THE IMPACT OF ANTI-DRUG AWARENESS STRATEGY ON DRUG ABUSE AMONG SCHOOLS IN DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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Abstract:

The effectiveness of drug abuse prevention programs in schools especially in Dubai, UAE will be beneficial and meaningful to the students, parents, community as well as to the literature itself. The history of drug abuse showed that it is contrary to the purposes of Islamic Sharia in the preservation of their five essentials (religion, life, honour, mind and money), and this is apparent for the lowest pensive. With respect to study population, there is a lack of national strategy to address the drug problem, whether this strategy. Officials and specialists in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) declared that despite the limited number of cases of addiction among school students in the country, there is a need to tighten the supervision of drug traffickers and to tighten the legal penalties imposed on them effectiveness of drug and substance abuse prevention programs among schools in Dubai. Thus, the main objective of this study is analysing the anti-drug awareness strategy from the perspective of Islamic Sharia in Dubai schools, and evaluates this strategy in light of the challenges posed by the problem of drug abuse. The sample size of 201 participants who are exposed to drug awareness programs is the representative of the school population. The outcome of this study shows that need to integrate the concepts and purposes of the rules of Islamic Sharia in the preparation of

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preventive strategy through several institutions such as educational institutions, youth centers and sports clubs, media firms, religious institutions, institutions of civil society to increase drug-abuse awareness and create an environment suitable for applications which contribute to the formation of positive trends to stay away from drugs and all that hurt the human mind and protect the community in UAE.

Keywords: anti-drug awareness, drug prevention programs, drug abuse, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

1. Introduction

Over the last two-decade considerable effort has been made to develop effective drug abuse prevention strategy for implementation in schools. Schools are an ideal environment to implement drug awareness programs as they offer easy access to a large number of youths who usually begin to experiment with tobacco and other kinds of drugs (Tsvetkova, 2103). The key goal of drug prevention programs is to prevent drug abuse and its adverse consequences with the immediate goal of deterring early-stage drug use. Rao (2017) found that drug awareness strategies in schools must be based on three aspects, the psychological aspects, in order to identify the psychological causes of drug abuse and the social aspect of school students in order to know the social conditions that have exacerbated the problem, as well as the security aspect, in order to monitor student activity in School, and keep them from falling into the scourge of drugs.

Officials and specialists in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) declared that despite the limited number of cases of addiction among school students in the country, there is a need to tighten the supervision of drug traffickers and to tighten the legal penalties imposed on them, pointing out that there is a great responsibility for schools to monitor cases of abuse, concerned about, to find out their source (Ministry of Interior of UAE, 2009).

Some responses to drug use may marginalize and stigmatize students. Detection of drug use with a solely punitive outcome is not a productive strategy unless the health and safety of the school community is being compromised and could alienate students at risk from the only place where individuals and activities can support their efforts to change (Meyer and Cahill, 2004).

The history of drug abuse showed that it is contrary to the purposes of Islamic Sharia in the preservation of their five essentials (religion, life, honour, mind and money), and this is apparent for the lowest pensive, how corrupted the drug debt, and how much loss of the same, how much desecrated of view, how much disrupted from the mind, how much wasted of money (Tsvetkova, 2103).

For this, the objective of this study is displaying the previous studies that discussed drug abuse and the main strategies that increase awareness of students to use drugs in their life. The goal of this is present a partial view of some previous studies relevant to the subject of the study. Previous studies that covered the study of the

community (the community of the Emirate of Dubai in particular), or studies conducted on the subject of the study (the impact of Islamic Sharia in the prevention of drugs abuse).

2. The Purpose of Study

There is no doubt that a research on the effectiveness of drug abuse prevention programs in schools especially in Dubai, UAE will be beneficial and meaningful to the students, parents, community as well as to the literature itself. This research, with particular emphasis on the effectiveness of drug and substance abuse prevention strategies among schools in Dubai Emirates, would be able to identify the research purpose. Thus, the main objective of this study is analysing the anti-drug awareness strategy from the perspective of Islamic Sharia in Dubai schools, and evaluates this strategy in light of the challenges posed by the problem of drug abuse.

2.1 The Significance of Study
This study is not absolutely independent on all studies conducted in the past, but is an extension of what has been discussed and considered by others. The advantage of this study exceed the scope of drug abuse, and some hypotheses associated with this social study make it unique because to the researcher's knowledge, no similar study has been conducted on the role of the Islamic Sharia laws in the prevention of drugs abuse in the Emirate of Dubai.

