

Youth Delinquency and the Role of Church

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I. INTRODUCTION

High rates of substance use have been reported among adolescents or at risk for exposure in Korea and other OECD countries. The prevalence of alcohol drink during adolescence was 68.8% for boys and 58.1% each (Ministry of Gender Equality & Family, 2013:195), whereas estimated at 78.2% in the US (Swendsen et al, 2012). In a case of US, by late adolescence, it is reported that the opportunity to use illicit drugs was reported by 81.4% of the oldest adolescents, drug use by 42.5%, and drug abuse by 16.4%. Although it is not the case of Korea yet, exposure to alcohol increases the risk of using illicit drugs and consequent delinquent behaviors.

Many studies have examined the short and long-term effects on developmental and behavioral outcomes of varying levels of adolescent exposure to alcohol. Studies have shown that adolescent alcohol consumption was significantly related to mental health disturbances and delinquent behaviors, almost doubled risk of those problems (Shoal et al., 2007; Paus et al., 2008; Johnston et al., 2009; Trucco et al., 2011). Important to consider is the relationship between the substance use and neuro-psychological development of young people. The relationship of adolescent substance use and physical development of them can be seen in cognitive disturbance such as IQ growth retardation (Spear, 2000, 2002; Galvan et al., 2007; Clark et al., 2008; Bava & Tapert, 2010), rendering youth more vulnerable to risky behaviors such as seeking and risky choices during this phase of life. Adolescents' proclivity toward risk-taking behavior and susceptibility to poor decision-making may be related to unique neural characteristics that increase their sensitivity to rewarding outcomes (Somerville et al., 2010; Van Leijenhorst et al., 2010). At young ages, thus, behavioral problems are also more apparent when exposed to substance misuse. alcohol consumption and comorbid marijuana use are common among adolescents, and are associated with neural consequences.

The increased prevalence of substance use among adolescents suggests how to vest intervene which exposed adolescents to maximize development remains an important question. For example, it may be that better supervision skills (Ryan et al. 2010) or enrolling at risk adolescents in enrichment programs may mitigate the negative effects of exposure to substance use in this population. If it is possible, early interventions may a best option in buffering the negative outcomes associated with exposure to substance muse such as alcohol.

The present study is focussed on the relationship of religious perception and

adolescent substance use. First, it analyzes data from a large nationally representative sample of adolescents. Second, it looks at the importance of religion to way of life in addition to socio-demographic and other activities.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Internet or mobile use and alcohol among adolescents

There is substantial evidence that internet or/and mobile game addition in adolescence has been independently associated not only with alcohol, but also with further delinquent behaviors (Cummings & Vandewater, 2007; Hennessy, Bleakley, Fishbein, & Jordan, 2009; Seo, Kang, & Yom, 2009). One study of young people found that a history of internet or and mobile game addition increases in adulthood the likelihood having multiple risk behaviors of engaging in alcohol drinking problems (Kim & Kim, 2010). A study of adolescents also found that those reporting high levels of using internet or mobile game had less positive attitudes toward alcohol drinking prevention and were more likely to have delinquent behaviors. The increased occurrence of delinquent risk behavior after high levels of using internet or mobile game suggests that using computer at home for other purposes such as games may have the possibilities on being engaged in alcohol drinking opportunities. Moreover, there has been a paucity of research on possible associations between past substance misuse and game addition.

Perceiving the importance of religion as a mediator

Links between religion and pro-social behavior have been quite well documented. Increased participation into religious activities have been reported among young people with lower levels of drinking alcohol and with being engaged in other delinquent behaviors (Kharari & Harmon, 1984; Gorsuch, 1995). Protestant religion groups are particularly susceptible to substance use (Mercer, 2004). Young people who have participated in religious activities frequently were less likely to be engaged in delinquent behaviors (Houskamp, Fisher, & Stuber, 2004).

Associations between leisure time misuse and substance use, and between religion and pro-social behaviors, suggest that perceiving religion to way of life may mediate adolescents' alcohol drink. Given these associations between leisure time misuse and substance use, and between religion and pro-social behaviors, it is plausible that among young people, perceiving religion to way of life will be similarly associated with alcohol drink. Thus, it is hypothesize that those who perceive the importance of religion to one's way of life will mediate associations between leisure time misuse and substance use.

