

The issue of differences in personality traits among young drug addicts in Algeria in light of the variable of the number of relapses - a field study

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Abstract

The current study aims to investigate the differences in the personality traits of young drug addicts in Algerian society in light of the variable of the number of relapses (never relapsed before, relapsed once, relapsed twice, relapsed three times). The study sample consisted of 200 young people addicted to various types of drugs who were undergoing treatment at the Department of Addiction Control at the Specialised Hospital Institution for Mental Diseases Sidi El Chahmi in Oran state. The study relied on the scale of the Big Five personality factors of Costa and McCrory (1992), translated into Arabic by Badr Al-Ansari. The study concluded that there are differences in the personality traits of young drug addicts in Algerian society according to the variable of the number of relapses.

Keywords: Personality traits, Relapse, Youth, Drug addiction, Algerian society

Introduction

The topic of personality traits is an essential component of psychology in general and personality psychology in particular. This topic has received considerable attention and has made significant contributions to various fields of human life, including economics, politics, social sciences, education, and other fields. The study and proper understanding of human personality traits enables us to recognise the diversity and differences that exist between individuals psychologically, as well as to plan development strategies and policies in line with their abilities and to guide them accordingly.

The necessity to comprehend and study the psychology of personality increases when one aspect of personality is impaired and behavioural or psychological disorders emerge, causing the individual to experience psychological conflicts or self-efficacy that impede their ability to function in daily life. This can result in a disrupted human energy, which may become more complicated and dangerous over time, particularly as psychopathy worsens and becomes a significant burden, consuming a substantial portion of total development expenditure, including treatment and care expenses.

One of the most pressing issues of our time is drug addiction, particularly in light of the rapid advancement of information and communication technology, the shrinking of the world into a global village, the expansion of globalisation and its consequences, as well as the intensification of the global economic crises and their consequences, including poverty, unemployment, and others. The phenomenon is a dangerous one that has rapidly evolved into a global epidemic, affecting individuals of all ages and backgrounds, including those with varying levels of education, cultural and socioeconomic status.

In his seminal work, *Future Shock*, published in 1970, Alvin Toffler identified the pervasive and insidious nature of the drug problem as humanity's most pressing challenge in the modern era (Al-Brethin, 2014, p. 5). This assertion lends support to the growing trend of studying the topic of drug addiction, as it has evolved into a pervasive humanitarian crisis that has spread across countries and societies. Moreover, the changes in social structures, lifestyles, and the pressures of daily life that individuals face have increased the complexity and intensity of this crisis.

In this context, Abdel Halim Mahmoud El-Say (2014) posited that elucidating the issue of drug addiction in a precise scientific manner is the only viable approach to confronting it. Conversely, attempts to obfuscate, ignore, or evade the study of this issue will inevitably result in a weakening of the efforts to confront it and an exacerbation of the problem. Psychology has been engaged in the study of the issue of drug addiction and its various effects on the individual, as well as its relationship with the social, family or educational environment. A considerable body of scientific studies and academic research indicates the magnitude of the deterioration of the psychological functions of the individual who uses drugs, as well as the disruption of his personal and performance balance.

These psychological, physical and social risks affect a significant proportion of the population, with the youth group being particularly vulnerable due to its role as a guarantor of the future and a fundamental pillar for building societies. If childhood, adolescence and old age are special categories that require study, care and protection, youth is a fundamental category that requires discovery, accompaniment and empowerment. This seems to be the approach taken by developed countries, which have recognised that development begins and ends with youth and that human investment is mainly based on directing academic research and scientific studies towards the study of this category.

The current study is of great importance as it addresses the topic of drug addiction among young people in Arab societies, with Algeria serving as a model. It is an integrated study that combines theoretical approaches and field study, thus representing an academic scientific vessel that can contribute to enriching similar studies and providing the desired addition to comparative studies. In particular, it targets the study of differences in personality traits among addicts according to the variable of the number of relapse times. It began with the following research question:

Does the number of relapse times have a statistically significant impact on the personality traits of young drug addicts in Algeria?