3. Research Methods

This study applied quantitative methods to examine the anti-drug awareness strategy from the perspective of Islamic Sharia in Dubai schools. The questionnaire is data collection instrument used in this study and consists of questions with a 5 point Likert scale as used by other researchers in studying effectiveness of drug training programs (Arksey and O'Malley, 2005). The data collected from the survey was organized and extensively cleaned to prepare it for analysis. The data was initially organized in excel and was then pulled into SPSS for conducting the statistical analysis.

3.1 Problem Statement
The problem of drugs that threaten school students is one of the most important problems addressed by the UAE in various scientific and security means, for example in this study Dubai which is a city in the UAE is being used a placed where the study is being done. In developing a country, human resource is vital to building a nation. If the current students, be it in the schools or in the universities are involved in drug abused, then the future supply of workers to the local labour market will be badly affected as we know drugs abused will lead to many problems i.e. health matters, crime related issues and many others (Maj, 2012).

There is no doubt that drug abuse has many roots and causes, including: social, economic, cultural, religious and political causes. For this reason, the ways and means to discuss and address the subject are many and varied, depending on the ultimate goal of each separate study (Trevor and Katy, 2008). This applies in the field of academic research through the diversity of scientific research methodology, to discuss the drug problem, such as a systematic discussion of the problem through the development of psychological and therapeutic methods, which discusses the relationship between personal development, psychological and drug abuse, or may be through a systematic discussion of the problem from a medical perspective. The discussions of the impact of drug abuse on the level of the individual body, or it may be a systematic discussion of the problem from the perspective of economic, social or cultural prospective (John, 2005).

With respect to study population, there is a lack of national strategy to address the drug problem, whether this strategy, declared or undeclared, this study's recommendation to go out especially the need to start preparing a national strategy, to address the problem of drugs in the UAE. Thus, the problem statement of this study is focus on the strategy that suite the culture of students in Dubai and emphasizes on the religious dimensions of ant-drug awareness strategy in Dubai.

4. Strategy for Activating Drug Prevention Programs in Schools in Dubai

The researcher has taken into account the generalization of this proposal according to the culture and the nature of the study population, as the UAE and Dubai in particular its cultural and social nature of that distinguishes them from other communities. The drug problem is considered the biggest problems affecting communities throughout the world because it strikes at the core, which are often young people who are the backbone of these communities present and the basis for its future (Humaida, 2008).

In order to clarify the magnitude of this problem, the total numbers of the year bear the consequences of drugs vary from state to state, which is up to astronomical numbers exceed hundreds of billions. Regarding the situation in the UAE, there is no national strategy to reduce demand for drugs and that the national effort only in the UAE is the existence of the Supreme Committee for Combating Drugs and not on the level of the Ministry of Interior only and its members from working in the field of drug control, which means that work of this committee is dominated by the character of opportunities to reduce drug supply only.

Also the secretariat of the history through the work of a researcher in the field of drug control and his membership in the United Nations as an expert of an international, as well as the membership committee of experts of the Council of the Ministry of the Interior, he noted the enthusiasm positive men control and strong desire in the fight against the scourge of drugs at all levels, and activation by reducing demand, in addition to by activating the chances of drug supply but due to lack of capabilities, expertise and lack of human resources, in addition to the lack of positive interaction required from all sectors of civil society in the activation of a negative impact by reducing demand.

Given the political declaration of the United Nations it is found that today there are several key aspects in the face of the drug problem, including activation by reducing demand for drugs through the activation of sectors of society and its members ,as well as to modify the curriculum to achieve the implementation of the objectives of the strategy. Also, the declaration included a motivator for activating the side of the field through the activation of measures of judicial cooperation and control of precursor chemicals, and the fight against money laundering and eradication of illicit drug and the creation of alternative agriculture.

4.1 The Scope of the Principles of Demand Reduction and Reduction Strategy

After the adoption of the General Assembly of the United Nations World Programme of Action (February 1990), and the development of United Nations bodies involved in combating drugs, and their integration in one device is the United Nations Programme on fight against drugs in order to strengthen the role of the United Nations, as the main center to coordinate and lead international efforts in the field of combating drug (January 1991), the General Assembly held a high-level meetings to consider the case of international cooperation to combat drug production and Psychotropic Substances, and the sale, purchase, demand and trade in illegally, and the Secretary General of the United Nations said in a speech delivered on behalf of Executive Director of the United Nations at the opening of these sessions in the October 26, 1993, that if we want to international efforts to take a global character, it must mobilize all relevant groups within communities, private non-governmental organizations and professional and business organizations, universities, schools, media and sports institutions in harmony and support with local authorities and fill all in order to combat drugs. He stressed the need to focus on actual work and make a serious effort to exploit the resources necessary in all parts of the world to reach that goal, a fight against drugs (Issawi, 2005).

