

# “Attitude of Senior Secondary School Students towards Drugs and Alcohol in Relation to Family Pathology”

Amandeep

B.Ed, M.A.(History), M.Ed., UGC NET(JRF), M.Phil,  
Assit Prof., Lala Jagat Naryan Education College, (NAAC ‘A’ Grade College) Jalalabad (West) Dist. Fazilka

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## ABSTRACT

In our day-to-day life we saw many problems in our society dowry, corruption, and unemployment are some of the major problems. Drug abuse is also one of them. There are different reasons why people get addicted. Some people start taking them because of pure curiosity, others to improve their athletic performance or reduce stress and get rid of depression. Many people take drugs to take relief from daily routine problems and workload. In our country, there is a problem of unemployment so youth adopt these wrong ways to take relief from their problem. Most people take drugs to take relief from family problems. Drug abuse refers to the regular intake of substance which is dangerous to our health. These substances vary from prescribed medicines, and alcohol, to drugs such as heroin. The evil is increasing day by day in the place like hotels and the campus of the university and technical and professional institutions where a number of students are freely using Ganja, Heroin, Smack or brown sugar, etc. No doubts drug has been used by mankind from the very beginning but for medical purpose. But these days, they are beings used by our young generation. Sometimes our young boys and girls take drugs to escape from pain but most of the time to take drugs when they meet with their friends. So, after some time they become addicted to these bad habits. Because in these days most people live in a nuclear family both father and mother are doing the job and they do not give proper time to their children. So, they give a lot of money to fulfill their wishes but with this money, they take drugs to escape from loneliness.

**Keywords:** Family Pathology, Emotional Instability, Genetic Predisposition, Neglect, Abuse, Dysfunction.

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## FAMILY PATHOLOGY

Family pathology refers to dysfunctional patterns, behaviors, or characteristics within a family system that disrupts its members' healthy functioning and well-being. It refers to a range of negative dynamics, conflicts, and maladaptive behaviors that can occur within a family, leading to emotional, psychological, or social problems. Family pathology can manifest in various forms, including but not limited to:

- **Parental Substance Abuse:** The presence of substance abuse or addiction issues within the parent(s) or caregiver(s) in the family. This can include alcohol, illicit drugs, or prescription medication misuse, leading to impaired parenting, instability, and disrupted family dynamics.
- **Poor Communication:** Inadequate or ineffective communication patterns within the family, characterized by a lack of open and honest dialogue, emotional expression, active listening, and constructive conflict resolution. This can hinder the development of healthy relationships and contribute to misunderstandings and misinterpretations.
- **Parental role modeling:** Children often learn behaviors by observing and imitating their parents or other significant family members. If parents have a history of substance abuse or display unhealthy attitudes toward drugs and alcohol, students may be more likely to develop similar attitudes.
- **Emotional instability:** Family pathology can create an environment characterized by emotional instability, stress, and conflict. Students who experience high levels of stress or emotional turmoil within their families may turn to drugs and alcohol as a coping mechanism or a means of self-medication.
- **Family Conflict:** Frequent or intense conflicts, disputes, and hostility between family members. This can involve verbal, emotional, or physical aggression and create a tense and stressful environment within the family.

- **Genetic predisposition:** Certain genetic factors can contribute to both family pathology and increased susceptibility to substance abuse. Students may inherit a genetic predisposition to addictive behaviors, making them more vulnerable to developing substance use problems.
- **Neglect and Abuse:** Neglect refers to the failure of parents or caregivers to provide basic physical, emotional, or psychological needs, such as food, shelter, love, and support. Abuse can encompass physical, sexual, or emotional mistreatment, resulting in harm, trauma, and long-term negative consequences for the affected individuals.
- **Family Instability:** Unstable or changing family structures, such as frequent separations, divorces, remarriages, or blended families. These transitions can disrupt family routines, stability, and the formation of secure attachments
- **Dysfunction and instability:** Family pathology may involve instability, such as frequent changes in family structure, high levels of conflict or violence, substance abuse, or neglect. These unstable conditions can have a negative impact on the emotional and psychological well-being of family members.
- **Role confusion:** In families with pathology, roles, and boundaries may be unclear or distorted. For example, a parent may behave more like a child, leading to a role reversal where the child takes on adult responsibilities. This confusion can disrupt the balance and functioning within the family.
- **Enmeshment and disengagement:** Enmeshment refer to an unhealthy level of emotional closeness and over involvement within the family, where individual members have difficulty establishing their own identities. Disengagement, on the other hand, refers to emotional distance and detachment among family members, resulting in a lack of support and connection.
- **Substance abuse and addiction:** Family pathology may be characterized by the presence of substance abuse or addiction issues. These problems can disrupt family dynamics, trust, and the overall well-being of family members.
- **Intergenerational patterns:** Family pathology can be passed down through generations, with negative patterns and behaviors being repeated. Unresolved issues from previous generations can contribute to ongoing dysfunction within the family.

