

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

ScienceDirect

journal homepage: <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/poamed>

Original research article

Early maladaptive schemas, behavioral inhibition system, behavioral approach system, and defense styles in natural drug abusers



Vahid Khosravani^{a,*}, Mohammad Seidisarouei^b, Amin Alvani^c

^a Masters in General Psychology, University of Azarbaijan Shahid Madani, Tabriz, Iran

^b Masters in General Psychology, Islamic Azad University, Marvdasht, Fars, Iran

^c Masters in General Psychology, Islamic Azad University, Arsenjan, Fars, Iran

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 30 August 2015

Received in revised form

22 September 2015

Accepted 15 December 2015

Available online 25 January 2016

Keywords:

Early maladaptive schemas

Behavioral inhibition system

Behavioral approach system

Defense styles

Natural drug

ABSTRACT

Introduction: The early maladaptive schemas (EMSs), behavioral inhibition system (BIS), and behavioral approach system (BAS) can play a role in using defense styles, especially in drug abuse which may be a maladaptive defense style.

Aim: The aim of this study was to examine the relationship between EMS and BIS/BAS with defense styles in the Iranian abusers of natural drug.

Material and methods: In a cross-sectional design, we examined 316 abusers of natural drug (including abusers of opium and opium sap, henbane and marijuana) admitted at Niyayesh addiction treatment clinic in the city of Shiraz, Iran (male – 61.4%, female – 38.6%).

Results and discussion: Correlational analyses revealed that EMSs were correlated positively with both neurotic and immature defense styles, and negatively with mature defense style. Also, BIS and all BAS subscales were related to both neurotic and immature defense styles, and each of BAS subscales was negatively associated with mature defense style. Finally, there were significant sex differences in EMSs, BIS, BAS subscales, and defense styles.

Conclusions: We concluded that the EMSs, excess BIS and BAS subscales are important variables in using maladaptive defense styles and subsequently in tending toward natural drug abuse in the abusers of natural drug.

© 2015 Warmińsko-Mazurska Izba Lekarska w Olsztynie. Published by Elsevier Sp. z o.o. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

Addiction is a state defined by compulsive engagement in rewarding stimuli. Despite adverse consequences, it can be thought of as a disease or biological process leading to such

behaviors.¹ A natural drug is a chemical compound or drug produced by a living organism that is found in nature. Early maladaptive schemas (EMSs) are a sort of belief that people have about themselves, others, and the environments normally derived from dissatisfaction regarding the basic needs, especially emotional needs in the childhood.² When the

* Correspondence to: Alley #2, hafezshomali St., Marvdasht, Fars, Iran. Tel.: +98 9176316056.
E-mail address: vahid.psy@gmail.com (V. Khosravani).

EMSs become active, the levels of released and direct or indirect excitement lead to depression, anxiety, and drug abuse.³ It is believed that drug abuse is one of the coping strategies that the person uses to avoid negative effects of the activated EMSs.⁴

One explanation for why some individuals engage in risky health behaviors while others forgo them, lies with individual differences in sensitivity to cues of reward and punishment.⁵ Researchers have proposed the existence of two separate systems that provide the basis for human action.^{6,7} One incarnation of the dual motivation perspective is reinforcement sensitivity theory (RST).⁸ This theory posits the existence of the behavioral approach system (BAS) and behavioral inhibition system (BIS).⁹ According to Gray's reinforcement sensitivity theory,⁸ BIS represents sensitivity to punishment and BAS denotes sensitivity to reward.¹⁰ BAS includes BAS-fun seeking (BAS-FS), BAS-reward responsiveness (BAS-RR), and BAS-drive (BAS-D).¹¹

Defense styles are unconscious cognitive operations that occur in an unconscious level to minimize sudden changes in both internal and external environments by modifying the conscious experience of thought, feeling, and emotion.¹² These styles are used by individuals to overcome excessive anxiety.¹³ Defense mechanisms are divided into three styles of immature, mature and neurotic.¹⁴

