

Abstract

Objective: Addiction among women has extra negative damages because of its essential role in family and parenting. The present study aimed to explore the factors effective in women and girls' tendency to drug use and to develop a theoretical model in this sphere. Method: Grounded theory, along with a qualitative research method was used in this study. The addicted women presenting to Chitgar Women's Addiction Withdrawal Camp in Tehran from 2014 to 2016 constituted the statistical population of this study and 30 women were selected via theoretical sampling. Results: Three major themes, including harm-proliferation family (containing five categories of inappropriate parenting, drug use in family, family conflict, disconnection with family, and establishment of destructive relations), vulnerable individual conditions (containing four categories of vulnerable individual characteristics, high mental pressure, self-cure, and establishment of destructive relations), and unsuccessful marriage (containing five categories of unsuccessful marriage, high mental pressure, helplessness feeling, self-cure, and establishment of destructive relations) were recognized as effective factors in tendency to drug abuse. Also, two main types, namely resisting women (consisting of categories of resistance against drug abuse and long-term withdrawals along with slips) and submissive woman (consisting of categories of submission to drug abuse and numerous short-term withdrawals along with consecutive slips) were extracted. Finally, a theoretical model was proposed. Conclusion: According to the findings of this study, it is possible to identify the women and girls vulnerable to drug abuse and set preventive planning for them.

Keywords: addict women, damaging family theme, vulnerable individual conditions theme, unsuccessful marriage theme, grounded theory

Addict Women's Lived Experience in Tehran: Development of an Explanatory Model

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Introduction

The physical and mental health of women is of great importance because of their significant role in family and parenting. Hence the issue of women addiction has always been one of the most important issues in all societies. The harm caused by addiction is highly extreme in the family and society' however, women or mothers' addiction will multiply the damage. Unfortunately, in Iran, women's addiction rates are rising. The population of addicted women in Iran in 2008 was estimated by Headquarter to be 114,000 people, that is, between 6% and 8% of the population of drug addicts (Drug Control Headquarter, 2007). But according to the latest report released by the Ministry of the Interior and Drug Control Headquarter in 2013, there are 1 million and 325 thousand addicts in Iran. If this population is considered as a household size, about 6 million Iranians are directly involved in the phenomenon of narcotic drugs. In this regard, women constitute 10% of the addicts' population (Drug Control Headquarter, 2017).

Addiction was traditionally considered a male-specific disease. Although the prevalence of drug use disorders among men is higher than that in women, evidence suggests the convergence of these rates among women, especially among younger people. Women are increasingly involved with the occupations that were previously male-oriented and, thereby, they are more likely to consume drugs and alcohol. This convergence is associated with the onset of drug use at an early age. The primary use of the substance is associated with a higher risk of dependence, which is more pronounced in women than men. Addictive disorders are the main source of death in women who are more sensitive to the physiological effects of some substances than men and, thereby, they are reported to have a higher chance of the comorbidity of sexual disorders and psychiatric disorders. At the childbearing age, women are at risk for prenatal complications and even the children born with fetal alcohol effects and complications. For this reason, in terms of women's addiction, special emphasis should be placed on prevention, treatment, and research (Galanter, & Kleber, 2015). Addiction in women has widespread social and familial harm. Women who suffer from substance abuse disorders often have psychological and social characteristics that also impair their child-rearing responsibilities. In these circumstances, only the women who have long been distanced from the consumption of drugs, have received adequate support services, and have had a high income and are able to re-care their children compared to other addicted women (Grant et al., 2011). About 20 percent of adults who are being treated for substance abuse disorders are living with children. The women treated with substance abuse are twice as likely as men to live with children. Parents' abuse reduces family resources, such as food and money, and confronts parents with serious birth defects. It also provides the basis for the formation of addiction in children (Solis, Shadur, Burns, & Hussong, 2012). Family violence and physical and mental abuse in childhood, as well as birth defects in the individuals whose mothers have had a history of addiction during pregnancy are more prevalent

than those whose mothers have experienced no history of addiction during pregnancy. The creation of genetic background for addiction in children, mother use of opium and other substances during lactation, the use of narcotics for childhood cure, inadequate care on part of the addicted mothers, poverty and poor familial conditions, divorce arising from mother addiction, and addicted mothers' prescription of drugs as a sleep drug for infants and children are among the most effective factors in addiction during childhood, adolescence, and younghood (Khajeh Daluyi, & Dadgar Moghadam, 2013).

