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Research Article

A Study on Awareness of Narcotics Among Young-Adult Students

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ABSTRACT

In this prospective and longitudinal study on “A study on awareness of narcotics among young adult students” the awareness programs are conducted among young adult students aged from 18-25 years, where the chances of incidence of narcotics misuse is high. The study objectify to evaluate the effectiveness of current educational programs and awareness campaigns on narcotic addiction prevention among young-adult students. Study also explore the attitudes and beliefs of young-adult students towards narcotic addiction and related risks and identify the knowledge gaps and misconceptions regarding the risks and consequences of narcotic addiction among young-adult students. This prospective quantitative study focuses on young-adult students in a community setting. Inclusion criteria encompass all genders willing to participate, excluding children, the elderly, and those with mental or neurological disorders unwilling to engage. The study employs a questionnaire-based approach across multiple colleges, utilizing pre and post-questionnaires with an intervening narcotic awareness presentation. Statistical analysis using SPSS version 23.0 involves percentages, proportions, means, medians, and the Chi-square test to evaluate the relationship between independent variables and key outcomes (knowledge, attitude, and awareness related to narcotics). A p-value of 0.05 is considered statistically significant. The study focused on gender distribution among young adults, with a higher male ratio (65.1%) indicating an elevated risk of narcotics introduction. Primarily targeting students, the awareness program involved college faculties and staff. Examining age distribution, the highest awareness was in the 22-23 age group, emphasizing the need for targeted educational efforts. Duration of stay in Bangalore was considered for lifestyle assessment, given its potential impact on narcotics misuse. Pre-program awareness was low at 7.6%, but post-program, 97.7% were well-informed, with significant increases in knowledge about risk, addiction, and signs/symptoms. Confidence in information about narcotics saw a positive change, with 93.4% feeling more confident post-program. Participants believed their colleges lacked adequate narcotics information (89.6%), reflecting a potential institutional gap..

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Attitudes shifted positively, with concerns decreasing from 90.9% to 85.4%. Peer pressure was identified as a significant cause, and confidence in resisting increased from 93% to 85%. The study highlighted barriers to prevention, including education, stigma, and peer pressure. Participants expressed concerns about insufficient resources for those struggling with narcotics (89.5%). The majority believed that increasing awareness and education could prevent future narcotics addiction cases (98.2%). Suggestions included more awareness campaigns and support groups/resources for young adults struggling with narcotics. While 92.7% attended narcotics addiction awareness programs for the first time, a considerable percentage had not participated in any peer support group, yet recognized the potential effectiveness of such programs (91.9%). The findings underscore the importance of targeted educational interventions and institutional support to address narcotics-related challenges among young adults. In conclusion, the study underscores the positive impact of awareness programs on knowledge and attitudes, highlighting the need for targeted interventions and ongoing support in combating narcotics misuse among young adults.

INTRODUCTION

Narcotics, a diverse group of substances known for their potent effects on pain relief and consciousness alteration, have held a significant yet controversial role throughout human history. From their ancient use as remedies for ailments to their contemporary association with addiction and abuse, narcotics represent a dual-edged phenomenon. This document explores the multifaceted nature of narcotics, highlighting their historical, cultural, and medicinal significance while addressing the complex challenges they present in modern society. While narcotics are invaluable in managing severe pain and improving quality of life for patients, their potential for misuse and dependency has led to widespread physical, psychological, and societal harm. The focus of this study is particularly on young adults, a demographic at heightened risk due to factors such as peer pressure, social experimentation, academic and personal stress, and increased accessibility to both prescription and illicit narcotics. The document examines the underlying drivers of narcotic misuse in this group, including

inadequate awareness of the risks, insufficient education on addiction, and the influence of social and cultural norms. It also addresses the alarming trends in addiction rates, overdose incidents, and the role of synthetic narcotics like fentanyl in exacerbating the global drug crisis. Furthermore, the study evaluates existing strategies for prevention, awareness, and harm reduction, identifying significant gaps in educational campaigns and intervention efforts. Current approaches are analyzed for their effectiveness in equipping young adults with the knowledge and resilience needed to navigate the risks associated with narcotics. Harm-reduction measures, such as supervised injection sites, naloxone distribution, and broader access to addiction treatment, are explored as potential solutions to mitigate the impact of narcotics misuse on individuals and society. The broader implications of the narcotics crisis are also considered, including its effects on public health systems, law enforcement, and communities. The global illicit drug trade, fueled by demand for narcotics, is examined for its role in perpetuating violence, economic instability, and societal disintegration. The study emphasizes the need for international cooperation and evidence-based policymaking to combat these challenges effectively. Through this in-depth exploration, the document aims to illuminate the intricate and often paradoxical role of narcotics in human society. By examining their historical context, current challenges, and the impact on young adults, the study advocates for a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to addressing the narcotics crisis. It calls for informed policy interventions, enhanced education programs, and robust community support systems to mitigate the harmful effects of narcotics while preserving their legitimate medical use. Ultimately, this work aspires to contribute to a future where the balance between the therapeutic benefits and societal risks of narcotics is more effectively managed,



safeguarding the well-being of individuals and communities alike.