1. Concepts of the Study

1.1. Personality

Despite the prevalence of the term in many scientific literatures, research on personality is a complex field. Most scholars have differed in defining a comprehensive and preventive concept of personality according to their theoretical orientation. This paper presents some Arab and Western scientific opinions on the concept of personality.

Lazarus (1963) defines personality as a set of enduring qualities, predispositions, or orientations that determine an individual's behaviour in various situations through their interaction with environmental influences. Lazarus views personality as a psychological construct and process. The construct is formed from personality traits, and the process determines the changes that occur in the construct and the functions it performs. In other words, Lazarus stresses that personality is a theoretical concept inferred from the individual's behaviour in different situations (Jaber, 2011, pp. 218-219).

In his book on the unconscious, Morton Prince (Hijazi, 2009: 17) posits that personality is a convergence of multiple elements or fundamental components. He further elaborates that personality encompasses both innate and inherited predispositions, tendencies, inclinations, instincts, and biological forces, as well as those acquired through experience.

Arnaud has provided a summary of works that define personality as a conscious biological structure of the physical system (Valladon, 1986, p. 116).

A review of the previous definitions reveals that Western researchers have conceptualised personality as a system of traits, characteristics, factors, attributes, and so forth, which are linked and interact with the social and natural environment. This structured construct is characterised by dynamism, change, and development. These and other definitions have been essential inputs to the development of explanatory models and have determined the paths of theorising personality in the form currently observed and available.

Conversely, personality has received significant attention from Arab and Muslim researchers and scholars, who defined it as *nafs*, with a minimal integration of the terms heart, soul and mind. They also concentrated on the definition and study of normal personality, which is the personality whose nature has not changed and which strives to be the individual desired by the Creator of the universe and is based on a single direction for them based on thinking, tendencies and belief. In general, the concept of personality in Arabs and Muslims has undergone a significant evolution, moving from a narrow focus on terminology to a comprehensive examination of the human condition. This evolution can be attributed to the reflection of the meanings contained in the Quran and the Prophetic Sunnah in defining the concept of personality.

2. The concept of trait

The concept of trait is clear in that it is a quantitative, scalable and continuous concept. This is because the differences between individuals in a particular trait are more in degree than in kind. Consequently, people are not divided into sharp classifications in the form of (impulsive and metro) or (talkative and silent). However, there is a continuous gradient of differences from one end to the opposite end (this is the idea of the continuum) within the framework of the basic characteristics of the curve of moderate distribution. The trait is an abstract concept that we do not observe directly; rather, we observe certain indicators and events on the

basis of which we generalise. The trait is inferred from actual observations of behaviour (Abdelkhalek, 2002, pp. 58-59).

Allport defines it as follows: Traits are neuropsychic constructs that have the capacity to effectively recall a multitude of functional stimuli and to initiate and effectively direct a plethora of forms of adaptive and expressive behaviour. (Abdelkhalek, 2002, p. 319)

Cattell's definition: A trait is a set of reactions and responses that are linked by a kind of unity, allowing these responses to be placed under one name and treated in the same way in most cases. Traits are relatively stable aspects of personality characteristics and are extracted by factor analysis of tests, which is used to identify differences between individuals.

Fouad Elbahi proposes an alternative categorisation of personality traits, which includes the following:

- Mental abilities: This refers to cognitive responses that involve the clarity of the goal that the individual seeks to achieve in a complex situation, such as intelligence.
- The final category is that of temperament. In addition, emotional responses such as emotional equanimity, tension, and familiarity are considered.
- The next category of personality traits is that of dynamic prompts. It indicates motivations, such as attitudes and needs.
- The following section will address the physical traits of the individual. This term refers to the physical responses and their formative and functional qualities. (Abdallah, 2010, p. 13)

3. The concept of youth

A review of the available research heritage on youth reveals the difficulty in defining the concept of youth, given the multiplicity of theoretical approaches that have been interested in studying it. These approaches include social, psychological, economic, political, demographic and biological approaches. Furthermore, the contributions of the religious side are considered valuable due to their association with the cultural specificities of Arab societies.

In sociological terms, the concept of youth is defined in terms of the nature and completeness of the roles played by young people. They posit that the period of youth commences when society endeavours to qualify the individual to occupy a social position and to play a role or roles in the construction of society in a stable and stable manner.