Family pathology can have significant impacts on the psychological, emotional, and behavioral well-being of children and adolescents. It can contribute to the development of negative attitudes towards drugs and alcohol as a coping mechanism or escape from the challenges and stressors within the family environment. Understanding the role of family pathology in shaping attitudes towards drugs and alcohol is crucial for prevention and intervention efforts to address substance abuse issues among senior secondary school students. Understanding the impact of family pathology on students' attitudes toward drugs and alcohol is essential for developing targeted interventions and support systems within educational settings. By addressing the underlying family issues and providing appropriate guidance and resources, educators, counselors, and other professionals can help mitigate the negative effects of family pathology and promote healthier attitudes and behaviors among students.

### **Substance Abuse Among Senior Secondary School Students**

The attitudes of senior secondary school students towards drugs and alcohol can vary significantly depending on various factors, including family pathology and substance abuse among adolescents. Family pathology refers to dysfunctional patterns within a family, such as marital conflicts, parental substance abuse, domestic violence, or neglect, which can have a profound impact on children's attitudes and behaviors.

**Increased Vulnerability:** Adolescents growing up in families with substance abuse or other forms of family pathology may be at a higher risk of developing negative attitudes towards drugs and alcohol. They may witness the negative consequences of substance abuse firsthand, leading to a heightened awareness of its detrimental effects. This exposure can increase their vulnerability to substance abuse.

**Resistance or Avoidance:** On the other hand, some adolescents may develop a strong aversion or resistance to substance abuse due to the negative experiences they observe within their families. They may actively seek to distance themselves from drugs and alcohol as a way to avoid replicating the destructive patterns they have witnessed.

**Normalization:** In certain cases, family pathology can lead to a normalization of substance abuse within the family unit. If adolescents grow up in an environment where drug or alcohol use is widespread and accepted, they may develop more permissive attitudes towards substance abuse. They may view it as a typical behavior or coping mechanism, making them more susceptible to experimentation or regular use.

**Emotional Coping:** Adolescents who experience family pathology, such as parental substance abuse, may turn to drugs or alcohol as a means of coping with their emotional distress or as a form of escape. In such cases, their attitudes towards substance abuse may be influenced by their need for emotional relief rather than by a positive or negative perception of drugs and alcohol.

**Prevention and Intervention:** Recognizing the influence of family pathology on adolescent attitudes towards substance abuse is crucial for implementing effective prevention and intervention strategies. Targeted efforts should focus on providing support systems, education, and counseling services to both adolescents and their families. By addressing family issues, promoting healthy coping mechanisms, and raising awareness of the risks associated with substance abuse, it is possible to positively impact the attitudes of senior secondary school students towards drugs and alcohol.

It is important to note that while family pathology can be a significant factor in shaping attitudes towards drugs and alcohol among senior secondary school students, individual characteristics, peer influence, school environment, and societal factors also play essential roles in determining adolescent substance abuse patterns. Substance abuse among adolescents refers to the excessive or problematic use of substances such as drugs and alcohol by individuals in the senior secondary school students age range. It is a significant public health concern as it can have serious short-term and long-term consequences on the physical, mental, and social well-being of young individuals. Understanding the patterns, factors, and impacts of substance abuse among adolescents is crucial for effective prevention, intervention, and support strategies.

**Prevalence and Trends:** Research indicates that substance abuse among senior secondary school students is a widespread issue. It encompasses the use of various substances, including alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, prescription medications, and illicit drugs. Prevalence rates can vary across different regions and populations, and there may be fluctuations in trends over time.

