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**Major Concern:**  
Social work practice, Rehabilitation service for people with disabilities, Industrial social work, Family and adolescent problems

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<th>Major</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Name of Institution</th>
<th>Place (city, country)</th>
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<td>Associate professor</td>
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ABSTRACT

THE EFFECT OF NEGATIVE AND SUPPORTIVE BEHAVIORS OF THEIR PARENTS AND FRIENDS ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE RISK AMONG KOREAN ADOLESCENTS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FAMILY RESILIENCE INTERVENTION: GENDER DIFFERENCES

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Substance use among adolescents is particularly problematic because early initiation of substance not only leads to many detrimental impacts on their lives but also is predicative of both increased use and more serious patterns of use in their adulthood. Thus, it is important to identify potential substance users and factors related to substance use because these efforts may provide important information to help adolescents who are at high risk for substance use.

Many studies documented that parental alcoholism and peer substance use are the most predictive risk factors for substance use among adolescents. On the other hand, there is ongoing debate among researchers on the influence of social support from family and friends on substance use by adolescents. Also, individual factors such as self-esteem, emotional coping, and academic performance have been shown to be associated with substance use among adolescents.

Unlike western society, little is known about gender difference in the prevalence and correlates of substance use among adolescents in South Korea. Accordingly, this study aimed to identify the prevalence of substance abuse risk among South Korean adolescents and to examine the effects of negative and supportive of parents and friends on their substance abuse risk by gender.

The participants were 1,981 high school youths between the ages of 16 and 19 years (mean, 17.69) residing in Seoul city. Data collection was conducted conveniently choosing high schools in Seoul. Participants completed a self-report survey which included measures of substance abuse risk of adolescent and his or her best friend (using a POSIT scale), parental alcoholism (using the CAST), supportive behaviors from either parent or friend (using multidimensional scale of Perceived Social Support), Rosenberg's self-esteem scale, COPE scale developed by Carver et al. and gender, age, perceived economic status, academic performance.
The effects of negative and supportive behaviors of their parents and friends on substance abuse risk among Korean adolescents and implications for family resilience intervention: Gender differences

Substance use among South Korean adolescents is prevalent, similar to their counterparts in Western nations (Johnston, O'Malley, & Bachman, 2002). In South Korea, at least 88% report alcohol use of high school students, 67% smoke cigarettes, and 5% use other drugs in their lifetime (Ministry for Health, Welfare, and Family affairs, 2008).

Despite the recognition that substance use among adolescents is common, adolescent substance use is not an issue of major concern in South Korea. In 2005, the Korean Government established the National Youth Commission under the Prime Minister with a mandate of proposing general policy and program initiatives for adolescents in trouble. Substance use is one issue to be addressed. However, until recently, there were only limited efforts aimed at preventing and resolving this growing problem among South Korean adolescents. Also, school-based program has not been developed due to lack of data on adolescents' substance use.

As shown in previous studies, several factors influence adolescent substance use, ranging from individual factors to social environmental factors. These include gender, age, self-esteem, coping skill, substance use by family members, physical abuse within the family, peer substance use, peer pressure, and school-related problems (Barrett, 1990; Kandel, Kessler, & Margulies, 1978; Johnson et al., 1990; Dryfoos, 1990; Bauman & Ennet, 1996; Diaz, Dusenbury, Botvin, & Farmer-Huselid., 1997; Clark, Lesnick, & Hegedus, 1997; Kim, 1997; Santor, Messervey, & Kusumakar, 2000; Brook, Brook, Gordon, Whiteman, & Chhen, 1990; Wright & Fitzpatrick, 2004; Kim, 2004; Johnson, Whitbeck, & Hoyt, 2005; Rice, Milburn, Rotheram-Borus, Mallett, & Rosenthal, 2005).