RESULTS

The results of the study highlight a significant increase in awareness and knowledge about narcotics among young adults following an educational program. Before the intervention, only 7.6% of participants were aware of what narcotics are, but this increased dramatically to 97.7% post-program. Similarly, understanding the risks associated with narcotics rose from 8.2% to 97.9%. Awareness of addiction as a critical issue improved substantially, with the percentage of students recognizing addiction as a significant problem rising from 9.6% to 98.1%. Confidence in knowledge about narcotics saw a remarkable increase, with 93.4% of participants feeling more informed post-program compared to just 6.4% beforehand. Additionally, 85% of participants reported greater confidence in resisting peer pressure after the program, compared to only 1% before. Concerns about the current opioid epidemic rose from 4.1% to 92.7%, reflecting heightened awareness. Barriers to addressing

narcotics misuse were identified, with lack of education (43.3%), peer pressure (40%), and stigma (16.7%) as primary obstacles. A significant majority (96.9%) of participants expressed a need for more awareness campaigns, while 96.6% believed in the necessity of more support groups and resources for young adults dealing with narcotics issues. These findings underscore the effectiveness of educational interventions in transforming awareness and attitudes toward narcotics among young adults. They also highlight critical gaps in existing resources and the need for sustained efforts in awareness, education, and community support to address narcotics-related challenges comprehensively.

Result: -

Demographics

Table no. 01: Distribution of subjects according to gender

Gender	Frequency In Number	Percentage (%)
Female	624	34.9%
Male	335	65.1%
Total	959	100%

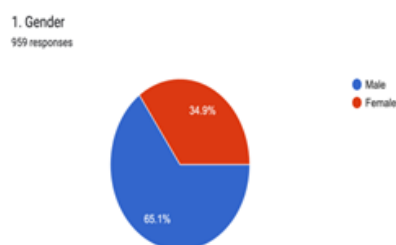


Figure no. 01

Subjects were being distributed according to gender. In the total identified population, the female gender number 335 (34.9%) and male

gender 624 (65.1%). Here the reason of greater ratio in male population is because of their more chances to introduce towards narcotics.

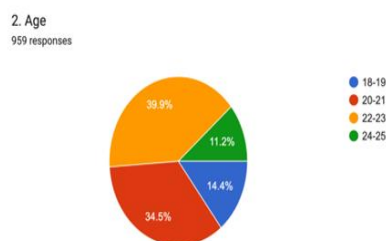
Table no. 02: Distribution according to age group

Age	Frequency In Number	Percentage (%)
18-19	138	14.4%
20-21	331	34.5%
22-23	383	39.9%

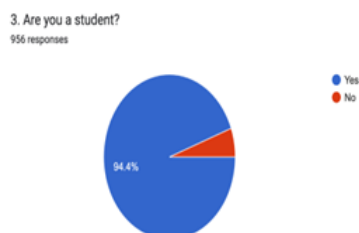
24-25	107	11.2%
Total	959	100%

χ^2 value=476.34 df=13 p value, sig=0.011, significant



**Figure no. 02**

From the distribution of subjects according to age, a greater number of population were aware at the age group of 22 to 23 (39.9%) and 20 to 21 (34.5%), and the least were found in the age group of 18 to 19 years (11.2%) and then 24 to 25 years (14.4%).

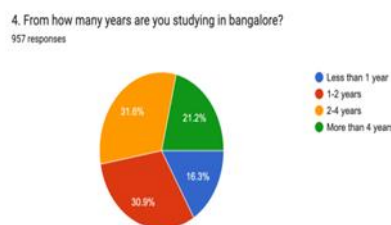


The study only focus students how ever while conducting an awareness programme college faculties and other staffs were also involved in the programme. The reason of mainly focusing the students in this study is because of their lifestyle which increase the chances of substance misuse.

Table no. 03: Distribution according to stay in Bangalore

Years	Frequency In Number (959)	Percentage (%)
>1 year	156	16.3%
1-2 years	296	30.9%
2-4 years	302	31.6%
<4 years	203	21.2%
Total	959	100%

χ^2 value=332.43 df=04 p value, sig=0.013, significant

**Figure no. 04**

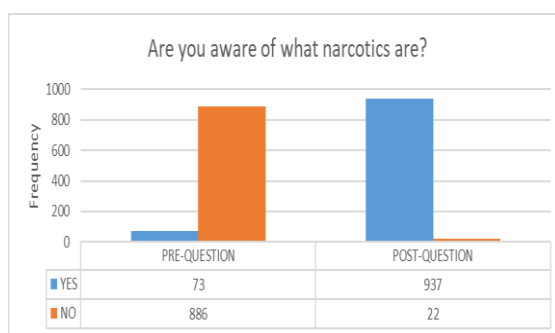
As the study conduct in the Bangalore it was important to understand their staying period in Bangalore which helps in the assessment of their lifestyle changes in various factor such as freedom, new friend circle etc. Which again can lead to the narcotics misuse.

