because of drugs addiction. | 200 (75.2%) | 66 (24.8%) |
| Do you find that social exclusion leads to the formation of risky behavior among drugs addict at the macro and micro level. | 188 (70.7%) | 78 (29.3%) |
| Have you felt that drugs addiction changes the life of youth which further deteriorates the existing societal pattern resultantly evoked to social exclusion. | 180 (76.6%) | 86 (32.3%) |

Source: Sep-Oct Survey, 2021
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4.2. Bivariate description: An indexation between independent and dependent variable

4.2.1. Association between social exclusion and extent of drug’s addiction

Social exclusion is a multidimensional phenomenon, either they are internal (personality disorder) or external (social stigmatization, etc.) Different factors are associated with social exclusion whose continuously working to reduce the chances of social exclusion. The social groups that are vulnerable to social exclusion in contemporary society included individuals with physical handicaps and mental disorders, unemployed people, and drug’s addict (Steiner, 2014).

Table-2 portray a significant association (P=0.003) was found between drugs addiction led to severe form of social exclusion and extents of drugs addiction. The findings of the study were aligned with (Parrott et al., 2004) who argued that any substance abuse of young people is damaging and serious implications for society. The impact of drugs abuse are not only limited to individual life, but its impact their family, friend, education, and society. Substance abuse makes young people unstable, ill-tempered, isolated, anti-social behavior, which leads to declines in family relationships, socially marginalized, devastation in friend’s relationships and severe forms of social exclusion.

Similarly, a significant association (P=0.005) was obtained between social exclusion limited up to greater extent the access of drug’s addict to basic facilities and extent of drugs addiction. The study findings were in line with (Ryczkowska, 2009) that adolescence is a stage during which a person’s normal development undergoes through significant changes. It is a period for establishing a person’s self-identity in many cultures, a method that includes detecting from parental bonds and developing new social bond and relationship. In the process of detecting from parents, youth must create new significant relations with others. Friends with whom the developing youth connects can sometime manipulate and leads him to deviant behavior. Drug, on other hand, may not be improves social ties or self-identity. Instead, drugs may adversely effects youth development. Youth turn into lethargic and psychologically unstable, as a result, making it difficult to from social relationships with other which further cause social isolation.

Likewise, a highly significant association (P=0.000) was determined between social exclusion prevents the participation of drugs addict in religious and cultural events at a large extent and extent of drug’s addiction. The findings were consistent with (Todd et al., 2004) that drug’s addicted youth face high costs of medical treatment and doses due to the financial problem and limited opportunities of earnings through legal ways. This gives way to find out an alternative way to earn money and their support family. The ratio of joblessness among habitual drugs users is approximately 50% to 75%. The high level of unemployment and joblessness among drugs addict youth is related to the reality that 47% of drugs abuser did not attain proper education.

Furthermore, a significant association (P=0.001) was observed between social exclusion prevents the participation of drugs addict in religious & cultural events at large extent and extent of drug’s addiction. The results of the study were aligned with (Radostny, 2005) who described the impacts of social exclusion of drugs user in four ways. The first one is the economic aspect, which indicates restricted access to job opportunities. The second one is about...
the cultural dimension of social exclusion, which is associated with limited access to educational levels cultural and religious events of socially excluded individual within same culture. The third one is the social aspect of social exclusion, which is the restriction of societal relationships and gathering of individual within societal events.

Moreover, a significant association (P=0.002) was revealed between social exclusion restricted the social relationship of drugs addict with family and extents of drugs addiction. Similarly, findings were accorded by (EMCDDA, 2009) who argued that, in social aspect of exclusion of drugs user, drugs addict characterized poor social relationship or having a low access to social gathering of people. There is a restriction of environment and social setting on drug addict to establish a mean-full relationship with people because the social network of relationship and mind setup of the general public is too much narrow regarding the member of drug addict subculture.

