

Abstract

Objective: The current study was an attempt to examine the role of family emotional atmosphere, perception of parenting styles, family communication patterns, and perceived social support in predicting the abuse of industrial psychoactive substances in students. **Method:** The statistical population of this study included all male students in Bachelor and Master's programs in Razi University of Kermanshah in the academic year of 2014-15. The number of 400 students was selected by cluster sampling. The data collection instruments consisted of Family Emotional Atmosphere Questionnaire, Perception of Parenting Styles Scale, and Family Communication Patterns and Social Support Perception. Discriminant analysis in simultaneous and stepwise modes was used for data analysis. **Results:** The results of data analysis showed that the liner combination of family emotional atmosphere, perception of parenting styles, family communication patterns, and perceived social support was a good predictor of the abuse of industrial psychoactive substances in students. **Conclusion:** The findings of this study suggest the importance of family emotional atmosphere, perception of parenting styles, family communication patterns and social support perception in substance abuse.

Keywords: family emotional atmosphere, perception of parenting styles, family communication patterns, social support perception, substance abuse

On the Role of Family Emotional Atmosphere, Perception of Parenting Styles, Family Communication Patterns, and Perceived Social Support in Predicting the Abuse of Industrial Psychoactive Substances in Students

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Research on Addiction Quarterly Journal of Drug Abuse

Presidency of the I. R. of Iran
Drug Control Headquarters
Department for Research and Education

Vol. 11, No. 41, Spring 2017
<http://www.etiadpajohi.ir>

Introduction

One of the major issues regarding youth's health is substance abuse. Recent studies on the prevalence of drug use indicate that substance abuse in Iran is a serious and growing problem (Ekhtiari & Jillson, 2008; as cited in Zargar, Kakavand, Jalali, & Salavati, 2011). In an era in which the world is moving towards scientific and economic development, the youth of every society has a very heavy and an undeniable responsibility. The liveliness and dynamism of a community are directly related to the number of the creative people and the youth of that society. The young population of each society is a benefit that exists in developing countries, such as Iran compared to industrial countries (Bagheri, 2006). What needs to be considered more in our country today is the transition of young people from traditional drugs, such as opium and hashish to industrial drugs, such as ecstasy, crystal, and crack (Aghabakhshi, Sedighi, & Eskandari, 2008). Industrial substance refers to a large group of opiates that are not derived from a natural source and are made in industrial laboratories through complex chemical processes. It is noteworthy that the tendency of young people to the abuse of industrial drugs is not the result of a single factor as in other phenomena. In fact, individual, family, social, economic, and cultural factors also influence this tendency. It seems that some factors, as supporting conditions, and others, as risk-creating conditions, affect drug use among university students. One of the effective and protective factors in the youth's addiction potential and tendency is the emotional atmosphere of family and the degree of desired relationship between the individual and his/her parents. In general, several research findings have shown that the young people with a secure attachment have a lower experience in drug use (Voos, 1994; as cited in Doyle, Morettl, Brenbgen, & Bukowski, 2003). Dysvic et al. (2005); Melissa, & Dorothy (2005); and Bifulco, Moran, Stanford, Baines, & Burn (2000) also reported that the most common reasons for the incidence of psychological states, such as stress and substance abuse in individuals are related to family life and social activity. Family emotional atmosphere refers to the methods through which relationships and attitudes of family members about each other, their feelings and their interest in each other, their interference in the work of other members, and competition and collaboration with each other can affect children's mental and behavioral health (Shariatmadari, 2006). In addition to the variable of family emotional atmosphere, perception of parenting style can also be a contributing factor in youth's addiction tendency and potential. Perception of parenting style, based on self-determinism, refers to the effectiveness of parents in the framework of parenting style. Parenting style is referred to as a set of parents' attitudes towards the child that lead to the creation of an emotional atmosphere wherein parents' behavior come into existence. In fact, child-rearing is a complex activity that entail certain behaviors that affect the child (Darling, & Estenberg, 1993, as cited in Eslami, 2006). No monitoring over children on part of parents increases risk

behaviors and makes adolescents undergo a lack of discipline, emotional disturbance, high risk-taking, especially alcohol consumption and drug use (Gonzales, Brody, & Xiaoja, 2010).