The third of these principles, is the most difficult of all, the principle of evaluation, as is well known that any intervention aimed at changing attitudes and behavior, requires a lot of time and types of multiple interventions, and then you could not measure success only in the long term, then the criteria for success in many different in the area of treatment; where some known success as a complete program, and then, spending addict specified period to remove the toxins, which are estimated duration of one week, then stay in therapeutic community for the past 18 months, and then he left after that, making the program successful for others the length of abstinence for drug use, after completion of treatment, but this measure requires a follow-up program extension program of treatment, and rehabilitation, and follow-up will be important only in the rule impossible. And this study suggests that this measure is the closest of the mind and logic, and this is the difference between the assessment of service delivery to persons targeted, and the evaluation of the results of any behavior change (Howard, 2003).

4.2 Anti-Drug Demand Reduction Activities

The most important demand reduction activities is the awareness, which are made using the information, education, and use public information campaigns on a large scale too, and they can show to people who have access to such information, assistance and advice, and may know the public that the addict in need of their services every in the field of specialization (Cambridge, 2005), and established that media campaigns can backfire, especially if the message is true or based on intimidation only, or coming from the source is not credible, then it is important to make the message a person enjoys a special place in the public, such as sports heroes or stars, or excellence in practicing their professions, provided that they are with biography good, and should emphasize the benefits of non-drug use, as far as focus on the consequences of dealing harmful, and the message should be relevant to the audience the receiver, then to be adapted to each message and circulated to fit with its audience. Has been clearly shown in the Western countries that the message is directed to teenagers to quit smoking, achieve good results if they focused on that smoking causes diseases such as malignant cancer and pneumonia (Issawi, 2005).

The awareness using education aims to develop the mental and intellectual faculties regularly, in pursuit of the formation of positive attitudes and moral values and beliefs, have an impact in the end, the actual behavior. The more programs, effective programs are long-term, comprehensive in the subjects taught to students, such as materials science or biology or meeting, or Religious Education or the programs of the programs offered in schools, be generalized but should be adapted to each program to suit the students' needs and circumstances certain specific social setting. Also, it must also be taken into account the cases that do not have a real education in the school, access to drop-outs or incompetent real educational services through the mosques and houses of worship, clubs or places of gatherings (Humaida, 2008)

In addition to awareness, there are many forms of services for drug users, can be incorporated into the program and multi-wide activities, so that the addict moves from activity to activity until he recovers from his disease does not relapse again. These activities provide advice and guidance to drug users and their families, and treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration into society (Cambridge, 2005).

In the view of the countries participating in the twentieth special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, to achieve the strategies of drug control of their objectives depends on the participation of women and men on an equal footing, in the formulation of policies and programs in all its stages, and depends on the optimal investment for young people and work with them through educational programs and public information activities and other preventive measures, linked to the provision of treatment and rehabilitation to restore dignity and hope for the addicted and all that in the framework of cooperation at all levels, international, regional and local.

4.3 Drugs Treatment Interventions

The second arm of the Government's drugs strategy is to use the criminal justice system as a means of moving drug-misusing offenders into treatment. The results of the NEW-

ADAM programme showed that less than 10 per cent of drug-misusing arrestees were currently in drug treatment. Approximately one-third of arrestees not currently receiving treatment reported an unmet need for treatment. This increased to over 50 per cent among those arrestees who reported current dependence on one or more illicit drug types. It is important therefore that treatment services are made available to this type of drug-misusing offender (Cambridge, 2005).

The most common types of treatment for young drug misusers aged 11-17 over the period 2003 to 2004 (the most recent data providing an age breakdown) was structured counselling (52 per cent) followed by specialist prescribing (21 per cent) and 'other structured interventions' (18 per cent) (National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse, 2005). A research study by Didlock and Cheshire (2005) found that specialist drug treatment for young people mainly involved counselling, brief interventions, solution-focused therapy, motivational interviewing, cognitive behavioural theory, relapse prevention, group work, and alternative therapies.

A survey of service provision for young drug users in Scotland found that the most common services offered to young people was counselling, followed by other forms of support and advice. Some young people aged over 16 were offered prescribing services, but these were usually restricted to rapid reduction (Burniston et al., 2002).

Based on the above discussion, this study suggests that although drugs can be used to cope with affect, negative life events, stress and distress, this is not always problematic or permanent. The escalation from low level use to enhance mood to more problematic self-medicating drug use and the implementation of drug use as a maladaptive coping strategy is dependent upon the prosocial coping skills available to the individual and their willingness to implement them. However, avoidant coping is also an independent risk factor for drug use (Eftekhari et al., 2004) and drug users are more likely to implement avoidant coping strategies than non-drug users and are thus at a greater risk of developing problematic patterns of use.