**Risk Factors:** Several factors contribute to the increased likelihood of substance abuse among senior secondary school students, including:

- **Individual Factors:** Certain individual characteristics, such as a tendency towards risk-taking behavior, sensation-seeking, low self-esteem, and mental health issues like anxiety or depression, may increase vulnerability to substance abuse.
- **Family Factors:** Family dynamics, parental substance abuse, poor parental monitoring, lack of parental support and involvement, inconsistent discipline, and a history of family substance abuse can contribute to higher substance abuse rates among senior secondary school students.
- **Peer Influences:** Peer pressure, social norms, and association with substance-using peers can significantly influence senior secondary school students' attitudes towards and engagement in substance abuse.
- **Environmental Factors:** Factors such as easy access to substances, exposure to substance use in the community, socioeconomic status, and cultural influences can impact the prevalence of substance abuse among senior secondary school students.

**Consequences:** Substance abuse among senior secondary school students can have detrimental effects on various aspects of their lives, including:

- **Physical Consequences:** Substance abuse can lead to short-term effects such as impaired coordination, increased risk of accidents and injuries, and long-term health issues like organ damage, addiction, and increased vulnerability to other health problems.
- **Mental and Emotional Consequences:** Substance abuse can contribute to the development or exacerbation of mental health disorders, including anxiety, depression, and substance use disorders. It can also impair cognitive functioning and academic performance.
- **Social Consequences:** Substance abuse can negatively impact relationships with family, friends, and peers. It can lead to social isolation, strained relationships, academic difficulties, legal problems, and involvement in risky behaviors.

Understanding the complex factors contributing to substance abuse among adolescents is essential for implementing effective prevention programs, and early intervention strategies, and providing support and treatment to those who are already engaged in substance abuse. By addressing these factors and promoting healthy coping mechanisms, positive peer influences, and supportive family environments, efforts can be made to reduce substance abuse rates and mitigate its consequences among senior secondary school students.

#### **Factors Influencing Substance Abuse Attitudes**

Several factors can influence the attitudes of senior secondary school students towards drugs and alcohol in relation to family pathology. These factors can be categorized into individual, social, and environmental influences. Understanding these factors is crucial for developing effective prevention and intervention strategies. Some key factors include:

### Individual Factors:

**Personality Traits:** Certain personality traits, such as sensation-seeking, impulsivity, and risk-taking tendencies, can increase the likelihood of developing positive attitudes toward substance use.

**Self-Esteem:** Low self-esteem can contribute to seeking validation and acceptance through substance use, leading to more positive attitudes towards drugs and alcohol.

**Coping Mechanisms:** Individuals with poor coping skills and struggle to manage stress and negative emotions may be more inclined to use substances to cope, thereby influencing their attitudes towards substance abuse.

### Social Factors:

- **Peer Influence:** Peers play a significant role in shaping attitudes towards substance abuse. Positive peer norms and the pressure to fit in with a substance-using peer group can influence an individual's attitudes and behavior regarding drugs and alcohol.
- **Social Norms:** Cultural and societal norms regarding substance use can influence attitudes. Perceived social approval or acceptance of substance use can impact an individual's own attitudes toward drugs and alcohol.
- **Media and Advertising:** Media portrayal of substance use, including glamorization or normalization of drug and alcohol use, can shape attitudes and perceptions among senior secondary school students.

### Family Factors:

- **Parental Attitudes and Behavior:** Parental attitudes towards substance use and their own behavior can significantly influence the attitudes of their children. Positive parental attitudes towards substance use or parental substance abuse can contribute to more favorable attitudes among senior secondary school students.
- **Family Communication:** Open and honest communication within the family about substance use and its consequences can help shape more negative attitudes towards drugs and alcohol.
- **Parental Monitoring:** Adequate parental monitoring and involvement in a child's life can reduce the likelihood of developing positive attitudes towards substance abuse.

### Environmental Factors:

- **School Environment:** School policies, prevention programs, and the presence of substance-using peers in school can influence attitudes towards substance abuse.
- **Community Factors:** The availability and accessibility of drugs and alcohol within the community can impact attitudes towards substance use.

It is important to recognize that these factors do not operate independently but interact and influence each other. A comprehensive understanding of these factors and their interplay can help in developing targeted interventions and prevention strategies to address substance abuse attitudes among senior secondary school students.

