

**A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL  
EFFECT OF DRUG ABUSE AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN BENIN  
CITY**

**BY**

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## **CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that this research titled “A Comparative Analysis of Social and Psychological Effect of Drug Abuse Among University Students in Benin City” was carried out by Ebhomenye Emmanuela Enogue in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City.

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## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to God Almighty who made this research possible, and also to my dear family for their love and support

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## **ABSTRACT**

This study examines social and psychological effect of drug abuse among University Students in Benin City, Nigeria. The objectives of the study were to examine the social effect of drugs abuse among University Students in Benin City, to investigate the psychological effects of drug abuse among University Students in Benin City, to compare the rate of abuse of drugs by Students in public and private University in Benin City, to find out the reasons for drug abuse among University Students in Benin City and to determine the strategies employed by Government and Schools to curb drug abuse among youths in Benin metropolis.

Respondents were selected from two (2) universities from Benin City (University of Benin and Benson Idahosa University). The data -were collected through personal administration of 460 copies of questionnaire through Google Form and had valid responses. The study also used frequency distribution, mean, and tables as major statistical tools for data analysis.

The analysis revealed that the social effect of drug abuse comprises of making those that indulge in it to become hyperactive, prone to violence, having a high feeling of themselves and becoming addicted to drugs. The psychological effect of drug abuse includes making students that indulges in it to be very aggressive and hostile to others, making students lack pleasure to do their academic Works; making students to be indolent and causing them to have a feeling of dejection, frustration, and hopelessness.

The reasons for drug abuse are but not limited to having a feeling of relaxation, the need to increase sexual performance, the feeling of happiness and to boost one's confidence level as well as peer pressure. The proffer measures to curtailing the menace cause by drug abuse are the need for constant orientation of students by the guidance and counselling department, parental communication, and care to students; continuous orientation by the schools, religious centres, and NGOs on the negative effect of drug abuse and giving out punishment, rehabilitation and other related measures by schools' authority and government agencies.

Finally, the study recommends that the relevant government agencies such as National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and other agencies charge with issue bothering on drug abuse should constantly organise seminars and programmes to enlighten students on the dangers of drug abuse, that the government agencies (NDLEA, NAFDAC and The Nigerian Police Force) responsible for the enforcement of laws against drug abuse; illegal production, sales and possession of hard drugs should mete out severe punishment on anyone student caught in the act of illicit drug use to serve as deterrent to others and that there is need for the practitioners or key players in educational sectors (guidance and counselling department, parents, school authority, religious centres and NGOs) to constantly educate students on the negative effect of drug abuse on their wellbeing and rehabilitating already affected students.



# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the Study

It is commonly said that the youths are the future of tomorrow, having a conducive society depends largely on calibres of her school graduates. It is so disheartening that many of University students engages in the consumption of drug abuse in their early years in life. The consumption of hard drugs have the ability to cause harm to the body and mind either by damaging the central nervous system of the body or cause creating other chemical problems to human and to the entire society, (Amadi & Akpelu, 2018). Taking drugs has been a part of humanity since time immemorial. Human beings have used drugs in a variety of ways to improve their total well-being. This notwithstanding, abuse of drug especially by students has been a major problem not only in Nigeria but all over the world because drug abuse is damaging not only to the abuser but also to the society at large.

Drug abuse is the use of drugs without for reasons outside medical purposes, causing a negative effect socially, psychologically and physically on the individual, (King, 2016). The abuse of drugs aids abnormal stimulation of the human nervous system to loose its rightful being. This makes the individual to begin to act under the influence of cultivated factors like marijuana, codeine and among others. The every incidence in our society is based on the influence of the aforementioned stimulants and which

can cause mental disorder if over looked.

The Society of Pharmacist over the years, has shown displeasure over the wild and out of control manners at which drugs are available in public places which contributes largely to the availability of these drugs and abuse of it. According to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2016) drug addiction is persistent, excessive drug use, inconsistent with or on related to acceptable medicines practices. Drug abuse which has become rampant amongst youth is no longer peculiar to its users' alone, but it has become a major problem affecting the society at large. Its addiction takes the young users who are main consumers into downward slope of loss of hope and ends in a negative state. The problem of drug abuse involves medical, social, psychological and other factors, it's not just only medical and social issues. According to Schmellegger (2002), some drugs are abuse under somea certain circumstances as regard to the situation of the individual. Sometimes, using a complementary drugs like the use of Benylin with codeine, Tutolin with codeine, as prescribed by a specialist for cough is not abuse of drugs but when taken for some other selfish behaviors and unclear purposes it can then be referred to as drug abuse. The abuse of drugs is worldwide issue that poses a great challenges to the health of individuals, society, political and security, (United Nation, 2016). According to UN, drug abuse is on high all over the world and this has led to increase in its availability of different varieties and widening its market. In bid to control the illicit

consumption of drugs, the National government of Nigeria embarked on an aggressive campaign to fight drug abuse which led to the creation of National Drug and Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) to enforce, control and correct abuse. Drug abuse has some social, economic, psychological, cultural, physical, moral, and health effect that are likely render the user into poverty, mental disorder and other health complications, or even death of the users. Factors that push young people into drug abuse, like relatively easy availability of drugs, community norms, and adverse family situations. However, students are vulnerable to abuse of drugs, which are pressure from friends, to boost self-esteem, ignorance, academic- induced frustration and lack of parental attention. The social and psychology effects may go a long way in reducing the work force of the nation, since those involved in drugs abuse are youths, and also cases of youth in psychiatric homes is on the increase.

The abuse of drugs have become a popular phenomenon in institution of higher learning in Nigeria. It has been highlighted that parents, friends, and environment contribute to the high rate. In most cases, schools suffer from through destruction of school properties, rape, and poor examination performance, high level of students drop out, cultism, fighting, killing, violence and other anti-social characters. There exist large reported number of juvenile delinquencies and disobedience to lecturers,, securities and school administrators which have been a menace to institution of learning and the society.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

Drug abuse is menace to all concerned stakeholders, researchers and society as a whole. In recent years, the Nigeria population has been on fast growth, fitting to this changes, drug abuse is now rampant among students in institution of higher learning in Benin and it is even affecting their mental health with so many cases being reported in Benin Psychiatric Hospital. Despite concerns and awareness globally on the consequences of its consumption, most of the youth users are limited in knowledge of the dangers associated to the addiction, (Ngesu et al., 2008). Many students have have become school drop out and some are being engaged in nefarious activities thus causing harm to lives and properties of others in the society. The future of any community, society, s,tate or nation is tied to the character of the graduates that is being produced by our schools. It is also said that "The youth are the leaders of tomorrow"-. Therefore, the students in the society are torch bearer of tomorrow brighter society, but with drug abuse amongst our youth, the reverse is the case.

Drugs are everywhere, found and used in beer parlour, hotels, and school hostels and among others. From a survey conducted by Abudu, (2008); Oshodi, Aina & Onajole,(2010) you will be shock by the high number of persons that consumes marijuana and other drugs in of Ring Road outlets in Benin City, Ajegunle in Lagos, Mabushi in Abuja, under flyover in Onitsha



Drug abuse is increasingly turning into an attractive venture among students in Benin as don't care anymore to the extent of doing it even in the broad daylight in schools in Benin City. However, despite several attempt by the Government to eradicate the menace, yet their effort have proven abortive because of uncontrollable commitment of students towards drug abuse. Unfortunately, students are either unconcerned the effect of drug abuse or maybe they are ignorance of the consequences involved in drug abuse. It is clear fact that drugs abuse is likely to lead to severe health problems and untimely death. It is against this backdrop that the researcher tend to find out the effect of Drug Abuse among University Students in Benin.