Seifi, Saffarinia, & Kalantari Meibodi (2013) showed that having authoritative parents will lead to the best result and the lowest drug use tendency for children. On the other hand, the highest rates of drug use tendency are observed among the individuals whose both parents or one parent are lenient. Matejevic, Jovanovis, Lazarevic (2013) showed that there is a relationship between the family parenting styles and family role models in the addiction tendency of the youth. Adolescents in families with an authoritative parenting style show higher protective and higher risk behaviors than other adolescents (Newmanl, Harrison, DashiffII, Davies, 2008). Soheili, Dehshiri, & Mousavi (2015) showed that the rejecting parenting style has a significant positive relationship with substance abuse tendency, and there is a significant negative relationship between emotional warmth style and substance abuse tendency. Other related variables in the youth's tendency to drug abuse include family communication patterns. Family communication is a method through which verbal and non-verbal information is exchanged among family members (Epstein et al. 1993; as cited in Paterson, & Green, 1999). Family is a unique communications system that goes beyond and is different from friendly relationships, and its core value is the result of a network of relationships created by its members. Satir sought from his studies that the element of communication in the family system is very determinative (Goldenberg, & Goldenberg, 2000). Patterns of family communication can have important implications for individuals' personal and social life through the formation of their personality (Huang, 1999). Farahati (2011) argued that the quality of mother-child relationship and its dimensions (role confusion, positive affect, communication, and identification) have a role in adolescents' tendency to addiction. The model that is considered in this study has been proposed by Ritchie, & Fitzpatrick (1990; as cited in Fitzpatrick, 2004). These researchers describe two dimensions, namely conversation orientation and conformity orientation for family communication patterns (as cited in Koerner, & Fitzpatrick, 2002). In this regard, Rahimi & Khayer (2009) reported a positive correlation between conversation orientation and all dimensions of quality of life. The quality, type, and frequency of the times that parents converse with their adolescents in a specific and focused way about smoking and its consequences has a determinant role in reducing adolescent involvement in smoking (Harakeh, Scholte, Vermuldt, Ries, Engles, 2010 and 2005). Luck, Farhat, Lannotti, & Simons-Morton (2010) showed that family relationships and coherence reduce adolescents' involvement in high-risk behaviors, such as substance use and violence, and bring about fewer cognitive problems, such as emotional distress and suicidal ideation. Perceived social support is among the other related and supporting factors in the abuse of psychoactive substances. Social support is the

acquisition of information, material aid, health plan or recommendation, and emotional support from others in whom the individual is interested; and is also considered as some part of a social network, such as a spouse, relatives and friends (Marmot, Michael, Wilkinson, & Richard; translated by Montazeri, 2008). Social support plays an important role in anticipating membership in abusive groups. The more one receives support from his/her parents, spouse, family members, friends, and other influential people in life, the probability of his/her membership in non-abusive groups increases (Hosseini-al-Madani, Karimi, & Bahrami, 2012). Low social support is one of the most important factors in drug use tendency and has been introduced as the cause of drug abuse. The perception of social support is lower in substance abusers than that in ordinary people (Haratian, 2014). Ford (2009) investigated the relationship between social support and high-risk behaviors, and concluded that social support can determine lifestyle habits and dependent health habits, such as drug use, alcohol drinking, and tobacco smoking. Considering the sensitivity of substance abuse issues and the need for further investigation, the present study addresses this question to see whether the linear combination of family emotional atmosphere, perception of parenting styles, family communication patterns, and perceived social support are involved in predicting the abuse of industrial psychoactive substances in students.

Method

Population, sample, and sampling method

The statistical population of this study included all male students of Razi University in the bachelor and master's programs in the academic year of 2014-15. Stratified random sampling method was used to select the required participants. Thus, from among the seven faculties of Razi University, a 425-participant sample was selected according to the number of students in each faculty by using Cochran formula, i.e. $\frac{N\pi(1-\pi)}{(N-1)(d-\pi)(1-\pi)}$. From among these students, those with the experience of at least one time use of psychoactive substances were asked to participate voluntarily in the study. For this purpose, the number of 199 students were selected as drug users, and 221 ones were selected for the control group.

Instruments

1. Family Emotional Conditions Questionnaire: This questionnaire was designed to measure the degree of love in parent-child interactions by Hill Burn (1964; as cited in Nahidi, 2011). It contains 16 items and 8 sub-scale variables (affection, cuddle, confirmation, shared experiences, gift offer, encouraging, trust, and security feeling). The items are scored based on a Likert scale (1 = very low to 5 = very high). Each sub-scale contains 2 items. The odd number questions are related to the emotional bond between the father and the even number questions pertain to the emotional bond between mother and child. The first response

represents the weakest and the last response indicates the strongest emotional relationship between father and mother and child. In order to assess the validity of the test, Keramati (2007) extracted the opinion of 15 professors from Ferdowsi University of Mashhad and other universities in Khorasan province and, in this way, the questionnaire validity was confirmed. He also reported the reliability coefficient of the scale equal to 0.89.