### Role of family pathology in shaping attitudes towards drugs and Alcohol

Family pathology plays a significant role in shaping the attitudes of senior secondary school students towards drugs and alcohol. The dysfunctional dynamics and negative experiences within the family can influence how senior secondary school students perceive and approach substance use. Here are some ways in which family pathology can impact attitudes toward drugs and alcohol:

- **Parental Substance Abuse:** When parents or caregivers in the family struggle with substance abuse or addiction, it can normalize and normalize substance use within the family environment. Senior secondary school students may be exposed to the direct effects of substance abuse, witnessing their parents' behavior and attitudes toward drugs and alcohol. This exposure can shape their own attitudes and perceptions, leading to a higher acceptance and positive view of substance use.
- **Modeling Behavior:** Children often model their behavior based on what they observe in their family environment. If they witness family members engaging in substance abuse, such as excessive alcohol consumption or illicit drug use, they are more likely to develop permissive attitudes towards drugs and alcohol. They may view substance use as a normative behavior or as a way to cope with stress or problems, thereby increasing their risk of adopting similar attitudes and behaviors.
- **Emotional Environment:** Family pathology characterized by emotional instability, neglect, or abuse can shape attitudes towards drugs and alcohol. In an unhealthy family environment, students may experience emotional distress, low self-esteem, or a lack of support. This can make them more vulnerable to seeking solace or escape through substance use, which may lead to more permissive attitudes.
- **Lack of Boundaries and Discipline:** In families where there is a lack of structure, discipline, or consistent boundaries, students may develop more permissive attitudes towards drugs and alcohol. The absence of

clear rules and consequences can contribute to a lack of understanding about the potential risks associated with substance abuse, thereby fostering permissive attitudes.

- **Interactions with Siblings and Extended Family:** Family pathology can extend beyond the immediate household to include interactions with siblings and extended family members. If older siblings or family members engage in substance abuse, students may perceive it as acceptable or normal behavior, leading to the development of more permissive attitudes towards drugs and alcohol.
- **Family Communication Patterns:** Family communication patterns significantly influence attitudes towards drugs and alcohol. In families with poor communication, there may be a lack of open and honest discussions about substance use, its risks, and its consequences. This lack of communication can contribute to a lack of awareness or understanding of the potential harms associated with substance abuse. Conversely, families with healthy communication patterns that foster an open dialogue and provide accurate information about drugs and alcohol can shape more negative attitudes and a better understanding of the risks involved.
- **Family Conflict:** High levels of family conflict, hostility, and tension can create an emotionally distressing environment for adolescents. Substance use may be used as a coping mechanism or a way to escape from the stress and conflict within the family. In such cases, attitudes towards drugs and alcohol may become more positive as adolescents perceive them as a means of relief or a way to cope with challenging family dynamics.
- **Neglect and Abuse:** Adolescents who have experienced neglect or abuse within the family may develop negative self-perceptions and emotional difficulties. Substance use may be seen as a way to self-medicate or numb the pain associated with the neglect or abuse, they have experienced. Family pathology characterized by neglect or abuse can contribute to more positive attitudes towards drugs and alcohol as a maladaptive coping mechanism.
- **Family Structure and Stability:** Family structure and stability play a role in shaping attitudes towards substance use. Families with unstable structures, such as frequent changes in caregivers, separations, or remarriages, may experience disruptions in routine, boundaries, and emotional support. This instability can contribute to higher acceptance of substance use and more positive attitudes among senior secondary school students.

It is important to note that family pathology does not determine an individual's attitudes toward drugs and alcohol. Multiple factors, including individual characteristics and external influences, interact with family dynamics to shape attitudes. Nonetheless, understanding the role of family pathology is crucial for developing targeted interventions and support systems to address substance abuse attitudes among senior secondary school students and promote healthier family environments.

It's important to recognize that family pathology does not guarantee negative attitudes or substance abuse in every case. Individual resilience, external influences, and access to supportive resources can also play a significant role in shaping attitudes towards drugs and alcohol. Addressing family pathology and promoting healthy family dynamics can contribute to the development of more informed, responsible, and negative attitudes towards substance use.

