

Abstract

This thesis is an attempt to examine adolescent drug use. The objectives of this research are, firstly, to construct a causal model of adolescent drug use by deriving propositions from control theory and differential association theory ; and secondary, to test a causal model of adolescent drug using secondary school students in Nonthaburi as a sample. In addition, the research was proposed to examine relative contribution of each independent variable in the model to the explanation of adolescent drug use and finally, to examine relative explanatory power of the proposed model for each type of drug used (cigarette, alcohol and marijuana).

The causal model was composed of six concepts : (1) adolescent drug use (2) drug - using friends (3) belief in conventional value (4) commitment to conventional line of action (5) attachment to school (6) attachment to parents

A sample of 500 students was randomly drawn from five secondary schools in Amper Muang Nonthaburi, three classes were selected for each school

In testing the causal model of adolescent drug use, two types were performed using path analysis :

1. The testing of the model with drug use in general
2. The testing of the model with separate type of drug used

It was found that :

1. In the testing of the model with general drug use, commitment to conventional line of action, belief in conventional values, and drug - using friends had direct effects on adolescent drug use.

Comparing relative effects of three variables upon adolescent drug use reveals that drug - using friends had a strongest effect upon adolescent drug use and belief in conventional value the least. The three variables could explain and/or predict 27 percent of the variance in adolescent drug use. However these effect were partly due to the indirect effects of attachment to parents, attachment to school, commitment to conventional line of action and belief in conventional Value

2. In the testing of the model with separate type of drug used, the causal model has most explanatory power for adolescent cigarette use, and adolescent alcohol use the least.