In general, female substance users refer to social stigma, humiliation, rejection from family and society, and extreme poverty as their most fundamental problems. Many women experience homelessness and physical and sexual abuse (Rahimi Movaghar, Malayerikhah Langroudi, Dalbarpour Ahmadi, & Amin Esmā'eali, 2011) and, thereby, they experience employment in low-income businesses, commitment of social deviations, inappropriate family relationships, physical and mental problems, and penalty of imprisonment as consequences of the phenomenon of addiction (Danesh, Niazi, & Maleki, 2013). As gender differences are effective in the procedure of drug use onset and its withdrawal, narcotic drugs also have different effects on both genders. According to global statistics, addiction in women is more dangerous than that in men. For example, the time interval from the first experience of drug use to drug injection in men is eight years, while this process takes an average of two years in women. In this way, women become heavily dependent on drugs six years earlier than men. This makes it harder for them to cure and, thus, the physical, psychological, and social consequences of drug use are also increasing in women (Nouri, 2010).

In the field of drug addiction, the most important and most effective action is the identification of the underlying factors of drug use and prevention of people from drug abuse. The prevention of the occurrence of addiction saves a lot of costs and improves the physical and mental health of the community. As it was mentioned earlier, women's tendency to drug use is increasing in Iran and women constituted about 10% of the total population of addicts in 2007. Women and mothers' addiction has more devastating and widespread effects both on the consumer and the family and society than men's addiction. In the domain of women's addiction, some research has been conducted and published to date. However, taking a glimpse of past research has shown that both the quantity and quality of research in this area generally suffer some pitfalls. Rarely can one find related studies that have taken a special look at the causes of the incidence of addiction in women and the prevalence of drug use.

The selection of a qualitative method for the conduct of this research is due to the complexity and multiplicity of this phenomenon, which is completely related to the nature of the research subject. The study of some areas, such as how one experiences phenomena, such as addiction is more consistent with qualitative methods. Qualitative methods help with the revelation of the less

well-known phenomena and also help to gain a new look on them (Strauss & Corbin, 1998, translated by Mohammadi, 2011). The in-depth study of addiction is not feasible with purely quantitative methods and existing questionnaires. The employment of observation and in-depth interviews will allow for the examination of a wider dimension of this phenomenon. On the other hand, the nature of the addiction experience is in a way that it leads the sufferer to cognitive and mental defects. This greatly affects the individual's ability to engage in quantitative pen-and-paper research that needs a strong understanding, attention, memory, and recognition. In addition, some people with substance abuse have a lower level of education and literacy and this makes them unable to respond to questionnaires soundly. All these reasons justify the need for the conduct of a comprehensive qualitative research that fills this research gap and proposes a broad and modern explanatory model for women's addiction. This model should identify the individuals exposed to harm and can be used to prevent other women and girls from substance abuse.

Method

Population, sample, and sampling method

The population of this study included the addicted women who presented to Chitgar women addiction center in Tehran from 2014 to 2016. The sample of this study consisted of 30 addicted women who were observed and interviewed in depth upon their consent. A theoretical sampling method was employed for sample selection method. This method is specific to the qualitative method of grounded theory. The aim of theoretical sampling is to maximize the possibility of comparing events to determine how a category changes in terms of its characteristics and dimensions. This method allows the researcher to select those sampling paths that can have the most theoretical efficiency. The theoretical sampling method is based on open coding methods, axial coding, and selective coding. The criteria for the entry of people to the research were the minimum eight days of purification and complete physical detoxification from the drugs, the minimum mental and cognitive ability to answer questions, individuals' willingness to participate in the research, and their consent to record their information. The exit criteria were a purification of less than eight days, mental and cognitive impairment to answer questions, and their reluctance to participate in the research. After each interview, the data were analyzed and the path to the next sample selection was illustrated to the person (Strauss & Corbin, 1998, translated by Mohammadi, 2011). As a general rule, for conducting qualitative research, at least 20 to 30 interviews are recommended in the data collection process (Bazargan, 2010).

With regard to the research objective (the study of addicted women's experience), the research method (grounded theory), and logic of research sampling (theoretical sampling), one should select the sample units with the maximum experience in the phenomenon under study (substance use) in all the

directions (duration, amount of consumption, injuries caused by substance use, etc.).

Instrument

To do this research, in-depth interview and observation were used as data collection tools and the grounded theory method was used for data analysis. Data collection was carried out simultaneously with their continuous analysis after the first interview; and the required information was gathered using deep interviews. Each interview lasted from 30 to 60 minutes, and the total interviews were completed from July 2015 to July 2016 during one year. The interviews were conducted at the camp, as it was mentioned earlier. In the grounded theory method, the researcher should enter the interview setting with a blank mind and should have a minimum bias for the maximum discovery of concepts. In the course of the interview, based on the general purpose of the research (discovery of lived experience), participants were asked to provide information about all the previous and current pre-existing conditions associated with their addiction. By means of interview techniques, such as active hearing, feedback, and summarization by the researcher, the depth of the interviews was heightened and the process of data collection was facilitated. Then, these data were analyzed through grounded theory.