In addition, despite its severances many studies have focused their attention on the effect of drug abuse on youth and adolescents, and academic performance such studies include (Adejoh, Olurunlana, Adisa and Onwusoanya, 2020, Anetor and Onyekan - Thomas, 2018, Omirin, 2018 and Oluwole, Habibat and Babatunde, 2017). There exist scanty researches done on Social and Psychological Effect of Drug Abuse among university students in Benin City. However, some other studies concentrate on substance abuse rather than drug abuse. This study make use of drug abuse because it has been observed that students engage more in the abuse of drugs than other substances like inhaling of rubber, inhaling of storage of human fasces and so on. This study contribute to the body of knowledge by examining the effect of Drug Abuse among University Students in Benin City, having a comparative

analysis on a public and private university.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

- i. What are the social effects of drug abuse among University Students in Benin City
- ii. What are the psychological effects of drug abuse among University Students in Benin City
- iii. Do public University students tend to engage more in the abuse of drugs than their counterparts in private Universities
- iv. What are the reasons why university students abuse drugs in Benin City v. Are there strategies employed by the Government and schools authority to curb drug abuse among students

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The primary aim of the study is to having a comparative analysis on social and psychological effect of drug abuse among University Students in Benin City. In light of this, the following specific objective are to;

- i. Examine the social effect of drugs abuse among University Students in Benin City
- ii. Investigate the psychological effects of drug abuse among University Students in Benin City

- iii. Compare the rate of abuse of drugs by Students in public and private University in Benin City
- iv. Find out the reason for drug abuse among University Students in Benin City
- v. Determine the strategies employed by Government and Schools to curb drug abuse among youths in Benin metropolis

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The findings of this study will be beneficial to the following;

***Guidance and Counselling experts:*** this study will benefit guidance and counselling practitioners on how to deal and counsel students that are drug addicts social on the psychological effect of drug abuse and giving them proper orientation on abstinence.

***Government and Policy Makers:*** the findings of this study will benefit the Government and other policy makers like NDLEA with information on drug abuse among University students in Benin City so as to form proper measures to arrest this menace that has a continuously affected our students and the society negative.

***Parents and Guardians:*** the findings of this study would also benefit parents and guardians, by providing them with insights and early knowledge of their children and wards activities so as to be better placed and proper training of their kids.

***Religious Centre:*** the outcome of this study will be of great benefit to religious Centre on educating their young members on the ill-effect of drug abuse and teaching them good morals of why they should desist from drug abuse.

*Students and Academicians:* the study will create a new frontier of knowledge in this field that may contribute to future researches by other researchers who may want to journey on related study. Also, it will serve as reference base for students who may want to embark on similar study.

## **1.6 Scope of the Study**

This investigation focuses on the social and psychological effect of drug abuse among University Students in Benin City, causes of drugs abuse among University Students in Benin City. The study specifically focus on the effect of drug' abuse among University of Benin and Benson Idahosa University students.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

#### 2.1 An Overview of Drug Abuse

The illicit consumption of drugs in trying to derive intoxication from its effects has been seen to be on the increase and it poses a great challenge to the health especially among Nigerian youth. It was reported that 60% from 105,000 deaths in the year 2000 to 168,000 deaths in 2018 globally caused by drug abuse, (UNODC, 2018). According to the American Psychological Association, (2000) the presence and extent of the usage of drugs has been seen as a menace to the academic environment. Drug abuse defines a state, emotional and sometimes physical, creating the push to take drugs on a constant basis in order to experience its mental effects, (Ayodele, Adeleke & Gandonu, 2017). This affects various aspects of learning such as student's performance. Generally, drug abuse is seen as the use of substances that have effect on one's action or behaviors in a way of unstable pattern of use (Agbongale & Okaka, 2014).

To Coleman, (2010) drug abuse is the scenario when a drug is taken more than it is prescribed. The World Drug Report (2005) stated that drug abuse has been rapidly growing lately. The report stated that the global development is aiding the availability of all sorts of drugs. The United Nations Drug Control Program in 2004 reported 4.8% of the world population engages in drug use, those of the higher

percentage was reported as those in China. UNDCP reported that the use of drugs is on the upward movement while the age of the consumers are on a downward trend. In a survey, it was found that 37% drug users in Czech Republic were teenagers within the age bracket of 15<sup>^</sup>-18 years old. A survey in Egypt showed that 6% of Secondary School were found to have experimented drugs. Also, in Pakistan, it was found that those who started using heroine at "the ages of 15-20 has multiplied. Over the years, the role of Africa has increase in the global supply chain of of drugs. Already the continent stand out the world second largest producer of cannabis, illegal drug export and usage, (UNODC 2014).

Empirically, the use of drugs can be seen as global issue. Drug abuse cut across medical, social cultural and other issues and it is not just a medical or moral problem. Udoh and Ajalah (2006) holds that drugs as substances which changes the chemical buildup of the body and also alter the central nervous system. Hornsby (2006) see drugs as substances for medical purposes. Hornsby went further to say that drug as a substance changes the functions of the body organ. Turner (2008) drugs are chemicals alters or repairs the chemical build of the body.

Drug use by University students in Nigeria has turn a big menace to all stakeholders in the society. It is usually said in the local parlance that the youth are the future leaders in the society, by so, they deserve proper upbringing. The rate at which students abuse drugs may somehow lead to psycho-social problems in our society.

It's obvious that the menace and practice of illicit drugs usage would lead to having youth that has no value to offer to the society. This is fear is fact because of how our University students has engaged in the consumption of illicit drugs. Drug addiction is a destructive sickness that causes significant challenges involving the inability to desist from abuse of drugs, also other issues the drug can cause to the abuser either in his/her social or academic life, (Akus, 2010). A drug addict is referred to as a person whose life solely depend on the use of drugs, then constant abuse drugs (Obaje, 2009). Drug addiction is driven by legal or illegal use of drugs. Drug addiction can result to a serious and long term effect on the user with problems like mental health disorder and social life (Moronkola, 2003).

The United Nation office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reported that Nigeria is among the leading user of cannabis and atemetamine in her continent, (UNODC, 2018). Also, in 2008, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC, 2018) reported that about 61% of the Nigeria population abuse alcohol which made it the leading consumed drugs in Nigeria. According to Parkinson, (2002), the consumption of alcohol causes depression to body central nervous system and makes the bran dulls, and when this happen learning become difficult. When alcohol is taken, the way they think becomes impaired and become unserious with good thing of life. Also, drug abuse affects the brain thereby causing reduction in it capacity to function. Drug abuse can reduce student's concentration

and likes for academic and other school activities.