Knowledge**Table no. 04: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison**

Are You Aware of What Narcotics Are?	Pre-Question	Post-Question
Yes	73 (92.4%)	937 (97.7%)
No	886 (7.6%)	22 (2.3%)
Total	959(100%)	959(100%)

χ^2 value=819.44 df=08 p value, sig=0.0115, significant



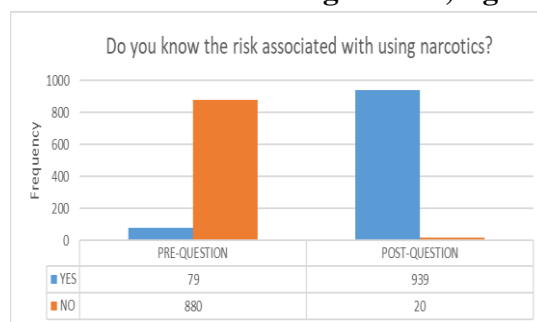
**Figure no. 05**

Out of the 959 young adults only 73 (i.e 7.6%) were aware of “what narcotics are” before the awareness program. After the program a assessment with a post questionnaire has been done, where a significant change has been seen. Sample 937 (i.e 97.7%) out of 959 young adult has been well informed and aware about the narcotics.

Table no. 05: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison

Do You Know the Risks Associated with Using Narcotics?	Pre-Question	Post-Question
Yes	79 (8.2%)	939 (97.9%)
No	880 (91.8%)	20 (2.1%)
Total	959(100%)	959(100%)

χ^2 value=674.429 df=03 p value, sig=0.0134, significant

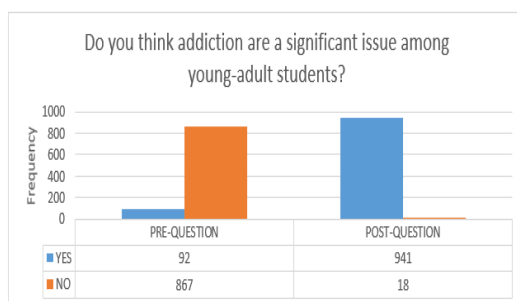


Most of the young adults were not aware of the “risk associated with using narcotics” before the program i.e 880(91.8%) out of total 959. The significant change has been seen after the program almost 939 i.e 97.9% of the total young adults were well informed about the risk and consequences associated with narcotics.

Table no. 06: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison

Do You Think Addictions Are a Significant Issue Among Young-Adult Students?	Pre-Question	Post-Question
Yes	92 (9.6%)	941 (98.1%)
No	867 (90.4%)	18 (1.9%)
Total	959(100%)	959(100%)

χ^2 value=1331.78 df=09 p value, sig=0.0211, significant

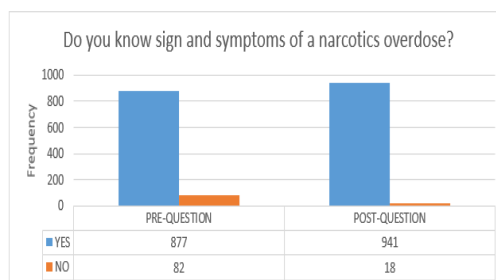


Before the program most of the young adults (i.e 867 out of 959) were not aware about the narcotics addiction and its significant issue. After the program a significant change in knowledge has been seen where 941 (i.e 98.1%) students understand the depth of the addiction of the narcotics.

Table no. 07: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison

Do You Know Signs and Symptoms of a Narcotic Overdose?	Pre-Question	Post-Question
Yes	877 (91.4%)	941 (98.1%)
No	82 (8.6%)	18 (1.9%)
Total	959(100%)	959(100%)

χ^2 value=573.51 df=11 p value, sig=0.0125, significant



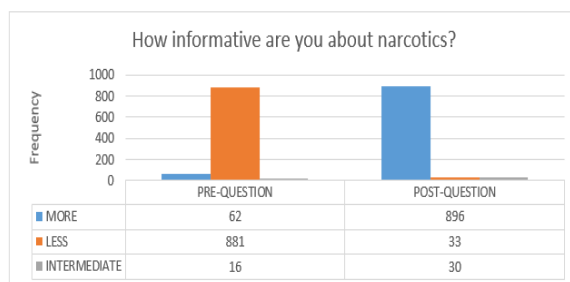
χ^2 value=19.444 df=20 p value, sig=0.493, NS (Not significant)

The students were not aware about the sign and symptoms of narcotics before the program i.e 877(91.4%) out of 959 people were not clearly known about the sign and symptoms of narcotics. After the program the significant change in knowledge about the sign and symptoms has been seen, i.e 941 (98.1%) young adults out of the total 959 sample were well informed about the sign and symptoms of the narcotics.