2. Perception of Parenting Styles (POPS): This questionnaire was developed by Rabins in 1994 based on self-determinism theory. In terms of scoring, each item is scored based on a 7-point Likert scale from totally false (1) to totally true (7). Accordingly, six sets of scores are obtained for each respondent in terms of the six sub-scales of mother autonomy support, mother involvement, and mother warmth, as well as father autonomy support, father involvement, and father warmth. In addition, according to the research objectives, it is possible to calculate a score for parents' style through the sum of scores of mother and father in each sub-scale (Tanhaye Reshvanlou, 2008). The reliability coefficients of mother/father autonomy have been obtained equal to 0.80 and 0.83 in the original study, respectively (Rabins, 1994; as cited in Tanhaye Reshvanlou, 2008). Fayyazi, Karami & Hojjatkahah (2013) alpha reported the reliability coefficient of 0.78 for the whole scale. In this research, the Cronbach's alpha coefficient of the whole scale was obtained equal to 90%.

3. Revised Family Communication Patterns Questionnaire: This self-assessment scale was developed by Ritchie & Fitzpatrick in 1990. There are 26 items in this scale that are scored on a 5-point Likert scale from strongly agree (4) to strongly disagree (0). This tool measures the dimensions of conversation orientation and conformity orientation where the first fifteen items pertain to the dimension of conversation orientation and the next eleven items are related to the dimension of conformity. In Iran, Kouroshnia (2006) validated the Persian version of this scale and reported the Cronbach's alpha coefficients of 0.78 and 0.81 for the dimensions of conversation orientation and conformity orientation, respectively. Jokar & Bahrami (2007) reported the Cronbach's alpha coefficient of the whole questionnaire equal to 0.77, and obtained the values of 0.91 and 0.82 for the dimensions of conversation orientation and conformity orientation, respectively. In the present study, the reliability of the total scale was obtained equal to 0.86.

4. Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support: This scale, designed by Zimet et al. (1988), provides a subjective assessment of social support. This instrument is an attempt to measure perceived social support by the family, friends and important individuals of the person's life. This is a self-monitoring tool for the situations in which participants face time constraints. In addition, if the researcher decides to provide a number of scales for respondents at a specific time, the use of this scale is strongly recommended due to its easy implementation and cost-effective features. In terms of scoring, it is noteworthy that the total scale has 12 items and the respondent provides his/her opinion on

a 7-point scale from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (7). The total score of the scale is obtained from the sum of scores. It should be noted that as the respondents' score on this scale increases, their score on the overall factor of perceived social support increases, as well. In addition, the respondents' score in each of the three sub-scales is obtained from the sum of the scores of the items. A minimum score of 12 and a maximum of 84 can be obtained for each respondent on the whole scale. Obtaining a high score reflects the high perception of social support (Kermani, 2009). This scale has been administered by Mohammadi (2007) where the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of 0.71 has been reported for it. Joshanloo, Rostami, & Nosrat-Abadi (2006) validated this scale on a 214-student sample in Iran and reported the Cronbach's alpha value of 0.89 for it. In this study, the Cronbach's alpha value of 0.86 was obtained for the scale. Edwards (2004) has supported the validity and reliability of this tool. Bruwer et al. (2008) reported the internal consistency of this tool to range from 0.86 to 0.90 for the sub-scales and 0.86 for the whole scale on a 788-high school-student sample using Cronbach's alpha. Salimi, Jokar, & Nikpour (2009) reported the Cronbach's alpha coefficients of the three dimensions of social support received by family, friends, and important people of life equal to 0.89, 0.86 and 0.82, respectively. Kermani, Khodapanahi, & Heidari (2011) obtained the Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.92 for the whole scale, and coefficients of 0.90, 0.92, and 0.87 for friends, family, and important individuals, respectively. The results of studies conducted by Zimet et al. (1988) showed that this tool is valid and reliable to evaluate perceived support in terms of psychometric properties. Shokri et al. (2009) reported the Cronbach's alpha coefficient of the whole scale and the triple dimensions of important individuals, families, and friends in the Iranian sample equal to 0.89, 0.84, 0.85, and 0.91, respectively; and reported these values in the Swedish sample equal to 0.91, 0.87, 0.86, and 0.92, respectively; and reported these values equal to 0.92, 0.89, 0.84 and 0.94 for the whole sample, respectively. Kakabarayi, Arjomandnia, & Afrouz (2012) also reported the Cronbach's alpha coefficients of 0.73, 0.82, 0.87, and 0.85, for the overall perceived social support, and the triple sub-scales of important individuals, family, and friends in a sample of normal parents, respectively. They obtained the Cronbach's alpha coefficients of 0.72, 0.85, 0.82, and 0.87 for the whole scale and the triple sub-scales of important individuals, family, and friends in a sample of parents with exceptional children, respectively. In the present study, the reliability of the total scale was obtained equal to 0.89.