III. METHODS

The Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE), known to its participants as the Next Steps Study, is a major innovative panel study of young people which brings together data from a number of different sources, including both annual interviews with young people and their parents and administrative sources. The original sample drawn for the study was just over 21,000. The target population sampled was young people in Year 9 (or equivalent) in all schools in England in February 2012 and born between 1st September 1999 and 31st August 2000.

The average age of participants was 14.32(S.D.=.469) and comprized 7850 males (50.9%) and 7579 females (49.1%). More than 26.6% of participant father's completed GCSE grades A-C or equivalent level, whereas 25.3% of them had no qualifications: participant mother's educational qualification levels were pretty much similar to those of their fathers. 21.8% of them were in top quintile of FSM (school deprivation stratum). Of young people, about 73.9% and 75.9% each were playing games using computer or mobile phone. About 46.4% of them identified themselves as a Christian. A total of 39.9% reported alcoholic drink in last 12 months.

<Table 1> Descriptive characteristics of research participants (N=15,747)

Variables	Category	Numbers	%
Sex	Male	7850	50.9
	Female	7579	49.1
Age	14.00	10348	67.1
	15.00	5078	32.9
Father's education qualification	Degree or equivalent	1488	14.5
	Higher education below degree level	1075	10.5
	GCE A Level or equiv	1722	16.8
	GCSE grades A-C or equiv	2723	26.6
	Other qualifications	640	6.3
	No qualification	2588	25.3
Mother's education qualification	Degree or equivalent	1463	10.2
	Higher education below degree level	1755	12.2
	GCE A Level or equiv	1768	12.3
	GCSE grades A-C or equiv	4188	29.2
	Other qualifications	1326	9.3
	No qualification	3833	26.7
School deprivation stratum	Not top quintile of FSM	11306	78.2
	Top quintile of FSM	3144	21.8
Ways use computer at home for other uses	No Playing computer games	3395	26.1
	Playing computer games	9596	73.9
Whether ever use mobile phone for playing games	no Playing games	2991	24.1

Religion	Playing games	9437	75.9
	Non christian	8267	53.6
	Christian	7162	46.4
Whether had alcoholic drink in last 12 months	No	9270	60.1
	Yes	6159	39.9
Average age of participant		14.32(S.D.=.469)	

IV. MEASURES

Father's education qualification: Question on Father's education qualification were asked of the interviewed parent and each education qualification in terms of: 1=Other qualification, 2=GCSE grade A-C or equivalent, 3=GCE A level or equivalent, 4=Higher education below degree, 5=Degree or equivalent, 6=No qualification

Mother's education qualification: Question on mother's education qualification were asked of the interviewed parent and each education qualification in terms of: 1=Other qualification, 2=GCSE grade A-C or equivalent, 3=GCE A level or equivalent, 4=Higher education below degree, 5=Degree or equivalent, 6=No qualification

School deprivation stratum: School deprivation stratum record provided by the Pupil Level Annual Schools Census(PLASC). Maintained schools were stratified by deprivation status, where deprivation was measured by the proportion of pupils in receipt of free school meals, and deprived schools were defined as those in the top quintile of this distribution.

Ways use computer at home for other uses, other than school work: playing computer games: all respondents were asked whether or not they use computer at home for other uses, other than school work: playing computer games.

Whether ever use mobile phone for: playing games: all respondents were asked whether or not they use mobile phone for: playing games.

Religion: all respondents were asked if they identify themselves as a Christian or not.

Whether had alcoholic drink in last 12 months: all respondents were asked whether or not had alcoholic drink in last 12 months.

