

Effects of Family Divorce on Adolescent Alcoholism and Delinquency

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Introduction

The topic of the study is “The effects of family divorce on adolescent alcoholism and delinquency.” The choice of the subject is based on the fact that relationship breakdown due to separation influences the behaviors of children. According to Kask, Markina, and Podana (2013), adolescent alcohol abuse is becoming a major problem, and it is necessary to study whether it is related to the high levels of divorce. The review of families in transition will cover two research articles addressing the topic of marital separation and its effects on teenage alcoholism, by comparing the relevance of the subject to draw informative conclusions.

Discussion and Critique of the First Article

The article “The Effect of Family Factors on Intense Alcohol Use Among European Adolescents: A Multilevel Analysis” by Kask, Markina, and Podana (2013) explored the relationship between adolescent alcoholism and family structure due to changes such as divorce. The findings of the publication highlight the relationship structure-related causes of teenage alcoholism and delinquency. Notably, the main result of the study states that parental divorce influences drug misuse and criminal behavior throughout childhood and adolescence. The second finding is that the effects of marriage separation on teenage alcoholism are compounded by factors such as parental drug, alcohol use, and domestic violence. In general, the article noted that the reduction in maternal control and the negative experiences of divorce led to youth delinquency and drunkenness.

The strengths of the journal article are the following: the researchers drew qualitative data from the study conducted among 57,771 children. The topic of investigation was crucial because it addressed and exposed one of the factors behind the increase in the levels of

adolescent alcoholism. Further, the research was informative, considering that it covered a broad cross-section of children, and approached the problem of adolescent dipsomania from different perspectives. However, the article was based on the data from a previous research, and therefore, the findings might not have been a reflection of the current situation. As a result, the study did not account for the influence of other significant factors such as the qualitative differences in the relationship between adolescents and single parents, which can deter alcoholism.

Discussion and Critique of the Second Article

Vanassche et al. (2014) in their publication, “The Effects of Family Type, Family Relationships and Parental Role Models on Delinquency and Alcohol Use Among Flemish Adolescents,” explored the consequences of family type dynamics such as divorce on teenage drunkenness and criminal behavior. The main findings of the study provide that children from non-stable families, for example, divorced parents, are more likely to abuse alcohol and develop delinquent behaviors. However, the research highlighted that single parenting can be negatively related to the high levels of youth inebriation and misbehavior. Outstandingly, the strengths of the article are the information gathered during a qualitative research. In addition, the coverage of the topic shows the effectiveness of the publication due to its analysis of adolescent alcoholism, which is on the rise. The article reported the study of teenage behavior and, therefore, firmly offered data that highlighted the causes of youth felony and dipsomania. Nonetheless, the weakness of the source is the vague definition of a healthy parent to child relationship, for example, the qualitative differences between single and two-parent families. Moreover, the article did not account for some factors that affected teenage drunkenness and wrongdoing, such as the mental health of parents and children. Consequently, the study covered adolescents from different provinces and provided significant evidence that represented the general population.

Comparison and Contrasts of the Two Articles

The comparison of the primary focus and the findings of the two articles show that they have studied a similar topic, and both explored the effects of family type due to divorce on the development of adverse behaviors. However, Kask, Markina, and Podana (2013) and Vanassche, et al. (2014) took a different approach to the theme. The first article studied the relationship between family divorce and adolescent alcoholism from the data gathered during the previous research, while the latter studied the problem firsthand. Notably, the strengths of the two sources are similar, mentioning that both reported the findings from qualitative inquiries. They explored the effects of family divorce on adolescent behavior development and compared the results with different studies. Furthermore, the publications shared the same weaknesses, noting that both neither defined single-parent families explicitly nor explored other factors affecting upbringing. In addition, the two articles had not explored the long-term perspective to the area of study. Regarding the number of participants involved, Kask, Markina, and Podana (2013) engaged 57,771 respondents, while Vanassche et al. (2014) interacted with 1619 pupils. Besides the numbers, the two articles drew data from participants of similar gender, noting that the samples included boys and girls in almost equal population. Their topic of research was also similar because the reports covered the effects of family type and divorce on teenage alcoholism and other delinquent behaviors. Conspicuously, the findings of the two studies are alike, except for the qualitative differences arising from conceptual divergences in the sources of data engaged. For example, secondary information was used in Kask, Markina, and Podana (2013), while Vanassche et al. (2014) gathered primary data. Therefore, considering all factors, the publications highlighted fundamental effects of divorce on adolescent drug abuse.

Discussion and Reflection

The findings in both articles are based on qualitative and evidence-based inquiries, and thus, I agree with the conclusions presented. For example, in highlighting the relationship between family divorce and teenage alcoholism, Kask, Markina, and Podana (2013) provided secondary statistical evidence. Similarly, Vanassche et al. (2014) showed a relationship between family type and divorce and adolescent delinquency and alcoholism. The overall assessment of the sources concludes that seasoned researchers conducted the studies, and the discussion and interpretation of the data were accurate. Notably, the reason for the choice of the study subject is that sociologists and other professionals often explain the effects of family type and divorce on adolescent behavior, but do not provide research-based arguments. Consequently, it was paramount to dig deeper into the topic by giving it a different approach, and the two publications provided the much-needed results.

Conclusion

The study reviewed the two articles that provided evidence-based approaches despite the shared weaknesses. Evidently, the comparison of the two sources showed significant similarities in the focus of the studies and the conclusions. The reflection on the contents of the two articles also highlighted that they presented the topic of study accurately and informatively. Consequently, it became clear that divorce contributes to adolescent alcoholism and delinquency.

