

ABSTRACT

The present study aimed to compare the emotion recognition ability in drug addicts and non addicts, through an experimental task based on six basic emotions with an assumption of differences in their overall accuracy scores and reaction time as well as difference in accuracy scores of negative and positive emotions. To determine the level of paternal authoritarianism in respondents of both groups was another objective. Sample comprised of 58 male drug addicts and 50 male non-addicts with a mean age of 28.66 ($SD = 4.90$) for experimental group (addicts) and 22.00 ($SD = 2.05$) for control group (non-addicts). Drug addicts were taken from three renowned addiction treatment centers in Lahore and Islamabad. The non addicts were drawn from the same cities on volunteer basis who were matched on age, education and SES. The addicts were identified by following the criteria of DSM-IV^{TR} for substance abuse and dependence. Urdu version of FEEL Task (Malik, Khawar, Chuadry, & Humphries 2010) was used to measure the ability to recognize facial expressions of emotions. Paternal Authoritarianism Scale (PAS; Malik, 2001) was used to assess paternal authoritarianism of the both the groups (30 each). The results indicated highly significant differences in their ability to recognize facial expressions of emotions but contrary to assumption, control group performed better on recognition of both positive and negative emotions. There were significant differences on Reaction Time of the task where addicts scored high. The results also indicated that fathers of experimental group were more authoritarian though paternal authoritarianism did not have significant effect on the emotion recognition ability of the respondents. Choice of drugs, duration of addiction and father's education were important determinants of emotion recognition; this may be only an indicator of the disturbances of cognitive functioning in addicts. The results are discussed in the particular cultural context of Pakistan.