In its linguistic history throughout the twentieth century, the term "youth" has undergone a transformation from a singular noun to a plural form and is frequently used as an adjective, as in the case of "youth culture" and "youth crime." P. Bourdieu advanced a clear perspective when he refuted the analysis of youth from the perspective of age or age group, stating, "We do not yet know at what age old age begins. The age boundary between youth and old age in all societies is not visible." Additionally, he posited that the delineation of the youth category is contingent upon the societal context. He underscored the necessity for each society to define its own understanding of youth, emphasizing that there is no universal definition of youth across all times and places.

Some sociological studies, such as those led by Castel, confirm that there are several factors that push us to retain the definition of the youth stage. This is the age in which the preparation and preparation for adulthood takes place, and this preparatory time period may extend to school life or family formation (socialisation process). This definition applies only to the group that has obtained a certain educational or training level. In Dissingli's article, he proposed the adoption of a youth question based on independence and the search for identity. (Hamdouche, 2013, pp. 226-227)

This presentation illustrates the varying interpretations of the concept of youth, contingent upon the diversity of contexts in which the concept is studied and the research conditions in which it is addressed as a phenomenon. The multiplicity of scientific standards, methodological frameworks and cultural frameworks results in notable differences in the production of the concept of youth and its legitimisation at the requisite level.

4. What is drug addiction?

The term "drug addiction" is used to describe a state of periodic or chronic intoxication that arises from the repeated use of a natural or synthetic drug. This intoxication is characterised by an inability to resist the desire or need to continue taking the drug and to obtain it by any means necessary. It is also characterised by a tendency to double the amount of the dose and causes a state of psychological dependence and physical dependence. (Al-Harahsha & Al-Jazazi, 2012, p. 15)

The Encyclopaedia of Psychology defines addiction as a state of tolerance and habituation, and notes that it is more effectively applied to any drug consumption behaviour that generates psychological and physical dependence. (Duron & Barrault, 1997, p. 43)

Ridouh (2003) posited that the term "toxicomania" is a combination of two words: "toxique," which means poisoning, and "manie," which means insanity and agitation. Addiction, in turn, refers to repeated behavior towards drugs. (Sayel, 2017, p. 135)

The concept of addiction is based on three axes: The three axes of addiction are psychological dependence, physical dependence and tolerance. The concept of addiction is based on three axes: psychological dependence, physical dependence and tolerance. Psychological dependence refers to the psychological need for a substance, which may result in the individual seeking out and using the substance repeatedly despite the negative consequences. Physical dependence is characterised by a physiological need for the substance, which may result in the individual seeking out and using the substance repeatedly despite the negative consequences. Tolerance is the ability of the body to adapt to the presence of a substance, which may result in the individual seeking out and using the substance repeatedly despite the negative consequences.

Over the past century, the term addiction has been superseded by a number of alternative terms, which have been subject to continual revision in order to encompass the full range of behaviours associated with the long-term use of these drugs. The WHO Committee of Experts on Drugs concluded that the term addiction is no longer useful as a scientific term and recommended that the term drug dependence be used as an alternative to the previous two terms, addiction and habituation. (Al-Brethin, 2014, p. 275).

Personality traits and addiction

The psychological factor is one of the most significant predisposing factors for drug use, as the majority of users are driven to this experience as a result of their inability to achieve psychological compatibility, which manifests itself in a number of different ways. A lack of resilience, an inability to be independent, a proclivity towards negativity and a loss of social skills are among the characteristics that have been identified as being associated with an increased risk of substance abuse.

The relationship between these variables and substance abuse has been demonstrated in numerous empirical studies. For instance, alcohol consumption has been found to increase among individuals with certain personality traits, such as extreme shyness, constant self-criticism, feelings of inadequacy, and a sense of hopelessness (Abu Saree & et al, 1999, pp. 259-265).

Similarly, Peter Lowe, as cited by Ghanem (2011), posits that a drug addict is an individual who exhibits certain personality traits and has chosen this method to address their challenges, for a range of reasons, by joining a social group in which drug use is practiced and glorified.