Table no. 08: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison

How Informative Are You About Narcotics?	Pre-Question	Post-Question
More	62 (6.4%)	896 (93.4%)
Less	881 (91.9%)	33 (3.44%)
Intermediate	16 (1.66%)	30 (3.12%)
Total	959(100%)	959(100%)

χ^2 value=781.98 df=13 p value, sig=0.0311, significant

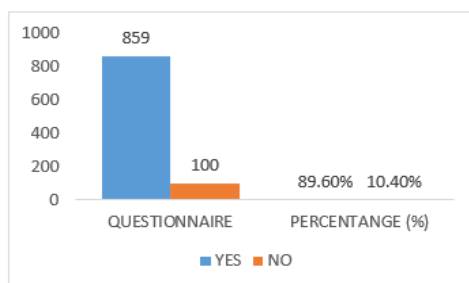
**Figure no. 09**

The sample young adult were not confident with the information that they have about narcotics. Out of 959 young adult only 62(i.e 6.4%) were well informative about the narcotics and other 881 (i.e 91.9%) were not well informative about the narcotics. After the awareness program a significant change in knowledge about information of narcotics has been seen, app 896 population i.e 93.4% young adult were feel more confident about the information of narcotics.

Table no. 09: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison

Do You Feel That Your College or University Provides Adequate Education and Resources on Narcotics?	Frequency In Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	859	(89.6%)
No	100	(10.4%)
Total	959	(100%)

χ^2 value=724.234 df=14 p value, sig=0.0225, significant

**Figure no. 10**

The current education program were not supply the required needed information about narcotics in their colleges or universities. Almost 859 out of 959, i.e 89.6% young adult student believe that their colleges and universities do not provide the adequate information about the narcotics.

Table no. 10: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison

How Would You Rate Your	Pre-Question	Post-Question
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Knowledge About Narcotic Addictions on A Scale Of 1 To 10?		
1-4	759 (82.9%)	56 (5.83%)
4-7	143 (14.9%)	51 (5.3%)
7-10	21 (2.1%)	852 (88.8%)
Total	959(100%)	959(100%)

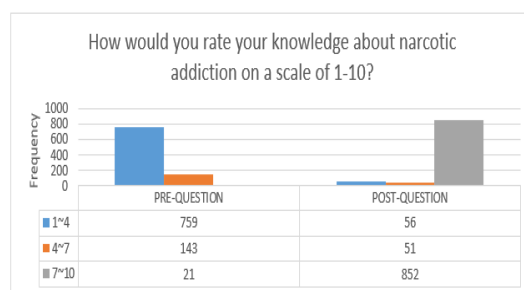


Figure no. 11

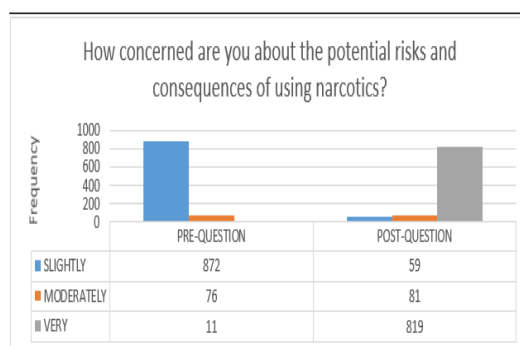
The knowledge of narcotics among young adults, before the program were significantly less, 759 out of 959 i.e 82.9% students' rate 'less' about the information they have about the narcotics. After the program a significant change in knowledge and confidence about narcotics information has been observed, 852 out of 959 i.e 88.8% students' rate more about the knowledge of narcotics after the program.

Attitude

Table no. 11: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison

How Concerned Are You About the Potential Risks and Consequences of Using Narcotic Substances?	Pre-Question	Post-Question
Slightly Concerned	872 (90.9%)	59 (6.1%)
Moderately Concerned	76 (7.9%)	81 (8.4%)
Very Concerned	11 (1.2%)	819 (85.4%)
Total	959(100%)	959(100%)

χ^2 value=782.34 df=16 p value, sig=0.0345, significant

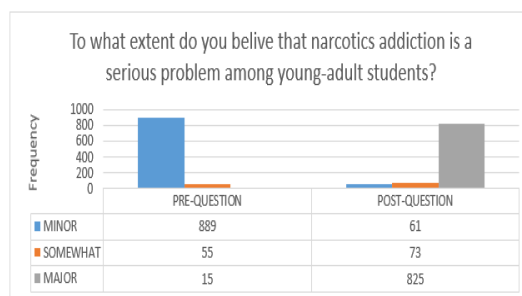


The attitude of young adults were not strongly concern about the potential risk and consequences of using narcotics, 872 out of 959 i.e 90.9% students believe that they are slightly concern about the risks of narcotics before the program. Where a significant change has been seen after the awareness program and 819 out of 959 i.e 85.4% students were concerned about the risk and consequences of using narcotics, and their attitude and knowledge about narcotics after the program looks improve.