In the grounded theory, data are interpreted and analyzed through data coding. The process of data coding is implemented during data collection in order to determine what data should be collected in the next step. The three stages of open coding, axial coding, and selective coding are performed on the data obtained from interviews and observations. Open coding takes place during several steps: breaking down, labeling and conceptualizing categories, discovering categories, and naming categories. After the discovery and naming of categories in open coding, axial coding begins. At this stage, using a paradigm or a pattern model, some links are established between the discovered categories and the information gets interconnected in a new method. This relationship between categories is made in the form of a model that includes five parts as follows: causal conditions (causal conditions are the events that indicate the occurrence or growth of a phenomenon and are ahead of the intended phenomenon in terms of time), grounded conditions (these conditions refer to the specific conditions in which action/interaction strategies are developed for managing, controlling, and responding to a phenomenon), intervening conditions (they are more general and wider conditions that affect the howness of acts/interactions), action/interaction strategies (they refer to how to handle, deal with, accomplish or sensitize phenomena in the background or in the particular situation), and consequences (actions and reactions). These domains deal with or control the phenomenon of addiction. These consequences may be real or implicit or be at present or in future. The bases of selective codecs have been set at the axial coding stage. In the selective coding, the focal category is

selected and other categories get connected to the focal domain consistent with the grounded theory model (Strauss, & Corbin, 1998, translated by Mohammadi, 2011).

In order to conduct the research evaluation, the criteria of qualitative research evaluation (plausibility of data, transferability of data, dependability of data, and confirmability of data) have been used. In order to confirm the plausibility of the data, member check was employed and seven professors of the University of Tehran (addiction experts) provided their opinions. In addition, peer check and reference to previous studies as a benchmark were used. To confirm the data transferability, the number and characteristics of the research participants, the limitations of the research participants, the length of the data gathering sessions, and the total time spent on data collection have been specified in advance. In order to confirm the dependability, the design path of the research, details of the data collection, and the research implementation have been specified. Finally, in order to verify the confirmability of the data, the reason for and the basis of selecting the research method, the participants, and the method of analysis have been explained (Andrew, 2004).

Results

Most substance abusers were placed in the young age group of 20 to 34 years old (70%) and the lowest number of drug abusers was placed in the adolescent group aged 11 to 19 years (33.3%). The lowest onset age of drug use was 13 years old and the highest age was 42 years old. The mean value of onset age of drug use was 23.7 years. In terms of education, 13 respondents (43.33%) had degrees below high school diploma and 14 participants (46.66%) held high school diploma degrees; three of them (10%) had a bachelor's degree, and none of them had a degree higher than bachelor's. In terms of marital status, 9 respondents (30%) were married, 10 ones (33.33%) were divorced and 11 ones (36.66%) were single. The number of five married and divorced women (26.31%) had no children, six of them (31.57%) had one child, six of them (31.57%) had two children, and two of them (10.52%) also had three children. A total of 19 children were boys and 5 of the children were girls. The number of 18 participants (60%) were self-employed; 8 ones (26.66%) were secretaries, accountants, and salespersons; two participants (6.66%) were hairdressers; and four participants (13.33%) were nurses and house cleaners. Four participants (13.33%) were living by means of stealing and selling subsistence goods. Only three participants (10%) had state-owned businesses and 9 ones (30%) were unemployed. Regarding residence status, none of the respondents were living in the north of Tehran. Three participants (10%) were living in East of Tehran, two participants (6.66%) were living in the west of Tehran, 9 of them (30%) were living in the south of Tehran, and 10 ones (33.33%) were residents of the cities other than Tehran but were temporarily living in Tehran. Due to the lack or absence of women's addiction centers in the cities, all women from the cities

other than Tehran had relatives or friends who had introduced them to Tehran because of being acquainted with this drug addiction center. Six participants (20%) lived in the State Welfare Organization of Iran or were homeless and did not have a definite living status.

The number of 30 interviews was conducted with these individuals and each of these interviews was analyzed independently. The process of conducting interviews was that the researcher carried out 25 interviews with addicted women and saturation was achieved in terms of the discovery of concepts and categories related to drug use in addicted women and girls. No new concepts were added to the research and no new categories emerged with the conduct of the next five interviews. In this way, the researcher ensured about the theoretical saturation.