### Significance of the Study

Understanding the attitudes of senior secondary school students towards drugs and alcohol in relation to family pathology is crucial for developing effective preventive measures and interventions to address substance abuse issues. The study on the attitude of senior secondary school students towards drugs and alcohol in relation to family pathology is significant for several reasons:

**Understanding the Impact of Family Pathology:** Family plays a crucial role in the development and upbringing of adolescents. Family pathology refers to dysfunctional family dynamics, such as parental substance abuse, domestic violence, or neglect. Investigating the relationship between family pathology and students' attitudes towards drugs and alcohol can provide insights into how these adverse family environments influence their perception of substance use.

**Prevention and Intervention Strategies:** By examining the attitudes of senior secondary school students towards drugs and alcohol, researchers can identify risk factors associated with family pathology that contribute to positive attitudes towards substance use. This information is valuable for developing targeted prevention and intervention strategies to address these attitudes and reduce the likelihood of substance abuse among senior secondary school students.

**Holistic Approach to Substance Abuse Prevention:** The study recognizes that individual attitudes towards drugs and alcohol are not formed in isolation but are influenced by various factors, including the family environment. By considering the impact of family pathology, the study takes a holistic approach to understanding substance abuse and highlights the importance of addressing family-related issues as part of prevention efforts.



**Informing Family-Based Interventions:** Findings from this study can provide valuable insights for designing family-based interventions aimed at reducing substance abuse among senior secondary school students. Understanding the specific aspects of family pathology that contribute to positive attitudes towards drugs and alcohol can guide the development of interventions that target these underlying factors and promote healthier family environments.

**Policy and School Programs:** The study's findings can also inform policymakers and educators in developing policies and school programs that address family pathology and its impact on students' attitudes towards drugs and alcohol. It can lead to the implementation of initiatives that promote awareness, education, and support for families experiencing these challenges, ultimately fostering a healthier and more positive environment for students.

### **Operational Definitions**

**Attitude:** Attitude means behavior towards anyone or anything. In the present study, it means the behavior of the senior secondary school students toward drugs and alcohol.

**Senior secondary students:** Senior secondary school students are those students who are enrolled in 10th and 12th classes.

**Drugs:** A drug is a medicine if we take in a few amounts. But if we take in an excess amount it is harmful to our body.

**Alcohol:** Alcohol is a chemical substance. It does not only affect humans physically but mentally also.

**Family pathology:** the extent to which maladaptive behavior is present amongst the family members in their interaction with parents and children.

### **Statement of the Problem:**

The Aim Of This Study Is To Investigate The Attitude Of Senior Secondary School Students Towards Drugs And Alcohol In Relation To Family Pathology.

### **Delimitations of the Study**

The study will be delimited to 200 senior secondary students of Tehsil Jagraon of District. The study will be delimited to 200 senior secondary students of Tehsil Jagraon of District Ludhiana of Punjab.

### **Objectives of the study**

1. To study the difference in the attitude of Senior Secondary school students towards drugs and alcohol among rural and urban areas.
2. To study the difference in the attitude of senior secondary school students towards drugs and alcohol among boys and girls.
3. To find out the relationship between the attitude of senior secondary school students towards drugs and alcohol in relation to family pathology.

### **Hypothesis**

1. There will be no significant difference in the attitude of senior secondary school students toward drugs and alcohol in rural and urban areas.
2. There will be no significant difference in the attitude of senior secondary school students towards drugs and alcohol among boys and girls.
3. There will be no significant relationship between the attitude of senior secondary school students toward drugs and alcohol in relation to family pathology

## **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

- (Gonzales et al., 2017). Senior secondary school students are characterized by high psychosocial vulnerability.
- (Johnston et al., 2017, 2018). In this perspective, the family system assumes the role of protective or risk factors, especially referring to the family climate, communication, and parental support. According to this perspective, it is important to consider the meaning that risky behaviors could have for adolescents, especially in the study of delinquency and substance abuse conduct, which often involve young people.
- (Hatano et al., 2018). It is a specific moment of the development of young people engaging in a great deal of personal and interpersonal exploration to understand themselves, their significant others, and their social world. Concomitantly, many physical, behavioral, and cognitive changes occur in the teenage years.

Moreover, risk-taking behavior is common and is often associated with the engagement in unlawful acts and conducts.