Table no. 12: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison

To What Extent Do You Believe That Narcotic Addiction Is a Serious Problem Among Young-Adult Students in Our Community?	Pre-Question	Post-Question
A Minor Problem	889 (92.7%)	61 (6.3%)
Somewhat Of A Problem	55 (5.7%)	73 (7.6%)
A Major Problem	15(1.5%)	825 (86%)
Total	959(100%)	959(100%)

χ^2 value=1374.234 df=14 p value, sig=0.0127,
significant

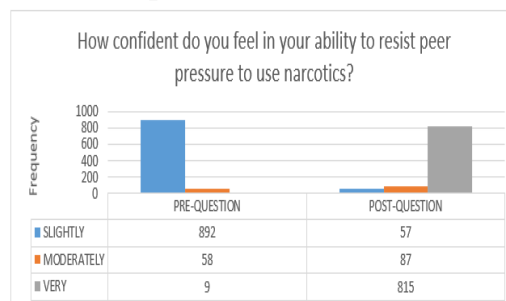


Before the program, 889 out of 959 young adult students i.e 92.7% believe that the narcotics problem in our community is a minor problem, this is because of the lack of information and unawareness of the current problem of narcotics addiction. After the program the students were well informed about the narcotics and a significant change in their attitude has been seen and 825 out of 959 students were believe that the problem of narcotics is a major problem in our community.

Table no. 13: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison

How Confident Do You Feel in Your Ability to Resist Peer Pressure to Use Narcotic Substances?	Pre-Question	Post-Question
Slightly Confident	892 (93%)	57 (5.9%)
Moderately Confident	58 (6%)	87 (9.1%)
Very Confident	09 (1%)	815 (85%)
Total	959(100%)	959(100%)

χ^2 value=982.34 df=12 p value, sig=0.0138,
significant



Peer pressure is a major cause to introduce the narcotic misuse in young adult students. Before the program 892 out of 959 i.e 93% students were not confident or slightly confident to resist the peer pressure where after the program a significant change in the attitude to resist the peer pressure has been seen, 815 out of 959 i.e 85% students were very confident to resist the peer pressure to use narcotics after the program.

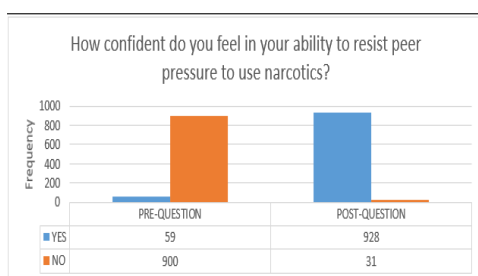
Awareness

Table no. 14: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison

Do You Know Where to Go for Help If You or Someone You Know Is Struggling with A Narcotic Addiction?	Pre-Question	Post-Question
Yes	59 (6.2%)	928 (96.8%)
No	900 (93.8%)	31 (3.2%)
Total	959(100%)	959(100%)

χ^2 value=898.34 df=11 p value, sig=0.009,
significant





The students were not aware about “where to ask for help if someone is struggling with narcotics”, about 900 out of 959 i.e 93.8% young adults were not knew about where to ask help if someone is struggling with narcotics before the program. After the program, a significant change in awareness has been seen and 928 out of 959 i.e 96.8% students were well informed about where to ask help if someone is struggling with narcotics.

Table no. 15: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison

How Concerned Are You About the Current Opioid Epidemic?	Pre-Question	Post-Question
More	40 (4.1%)	889 (92.7%)
Less	903 (94.2%)	47 (4.9%)
Intermediate	16 (1.6%)	23 (2.3%)
Total	959(100%)	959(100%)

χ^2 value=1237.34 df=15 p value, sig=0.01, significant

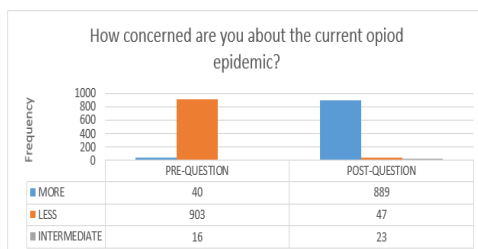


Figure no. 16

Current opioid crisis is a disaster to the community but most of the students were not concern about the current opioid epidemic, before the program 903 out of 959 i.e 94.2% students were not concern about the current opioid epidemic. but after the program a significant change in the awareness of current epidemic has been seen where 889 out of 959 i.e 92.7% young adults were well concern about the current opioid epidemics.