Results

The descriptive statistics of the variables are presented in Table 1 for each group.

Table 1: Descriptive statistics of the research variables for each group

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Non-users</i>		<i>Drug users</i>	
	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>
Family support	21.22	5.22	18.32	6.13
Friends' support	18.09	5.72	16.65	6.001
Important individuals' support	18.40	6.59	15.26	6.46
Total score of social support	57.71	13.66	50.22	15.37
Affection	7.33	2.01	6.56	2.23
Cuddle	6.09	1.90	5.66	2.02
Confirmation	6.77	1.77	6.03	1.96
Shared experiences	6.01	2.07	5.57	2.13
Gift offering	5.45	2.03	5.31	2.20
Encouragement	7.33	1.83	6.52	2.36
Trust	7.50	1.94	6.55	2.27
Feeling of security	7.65	1.93	6.58	2.29
Total score of emotional climate	54.26	11.04	48.79	13.97
Mother Involvement	16.31	3.06	15.70	3.55
Mother Autonomy Support	21.53	4.22	20.24	4.77
Mother Warmth	34.02	6.21	30.84	7.39
Father Involvement	17.12	4.34	16.45	4.12
Father Autonomy Support	22.99	5.06	21.43	5.37
Father Warmth	35.42	8.25	32.08	8.67
Total score	147.25	22.24	136.75	25.08
Conversation	48.75	13.85	38.34	12.53
Conformity	34.65	8.17	34.55	9.83

The research data were analyzed by discriminant analysis method (conventional discriminant function using simultaneous and stepwise analysis). A summary of the findings of the conventional discriminant function in simultaneous and stepwise analysis has been presented in Table 2.

Table 2: A summary of the findings of the conventional discriminant function in simultaneous and stepwise analysis

<i>Important information related to the discriminant function</i>	<i>Simultaneous method</i>	<i>Stepwise method</i>
The number of functions	1	1
Eigenvalue	0.17	0.09
Percentage of variance	100	100
Cumulative percentage	100	100
Canonical correlation	0.38	0.29
Wilk's Lambda	0.85	0.92
Chi-square	35.95	21.007
Degree of freedom	19	4
Significance	0.01	0.001
Group one	0.41	0.30
Group two	-0.41	-0.30

The standard, structural, and non-standard coefficients of the discriminant function for simultaneous method have been presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Standard, structural, and non-standard coefficients of the discriminant function by simultaneous method

<i>Code</i>	<i>Variable</i>	<i>Standard coefficients of the discriminant function</i>	<i>Structural coefficients of the discriminant function</i>	<i>Non-standard coefficients</i>
X₁	Family support Important individuals' support	-0.04	0.46	-0.008
X₂	Affection	0.76	0.58	0.12
X₃	Confirmation	0.15	0.38	0.07
X₄	Encouragement	0.13	0.43	0.07
X₅	Trust	0.07	0.34	0.03
X₆	Feeling of security	0.14	0.47	0.07
X₇	Mother support	0.29	0.50	0.14
X₈	Mother warmth	0.09	0.33	0.02
X₉	Father support	0.14	0.54	0.02
X₁₀	Father warmth	0.005	0.40	0.001
X₁₁		0.49	0.59	0.06

Constant: -2.98

A summary of the findings of the conventional discriminant function through stepwise analysis has been presented in Table 4.

Table 4: A summary of the findings of the conventional discriminant function via stepwise analysis

<i>Steps</i>	<i>Input variables</i>	<i>Wilk's Lambda</i>	<i>Df</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Sig.</i>
1	Important individuals' support	0.94	239	92.13	0.0005
2	Father warmth	0.92	239	10.98	0.0005

The standard, structural, and non-standard coefficients of the discriminant function have been presented in Table 5 through stepwise method.

