The role of the family and society on reducing the youth addiction

Sara Firouzian
Iran

Abstract

Despite the involvement of today's youth with the problem of unemployment, we can no longer be indifferent to issues such as addiction that is terribly daily revealed by statistics and has contaminated the soul and spirit of many of the youth to itself. Nowadays, it cannot be easily passed over the problem of addiction, which leads to despair, poverty and frustration of young population, that disregarding for this social problem will certainly be followed irreparable damages and destructive consequences. Therefore; each of us, as a member of this society, are responsible to seriously deal with this social problem and century disease and take a step as much as we can. Considering the results, today, there are 218 million addicted people around the world and in Iran; more than two million people have been infected. On the other hand, according to the prison authorities, about 50 percent of female prisoners are currently in prison in relation to drugs and addiction that quoting from these authorities; this figure has been increasing in recent years. However, they cannot be probably trusted and judged due to the distribution of information and the antithesis of statistics. Nevertheless, the problem of female drug users is considered as an issue that cannot be simply ignored. According to the experts, female addiction is more problematic than men's addiction. Since women's drug use is often associated with social damages such as running away from home and violence. On the other hand, when a woman becomes addicted, she is not only the person involved personal and social consequences of drug abuse, but it can be also affected both children and the family. As if there is an addicted woman in a family, her family will not be spared from the others' reproachful look. Such a family can be easily exposed to types of dangers and may even be torn apart.

Keywords: family, society, the role of addiction
Introduction

The family has many differences in different societies; these differences are dramatically manifested due to the culture of each society, type of communication, the use of technology and etc. The family, as the first and smallest social institution, plays a special role in the upbringing of children. Children are born into a family and naturally learning language, culture, education, training, social and economic relations in this family. Undoubtedly, the family has played the most important role in the upbringing of children; in this article, we will try to define the family and its types, and addiction as well as the family's role in children tendency to engage in drug use and addiction. With a little savvy on the statistics of drug addicts in Iran, it is well-known that the number of people involved with this problem is definitely (by many degrees) more than this; because if any of these addicts has 5 people as his/her first-degree relatives, including father, mother, brother, wife and children so approximately around 12 million people are suffering from this social pathology. The people involved with the problem of addiction are those who want to introduce the addict to rehabilitation centers, satisfying the plaintiffs and creditors whose possessions have been stolen by these people, overseeing prisons or referring to judicial centers for divorce and separation. According to some studies, women have constituted 6.9 percent of the country's drug addicts. In regard to addicted women, the Health Ministry has also reported on 1 addicted woman as per of 8 male addicts. Some reports also assert that for every 100 addicted men, there are 7 female addicts.

Addiction

Addiction is a physiological response of body to the repeated consumption of drugs. This dependency also causes temporary sedation and tranquility and sometimes temporarily stimulate and refreshing the people, and on the other hand, upon completion of the effects, it may try to search for a person in order to find further substance and continuous dependence on it. In this case, an individual is both physically and psychologically dependent on the drug and is gradually forced to increase the amount of substance. There is a mutual relationship between personality and addiction, so that the individual turns to addiction due to his/her particular personality statue and needs, failures, inability to deal with the problems and failures in life, and lack of emotional stability and other serenities. On the other hand; addiction in turn leads to an individual's loss of mental and emotional balance. Thus, a vicious circle is created between addiction and personality trait that an alternation is required to fight against it. There is also a mutual relationship between personality and addiction so that the individual turns to addiction due to his/her particular personality statue and needs, failures, inability to deal with the problems and failures in life, and lack of emotional stability and other serenities. He/she may have strong and invincible morale and will in terms of internal and external conditions. Diagnosing the addicts' personality and behavioral characteristics is of particular importance in order to combat against addiction as well as its prevention and treatment (Hidayatullah; 1380).

The tendency to addiction can be proposed as three individual, family and social territories:

1- **Individual reasons,** many psychologists has justified the reasons for deviant behaviors in terms of the wrong-headed individual's personality flaws and believed that some personality types are more inclined to crime and the commitment of crime rather than other types. Individual reasons of tendency towards addiction rely more on
the theoretical foundations of psychological perspectives. Knowing the factors that put people at risk of addiction, we can identify those at risk and to prevent their addiction, some detailed and effective planning can be done.

A) Physiological problems: a group of people that sometimes are weak do not have the strength to cope with these problems and frustrations and regarded an addiction as a way to save their own conflicts; they are taking refuge to narcotics or using psychotropic drugs to get rid of the discomforts, physiological pressures, distrust of self and fixing the inner emotions in search of safe haven. They think that they will be revealed from preoccupations of life using the drugs and see the world in a different way; because the stupor mode of drugs and narcotics makes an addict to become indifferent to the issues, problems and realities of life. so escaping the individual problems is a major factor for people's tension toward the drugs (Davari; 1381).

A bunch of people who are more susceptible to drug addiction are depressed people. According to Berger, depressed individuals have constituted the largest and most important part of the addicts. Depressed people have mental weakness and somehow have personality vacuum. They imagine that they cannot enjoy the world. They always feel weakness and fatigue and are devoid of any desirable feeling and power. According to Sidney Cohen; using the drugs, such individuals are may looking for a witchcraft in order to end to their pains and vacuums that they feel in themselves, in a way that they can solve their personality defects (Mosanejad; 1381).

B) Curiosity: participating in social gatherings, some people tend to use drugs particularly when they see others using narcotics as their curiosity aroused. This has led to prepare oneself to addiction, since it may possible to create a positive feeling when a person is using drugs for the first time, and allowed the repetition of this action. Of course, they are unaware that such pleasures are fleeting and destructive. A bunch of people have also submitted to drug use for a curiosity and own assessment, with this thought that they never become addicted through a single usage and sometimes even to express their powers to others. They are also very likely to become addicted (Davari; 1381).