By analyzing all interviews with open coding method, 15 categories were identified and named. By making a link among these categories in the axial coding step, the categories were embedded in the components of the background theory model and constituted the causal or prior conditions, intervening conditions, grounded conditions, action and interaction strategies, and consequences. Based on selective coding, the focal category (the girls and women's' experience of drug use) was discovered and all categories got connected to the focal category. Finally, the components of the theoretical model of the girls and women's experience were derived from substance use (Table 1).

Table 1: Components of the Ground Theory Model

<i>Components of the ground theory model</i>	<i>Categories related to each part of the model</i>	<i>Characteristics of categories</i>
Causal or prior conditions	Inappropriate parenting	Lack of parental supervision Inappropriate emotional relationship Parental dominance and violence against child Divorce and separation of parents Lack of parental support and guidance Consumer parents and persuading children to consume drugs
	Consumption in the family	Consumer members Easy access to drugs through the addicted member
	Conflict in the family	The existence of intellectual, ideological and religious differences Lack of coordination, trust, and acceptance among members
	Disconnection with family	Running away from father's house and escape Immigration
	Extensive feeling of loneliness	Feeling of helplessness Feeling sad about family neglect and exclusion
	Establishment of malicious relationships	Relational void with a healthy friend of the same gender Consumer friends of the same gender Drugs preparation through friends of the opposite gender as rewards Opposite-gender addicted friends or drug sellers

Table 1: Components of the Ground Theory Model

<i>Components of the ground theory model</i>	<i>Categories related to each part of the model</i>	<i>Characteristics of categories</i>	
Background conditions	Vulnerable individual features	Dissatisfaction with the body Impulsivity Concealment and fear of expressing reality Aversion to females Inability to reject others' proposals Rumination Curiosity and inquiry	
	Unsuccessful marriage	Arranged marriage Marriage despite family disagreement Living with an addicted spouse Husband's physical and psychological violence against the wife Failure to adhere to marital relations Divorce or separate life	
	High psychological pressure	Variety of roles and responsibilities The occurrence of sudden crises	
	Self-medication	Arbitrary use of drugs and substances	
	Girls and women's experience of drug use (focal category)	Field of action The effects of short-term and long-term use of the substances Individual, family, and community's reactions	
	Action and interaction strategies	Resistance to consumption	Attempt to exit home and camp in different ways Drug use withdrawal by taking refuge in religion Drug use withdrawal with the help of family
		Surrender against consumption	No serious attempt in drug use withdrawal Exacerbation of substance use with the aim of ignoring the problems Ending life
	Consequences	Long-term withdrawals from drug use but with slipping	Temporary retake of support from family and friends Temporary return to work and earning money Temporary care of children
		Multiple short-term withdrawals with successive slips	A massive feeling of hopelessness by relapse into drug use Destruction of the trust and support of family and surrounding people Undermined self-esteem Acceptance of life under the domination of addiction Exposure to severe financial problems Discredited social image

Given the large volume of findings obtained from this study, only one part of this theoretical model, i.e., "consequences" section, has been chosen and detailed in order to clarify the way to achieve these categories and components of the model. For the detailed consideration of other parts of the model, one can refer to the Master's Thesis authored by Hajiha (2016).

In the open coding phase of interviews, two categories of long-term withdrawals along with slips and numerous short-term withdrawals along with consecutive slips were discovered. Then, at the axial coding stage, these two categories constituted the Consequences part of the theoretical model. The coding process, and the two categories along with their definitions, features, and conceptual codes are presented below:

Long-term withdrawals along with slips: Definition: A person is in a position who is motivated to withdraw from drug use for various reasons, such as having a child and, thereby, s/he will enjoy sufficient family and community support and can withdraw from substance use for a long time. However, since the phenomenon of addiction is relapsive, the person may undergo some slips and reuse drugs (Long-term withdrawal refers to the minimum yearlong withdrawal) for some reasons like facing life crises, such as the death of loved ones. The analysis of the interviews regarding the category of long-term withdrawals along with slips has led to the extraction of four concepts. Each attribute has been presented with a definition and a sample of the conceptual codes from which the desired attribute has been discovered.

Temporary retake of support from family and friends: Definition: When a person who has been separated from his/her family due to his/her addiction and who has not been trusted by his/ her family withdraw from substance use for a long time and obtains the support and trust of the family once again. However, this trust and support is again undermined by the retake of substance for any reason and the person will not be accepted by the family. Conceptual code: Shiva says: "I experienced a 2-year purification the previous time. I thought I would not be addicted again, but I got into a slip. Then after two weeks of drug use, I came back to the camp for the second time. During the two years, my family was very happy and affectionate, but again I ruined everything".