Table-2: Association between social exclusion and extent of drug’s addiction

| Social Exclusion                                                                 | Dependent Variable | Statistics  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Drugs addiction led to severe forms of social exclusion.                         | Extent of Drug’s Addiction | $\chi^2 = 9.076$ (P=0.003) |
| Social exclusion limited up to greater extents the access of drugs addict to basic facilities. | Extent of Drug’s Addiction | $\chi^2 = 7.936$ (P=0.005) |
| Social exclusion deprived drugs abuser of employment than other people.          | Extent of Drug’s Addiction | $\chi^2 = 13.330$ (P=0.000) |
| Social exclusion prevents the participation of drugs addict in religious & cultural events at large extent. | Extent of Drug’s Addiction | $\chi^2 = 10.167$ (P=0.001) |
| Social exclusion restricted the social relationship of drugs addict with family & friends at a large level. | Extent of Drug’s Addiction | $\chi^2 = 9.327$ (P=0.002) |
| Socially excluded youth shows a greater level of social stigma because of drug’s addiction. | Extent of Drug’s Addiction | $\chi^2 = 7.936$ (P=0.005) |
| Social exclusion leads to the formation of risky behavior among drugs addict at the macro & micro level. | Extent of Drug’s Addiction | $\chi^2 = 10.167$ (P=0.001) |
| Drugs addiction changes the life of youth which further deteriorates the existing societal pattern resultantly evoked to social exclusion. | Extent of Drug’s Addiction | $\chi^2 = 18.404$ (P=0.000) |

Source: Sep-Oct Survey, 2021

A significant association (P=0.005) was disclosed between socially excluded youth shows a greater level of social stigma and extent of drug’s addiction. The findings of the study were in line with (Radostny, 2005) who explained the symbolic dimension of social exclusion of drugs users which is often linked to personal exclusion of drugs addict and marked by stigmatized labeling. This aspect often occurs within groups where individuality is viewed as deviant by the majority of society. Furthermore, a significant association (P=0.001) was disclosed between social exclusion leads to the formation of risky behavior among drug’s addict at macro and micro level and extent of drug’s addiction. The findings of the study were alien with (Adams, 2008) that socially excluded drugs user experience feeling of detachment and alienation.
Further, substance abuse may also act as a source of decrease irritation and help an individual in the development of a new personality. A drug’s user can be confronted with complicated and hard challenges in life along with involvement in criminal and risky behaviors. Youth turns to drugs and other substances as they fail to cope with stress; to gain appropriate decision-making and alternative coping techniques. Drug user youth have experience social adjustment issues, tension, anxiety, depression, and deviant behavior which are both the reasons and outcomes of drugs.

Additionally, a highly significant association (P=0.000) was observed drug’s addiction changes the life of youth which further deteriorate the existing societal pattern resultantly evoked to social exclusion and extent of drugs addiction. The findings were in line with (Steiner, 2014) who reported that social exclusion is diverse phenomena which include internal social exclusion i.e. poor education, personality disorder, physical handicaps, etc. and external social exclusion i.e. structural disparity in the labor market, social stigmatization, etc are the factors which deepening the conditions of social exclusion. The groups that are vulnerable to risk of social exclusion in contemporary society include people with disabilities, unemployment, drug users, and other marginalized people which deteriorated the societal pattern and created many problems for other people.

5. Conclusion

The main focus of study was to explore the social exclusion and extent of drug’s addiction among youth in rural area of Dir lower Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which was carried out through perceptional assessment in a longitudinal manner. The independent variable (social exclusion) was influenced quantitatively upon dependent variable (dependent variable). The data was gathered from drugs addict youth in Rehabilitation Centre and Hospitals, which were then analyzed with the help of frequencies and percentage in univariate analysis and chi-square test. It is concluded from the inference of social exclusion of drugs addict youth that extent of drugs addiction led to serve form of social exclusion, limited up to greater extent the access of drugs user to basic facilities, deprived drugs abuser from employment opportunities than normal people, prevents the participation of drugs user in religious or cultural events at large extent and restricted the social relationship of drugs user with family which ultimately leads toward the destruction of future asset of nation (youth) and society as well. Furthermore, Government must take particle steps to address the social, psychological and emotional problems of the drugs addict youth along with engagement of such kind youth in productive activities.

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