C) Weakness of will: the will is an agent that makes an individual to operate. So it must be matched with logic and law and must be strengthened using proper training and education. A person who will stand firmly against an act contrary to law and social norms do not show any hesitations. He is definitely selecting his goal and has a strong will. But if a person suffers from weak will and does not have any particular plan for his life; firstly, he will suffer from some form of confusion and emotional exhaustion and, secondly, he may positively respond to any deviation. In this case, not only he cannot prevent another diversion but he may also be distorted. This problem is of great importance for an individual's addiction.

D) Escaping from ordinary life: it is virtually impossible to have anything done, regardless of the person's subjective beliefs and internal strengths. When a transfer takes place in a narrow sense in the philosophical origins of mind, which tends to be interpreted as drugs, mental belief and motivation is created. That person always tries to assess and judge his problems and position. These are typically personal judgment and takes place based on intellectual and
educational knowledge and culture of the judge. The fact is that although addiction is, as the name suggests, a routine but it can be administrated to break another habit. Breach of habit arising from personal ordinary life is one of the most evident causes of drug use in advanced industrial societies that becomes tedious over time if it is repeated. According to the statistics, nearly eight hundred thousand addicts (the sum of two million) are recreational addicts that, unfortunately, most of them are of the elite of science and knowledge (Ghanbari, 1379).

E) Therapeutic incentives: one of the main reasons for drug use is its therapeutic aspects. The truth is that in many cases, in the beginning, engaging and tending toward drugs was used to treat, but it has changed into an addiction over time (Ghanbari, 1379).

In some villages, opium was used to relieve back pain, dental pain, ear pain and the like.

F) Precarious personality: Allport says that "personality is the dynamic organization, which is composed of psychological and material systems resulting in unmatched and unequalled compatibilities with the environment"(Kolb, Gould; 1376).

Some personality disorders, which lead to the formation of social deviation and orientating to addiction, are "paranoid personality" and "anti-social personality". Some special features of "paranoid personality" thus stated as these people are interpreting others' toils as humiliating and threatening ones; they do not trust the others and their social relations have been hampered by the mistrust. They are also self-conceited and disturb the others. The weakness of "anti-social personality" is a kind of disruption between man and society. These people are indifferent and inattentive to social regulations and norms, and try to respond to their whims whatever they like. They violate moral values and can be easily involved in drug use and alcohol in the wake of fun as well as weakness of will. Of symptoms and anti-social personality features, it can be noted to self-centeredness, lack of sense of guilt and superficial and outward charms (Haman, 118).

2- Family reasons: the family plays the most significant role in the upbringing of children. A healthy family refers to a family that all of its activities comply with the standards and criteria governing the society. According to the findings, a total of forty-four percent of our communities' offenders were living in profligate families. Parental neglect to educating children will be followed dire consequences in future. Parental occupation, housing conditions, the largeness and paucity of children, neighbors, other residents of house, moral characteristics of the parents, manner of behaving to children, divorce, presence of stepfather and step mother, polyandry, particular culture governing the family, parental education, patriarchy or matriarchy, family economic status, family disintegration and coldness, separation of parents and discontinuity of family members, and undermining the pillars of the family all of the main factors that underlie an individual's deviance (Ghorban Husseini, 1368).

Considering the studies, addicts more belong to scattered families than non-addicts. Another area of children's drug addiction is mother's father's and the other family members' addiction. Nowadays, structure of a family is far from its original position in the west. The disruption of family order, loosening the basis of this fundamental
institution, shirking our responsibility of marriage, maternal hatefulness, lessening parental interest particularly mothers to children, substituting superficial whims rather than love and increased incidence of divorce all have caused that in these societies, the family was losing its own function to control the social harms (Davari, 1381).

But we should not witness the loosening of family foundations in our society, which is an Islamic society, and Islamic teachings are best expressed and emphasized on family values so that more than four thousand instructions are directly expressed about the family and its prevailing value from the infallibles (Haman, 128).

Considering a survey done about 800 delinquent children, it turned out that 65 percent of their mothers are divorced or going to divorce. Another study shows that about 88 percent of delinquent children have had the parents who are living apart, and there is a disagreement and conflict between them (Sotoudeh; 1380).

**Family**

The family does not have a single shape and pattern in all societies. Studies clearly show that families can be divided into different types in terms of their lifestyles. Some divisions have been classified the families into patriarchal and matriarchal families, and others are therefore divided them into polygamy, monogamy, endogamy and exogamy.

Considering a general classification, which includes other types of families, they have been classified into both nuclear and extended families.

**Nuclear family**

The family is colloquially called as a nuclear family, which composed of the couples and their children or couples without children.

**A variety of nuclear family**

**The first type of nuclear family**

The criterion for belonging to this type of the family is education rather than income. The education of the head of the family is usually a high school diploma or in higher. His wife is also approximately having the same or slightly lowers educational levels and sometimes works. There is equality between man and woman and jointly decide in family matters. The same thing may lead to further discrepancies than the other types of the family. Willingness to greater prosperity, living in apartments, high consumption levels, planning for holidays and leisure, and low social commitment of the family to kinship network all are considered as the special features of this type of nuclear family. Administrative families with high levels of income or lucrative self-employment (such as attorney and medical profession) and partly employees of private companies may fall into this category in terms of income and education.