- **(Kpae, 2019)**..Substance abuse could be described “as a maladaptive pattern of drug use leading to clinically significant impairment or distress”

**Tools**

For each and every type of research, certain instruments are needed to gather new facts and explore new areas. The instruments employed as means are called tools. The selection of suitable tools for collecting various kinds of information for various purposes is an important task for researchers. The research worker may use one or more tools in combination for this purpose. The selection of an appropriate tool for a particular study was upon considerations such as the objectives of the study, the amount of time at the investigator's disposal, the availability of tests, to secure and interpret the result, and the like. For the present study researcher will use the following tools:

- Alcohol and Drug Attitude Scale by Sunil Saini and Sandeep Singh. The scale consists of 28 items and it is standardized on the Age range of 16-19 years boys & girls.
- Family Pathology Seale by V Veeraraghavan and A. Dogra. This scale indicates the extent to which maladaptive behavior is present amongst the family members in their interaction with each other i.e., between spouses and between parents and children. 42 items are responded by the subjects under three response alternatives. It was standardized on 200 married couples.

**Statistical Techniques Used in the Study**

Statistical techniques were employed for the analysis and interpretation of data Mean, SD and t-tests will be used.

**To study the Attitude of Senior Secondary School Students towards Alcohol and Drugs with respect to the family pathology of senior secondary school students.**

The study was to study the Attitude of Senior Secondary School Students towards Alcohol and Drugs and to study family pathology. In order to achieve the objective, the mean, standard deviation, and percentile were applied.

**Table 1.1:- The Attitude of Senior Secondary School Students Towards Alcohol and Drugs.**

Levels of Alcohol and Drugs Attitude	Range of Scores	Number of Students	Percentage
Positive (Favourable)	77 & above	75	25%
Average	76-51	146	48,7%
Negative (Unfavourable)	50 & below	79	26.3%

The above table 1.1 shows the percentile criteria of  $P_{25}$  and  $P_{75}$ . The shows range of scores of favorable levels of Alcohol and Drugs Attitude is 77& above (N=75) and the percentage of the sample is 25%. Then the average level of Alcohol and Drugs ranged between 76-51 and the (N=146) percentage of the sample in this range is 48.7%. Moreover, level of Alcohol and Drugs Attitude is ranges from 50 & below and the (N=79) percentage of the sample is 26.3%.

**Table1. 2:- Showing Group Wise Mean Score of Alcohol and Drug Attitude.**

Groups	N	MEAN	Interpretation
All Secondary School Students	300	62.95	Average
FEMALE	160	55.81	Average
MALE	140	71.06	Average
URBAN	145	65.11	Average
RURAL	155	60.89	Average

NUCLEAR	175	62.78	Average
JOINT FAMILY	125	63.14	Average

Table 1.2: Illustrates the mean score of all 300 secondary school students regards to their attitude toward alcohol and drugs accounting for 62.93. The mean score of 160 females and 140 males is 55.81 and 71.06, respectively. Moreover, the mean score of 145 urban amounted to 65.11 and of 155 rural is observed to be 60.89. In the case of the type of families, the mean score of 175 adolescents belonging to a nuclear family and a joint family is 62.78 and 63.14, respectively.