Table 4: Standard, structural, and non-standard coefficients of the discriminant function by stepwise method

<i>Code</i>	<i>Variable</i>	<i>Standard coefficients</i>	<i>Structural coefficients</i>	<i>Non-standard coefficients</i>
X₁	Important individuals' support	0.63	0.79	0.10
X₂	Father warmth	0.64	0.79	0.08

Constant: -4.39

Using the non-standard coefficients presented in Table 5, it is possible to obtain the equation of the discriminant function. Therefore, with the placement of each person's score in the relevant variables in the function, the person's belonging to the group (1 or 2) is obtained. According to the obtained results, we can write the stepwise discriminant equation as follows:

$$D = y' = -4.39 + 0.10 (x_1) + 0.08 (x_2)$$

Discussion and Conclusion

The purpose of this study was to investigate the role of family emotional atmosphere, perception of parenting styles, family communication patterns, and perceived social support in predicting the abuse of industrial psychosocial substances. The findings of the present study are consistent with other findings reported by on the researches carried out by Beyers, Toumbourou, & Catalano, 2004; Brems, Johnson, Neal, & Freemon, 2004; Tom, Chong, Kadirrelu, & Khoo, 2012; Haratian, 2014; Ackard, Neumark-Sztainer, Story, & Prrey, 2006; Myoung-Hune, Harold, Kennedy, Pollard, & Tuker, 2010; Soheili et al., 2015; and Lucket al., 2010). In the educational perspective, the family is considered to be the most important center of human development. Family assumes such an importance that a large number of experts and consultants of behavioral sciences have addressed this important issue. Family is the first place in which emotions and affects are formed; hence, parents' behavior affects the formation of behavior in adolescents. If families are sources for the unsatisfaction of the material and psychological needs of adolescents and parents and children are not intimate and close with each other, the incidence of high-risk behaviors and substance use tendency is predictable. Desired parental relationship seems to be a major protective factor in the tendency towards drug use, and family unfavorable emotional atmosphere and the occurrence of divorce in the family are among the major risk factors for adolescent drug use (Beyers et al. 2004). Therefore, family emotional atmosphere and the method of parent-child interaction are among the most important and effective factors in shaping behaviors, beliefs, and attitudes in children. The warm, intimate, and supportive family ties, if not interfering, protect the children from falling into the trap of substance use. The warm emotional atmosphere dominant in the family fulfills the emotional needs of the members and strengthens the family system and the attraction and reliance of family members on the family. Such families have a healing and disease-killing role for their members. Dipietro, Doering-Silveira, Oliveira, Rosa-Oliveira, & Dasilveira (2007) state that living with intimate parents acts as a protective factor against drug abuse. Research findings reported by Brems et al. (2004) show that rejection and lack of warm emotional relationship are high among addicts' families. On the other hand, it can be argued that parenting styles have a profound effect on children's personality. Unhealthy family parenting style causes the incidence of behavioral disorders and high-risk behaviors in children. Tom et al. (2012) state that parenting styles affect adolescents' attitudes towards crime, substance abuse, self-esteem, and academic achievement among adolescents. Parenting practices are defined as a set or a collection of behaviors that describe parent-child interactions over a wide range of situations, and it is assumed that these practices generate an effective interactive atmosphere. Childbearing is a determinative and effective factor that plays an important role in the psychiatric pathology and the development of children. It is almost impossible to discuss any of the children's problems if parenting attitudes and