**The second type of nuclear family**

In this type of nuclear family, the education of the head of the family is lower than high school diploma and he retains his complete supremacy in familial environment. He adopts major decisions and woman is also obedient. Family members usually live in small environment. Non-working women, inclination for having many children, strong religious beliefs, lack of proper planning to spend the holidays and leisure time, and the separation of male and female recreations and … are of the specific characteristics of this type of nuclear family. The man does manual labors (such as labor, low administrative services or small-scale
commercial services and small industries). The man is breadwinner in these families.

**Immigrant nuclear family**

This family composes of immigrants from the villages and small towns that have not yet fully absorbed by urban society. They also called marginalized, from the viewpoint of social and spatial features. The family does not have much social commitment due to the lack of kinship network in city residence. Hence, people are so much homesickness. The man is the head of the family and retains his complete supremacy in familial environment. The head of the family is working as an unskilled worker in partial services or some industries (such as building industries) in terms of income and occupation. Therefore, they have poor housing and with a view to the other necessities of life, they have several problems.

**Extended family**

The family is colloquially called as a family, which was established based on genealogical and causative affiliations and consists of several blood groups and martial groups. These families are seen more in rural areas.

**The role of families in raising children**

From the beginning of human history; familial relationships, with its broad emotional and sentimental sense, is considered as a clear and conceptual affair for community members. Philosophers and social scientists believe that society is composed of families. According to the oldest moral documents writings, the society will lose its power if people do not fulfill their family tasks. For instance, Confucius believed that the prosperity and progress belong to a society, in which men have complete and accurate manners as a family member. This means that no one is turned away from his duties towards his children since family is the substantial and constructive basis of the most important construction of society and the presence of all others social systems is dependent on the participation of family systems. Due to the role learned in a family, this behavior will be considered as an exemplary behavior of other parts of society. One of Freudian psychoanalytic beneficial results is that to familiarize researchers and men with enormous impact of childhood incidents and family life on human personality. According to his theory, the child's personality finds its original form in a family during the first 6 years of life such as the degree of affection, the child's level of independence in his decision-making and parental consistency or inconsistency; these are factors that form children personality. It should be remembered that each child is passing through the specific steps of emotional and biological growth, and feelings and negative traits are arisen such as hatred, hostility, fear, aggression, anxiety and guilt. These are reduced in a family environment. It must be said that the early years of life is considered as the years of development and effectiveness. If the family emotions and emotional outbreak occur frequently, emotional growth can be easily stopped. The child is captured in this problem that on the one hand, he must satisfy his emotional needs and on the other hand, he tries to compromise himself with environmental problems. So he will lose the solidarity feelings and attachments. He is confused and regrets about his own conductance, both as an individual and family and community member. In addition to childhood that has continued from the beginning of the birth to 21 years old, adolescence and
adulthood are also of the most important and remarkable periods of life. Starting with the first year of the second decade of life, an amazing transformation of puberty begins, which has several social, psychological and physical aspects. Families must have enough information about it. They must know that in addition to changes occurred in organs and external appearance, puberty is also considered as the period of anxieties and conflicting tendencies such as unreasonable depression in moments of joy, pride in the maiden of low self-esteem, selfishness in the maiden of charity, sociability in the maiden of loneliness, curiosity in the maiden of indifference, power saving and quarrelsomeness, wooing the world and its nihilism, prospecting others responsibilities while escaping from the responsibilities and regulations, and many other properties and fluctuations of the period. They are introduced as mental pressures and storms that none of them is unreasonable. For example, escaping from regulations is for the sake of seeking independence growth and personification.

Hegemony, superiority and curiosity, which can be usually seen in this period, are considered as the natural tendencies of the period of adolescents and juvenility so if the families have properly informed about the reasons of these circumstances and recognizing them to the youth, it will not be difficult to help them having a good and healthy life. Whereas the importance of family has been shown for an individual's life and future, it can be the onset of many personality disorders, resulting from childhood. Since the child has failed to establish an intimacy, cooperation and respectful relationship with others and does not know the error and appropriate actions, so he cannot respect appropriate procedure and avoiding from the errors.

Familial factors associated with adolescents' addiction

As we know, the family disruption and lack of proper education are of the problems that it is possible for family members to someway suffer from its results or forced to some ethical difficult choices. Of other familial issues on (the field of) addiction, it can be mentioned to the role of parental addiction and its influence on children addiction as well as the influence of a family member's addiction on the youth of a family, which is consequently led to the adolescents' addiction especially when parental addiction can be observable as well as the identification of addicted parents in various stages of growth. Great deal of researches is shown that many addicts have had such addicted people in their families as father, grandfather, grandmother and etc. Parental illiteracy or low literacy can be considered as one of the main reasons for family issues. Most of addicted parents are illiterate or less educated. These factors and the other ones, all and all, have left some shortcomings in the system and the role of the family, in which, undoubtedly, there are many direct impact of anomalies on children and families. Sometimes, there is a relationship between the drug use and growing children of those families suffer from divorce, separation or death of a spouse. In the study done on drug use among Brazilian high school students, it was found that the presence of violence at home is considered as an important factor, which has shown more correlation with the act of drug use rather than any other factor. There is no correlation between the divorce and separation and the act of drug use in the event that the family environment is free of violence and problems to be
solved by negotiation and parents worry about their children. In this study, drug use was more than five times among young people who were living in families with violence rather than those who were living in families without violence. In the first group, there is no conversation in a family and parents did not express their own opinions while in the second group, there have been frequent discussions between the parents and they have expressed their own opinions. Individuals' subjective cognition of family environment has shown greater impact than objective factors, including marital status of the parents on drug use by students.

