ANALYSIS OF FACTORS LEADING TO DRUG ABUSE AMONG IRAQI YOUTH: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN IRAQI UNIVERSITIES

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Abstract

The study aimed mainly to identify the social, economic and cultural factors leading to addiction to narcotic drugs among Iraqi youth from the point of view of students at Iraqi universities, to achieve the objectives of the study, the study was based on the descriptive analytical method using the sample social survey method, to obtain field data from the study sample using the questionnaire tool, and the study sample consisted of (650) students.

The results showed that the overall level of factors leading to drug abuse among young people from the point of view of students in Iraqi universities came high, with a general arithmetic average (3.866). the results revealed that social factors have achieved the first rank in terms of relative importance with an arithmetic average (3.901), in the second rank economic factors with an arithmetic average (3.869) and in the third and last rank cultural factors with an arithmetic average (3.828) and at a high level.

Based on its results, the study recommended the importance of encouraging young people to participate in community, sports and cultural activities to strengthen social ties and reduce free time, the establishment of counseling centers at universities to provide psychological and social support to students and guide them towards positive strategies to deal with challenges, organizing educational campaigns highlighting the negative effects of drugs on the individual and society, and integrating these programs into school curricula.

Keywords: Narcotic Drugs, Factors Leading to Drug Abuse, Iraqi Youth, University Students.

Introduction

The phenomenon of the spread of drugs, especially narcotic drugs, is one of the most serious and complex challenges facing modern societies, as it has become a direct threat to the social and economic fabric of societies, as well as its negative impact on human energies, especially young people of both sexes.

This phenomenon casts a heavy shadow on the future of young people in societies, destroying their productive capabilities as well as depleting their economic resources, and it is one of the most prominent social problems that hinder progress and development, especially in developing countries.

In Iraq, assessing the negative effects of drug abuse and addiction on individuals and society is beset with many challenges, most notably the clandestine nature of the abuse and use of these substances, as well as the weakness of official statistics and follow-up mechanisms.

The problem of drug abuse among young people is one of the most serious health and social problems facing the whole world, and drug addiction means a strong desire that pushes the addicted young man to obtain them by any means, with the difficulty of quitting them, whether to rely on psychological addiction or to get used to the tissues of the body to drugs, and the addict usually suffers from an internal compulsive driving force for abuse due to psychological dependence (Al-Odaynat, 2022).

Drug abuse among young people has become a destructive social phenomenon that requires the concerted efforts of all societal bodies such as the family, which is the first building block in the formation of human societies as the first line of defense in facing any problems faced by members of societies (Mufida, 2018), and civil society institutions such as schools, universities and places of worship are considered to have a strong impact on the face of members of societies for all problems, such as the phenomenon of the spread of drug abuse and promotion (Al-Khuzaie, 2010).

According to the World Drug Report 2023, more than 300 million people, or approximately (3.0%) of the world's population, use drugs, an increase of 20.5% over the past decade, and the number of deaths resulting from drug addiction reached (207,400) cases, or a rate of (44) deaths per million people approximately (United Nations, 2023).

In recent years, Iraq has witnessed a significant escalation in drug trafficking and abuse, especially in the southern and central regions that have become major

corridors for drug trafficking and trafficking, and despite the intensive efforts made by the security forces to combat this phenomenon, including the almost daily announcement of the seizure of large quantities of drugs and the arrest of many smugglers, the problem is still growing rapidly.

According to the prevalence, availability and ease of access to drugs, the volume of drug abuse by young people in Iraqi society has increased, so that drug use, addiction and promotion have become a major problem recently, and official statistics indicate an alarming increase in drug abuse in Iraq, especially among young people between the ages of 15 and 30 years, where this group is the most affected, and narcotic substances such as crystal methamphetamine and Captagon are mainly prevalent, especially in the central and southern regions, and the security authorities have seized during the three years The latter involved tens of tons of drugs and millions of narcotic pills, and more than 50,000 people involved in drug cases were arrested and arrested (Ministry of Interior, 2003).

Recent studies such as (Al-Hamid, 2024; Al-Mandalawi, 2024, Abu Zaher, 2024) have shown that drug abuse usually begins in adolescence, which is the period that young people spend in schools and universities, and its impact extends across different age stages, but it is more dangerous and common among youth sectors, and this age is when the individual reaches the peak of his productive and giving abilities.

This study sheds light on the factors behind drug abuse among Iraqi youth through a field study that examines the views of young Iraqi university students, as a key segment of society and more vulnerable to the various effects of this phenomenon, in order to provide a social vision that can contribute to the formulation of practical and effective solutions to reduce this growing problem.

Study problem and questions

The problem of drug abuse among young people is a very complex problem at the local level in Jordan, where there are many factors leading to abuse, whether economically, socially or culturally, and each of these factors has its own weight and role.

Many studies such as (Al-Enezi, 2014; Al-Hosani, 2020; Al-Enezi, 2020, Al-Tahawi, 2016, Saida, 2016) have indicated that the phenomenon of drug abuse and addiction to it is a very dangerous phenomenon and needs more study in order to detect the factors affecting individuals to trend towards abuse, as the

cause of drug abuse cannot be limited to one factor only, but there are a variety of factors that may lead to drug abuse, in addition to that these factors differ from society For others are affected by the social and environmental conditions of society, so it is necessary to detect these factors and try to address them to reduce drug use.

In the State of Iraq, there was a clear emergence of the spread of the phenomenon of abuse and trafficking, as drug crimes recorded during the year 2023 AD a significant increase compared to the years 2021 and 2022 AD, and the relative change rate reached (12.64%), and according to security reports, 18,667 drug crimes were recorded in 2021, compared to 21,031 crimes in 2023 AD (Ministry of Interior, 2023).

On the basis of the foregoing, there is an urgent need to study the phenomenon of drug abuse among young people and to analyse the factors leading to it, given the grave danger it poses to Iraqi society as a whole, and to young people in particular. This scourge has severely affected many Iraqi youth and families.

The problem of the current study is embodied in the following main question:

What are the factors leading to drug abuse among young people from the point of view of students in Iraqi universities?

The main question stems from the sub-questions related to the knowledge of the social, economic and cultural factors leading to drug abuse among Iraqi youth from the point of view of students in universities, as well as revealing the difference between the views of students in Iraqi universities towards the factors leading to drug abuse, which are due to their different personal and academic characteristics.

