The Role of Self-Determination and Personality in Predicting the Cannabinoids Consumption among Students in Student Dormitories in Zagreb

Vlada Republike Hrvatske
Ured za suzbijanje zlouporabe droga

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INTRODUCTION

Self-determination theory (SDT) presents a macro-theory of human motivation that has been applied to many risky behaviours. Nevertheless, there is a scarce literature on the role of this theory in predicting psychoactive substances consumption (Smith, 2011). There are few studies that tested some constructs of the theory in the context of alcohol consumption (e.g. Knee & Neighbors, 2002; Neighbors, Walker & Larimer, 2003; Neighbors, Larimer, Geisner & Knee, 2004), but research that linked SDT and cannabis consumption are not familiar to the authors.

AIM

The aim of this research was to determine how well some constructs of self-determination theory and personality traits (extraversion, conscientiousness and neuroticism) predict the cannabis consumption among male and female students that live in student dormitories in Zagreb.

METHOD

A total of 438 students (37.9% males and 62.1% females) that live in student dormitories in Zagreb participated in the study. Average age was M=19.62 (SD=0.826). While planning the sample, efforts were made to ensure that ratio of participants regarding the gender and the field of the study represents population ratios (quota sample). There were no significant difference between the first and the second year students in the number of days participants have consumed cannabis in the lifetime (U(434)=20208.50; Z=-.70; p>.05).

The following instruments were applied:

- The Learning Climate Questionnaire (Williams & Deci, 1996)
- Self-Determination Scale (Sheldon & Deci, 1993)
- Adapted version of the General Causality Orientations Scale (Deci & Ryan, 1985)
- General Need Satisfaction Scale – autonomy subscale (Gagne, 2003)
- International Personality Item Pool (IPIP50) - extraversion, conscientiousness and neuroticism subscales
- Adapted version of the European Model Questionnaire (EMCDDA, 2002)

RESULTS

There are significant gender differences in the need for autonomy, autonomy causality orientation, extraversion and neuroticism. Women perceive satisfaction of their need for autonomy higher then men, and have higher autonomy causality orientation. Women are less extraverted and more neurotic then men. These findings mostly correspond to previous research (Deci & Ryan, 1985; Sabol, 2005; Wong, 2008).

Gender differences			Men	Women	t	Cohen's d
Need for autonomy		M	5.15	5.37	-2.62**	-0.26
		SD	.885	.813		
Causality orientations	Autonomy	M	43.19	45.71	-5.07**	-0.49
		SD	5.408	4.760		
	Control	M	30.10	29.65	.65	0.06
		SD	7.262	6.780		
Self-determination		M	3.92	3.83	1.37	0.14
		SD	.601	.672		
Perceived autonomy support		M	4.65	4.50	1.29	0.13
		SD	1.218	1.224		
Personality traits	Extraversion	M	31.96	34.24	-2.94**	-0.30
		SD	8.387	6.944		
	Conscientiousness	M	36.55	36.90	-.58	-0.06
		SD	5.994	6.291		
	Neuroticism	M	26.18	30.27	6.21**	-0.60
		SD	6.245	7.350		

* p<.05; ** p<.01

On average, men and women have the same experience in the number of days they've consumed cannabis in their lifetime (U(434)=21574.00; Z=-.67; p>.05).

Correlation between SDT constructs, personality traits and cannabis consumption among men and women

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
1.Need for autonomy	1	.33**	-.06	.52**	.17*	.29**	.21**	-.44**	-.12
2.Autonomy orientation	.25**	1	-.00	.33**	.26**	.30**	.20**	-.11	-.03
3.Control orientation	-.13*	-.06	1	-.06	-.17*	.23**	-.05	.09	.07
4. Self-determination	.48**	.17**	-.01	1	.28**	.41**	.27**	-.48**	-.07
5. Perceived autonomy support	.16**	.18**	-.10	.18**	1	.02	.25**	-.24**	-.02
6. Extraversion	.29**	.10	.15*	.30**	.10	1	.16*	-.26**	.07
7. Conscientiousness	.12	.13*	.04	.20**	.02	.05	1	-.28**	-.10
8. Neuroticism	-.42**	-.04	.18**	-.33**	-.11	-.21**	-.20**	1	-.07
9. Cannabis consumption	-.12	-.17**	.08	.05	.09	.17**	-.10	.00	1

*p<.05; **p<.01; *italic* – transformed variables in the subsample of women; above diagonal – correlation for men; below diagonal – correlation for women

Among men, there are no significant correlations between SDT constructs, personality traits and cannabis consumption. Among women, there is significant, although weak, negative correlation between autonomy orientation and cannabis consumptions and, weak positive correlation between extraversion and cannabis consumption.

Hierarchical regression analysis for men

Extraversion, Conscientiousness, Neuroticism → Autonomy orientation, Control orientation, Self-determination → Need for autonomy → Perceived autonomy support → Cannabis consumption

R^2=0.023 → ΔR^2=0.017 → ΔR^2=0.020 → ΔR^2=0.000 → R^2=0.061

Criterion:
Number of days person consumed cannabis in a lifetime.

Hierarchical regression analysis for women

Extraversion, Conscientiousness, Neuroticism → **Autonomy orientation**, Control orientation, *Self-determination* → ***Need for autonomy*** → Perceived autonomy support → Cannabis consumption

R^2=0.039 → ΔR^2=0.038 → ΔR^2=0.024 → ΔR^2=0.013 → R^2=0.114

Cannabis consumption among men is not determined by personality or SDT constructs.

Among women, significant predictors of cannabis consumption are extraversion, autonomy causality orientation, and need for autonomy.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Results indicate that cannabis consumption among male students that live in student dormitories is not determined by factors that were included in this research. Young women that have experience in cannabis consumption are more extraverted, have lower autonomy causality orientation and less satisfied need for autonomy. It is possible that women are raised to be more focused on other people, and not that much on personal choices, which is why autonomy represents important construct. Also, some third variable (e.g. parenting style) might influence cannabis consumption among women, as well as low autonomy orientation and low need for autonomy. It is possible that SDT constructs are significant predictors of cannabis consumption among women, and not men, due to the different nurturing approach to the genders. In practical sense, results of this research indicate that gender characteristics should be taken into account while planning prevention interventions.

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