Temporary return to work: Definition: A person who has lost his/ her job and income due to his/her addiction can re-engage in work when s/he stops drug use for a long time and can earn some income. But this often happens temporarily, and s/he loses his/her job again with slipping and retake of drugs. Conceptual code: Monireh says: "I used to be a tailor, arrange wedding tablecloths, and do artistic works before addiction. During the one and a half years that I had stopped drug use, I gained money by selling rhinestones".

Temporary re-care of children: Definition: A person who has avoided taking care of his/her children due to addiction or has been deprived of the responsibility of taking care of his/her children may return to his/her children again when s/he stops substance use for a long time. However, by slipping, this responsibility is taken away from him/her. Conceptual code: Akram says: "My son was 7 when I began drug use. For this reason, he lived with my mother. To be able to take care of him, I was clean for one year, but I slipped into drug use and he was separated from me again".

A massive feeling of hopelessness by relapse into drug use: Definition: Slipping after a long and hard period of withdrawal from drug use, in addition to its family and job-related consequences affects the person mentally. The person feels very disappointed with his/her slip and tries to return to the conditions without consumption. Conceptual code: Rokhsareh says: "I stopped drug use for three years in N.A. Association. Four years ago, in a car accident, I lost my father, mother, two brothers, and nephews, and I again slipped after three years of being clean. For this reason, I suffered severe depression for nine months, and got treated with medicine and shock. It's a pity I relapsed into it for three years of purity".

Category of numerous short-term withdrawals along with consecutive slips: Definition: A person makes an impulsive decision to withdraw from substance use, and lacks the necessary and adequate conditions, such as the proper environment, the proper and principled method of addiction withdrawal, as well as family support, self-confidence, etc. For this reason, s/he slips into drug use again and again repeatedly, which, of course, leads to the destruction of his/her own image and the weakening of his/her self-esteem (Short-term withdrawal is the one less than two weeks).

The analysis of the interviews regarding the category of numerous short-term withdrawals along with consecutive slips led to the extraction of four attributes. Each attribute along with a definition and an example of the conceptual code from the desired attribute has been presented below.

Destruction of the trust and support of family and surrounding people: Definition: When the family and surrounding people get disappointed with the person's ability to return to a healthy life, they will lose their trust in the individual and they strongly reduce their efforts to make the addicted member withdraw from drug use with the removal of their support. Conceptual code: Marziyeh says: "I have withdrawn from drug use from 20 to 30 times so far but I have not been able to bear it for three days. It was just a four-month period of my life that I was far away from cigarette, pills, and alcohol. My sister left me alone and is on the out with me".

Undermined self-esteem and acceptance of life under the domination of addiction: Definition: The person's repeated withdrawals and slips are more damaging to the consumer than others. The person who has experienced many abortive withdrawal attempts and has been also humiliated and insulted by his/her family will witness strongly damaged self-esteem. Conceptual code: Mahnaz says, "I was 13 years old. I withdrew many times, but the current 15-day stay at the camp is my lengthiest withdrawal duration. I'm tired of and disappointed in myself. I have a high degree of craving. Should I have craving every day? How do I live?"

Severe financial problems: Definition: Numerous withdrawals and slips are not only a serious obstacle to work and money earnings, but also they make it financially difficult for the individual to prepare the cost of drugs for a long time.

Conceptual code: Ghazaleh says: "I withdrew drug use several times. I was in the House of Sun for a while time where I was cleaned for about ten days with methadone, but I reused drugs. I begged in the queues of gas and petroleum in Varamin and I got the money for buying drugs".

Discredited social image: Definition: One of the reasons for repeated attempts of a person to withdraw from drug use is his/her efforts to restore his/her social image in society. To be re-accepted by society and find a better position in society, the person attempts withdrawal; however, any abortive attempt will leave the person further away from the situation s/he had previously had. Conceptual Code: Masoumeh Rajabi says: "I am unaware of my children, I called them 3 months ago when I was at the camp and had withdrawn and made an appointment to see them. They said that they would see me in a location where no relatives and friends would not see them because they would feel embarrassed that their mother was addicted".

As it was mentioned earlier, intervening conditions (mediators) are the conditions that facilitate or limit the action/interaction strategies in a particular context and are the more general and wider conditions influence the action/interaction process. Since these conditions exert different influences on different people, they have not been extracted in the form of a category. After the analysis of the interviews, 10 components of economic problems, educational problems, physical and mental problems, type of self-image, family support, personal life events, employment, having a child, having a guidance manual for withdrawal, and a withdrawal model as the intervening conditions (mediators).

