

## PAPER DETAILS

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YOUTHS CONSULTING TO PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE CENTER

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## **HOSTILE ATTRIBUTIONAL BIASES AMONG DRUG ABUSER AND NON-ABUSER YOUTHS CONSULTING TO PSYCHOLOGI- CAL COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE CENTER**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This study aims to determine the opinions regarding the tendencies of harboring ideations of hostility (Hostile Attributional Bias) of abuser and non-abuser adolescents consulted to the the psychological counseling and guidance center. The study, based on quantative data, uses the relational screening model from descriptive survey models. Population is consisted of enlisted common private ranked soldiers (youths) performing thier military service at determined military brigades in the provinces of Konya and Kütahya. Using the non-probabilistic random sampling method; (n=98) abuser adolescents from the Kütahya military brigade A who applied to the psychological counseling and guidance center, in addition to (n=42) abuser adolescents from military brigade B of the province of Konya who applied to the psychological counseling and guidance center, totaling (n=140), along with, again from military brigade B of Konya, (n=140) adolescents, who are currently continuing thier military service as soldiers and have never used intoxicants, were chosen.*

*The study revealed the statistical significance, in terms of “Behavioral Attributional Bias”, of the difference between mean scores of Behavioral Attributional Bias, depending on whether or not adolescents have used drugs. The study revealed the statistical significance, in terms of “Hostile Attributional Bias”, of the difference between mean scores of Hostile Attributional Bias, depending on whether or not adolescents have used drugs. Recommendations are given according to the results of the research.*

**Keywords:** *Adolescence, Drug abuse, Hostile Attributional Bias.*

## INTRODUCTION

Life goes through various developmental stages. Some of these phases are calm, stagnant and some of them are stormy. One of these periods is adolescence. Adolescence is very risky. Substance addiction is one of these risks. Behavior of adolescents and adolescence has attracted attention throughout history. Adolescence is a kind of transition stage in terms of biological, psychological and social aspects. In a healthy adolescence the first thing that must be present is the adolescent's the full adaptation to all these changes.

Adolescents are becoming biologically mature in this period, and they are developing in social and psychological terms with their increasing social and academic responsibilities. In this period, the beliefs and values of the individual are shaped and the effects of the parents on the adolescents are decreasing; however, the influence of peers on adolescents is increasing. As a result of this important period, many behavioral changes occur in adolescents. Some habits and addictions being at the core of these changes may lead to dangerous situations. Among the addictions and behaviors that may be encountered in behavioral changes of adolescents, the most dangerous addiction is substance abuse. Because of the decrease in parental effect on adolescents, it can be seen that adolescents chose substance use as a method of free behavior and self-expression. It is stated that these behaviors significantly affect the life of the individual both during adolescence and in later developmental periods (Gençtanırım D. and Ergene T., 2014: 126).

One of the concepts to be addressed in recent years about the studies on adolescence is the hostile intent attribution bias. Hostile intent attribution bias can be defined as the tendency to think that the negative consequences of other people's behavior are deliberately caused by a bad intent or from a hostile intent. Hostile intent attribution bias tries to explain why some people react aggressively when some people do not respond to the same event. At the same time, criminal behavior as a result of personal perceptions in various social situations is explained by the hostile intent attribution bias (Güven H., 2011: 3).

Güven H. (2011) conducted a study among adolescents who are not involved in crime and who committed crime; in order to investigate the differences in terms of attribution bias and some familial features (physical punishment in the family, verbal punishment, family guilt, parental cohesion). The study group consisted of 128 male adolescents who stand trial for the crimes committed in Osmaniye Juvenile Court and the comparison group consisted of 128 male adolescents attending Osmaniye central schools and who were not involved in crime. When the findings of the study were examined, there were significant differences between adolescents who committed crime and who did not, in terms of the intentional attribution bias, negative intent attribution bias, personal causality attribution bias, physical / verbal punishment from parents, and crime behavior in family members. In the present research, during interviews with the adolescents who committed crime, when the impressions obtained were evaluated, it was seen that some of the adolescents who committed the crime stated that their father was convicted or imprisoned in the prison. These adolescents stated that they experienced financial hardship in the family because of his father's imprisonment and that they had to work outside the school. There was no significant difference between the adolescents who had committed crime and who did not in terms of parents' marital status. No significant difference was found between the adolescents who committed a criminal offense according to their parents' physical punishment and verbal punishment and their hostile intent loading bias.

Dodge K.A. et al. (2015) conducted research aiming to measure the tendency to install hostile intent in young people. As a result of the research, it can be seen that the differ-

ences that can be discussed in the ecological and cultural context between the chronically aggressive behaviors among children groups all over the world, can be analyzed separately by predicting the violent tendencies of the children and the reactive aggression as a result of the provocations which are unknown. . It was determined that the hostile behavior tendency observed in a child was correlated with the reactive hostility of the child against the events. Another result of the findings is that some children are chronically more prone to reactive self-defense against other children than hostile behaviors and provocations.

Möller and Krahe (2004) examined the relationship between young people playing violent computer games and hostile intent attribution biases in their study with young people in Germany. Möller and Krahe started off by being affected by an incident that caused murder of dozens of students in a school in Germany. In the incident, the gun used by the aggressive young people, attracted attention by other young people playing violent games, and these adolescents stated that they want to have such a weapon. Möller and Krahe found in their study that hostile intent bias was significantly higher in adolescents who play computer games with violence (as cited in Güven H., 2011: 51).