Drug abuse is harmful use of drugs for non-medical related issues. The term (drug abuse) is often referred to as illegal use of drugs abuse, (World Drug Report, 2010). However, legal drugs can also be abused for example self-medication, alcohol, cough syrup and among others. People engage in drug abuse for many reasons. People use it for fun, to overcome emotional stress and pains and to cope with difficult moments, (Lifeline, 2012). However, consuming drugs to overcome difficult times or situations does not put an end to the problem, it can sometimes make it worse.

Acolagbc (2005), posited that students in Nigeria engages in the abuse of drugs because of the believe that it is the only means to be among the new age life. He buttressed that people meake decision out of curiosity to take alcohol and smoke cannabisc. Oshodin (2003) opined the susceptibility of drugs usage is as a result of its availability and as well as its sociological and psychological factors. He went further to say people that uses drugs to the extent of abuse have different motives for doing so. But the key thing is not just why they use drugs but what the reasons why university student's abuse drugs are. It is indeed a difficult dilemma to proffer an answer because the use of drugs differ from perform to person. However, we could easily say that most university students engages in drug abuse as a result of the following: peer pressure, to be among the big boys, family background, social media

influence, to build high self-esteem, imitating celebrities, to feel relaxed, social cultural factors, and drugs availability.

The consequence of drug abuse on students are not over rated. The abuse of Drugs gradually destroys the chemical buildup of the body. The use of illicit drugs are intake of potential poisonous substance. Most of those that consume drugs unknowingly to them, they are destroying themselves, Orija (2008). It could lead to deteriorating health which may cause the user mental health disorder, babies with deformity and early grave. Acolagbe went further to say those who are addicted to drugs become more. Furthermore, people who are addicted to the use of drugs are dejected, dull look, always look carried away, drop in academic performance and lost of dress sense. Rebury (2006) highlights the consequence of abusing some drugs as follows; Amphetamine; it causes loss of appetite for food, hence, some person become thin and become prone to diseases. Methedrine gives strength but in an aggressive manner, frightened,"talking too much and always happy. The mind becomes unsettled as a result of lack of sleep. Indian hemp results in mental illness, hallucinations and the use of cocaine destroys the heart and later results in heart attack.

According to (Nwaiwu, 2002), the use of drugs creates serious health challenges. Drug abuse has can affect the human heart and liver, kidney problem, lungs and causes mental disorder, there making these organs susceptible to diseases. Also, the

use of drugs may lead to poor academic performance and loss of interest in school activities which may result in school dropout. Apart from that, it causes most users to be aggressive in dealing with their peers, depressive mood. Adedeji, (2003) observed that drug abuse sometimes lead to sudden change in an individual mood, unusual aggressiveness and depression for no just cause. Akus, (2010) views the effects of drug abuse on the academic commitment of undergraduates to include: effect of the nervous system, high blood pressure, dilating of the blood vessel, indigestion, reduces the brain activity and destroys the nervous systems, anger, frustration, impotence, illness, poor academic performance etc. student who are drug users spend more money in buying of drugs rather than buying their academic materials, so even go as far as spending their school fees to purchase drugs.

### **2.2.1 Brief Historical Overview of Drug Abuse**

Since the early times, herbs, leaves and plants have been used to heal and control diseases. When drug is properly administered, it will be a blessing to the user. As cited by Sambo (2008) "the persistence use of drugs can lead to serious, sometimes irreparable damage to the user social and psychological development. Drug use can do well or harm the user depending on the purpose and mode of use. We can trace the use of drugs back to the pre-colonial period when the use of alcohol and other form of drugs were used as part of traditions in some communities. The communities had strong structures that protect the use of drugs. Generally, consumption of alcohol,

tobacco and other drugs were commonly consumed by the elderly ones than the younger ones. The existence of drug abuse as a societal menace was not common due to the strong social structures. The low levels or non-existence of drug use was sustained as a result of strong kinship ties that ran through different social institutions. Traditions and taboos were upheld to discourage the misuse of drugs.

The use of drugs have been found among humans for many years. The use of wine was recorded from ancient Egyptians; narcotics from 4000 B.C., and use of marijuana for medical purposes in China dated back to 2737 B.C. But until the 19th century A.D were the active substances in drugs were extracted. There was a time in history when the use of drugs like morphine, landaium, cocaine were prescribed by experts for various illness. During the civil war in American, the use of mortune was widely spread as veterans who were wounded were returned. By the early 1900s the number of drug addict in United State America was estimated to be 250,000.

After the return of the veterans who fought in World War II in Malaysia and Myanmar, Nigeria witnessed drug abuse. On their return from the war, they brought a souvenirs load of cannabis. Subsequently, there was a widespread and illegal farming of cannabis. In the last few decades, specifically between 1960's and 1970's, was not as high as it is now, as only derivatives and cannabis were the dominants. However, drug abuse in the 1980's in Nigeria metamorphosed to other different types of illicit drugs into the country which included Hallucinogens, Cocaine, Heroin and

so on, (Eric, 2017).

### **2.1.2 Classification of Drugs Commonly Abused**

When talking about drug abuse by students, the first question that should come to mind is why do students abuse drugs? Acolagbe (2005), posited that students in Nigeria engages in the abuse of drugs because of the believe that it is the only means to be among the new age life. He buttressed that people make decision out of curiosity to take alcohol and smoke cannabis. Oshodin (2003) opined the susceptibility of drugs usage is as a result of its availability and as well as its sociological and psychological factors. He went further to say people that uses drugs to the extent of abuse have different motives for doing so. Another reason given by Edward (2003) opine that student's abuse drugs overcome boredom, academic work and to carry out other activities with academic and other related activities. Users that are performing poorly in their academic work and they get to loose in interest in school. To get their mind occupied of various thought, they engage in the consumption of drugs. He adds that friends influence is one of the main reasons which lure students into illicit drug abuse. Also, students with low self-esteem, would want to engage to be able to stand out in public places and among their peers. Adeniyi (2002) gave a classification based on the nature and functions;

1. Antibiotics: These are drugs used for the treatment of bacteria disease. They include penicillin, streptomycin, tetracycline, chloramphenicol and much more.

2. Stimulants: These drugs are used as anti-sleep purpose. Taken to keep somebody away from sleep. They can also be used to increase the activeness of the human body. Exsmple of such drugs are dexamphetamine, amphetamine, tea and coffee. Tea and coffee contain caffeine which when used has light stimulants.
3. Sedatives: These drugs are used to put the body at rest or relaxed. Examples are barbiturates, phenol baritone, tranquilizers and among others.
4. Narcotics: The use of these drugs depress the nervous system
5. Analgesics: These are drugs to calm convulsion. It include phenbabitone.
6. Hypnotics: These drugs are used to induce sleep when a person is trying to avoid depression the common on is Phenergan.
7. Hallucinogens: The drug create unconsciousness and causes irregular feelings. Examples are lysergic acid and cannabis.

### **2.2.3 Social and Psychological Effects of Drug Abuse**

The effect of addiction drugs could be so problematic and awful to the user, the menace affects the family and the society. Some of these consequence includes: Mental health problems, health challenges, poor academic performance and drop out, crime, cultism, rape, frustration, rejection by family and society social miscreants, prostitution, lawlessness among youths, loss of respect for seniors, taking of other lives and many other losses resulting from drug abuse. Also, Mba, (2008) highlighted several consequence of drug abuse on the human body as follows:

1. Problems resulting from Alcohol:
  - a. Physical problems e.g. liver problems
  - b. Social effect: it can lead to crimes, prostitution, and transmission of disease and tear some homes apart
2. Tobacco: the intake of this could lead to lungs disease, heart attack, hypertension regular headache
3. Stimulants: this causes lack of sleep and mental complications
4. Inhalants: this causes damages lo the kidney and injury in stomach
5. Narcotics: this is occasioned by constipation, throwing up, laziness and constant sleep and death.