The same results were also achieved by another study done on drug use in Peru. The presence of coherent social structure in both family and society along with providing individuals' expectations from the environment, the rights and needs of the group has been considered as the best guarantor of security against any kind of addiction or violation of customs. It will be pointed out to some predisposing factors of an individual's tendency toward addiction in a family as follows:

a) **Lack of affection in the family:**
On the issue of crime, many experts have known the lack of love and emotional weakness as the main root of crime and deviance. Considering the study done on delinquents in the west, 91 percent of criminals was experienced some emotional problems in connection with the crime (Arabiyan; 1382). If a person cannot provide his emotional needs in a family, he had to outstretch hands to the others. Hunters try to take advantage of these situations and diverting the other people through false emotional connection.

B) **Exaggeration in affection**
The same as affection deficiency, Exaggeration in affection can also have a negative impact on training of children, so that the child is always dependent on his parents and may never have a sense of independence and grandiosity. When such a person is entering the society and being away of his parents' affection, he experienced a feeling of hatred and obsession. And he may do any wrongdoing to compensate for the issue.

C) **Discrimination between children:**
It is also one of the other instances, in which a person experienced the feeling of inferiority and envy. Failing this issue, it can pave the way for drug use among family members.

D) **Limiting children**
As boundless freedom leads to an individual's tendency toward social distortions, limitations can also terminate the individual's tendency toward social distortions; since on the one hand, restrictions may lead to activate one's curiosity and on the other hand, can lead to emotional problems. Excessive control of children makes a person depending on external control (force); that is, as long as his behavior is controlled through the use of force, he never does deviant act. But as soon as the parents' control is become weak or the parents cannot find an opportunity to control their children due to their occupation, the child will abandon himself and turns into deviant behavior; because his sense
of internal control (conscience) is turned off and has always been dependent on foreign control and possibly force.

E) A family member's addiction
People who live in addicted families, the fear and ugliness of becoming addicted have been demolished to them. When drug use becomes as a normal and ordinary activity in a family, it tends to facilitate other members' addiction. If the parents have an addiction; on the one hand, they may lose their control and dominance on the children and on the other hand, they can be the transfer agent of this habit to children. Of course, sometimes children are avoiding from this trait, due to the disgust at parents' behavior and learn a lesson from them but such parents play an influential role in their children's tendency toward addiction. The results show that many addicts have had such addicted people in their families as father, grandfather, grandmother and etc (Madani; 1381).

F) Economic prosperity of the family:
In families with a lot of economic income and welfare, human relations are weakened due to the multiplicity of work or entertainment. The weakness of human relationships, in turn, is a favorable factor for attraction to drugs. The best reason for this claim is a daily increasing percentage of drug users in industrial societies of the West, in which human relations is weakened through the growth of industry. In addition, people who have excessive income will have more probable condition and basis to participate in night clubs or varied recreations inside or outside the country. It is clear that such facilities and entertainments can prepare the way for both consuming and selling drugs.

G) Parents' illiteracy or low literacy
Illiteracy or low educations play a significant role in both public culture of society and the privacy of the family or the upbringing of children. Illiteracy and low literacy is the main reason for most of the issues, problems, social failures and deviations. It is clear that the literate parents can better solve their family problems to the surrounding world. Educated parents can easily control their children using logical and scientific methods. They often initiate proper material, spiritual and emotional conditions for their children due to the consciousness and recognizing the problems and needs of their family. While parental illiteracy is led to the issues such as illogical approaches in training children, not inferring the psychological needs of children, not accepting the transformations occurred in the attitude of the youth and emphasizing on our own traditional methods and beliefs. Since all these issues are led to an individual's feeling of loneliness and loss, so he tries to rely on any person and substances in order to seek sympathy and empathy. Most studies show that most of the addicts have illiterate and low educated parents. "64 percent of addicts' fathers and 83 percent of their mothers were illiterate and 51 percent of the addicts were also illiterate or having the old and primary education, and 40 percent of their wives were also illiterate" (Farjad; 1377).

Family poverty:
Poverty and social deviations are of the phenomena, which must be linked together based on many experts' desertion. They have determine
aforementioned phenomena into both micro and macro level. At the micro level, poverty was known as the effect of personal talents and attributes. Such factors as physical weakness, psychological disorders and illiteracy were known as the factors, which has influenced on constituting poverty. But at the macro level, poverty and deviations are each considered as an effect. According to these explanations, it appears that there is a problem at the level of institutions, organizations, social relations and structure characteristics of society and cause a problem in society.

H) Parents' controversy:

Family is the sanctum of safety and tranquility. Controversy and disagreement are of the major causes of disorders and addiction in the family. People raised in dysfunctional and distorted families are more tended to diversion and addiction. Considering the results, 44 percent of our community delinquents are living in reckless families. Another study has also shown that 82 percent of abusers believed on the influence of familial quarrels on absconding children and turning to addiction (Haman: 185). When the family environment is not suitable place for life, one tries to spend most of his time outside the house. So it prepares the way for the hunters, who are seeking for a victim, to make relationships with other people. It should be noted that the more the familial violence, the more the possibility of drawing people towards drug use and other social deviations (Esfandari: 185).

Social reasons

Since the man is virtually a social creature and needs to present in a community in order to live, he will face with a series of social factors. Some social factors underlying tendency toward addiction can also be influential on reducing and increasing the youth addiction, including:

A) Convenient access to drugs

Convenient access to drugs is a reason for initiating addiction along with other causes of an individual's tendency toward addiction, so that if there is a deviation in an individual's personality and drugs are readily available to him, he has never hesitated to consume and distribute it. Accessing to drugs depends on various factors, including; the geographical situation of the country, geographical area and province, the role of the laws, manner of implementing and determining the law, and officials' planning to inhibit drugs.

