



Self-concept mediate the relationship between childhood maltreatment and abstinence motivation as well as self-efficacy among drug addicts



Feng-Ying Lu^a, Si Wen^b, Gang Deng^c, Yung-Lung Tang^{a,*}

^a Faculty of Psychology, Southwest University, Chongqing 400715, China

^b ADAPT Lab, Development Psychology, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

^c Ziyangsihuan Drug Abuse Treatment Center, Sichuan, China

HIGHLIGHTS

- Childhood maltreatment was negatively associated with self-concept, self-efficacy, and abstinence motivation.
- Self-concept mediated the relationship between childhood maltreatment and abstinence motivation as well as self-efficacy.
- Self-concept mediated the relationship between specific forms of maltreatment and abstinence motivation.

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 27 October 2016

Received in revised form 2 January 2017

Accepted 4 January 2017

Available online 6 January 2017

Keywords:

Childhood maltreatment

Self-concept

Self-efficacy

Abstinence motivation

ABSTRACT

Objective: Childhood maltreatment is widely accepted as a risk factor for drug addiction from adolescence to adulthood. However, the influence of childhood maltreatment on drug treatment related variables, such as drug abstinence motivation and self-concept, as well as self-efficacy, remains unclear. This study aims at exploring whether self-concept mediates the relationship between childhood maltreatment and abstinence motivation, as well as self-efficacy, among drug addicts.

Methods: This study involves 816 (550 males, 226 females, mean age = 34.59, range = 16–58 years) drug addicts from compulsory detoxification units. Participants completed questionnaires, including the childhood trauma questionnaire 28 - item short form (CTQ - SF), Tennessee self-concept scale (TSCS), general self-efficacy scale (GSES), and drug abstinence motivation questionnaire (DAMQ).

Results: The structural equation model (SEM) analysis, including total and specific forms of maltreatment scores, showed that childhood maltreatment was negatively associated with self-concept, self-efficacy, and abstinence motivation. Self-concept was positively associated with self-efficacy and abstinence motivation. Conversely, significant association between self-efficacy and abstinence motivation did not exist. An indirect analysis showed that self-concept mediated the relationship between childhood maltreatment and self-efficacy. Critically, self-concept arbitrated the relationship between childhood maltreatment and abstinence motivation. The indirect effect of self-concept between childhood maltreatment and abstinence motivation still existed when the total scores of maltreatment were replaced by the scores of specific forms of maltreatment.

Conclusions: These results demonstrated that self-concept is a critical factor in understanding the relationship between childhood maltreatment and abstinence motivation, as well as self-efficacy, among drug addicts. Improving the sense of self-worth may be an effective intervention therapy among drug addicts with childhood maltreatment history.

© 2017 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

Childhood is the most critical part of the life of an individual in terms of emotional and cognitive development. Childhood maltreatment, including physical, emotional, and sexual abuses, and neglect, is a strong risk factor for psychiatric disorders across the human lifespan (Norman

et al., 2012). Increasing evidence showed that childhood maltreatment has several adverse psychological and behavioral consequences, such as anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, conduct disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (Gilbert et al., 2009; Hussey, Chang, & Kotch, 2006; Runyan, Wattam, Ikeda, Hassan, & Ramiro, 2002), drug abuse, and drug addiction (Donohue, Romero, & Hill, 2006; Hadland et al., 2012; Kilpatrick et al., 2000; Longman-Mills et al., 2013; Rosenkranz, Muller, & Henderson, 2012; Tripodi & Pettus-Davis, 2013). The experience of childhood maltreatment is established to

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: tyl57525@126.com (Y.-L. Tang).

cause the increasing rate of drug addiction (Herrenkohl, Hong, Klika, Herrenkohl, & Russo, 2013). However, it is unclear how childhood maltreatment impact on drug treatment related variables, such as drug abstinence motivation, which have been considered as an effective factor in predicting drug treatment outcomes (Gregoire & Burke, 2004; Longshore & Teruya, 2006).

1.1. Childhood maltreatment and treatment related factors

Previous studies have investigated the association between childhood maltreatment and treatment related variables among drug addicts; however, results were inconsistent. Studies showed that adolescents with a history of maltreatment were positively associated with an awareness of the problem of drug abuse and a strengthened engagement in drug treatment (Rosenkranz, Henderson, Muller, & Goodman, 2012). However, other researchers argued that adolescents with a history of physical abuse need more treatment admission services and have a low likelihood of post-treatment abstinence (Grella & Joshi, 2003). Cocaine-dependent women with a history of physical abuse have a significantly lower reduction in the severity of withdrawal symptoms than those without a history of physical abuse (Francke, Viola, Tractenberg, & Grassi-Oliveira, 2013). Furthermore, a study explored the association between childhood maltreatment and abstinence motivation, and the result suggested that emotional abuse contributed to the motivation for treatment among girls in compulsory residential treatment facilities (Leenarts, Hoeve, Van de Ven, Lodewijks, & Doreleijers, 2013). However, whether a significant association between childhood maltreatment and abstinence motivation exists among drug addicts remains unclear.