The importance of the study

The importance of this study is highlighted by focusing on the factors leading to drug abuse, on two main levels:

Theoretical significance:

1. The study highlights a high-priority issue at the local and international levels, where the phenomenon of drug abuse is a major threat to societies, especially the youth, who represent the backbone of the nation and its future.

2. The study contributes to strengthening the theoretical literature related to the phenomenon of drug abuse, by analyzing the factors leading to it and reviewing its social and psychological effects on individuals and societies.

3. This study highlights the issue of drug abuse as one of the main challenges facing Iraqi society, along with other issues such as alcoholism and societal violence, which are the focus of common attention of various security and community institutions.

Applied importance:

1. The study presents a vital topic that serves decision-makers and youth caregivers by shedding light on the real factors that promote the spread of drug abuse in Iraqi society, which enables the development of practical strategies to confront them, and helps to improve efforts to support this segment.

2. The results of the study may contribute to the formulation of effective policies to address the underlying causes of drug use, helping young people avoid the factors behind their prevalence among young people.

Objectives of the study

The main objective of the study is to identify the factors leading to drug addiction among Iraqi youth from the point of view of students in Iraqi universities.

1. Identify the level of perceptions of students in Iraqi universities towards the social factors leading to drug abuse.

2. Identify the level of perceptions of students in Iraqi universities towards the economic factors leading to the abuse of narcotic drugs.

3. Identify the level of perceptions of students in Iraqi universities towards the cultural factors leading to drug abuse.

4. Detecting statistically significant differences between the views of students in Iraqi universities towards the social, economic and cultural factors leading to the use of narcotic drugs with different qualitative and family characteristics.

Study terminology and procedural concepts:
- Narcotic drugs:

Narcotic drugs are defined as chemical or natural substances that affect the functions of the human central nervous system, leading to changes in

psychological, behavioral or sensory state (Kaunda et al, 2012), and are defined as substances whose abuse and addiction pose a health risk to an individual, such as opium and its preparations, morphine and its derivatives, cannabis, and cocaine (Al-Mashaqaba, 2019). In this study, narcotic drugs are defined as substances whose use causes psychological and/or physical habituation, such as heroin, cocaine, hashish, hallucinogens, tranquilizers, and stimulants.

Abuse:

It is the excessive or illegal use of narcotic or psychotropic substances in a way that leads to changes in the health, psychological, or social status of the individual, and the concept refers to the intake of these substances in ways or quantities that violate medical purposes or laws, causing negative effects, such as addiction, deterioration of health, and disturbances in social relations and work. Substance abuse can take many forms, including experimental use, incidental use, regular use, and multiple use (Schieltz, 2020):

In this study, procedural abuse is defined as the process of taking drugs permanently or intermittently in young people, so that the young person becomes willing to buy the drug.

- Addiction:

Addiction in language is derived from the verb "addicted" which means to persevere and keep doing a certain thing. It is said: "I am addicted to something" meaning keep doing it and keep doing it. The term addiction is only used to refer to actions or behaviors, such as "so-and-so is addicted to drinking or drinking," meaning that he is committed to drinking it continuously and cannot quit it. Hence, a drug addict is a person who stays with drugs and does not stop using them (Ibn Manzur, 2003).

As for addiction in terminology, the World Health Organization defined it as a psychological condition resulting from the interaction that occurs between the user and the drug, and is characterized by behavioral responses that usually include a violent motivation to use the drug permanently or from time to time to obtain its psychological effects, and sometimes in order to avoid or avoid the effects that result in abstinence (Al-Mohannadi, 2013) Coleman & Cressey (Coleman & Cressey, 1987) Addiction as a state of intense need for drug abuse, arising after a period of physical dependence as a result of repeated abuse, and that addiction is characterized by several main characteristics, including: the

presence of a compulsive desire to use, the pursuit of drugs by any means and at any cost, the tendency to increase doses due to the habituation of the body or the weakness of the usual effect, the existence of a continuous psychological and physical need for abuse, in addition to the negative effects that harm the addict and the surrounding social environment (Abdel Moneim, 2013).

Factors leading to drug abuse:

A factor is defined as a set of interrelated elements organized in a particular format, the sum of which contributes to a specific result (Badawi, 1993).

Social factors:

Social factors in this study are defined as a set of difficulties and obstacles associated with the social environment surrounding young people, which may stimulate drug use. These factors are manifested in weak family and social ties, peer influence, and lack of social support. It is defined procedurally as the estimate given by the members of the study sample to the extent to which social factors affect the prevalence of drug abuse among young people in Iraqi society, based on what was stated in the study tool (questionnaire) designed for this purpose.

Economic factors:

Economic factors are defined in this study as a set of difficulties associated with the economic conditions of young people and their families, which may contribute to drug use. These factors include unemployment, poverty, low income, and financial stress. It is defined procedurally as the estimate given by the members of the study sample to the extent to which economic factors affect the prevalence of drug abuse among young people in Iraqi society, based on what was stated in the study tool (questionnaire) designed for this purpose.

Cultural factors:

Cultural factors in this study are defined as a set of concepts, practices and values prevailing in society, which may directly or indirectly affect young people's attitudes and behaviors towards drug use. These factors include false beliefs about drugs, society's acceptance of certain types of drugs, media and cultural influences, and poor cultural awareness of the dangers of abuse. It is defined procedurally by the assessment given by the members of the study sample to the

extent to which cultural factors affect the prevalence of drug abuse among young people in Iraqi society, based on what is stated in the study tool (questionnaire) designed for this purpose.

Theoretical framework and previous studies

Social theories have provided various explanations that shed light on the factors of substance abuse and addiction from a structural, behavioral and cultural perspective, and in this part of the study a number of social theories will be highlighted through which an integrated theoretical explanation of the factors leading to drug abuse and addiction can be developed.

Functional constructivist theory:

This theory appeared at the hands of the French sociologist "Emile Durkheim" Durkheim and the American sociologist "Talcott Parsons", where it provided an explanation for social phenomena, including societal problems such as drug abuse, and this theory is based on the idea of "pattern", where society is seen as an integrated whole in which different patterns interact to achieve balance and social stability, and the theory depends on the analysis of societal patterns and the study of their complementary roles in preventing problems that affect society. According to proponents of this theory, all institutions of society, whether governmental or private, play a pivotal role in building society and maintaining its order and values (Rolandokersten, 2013).

Institutions in society are seen as key elements that contribute to achieving balance through the process of continuous interaction between them (Al-Khatib, 2015), and in the context of Iraqi society, drug abuse among young people can be seen as a serious social problem that requires an in-depth analysis of the roles of different institutions in confronting it.