Unemployment, unemployment indirectly leads to an individual's tendency toward addiction. Unemployment, on the one hand, leads to the poverty and on the other hand, causing mental illnesses, depression, low self-esteem and loss of hope, which consequently result in an individual's addiction. Due to unemployment and lack of honorable income, he turns to purchase and sale drugs and provides himself a false employment. Lack of opportunities of crime is one of the results of employment. Unemployment leads to increase one's leisure, and if some proper and logical plans have not been adopted for individuals' leisure, it will be paved the way for tending toward addiction since in this opportunity a person will become familiar with the deviants and addicts and joining to them. So we can conclude that unemployment is an underlying
factor that can be used in combination with other factors such as the poverty, and thereby turning the person into addiction.

b) **The economic and social inequalities**, economic and social inequalities have broad aspects, which include inequalities in the distribution of material resources, inequality of dignity, racial and sexual inequalities. Inequality does not directly lead to addiction, but it can be underlying poverty and emotional problems. Therefore, it is considered as an indirect factor for individuals' tendency to drug addiction. In any society, class distinctions will lead to the faithlessness of most people to economic conditions. This faithlessness in regard to the social cognition has a significant impact on the tendency toward addiction. The social studies have shown that in counties where there is no fair distribution of wealth, the poor get poorer and the rich get richer, and the caste differences will grow. People are not capable of leading the struggle against this social injustice due to the lack of social trainings, cultural weakness and lack of the feeling of solidarity caused by materialism and individualism, which are the characteristics of the developing world. Social values are, therefore, lacking in confidence and social supervision is loosened, so delinquency and criminality can be popularized (Sutodeh; 1380).

c) **The role of geographical environment and habitat**, the role of the geographical environment of the city, including the border towns, in which it is easily possible to transfer drugs, and the habitat play a significant role in leading to drug addiction. Concerning a habitat, it should be noted that most of the addicts are living in rural and old areas, which are made up meandering streets and ruined houses. The truth is that the contaminated environments can prepare a favorable way for discovering the talents of the people regarding crime and addiction. In these areas, which are often slums, there are fewer welfare facilities and centers such as cinemas, parks and amenities. So the youth forcibly spend their leisure time using drugs. On the other hand, such places are less monitored by the police. Therefore, many villagers and migrants would be settled in old, crowded and dilapidated neighborhoods, which are far from urban centers. Since they do not have any jobs and are not known among the population, they are better able to distribute drugs and finally taking it on themselves.

d) **The role of bad friends**, friendship with peers suffering drug abuse is considered as the strong predisposing factor infecting the youth and adolescents to drug use. To get approval of their behavior from friends, drug users are trying to compel them to accompany. The theory of differential companion confirms it. Based on the theory, deviance and social deviation were aroused from this reality that one has learned an abnormal behavior during the process of socialization and learning, and replaced it within himself using replication or internalizing the values and reveals it as a behavior. The family, friends and peer groups play the most significant role in this analysis (Davari; 1381).

Causes of women addiction, it can be pointed out to the influential factors tending women to the drugs and unwillingness to leave it as follows:
1) Non-development of necessary skills to succeed in life (sudden influx of children to adults) the absence of individual competencies to obtain occupational database

2) The feeling of being a loser in occupational competitions and so on, the feeling of inability in achieving success, feeling of insecurity, the injustice of social system, feelings of anger and distrust at home, work and school

3) Unfair distribution of income sources

4) Intensifying the feeling of relative deprivation (under the influence of global culture and global economy)

5) Close and intimate relationship of women

6) Concerning the peer pressure, it seems that teen girls are more vulnerable than the boys, and they may try to experience drug use in order to feel accepted in peer group

7) Living with a man addicted to drugs is considered as one of the most important causes of leading women to drugs

8) Violence

9) Mental and spiritual problems

In contrast to other women, addicted women have more mental problems and complications. It has been found that depression or anxiety disorders are of the most common diseases among women addicted to drugs. According to the studies, suicidal behaviors, high vulnerability, low self-esteem is much more in addicted women rather than others and even many women are plagued by the problem of returning chronic depression (Mosanejad; 1381).

Social phenomena of women, as wives and caregivers, are considered as the basis for morality. However, based upon a patriarchic view, women addiction is more negative than men's as well as other social attitudes on the obscene of women addiction, which are considered as a major obstacle to treat them. Even women who suffer from a disease always carry this painful concern whether others accept their problem or not. They are afraid that their families, partners, mates or even their employers were believed on the dominant view that addiction is a moral problem and have not supported them in the process of treatment. Over the past decade, the process of arresting and imprisoning of women has dramatically increased, such crimes as small theft, partaking in some crimes, selling drugs, prostitution, beatings and aggression.