Drug use can be an inefficient way of defense against the negative effects of the EMSs. People with positive schemas are at lower risk of illness because they experience more positive excitations, and when encountering problems, they show more strength at coping.¹⁵ Samkhaniani et al.¹⁶ in their research on individuals with gender identity disorder found that there is a positive significant relationship between the EMSs and immature defense style, and also there is a negative significant association between them and mature style. Young et al.¹⁷ proposed that "eliminating maladaptive coping responses permanently is almost impossible without changing the schemas." Mairet et al.¹⁸ reported that the impact of EMSs on coping strategies is very strong. Young¹⁹ suggests that individuals use cognitive (avoiding thinking about something), emotional (blocking or numbing feelings), behavioral (utilizing escape behaviors, such as drinking alcohol) and/or somatic (experiencing physical symptoms) means to avoid or defend the thoughts, feelings and emotions associated with EMSs. Several studies have shown that there are positive and significant relationships among EMSs and addiction potential.^{20,21}

While studying defense styles in the field of personality, we find that the human's thought is not always rational, based on reality, objective and purposeful. Defense styles which are responsible for protecting us against anxiety, affected by the BAS/BIS, may have normal or abnormal functions. Previous researches showed that there is a relationship between BIS (reversely) and high levels of BAS to the drug abuse.^{5,8,22,23} Franken and Muris,⁵ and Franken et al.²⁴ documented a relationship between BAS-FS and BAS-D to drug use and dependence among addicts. Dawe and Loxton²⁵ showed the role of BAS-D in relation to use rewarding drug. A direct association between the BIS and BAS subscales with drug abuse has been shown.²⁴ Atashkar et al.²⁶ in their study on students concluded that BAS components have a significant

positive relation to mature style and they have a significant negative correlation with neurotic and immature styles. Also they showed that BIS has a significant negative association with mature style and a significant positive relation to immature style.

Evidence suggests that the physiology and epidemiology of drug abuse between women and men is somewhat different.²⁷ Previous studies in the field of addiction have shown that in relation to gender, males earned higher scores on the BAS and females on the BIS scales.²⁸ Regarding gender differences in EMSs, the research results showed that women scored significantly higher than men on EMSs.²⁰ In the application of defense styles in men and women, the study has shown that men and women differ in their use of defense styles.²⁹

2. Aim

The purpose of this study was to assess the relationship between EMS and BIS/BAS with defense styles in the abusers of natural drug since August 2014 to May 2015. The aim was realized through searching answers to the following hypotheses:

- (1) There are significant correlations between EMSs, BIS, and BAS subscales with defense styles in the abusers of natural drug.
- (2) There are significant differences between the means of EMSs, BIS, BAS subscales, and defense styles in males and females as the abusers of natural drug.

3. Material and methods

3.1. Study design

This was a cross-sectional study of a sample of general population of Iranian drug abusers. The sample was selected among the abusers of a natural drug referred to Niyayesh addiction treatment clinic in Shiraz, Iran.

3.2. Participants

This was a study of natural drug abusers ($N = 316$, 194 males and 122 females; mean age 33, SD 6.03, age range 16–56), conducted from August 2014 to May 2015 on the Iranian drug abusers including abusers of opium and opium sap, henbane and marijuana, referred to the addiction treatment clinic of Niyayesh in Shiraz, Iran. Participants agreed to attend the study and filled out and signed the informed consent forms. The characteristics of the participants are presented in [Table 1](#).

Participants were invited to take part in the research in the addiction treatment clinic of Niyayesh, and they willingly participated in the study. The investigators had permission from a specialist of addictive behaviors and asked the addictive patients for their consent. The inclusion criteria of participants in this study included using drug for at least one year, defining the drug used, and neither having neither mental disorders nor the background. All diagnostic criteria

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/2678594>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/2678594>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)