The study conducted by Chein and Dosenfeld in the field of drug addiction revealed that individuals struggling with addiction exhibit a profound psychological distress, a predisposition to addiction, and a proclivity towards emotional and psychological fragility. It is evident that individuals with a history of drug addiction exhibit a lack of psychological maturity, which renders them susceptible to the development of drug dependency. (Slimani, 2012, pp. 44-45)

Rafat Askar postulates that there is a close relationship between personality disorder and the use of drugs by individuals to alleviate the severity of their disorders or perhaps to increase their interaction with the environment in which they live and to help them better cope with their lives (Ghanem, 2017, p. 7).

As a consequence of the assiduous endeavours of those engaged in the field of personality studies, they have reported positive and significant outcomes. These indicate that a considerable number of addicts, comprising 200 individuals undergoing treatment in three clinics in London (the experimental group), and others who are normal (the control group), exhibited differences in their personality traits. The study reached the conclusion that addicts differed from normal people on all four scales of the Eysenck personality test. Furthermore, addicts obtained extreme high scores on the schizotypal (psychotic) scale. (Al-Khalidi & Al-Alami, 2009, pp. 322-323)

The personality traits of an addict are numerous and diverse. Despite these differences, they do not manifest in every addict in the same way. Rather, they appear in varying degrees and forms in each individual, influenced by a number of factors, including the type of narcotic substance consumed, the degree and duration of addiction, and the individual's personality and environment.

5. Secondly, the field study

5. 1. Methodology

- The study employed a descriptive-analytical approach, which was deemed to be an appropriate methodology for the nature of the study topic.
- The methodology enables the testing of the various hypotheses of the study and the analysis of the various data of the sample.

5. 2. Study sample

The study sample consisted of 200 individuals who were young drug addicts. The characteristics of the sample were determined according to several variables. The gender and number of relapses were also recorded.

Table (01): The distribution of the study sample members according to gender and the number of relapses is presented below

Variable	Gender		Number of relapses			
	Male	Females	0	1	2	3
Frequencies	186	14	143	37	15	5
Percentage	93%	7%	71.5 %	18.5%	7.5%	2.5%
Total						200

The data indicates that the number of male addicts is significantly higher than the number of female addicts. This is reflected in the disparity of the ratios, which can be attributed to the fact that males are more likely to seek treatment in the specialised service than females. This is due to the nature of the treatment adopted in the hospital institution. The treatment service requires the beneficiary to be hospitalised for 21 days. The low turnout can be explained by the fact that females prefer the external treatment mode, which avoids the long period of stay in the treatment facility, compared to the male sample of the review sample of males. It is also evident from the table that the majority of respondents are first-time offenders, and that the number of relapses in this study is limited to three instances, which is the number of times an individual may return to the institution and benefit from the free treatment service after relapse and recidivism.

5. 3. Study Instrument: Costa and McCrae's FFI scale

Written by Costa and McCrae (Costa and McCrae, 1992) and adapted by Badr Al-Ansari, the FFI is an objective instrument that aims to measure the Big Five personality factors through a set of 60 items, which were extracted by factor analysis of items derived from several personality questionnaires.

This list differs from other lists that aim to measure the Big Five personality factors in that the latter relied mainly on a vocabulary approach derived from language dictionaries, while this list relied on an intelligence approach that relies on statements in measuring personality. The first version of the list appeared in (1989), which consisted of 180 items, on which some amendments were made in order to reduce the number of items, until the second version appeared in (1992), which includes five scales as follows: Neuroticism - Extraversion - Conscientiousness - Openness to experience - Meekness.

5. 4. Presentation and discussion of the results of the study

In order to address the question posed in the study, an analysis of variance (ANOVA) was conducted to determine the differences between the mean trait scores according to the variable of relapse frequency. This variable classified the drug-addicted youth in the current study into four groups (never relapsed, relapsed once, relapsed twice, and relapsed three times). The results are presented in the table below.

Table (02): The results of the univariate analysis of variance test for personality traits according to the variable number of relapses are presented below.