<Table 2> Measurement of variables

Variable	Measurement methods
Sex of child	1=Male, 2=Female
Age	
Father's education qualification	1=Other qualification, 2=GCSE grade A-C or equivalent, 3=GCE A level or equivalent, 4=Higher education below degree, 5=Degree or equivalent, 6=No qualification
Mother's education qualification	1=Other qualification, 2=GCSE grade A-C or equivalent, 3=GCE A level or equivalent, 4=Higher education below degree, 5=Degree or equivalent, 6=No qualification
School deprivation stratum	0=Not top quintile of FSM, 1=Top quintile of FSM
Ways use computer at home for other uses, other than school work: Playing computer games	0=No playing computer games, 1=playing computer games
Whether ever use mobile phone for: Playing games	0=No playing games, 1=playing games
Religion	0=Non Christian, 1=Christian
Importance of religion to participant's way of life	1=Not at all important, 2=Not very important, 3= Fairly important, 4=Very important
Whether had alcoholic drink in last 12 months	

Data Analysis

Statistical analysis was performed using IBM SPSS Statistics 21. First correlations were examined to ensure that the data did not violate the assumptions for hierarchical regression analysis. Second, logistic regression analyses were used to examine the relation between selected variables and alcohol drinking behaviors. In addition to socio-demographic and school deprivation stratum, computer & mobile phone usage, and importance of religion to way of life were included for further examination.

V. RESULTS

Co-relations of selected variables and alcohol drinking behaviors

As shown in Table 3, most of selected variables were modestly inter-correlated. Age, father's highest qualification, mother's highest qualification, ways use computer at home for other uses, religion, importance of religion to way of life were significantly related to alcoholic drink among adolescents. Thus, as expected, Age, father's highest qualification, mother's highest qualification, ways use computer at home for other uses, religion, importance of religion to way of life

had significant associations with alcoholic drink among young people, whereas sex and school deprivation stratum were not related to alcoholic drink among young people.

<Table 3> Co-relations of selected variables and alcohol drinking behaviors

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	1								
2	-.003	1							
3	-.002	.014	1						
4	.008	.010	.481**	1					
5	.009	.000	-.001	-.021*	1				
6	-.208**	-.028**	-.017	-.019*	.012	1			
7	-.001	-.024**	.009	.014	.017	.162**	1		
8	.025**	-.004	-.175**	-.203**	.015	.022*	.028**	1	
9	.051**	.009	.131**	.152**	.010	-.071**	-.016	.233**	1
10	.004	.049*	-.130*	-.167**	.000	.019*	.041**	.124**	-.331**

***p<.001, **p<.01, *p<.5

1=Sex, 2=Age, 3=Father's highest qualification, 4=Mother's highest qualification, 5=School deprivation stratum, 6=Ways use computer at home for other uses, other than school work: Playing computer games, 7=Whether ever use mobile phone for: playing games, 8=Religion, 9=Importance of religion to YP's way of life, 10=Whether had alcoholic drink in last 12 months

Factors predicting alcoholic drink among adolescents

Table 4 summarizes results from a series of logistic regression models. Model 1 displays the results of regressing alcohol drinking behaviors on demographic variables (sex, age, fathers education qualification, mother's education qualification, and school deprivation stratum). The first block of five variables (age, fathers education qualification, and mother's education qualification) collectively explained for the variance in alcoholic drinking behaviors among young people. Compare to young adolescents, old adolescents were more likely to show alcoholic drinking behaviors (OR=1.345, p<.001). The care of parents with higher educational qualifications were also significantly related with increased likelihood of alcohol drinking among adolescents (Father's GCSE grade A-C or equivalent qualification OR=1.273, p<.05; mother's GCSE grade A-C or equivalent qualification OR=1.367, p<.01).

Adding computer and mobile phone usage also proved the positive association between computer usage at home other use and alcohol drink. Using computer at home for other use significantly increased the likelihood of alcohol drink among young people (OR=1.882, p<.05).

Adding the third block (religion and importance) also showed significant variance. Being a Christian and perceiving the importance of religion to way of life were negatively related to the increased numbers of alcohol drinking behaviors (Religion OR=1.882, p<.05; very important OR=.084, p<.001).