Among the categories pertaining to the causal conditions of women's tendency to substance abuse, three themes, namely Harm-proliferation Family, Vulnerable Individual Situations, and Unsuccessful Marriage have been extracted (Table 2).

Table 2: Themes and Categories Constituting the Theme

Theme	Categories of themes
Harm-proliferation Family	Inappropriate parenting, consumption in the family, conflict in the family, disconnection with the family, and the formation of malicious relationships
Vulnerable Individual Situations	Vulnerable individual characteristics, high psychological pressure, self-medication, and formation of malicious relationships
Unsuccessful Marriage	Unsuccessful marriage, high psychological pressure, feelings of homelessness, self-medication, and the formation of malicious relationships

With the integration of the types of women's action and interaction strategies, and the outcome of these strategies, two types of resistant women and submissive women in relation to female abusers have been extracted (Table 3).

Table 3: Types and categories constituting the type

<i>Types</i>	<i>Categories forming each type</i>
Resistant	Resistant to consumption, long-term withdrawals but with slips
Submissive	Surrender to consumption, multiple short-term withdrawals with successive slips

A summary of the theoretical model of women and girls' experience of drug use is presented in Figure 1.

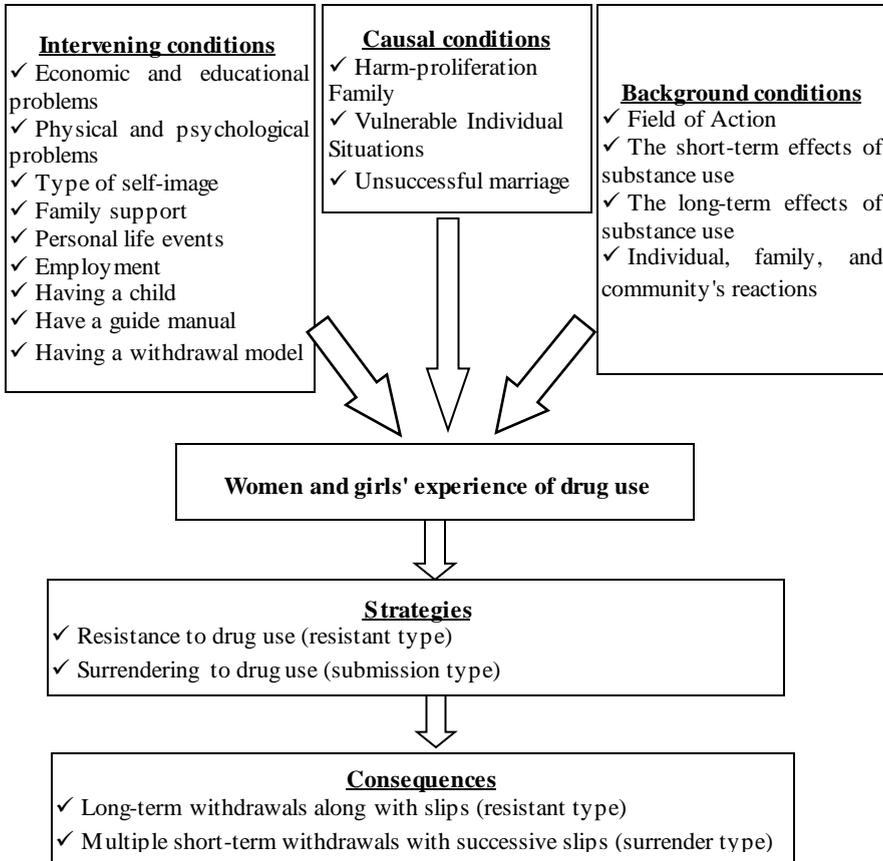


Fig. 1: Theoretical Model of Women and Girls' Experience of Substance Use

Discussion and Conclusion

After analyzing the interviews via grounded theory method, the components of the theoretical model of women and girls' experiences of drug use were presented as follows:

- ✓ Causal conditions: three themes of harm-proliferation family, vulnerable individual conditions, and unsuccessful marriage

- ✓ Background conditions: field of action, short-term and long-term effects of drug use; individual, family, and community's reactions
- ✓ Intervening conditions: economic, physical, mental, and educational problems, type of self-image, family support, personal life events, employment, having a child, having a guidance manual, and having a withdrawal model
- ✓ Women's action and interaction strategies: Resistance to drug use, surrender to consumption
- ✓ Consequences of women's action and interaction: long-term withdrawals along with slips, multiple short-term withdrawals along with successive slips