Attributes	Groups	Mean	Standard Deviation	F-value	Level of significance
Neuroticism	Never relapsed before	46.55	6.551	1.837	Significant at the 0.05 level
	One relapse	45.62	7.403		
	Two relapses	42.67	9.081		
	Triple relapse	49.00	1.414		

Attributes	Groups	Mean	Standard Deviation	F-value	Level of significance
Extraversion	Never relapsed before	30.68	8.438	1.828	Significant at the 0.05 level
	One relapse	32.68	9.592		
	Two relapses	35.44	10.517		
	Triple relapse	31.00	1.414		
Openness	Never relapsed before	30.50	6.184	1.655	Significant at the 0.05 level
	One relapse	31.38	5.494		
	Two relapses	33.56	7.610		
	Triple relapse	35.00	1.414		
Gentleness	Never relapsed before	32.17	8.372	3.483	Significant at the 0.05 level
	One relapse	34.05	7.502		
	Two relapses	37.17	9.218		
	Triple relapse	44.50	0.707		
Awakening of conscience	Never relapsed before	33.61	7.465	0.187	Significant at the 0.05 level
	One relapse	34.27	8.468		
	Two relapses	34.61	6.809		
	Triple relapse	32.00	1.414		

The results presented in the table above indicate that there are statistically significant differences in the five personality traits of young drug addicts according to the variable of the number of relapse times. This is evidenced by the F values of (1.837-1.828-1.655-3.483-0.187), which correspond to the following traits: The five personality traits in question were found to be statistically significant, namely neuroticism, extroversion, openness, meekness, and vigilance.

A review of the scientific literature on relapse revealed numerous academic studies and accumulated field research on this topic. These studies emphasized the role of psychological and personal factors in relapse, including the study by Zouei et al. (2017), which aimed to identify drug addiction, its factors and treatment methods, as well as the recovery period and its importance, up to the relapse and its symptoms. In addition to identifying the psychological and social factors behind the relapse of addiction and ranking the most influential factors in relapse, the study sample consisted of 78 relapsers. The study relied on the Relapse Attitudes Questionnaire (2015) by RaafatAskar et al. The study concluded that there is a statistically significant relationship between psychological and social factors and relapse. The most important dimensions of relapse attitudes were found to be as follows: (pressures of fellow users - relationship disorders - family issues - unpleasant feelings - pleasant feelings - psychological and physical pain - ability to control drug use - longing - drug cues).

Rabie's (2010) study, entitled 'The degree of relapse in a sample of recovering and recovering drug addicts – a comparative study', aimed to identify the dimensions of relapse and its factors. The study sample included two samples: (7) The study sample included 109 addicts in residential treatment centres and reform and rehabilitation centres located in the northern and central governorates of the Palestinian Authority. (53) The study sample also included 162 recovering addicts who have been in recovery for more than two years with follow-up, counselling and aftercare programmes in treatment institutions. The present study is based on the Relapse Attitudes Questionnaire, prepared by Askar et al. (2005) found no differences in the degree of relapse in recovering addicts compared to recovering addicts in the eight dimensions of relapse (craving, drug cues, testing the ability to control the pressure of fellow users, pleasant and unpleasant feelings, disturbance of relationships with others and family issues, psychological pain and debilitation). There were no statistically

significant differences in the degree of relapse due to the interaction between status (recovering and treated addict) and marital status (single, married, divorced). However, the relapse appeared higher on the dimensions of family issues and psychological pain and debilitation with the status of divorcees (single, married, divorced). The results indicated that the dimension of family issues, psychological pain and debilitation was more prevalent in divorced individuals. There were no statistically significant differences in the degree of relapse due to the interaction between the status (recovering addict and recovering addict), and the educational level of recovering and treated addicts. Additionally, the place of residence of treated and recovering addicts had no effect on the eight dimensions of relapse. Finally, the results demonstrated that recovering addicts require a longer treatment period than treated addicts.