The consequences of women addiction, disintegration of the family is the least social complications of women addiction. Based on the global statistics, women addiction can initiate more dangerous complications than men's. For instance, on average, the time interval for the first drug experience to women's injection takes two years while it took the men about 8 years. In this case, women are drawn into extreme dependency of drug use in about 6 years earlier than men's, which naturally harder to be treated and also has far more physical, mental and social complications. Women and girls are dying faster from using drugs. In particular, overdose, suicide and accidents arising from using some
substances can also be considered as the main cause of death in addicted women. Since women addiction may underlie other deviations; injecting drugs and using shared syringes as well as high-risk sex can increase the risk of (catching) HIV, hepatitis and other sexually transmitted diseases in these women. Interestingly, after treatment, the prognosis is better in women than men. So it initiates further hopefulness in warping up remedial measures of addicted women. But on the other hand, a series of barriers occur against women in order to act on drug treatment, which should be noted. Perhaps in the meantime, the most important obstacle belongs to beliefs and attitudes of addicted women in society. Although people can assume that addiction is considered as a disease for men but it is completely different for women. Unfortunately, concerning the women, most people have propounded addiction as a moral issue rather than a disease. In fact, the negative social attitudes on unethical behavior of addicted women are a major obstacle in treatment of addiction among women. Internalizing the community-based approach, which reveals that addiction is actually a precariousness of ethics, women are avoiding to be treated or are ashamed of introducing themselves as an addict to public assemblies. In Iran, there are no currently dedicated services for addicted women and even some of the services and facilities are only allocated to men. But given that women's drug use is more deviant than men's, women are usually reluctant to refer to addiction treatment centers, in which men are constituted the highest number of subjects. Given that remedial centers are the most important places to be accessible to drug users and most of the information about the users will be provided from these centers. The prevalence of women addiction is estimated to be less than the actual amount. In near future, Ignoring or little attention to women addiction will impose adverse consequences on the community. So it is believed that "it is never too late", we need to deliberate concrete measures to address the social problem.

**Expanding theoretical perspectives:** for many years, even centuries, many think that women cannot be alcoholics or drug addicts. So there is no need to consider the circumstances of addiction, treatment and their recovery. This rejection and finally the absence of addiction hypothesis and improvability have been continued till the birth of the women's movement during the 1960s to 1970s. The social and political revolution defined a woman in another way and separating her from man. As feminists wished, a woman was equal to man. Considering these changes, women were also placed among alcoholics and drug addicts. And the field of study and research on gender-based drug abuse began. Nowadays, it can be found the vast and influential literature on this subject. It has been studied on woman, addiction and particular treatments of women. Now, however, what remains to be done? Most of achievements, which had been obtained by women for visibility and acceptance of addiction, are along with social conflicts, political and mental conflicts. The demand, which was emphasized by women to be
separated from men and would be necessary for their social and political conflicts and gender quality, has been accompanied a hidden and contradictory negative aspect during the process of perceiving and treating of addiction. The coping framework of gender comparison may put women in a state to compete with men in order to maintain their strength, which in turn causes not accepting the basic human experience concerning the loss of control or weakness while it is necessary for recovery. Here, it is proposed a way of thinking about women and addiction, which is expanding gender perspective: developmental model as a model for addiction and recovery.

Contradictions of women view:
The experiences of becoming addicted and considering as an addict are often in conflict with many social and political comments associated with the long struggle of women for the equality with men. These discrepancies of different perspectives can lead to establish some contradictions for women and has been associated with barriers in order to accept and treating addiction. These include (1) different meanings of the concept of power acquisition (2) looking at women as a minority from a gender perspective.

Seizure of power: in relation to social, political and economical situation, the idea of seizing power includes coping with the current situation, particularly inequality and supremacy of men and their extreme pressure to change and gain equality. The challenge involves comparing the past with the present, a comparison of genders and the minority and majority due to individuals' power and enjoyment. The struggle for equality requires closer inspection and unequal and unfair analysis, and reduces the power. Women, who are attempting to seize power, are experiencing a series of conflicts where, at once, they want to be a winner as well as increasing their power as much as possible. When they want to save from addiction, they are grappling with internal conflicts, which cannot be resolved through their tendency for more power. But this requires restructuring their relationships with themselves; that is, first admitting their weakness towards drugs then try to build their lives based on honesty and personal responsibility, which leading to the victory of another kind: freedom from the clutches of a dangerous reality. The differences of gaining the power can also cause a problem for women at the time of recovery. For some of them, at the beginning, entering a period of recovery may make you feel weak and led to drop a larger movement of women. Perceiving these differences can be reduced the conflict. Women can enter the growing trend of recovery and meanwhile try to maintain their commitment to women's right and the gains from it.

Women, as the minority of gender perspective, have been placed along with a challenge concerning the label and stigma of addiction. Now, this question comes up: how should we reconcile political struggle with the experience of loss of control for gender equality despite the competitive framework and two categories of gender equality and
linguistic equality, which are used to emphasize on both the control and power. Gregory Batson (1971) examined this apparent contradiction and said: addiction is essentially about "self" and is always a personal matter. He presented a decisive framework to conceive alcoholism as the struggle with himself. In his opinion, an alcoholic person is involved in a competitive and symmetrical war. He believes on a part of "self" on extreme power of controlling drinking alcohol. Another part of "self" is a victim of the reality of lack of control. This argument has two categories that put an alcoholic person against himself, that is, the defense of limitations and meanwhile breaking them. He says to himself: "I can control my drinking" while routinely loses his control. The dominant and winner part of each person (believing in the possibility of control) is replaced by the loser and submissive part (to accept the reality of loss of control). Escaping from this unpleasant situation can be possible if the person accepts his failure arising from loss of control and inability. An alcoholic person is facing with human limitations and is experiencing the weakness, he get to the point of "surrender" and "End" (Tie bout; 1949, 1953). He also lost the belief of control and resorted to the outside of "self". The loss of belief in his power to control alcohol, frees him from internal and polarization conflict. The framework of gender comparison can also act on the same pole structure. Especially in political, social and gender "wars"; women have been stood in front of men and "against" them to gain power. The power that equates them and revealing the equality and also strengthens the competitive gender theories of two categories structure, which focused on polarization and differentiation. This structure can lead to a dried contemplation or reaching such conclusions that try to prevent women from taking a stand against men. The terms of two categories can also involve both denial and defensiveness conditions since it requires both a winner and the loser or an attacker and a victim. Women will struggle to deny the aspects of their own experiences, in which confirmation means accepting defeat and weakness. And some of them had to accept this loss of control or the failure or defeat in an inflexible and dried framework. In the political context, gender framework has confirmed women as a minority, which have always dominated by men and placed in second classification. From this perspective, women have been the victims of male domination. The gender battlefield of winner-loser renews the bud of addiction in itself. According to Batson, the struggle for control is opposed to the absence of control". In this contrasting duality of competitive framework, he emphasizes on exercising of "authority on themselves (self) and the others": it is difficult for women to accept the loss of control and meanwhile claim to have their own power and simultaneously deny their weakness. Through competitive gender perspective, there is a danger in the definition of women addiction to drugs. And it is that such an insight can inconsistently keep away women from focusing on "self". The political gender war supposes the enemy as the opponent. A woman who is a drug addict is fighting against herself. But it
is difficult for her to recognize and accept her personality responsibilities on the loss of control. And in contrast, it is difficult for her to focus on strengthening her control and power and tries to accept her active role on addiction.