Aydın A. and Akgün S. (2014) distinguished two types of research as reactive and proactive. In this context, one of the aims of the study was to test the distinctive cognitive and emotional components of reactive and proactive aggression, while the other was to investigate whether the levels of reactive and proactive aggression of adolescents were related to anger and narcissism. For this purpose, Reactive-Proactive Aggression Scale, Narcissistic Personality Scale for Children and Trait Anger Expression Scale were applied to 270 female and 236 male adolescent students. In addition, four different scenarios were used to examine typical characteristics of reactive and proactive aggression. The findings showed that hostile intention attribution and anger were self-sufficient to behave aggressively with reactive aggression, thinking that the result would be positive and feeling good was related to proactive aggression. Regression analysis to investigate the relationship between anger and narcissism with reactive and proactive aggression showed that trait anger and outward anger predict reactive aggression. While

proactive aggression was positively related to the exploitation dimension of narcissism, it was negatively correlated with the superiority dimension.

Nowadays, many studies on adolescence are being conducted. However, when the literature is examined, there is no study about hostile intent attribution of drug abuser and non-abuser adolescents. In this study, it was tried to determine hostile intention attribution behaviors of adolescents who abused or did not abuse drugs. The aim of the study is to determine the difference between the hostile intention of the two groups. This study is important in terms of determining the attribution bias of adolescents who use substance and who have not used them, in order to create resources for precautions that can be taken and make contribution to literature in this field.

## **METHODS**

### **1.Model of Research**

This research, which aims to determine the opinions about hostile intent attribution bias of abuser and nonabuser adolescents who consulted to the Guidance and Counseling Center, is a kind of relational screening model among survey models based on quantitative data.

### **2.The Universe and Sample of Research**

The universe of the research consists of soldiers (privates) who carry out military service in military units in Konya and Kütahya. The sample consists of 98 abuser privates in Kütahya military base A and 42 abuser privates in Konya military base B along with 140 volunteer nonabuser adolescents. Random sampling method was used in the sample selection.

### **3.Materials**

Personal Information Form Questionnaire developed by the researchers and, "Image Questionnaire" developed by Aydın O., (1997) in order to measure the Personal Causality Attribution Bias and Biasing Attribution Flaws. was used in the study.

#### 4.Procedure

The scales used in the study were applied by the researcher herself and the adolescents were instructed about the scales before data collection started. The application lasted approximately 30 minutes.

#### 5.Analysis

Data collected through the scale were recorded in SPSS 22.0, package program and data were analyzed.

### RESULTS

In this part of the study, the results obtained from the research are included. In the table below, findings related to personal, behavioral and hostile intent attribution scores of adolescents according to substance use are given.

**Table 1. Findings related to comparison of personal, behavioral and hostile intent attribution scores according to substance use status**

Drug Use		n	Mean	Sd	t	p
Personal Inten- tion Attribution	Using Substance	140	1.16	0.76	-47.307	0.00
	Non-Substance	140	5.37	0.72		
Behavioral In- tention Attribu- tion	Using Substance	140	2.42	0.93	-38.982	0.00
	Non-Substance	140	6.27	0.69		
Install a hostile intent	Using Substance	140	3.58	1.31	-62.050	0.00
	Non-Substance	140	11.64	0.79		

Table 1 shows the independent sample t test for comparing personal, behavioral and hostile intent attribution scores according to the substance use situation. According to the results of the analysis, those who do not use substances have higher personal ( $t = -47.307$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ), behavior ( $t = -38.982$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) and hostile ( $t = -62.050$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) scores.

## DISCUSSION

According to the findings obtained from the study, it was found that the individuals who did not use substances had significantly higher personal, behavioral and hostile attribution scores than those using substance.

When we look at the literature (Beyazyürek M. and Şatır TT, 2000) drug addicts have characteristics like low self-esteem, easy lying, lack of tolerance, impatience, lack of self-sufficiency, risky behaviors, unplanned actions, frequent problems in interpersonal relationships. On the other hand, if there is not enough information about the causes of a behavior as an indication of personal, behavioral and hostile intent attribution behavior, or if there is uncertainty in the environment, it is tried to explain both the self-induced and external world reasons; In those who have a high tendency to impose behavior, it is stated that they tend to impose more malice on behavior, and those who have a tendency to install hostile intentions are perceived as intentional and behave intentionally, and try to take revenge. When we look at the characteristics of substance addicts, it can be said that they mostly involve negativities about themselves, whereas non-drug addicts are more concerned with other individuals and the outside world, and consider events as reactions to the outside world and individuals.

According to Jones and Davis (1965) 's theory, when people are witnesses of a behavior and action, it is stated that they make an attribution based on information about the consequences of behavior (as cited in Koçak A., 1999). Based on this, adolescents who do not use substances are thought to have negative information due to their lack of knowledge or information about the events and situations as reasons of behavior and hostile intent.



## **CONSLUSION and RECOMMENDATIONS**

In this study, it was tried to examine the behaviors of individuals who use and do not use substance. When the results were examined, it was determined that the adolescents who did not use substances had higher personal, behavioral and hostile intent attribution. Based on this result, the following recommendations are given.

1. To conduct research on hostile intent attribution behaviors in schools, to identify adolescents with hostile intent attribution behavior and to provide psychological counseling services to individuals and groups.
2. It would be beneficial if this study was conducted with different sample groups on both sexes.
3. Determining the factors that cause hostile intent, and making studies to eliminate these causes,
4. In addition to the trainings given within the scope of the measures that can be taken within the  
scope of the Turkish Armed Forces;
5. To make a qualitative study about thostile intent attribution,
6. It is recommended to give trainings on the importance of the issue of hostile intention attribution  
to parents and to raise awareness about this issue.

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**Please Note (1):** The results of this study reflect the personal views of the participants, not the views of the Turkish Armed Forces.

**Please Note (2):** This study is derived from a part of the thesis titled *mamış Enemy Procurement Bias in Adolescents Who Have Used and Substance Adopted to the Guidance and Counseling Center*.