4.4 The Proposed Strategy

Strategy is to imagine a future in order to achieve the basic objectives, and in fact the strategy although future direction, but they cannot operate effectively and effective results without reading what the drug and present ,as well as follow-up efforts to deal with this strategy.

To succeed, any anti-drug abuse strategy in its overall goal a comprehensive and integrated response to the drug problem ,they have to give realistic and practical character in it, and that the finalization of this strategy across the sub-goals are interrelated and overlapping general affect each other (Cambridge, 2005; Kelly, 2004):

1) Inclusiveness and integration mechanisms in the specific objectives, and coordination of efforts nationally, regionally and internationally, given the complexity of the dimensions of the drug phenomenon and overlapping actors in it;

2) Flexibility to address the problem of drug and review the priorities and mechanisms to achieve the objectives in the light of the constant monitoring of the changes in society, whether social or political changes;

3) Success in engaging the parties targeted in the siege of the demand for drugs from the various stakeholders;

4) Success in the integration of roles between the partner institutions in the implementation of this strategy

The proposed strategy of this study focuses on the side of drug demand reduction, a preventive aspect to address the drug problem, considering that the side of the field, a supply reduction of terms of reference for others.

Although this strategy was inspired by the proposed guide, which she described the twentieth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the face of drugs, but it is taken into account the nature of the UAE, and Dubai in particular taking into account all other aspects related to this matter. This strategy is based on Islamic Shariea and rely on the prevention of drug in schools through the following institution:

a. Educational institutions

There is no doubt that educational institutions are an important place in the stages of mental development, psychological and social person, so its role in drug prevention is one of the main pillars supporting the values and tests of behavior and awareness of the dangers of the problem of abuse and addiction.

b. Youth centers and sports clubs

Communities, youth attracts often varied references, family, social, economic, political, and often seeks young people to fill their leisure time within the framework of these institutions, and therefore can play a positive role in prevention, if given the membership for young people, according to their economic circumstances.

c. Media firms

The media is one of the most important community-based mechanisms that can be used and using them to face the problem of successful drugs. Recent literature has concluded that the media comes in second place, after other sources such as friends, as a source of knowledge, or hearing about drugs in people abusers.

d. Religious institutions

Religious institutions exert an important role in the process of prevention, because prevention is better than cure, and often associated with the prevention of sins and the sins by faith in God. The importance of religious institutions comes in the light of the debt held by cultural and ideological component in the hearts of members of society, religious organization is often directed members of society in the patterns of thinking and behavior and values and life experiences in general.

e. Institutions of civil society

Civil society organizations are a network of institutions ranging functions and areas of interest, it is possible to carry out each specific activity in the context of risk education and awareness of the problem and the damage.

5. Results and Discussions

To fulfil the aims and objectives of this study a quantitative questionnaire survey was conducted among schools' students in the UAE. A sample size of 300 students who are exposed to the drug awareness program were targeted for the quantitative study. However, only 201 duly filled questionnaires were received and were included in the study. The sample size of 201 participants who are exposed to drug awareness programs will ensure that we obtain sufficient data needed for the study and will be representative of the school population.

Table 1: Cross tabulations of gender for drug abuse in Dubai

I have used drugs								
Cross tabulation count		MEAN (I have used drugs)						Total
		1.00	1.48	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	
Gender	Male	62	5	8	4	5	2	86
	Female	87	5	10	2	2	8	114
Total		149	10	18	6	7	10	200
I used drugs once for curiosity								
		MEAN (I used drugs once for curiosity)						Total
		1.00	1.40	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	
Gender	Male	61	3	7	4	9	2	86
	Female	90	6	13	1	1	2	114
Total		152	9	20	5	10	4	200
I use drugs to improve my memory before exams								
Cross tabulation count		SMEAN (I use drugs to improve my memory before exams)						Total
		1.00	1.23	2.00	3.00	4.00		
Gender	Male	68	4	7	5	2		;86
	Female	93	4	12	3	1		114
Total		162	8	19	8	3		200
I use drugs following family disputes								
Count								
Cross tabulation count		MEAN (I use drugs following family disputes)						Total
		1.00	1.24	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	
Gender	Male	70	4	5	4	3	0	86
	Female	93	4	13	3	0	1	114
Total		163	8	18	7	3	1	200
I use drugs to feel happy and joyful								
Count								
Cross tabulation count		MEAN (I use drugs to feel happy and joyful)					Total	
		1.00	1.31	2.00	3.00	4.00		
Gender	Male	64	4	7	7	4	86	
	Female	91	4	13	5	1	114	
Total		155	8	20	12	5	200	

Note: 1.00= Strongly Disagree, 1:48 = Average of Mean computed due to missing values; 2:00= Disagree; 3.00= Neutral; 4.00= Agree and 5.00= Strongly Agree

From the Table 1 above, it can be seen that the value 1.00 indicates "strongly disagree with the statement". Approximately between 75-82% of the respondents have indicated that they strongly disagree with the statement related to drug use. Hence the author can conclude that drug use among students is not common as 75-82% of them strongly indicated not using drugs as shown in Table 1.

