

Origins of addictions, alcoholism and chemical dependency

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The paper "Origins of Addictions, Alcoholism and Chemical Dependency" is an outstanding example of an essay on medical science. The start of all forms of addictions, alcoholism and chemical dependency can be explained in various ways. In most cases, prolonged use of alcohol and dependence on drugs are classic examples of psychiatric disorders, and they do have signs of heritability. As a result, psychological, sociocultural, genetic and environmental factors are crucial influencers of the same. Noteworthy, early life stressors among the younger people often predict the drug use and alcoholism in later life stage. Environment and genetic factors often play a significant part in explaining these kinds of problems. Unlike chemicals, alcohol use is recommended up to a certain limit to promote the well-being of individuals as well as the social relationship. However, a significant proportion of people cannot stay within the required threshold of use, which often results in a devastating consequence for such people, friends, families, and the entire society. The origin of addictions, alcoholism and chemical dependency is a crucial issue, and there are numerous theories in place to explain the problem. It explains that there are genes associated with addiction. Every human being has a genetic predisposition for addictions since there is evolutionary merit to it. For example, when a person eats a given food of preference, he or she does so repeatedly and develops pleasure for it, and that individual will keep on looking for it in the future. In brief, the addiction potential is hardwired into our brain (Heyman, 2013). In this sense, it is true that one can develop an addiction to drugs or alcohol, but the chances are higher if one comes from a family with alcohol and drugs abuse. Notably, everyone has the potential to be an addict. It is because the

addiction occurs in people's brain by default regardless of any exposure. Therefore, the nerve of the brain would then develop pathways that would desire the use of a given substance repeatedly. Moreover, there are higher chances for those coming from addict families to be addicts. Environmental factors can be any issues that are external and caused by the surrounding. Nature, nurture, and trauma can for part of the ecological influencers responsible for the development of addiction (Enoch, 2012). One example is that a stressful environment can induce stress, which in turn affect the behavior of people. Also, norms set out in a given society help in creating moral standards, which then orchestrate to the labeling of people as deviants, in this case, addicts. From this standpoint, it is apparent that addiction is a creation of influencers external to the inflicted individual. Another crucial aspect is to do with exposure. A person who interacts with individuals who abuse drugs and alcohol is more likely to engage in the behavior. Others may get influence from various media representations, and as well as parental boost. However, the latter causative agent is attributed more to the genetic stimulus. Psychology as a science deals with understanding human behaviors. In most cases, it covers the essence of improving the lives of people and adaptive behaviors. Therefore, those behaviors, which limits the functioning of people and lessen the satisfaction of life are known as maladaptive behaviors. One of the proponents of psychological theories is that one may engage in addiction due to abnormality, a case called psychopathology (Voges et al., 2013). It depends on the mental ineptness of a person to get involved in the use of drugs and alcohol. Second, it depends on learning the use of drugs in response to the

surrounding. If the environment fosters its use, then one may consider using drugs and alcohol as well. Third, thoughts and feelings are responsible for creating the urge to use drugs and other chemical substances. In turn, it determines the behavior of a person to an extent one's thoughts and feelings are dysfunctional and unrealistic. The social and cultural aspects of a given society have a significant influence on the behavior of a person. Therefore, standards in the community, which are negative are more likely to promote bad behaviors among the affected persons. In most instances, such canons may be subtle, yet the effect is enormous (Room, 2014). For example, groups of youths in the U. S. may consider intoxication as humorous and tolerate such behavior. While watching movies, characters who use alcohol and other drugs may appear humorous and entertaining, a culture, which may promote the use of drugs among the audience. Also, one can be arrested several times for drunk driving before something serious happens. It means the systems support alcoholism. Second, the culture of poverty may make it possible for addiction to flourish. People living in impoverished areas are likely to use alcohol excessively and abuse drugs. It is due to stressful situations, and people would try to use all methods possible to thwart stresses. There is a significant number of researches covering the issues of addictions, alcoholism, and chemical dependency. In a study, Sussman, S., and Sussman (2011) found out that addiction is a process that occurs in people and that I do not develop overnight. Their investigation consisted of a meta-analysis of various past studies and concluded on numerous aspects of defining addiction including temporary satiation, which points out psychological elements. In another study,

Hammer et al. (2012) carried out survey research involving 63 people in Minnesota to find out how people view addiction based on formal theories in use. The result indicated that many people attributed it to the biological aspect, to mean that genetic predisposition carried the day. On the whole, various studies point out the importance of these theories in one way or another. In an experimental investigation, the circadian rhythm gene period 1 (PER1) was examined among 273 individuals aged 18 years and above and the result indicated these individuals had a high likelihood of alcohol consumption depending on the level of family adversity (Enoch, 2012). Based on this investigation, it can best explain the use of chemical dependency in some people. It is the best school of thought dependable to illustrate the use of chemicals in some people. It is because it fuses two aspects into one and that is gene and environment. I feel that there is a missing link or lack of the same as far as the association between biological and social aspects of the origin of addiction, alcoholism, and chemical dependency is concerned. Further research should tackle it and come out with proponents so that people caring for inflicted individuals can easily find a solution to help the affected persons. Each theory has a logical explanation for tackling the issue of addiction, alcoholism, and chemical dependency. The genetic predisposition explores the inheritance aspect and family ties, sociocultural theories deal with society and their social and cultural norms, while environmental influencers insist on factors, which are not part of the individual, but those that one interacts with while living. Psychological theories explain the maladaptive behaviors adopted by people due to other

factors. It covers the societal norms and deviations from such standards by addicts.