The category of inappropriate parenting indicates dysfunctional parenting styles that encourage substance use. The authoritative parenting style increases the motivation for alcohol consumption and use of psychotropic substances in adolescence (Matejevic, Jovanovic, & Lazerevic, 2014). This finding is also in line with the research carried out by Matejevic et al. (2014) where the parenting style based on exclusion and extreme support was revealed to be the predominant parenting style among alcoholic or substance dependent juveniles. This findings is also consistent with the research done by Calafat, Garcia, Juana, Becana, & Fernández-Hermida (2014) where the authoritarian and permissive parenting styles have a significant correlation with substance abuse in adolescents compared to authoritarian parenting. The inappropriate parental category also correlates with Ney's theory (1985) where such indicators as parental acceptance and exclusion, parents' methods of behaving towards children, and parental punishment are considered to be related to children's delinquency. This is also consistent with the results of research conducted by Khademi, & Ghana'atian (2009) and Solis et al. (2012) where parents' addiction and separation and parental substance abuse have been identified as the main causes of substance abuse in children.

The category of drug use in family is in the same line with Edwin Sutterland's learning theory which explains the learning of deviant behavior through association and relationship with the perpetrators. In fact, it is consistent with the research findings reported by Khademian, & Ghana'atian (2009); Bayati (2010); Cano, Solanas, & Mari-Klose (2012); Danesh et al. (2013); and Kelishmi, Nouri, & Ramazanzadeh (2015) where it was found that substance use by one of the family members, close relations with substance users, and easy access to drug use are among the main causes of addiction in women.

The categories of family conflict and disconnection with the family due to the differences in opinions, beliefs, and thoughts among family members; and lack of coordination, trust, and acceptance among family members are consistent with the findings reported by Danesh et al. (2013). Conflict and disconnection with the family are ultimately associated with the formation of the extensive feeling of loneliness and sadness, which is consistent with the research

conducted by Rahimi Movaghar et al. (2011) who consider the humiliation and exclusion of children by the family and parents effective in the formation of addiction in women. These emotions provide the grounds for the formation of psychological problems, such as anxiety and depression, and lead women to consumption of drugs.

The category of the formation of malicious relationships, which involves engagement with drug users of both genders, is consistent with Ronald Akers's social learning theory (1988). Akers believes that people's involvement in criminal behavior is associated with the frequency of relations and greetings and the imitation of individuals' patterns who show criminal and delinquent behavior. This relation and engagement with offenders provides a pattern of crime and delinquency (Akers, 1988, as cited in Rasoulzadeh Aghdam, Jafari, Sa'adati, & Yousef Aghdam, 2015). Learning theories and conditioning have also referred to drug use in social situations. If this issue causes friends' approval and acquisition of a special position for the individual, it will have a boosting effect (Benjamin Sadock, Virginia Sadock, & Pedro Ruiz, 2015, Translated by Raza'ea, 2015). The category of the formation of malicious relations is also consistent with Cloward and Ohlin's theory of differential opportunity, which asserts that socially deviant individuals' access to a proper environment for playing their deviant role and the continuation of this role by means of group support and encouragement is the main factor for the formation of perverted behaviors. This category is consistent with the research findings reported by Cano, Solanas, & Mari-Klose (2012); Danesh et al. (2012); and Tavakoli, Mohammadi, & Yarmohammadi (2012), who have pointed to the broad role of close relationships with drug abusers and friends in the onset of women's addiction.

The category of vulnerable individual characteristics includes features, such as concealment and the fear of expressing the reality and the inability to reject others' proposals, which is consistent with Parsons's (1995) belief referring to the lack of proper development of the necessary skills in childhood for success in life. This issue leads to young girls and boys' failure in obtaining job opportunities and getting married and makes people anxious, insensitive, and inordinate that form feelings of anger and hatred towards others. Since individuals regard family as a sacred institution, they push this anger and hatred towards a replacing source like the self. Therefore, they provide a source for their own tranquility by turning to drugs. Characteristics of impulsivity, curiosity, and curiosity and search are also referred to as individual vulnerable characteristics, which are consistent with the results of studies carried out by Schreiber, Grant, & Oldaug (2012); Azami et al. (2014); Asadi Mojreh et al. (2015); and Marquez-Arrico & Adan (2016). These research findings point to the role of impulsivity in substance abuse and the high level of impulsivity in addicted people. In the same way, Tavakoli et al. (2013) have referred to curiosity an effective factor in women's tendency to drug abuse.