#### **2.2.4 Factors Responsible for Drug Abuse**

Researches have shown that majority of those engaged in the abuse of drugs got addicted to drugs in their early and youthful stage. They try out different varieties of drug and definitely get into had drug as they grow old, (Oshodi, Aina & Onajole, 2010; Igwe, et al, 2009). In a survey that was done on high school student, it was reported that 65%take drugs because they want to good time with friends, 54% just want to know how it taste and feels, 20% takes it to have a change in their moods, (Abudu, 2008). As stated by (Oshodi, Aina, & Onajole, 2010; Igwe, et al., 2009; Abudu, 2008; Oluremi, 2012; Desalu, et al., 2010; Ajibulu, 2011; Henry, Smith, & Caldwell, 2006) are the factors responsible for drug abuse;

1. ***Curiosity and taste of drug effectiveness:*** most of the drug users become addicted because they want to see the resultant effect of a particular drug. The first taste leaves the user with a taste that tempt the user to repeat the act again. Most persons take drugs just to see how they will react to the drug and if they enjoy it, they become addicted to using it.
2. ***Peer pressure:*** friends plays a major role in people's behaviors. Many students are engage in the abuse of Drugs as result of peer influence. The teenage and the youthful stage of life is likely to be faced and defined by peer pressure. Most students are engage in the abuse of Drugs because of their peers, they are being pressured into the abuse of drugs.
3. ***Poor Parental Care and Monitoring:*** many parents are so busy to the extent they do not have time for their kids. Some parents hardly spend enough time, no supervision and counselling with kids and wards, while others mount unnecessary life pressure on their kids to come out top of their class and attain some unimaginable educational heights. These problems initialize and increases drug usage.

#### 2.2.5 **Strategies for Curbing the Menace of Drug Abuse in Nigeria**

These are strategies, policies and solution driven processes taken to convince or counsel those engaged in the abuse of drugs or addicted to it to refrained from it and overcome it. For an intervention strategy to be successful, it has to be create an

opportunity for an addicted person to - to be available to be helped and get recovery. A proper strategy should involve school guidance and counselling, proper peer counselling, family supervision and advise, non-governmental bodies (NGO), health related bodies. In curbing drug abuse, the following strategies is key;

- i. School drug intervention strategy Schools can play a crucial role during intervention program through drug free club, drama, role play, involving home and community partnership. Botvin, (2009) noted that educational programs either by focusing on promotion of knowledge of the students about addictive drugs and their adverse effects, or on improvement skills such as decision-making and resisting peer pressure. These educational programs would play an important role in decreasing the prevalence of drug abuse among adolescents.
- ii. Peer education intervention strategy: Peer education is a carefully planned and . implemented strategy to train representative adolescents, providing them with information on issues relating to adolescents and hopefully, this will allow them to share information with their immediate peer group and others (Ekenedo & Obiechina, 2010). Peer educator can discourage advertising of cigarettes, alcohol, and proprietary drugs that are responsible for adolescent exposure to drug use. The educator should give comprehensive health education on drug addiction and proffer solution to rehabilitation. It

encourages the adolescent to focus more directly and effectively on learning behavior to promote their health needs.

iii. Family intervention strategy: Family influences such as a genetic predisposition to alcoholism., acceptance of drugs, family conflicts, and distant family relationships influence adolescent use of illicit drug. Therefore, parents should be part of the intervention strategy programme, through building awareness and educating families about the ill effects of drug abuse. Preventive measures should be designed to include training parents in appropriate ways of dealing with children and providing a friendly and safe environment in family. Children should be discourage from buying or patronizing cigarettes, alcohol, and proprietary drugs that are responsible for adolescent exposure to drug use.

iv. Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) drug intervention strategy: The primary mission of NGO is to promote, prevent and reduce harm related to chemical dependency on alcohol and drugs through advocacy, networking and collaboration

#### **2.2.6 Government Efforts on Drug Abuse Reduction and Eradication**

Going by the prevalence of abuse of drugs by University students in Nigeria, one is forced to ask if the Nigerian government is bothered at all about the menace. Interestingly, tremendous increase in drug trafficking, drug abuse and obsession

made the Federal government of Nigeria to establish the NDLEA (through the enactment of Decree 48 of 1989) and other organization-based interventions. Several attempts have been made to reduce and/or stop altogether, the circulation and consumption of illicit drugs by abusers including the young and productive Nigerians. Further step was taken to also establish within the NDLEA, a unit known as Drug Demand Reduction

Drug Demand Reduction is a key legal authority of the NDLEA saddled with the responsibility of helping users to be able to overcome their need and reduce the consequence and problems they place themselves and the society, those abusing drugs to overcome their dependency and reduce the risk they pose to themselves and others in the society, with the key motive of having drug free life style; sensitizing the public on the dangers inherent in drug abuse by visiting schools, market women, road transport workers, artisans and the likes. To reach the key objective of the reduction of the availability of drugs, already, there is a synergy between the NDLEA drug reduction program unit and about 21 Non-Governmental Organizations who assists NDLEA in some form of preventive drug use, counselling and rehabilitative measures. **2.3 Review of Relevant Theories**

Several theories have been put forward by researchers over the years as it relates to drug abuse. In this study the following theories were reviewed. Adolescent Developmental Stage Theory:

This theory was propounded by Kandel in 1980, the developmental stages theory of adolescent drug involvement posit that peer pressure, adolescent involvement in various behaviors, parental influences and adolescent beliefs and values predisposes the abusers to various levels of drug involvement. By comparison, Kandel says the abuse of drugs beside the use of India hemp is caused by poor supervision from parents, children who are exposed to parents and friends who also uses varieties of legal and illegal drugs, psychological challenges, and by a series of personal characteristics somewhat more deviant than those that characterize the novice marijuana or hard liquor use. Therefore, the involvement in drug abuse among youth tend to follow certain trail. Most times, they start with light alcoholic drinks, followed by smoking and taking of hard alcoholic drinks. From the se of these drugs, the advance to the use of India hemp, this rarely takes place without preceded by the usage of liquor or tobacco.

### **Self-Esteem Theory of Drug Abuse**

According to Steffen Hagen 1980, this theory emanate from the Adlerian approach which sees self-esteem to be a cognitive- behavioral process fundamental to drug use and abuse of drugs. The concept of self-esteem was coined out of psychoanalytic of the individual Psychology, The theorist believes that 'self is the paramount factor in the knowledge of introduction, protraction, and ending the use of drugs. He further discussed the reasons why rehabilitation process usually leads result to being worsen

or deterioration. The theorist did not only make reference to introduction into the use of drugs (the social milieu) but also determines the course the pattern will take (vis-a-vis self-esteem) in terms of protraction, stoppage, and/or relapse.