According to functional constructivist theory, the factors leading to drug abuse are the weakness of social adaptation. Young people who are unable to adapt to the values and pressures of society become more likely to seek alternative solutions, such as drug abuse as a way to escape these pressures. 2008). In this context, the loss of purpose when young people lack clear goals or support to achieve their ambitions increases the risk of drifting towards drugs as a temporary means of dealing with frustration, and the weakness of community prevention and the absence of awareness and educational activities organized by

social and security institutions contribute to a decrease in awareness of the dangers and effects of drugs, making young people more vulnerable to abuse.

In conclusion, the social, security and economic institutions in Iraq, as open formats, play a key role in preventing the spread of drugs among young people; through cooperation and coordination among them, these institutions can achieve a number of goals, such as developing programs aimed at preparing young people to face societal pressures in positive ways, strengthening cooperation between the family, school and cultural institutions to provide a supportive environment for young people, as well as providing job and education opportunities that help young people achieve their aspirations and avoid slipping into addiction, and implementing campaigns Educational awareness and youth initiatives that encourage the adoption of healthy lifestyles away from drugs.

Social Bonds Theory:

The theory of social bonds presented by the American sociologist Hirschi (1969) is one of the social theories through which the subject of study can be explained, and Hershey believes that drug use and addiction as deviant behavior results from the failure of the individual to build strong links with basic social groups, such as family, school, university, and peers. Hershey pointed out that internal control is the most powerful factor in guiding the behavior of individuals, with the influence of external or direct control (Walters, 1990) and this theory emphasizes the importance of social ties that bind the individual to society, The weakening or not strengthening of these bonds leads individuals to commit deviant behaviors such as substance abuse, alcoholism, and others. The theory of social bonds includes four basic dimensions:

Attachment: It refers to the extent of an individual's interest in others, as building a social conscience and accepting social values and principles depends on forming positive associations with others. These associations include relationship with parents, peers, school, university, and work environment.

Commitment: It reflects the amount of time and effort that individuals expend in social or economic activities, as commitment to these activities reduces the likelihood of an individual engaging in deviant behaviors that may put him at

risk, while the lack of commitment to traditional values increases the individual's tendency towards risky behaviors.

Participation: Active participation enhances the individual's sense of belonging to society and provides him with positive alternatives that distract him from committing deviant behavior.

Faith: Faith refers to an individual's conviction in the values of society and its moral system, and if the individual believes in the values of society and participates in its moral system, he becomes more respectful of the prevailing values (Al-Warikat, 2014).

Accordingly, the theory asserts that drug abuse is associated with weak ties between the user and society, and this weakness is manifested in the lack of attachment to society, which reinforces the individual's sense of irrelevance, lack of commitment to sound values, and poor participation in community activities. With regard to the factors leading to drug use in society, some previous studies highlight the importance of social bonds in reducing this phenomenon and promoting positive behaviors, as Woo et al. (2016) indicated that social support is a key factor in reducing the commission of deviant behaviors and promoting positive social interaction, which can contribute to reducing addiction. The study of Faustino & Pires (2009) showed that weakened social and emotional bonds due to lack of social support can lead to an individual's sense of isolation and marginalization, leading them to seek unhealthy alternatives such as substance abuse. The results of the study of Durose et al. (2014) indicated that individuals with a lack of social support and psychological stability are more likely to return to addictive behaviors after attempts to stop, reinforcing the need for a supportive environment that contributes to reducing and returning to drug use.

Social Learning Theories

Learning theories have tried to explain why some individuals are addicted to drugs, suggesting that abuse is a reflection of certain types of stimuli or a way to alleviate mental disorders, such as anxiety and fears. These theories assert that individuals seek situations that cause instant joy and pleasure, and stay away from sad or painful situations that provoke stress and stress. According to

educational reinforcement theory, the educational process of any association between stimulus and response requires some kind of reward. (Robinson, 1976). According to Dollard and Miller, drugs are considered a psychological booster, because they help reduce feelings of fear and anxiety, while Bandura believes that drug abuse arises as a result of the positive reinforcement caused by the effect of drugs as a central inhibitor, as it provides a sense of comfort and relaxation. He points out that individuals who are under severe stress are more likely to use drugs more frequently, compared to those who face less stress, as they have less value and less impact (Ryan et al, 2001).

Learning theories show that substance abuse not only arises from the stresses surrounding an individual, but is also associated with behavioral reinforcement mechanisms that cause individuals to tend to use drugs as a way to escape stress and achieve temporary relief.

Previous studies

This part deals with previous studies related to the subject of the current study in order from oldest to newest.

Arabic Studies

Al-Khawaldeh and Al-Khayyat (2011) conducted a study aimed at identifying the most prominent reasons that lead to the abuse of narcotic substances and dangerous drugs from the point of view of users in Jordanian society, the study sample included 384 people from drug addicts who receive treatment in specialized centers and hospitals, and the study concluded with a set of results, most notably that the main causes of drug abuse included family problems, the search for pleasure and pleasure, escape from financial crises, the influence of friends, and seeking to forget worries and problems.

The study of Tweissi et al. (2013) was entitled "Youth Attitudes towards Drugs: A Field Study in Ma'an Governorate". This study aimed to identify the attitudes of young people in Ma'an Governorate, southern Jordan, about drugs, and the study was conducted on a sample consisting of (6) communities and includes (538) young people, and the study reached a set of results, the most important of which are: The most abused youth are the unemployed (26.6%), then university students (12.1%), and the most trusted by young people in curbing the spread of drugs are clerics, the Anti-Narcotics Department and school teachers, and that

the most effective means for young people to reduce the spread of the drug phenomenon is the application of the strict law against drug dealers and promoters.

Al-Enezi's study (2014) aimed to analyze the factors affecting drug abuse and addiction in Kuwaiti society, in addition to the effects resulting from this phenomenon and the mechanisms of prevention and confrontation. The study was based on the descriptive approach through the review of drug reports in Kuwait during the period (2003-2010). The study concluded that the most prominent factors affecting drug use include rapid social change as a result of the discovery of oil, the increase in expatriate labor, imbalances in demographics, in addition to the high economic level, travel, lack of positive use of leisure time, and peer influence. The study also emphasized the negative effects of drug abuse on the individual, family and society.

