Investigation the Moderator Role of Conscientiousness in Related to Effect of Socioeconomic Status, Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness to Experience, and Agreeableness on Substance, Alcohol, and Tobacco Use

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Abstract

Background: Addiction has negative consequences on addicted person and his/her family members. The goal of this study is to investigate the relationship between personality traits and socioeconomic status with substance use. The relationship has been shown in a variety of studies. However, it is little known about the mechanisms of this relationship and variables may affect this relationship. Therefore, the present study investigated in frame of a model the moderator role of conscientiousness in related to effect of socioeconomic status, neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, and agreeableness on substance use.

Materials and methods: Current study is analytical- cross sectional and regarding to data gathering and analysis methods was conducted in correlational way. The number of 300 (124 mal and 176 female) students were selected through available sampling from kharazmi university and were assessed employing NEO Personality questionnaire and researcher made questionnaires on socioeconomic status and substance use. Data were analyzed based on the path analysis and using 8.8 version of Lisrel software.

Results: Result showed that conscientiousness had significant positive relationship with extraversion (r=0.46, P<0.01), openness to experience (r=0.14, P<0.05), and agreeableness (r=0.20, P<0.01), and significant negative relationship with neuroticism (r=0.35, P<0.01), socioeconomic status (r=-0.18, P<0.01), and substance use (r=-0.17, P<0.01). Moreover, suggested model for investigating the moderator role of conscientiousness in related to effect of socioeconomic status, neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, and agreeableness on substance use had excellent fitness (RMSEA=0.04, CFI=0.99, NFI=0.99, GFI=0.99, AGFI=0.96) with data.

Conclusion: The findings showed that personality traits and socioeconomic status, either directly or indirectly, affected the substance use. In this domain the role of conscientiousness is more prominent because not only mediates the effect of variables with a negative effect on substance use (such as extraversion), also moderates the effect of variables with a positive effect on substance use (such as socioeconomic status).

Keywords: Path analysis, Personality, Substance use, Moderator variable, Conscientiousness, Socioeconomic status.