practices are not considered (Alizadeh, & Andries, 2002). Family perception in an oppressive family is a predictor of antisocial behavior, aggression, and impulsive behavior among parents (Yousefi, 2006). Love and warmth along with freedom provide the conditions for the generation of an ideal space for emotional externalization and an opportunity for learning and gathering experiences in children. The warm relationship between family members, especially with children, can make them more family-friendly and less likely to be fugitive from home and family, and not to take refuge in groups of friends or abusive groups. The dimension of emotional warmth in the face of hostility, inattention, rejection, and violence is the most effective dimension in the parent-child relationship and the foundation for shaping the individual's future experiences (Amato & Fuller, 2002). The cold relationship, along with rejection or even violence and contempt with children, leads to hatred towards the family and, thereby, they may take refuge in a variety of destructive behaviors and delinquency, including substance abuse. In addition to parenting styles as the most important and fundamental predictors of deviant and illegal behaviors, family communicational patterns can also be mentioned in this regard. In the area of formation of family relationships, Koerner, & Fitzpatrick (2002) have pointed to two types of orientation, i.e. conversation and conformity. The conversation orientation refers to situations in which the family encourages members to participate freely and easily in interactions and conversations in a variety of contexts. The conformity orientation represents the family relationships that make members to equate attitudes, values, and beliefs. Family communication patterns or, in other words, the communication method among family members play an important role in the disturbance of family atmosphere or in the comfort of the family environment. If these patterns are not in the right situation, it can be expected that these conditions may have an effect on the incidence of substance abuse. Haratian (2014) showed that family communication patterns are predictive of drug addiction tendency. The quality, type, and frequency of the times that parents converse with their adolescents in a specific and focused way about smoking and its consequences has a determinant role in reducing adolescent involvement in smoking (Harakeh, Scholte, Vermuldt, Ries, Engles, 2010 and 2005). According to the findings of Myong-Hune et al. (2010), being influenced by a smoking family member and friendship with a smoker's friend, which is one of the consequences of imitation and mimicking caused by the conformity orientation, is correlated with tendency towards tobacco use in the early and middle stages of adolescence. In line with the findings of the present study, Ackard et al. (2006) concluded that the quality of parent-child relationship and adolescents' link and association with the parents are considered as a potential protective factor against the drug use, especially the smoking of tobacco by adolescents. The possible explanation for this claim is that the establishment of a relationship with the parental quality leads to a sense of belonging to the child. Adolescents, through interestedness with their

accepted patterns, internalize many patterns of social norms, cultures, and behavioral styles. Parents can prevent substance abuse through the internalization of community-based rules and norms. Another important factor that can act as an effective and protective factor in the prediction of substance abuse in family is the perception of family social support. Perceived social support focuses on the individual's cognitive assessment of the environment and the level of his/her assurance about the availability of help and support, if necessary (Bruwer, Emsley, Kidd, Lochner, & Seedats, 2008). Theorists of perceived social support state that all social relations that a person holds with others are not considered social support. In other words, social communication is not a source of social support, unless the person perceives it as an available or suitable resource for meeting his/her needs (Akbari, 2011). Therefore, perception of support rather than social support itself is important. In support of this claim, Lundberg, McIntire, & Greasman (2008) concluded that the first social support is received from the family. Upon arrival at a larger community, social support can be provided by other sources, such as friends and other individuals. Chu (2010) also believes that family can support its members in two ways. First, families can provide the members with the necessary information and facilities. Second, they can share the existing emotions. Emotional support is considered as a supportive core for the growth and advancement of any activity (Thoitz, 1982). Therefore, considering the above findings, it can be argued that the more parents are supportive, the greater argument, supervision, and assistance they will use towards their children in their interactions with them; and they are more authoritative and less punitive. When children perceive their parents supportive, they are more likely to accept their parents' argument. There is even the possibility that the emotional and affective aspect of parenting support outweighs the logical aspect of their argumentation in influencing the children. Initial experiences in the family shape the personality and social transformation of the child and this personality structure always manifests itself during the evolution of the individual. If these experiences are negative, the individual's personality may experience a negative growth and such a person cannot provide a good social support network to him/her. If the individual's personality is more developed and enjoys positive characteristics, it will be more flexible and more responsive to the life tasks and crises. Supporting parents and intimate people can help the person with their support in such a way that the person can better manage the damages arising from crises. Therefore, weakness in supportive systems has negative consequences, such as substance abuse tendency and reduced health; these consequences can be mitigated can by strengthening social support. Dodge, & Potocky (2000) and Salmon, Joseph, Saylot, & Mann (2000) argue that perceived social support acts as a shield against the relapse after treatment by increasing the individual's psychological health. Therefore, the individuals who do not receive the necessary social support will be more likely to move towards drug use, and will experience a high

rate of relapse after treatment. In general, considering the findings of the current research, family emotional atmosphere, perception of parenting styles, family communication patterns, and perception of social support (family) can be predictors of the abuse of industrial psychoactive substances. When these factors are weakened, it is likely that the tendency towards substance abuse increases. The present research is conducted exclusively on male students of Razi University and, thereby, the obtained results cannot be generalized to other university students. Therefore, it is suggested that further research be conducted on female samples with an emphasis on longitudinal studies. The role of demographic variables in this research was not considered. In line with the research topic, it is suggested that educational workshops on the prevention of substance abuse, life skills, and modification of popular beliefs about addiction be performed in academic settings. In order to obtain more accurate results, it is suggested that future research uses other methods, such as interviews, for data collection purposes.

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