Hana and Fatima's study (2016) was entitled (Family Factors Leading to Drug Addiction in Girls). It aimed to reveal the relationship between family factors leading to drug addiction among girls, and to identify the impact of family disintegration on girls' addiction, and to reveal the nature of the relationship between parental treatment and girls' addiction to drugs, and the study followed the descriptive analytical approach by developing a questionnaire as a tool for data collection, and the study sample consisted of (15) girls addicted to drugs at the Anti-Drug Center in Fruns, Fanon Blida - Algeria, and the study reached a set of results, the most important of which is that family disintegration represented In divorce, abandonment or the death of one or both parents has an impact on girls' addiction to drugs, and the wrong family upbringing has a role in girls' addiction to drugs, in addition to that bad parental treatment has an impact on girls' addiction to drugs.

Al Hosani's (2020) study aimed to explore the relationship between social class and drug use in the UAE. The study was applied to a sample of 60 addicts at the National Rehabilitation Center in Abu Dhabi, using the descriptive analytical approach. The study found that there is a statistically significant relationship between the dimensions of social class (such as educational level, occupation, monthly income, income adequacy, and debt) and drug use. The results of the study also showed a relationship between social classes (upper and middle) and drug use. The study confirmed that legal obstacles, psychological and economic

difficulties, the absence of fixed income, and family problems were the main reasons for the return of addicts to abuse after treatment.

The study of Al-Enezi (2020) also aimed to identify the social and economic factors that lead to the relapse of drug addicts, identify the most relevant narcotic substances, in addition to reviewing the therapeutic methods that specialists can follow. The study was applied to 85 social and psychological workers at Al-Amal Medical Complex in Riyadh using a questionnaire tool. The results showed that the cannabinoids most associated with the relapse of addicts are cannabis, steroids and alcohol. Socio-economic factors contributing to the relapse were also identified, such as the addict's lack of commitment to treatment, continued relationships with ex-friends, family conflicts, and poverty. Among the treatment methods recommended by the specialists are: follow-up of the recovered, increasing awareness programs, improving the environment of the recovered, and developing the skills of specialists.

Foreign Studies

Ibrahim and Kumar (2009) conducted a study titled "The Impact of Society on Recidivism" to examine the relationship between social support and re-addiction. The study sample consisted of 400 return addicts selected from 8 rehabilitation centers in Malaysia. The study found that the respondents' perception of social support ranged between low and medium, and the results showed a statistically significant relationship between social support and re-addiction, which highlights the importance of social support in forming positive behaviors and preventing recurrence to addiction.

Matthew's study (2010) aimed to explore the reasons why young people in the United States use drugs. The study showed that the most prominent factors that lead to drug abuse include boredom, frustration, and a sense of non-acceptance by young people by others or family, in addition to social factors such as divorce and family abuse. It was also found that drug use causes negative effects such as increased breathing, inhibition, and frustration.

The study of Aaron et al. (Arun, et al, 2010) examined the attitudes of young people towards the problem of drug abuse and drinking alcohol, and the study sample consisted of (2292) individuals over the age of (15) years, and the study found that the phenomenon of drug abuse among young people is widespread in large parts of India, especially in rural areas and poor areas, and that trends

towards economic and social factors leading to alcoholism and drug abuse represented in poverty and unemployment came at a high level, as the study showed that to solve This problem must be known to the attitudes and attitudes of society towards the factors leading to abuse and drinking alcohol.

The study (Kaunda et al., 2012) aimed to uncover the factors that contribute to drug abuse among young people in Kenya, the study adopted an explanatory design to collect information from a sample of 120 young people, with the aim of understanding the demographic, social, economic, and cultural factors that influence drug use. The results showed that demographic factors such as age, occupation, and religion contribute to drug use, as well as the role of economic and social factors such as peer pressure, social environment, and cultural beliefs. The study also showed that drug abuse leads to negative effects such as poor health, school dropout, and increased crime, and that corruption and lack of societal awareness are among the most prominent challenges in combating the phenomenon.

Sousa et al.'s study (2017) was titled "Drug Use and Risk Factors among Adolescents at School." It aimed to reveal the nature of the relationship between risk factors and the severity of problems related to drug abuse among adolescents in secondary schools in Brazil, and (1192) students from sixth to ninth grade participated in this study in a city in southern Minas Gerais, Brazil, and the data were collected through a questionnaire that included sociodemographic data and drug abuse testing, and the results showed that drug abuse is prevalent among adolescents between the ages of 14 and 15 years, who have good family relations, They live with friends, attend parties once a month or once or twice a week, and there has been major harm in the areas of mental disorders, family system and social competence among those who use drugs (except alcohol and tobacco), and the results point to the need to implement preventive strategies for drug abuse and health promotion in the context of school.

What distinguishes the study from previous studies

It is clear from the presentation of previous studies that there are many studies that examined the factors leading to drug addiction, their different effects on members of society, and the personal and family characteristics of drug addicts. Al-Khawaldeh and Al-Khayyat (2011) focused on the most prominent causes that lead to the abuse of narcotic substances and dangerous drugs, and the study

of Al-Enezi (2014) examined the factors affecting drug abuse and addiction in Kuwaiti society, and other studies examined multiple topics on the phenomenon of drug abuse and addiction, the influencing factors, the resulting effects and mechanisms for preventing drug addiction.

The current study is distinguished from previous studies as the first study that examined mainly the factors leading to youth drug abuse from the point of view of students in Iraqi universities.

Methodology and design

The next part of the study deals with a presentation of the methodological procedures followed, as it includes the type and methodology of the study, the population and sample of the study and its characteristics, as well as a presentation of the tool used to collect data, special statistical tests to ensure the truthfulness and stability of the study tools, and finally a presentation of the statistical methods used in data analysis and interpretation, as follows.

Study Methodology

The study relied on the descriptive analytical approach using the sample social survey method to achieve its objectives. This approach was used to analyze the attitudes of Iraqi university students towards the factors leading to drug abuse, focusing on social, economic and cultural factors. The study relied on data collected from the study sample of Iraqi university students and analyzed using descriptive and analytical statistical methods.

Study population and sample

The study community included Iraqi university students who expressed their desire to answer the questions of the study tool electronically, using social networking sites or via the e-mail designated for them, and the study tool was designed in a way that facilitates its application to students from various Iraqi universities through the electronic links that have been published on the most used social media platforms among them and in cooperation with the administration of some universities such as the University of Baghdad, the University of Mustansiriya, the University of Babylon, the University of Basra and the University of Kufa. The data collection process lasted for (8) weeks, during which (650) responses were received from the students, reflecting a

representative sample of the study population, and the sample size was determined based on the statistical sampling table of Krejcie and Morgan (Krejcie and Morgan, 1970). Table (1) shows the relative distribution of students within the study sample according to their qualitative and academic characteristics.