**Socio-cultural Theories of Drug Dependence/Abuse:** This theory maintains that the abuse of drugs is a factor of social cultural value of the society. For example, some cultures widely permit the consumption of drugs like alcohol and India hemp, while some other culture strongly detest it. The use of alcohol is common in some tribes in Nigeria (Urhobo, Ijaw, Ibibio, Edo, Igbo, Yoruba and Itsekiri) when having ceremonies and other cultural festivity but Northern part of the country strongly kick against it

**Availability and Proneness Theory:** this theory was posited by Smart in 1980, the theory states that drug abuse will continue to occur when a prone individual is exposed to a high level of availability of an array of illicit substances. Smart debunked that drugs availability and its ease of access enormously, as individual is prone to use of drugs for several reasons. The use of drugs always varies with the availability of drugs and its proneness, and these jointly create an "addiction tendency. Thus, drugs abuse among individuals can only be successful when there is reduction in its availability

It is presumed that the availability of drugs in every facet in the society makes it easier for people to use drugs, for instance, when peers, colleagues, relatives, or

parents use drugs. There may be large accessibility of drugs in campuses or streets when there are strict regulations placed on the use, such as a religious, legally or ethical based proscription. The reason why most drugs are initially used (e.g., marijuana, tobacco, alcohol) maybe as a result of curiosity. Most drug users normally begin with the mindset of taking it for a few time and then desist from it. Some stop but others continue up to the point of being addicted.

## **2.4 Theoretical Framework**

Various theories shape discussion on the subject, among all the various theories reviewed, this study is hinged on the following two theories below;

### **Adolescent Developmental Stage Theory**

In the developmental stages theory of adolescent drug involvement proposed by Kandel in 1980 posit that peer pressure, adolescent engagement in various deviant act, parental influences and adolescent beliefs and values predisposes the abusers to various levels of drug involvement. By comparison, Kandel says the abuse of drugs beside the use of India hemp is caused by poor supervision from parents, children who are exposed to parents and friends who also uses varieties of legal and illicit drugs, psychological challenges, and by a series of personal characteristics somewhat more deviant than those that characterize the novice marijuana or hard liquor use. Therefore, the involvement in drug abuse among youth tend to follow certain trail.

Most times, they start with light alcoholic drinks, followed by smoking and taking of hard alcoholic drinks. From the use of these drugs, the advance to the use of India hemp, this rarely takes place without preceded by the usage of liquor or tobacco.

In relating this theory to the present study, most student engages in the abuse of drugs as a result of having parents that do drugs and also, interacting with peers that abuse drugs. They start by taking lighter drugs especially in the form of alcohol, cough syrups etc. and end up growing into taking hard drugs.

### **Self-Esteem Theory of Drug Abuse**

This theory was propounded by Ansbacher in 1956. In the proposition of the self-esteem theory, to explain stoppage on the ground of two key level; on a basis of two sets of conditions, individual and situational. At the individual level, the theory holds that if individual has succeeded in building high self-esteem mechanism against inferiority complex, the individual would quit the drugs because the aim has been achieved. On the other ground, the individual is likely to quit drug abuse when forcefully imposed with withdrawal means like torture by law enforcement agencies, beaten and disgraced by family members and friends and other superimposed stoppage. Stoppage of drug abuse can also be achieved when the individual is faced with lesser stress

In other to fight against low self-esteem mechanism, individuals faced with low self-esteem result to the abuse of drugs because it provide them with coping

mechanism (commonly what is referred to as boosting morale/give mind in local parlance). Individuals with low self-esteem, he explains, always hedge against insecurity and always cautious of their surroundings. Also, situations arising from social stress, persons are likely to result to drug abuse as depressant to free themselves from facing the social challenges. The crave for supremacy and feeling inferior to peers, a booster in approaching their peers could also be provided by the drug.

## **2.5 Hypothesis of the study**

The hypothesis for this study is stated in null form to guide our result if it conform to the relevant theories;

Hoi; Drug abuse does not have a significant effect on University Students in Benin City

## **2.6 Review of Empirical Studies**

Alimi, Galadima, Garba and Suleiman, (2020) examined Drugs Abuse among Youth in Borno, Nigeria. They adopted a descriptive survey. The data was analyzed with the use of descriptive data analysis. The findings reported peer, unemployment, frustration, poverty, broken home, poor socialization, access to the drugs etc. as factors that motivate drug abuse.

Adejoh, Ohirunlana, Adisa and Onwusoanya, (2020), investigated Peer and Family

Factors as a determinant of Substance Abuse in Lagos. The study investigates Youth undergoing treatment in Psychiatric. The study employs purposive sampling. The study adopted the exploratory method. The study revealed the respondents entered drug abuse through peer influence, performance enhancement, and neglect from parent's abuse of drugs by family members. The respondents were found to abuse drugs through over the counter drugs which in return got them addicted and negatively impacted them.

Ajayi and Somefun, (2020) examined Recreational drug use among Nigerian University students: Prevalence, correlates and frequency of use. The study adopted the stratified random sampling techniques. The findings reported a high prevalence of recreational drug use among students with significant sex variations.

Anetor and Onyekan - Thomas, (2018) examined Knowledge and attitude of youths to substance abuse in Lagos State. The study used the cross-sectional study design to select the respondents. Structured questionnaire were administered to solicit information. The SPSS for windows was used in the data analyses. The study reported that there was sufficient knowledge of consequences of drug abuse on youth and youth attitude to use of illicit drugs was indifference. Ayandi and Osoba, (2017) examines Effects of Drug Abuse among Rural Youths in Ogun State. Descriptive analysis in the analysis of the data. The study reported that most of the respondents were open to having chronic and acute social and psychological effects of drug if

they continue. Oluwole, Habibat and Babatunde, (2017). Investigated Crime and adolescent drug use in Lagos, Nigeria. The study employs the quantitative method. Structured questionnaires were administered to respondents using a multistage sampling randomly selected local government areas (LGAs) in Lagos. The findings of the study was that induced predatory crimes are common among adolescents as a result of drug abuse.

Agbonghale and Okaka (2014) examined drug abuse and academic performance in Nigeria Public Schools. They found that 82.79% of the of the respondents agreed that hard drugs affect academic performance. Nalah and Audu, (2014) reported a relationship between substance abuse and violent behaviour among students. They found that over 80% of students in their study perceived drugs to be a serious problem in the institution of study. Abdu-Raheem (2013) conducted Sociological •Factors to drug abuse and the effects on students' academic performance in Ondo states. Using a Questionnaire, the Pearson Moment Correlation Analysis was used in the analysis of the data. The study showed a significant relationship between family background, peer influence, family cohesion, and drug abuse. It was also discovered that academic performance is negatively affected by drug abuse

Adewuyi and Akinsola, (2013) in their study on gender and substance abuse among undergraduate students in a public university in the southwest region of Nigeria, the study found that majority of undergraduates use one substance or the other and that

peer influence was a significant. They reported that more male more than female students used substances. Ndom, Igbokwe and Ekerua (2012) in their assessment of students' perceptions of substance use in a public university in Nigeria, the study reported that many of the students observed that substance use was pervasive and degenerated into violent behaviour. Olley (2008), examined Drug Abuse in Nigerian Schools in Bayelsa state. The study adopted descriptive survey research design. Questionnaire was used to elicit data and analysed using descriptive statistics. The findings of this study showed that drug abuse perception negatively affect student's behaviour in schools.