Of these factors, parental alcoholism and peer substance use are the most predictive risk factors for adolescent substance use (Diaz et al., 1997; Graves, Fernandez, Shelton, Urberg, Goldstein & Toro, 2005). Parental alcohol abuse is closely related to adolescent substance use. Alcoholic parents are behavioral models for adolescents and may be predictive for youth substance use (Brook et al., 1990). Previous studies reported that adolescents in families where parents use alcohol at a high rate are more likely to use substances (Barrett, 1990; Johnson et al., 1990; Johnson et al., 2005). Substance use by an adolescent's peer group is another strong predictor for adolescent substance use. Several previous studies showed that adolescents with friends who use alcohol are more likely to use alcohol themselves (Andrews, Tildesley, Hops, & Li, 2002; Henry, Slater, & Oetting, 2005; Ennett & Bauman, 1993). In fact, a relationship with a delinquent peer group enables adolescents to maintain a permissive perspective on substance use, which in turn increases acceptance and participation in risky behaviors (Wright &
adolescents (Sher, 1991) and grades received in school were a protective factor which significantly predicts substance use among youth (Wright & Fitzpatrick, 2004).

Demographic factors, such as gender and age, can predict substance use, and males use alcohol and other drugs more than females (Johnson et al. 1990; Lang, 1985). Callen (1985) reported that the period of major risk initiation of alcohol and marijuana use peaks between the ages of 16 and 18. Similar findings were reported on high school students in South Korea (Kim & Shin, 2004).

Although there are some studies regarding substance use among adolescents in South Korea, most of them have focused only on the alcohol problems of high school students. Furthermore, little is known about gender difference in the prevalence and correlates of substance use among adolescents in this country. Taking the scarce information on adolescents’ substance use into consideration, this study investigated the prevalence of substance abuse risk among South Korean adolescents and examined the effects of negative and supportive of parents and friends on their substance abuse risk by gender.

Methods

Sample and Procedure

Participants consisted of a convenience sample of 1,981 high school students. We limited the geographical study area to Seoul because this area comprises the largest metropolitan area and has the largest concentration of adolescents in South Korea and thus the largest cluster of adolescents with substance use problems (National Youth Commission, 2005).

Data collection was conducted conveniently choosing high schools in Seoul and requesting to administer the study. To begin with, we divided the Seoul City geographically into four parts. At next stage, we selected 2-3 schools from each area and then 4 classes from each school. Surveys were distributed to those schools who gave permission to administer the study and the answered questionnaires were collected once complete. Before surveys were distributed, research assistants visited target schools, explained the purpose of the study, and noted that participation was voluntary and that all answers were confidential. We made participation voluntary because the survey included questions about family history, substance abuse, and other personal information, which some participants might be reluctant to divulge. The surveys were self-administered by each participant. We collected the data between October and November 2006. Of the 2002, 1991 surveys were returned; 1,981 were used in the final analysis after we excluded those that were improperly completed.

About 57.0% of the participants were male adolescents; 43% were females. Their average age was 17.7 years (SD=.88 years); the youngest was 16 and the oldest 19.
Results

Nearly one-fifths of boys (21.2%) and girls (19.4%) scored 2 or more on the POSIT scale, which suggested they met the problematic criteria for substance abuse risk. We explored parent-related variables that influence substance abuse risk as two different factors. For a risk factor, we looked to see if parents were alcoholics (CAST-K), and for a protective factor, we examined support from parents. The parental alcoholism rate of adolescents in this study was 28.5%. The parent support level was high with an average score of 15.29 (SD=5.05) with a 4-point scale. For peer-related variables that influence substance abuse risk, we selected a close friend’s substance abuse risk (POSIT) for the risk factor and peer support as a protective factor. For a close friend’s substance abuse risk, 24.6% scored 2 points or higher. The peer support level was a bit lower than the parent support level with an average of 16.16 (SD=5.08) using the 4-point scale.

Table 1 shows the results of logistic regression analysis. Logistic regression results indicated that controlling for socio-demographic characteristics, emotional coping, parental alcoholism, parental support, peer substance use, and peer support, academic performance have significantly influenced on substance abuse risk among boys while emotional coping and peer substance abuse were the most predicative factors of substance abuse risk among girls. Regarding parent-related factors, among boys, parental alcoholism increased the probability of substance abuse as a risk factor while parental support decreased the likelihood of substance abuse as a protective factor. In the other hand, among girls, factors related to parent did not have significant impacts on the substance abuse risk. In terms of the impacts of peer, peer substance abuse was a common risk factor predicting substance abuse risk among both boys and girls. Interestingly, peer support as a risk factor increased the likelihood of substance abuse risk only among boys unlike protective role of parental supports.