Table (1) Distribution of study sample members according to their qualitative and academic characteristics

Percentage (%)	No.	Categories	variable
42.77	278	Student male	
57.23	372	Student female	Gender
100	650	Total	
45.85	298	Scientific	
54.15	352	Humanities	College type
100	650	Total	
25.38	165	First	
29.08	189	Second,	
22.15	144	Third,	Academic year
23.38	152	Fourth above	
100	650	Total	

Study Tool:

To achieve the objectives of the study, the questionnaire was adopted to collect study data, which was designed and developed based on the experience of the researcher and a number of previous studies related to the subject of the study, and the study tool in its initial form included the following main parts:

The first part: includes variables for the characteristics of the members of the study sample.

The second part: It included (10) paragraphs devoted to measuring the social factors leading to drug abuse among young people from the point of view of students in Iraqi universities.

Part III: It included (7) paragraphs devoted to measuring the economic factors leading to drug abuse among young people from the point of view of students in Iraqi universities.

Part IV: It included (5) paragraphs devoted to measuring the cultural factors leading to drug abuse among young people from the point of view of students in Iraqi universities.

Survey sample:

The study tool was applied to a random survey sample of members of the study population consisting of (30) male and female students, randomly selected from the study population, in order to verify the validity and stability of the study tool.

Authenticity and reliability of the study tool
First: The authenticity of the study tool

The validity of the "virtual" content was verified during the stages of developing the tool and finalizing it, as the study tool was presented to (5) arbitrators who are competent in the subject of the study, in order to express their opinions on the ability of the paragraphs to measure, as well as the appropriateness of the linguistic formulation of the paragraphs, and to ensure the appropriateness of the gradation on the answer to the paragraphs.

In light of the consensus of the arbitrators, an amendment was made to the wording of a number of paragraphs, which 80% of the arbitrators agreed to amend.

Sincerity of the internal consistency of the study instrument:

The values of the correlation coefficients for the first area "social factors leading to drug abuse in young people" ranged between (0.79-0.88), for the second area "economic factors leading to drug abuse in young people" between (0.81-0.91), and for the third area "cultural factors leading to drug abuse among young people" between (0.68-0.83).

Second: Stability of the study tool

The process of verifying the stability of the study tool was carried out using the Cronbach alpha coefficient to verify the internal stability of the paragraphs of

the axes of the study tool, and the values of the stability coefficients of the factors were as shown in Table (2).

Table 2 Values of Cronbach's stability coefficients Alpha Cronbach for the axes of the study instrument

Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficient	Number of paragraphs	Fields	Axis number
0.914	10	Social factors leading to drug abuse among young people	1
0.906	7	Economic factors leading to drug abuse among young people	2
0.883	5	Cultural factors leading to drug abuse among young people	3
0.945	22	The axes as a whole	-

It is clear from the values of the Cronbach coefficient in tables (2) that the fields of the study instrument have a high degree of stability, with the value of the total stability coefficient for the fields as a whole (0.945), the test value for the first field (0.914), the second field (0.906), and the third domain (0.883).

Based on the tests of honesty and stability of the study tool, the paragraphs of the study tool were adopted, consisting of (22) items, distributed over (3) main areas.

Statistical processing methods

The five-point Likert scale was adopted to measure the level of response to the paragraphs of the study tool, according to the following scale: "strongly agree": represents one degree, "OK": represents two degrees, "neutral" represents 3 degrees, "disagree" represents 4 degrees, and finally "strongly disagree" and represents 5 degrees.

The response scores were divided into three main levels: (high, medium, low) based on the correction criterion according to the following equation:

Category length = (Highest scale value – Minimum scale value) / Number of options

=(5-1)/3= 1.33

Add the category length to the beginning of the scale scale, so the measurement level becomes as follows:

A.Low level: less than or equal to (2.33).

B. Medium level: greater than or equal to (2.34) to less than or equal to (3.67).

C. High level: greater than or equal to (3.68) to (5).

The study processed the data extracted from the process of applying the study tool after the completion of the application process on the target study sample, by entering it into the computer and analyzing it using the statistical program for social sciences V. 24SPSS, where the variables and paragraphs of the study were coded.

1) Descriptive Statistic Measures to determine the level of answers of the study sample on the paragraphs of the study tool, and the standard deviations were calculated in order to identify the extent of dispersion in the level of answer.

2) Use Pearson's correlation coefficient.

3) Multivariate Analysis of Variance (MANOVA) test, and use the Sheffe test to make dimensional comparisons.

Answer the study questions

Results related to the main question of the study: What are the factors leading to drug abuse among young people from the point of view of students in Iraqi universities?

To answer the main question of the study and to identify the level of factors leading to drug abuse in young people, the arithmetic averages, standard deviations and level of responses of the study sample members towards the total level of the study tool domains were found, and Table (3) illustrates these results.

Table 3 Arithmetic averages, standard deviations, level and ranking of the responses of the study sample towards the factors leading to drug abuse among young people in the Iraqi society

General level	Arrangement	Standard deviation	SMA	Field	No.
high	1	0.69	3.901	Social Factors	1
high	2	0.65	3.869	Economic Factors	2
high	3	0.73	3.828	Cultural Factors	3
high	-	0.58	3.866	General level of factors leading to drug abuse	-

It is clear from the results in Table (3) that the general level of factors leading to drug abuse among young people from the point of view of students in Iraqi universities was high, with a general arithmetic mean of (3.866) with a standard deviation of (0.58), and this result reflects a high level of views of students in Iraqi universities towards the social, economic and cultural factors leading to drug abuse in Iraqi society. It is clear from Table (3) that social factors have achieved the first rank in terms of relative importance with an arithmetic mean (3.901), in the second place economic factors with an arithmetic mean (3.869), and in the third and last place cultural factors with an arithmetic mean (3.828) and a high level. It is clear from the results that the values of the standard deviations ranged between (0.73 – 0.65), which indicates a general consistency in the level of response towards the domains.

The first sub-question: What are the social factors leading to drug abuse among young people from the point of view of students in Iraqi universities? To answer the first sub-question, the arithmetic averages, standard deviations and level of response of the study sample towards the paragraphs of social factors leading to drug abuse in young people were calculated.