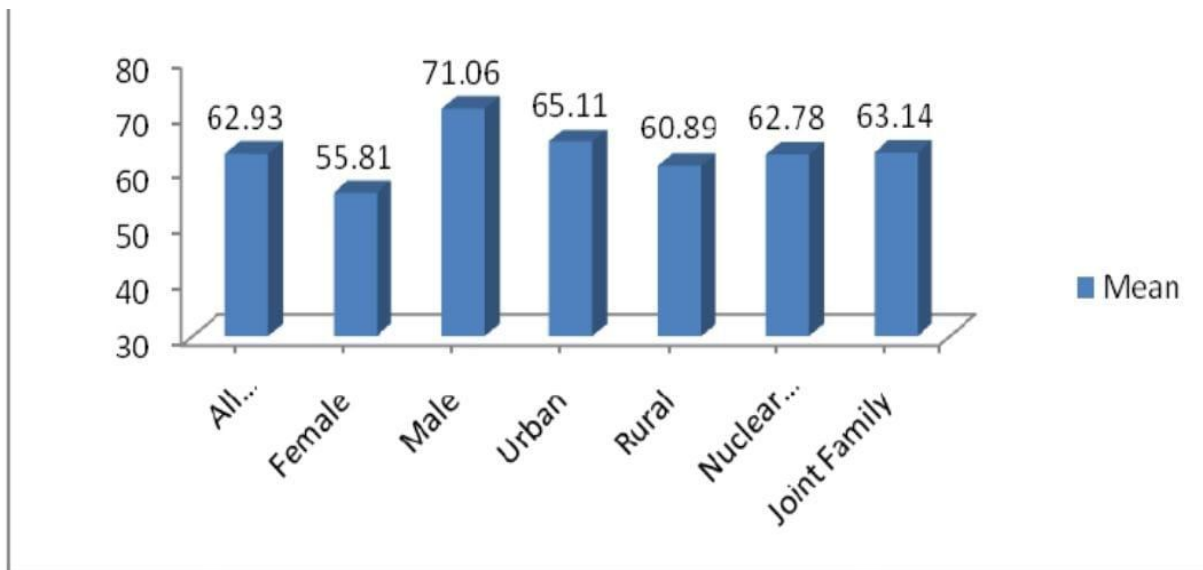


Fig1: Showing Group Wise Mean Score of Alcohol and Drug Attitude

The graphical representation of the mean score of all 300 secondary school students regards to their attitude towards alcohol and drugs accounted for 62.93. The mean score of 160 females and 140 males is 55.81 and 71.06, respectively. So, males are more likely to indulge in alcohol and drugs. Moreover, the mean score of 145 urban amounted on 65.11 and of 155 rural is observed to be 60.89, showing the higher preference of urban toward alcohol and drugs. The meanscore of 62.78 for nuclear families is 63.14 for adolescents belonging to joint families

## 1.2 Hypotheses testing

**Objective 1:- To find out the difference in the Attitude of Senior Secondary School Students toward Alcohol and Drugs with respect to Residential Background.**

The first objective of the study was to find out the difference in the Attitude of Senior Secondary School Students towards Alcohol and Drugs with respect to Residential backgrounds. In order to achieve the objective, the mean, standard deviation, and t-test were applied.

Table 1.3:- Showing the Mean Score, Standard Deviation, and t- Value of Attitude of Senior Secondary School Students Towards Alcohol and Drugs With Respect to Residential Background.

Residential Background	N	MEAN	Std. Deviation	$M_D$	$S_E$	t value
URBAN	145	65.11	16.30	4.22	1.876	2.25*
RURAL	155	60.89	16.18			

The above table 1.3 illustrates the mean scores, standard deviation, and t- value of the Attitude of Senior Secondary School Students toward Alcohol and Drugs with respect to their Residential Background. The table depicts that the mean scores of Alcohol and Drugs for Urban and Rural are 65.11 and 60.89, respectively. The t-ratio was found to be 2.25



which is higher than the t-critical i.e., 1.96 at 0.05 level of confidence. This indicates that the calculated t-ratio is significant at a 0.05 level of confidence. The mean scores show that urban senior secondary students have a more favorable attitude towards alcohol and drugs as compared to rural senior secondary school students.

**Verification of Hypotheses**

Hence, **hypothesis 1:** ‘There exists no significant difference in Attitude of Senior Secondary School Students towards Alcohol and Drugs with respect to Residential Background’ is rejected.

**Objective 2:- To find out the difference in the Attitude of Senior Secondary School Students toward Alcohol and Drugs with respect to Gender.**

The second objective of the study was to find out the difference in the Attitude of Senior Secondary School Students towards Alcohol and Drugs with respect to Gender. In order to achieve the objective, the mean, standard deviation, and t-value were applied.

**Table 1.4:-Showing the Mean Score, Standard Deviation, and t- the value of Attitude of Senior Secondary School Students towards Alcohol and Drugs with respect to their Gender**

GENDER	N	MEAN	Std deviation	M <sub>D</sub>	S <sub>E</sub>	t value
FEMALE	160	55.81	12.06	15.25	1.713	8.90**
MALE	140	71.06	16.84			

\*\* Significant at 0.01 level of confidence

The above table 1.4 illustrates the mean scores, standard deviation and t- value of Attitude of Senior Secondary School Students towards Alcohol and Drugs with respect to their Gender. The table depicts that the mean scores of Alcohol and Drugs in female and male 55.81 and 71.06 respectively. The t-ratio found out to be 8.90 which is higher than the critical i.e., 2.58 at 0.01 level of confidence. This indicates that the calculated t-ratio is significant at 0.01 level of confidence. The mean scores show that the male senior secondary students have more favourable attitude towards alcohol and drugs as compared to females.