Table no. 16: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison

Have You Ever Received Education or Training on Narcotics and Its Consequences?	Frequency In Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	40	7.1%
No	903	92.9%
Total	959	100%

χ^2 value=1263.43 df=09 p value, sig=0.0113, significant

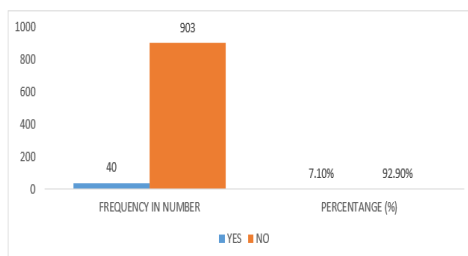


Figure no. 17

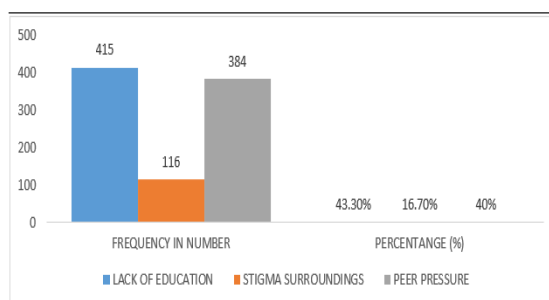
Most of the young adults were attending the narcotics education program for the first time in their life. 903 out of 959 i.e 92.9% students were not attend or received any kind of education or training program on narcotics and its consequences.

Table no. 17: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison

What Do You Think Are the Biggest Barriers to Awareness	Frequency In Number	Percentage (%)
Lack Of Education	415	43.3%
Stigma Surroundings	116	16.7%
Peer Pressure	384	40%
Total	959(100%)	959(100%)

and Prevention of Narcotic Addiction Among Young-Adult Students?		
Lack Of Education	415	43.3%
Stigma Surroundings	116	16.7%
Peer Pressure	384	40%
Total	959(100%)	959(100%)

χ^2 value=1373.763 df=07 p value, sig=0.041, significant



Young adult is the phase of life where many challenges need to be face by the students and there could be various reasons comes as a barrier for prevention of narcotics misuse. In our assessment of total 959 young adults, 415 i.e 43.3% students believe that the barriers could be because of lack of education, 116 i.e 16.7% students believe the barrier could be because of unhealthy stigma surroundings, and 384 i.e 40% students believe that the barriers could be because of peer pressure.

Table no. 18: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison

Do You Think There Are Enough Resources Available for Those Struggling with Narcotic Addictions?	Frequency In Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	101	10.5%
No	858	89.5%
Total	959	100%

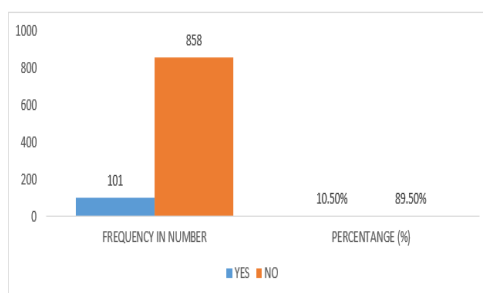


Figure no. 19

There are very limited resources available for those who struggling with narcotics. Out of 959 students 858 i.e 89.5% young adult believe that

there are not enough resources available for those who struggling with narcotics.

Table no. 19: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison

Do You Think Increased Awareness and Education About Narcotic Addictions Could Help Prevent Future Cases of Addiction?	Frequency In Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	942	98.2%
No	17	1.8%
Total	959	100%

χ^2 value=873.74 df=12 p value, sig=0.002, significant

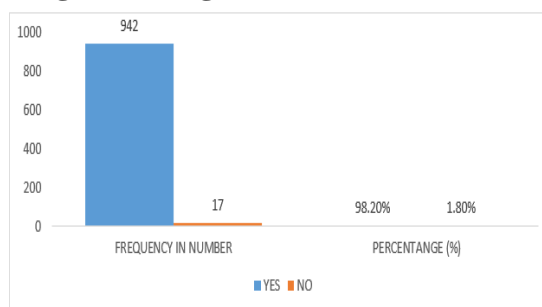


Figure no. 20

Awareness and education is always the best way to deal with any kind of addiction. 942 i.e 98.2% young adult out of 959 students believe that increasing awareness and education about narcotics could help prevent future cases of narcotics addiction.