Omigbodun and Babalola (2004), however explored the qualitative dynamics of substance use among a student population. They reported that drug use was frequent among male adolescents than female folks.

Table 2.2: Summary of Empirical Review

S/N	Names of Author(s)	Country of Study	Findings
1.	Alimi, Galadima, Garba and Suleiman, (2020)	Nigeria	The findings reported peer, unemployment, frustration, poverty
2.	Adejoh, Olurunlana, Adisa and	Nigeria	The respondents were found to abuse drugs through the over the counterdrugs which in

	Onwusoanya, (2020)		reutrngot them addicted and negatively impacted them.
3.	Ajayi and Somefun, (2020)	Nigeria	The findings reported a high rate of the use of drugs among students with significant sex variations.
4.	Anetor and Onyekan – Thomas, (2018)	Nigeria	The study reported that there was sufficient knowledge of consequences of drug abuse on youth and youth attitude to use of illicit drugs was indifference.
5.	Oluwole, Habibat and Babatunde, (2017)	Nigeria	Thestudy reported that most of the respondents were open to having chronic and acute social and psychological effects of drug if they continue.
6.	Agbonghale and Okaka (2014)	Nigeria	Found that 82.79% of the respondents agreed that hard drugs affect academic performance.
7.	Nalah and Audu, (2014)	Nigeria	They found that over 80% of students in their study perceived drugs to be a seirous problem in the institution of study.
8.	Abdu-Raheem (2013)	Nigeria	The Study showed a significant relationship

			between family background, peer influence, family cohesion, and drug abuse. It was also discovered that academic performance is negatively affected by drug abuse.
9.	Adewuyi and Akinsola, (2013)	Nigeria	The study found that majority of undergraduates use one substance or the other and that peer influence was a significant. They reported that more male more than female students used substances.
10.	Ndom, Igbokwe and Ekerua (2012)	Nigeria	The study reported that many of the students observed that substance use was pervasive and degenerated into violent behavior.
11.	Olley (2008)	Nigeria	The findings of this study showed that drug abuse perception negatively affect student's behavior in schools.
12.	Omigbodun and Babalola (2004)	Nigeria	They reported that drug use was frequent among male adolescents than female folks.

**Source: Author's compilation from diverse sources, (2024)**

## 2.5 Gap in Literature

Drug abuse has become common deals amongst university students in Benin as they have been seen engaging in the use various hard drugs in the broad daylight at every area in Benin City. Despite the Government efforts to curb the menace defacing our society, there still exist large number of students engaged in the consumption. Unfortunately, the students involved either pays no or less attention on the consequences of drug abuse or are ignorant of the dangers associated with it. It is in fact obvious and lots of report of the complications and consequences resulting from the abuse of drugs. It is against this backdrop that the researcher tends to find out the effect of drug abuse on youth in Benin Metropolis.

In addition, despite its severances many studies have focused their attention on the effect of drug abuse on youth and adolescents, such studies include (Adejoh, Olurunlana, Adisa and Onwusoanya, 2020, Anetor and Onyekan - Thomas, 2018, Omirin, 2018 and Oluwole, Habibat and Babatunde, 2017). There exist scanty researches done in the area of the social and psychological effect of drug abuse among university students in Benin City. This study contribute to the body of knowledge by examining the effect of Drug Abuse among University Students in Benin City, having a comparative analysis of University of Benin and Benson Idahosa University.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This section describes the procedure to be employed in the study. The element of the section includes research design, population, the sampling Techniques, methods of data collection/research instrument, the method of data analysis, validity and reliability of the study and ethical consideration.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

Research design referred to the logical mode of proof that allows the researcher to draw inferences concerning relationship among the variables under investigation. To carry out this research, a descriptive survey method was utilized to obtain accurate information on the social and psychological effect of drug abuse among University Students in Benin City. This involves the accurate information collection from the study population. The justification for this research design is to enable to research have more gather more information on the subject. The study included the use of questionnaire for data collection in order to find answers to the problem of the study.

#### **3.3 Area of Study**

The study covers a comparative analysis of the social and psychological effect of drugs abuse among University Students in Benin City. The survey covers public university (University of Benin) and Private University (Benson Idahosa University)

located in Benin City. The study area is chosen for its level of urbanization and diverse characteristics.

### **3.4 Population of the study**

The study target population comprised all male and female University Students in the University of Benin and Benson Idahosa University, Benin City. The population for the survey constituted of all the estimated 40,000 students in University of Benin (UNIBEN ICT, sourced December. 4<sup>th</sup> 2020) and estimated 5000 students in Benson Idahosa University (University Ranking, 2021).

### **3.5 Sample of the study**

A sample is a portion of the population being studied and its views are representative of the entire population (Amin 2005 cited in Bashar et al, 2019). The sample for the study was drawn from the population using the simple random sampling techniques. The justification for this technique is because it selects a sample without bias from the target population. This technique was used to select a combined 400 respondents, 280 respondents from University of Benin and 180 from Benson Idahosa University. The larger sample to be taken from the University of Benin is due to its large population compared to Benson Idahosa University.

### **3.6 Sample Size determination**

Taro Yamane (1967) sample size determination formula was employed. Below is the calculation of the sample size; N

Where;

$N$  = population size<sup>45000</sup>;

$e$  = level of significance=0.05.

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{45000}{1+45000(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{45000}{1+45000(0.05)}$$

$$n = \frac{45000}{1+45000(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{45000}{112.5025}$$

$$n = 400$$

Utilizing a 15% non-responsive rate, the sample size was increased to 460

### **3.7 Instrument of Data Collection**

The data collection was carried out through the use of questionnaire, in doing this the following was carried out;

### **3.8 Validity of the instrument**

In order to validate this instrument, the instrument for data collection was subjected to face content validation by the researcher's supervisor and few other social work academic experts from the department of Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin. Its useful modification and correction was used to draft the final

questionnaire for the study.

### **3.9 Reliability of Instrument**

In order to establish the reliability of the instruments, the study adopted the Cronbach Alpha reliability estimate method. This was done through administration of Questionnaire to 30 respondents who were not part of the actual sample used for the study. After the administration and retrieval of the instrument from the respondents, their scores were analyzed using the. Statistical Package of Social Science (SPSS). The result was reliable having met the accepted range of 0.70 and 0.74.

### **3.10 Method and Instrument of data collection**

The qualitative methods was used for data gathering. The study employed the primary and secondary data. The primary data was gathered through the administration of questionnaire to elicit information, while the secondary data gotten through the use of journals, textbooks and magazines. The structured questionnaire was used to elicit responses contained open-ended questions and was be divided into several sections covering the research questions and objectives of the study. The different sections covered by the questionnaire are: background information; demographic characteristics and the questions relating to the topic under investigation. The questionnaire was administered with the assistance of two assistant researchers with a minimum of Bachelor's degree who are IT savvy,

because information was elicited with the use of Google form questionnaire. Research Assistants were given two days training on sharing of questionnaire link on various school social media platforms (Watsapp, Instagram and Facebook), mining of information from backend, and reviewing the response of the respondents. The purpose of the Google form was to enable the respondent give a fair response to all the questions raised, it has been observed that most respondents tend to shy away from giving a fair response and also they are face with limited time in returning the questionnaire. This process enabled them comfortably give a response to all the questions to be raised anonymously. In doing this, a consent form was created to be signed by them before engaging in the filling of the questionnaire. All questionnaires were returned within three days of administration.