<Table 4> Factors predicting alcoholic drink among adolescents

	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	B	Exp(B)	B	Exp(B)	B	Exp(B)
Sex	-.020	.981				
Age	.297	1.345***				
Father's education qualification						
Other qualification	.048	1.049				
GCSE grade A-C or equivalent	.241	1.273*				
GCE A level or equivalent	.111	1.117				
Higher education below degree	.161	1.175*				
Degree or equivalent	.132	1.141				
Mother's education qualification						
Other qualification	.313	1.367**				
GCSE grade A-C or equivalent	.338	1.402***				
GCE A level or equivalent	.169	1.184*				
Higher education below degree	.229	1.258**				
Degree or equivalent	.076	1.079				
School deprivation stratum	-.093	.911				
Ways use computer at home for other uses			.125	1.882*		
Whether ever use mobile phone for playing games			.118	1.125		
Religion					-.622	.064***
Importance of religion to way of life						
Not very important					-1.615	.199***
Fairly important					-.518	.596***
very important					-.219	.804*
df				20		
-2 Log Likelihood				8191.295		
Chi-square				734.371***		

***p<.001, **p<.01, *p<.5

VI. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The study analyzed the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England: Wave 3 2013 in which young people were administered to 15,747 (7,850 males 50.9% and 7,579 females 49.1%) representative of the total England population of adolescents aged 14 to 16 years old. In sum, the high levels of alcohol drink were prevalent among adolescents.

Age, father's education qualification, and mother's education qualification were significant, identifying that older adolescents under the care of parents with higher education qualification were more likely to be at risk of drinking alcohol.

There were significant impacts of computer and mobile phone for playing games. Young people use computer at home for other use or mobile phone for playing games were more likely to drink alcohol compared to those with no playing games. A growing numbers of existing literatures are focusing on the importance of

blocking internet for late night time among adolescents. This study also emphasizes parent guided internet blocking to intervene the problem of alcohol drink among young people.

How to best intervene with exposed young people to guide appropriate development remains an importance question. If possible, early interventions may be have a best option in diminishing the negative outcomes associated with adolescent exposure to alcohol. In terms of enriching activity program development for young people, this study suggests the importance of religion: being a Christian or perceiving the importance of religion to the way of life had the strong impact to decrease alcohol drink among young people. Being a Christian or perceiving the importance of religion to the way of life may have buffering young people from the risks associated with their substance misuse. Helping young people to have appropriate religion and to perceive the importance of religious attitude to way of life may be able to play roles in buffering alcohol drinking behaviors among young people (Bucholz, 1999; Brown et al., 2001; Sinha et al., 2007; Verona, 2011; Castellanos-Ryan & Conrod, 2012).

Alcohol is associated with a wide range of antisocial behaviors in addition to offences of drunkenness, in which drinking define the offence. Heavy-drinking young people find their behaviors more problematic, engage in fewer positive interactions with peers (Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, 2014). In this sample of adolescents, it is important to indicate that inappropriate use of time and alcohol drink were correlated. The effects from alcohol use may be negative during the early adolescent years and may be more worse at later ages than before, if it is not carefully treated properly. Eklund (2009); Hemphill et al. (2013) also found a similar negative effect of alcohol use among males in early adolescence. As shown in this study, alcohol use increased with age, then the effect of alcohol use among adolescents may be remained significant in later life. The intervention efforts to reduce alcohol use during adolescence will also be contributed to reduce levels of the other problems later in adolescence.

This study provides empirical evidence that religious aptitudes play important roles in the developmental course of children's substance misuse. The inappropriate aptitudes may be attributable to impaired substance use consequently leading to increasing alcohol drinking behavior problems. Eccles (2003) suggested positively developed social aptitudes seem to serve as protective factor against the impaired psycho-social misbehavior such as substance misuse. That is, adolescents with appropriate social attitudes are less likely to get involved in behavior problems than those with negative social attitudes. The implication of this finding is that young people should have opportunities to accommodate pro-social attitudes in terms of promoting appropriate mental health and combating negative risk behavior factors (Larson, 2000; Hansen et al., 2003).

One limitation of this study is that the generalizability of these findings is limited

to UK adolescent sample, because the sample used in this study came from the UK data. Further research requires how the practical intervention effects of religious programs are associated with now and later adolescent way of life, using Korean adolescent samples.

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