Table no. 20: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison

Do You Think There Should Be More Awareness Campaigns Focused on Narcotic Addictions in Young-Adult Populations?	Frequency In Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	929	96.9%
No	30	3.1%
Total	959	100%

χ^2 value=938.767 df=15 p value, sig=0.007, significant

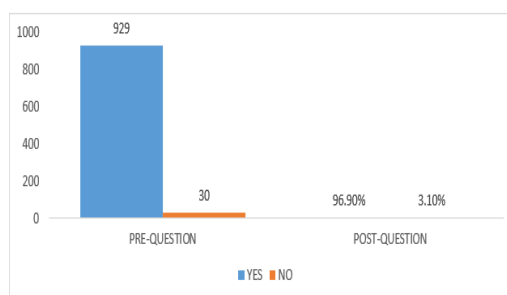


Figure no. 21

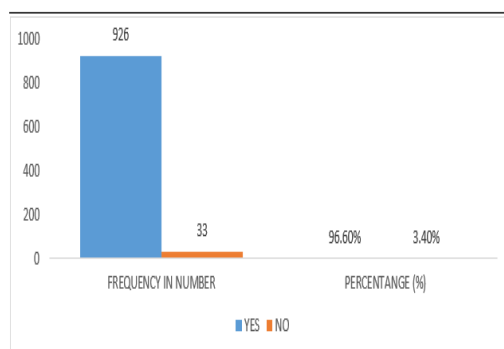
Most of the sample population in our study were attending awareness program regarding narcotics for the first time in their life. 929 i.e 96.9% students out of total 959 young adults think there

should be more awareness campaigns who are focused on narcotics addiction among young adult students.

Table no. 21: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison

Do You Think There Should Be More Support Groups or Resources Specifically for Young-Adult Students Struggling with Narcotic Addictions?	Frequency In Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	926	96.6%
No	33	3.4%
Total	959	100%

χ^2 value=893.67 df=11 p value, sig=0.007, significant

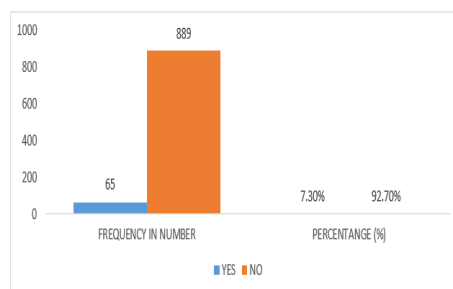
**Figure no. 22**

The resources and information of narcotics and its addiction is yet limited for the young adults. There are very limited community who provide awareness and information regarding addiction and narcotics. In our study out of 959 young adult 926 i.e 96.6% students believe that there should be more support group and resources specially for young adult students struggling with narcotics.

Table no. 22: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison

Have You Ever Participated in Any Narcotic Addiction Prevention or Awareness Programs?	Frequency In Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	65	7.3%
No	889	92.7%
Total	959	100%

χ^2 value=935.87 df=18 p value, sig=0.0129, significant

**Figure no. 23**

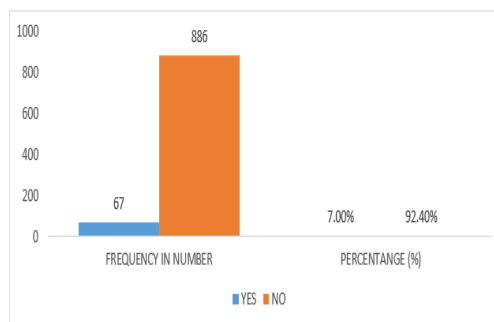
Out of 959 young adult 889 i.e 92.7% students were attending narcotics addiction awareness programs for the first time. The problems of narcotics misuse is a major issue in our community

although the solution to improve knowledge and awareness of narcotics is yet to be come in focus for the students.

Table no. 23: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison

Have You Ever Participated In A Peer Support Group For Those Recovering From Narcotic Addictions?	Frequency In Number	Percentage (%)
Yes	67	7%
No	886	92.4%
Total	959	100%

χ^2 value=885.48 df=14 p value, sig=0.0132, significant

**Figure no. 24**

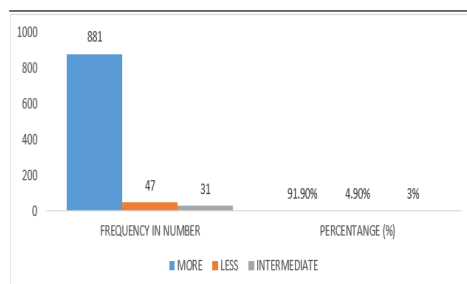
Most of the young adult students were not join in peer support group in their life. In our study out of 959 students 886 i.e 92.4% students were not ever

join or participate in any kind of peer support group in their life

Table no. 24: Pre & Post Questionnaire comparison

How Effective Do You Think These Programs Are At Increasing Awareness And Preventing Narcotic Addiction?	Frequency In Number	Percentage (%)
More	881	91.9%
Less	47	4.9%
Intermediate	31	3.2%
Total	959	100%

χ^2 value=794.44 df=10 p value, sig=0.0183, significant

**Figure no. 25**

Although regarding narcotics the students were accepting this kind of program for the first time in their life but most of the young adult i.e 881(91.9%) out of 959 students feel this kind of

program can increase awareness more effectively in the prevention of addiction of narcotics.