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*Research Article***The Effect of Family Factors on Intense Alcohol Use among European Adolescents: A Multilevel Analysis**

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In Europe use of alcohol by adolescents is a large and increasing problem. The aim of this study is to examine the effects of family factors such as structure, social control, affluence, and negative life events on adolescents' risky alcohol use. Data on alcohol use and family factors were obtained from the International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISR2). Using multilevel analysis, it was found that overall, complete family and high social control by parents were lowering the intense alcohol use whereas negative life events in the family and high family affluence were increasing youngsters' intense alcohol use. Differences between regions of Europe were present for all family factors except affluence. Namely, in Northern Europe the impact of family structure and social control on intense alcohol use was stronger than that in other regions (e.g., Western Europe, Mediterranean, and Post-socialist countries). Also, in Northern Europe where the proportion of adolescents who have not experienced negative life events is the highest, the impact of negative life events on intense alcohol use was stronger; that is, negative life events increased the alcohol use. We conclude that family plays a significant role in adolescents' risky alcohol use.

1. Introduction

Alcohol use in adolescence is strongly influenced by social and environmental factors [1]. Several studies have examined which family factors can explain delinquency in adolescents. For example, the factors which increase the risk of adolescent delinquency are related to the lack of warmth, low supervision, harsh punishment, conflictual family climate, and problems of parents within the family [2, 3].

The nature of the association between family factors and youths' intensive alcohol use is complex. Hirschi's social control theory is one of the most influential theories concerning the role of family [4]. Hirschi noted that young people who have strong bonding with their parents would interiorize the values and norms of their parents which results in behaving in a norm conforming way. According to Luther et al. family factors can act as protective buffers against the negative effect of a high-risk context (i.e., protective enhancing effect) [5]. Schonberg and Shaw have indicated that family protective factors are influential in high-risk contexts [6]. Parental

supervision in their research was found to vary in importance across contextual conditions. Cleveland et al. [7] noted that family protective factors (e.g., attachment, supervision, and discipline) offered less protection for students in high-risk school contexts (see also [8, 9]).

In this paper we are interested in which family factors are associated with intense drinking in juveniles in different regions of Europe. Thus, principles of clustering countries are first introduced followed by closer look to the effects of different family factors on alcohol use among adolescents.

1.1. Clustering Countries. For both practical and theoretical reasons, we sought for an empirical method to cluster the 25 countries involved in the Second International Self-Report-Delinquency Study (ISR2). In classifying countries we used the idea of different national welfare regimes [10, 11]. Their view is based on the principle that all individuals provide for their needs by producing essentially goods and services in three different ways: (1) they work on the market

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ORIGINAL PAPER

The Effects of Family Type, Family Relationships and Parental Role Models on Delinquency and Alcohol Use Among Flemish Adolescents

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Koen Matthijs · Gray Swicegood

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Abstract This study focused on the effects of family type, family relationships and socialization on alcohol consumption and delinquent behaviour among Flemish adolescents. Data came from the second round of the Leuven Adolescents and Families Study and were collected in 2010 by paper-and-pencil questionnaires in 10 different secondary schools ($N = 1,688$). The results show that children living in non-intact families are more likely to be delinquent and to drink alcohol at an age it is not legally allowed (below 16 years old). High delinquent behaviour is found among boys in single parent families and among girls in stepfamilies. For alcohol use the reverse is true. A good relationship with the same-sex parent is negatively associated with delinquency. High interparental conflict increases delinquency for boys and alcohol use for girls. Parental role models are highly important, since drinking behaviour of parents, and especially the same-sex parent, are positively associated with externalising problems of children.

Keywords Parental divorce · Parent–child relationship · Parental conflict · Delinquent behaviour · Alcohol consumption · Role models · Gender differences

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Introduction

Because adolescence can be fraught with difficulties and insecurities, a stable family environment is often seen as a key element for successful transition through this period. Many researchers have reported a relationship between family type and adolescent general well-being (e.g., Amato 2006; Amato and Cheadle 2008; Demuth and Brown 2004; Emery 2006; Fischer 2004; Wells and Rankin 1991), even over successive generations (Amato and Cheadle 2005). Adolescents ending up in a single parent family or stepfamily following parental divorce are more prone to delinquent behaviour and substance use than adolescents from intact families (e.g., Amato 2001; Frost and Pakiz 1990; Wells and Rankin 1991). Distinctions are often made between internalising and externalising behaviour. The former concept refers to psychological well-being while the latter refers to overt problematic behaviour (Bronse-laer 2007). This study focuses on two externalising behaviours: alcohol use and delinquent activity among adolescents. Beyond answering the question of whether a parental divorce increases the risk of externalizing behaviour among adolescents, we aim to identify explanatory mechanisms linking these phenomena. We examine if and how the relationship between family type and externalising behaviour among adolescents is mediated by parental conflict, the quality of the parent–child relationships and role model factors. Although there is a large Anglo-Saxon research literature on this topic, we have not found any studies examining these relationships among Flemish adolescents. Flanders is an interesting research context because about one quarter of 12–17 year old children experienced a parental divorce (Lodewijckx 2005). The majority of these children experience the transition to a stepfamily within the maternal or paternal household

Rubric

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Family Transition Readings and Paper

Please follow the "assignment criteria" for writing this paper, as well as this rubric.

NAME: _____

Description	Possible Points	Points Earned
Student utilizes appropriate peer-reviewed research articles addressing a family transition topic	2	
Student clearly discusses and critiques article 1	5	
Student clearly discusses and critiques article 2.	5	
Student clearly compares and contrasts the two articles.	5	
Student provide a detailed reflection on why the specific topic was chosen	5	
Student provides clear and organized content, free of grammatical and spelling errors in appropriate APA format (citations and references)	3	
	Total Possible Points	Total Points Earned
	25	