**The viewpoint of contemporary generic state:**

Nowadays, women addiction has been adopted: it means that women can be addicted. The truth is that they are many addicted women. Many writers, including Strausser (1997) have explained on the etiology and women's experience of drug addiction. Strausser examined Freud's theory of gender differences in comparison with the contemporary feminist perspectives on gender development. He put the model of "association with self" in the center of the feminist perspective (Byington; 1997), which was discussed in 1981. The theory makes a distinction between men and women in terms of dependency: women are following the affiliation and relationship as a way to find their feminine identities while men are following the separation and individuation as a way to find masculine identities. Recognizing the different ways of healthy growth, theoreticians have progressed women from the sub-group to the distinctive group with different path and growth targets. According to the accepted viewpoint of sexual development, Strausser (1997) has expressed the modern perception of women and addiction. He also explains epidemiological differences in the choice of substances and the frequency of its use. For instances, men are more comfortable to use such drugs as Cocaine and Amfatman. Women, however, have justified these substances as tools to overcome their problems such as weight and depression (Strausser; 1997). Strausser (1997) has expressed all the researches done concerning the differences in two categories diagnostic patterns or concurrent disorders. In general, men are more likely to have anti-social impulse disorders while women are more likely to have depression, anxiety and eating disorders. There is a broad agreement on this issue that most of the women who have experienced The chronic and acute symptoms in the past and present may be exacerbating addiction, and it can add some more difficulties in treatment and recovery. He also described the differences, for example, why and how do women use drugs? He has explained about biological differences, especially in relation to their reproductive function and the problems of their pregnancy and childbirth. He also described different "pathological styles" of men and women. According to Robbins (1989), addicted women are more likely to have depression, anxiety and the sense of guilty than men. All of the differences are now specialized in designing and providing sexual treatment. In any case, it should be noted that the lack of control as an experience is exactly the same for men and women. Addiction is considered as an inability to stop using the substance or a behavior that once started and now continues. In the growth model of addiction, both genders have a pathological relationship with addiction and the process of addiction. People are painfully required alcohol, sex, gambling or food.
For example, whenever they are attempting to do it in terms of the need, they cannot stop it. Addiction is an iterative process of doing something to satisfy and relieve an inner experience, which can usually entails emotional or actual threats. Both women and men need to be separated from their pathological dependencies to grow as healthy individuals. Removal of unhealthy dependency does not operate in a vacuum but can be done through transferring to new communication with a healthier subject. For most of the people, there are some new instances to be attached to them such as AA, NA, OA or the other twelve-step program that addicting people to the things so that they can leave the drugs and maintain it. People are encouraged to entertain themselves with meetings, discussions, phone calls and passing different stages of the positive addiction or other things. Those people whom have recently recovered are using some other types of protective works such as remedial plans, religion or combination of these. In a culture where the self-control and efficiency are of the main factors, people often assume the dependency as an unpleasant and negative factor. From the viewpoint of the patients and clinicians, the idea of affiliation, especially the dependency during the lifetime, is not considered as a good thing. The negative perspective of dependency has been weakened men and women's potentiality not to undermine their control since the word acceptance is equal to affiliation. It is also contradictory to the viewpoints of contemporary gender theories. It is expected that men are "separated" and become "independent" from their dependence relationships, that is, they must deny any necessity. Accepting the dependency to alcohol or any other substances and process is equal to accepting failure. Both men and women have unhealthy affiliation, so it is necessary to quit and both require the healthy dependency to promote their growth as well as healing them. AA's impressions of the lodge and independency, which means taking control and avoiding from expenditure to regain it, are completely based on separation and independence. One's voluntary willingness to positive dependency can lead to quit addiction. Those who believe on "self" or "self-power" control are often turning into active addiction but they search the retention of consumption within themselves and get help from the force of will in order to retain it. Those who accept the absence of permanent control, often have an emotional attachment to the AA, they also believe on the superior power as an alternative or healthy affiliation. Both men and women need the others help. Assisting from the outside of "self", they can separated from pathological dependencies of addiction and join to the healthy affiliation in order to recover from addiction. Theories of social deviations (Genesis of addiction), psychological explanations, and psychological explanations on individual differences all focus on individuals' way of thinking and feeling about their behaviors. The differences, which can appear in the form of subtle and partial differences on the behavior of some individuals with common people or even in the form of severe personality disorders, makes some people to be more prone to commit deviated behaviors due to the
reasons such as increased anger and rage, low dependency to each other or willingness to take risks and hedonism with more intensity (Salimi; 1380).