I. CONCLUSION

In the pursuit of unravelling the dynamics of narcotics awareness among young adults, this study has provided invaluable insights into the demographic nuances, the impact of awareness programs, and the prevailing attitudes and concerns within this demographic. As we conclude this exploration, several key findings emerge, shedding light on both the successes achieved and the challenges that lie ahead in the realm of narcotics education and prevention. The study underscores the vulnerability of young adults, particularly males, to narcotics introduction. The higher representation of males (65.1%) signals a crucial area for targeted interventions and educational programs tailored to address gender-specific risk factors. Understanding these demographic nuances is essential for tailoring prevention strategies that resonate with the specific challenges faced by different groups within the young adult population. The age distribution analysis reveals a significant disparity in awareness levels across different age groups. While the 22-23 age group exhibited the highest awareness (39.9%), the 18-19 age group lagged behind at 11.2%. This calls for focused efforts in education and prevention strategies tailored to bridge this critical gap. Targeting awareness initiatives toward specific age brackets ensures that interventions are timely and resonate with the evolving needs of the young adult demographic. The post-program surge in awareness from 7.6% to 97.7% signifies a remarkable achievement. Educational initiatives have proven to be highly effective in disseminating information about narcotics, resulting in a substantial increase in knowledge across key aspects such as risk, addiction, and signs/symptoms. The positive change in participants' confidence regarding information about narcotics (93.4%) further

underscores the transformative impact of these programs. The study reveals a notable belief among participants (89.6%) that their colleges lack adequate information about narcotics. This highlights a critical gap in institutional preparedness, emphasizing the need for comprehensive substance abuse education within college curricula. Collaborative efforts between educational institutions and health authorities are crucial to ensuring a well-informed student body and fostering an environment that actively addresses narcotics-related challenges. The positive shift in concerns about narcotics risks (from 90.9% to 85.4%) and the perception of narcotics as a minor community problem (from 92.7% to 85.8%) post-program indicate a change in attitudes. Participants are showing greater empowerment and preparedness to address the challenges posed by narcotics, reflecting the influence of increased awareness and education. This attitudinal shift is pivotal for community mobilization and concerted efforts to tackle narcotics as a major public health concern. The acknowledgment of peer pressure as a significant cause of narcotics misuse, coupled with the increase in confidence in resisting peer pressure (from 93% to 85%), highlights the role of awareness programs in empowering individuals to make informed and independent choices. The substantial increase in knowledge about where to seek help for narcotics issues (from 6.2% to 96.8%) addresses a crucial aspect of combating substance misuse by ensuring that individuals are aware of available support resources. The heightened concern for the current opioid crisis (92.7%) post-program indicates a broader awareness of the societal implications of narcotics misuse. This heightened awareness is pivotal for fostering a sense of collective responsibility and mobilizing efforts to address the multifaceted challenges posed by narcotics. The high attendance (92.9%) at the first narcotics education



program signals a willingness among participants to actively engage with educational initiatives. The perception among participants (89.5%) that there are insufficient resources for those struggling with narcotics highlights a critical area for intervention. Efforts to enhance resources, support networks, and treatment options should be prioritized to create a more robust infrastructure for individuals facing substance misuse challenges. While there is a noticeable gap between attendance at narcotics education programs (92.7%) and participation in peer support groups (92.4%), the positive perception (91.9%) of the potential effectiveness of peer support groups in increasing awareness indicates a willingness among participants to explore collaborative initiatives. Integrating peer support programs into broader community interventions could enhance their impact on awareness and prevention. The implications of our findings are profound, carrying significance for multiple stakeholders. At the forefront are young adults themselves. The nuanced understanding of their awareness patterns can empower them to make informed decisions about narcotics. Armed with knowledge about the risks and consequences, they can navigate the complexities of a world where narcotics are readily accessible and often glamorized. Our findings indicate that tailored

educational programs targeting different segments of young adults, considering their age, educational level, and experiences, are crucial to addressing knowledge gaps and enhancing awareness. Educational institutions, from schools to universities, play a pivotal role in narcotics awareness. By incorporating evidence-based educational programs into the curriculum, they can foster a generation of young adults who are equipped to make informed decisions about narcotics. Furthermore, healthcare professionals must be prepared to provide accurate information and support to those in need. Early intervention and access to resources are essential to preventing narcotics misuse and addiction. In understanding narcotics awareness among young adults, we found a significant increase in knowledge and positive shifts in attitudes post-awareness programs. However, challenges remain, particularly in addressing gender and age-specific vulnerabilities. Collaborative efforts between institutions and ongoing awareness campaigns are vital to sustaining positive changes and fostering a supportive environment for those at risk. Prioritizing resources, combating stigma, and integrating peer support can contribute to a comprehensive approach in preventing narcotics misuse among young adults.

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