Table 4 Arithmetic averages, standard deviations, level and ranking of the responses of the study sample towards the social factors leading to drug abuse among young people in the Iraqi society

General level	Arrangement	Standard deviation	SMA	Paragraph	No. Paragraph
high	1	0.92	4.193	I believe that the influence of friends and their encouragement to try drugs are the main reasons for drug abuse	6
high	2	1.20	4.119	. I see that many families do not stand by their children or provide them with enough support to stay away from drug abuse.	10
high	3	1.17	4.092	I feel that when parents, relatives or colleagues use insulting words, it increases the feeling of exclusion among young people and pushes them towards drug abuse	5

General level	Arrangement	Standard deviation	SMA	Paragraph	No. Paragraph
high	4	1.07	4.078	. I see that society's lack of acceptance and containment of young people reinforces their desire to escape to drug abuse.	1
high	5	1.14	4.002	I believe that the family problems that young people experience or witness in their homes negatively affect them and push them to take drugs.	2
high	6	1.12	3.999	I see that the death of a parent or the loss of a loved one makes young people feel an emotional void that pushes them to try drugs	4
high	7	1.05	3.924	I believe that society does not give addicts a chance to correct their mistakes, which makes relapse common	9
high	8	1.10	3.874	. I feel that the lack of faith of those around young people in their ability to change or quit drugs after treatment makes them feel frustrated and leads to their return to addiction.	3
medium	9	1.22	3.365	I believe that the lack of interest in society in finding real solutions to the social problems that young people suffer from makes drugs an easy escape option.	8
medium	10	1.19	3.361	I believe that the lack of support and social care for the families of young addicts who are trying to get treatment makes the problem persist and increases its difficulty.	7
high	-	0.69	3.901	General level of social factors leading to drug abuse	-

It is clear from the results in Table (4) that the general level of social factors leading to drug abuse among young people from the point of view of students in Iraqi universities was high, with an arithmetic mean (3.901) with a standard deviation of (0.69), and this result reflects a high level of views of students in Iraqi universities towards the social factors leading to drug abuse in Iraqi society, while at the level of paragraphs, it achieved (8) paragraphs at the level of a "high" answer, the arithmetic averages ranged between-(4.193-3.874) and The results showed that one of the most important of these paragraphs is paragraph (6),

which states: "I believe that the influence of friends and encouraging them to try drugs is one of the main reasons for drug abuse in young people." And paragraph No. (10), which states: "I see that many families do not stand by their children or provide them with sufficient support to stay away from drug abuse," while the paragraphs that achieved the level of "average" ranged between (3.365-3.361), the most important of which was paragraph No. (8), which states: "I see that the absence of society's interest in finding real solutions to the social problems suffered by young people makes drugs an easy option to escape" and finally paragraph No. (7), which states It is clear from the results that there is general consistency in the answers of the study sample on the paragraphs of this area, where the values of the standard deviations of the answers were limited between (1.22 – 0.92).

The second sub-question: What are the economic factors leading to drug abuse among young people from the point of view of students in Iraqi universities?

To answer the second sub-question, the arithmetic averages, standard deviations and level of the response of the study sample members towards the paragraphs of economic factors leading to drug abuse in young people were calculated.

Table 5 Arithmetic averages, standard deviations, level and ranking of the responses of the study sample towards the economic factors leading to drug abuse among young people in Iraqi society

General level	Arrangement	Standard deviation	SMA	Paragraph	No. Paragraph
high	1	0.93	4.102	I believe that the psychological pressures resulting from the lack of suitable job opportunities for young people push some to take drugs as a means of escaping reality.	1
high	2	1.06	4.063	. I believe that the absence of community programs aimed at rehabilitating young people and helping them build their future increases the likelihood of their involvement in addiction.	3
high	3	1.20	3.961	I believe that the spread of unemployment among young people contributes to the increase in free time, which makes some people turn to drugs as a result of feeling bored.	5

General level	Arrangement	Standard deviation	SMA	Paragraph	No. Paragraph
high	4	1.10	3.868	I believe that the lack of justice in the distribution of economic and social opportunities among young people makes some people feel excluded, which leads them to use drugs as a means of venting their frustration.	2
high	5	1.16	3.766	I believe that the easy promotion of drugs in neighborhoods with difficult economic conditions increases the exposure of young people to this scourge.	4
medium	6	1.23	3.666	I believe that the lack of awareness about how to manage financial crises and life pressures may push some to look for a temporary outlet such as drug abuse.	6
medium	7	1.08	3.660	I believe that the lack of government support in providing rehabilitation programs for unemployed youth makes them more vulnerable to drifting towards addiction as an alternative to .escaping poverty and pressures	7
high	-	**0.75**	**3.812**	**General level of economic factors leading to drug abuse**	-

It is clear from the results in Table (5) that the general level of economic factors leading to drug abuse among young people from the point of view of students in Iraqi universities was high, with an arithmetic mean of (3.812) with a standard deviation of (0.75), and this result reflects a high level of views of students in Iraqi universities towards the economic factors leading to drug abuse in Iraqi society, At the level of paragraphs, it achieved (5) paragraphs at the level of a "high" answer, the values of the arithmetic averages ranged between (4.102-3.766), and the results showed that the most important of these paragraphs is paragraph No. (1), which states, "I think that the psychological pressures resulting from the lack of suitable job opportunities for young people push some to abuse narcotic drugs as a way to escape from reality," and paragraph (3), which states: "I see that the absence of community programs directed to rehabilitate young people and help them build their future increases the likelihood of their involvement in addiction" As for the paragraphs that achieved the level of "average", the values of their arithmetic averages ranged between

(3.666-3.660), the most important of which was paragraph No. (6), which states: "I see that the lack of awareness on how to manage financial crises and life pressures may push some to search for a temporary way out, such as drug abuse" and finally paragraph (7), which states: "I think that the lack of support The results show that there is general consistency in the answers of the study sample on the paragraphs of this area, where the values of the standard deviations of the answers were limited between (1.23 – 0.93).

The third sub-question: What are the cultural factors leading to drug abuse among young people from the point of view of students in Iraqi universities? To answer the third sub-question, the arithmetic averages, standard deviations and level of response of the study sample towards the paragraphs of cultural factors leading to drug abuse in young people were calculated.