**Biological explanations**

Biological explanations can be divided into two areas, including explanations forebodes body abnormalities and genetic explanations. Biological explanations are counting physical and biological factors as the formation of deviations. In their opinion, criminals and terrorists have special biological structures and are biologically different than the others; that is, there is a close relationship between the physical defects and tendency towards social deviations. According to the psychologists, psychiatric diseases and disorders are caused by lesions exerted on brain. Accordingly, factors such as inheritance, chromosomes, genes, disease, gender, age and race are somehow introduced as the factors turning to addiction (Momtaz; 1381).

**Sociological explanations**

Sociological theories have focused on the important and fundamental role of the social environment in shaping the deviant phenomenon. And when considering the circumstances of forming deviant behaviors on the social sense, they would basically take heed to the reasons, in which the groups or husk of its members will be exposed to danger. This category of explanations are mainly attributed the formation of deviant behaviors to such affairs as social construction and social situations and conditions, in which one placed over them. The main reasoning of this category of explanation is that both social institutions and the general social relations should be looked as a whole. And accordingly, deviations must also be studied inside and in relation to it. The answer to this question has often been considered as the main object of these explanations: what is there in the social media that makes people as delinquents and criminals? (Davari; 1381)

**Merton theory:** the social disorganization approach is also considered as one of the sociological theories of social deviation or sometimes addiction. Merton, an American sociologist, is the most important theorists of the approach. The social disorganization approach has not only connected the source of deviance to social and cultural construction (not the delinquent and his failure), but also pay attention to this reality that: why do people commit some deviant practices, especially financial crimes? This approach discusses about both the individual deviant and group deviant, and somehow covers so many deviant behaviors. Anomie, which refers to the loss of non-normalization or rootlessness, is the basis for initiating social deviance and perversion since anomaly arises when cultural expectations are not consistent with social realities. Merton has tried to link anomaly to the social deviation.

**Conclusion:**

Women have come a long way so that their rights will be honored by men. They have the right to be recognized as a drug addict and, moreover,
are able to treat their addiction. The birth of the new look (stare) has also been followed some complications.

The growth model of addiction and recovery can help to solve this uncertainty and provide higher perception of the process of addiction. Women are the same regarding the immaturity of drug use but they do not have the same meanings and terms of addiction. It is important to understand the differences between women, treat each person by himself, and we should finally look at this problem with a long-term vision.

**Recommendations**

- An attempt to change individuals' attitudes towards women and girls addiction that should not consider as a moral misconduct but women addiction should be viewed as a disease in a society. To remedy the problem, the community will be protected from its fatal and irreparable consequences and complications.
- The necessity of considering gender differences in preventive programs. As mentioned above, preventative programs should be designed and implemented in different dimensions for both sexes with regard to their own features.
- Comprehensive study of women and girls' addiction in the country and related factors affecting it. In fact, due to the lack of specific researches in this field in the country; it is definitely beneficial to perform a comprehensive study on describing the current situation and planning for the future. However; in planning that can be done on addiction, neglecting of women would certainly follow unpleasant consequences, which it is likely that they are more than the consequences of men's addiction. In planning associated with drug addiction, it is also expected to testify sensitive approaches toward the sexuality by recognizing the importance of the issue in future. It must be understood that till we are the drug users, drugs can enter to the country in different ways. Therefore, taking effective measures to deal with drug traffickers within countries and border regions, the following solutions are offered to reduce, prevent and treat drug addicts:
  - Scientific extensive researches to identify the exact causes of turning people into addiction, particularly the youth. We must provide a basis for the studies of research centers to eliminate the growth of this scourge and also establishing an invisible wall against addiction. In many countries; the experts, after several years of experiences, have concluded that the main way to fight against drug addiction and drying up the roots is nothing except removing the background and motivation of drug addiction of younger generation.
  - Public education on the causes and consequences of addiction. Public training and preventing addiction should be popularized as a culture in the society.
• The exact recognition of adolescents needs. Education, employment, marriage, housing, sporting and recreational healthy facilities are of the most fundamental needs of the youth. It can be seriously hope to prevent drug abuse and addicts' treatment through accurate recognition of the needs and serious decision-making to meet these needs as much as possible by families, youth, authorities and....

• The role of media and mass communication instruments; educational, training, recreational and entertaining useful applications, and mass media. IRIB can particularly play an influential role in this context. Since attractive and informative TV programs may be tended the youth towards the healthy lives and avoiding from addiction.

• The role of hygiene in all over the world. "Hygiene" takes precedence over "treatment". Preventing by training and encouraging of people particularly the youth should be at the forefront of the anti-drug activities of control headquarters.

• The role of institutions, agencies and cultural centers. It is obvious that to keep the youth away from this scourge; such institutions as the schools, cultural and sporting institutions, law enforcement, religious institutions and etc can be very useful and productive. But none of them have the significance of the family. The family, as the fundamental unit of society, plays a significant role in keeping children away from drugs.
References


"Turkmen Students and Graduates' Website of Iran". Retrieved on August 13, 1386.

Davari M. "The Prevention and Controlling of Addiction through the Islamic Attitude". Qom, Naghsh Kelk, 1381.


Farjad Mh. (1377). "the Investigation of Social problems in Iran". Tehran, mythology.


Mosanejad A. (1381). "Take a Look at Factors Affecting the Tendency of the Youth to Drugs". Proceedings of the Second National Conference on social problems in Iran, Tehran, knowledgeable.