1.2. Self-efficacy and abstinence motivation

Relapse prevention theory considers drug abuse as one of the maladjusted lifestyles, and treatment should improve the self-efficacy of drug addicts in building a healthy adaptive lifestyle (Hendershot, Witkiewitz, George, & Marlatt, 2011). Self-efficacy improves drug treatment outcomes (Greenfield, Venner, Kelly, Slaymaker, & Bryan, 2012; Kadden & Litt, 2011; Kelly & Greene, 2014). A high level of self-efficacy results in a low rate of relapse (Pelissier & Jones, 2006). The motivation to change is positively related to abstinence self-efficacy during drug treatment (Majer, Olson, & Jason, 2015). Abstinence self-efficacy and recovery motivation are interactions that predict drug treatment outcomes (Kelly & Greene, 2014). These findings demonstrate a strong association between abstinence self-efficacy and abstinence motivation. Furthermore, previous studies have investigated specific areas of self-efficacy, such as abstinence self-efficacy (Cropsey et al., 2014; Maisto et al., 2015; Majer et al., 2015). However, limited attention has been given to the association between general self-efficacy and abstinence motivation among drug addicts.

1.3. Childhood maltreatment and self-efficacy

General self-efficacy is an overall sense of perceived self-efficacy to cope with daily hassles stresses and adapt after experiencing all kinds of stressful life events (Zhang & Schwarzer, 1995). Self-efficacy heightens with successes and lowers with repeated failures (Bandura, 1982). Childhood maltreatment is related to low self-efficacy among older adults (Sachs-Ericsson, Medley, Kendall-Tackett, & Taylor, 2011). Furthermore, Kim and Cicchetti (2003) demonstrated that the association of childhood maltreatment and self-efficacy is inconsistent in different ages; younger abused children (<8 years) had higher levels of self-efficacy than non-abused children when met with conflicting situations, but this phenomenon was not observed in older children (>8 years). The authors noted that younger children overestimated their own self-efficacy, and older children could assess their own capabilities more accurately. Hence, self-assessment, such as self-concept, is essential in explaining the association between childhood maltreatment and self-efficacy.

1.4. The central role of self-concept

Self-concept is an essential part of the cognitive system of individuals and is involved in regulating ongoing behaviors (Markus & Wurf, 2003). The looking-glass self theory implies that people shape their self-concept based on their understanding of how others perceive them (Cooley, 1992). People with childhood maltreatment history lose necessary support from others in developing their sense of self-worth (Coates, Dinger, Donovan, & Phares, 2013), which partially account for the relation between childhood maltreatment and negative self-concepts (Sachs-Ericsson et al., 2011). Furthermore, the psychosocial development theory of Erikson asserts that self-concept changes because of the new experiences and information that individuals acquire from interactions with others. Children need to develop autonomy, initiative, industry, and identity while avoiding doubt, guilt, authority, and role confusion (Marcia & Josselson, 2013). Support, encouragement, and praise from others are essential in building mental health in children. By contrast, children may feel unpopular and worthless because of childhood maltreatment experience, which has a negative impact on their mentality.

Previous studies have agreed that childhood maltreatment has a negative relationship with self-concept (Devi, Anand, & Shekhar, 2013; Flynn, Cicchetti, & Rogosch, 2014; Gesinde, 2011; Lope & Heffer, 1998). Self-concept is positively related to motivation (Barnett, Vondra, & Shonk, 1996; Downey, Rosengren, & Donovan, 2000) and self-efficacy (Choi, 2005; Tabassam & Grainger, 2002). However, studies on the association among childhood maltreatment, self-concept, self-efficacy, and abstinence motivation among drug addicts are limited. Furthermore, whether self-concept plays a key role in explaining the effect of childhood maltreatment on self-efficacy and abstinence motivation among drug addicts is an area that needs further study.

1.5. Current study

Although association has been found between childhood maltreatment and abstinence motivation, the mechanism underlying this relationship has not been clearly explained. Therefore, the present study aims at exploring the direct or indirect relationships among childhood maltreatment, self-concept, self-efficacy, and abstinence motivation among drug addicts. This study hypothesizes that significant associations among childhood maltreatment, self-concept, self-efficacy, and drug abstinence motivation exist. Because the critical role of self-concept in explaining the association between childhood maltreatment and self-efficacy and abstinence motivation. This study further expects that self-concept mediates the relationship between childhood maltreatment and abstinence motivation; and self-concept also mediates the relationship between childhood maltreatment and self-efficacy.

In addition, previous studies have showed that specific forms of maltreatment in childhood lead to different outcomes (Authors, 2010; Infurna et al., 2016). The different roles of the specific forms of maltreatment should be established from the total scores of maltreatment in producing a general vulnerability toward negative self-concept, self-efficacy, and abstinence motivation among drug addicts. Therefore, this study further tests the direct and indirect associations among the specific forms of maltreatment, self-concept, self-efficacy, and abstinence motivation. This study further explores whether self-concept mediates the relationship among the specific forms of maltreatment and abstinence motivation.

2. Methods

2.1. Participants

Convenience samples were conducted among 816 (550 males, 226 females, mean age = 34.59, range = 16–58) drug addicts recruited from two compulsory detoxification units of Chongqing Province, China. The

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/5037743>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/5037743>

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