Table 6 Arithmetic averages, standard deviations, level and ranking of the responses of the study sample towards the cultural factors leading to drug abuse among young people in Iraqi society

General level	Arrangement	Standard deviation	SMA	Paragraph	No. Paragraph
high	1	1.05	4.011	I believe that the lack of cultural awareness of the harms of drugs and their negative effects on health and society makes young people more vulnerable to experimenting with drugs.	4
high	2	1.09	3.965	I believe that the tolerance of some local cultures towards some types of drugs may contribute to their increased spread among young people.	3
high	3	1.01	3.866	I believe that the absence of cultural and artistic activities that occupy the time of young people and develop their skills may push them to look for alternatives such as drug abuse	5
high	4	1.13	3.724	. I believe that the influence of the media and social networking sites in promoting a positive or interesting image	1

General level	Arrangement	Standard deviation	SMA	Paragraph	No. Paragraph
				of drugs makes some young people affected and inclined to try them.	
medium	5	1.19	3.575	I believe that the lack of awareness of family and community values and the lack of cultural dialogue between generations increases the gap that may push young people to search for their identity through negative .experiences such as drugs	2
high	-	**0.73**	**3.828**	**General level of cultural factors leading to drug abuse**	-

It is clear from the results in Table (6) that the general level of cultural factors leading to drug abuse among young people from the point of view of students in Iraqi universities was high, with an arithmetic mean of (3.828) with a standard deviation of (0.73), and this result reflects a high level of views of students in Iraqi universities towards the cultural factors leading to drug abuse in Iraqi society, at the level of paragraphs, it achieved (4) paragraphs at the level of a "high" response whose arithmetic average values ranged between (4.011-3.724), and the results showed that the most important of these paragraphs is paragraph No. (4), which states: "I see that the lack of cultural awareness of the harms of drugs and their negative effects on health and society makes young people more vulnerable to the experience of abuse", and paragraph (3), which states: "I think that the tolerance of some local cultures with some types of drugs may contribute to increasing their prevalence." Among young people" as for the paragraphs that achieved the "average" level, they were represented in paragraph (2), which states: "I believe that the lack of awareness of the values of the family and society and the lack of cultural dialogue between generations increase the gap that may push young people to search for their identity through negative experiences such as drugs. It is clear from the results that there is a general consistency in the answers of the study sample on the paragraphs of this field, where the values of the standard deviations of the answers were limited between (1.19 – 1.01).

Fourth sub-question: Do students in Iraqi universities have different views on the factors leading to drug abuse, which are due to their different personal and academic characteristics?

To answer the fourth sub-question, a multivariate variance analysis test (MANOVA) was conducted considering the variables of gender, college type and academic year as independent variables, while the dependent variables are the level of responses of the study sample towards the social, economic and cultural factors leading to drug abuse among Iraqi youth, "The values of the arithmetic averages and standard deviations of the responses of students from the study sample towards the fields were first calculated, and Table (7) shows the results.

Table (7) Arithmetic averages and standard deviations of the study sample's views towards the social, economic and cultural factors leading to drug abuse among Iraqi youth with different personal and academic characteristics

Cultural factors	Economic factors	Social factors	Descriptive statistics	Categories	Variables
3.820	3.866	3.951	**SMA**	Male	gender
0.55	0.68	0.62	**Standard deviation**		
3.848	3.901	3.895	**SMA**	Female	
0.65	0.61	0.63	**Standard deviation**		
3.836	3.875	3.880	**SMA**	Scientific	Type of collage
0.56	0.55	0.47	**Standard deviation**		
3.819	3.853	3.857	**SMA**	Humanities	
0.71	0.51	0.67	**Standard deviation**		
3.816	3.865	3.900	**SMA**	First	Academic year
0.56	0.38	0.50	**Standard deviation**		
3.820	3.861	3.915	**SMA**	Second	
0.70	0.61	0.60	**Standard deviation**		
3.830	3.856	3.918	**SMA**	Third	
0.49	0.50	0.45	**Standard deviation**		
3.835	3.873	3.896	**SMA**	Fourth and more	
0.80	0.56	0.55	**Standard deviation**		

It is clear from the results in Table (7) that there are apparent differences between the views of the students from the study sample towards the social, economic and cultural factors leading to drug abuse among Iraqi youth and different variables (gender, college type, academic year), and to verify the extent to which there are statistically significant differences at the level of significance (0.05) between students' views towards the fields of the study tool, a multivariate variance analysis test (MANOVA) was conducted in Table (8).

Table (8) Multivariate Variance Analysis (MANOVA) to Test the Differences Between the Mean Responses of the Study Sample Towards the Social, Economic and Cultural Factors Leading to Drug Abuse among Iraqi Youth with Different Personal and Educational Characteristics

Significance level	F value	Mean squares	degrees of freedom	sum of squares	Areas	Source of variance
0.46	1.07	0.44	1	0.44	Social Factors	gender
0.15	2.00	0.88	1	0.88	Economic Factors	
0.71	0.08	0.03	1	0.03	Cultural Factors	
0.63	0.12	0.05	1	0.05	Social Factors	Type of collage
0.41	1.09	0.48	1	0.48	Economic Factors	
0.81	0.06	0.02	1	0.02	Cultural Factors	
0.40	1.33	0.54	3	1.63	Social Factors	Academic year
0.36	1.50	0.66	3	1.98	Economic Factors	
0.14	2.03	0.73	3	2.189	Cultural Factors	
		0.41	620	256.5	Social Factors	false
		0.44	620	275.28	Economic Factors	
		0.36	620	225.92	Cultural Factors	
			649	273.28	Social Factors	Total
			649	293.71	Economic Factors	
			649	233.29	Cultural Factors	

The results in Table (8) show the following:

1) There were no statistically significant differences at the level of significance (0.05) between the views of the students of the study sample towards the social, economic and cultural factors leading to drug abuse among Iraqi youth and according to the gender variable, where the calculated values of

"P" (1.07) for the field of social factors, and (2.00) for the field of economic factors, and (0.08) for the field of cultural factors, and these values are not statistically significant at the level of significance (0.05), which indicates the convergence of the views of the study sample towards social factors Economic and cultural conducive to drug abuse among Iraqi youth and with different gender variables.

2)	There were no statistically significant differences at the level of significance (0.05) between the views of students from the study sample towards the social, economic and cultural factors leading to drug abuse among Iraqi youth and according to the variable of the type of college, where the calculated values of "P" (0.12) for the field of social factors, and (1.09) for the field of economic factors, and (0.06) for the field of cultural factors, and these values are not statistically significant at the level of significance (0.05), which indicates the convergence of the views of the study sample towards Social, economic and cultural factors leading to drug abuse among Iraqi youth and according to the variable of the type of kidney.