The category of unsuccessful marriage includes arranged marriage, marriage despite family disagreements, living with an addicted spouse, husband's physical and psychological violence against the wife, failure to adhere to marital relations, and divorce or separate life. This finding is consistent with various research results. Women's familial disorder (Khademian, & Ghana'atian, 2009), disunity between the woman and husband's family (Bayati, 2010), and family disagreement have been referred to as the causes of women's tendency towards drug use. Ghasemi Roshan (2009) and Farkhojasteh, Abdollahi, & Ghasemzadeh (2014) have mentioned the role of dissatisfaction with life and marital relations in women's addiction. Khademi, Laghayi, & Alikhani (2009) and Tavakoli et al. (2013) have referred to women's living with addicted husbands, drug use at husband's request, and the availability of drugs as the main reasons for women's addiction, which are consistent with the category of unsuccessful marriage.

The category of high psychological stress refers to women's exposure to various roles and responsibilities as well as sudden crises and, thereby, it is one of the factors contributing to the formation of mental problems in women and their tendency to substance abuse. This is consistent with Parsons's finding (1951) who describes the individuals' inability to face failure in life situations as a factor effective in the tendency towards drug use, and is also in agreement with Agniou's view where crime is considered to be some kind of compatibility with tension. Agniou believes that a person's exposure to life-threatening events, such as loss of someone or something that is great for the person is one of the deviating factors. Sometimes stressful events that others create for the person and the negative acts of others, such as being exposed to abuse, cause deviation in one person (Javanmard, 2011; as cited in Danesh et al., 2013). Women face critical situations, such as diversity of roles and responsibilities due to different reasons like divorce, illness or death of their associates, especially their husbands and parents. On the one hand, they do not have the ability to deal with the problems; on the other hand, the community and the people around them expect women to face and solve problems. This imbalance between the expectations of others and the level of individual abilities encourages women to consume drugs. According to this statement, Merton (1949), in his theory, has pointed to the goals approved by society and the ways to achieve these goals. He refers to the goals, interests, and intentions that the culture of society has defined and determined. These goals and intentions have been approved for all members of the community and form an ideal reference and are raised as the issues that are worth making efforts. The problem is that the emphasis which is culturally placed on some goals does not fit with the amount of emphasis placed on the means to achieve these goals (Merton, 1949, as cited in Gorbani et al., 2014). This causes individuals to use any method to achieve goals and, thereby, deviations appear. The category of high psychological pressure and women's inability to deal with difficulties is consistent with the research findings obtained

by Khademi et al. (2009), Garousi, & Dolatabadi (2011), and Kelishami et al. (2015).

The category of self-medication refers to the arbitrary use of drugs and substances by women in order to reduce mental and psychological distress. Individuals may embark on self-medication by taking different drugs and taking advantage of their effects. Some individuals drink alcohol to control panic and some others take opioids to control anger. The use of amphetamines is also commonly used to reduce depression and relieve its symptoms among drug abusers (Sadock et al., 2015, translated by Raza'ea, 2015). Self-medication can be accounted for by learning theories and conditioning. According to these theories, drug use persists because of the consequences it has for the individual. Drug use strengthens its own antecedent behaviors by eliminating distressing conditions. Considering the above-mentioned factors in the realm of effective items in women's tendency to drug use, it is possible to identify people at risk of harm and to mitigate the increasing trend of this problem by the implementation of preventive programs. Finally, it should be noted that the phenomenon of addiction in women is a very complex and multifactor phenomenon that affects all aspects of women's lives. Therefore, it is necessary to pay attention to it.

The limitations of this research are as follows:

The sample of this study included the addicted women and girls who had taken steps to withdraw from substance use. Therefore, the obtained theoretical model does not include the women and girls who do not attempt withdrawal from addiction; in addition, the possibility of conducting an interview with the addicted women and girls' family was not provided for the researcher. In relation to these individuals, information has been collected indirectly through addicted people; and the possibility of examining the situation of addicted women and girls after completing the withdrawal program and departure from the camp has not been provided for the researcher.

It is suggested that future studies should look at the status of women and girls who have not attempted addiction withdrawal; the situation of women and adolescent girls who refer to camps should be compared with those who do not present to addiction treatment clinics; the family of addicted women and girls should be extensively investigated; the status of addicted women and girls after the completion of the withdrawal program should be also examined; the status of addicted women and girls in Tehran should be compared with those of other cities in Iran; and the activities of camps and drug addiction treatment clinics should be also evaluated seriously.

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