### **3.11 Method of Data Analysis**

The data collected were rearranged, recoded using an excel spreadsheet, then analyzed with SPSS. The descriptive statistics was used in the analysis of the data. The results were expressed in percentages, mean and standard deviations.

### **3.12 Ethical Consideration**

Prior to the administration of the questionnaire, all the respondents were informed that participation in the process is not by force. It was in the respondent's free will to respond. In addition, participants were allowed and free to resign the participation without needing the permission of the researcher. Lastly, all information given by the

respondents were treated with utmost confidentiality

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

This section contains the presentation and analysis of data that was collected from respondents. It is sectionalized into background characteristics of respondents, will aim to achieve the following sub-objectives, which are to: examine the social effect of drugs abuse among University Students in Benin City; investigate the psychological effects of drug abuse among University Students in Benin City; compare the rate of abuse of drugs by Students in public and private University in Benin City; find out the reason for drug abuse among University Students in Benin City; to determine the strategies employed by Government and Schools to curb drug abuse among youths

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in Benin metropolis

#### **4.2 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

Four hundred and sixty (460) copies of the questionnaire were administered to respondents (University Students) in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria based on the sampling technique discussed in chapter three. Four hundred and sixty (460) copies of the questionnaire were completed, retrieved, valid and found usable. The response

rate was very satisfactory because the copies of questionnaires that were properly filled were the only ones used for presentation. This was done to ensure that bias and errors were minimized which will result in a high reliability or dependency of the response rate.

#### 4.1 Background Characteristics of Respondents

**Table 4.1** Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents

<b>Demographic</b>	<b>Categories</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Age	18 -25 years	249	54.1
	26-33 years	145	31.5
	Above 33 years	66	14.3
	TOTAL	460	100.0
Gender	Male	306	66.5
	Female	154	33.5
	TOTAL	460	100,0
Religion	Christian	311	67.6
	Muslim	106	23.0
	African Traditional Religion	43	9.3
	TOTAL	460	100.0
Level of Education	100 Level	4	.9
	200 Level	198	43.0
	300 Level	180	39.1
	400 Level	30	6.5
	500 Level	25	5.4
	PG	23	5.0
	TOTAL	460	100.0
	Department	Banking and Finance	36
International Studies and Diplomacy		66	14.3
Production Engineering		70	15.2
Sociology and Anthropology		74	16.1
Social Work		87	18.9
Forestry and Wild Life		74	16.1

	Statistics	53	11.5
	TOTAL	460	100.0

**Source: Researcher's Survey, 2021.**

Table 4.1 contains the socio-demo graphic characteristics of the respondents who participated in this study. These characteristics ranged from age group, gender, religious affiliation, level of education in the university, and department.

The entire respondents for this study were categorized into three age groups as indicated in Table 4.1. Most of the respondents (249) representing 54.1% were in the 18-25 years age group. They were followed by the 145 respondents in the 26-33 years age group with 31.5%, and those (66) in the above 33 years with 14.3 percent years. This shows that young adults - people within the age bracket of 18- 33 years are more in the survey conducted accounting for 85.6% of the total respondents

In terms of gender, the male respondents were 66.5 percent while the female respondents were 33.5 percent. Thus, male constitute larger proportion in the survey carried out. On religion, majority of the respondents were adherents of the Christian faith, as claimed by 67.6% of the entire respondents (Table 4.1). Respondents who were Muslims were 23%. However, 9.3% of the respondents submitted that they were followers and devotees of the African Traditional Religion or other unconventional religion.

Table 4.1 also indicates that in terms level of education in the university, a good majority of the respondents (198) representing 43% claimed that they are in 200

level. 180 respondents .accounting for 39.1% of the total respondents admitted that they are in 300 level, 30 (6.5%) of the respondents stated that they are 400 level students, 25 (5.6%) of the entire respondent claimed that they are in 500 level, 23 (5%) respondents admitted that they are in post graduate level and those who are in 100 level are 4 representing 0.9% of the.entire respondents. This finding implies that the entire respondents are well educated on the subject matter given their level of education.

As regard the departments of respondents, Table 4.1 above shows the breakdown of respondents as it relates to their departments: 36 (7.8%) respondents from Banking and Finance; 66 (14.3%) respondents from International Studies and Diplomacy, 70 (15.2%) respondents from Production Engineering, 74 (16.1%) respondents from Sociology and Anthropology; 87 (18.9%) respondents from Social Work, 74 (16.1%) respondents from Forestry and Wildlife and 53 (11.5%) respondents from Statistics. This implies that the participants were evenly distributed and surveyed across the various department in the universities to harvest their views on the subject matter.

**Table 4.2: Social Effect of Drug Abuse**

S/N	Statements	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly Agree		Mean
		No	(%)	No	(%)	No	(%)	No	(%)	No	(%)	
1	I become hyperactive when I take	3	0.7	17	3.7	37	8.0	244	53.0	159	34.6	4.17
2	I am prone to	17	3.7	11	2.4	34	7.4	231	50.2	167	36.3	4.13

	violence when I take drugs											
3	It makes me feel high	7	1.5	29	6.3	15	3.3	289	62.8	120	26.1	4.06
4	I am addicted to drugs	0	0	41	8.9	21	4.6	226	49.1	172	37.4	4.15

*Researcher's Field Work (2021)*

Table 4.2 revealed that the respondents agreed to every item explaining social effect of drug abuse as the mean scores for each of the question is greater than 2.5. The mean score of the first item (mean=4.17) indicates that respondents become hyperactive when they take hard drugs. Also, the respondents agreed that they are prone to violence when they take drugs (mean=4.13), that hard drugs make them feel high (mean=4.06) and that they are addicted to hard drugs (mean=4.15).

**Table 4.3: Psychological Effect of Drug Abuse**

S/N	Statements	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly Agree		Mean
		No	(%)	No	(%)	No	(%)	No	(%)	No	(%)	
1	It makes me very aggressive and hostile to others	3	0.7	35	7.6	41	8.9	226	49.1	155	33.7	4.08
2	It makes me lack pleasure to my academic work	0	0	21	4.6	56	12.2	240	52.2	143	31.1	4.10
3	I feel lazy and drowsy when I take it	14	3.0	27	5.6	15	3.3	233	50.7	171	37.2	4.13
4	It makes me feel dejected, frustrated and hopeless when I take it	13	2.8	28	6.1	33	7.2	265	57.6	121	26.3	3.98

**Researcher's Field work (2021)**

Table 4.3 indicates that the respondents agreed to all the items explaining psychological effect of drug abuse as the mean score for each of the question is greater than 2.5. The mean score of the first item (mean=4.08) indicates that drugs make them very aggressive and hostile to others. Also, the respondents agreed that drugs make them lack pleasure to their academic works (mean=4.10), that the feel lazy and drowsy when they take hard drugs (mean=4.13) and that hard drugs make them feel dejected, frustrated and hopeless when they take it (mean=3.98).