3)	There were no statistically significant differences at the level of significance (0.05) between the views of the students of the study sample towards the social, economic and cultural factors leading to drug abuse among Iraqi youth and according to the variable of the school year, where the calculated values of "P" (1.33) for the field of social factors, and (1.50) for the field of economic factors, and (2.01) for the field of cultural factors, and these values are not statistically significant at the level of significance (0.05), which indicates the convergence of the views of the study sample towards factors Social, economic and cultural conducive to drug abuse among Iraqi youth and according to the variable of the school year for students.

Discussion of results

The results of the study indicated that social factors play a major role in pushing young people towards drug abuse, as the influence and encouragement of friends topped the list of factors with a high average, reflecting the importance of peer pressure and the impact of the social environment in shaping the behaviors of young people, which is consistent with Pandora's social learning theory, which sees individuals acquiring behaviors through observation and imitation within social contexts. The results also showed that the absence of family support and

the exacerbation of family problems are strongly influential factors, which is consistent with Durkheim's Anomie theory, which suggests that loss of belonging and poor family cohesion lead to escape towards unacceptable behaviors such as drug use. Moreover, the results showed that bullying and social exclusion, represented by the use of insulting words and stigmatizing young people, increases the feeling of isolation and frustration, which is confirmed by Durkheim's functional constructivist theory, which believes that poor adaptation to the values of society and the lack of integration between social systems, such as family and school, exacerbate social problems, in addition, the feeling of societal rejection and bullying, through the release of social stigmas such as "addicted", showed a significant impact in promoting addiction, which can be explained by the study of Faustino and Pires (2009), which confirmed that weak social ties and lack of support promote a sense of isolation and marginalization, leading individuals to seek unhealthy alternatives such as drugs.

The results of the study indicate that economic factors play a pivotal role in drug use among young people, with the impact of psychological stress resulting from the lack of suitable job opportunities ranked first at a "high" level. This finding is in line with Durkheim's functional constructivist theory, which holds that poor integration of socioeconomic patterns leads to frustration and loss of purpose, pushing young people to seek unhealthy exits such as drug abuse. The absence of community programs aimed at qualifying young people and helping them build their future, which ranked second, also reflects the importance of the role played by community institutions in preventing this phenomenon, which is confirmed by the same theory that believes that social and economic institutions must interact in an integrated manner to achieve social balance. The results also showed that unemployment and increased leisure time contribute to the promotion of drug use, which is consistent with the study of "Al Hosani" (2020), which confirmed that the absence of fixed income and time space contribute to the engagement of young people in deviant behaviors. In addition, the easy promotion of drugs in areas with difficult economic conditions ranked high, which intersects with the study of "Al-Enezi" (2020), which indicated that these areas represent a fertile environment for the activity of drug traffickers due to weak community and security control. Factors at an "average" level, such as lack of awareness about financial crisis management and weak government support

for the rehabilitation of unemployed youth, are consistent with Hershey's social bonds theory, which suggests that the lack of community commitment and participation weakens social bonds, making young people more vulnerable to delinquency. Faustino and Peres (2009) also support these findings, asserting that the absence of government and social support increases feelings of isolation and marginalization, prompting individuals to seek temporary alternatives to deal with economic pressures, such as drug abuse.

The results of the study indicated that cultural factors play an important role in the spread of drug abuse among young people, as the lack of cultural awareness of the harms of drugs and their negative effects ranked first at a "high" level, reflecting the importance of cultural awareness as a major preventive factor. This finding is in line with Durkheim's functional constructivist theory, which asserts that poor integration between social and cultural patterns leads to deficiencies in adapting to societal values, making young people more likely to adopt deviant behaviors such as drug use. The results also indicated that the tolerance of some local cultures with certain types of drugs contributes to increasing their prevalence among young people, which is supported by the interpretation of social theories, where society's tolerance towards some negative values leads to the disintegration of moral rules, which gives way to dangerous behaviors, and the absence of cultural and artistic activities that occupy the time of young people and develop their skills, which came in third place, reflects the need for a supportive cultural environment that provides young people with positive alternatives. This is consistent with Hershey's theory of social bonds, which asserts that poor participation in cultural and social activities increases the likelihood of young people adopting deviant behaviors. The influence of the media and social media in promoting a positive image of drugs was also "high", highlighting the role of the media in shaping the cultural attitudes of young people, and this finding is consistent with the study of Faustino and Pires (2009), which indicated that poor media guidance can reinforce negative tendencies among young people. On the other hand, the lack of awareness of the values of the family and society, and the lack of cultural dialogue between generations, came at an "average" level, which reflects a cultural gap that affects the identity of young people and pushes them to negative experiences such as drugs, and this interpretation is in line with the study of "Doro et al. (2014), which confirmed that the weakness of cultural and social ties enhances the individual's sense of

isolation, making him more likely to adopt deviant behaviors, and these results reflect the overlap between cultural and social factors in shaping the behaviors of young people in Iraqi society, which highlights the importance of Culture as one of the main factors affecting the phenomenon of drug abuse.

The results of the Multivariate Analysis of Variance Analysis (MANOVA) test showed that there were no statistically significant differences between the views of students in Iraqi universities towards the social, economic, and cultural factors leading to drug abuse with different personal and academic characteristics, including gender, college type, and academic year. In addition, convergence of views reflects a uniform influence of social, economic, and cultural factors on young people's behaviors, which is consistent with the study of Faustino and Pires (2009), which indicated that abuse is influenced more by the social environment than by individual differences. These findings also confirm that drug abuse among Iraqi youth is a holistic problem that requires an integrated treatment that takes into account the cultural, social and economic structure without focusing on individual differences.

Recommendations:

Based on the results of the study, the following recommendations were formulated:

1) Encourage young people to participate in community, sports and cultural activities to strengthen social ties and reduce the time allocated for leisure.

2) Establishing counseling centers in universities to provide psychosocial support to students and guide them towards positive strategies to deal with challenges.

3) Providing vocational training and qualification programs for young people to help them acquire the skills necessary to obtain sustainable job opportunities.

4) Organizing educational campaigns highlighting the negative effects of drugs on the individual and society, and integrating these programs into the school curriculum.

5) Establishing youth centers that provide recreational and artistic activities that attract young people and give them positive alternatives to spend their free time.

6) Develop strict standards to monitor media content and social media sites to prevent the promotion of a positive or sensational image of drug abuse among young people.

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