From the cross tabulation result which shows that 75 out of 82 males students respondents (87.2%) and 101 out of 113 females students respondents (89.4%) have not used drugs. As a result, this study can infer that 88.4% of all students have not used drugs. Hence, we can also extrapolate that 11.6% of all students have indeed used drugs, whereby from this total number, 12.8% of male and 10.6% of female have used drugs in their life as a student. Comparing this figure to the data and information from National Institute of Drug Abuse (USA) in 2015, nearly a quarter of American high schoolers use at least one type of illicit drug which is 25%. The most popular drugs among 12th graders all across the USA are Amphetamines, Adderall, Opioid painkillers, Synthetic marijuana, Tranquilizers, Cough medicine, Vicodin, Hallucinogens, OxyContin, Sedatives, Ecstasy (MDMA), LSD, Cocaine, Ritalin, Inhalants and Salvia.

This result has also shown that a strong correlation existed between drug awareness training involving counselling and involving parents and community and with student confidence building and resistance skills as well as in changing their views about drugs. This indicates the effectiveness of using counselling and involving parents and the community in drug awareness training programs. The findings of this study is identical with a research conducted by Meyer and Cahill (2004) has shown that a whole-school approach uses a coherent and consistent framework for drug education through policy, curriculum, student welfare/pastoral care, incident management and partnerships with family, community and agencies and not only depending on parent involvement in drug education. The same study has also indicated that parent engagement enhances whole-school approaches to student wellbeing whereby activities that schools undertake to engage parents in drug education should be integrated into a whole-school approach.

6. Conclusions

The problem of drug abuse and addiction is one of the social problems and global health, has focused on the problem of many Arab societies by imposing anti-drug and harm, especially after the promoters managed to infiltrate the drug class adolescents and young people who are the backbone of any society. The problem of drug addiction is not a security problem, but is the problem of social, economic, health, psychological, religious, educational, cultural, and are therefore within the scope of the attention of most state agencies and institutions, and therefore should be planned centrally, and to be treated as part of a comprehensive national social development and economic development.

The findings of this study have shown that there are three main characteristics which will make the drug prevention programs more effective. The three key

characteristics are drug awareness training program through counselling, involving parents and community as well as using interactive program and multimedia in order to boost student's confidence and increase resistance skills against the use of drugs. This study concludes that anti-drug abuse programme that integrates skills which enable students to resist drugs hopefully will strengthen personal commitment against drug use and increase the social competency of assertiveness and self-efficacy should be supported.

6.1 Future Studies

The need for scientific interest of the Muslim scholars the purposes of Islamic Sharia and expand the scope of ijtihad of thought in all that occurs to the manifestations of life and keep pace with the modern age, especially if we know that the drug enters every day of new species and some of them may be one of the treatments that people need as determined by medical specialists with an emphasis not limited purposes of the study of Islamic Sharia specialists in forensic science but should be a way open to every Muslim in this life no matter how scientific competence and whatever was in his life. Muslim scholars call to activate the concept of the future conduct of foresight in terms of looking ahead to download some of the rulings, especially those that related to the subject of drugs.

6.2 Recommendations

The outcome of this study shows that need to integrate the concepts and purposes of the rules of Islamic Sharia in the preparation of preventive programs and awareness and create an environment suitable for applications which contribute to a significant contribution to the formation of positive trends to stay away from drugs and all that hurt the human mind. Authority of Islamic Affairs and Endowments in Dubai must seek to the necessity of activating the role of the statutes and laws of Islam in the drug prevention through programs and campaigns aimed at vulnerable groups and most vulnerable to drug abuse.

Finally, more innovative approaches are needed to reduce the tendencies by students to use drugs by reducing the accessibility of drugs to students. Higher Education Loans Boards and other student's financiers including parents should consider reducing the monies given to the student in cash form and instead adopt e-wallets where students get pre-paid electronic cards that can only pay for stationeries, books and food stuff. This will reduce the number of students who utilize the money meant for school purposes and their up keep to overindulge in drugs

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