**Table 4.4: Reasons for Drug Abuse**

S/N	Statements	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly Agree		Mean
		No	(%)	No	(%)	No	(%)	No	(%)	No	(%)	
1	I feel more relaxed when I take it	9	2.0	38	8.3	26	5.7	285	62.0	102	22.2	3.94
2	I engage in drug abuse to increase my sexual performance	7	1.5	33	7.2	8	1.7	310	67.4	102	22.2	4.02
3	To make feel happy and boost my confidence level	7	1.5	54	11.7	20	4.3	249	54.1	127	27.6	3.93
4	I abuse drugs because of pressure from my friends even though I know it is harmful	21	4.6	26	5.7	34	7.4	246	53.5	131	28.5	3.94

***Researcher's Field Work (2021)***

Table 4.4 above contains the mean responses of the respondents to the statements that explain the reasons for drug abuse. To the first statement in the table, the respondents agreed that they feel more relaxed when they drugs (mean=3.94). Similarly, the respondents agreed that they engage in drug abuse to increase their sexual performance (mean=4.02), that drug make feel them happy and boost their confidence level (3.93), and that they abuse drugs because of pressure from their

friends even though they know that drugs are harmful (mean=3.94).

**Table 4.2: Measures to Curb Drug Abuse**

S/N	Statements	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly Agree		Mean
		No	(%)	No	(%)	No	(%)	No	(%)	No	(%)	
1	Constant orientation by the Guidance and counselling department can help reduce drug abuse among student	8	1.7	27	5.9	44	9.6	279	60.7	102	22.2	3.96
2	Parental communication and care can help reduce the abuse of drugs by youth	6	1.3	33	7.2	23	5.0	272	59.1	126	27.4	4.04
3	Continuous orientation by the schools, religious centers and NGOs on the negative effect of drug abuse can help reduce the abuse of drugs amongst youth	17	3.7	37	8.0	17	3.7	286	62.2	103	22.4	3.92
4	Punishment, rehabilitation and other related measures by schools authority and government agencies can help reduce the abuse of drugs by youth	12	2.6	35	7.6	24	5.2	312	67.8	77	16.7	3.88

Researcher's Field Work (2024)

Table 4.2 above contains the mean responses of the respondents to the statements that explain the measures to curb drug abuse. To the first statement in the table, the respondents agreed that constant orientation by the guidance and counselling department can help reduce drug abuse among students (mean=3.96). Similarly, the respondents agreed that parental communication and care can help reduce the abuse of drugs by youth (mean=4.04), that continuous orientation by the schools, religious centers and NGOs on the negative effect of drug abuse can help reduce the abuse of drugs amongst youth (3.92) and that punishment, rehabilitation and other related measures by schools authority and government agencies can help reduce the abuse of drugs by youth (mean-3.88).

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Introduction

This section sums up the major findings, noting the contributions to knowledge, conclusion, and recommendations. The summary, conclusion and recommendations of the study were presented based on the results obtained from the data analysis.

#### 5.1 Summary of Findings

Based on the objectives, the findings of the study are as follows:

- i. The social effect of drug abuse comprises of making those that indulge in it to become hyperactive, prone to violence, having a high feeling of themselves and becoming addicted to drugs.
- ii. The psychological effect of drug abuse includes making students that indulges in it to be very aggressive and hostile to others, making students lack pleasure to do their academic works; making students to be indolent and causing them to have a feeling of dejection, frustration, and hopelessness.
- iii. The reasons for drug abuse are but not limited to having a feeling of relaxation, the need to increase sexual performance, the feeling of happiness and to boost one's confidence level as well as peer pressure.
- iv. The proffer measures to curtailing the menace cause by drug abuse are the need for constant orientation of students by the guidance and counselling

department, parental communication and care to students; continuous orientation by the schools, religious centers and NGOs on the negative effect of drug abuse and giving out punishment, rehabilitation and other related measures by schools authority and government agencies.

## **5.2 Contribution to Knowledge**

This study is among the few empirical studies in Nigeria that have examined the social and psychological effect of drug abuse among University Students in Benin City. This research also contributes to social sciences literature by examining the social and psychological effect of drug abuse among University Students in Benin City. This will help the relevant authorities in the universities in specifying areas to tailor their counseling activities to optimally meet needs of students afflicted with the menace of drug abuse.

Another contribution of this study is the revelation of reasons given by students that necessitate their involvement on drug abuse. Among the reasons given are to have a feeling of relaxation, the need to increase sexual performance, the feeling of happiness and to boost one's confidence level as well as peer pressure. The reasons given by students has great social and psychological effect on their wellbeing.

## **5.3 Conclusion**

This study focused a comparative analysis on social and psychological effect of drug abuse among University Students in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. The study has

attempted to examine the social effect of drugs abuse among University Students in Benin City, to investigate the psychological effects of drug abuse among University Students in Benin City, to compare the rate of abuse of drugs by Students in public and private University in Benin City, to find out the reasons for drug abuse among University Students in Benin City and to determine the strategies employed by Government and Schools to curb drug abuse among youths in Benin metropolis.

Based on the results obtained, the researcher concludes that the social effect of drug abuse comprises of making those that indulge in it to become hyperactive, prone to violence, having a high feeling of themselves and becoming addicted to drugs. The psychological effect of drug abuse includes making students that indulges in it to be very aggressive and hostile to others, making students lack pleasure to do their academic works; making students to be indolent and causing them to have a feeling of dejection, frustration, and hopelessness. The reasons for drug abuse are but not limited to having a feeling of relaxation, the need to increase sexual performance, the feeling of happiness and to boost one's confidence level as well as peer pressure. The proffer measures to curtailing the menace cause by drug abuse are the need for constant orientation of students by the guidance and counselling department, parental communication, and care to students; continuous orientation by the schools, religious centers and NGOs on the negative effect of drug abuse and giving out punishment, rehabilitation and other related measures by schools' authority and government

agencies.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

- i. The relevant government agencies such as National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and other agencies charge with issue bothering on drug abuse should constantly organise seminars and programmes to enlighten students on the dangers of drug abuse.
- ii. The government agencies (NDLEA, NAFDAC and The Nigerian Police Force) responsible for the enforcement of laws against drug abuse; illegal production, sales and possession of hard drugs should mete out severe punishment on anyone student caught in the act of illicit drug use to serve as deterrent to others.
- iii. There is need for the practitioners or key players in educational sectors (guidance and counselling department, parents, school authority, religious centres and NGOs) to constantly educate students on the negative effect of drug abuse on their wellbeing and rehabilitating already affected students.

#### **5.5 Areas for Further Studies**

Despite the contributions and implications of this work, it has some limitations and therefore offers opportunity for further research.

First, the study was restricted to two universities (University of Benin and Benson Idahosa University) situated in Benin City, Nigeria. Further studies should be extended to cover the entire geographical space of Edo State, Nigeria.

Second, we recommend that similar studies should explore the cause of drug abuse among students in tertiary institutions in Nigeria

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## APPENDIX I

### QUESTIONNAIRE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES UNIVERSITY OF BENIN BENIN CITY

I am a post graduate student of the above named institution and department, I am conducting a research on *Comparative Analysis of Social and Psychological Effect of Drug Abuse among University Students in Benin City, