

Perceived Distance from Father and its Relation to Drug
Use in a Soldier Population

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OBJECTIVES: For a description of the objectives of this study see the SEATO Annual Progress Report, March 1973.

PROGRESS: Each of 75 military personnel was administered the father distance scale questionnaire. Individuals were divided into three groups for analysis: Group 1 consisted of individuals who did not use drugs, Group 2 consisted of individuals who were confirmed drug abusers, and Group 3 consisted of individuals who had psychiatric problems without involvement with drugs. We predicted that individuals in Group 2 would be more father distant than individuals in Group 1 but would have father distance scores similar to individuals in Group 3.

A preliminary analysis indicates that drug users (Group 2) did have significantly higher father distance scores than the non-users (Group 1). Contrary to our expectation Group 2 subjects were also significantly more father distant than individuals in Group 3 (Individuals with psychiatric problems).

Knowledge of an individuals' relations with his father or authority can be used by the therapist for the treatment of drug use related to emotional problems, and this knowledge can be obtained from an individual's score on the father distance scale. A detailed report of findings and recommendations for therapy will be included in next year's Annual Report.

SUMMARY: Three groups of subjects (made up of non-drug users, drug abusers, and individuals with psychiatric problems) were administered the father distance scale questionnaire. Drug users were found to be more father distant than both non-users and psychiatric patients. Recommendations for therapy will be included as part of the final report of this study.

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