Table 1

Logistic regression model for predicting substance abuse (POSIT score) by gender

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Boys (n=932)</th>
<th>Girls (n=849)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>.078</td>
<td>.123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic status</td>
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<td>.121</td>
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<td>Self esteem</td>
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<td>.272</td>
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<td>Emotional coping</td>
<td>1.089</td>
<td>.266</td>
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recreational activities. Interventions for boy need to be targeted to not only reduce exposures to parental alcoholism and emerging pressure from peers but also foster parental support or improve skill for coping effectively with stress.

On the other hand, prevention strategy for girls needs to focus on improving skills for coping effectively with stress as well as minimizing negative impacts of peer who use substance. Especially, among both boys and girls, the negative influence of peer support on adolescent substance use should not be overlooked. Because adolescent substance use occurs within peer groups with similar qualities, early stage substance use discontinuation through group therapy that simultaneously approaches the adolescent and his or her close friends is more appropriate than approaching adolescents individually.

Limitations

The generalization of findings must be done with caution because the sample was selected from Seoul. Since the survey was self-administered participants may have underestimated substance use levels by their parents and themselves. Because this study used a single parental alcoholism variable, differences between alcoholic fathers and mothers could not be determined.


The effects of negative and supportive behaviors of their parents and friends on substance abuse risk among Korean adolescents and implications for family resilience intervention: Gender differences

Soo Kyung Park
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Content

- Background
- Purpose
- Method
- Results
- Discussion and Implications
- Limitations

Background

- Substance use among Korean adolescents is prevalent, similar to their counterparts in Western nations (Johnston, O'Malley, & Bachman, 2002).
- In Korea, at least 88% of high school students report alcohol use, about 67% smoke cigarettes, and nearly 5% use other drugs (Ministry for health, Welfare, and family affairs, 2002).

Background

- Factors associated with substance use among adolescents
- Socio-demographic factor: gender, age, perceived economic status
- Individual factor: self esteem, coping skill
- Parental factor: parental alcohol abuse, parental support
- Peer factor: peer substance abuse risk, peer support
- School related factor: academic achievement
Background

- Along these lines, although adolescent substance use can be negatively influenced by parental and peer substance abuse, social support from parent and peer may decrease or increase adolescent substance abuse.

- Self esteem
  - Adolescents with poor self-concepts had a greater propensity for abuse of alcohol (Barrett, 1990)

- Emotional coping skill
  - Effective coping skill is a protective factor that contributes to strength of adolescents (Winters, 1999).

- Economic status
  - Economic status is associated with substance use among adolescents (Skr, 1991).

- Academic achievement
  - Grades received in school were a protective factor which significantly predicts substance use among youth (Wright & Fitzpatrick, 2004).

Background

- Gender
  - Males use alcohol and other drugs more than females (Johnson et al. 1990).

- Age
  - Period of major risk initiation of alcohol and marijuana use peaks between the ages of 16 and 18 (Callen, 1985).
Results

. Adolescent substance abuse (POSIT score) . 2 : 20.4%
  → boys: 21.2% Vs girls: 19.4%

. Peer substance abuse (POSIT): 24.6%
  → boys: 26.0% Vs girls: 22.8%

. Parental Alcoholism (CAST Score) . 6 :
  28.5% → 24.5% Vs 33.5%

Method

Data Analysis

. Descriptive statistics are used.

. Logistic regression are used to assess moderating effects.

<table>
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<th>Exp(B)</th>
<th>95%CI</th>
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Model chi-square: 363.265
-2 likelihood: 585.590

Table 1. Logistic regression model for predicting substance abuse risk by gender
(* .05< p, ** .01< p, *** .001< p)
Discussion

- Different negative or supportive behaviors of parents and peers, depending on gender of participant, were predictors of substance abuse risk among adolescents.

- This findings support the utility of gender-specific prevention programming and resilience-oriented services fostering individual and family empowerment.

Implications

- In South Korea, intervention programs associated with substance use have shown regretfully little positive effects partly because most prevention programs have been provided primarily for college students.

  → Need to expand its target population to include high school adolescents

  → Need to extend the length of the intervention period.

Implications

- High potential substance abuse among high school students.

  → Need to adopt objective instruments such as POSIT to screen at-risk adolescents for substance use.

  → Need to identify potential substance abusers at earlier stages.

  → Need to refer them to appropriate intervention opportunities.

Implications

- The effects of supportive relationships with parents and peers do not seem to work in the same manner.

  → Need to consider the importance of parental support when they formulate intervention programs.