A significant number of the aforementioned studies have been interested in researching the factors of relapse and studying the most contributing factors in predicting its occurrence. The majority of these studies have emphasised the relationship between the psychological aspect, especially with regard to the personality and its characteristics in the occurrence of addiction recidivism. The study by Al-Zahrani (2010) is a notable example of this. The study, entitled 'The relationship between the sites of relapse and some of the personality traits', comprised a sample of 91 individuals addicted to Captagon and hashish. The tools employed in the study were the Relapse Locus Scale (2001), Elsammani, and Costa and Macri's Personality Traits Scale. The study concluded with a number of results, the most important of which are: The most influential external relapse themes were the influence of others, happy times with others, and the influence of others, which were the least influential. The most dangerous internal relapse themes were longing, followed by physical illnesses and positive emotion, respectively. The study also revealed a positive correlation between the themes (physical illnesses, longing, longing, and negative emotion) and the dimension of recidivism. A negative correlation was observed between the neuroticism dimension and the following themes: negative emotion, positive emotion, self-test, and influence of others. Conversely, a positive correlation was observed between the extraversion dimension and the following themes: positive emotion, influence of others, happy times with others, and self-test. Furthermore, a negative correlation was observed between the self-test dimension and the extraversion dimension.

This study demonstrates the relationship between personality traits and relapse in drug addicts, which is partially consistent with the findings of the current study on the relationship between personality traits and recidivism. The results of dimensional comparisons in personality traits according to the variable of the number of times of relapse indicated that the direction of the differences in the traits of neuroticism was consistent with the findings of the current study. The results indicated that extroversion, openness to experience, and meekness were positively correlated with a lower risk of relapse. In particular, the performance of the research sample members on the trait of neuroticism in young people who did not relapse once was greater than the averages of the performance of individuals who relapsed twice.

The higher neuroticism trait observed in this study can be attributed to young drug addicts who did not relapse. This was due to their early engagement with a specialised service during a period of intense addiction-related distress, which had a profound impact on their psychological, personal, professional, social and family lives. Furthermore, they had not undergone any previous treatment attempts. The term "never relapsed" indicates that the subjects in question had not previously attempted treatment and had not undergone detoxification. In contrast, those who relapsed twice exhibited a decrease in this trait, which may have been influenced by therapeutic and pharmacological experiences.

To elucidate this phenomenon further, numerous studies (McAdams, 1994) have demonstrated that individuals with a high score on the neuroticism factor tend to experience elevated levels of negative affect and exhibit greater distress in response to stressors. This high score also increases the likelihood of exposure to a greater number of daily stressors, particularly those related to interpersonal disagreements or conflicts. Furthermore, the second source of stress for individuals with a high degree of neuroticism is their reaction to stressful events. This can manifest as emotional, negative, and violent reactions. The reaction to stressful events in individuals with a high degree of neuroticism may result from their adoption of ineffective coping strategies. This includes self-blame and the use of ineffective coping strategies that do not relieve anxiety, depression, and hostility, nor do they facilitate the discharge of emotional energy in the face of daily challenges.

Consequently, the concept of neuroticism is defined as a general lack of personality integration, which is characterised by a high degree of inability to adapt to emotionally challenging situations or those that

require a high level of emotional energy to cope with adversity, as well as excessive nervous activity, arousal and an inappropriate reaction to strong external stimuli.

The results demonstrated statistically significant differences in the traits of extroversion, gentleness and openness to goodness among young drug addicts in favour of those who had relapsed on two occasions compared to those who had only relapsed once. This indicates that the performance of those who had relapsed on two occasions was higher than that of those who had only relapsed once.

This may be explained by the fact that this group underwent psychological and medical treatment and repeated follow-up by the treatment team. This may have included undergoing treatment within the specialised service, which lasts for 21 months or more depending on the medical team's assessment of case developments. Furthermore, this follow-up continued outside the centre. Consequently, the effects of treatment experiences are evident at the level of personality traits of relapsed addicts if the performances are compared with addicts who have not undergone treatment before. This confirms the importance of treatment and the impact of recovery experiences on the members of the sample.

In this context, numerous previous studies have demonstrated the impact of treatment on the addict's behaviour and personality. While it is beyond the scope of this paper to provide a comprehensive overview of these studies, their findings can be used to substantiate the efficacy of psychotherapy and its benefits for the addict's behaviour and personality. Nevertheless, they can be employed to emphasise the status of psychotherapy and its advantages and effects for relapsed drug addicts and their personalities. For instance, Bakal's (2013) study, entitled "The Effect of Motivation and Immunisation Training on Compatibility in Addicts," was conducted on a sample of 183 addicts to various psychoactive substances. The study demonstrated the effect of immunisation training on reducing psychological pressure in the research sample. In addition to the study by Mukhaini and Hamdi (2017), entitled "The Effectiveness of a Training Programme Based on the Meichenbaum Model in Reducing the Desire to Use Drugs," the following studies were also considered.