**Verification of Hypotheses**

Hence, **Hypothesis 2:** ‘There exists a significant difference in Attitude of Senior Secondary School Students towards Alcohol and Drugs with respect to Gender’ is accepted.

**Objective 3:- To find out the difference in the Attitude of Senior Secondary School Students toward Alcohol and Drugs with respect to family type.**

The third objective of the study was to find out the difference in the Attitude of Senior Secondary School Students towards Alcohol and Drugs with respect to family type. In order to achieve the objective, the mean, standard deviation, and t-test were drawn.

**Table 1.5:- Showing the Mean Score, Standard Deviation, and t- Value of Attitude of Senior Secondary School Students Towards Alcohol and Drugs With Respect to Family Type**

Type of Family	N	MEAN	Std. Deviation	M <sub>D</sub>	S <sub>E</sub>	t value
Nuclear Family	175	62.78	15.80	0.35	1.947	0.182
Joint Family	125	63.14	17.15			

The above table 1.5 illustrates the mean scores, standard deviation, and t- value of Attitude of Senior Secondary School

Students towards Alcohol and Drugs with respect to their family type. The table depicts that the mean scores of Alcohol and Drugs for the nuclear family and joint family are 62.78 and 63.14, respectively. The t-ratio was found to be 0.182 which is lower than the t critical i.e., 1.96 at a 0.05 level of confidence. This indicates that the calculated t-the ratio is not significant at a 0.05 level of confidence. The mean scores show that the senior secondary students from joint families have a slightly more but insignificant favorable attitude towards alcohol and drugs as compared to students from nuclear families.

Hence, **hypothesis 3:** ‘There exists no significant difference in Attitude of Senior Secondary School Studentstowards Alcohol and Drugs with respect to family type’ is accepted.

## **DISCUSSION**

The findings of the study shed light on facts that overall senior secondary school students show an average attitude toward alcohol and drug use which is neither favorable nor unfavorable towards alcohol and drug use. This outcome may be interpreted as these students are standing on an edge, a little negative stimulus from their environment leads them towards alcohol use whereas slighter efforts and a constructive atmosphere may build a strong negative attitude towards alcohol and drug use. Additionally, high scores of male students in alcohol and drugs attitude than female gender are considerable. The probable ground behind this augmentation is a male dominant society where male members enjoy extra liberty, exploration, excessive pocket money, etc. This favorable attitude of male students directs them towards substance abuse which can be observed easily in daily newspapers. In support, Richard W. (2009) found that high-volume drinking was consistently more prevalent among men than women.

Furthermore, in this investigation, the area of residence becomes an important point of discussion. In this research, it was revealed that students living in the urban area showed more favorable attitudes toward alcohol and drugs as compared to students residing in rural areas. The possible causes of urban students' more favorable attitude towards alcohol and drugs are easy availability of substances, more peer interaction, socioeconomic status, lifestyle variance, etc. The same findings revealed by Negi (2003) prevalence rate of alcohol consumption was 42.2% in rural areas and 55.5% in urban areas. Further Negi found that regular alcohol users were 6% more in urban areas than in rural areas. Another finding of the research is that there exists no significant difference in alcohol and drugs attitude among senior secondary school students with respect to the type of family i.e., Joint Family and Nuclear Family.

It can be interpreted as the difference in environment and lifestyle of joint family and nuclear family does not impact the alcohol and drug attitude of senior secondary school students significantly. The above discussion concludes that gender differences and residential differences are playing a vital role in determining the attitude of adolescents toward alcohol and drugs. A significantly favorable alcohol and drug attitude of senior secondary school students requires the special attention of society and administration.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. There exists a significant difference in the Attitude of Senior Secondary School Students towards Alcohol and Drugs with respect to their Gender. Male Senior Secondary School Students of District Ludhiana are more inclined toward alcohol and Drugs attitude as compared to females.
2. The significant difference exists in the Attitude of Senior Secondary School Students towards Alcohol and drugs with respect to their Residential Background. It was found that the Senior Secondary School Students of the District Ludhiana residing in urban areas have a more favorable Attitude towards Alcohol and Drugs as compared to rural.
3. The significant difference was not found in the Attitude of Senior Secondary School Students of District Ferozepur towards Alcohol and Drugs with respect to Joint and Nuclear type of families.

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