The study, conducted on seven cases of adolescent males addicted to kief and psychoactive substances and individuals in the intermediate addiction treatment centre in the state of Chlef, demonstrated that group psychotherapy programmes have a significant impact on most cases, assisting them in abstaining from drug use, reducing the level of addictive and withdrawal symptoms, and preventing relapse.

The results also indicate that the levels of the trait of meekness increased among young drug addicts who relapsed three times compared to those who did not relapse once. This improvement may be explained by the repeated social networking opportunities available to the young drug addict every time he undergoes treatment. He meets a different group of young addicts, which enables him to meet new friends, share new social experiences during the period of stay in the specialised service, benefit more from the experiences of others in communication and conversation and learn additional skills through dialogue and opinion among the group through group psychotherapy sessions.

In relation to the significance of personality traits in the occurrence of relapse, Hassan's (2012) study, entitled 'Some psychosocial determinants predictive of relapse in people dependent on psychoactive substances', revealed that all studies conducted in the field of treatment evaluation and the extent of relapses in dependence confirm that the recovery rate is low and the relapse rate is high. This was evidenced by the fact that (80-90%) of 500 dependent patients who participated in a treatment programme for a period ranging from several months to years relapsed after attending the treatment programme. The study also concluded that there is a set of personal traits and characteristics that qualify individuals to enter the world of drugs. Miller and Faly (2003) posit that the decision to use a substance and the occurrence of relapse in an individual depend on two assumptions:

- The initial rationale for the decision to use a substance is based on the expectations and perceptions of the dependent individual.
- The effects of all other variables, including personality traits.

One can exploit the theoretical heritage and previous studies to analyse the connotations of relapse at the psychological and social levels. Relapse is multifactorial and multifaceted, as it expresses the efforts made by the young addict in his continuous attempt to adapt to the environment without a drug. It also refers to the stages and privileges of medical and psychological treatment and its treatment plans, which are viewed in the context of the burdens of failure. Furthermore, the current study has revealed some important and fundamental differences in personality traits according to the variable of relapse frequency. These differences have been

observed in the field, and they have been found to deepen the effects of the addictive issue on the young person. The stages and privileges of medical and psychological treatment and its treatment plans have been found to be reverted to the starting point with the burdens of the failure of the therapeutic experience, including feelings of anxiety, frustration, self-blame and other negative emotions.

Conclusion

The pervasiveness and accelerating trend of drug addiction in the Arab world and beyond represents a compelling scientific phenomenon worthy of further investigation. It is therefore imperative to adopt the epidemiological approach to this phenomenon at the Arab and international levels. The phenomenon of drug addiction has a direct impact on public health, resulting in the deterioration of the psychological and mental functions of the addict, which in turn leads to a greater number of individuals who are unable to function effectively in society. The epidemiology of the phenomenon, both socially and globally, can be considered a valuable input towards strengthening the means of self-protection, adopting negative attitudes towards the phenomenon among various segments of society, stabilising recovery among addicted individuals by preventing recidivism and reducing relapse rates, as well as establishing possible mechanisms for the integration and integration of individuals recovering from drug addiction within society.

This study also emphasises the importance of paying more attention to the study of youth issues at the scientific, academic and applied levels. In order to analyse the issues of this group correctly and to assess their conditions and issues, in particular those related to delinquency, it is necessary to adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach.

As evidenced by the global prevalence of the phenomenon, the circle of drug addiction among young people is expanding, with new users continually entering the market. This has a significant impact on the health, psychological, social, and economic situation of individuals and societies. It is crucial to acknowledge the magnitude of the burdens and effects on global personal health security.

The findings of this study underscore the significance of investigating the phenomenon of drug addiction and highlight the necessity for researchers to conduct comparative civilisational studies to examine the influence of personality factors, cultural factors, and relapse indicators on the onset of drug addiction. This is crucial to safeguard individuals and to ensure the efficacy of medical and psychological treatment.

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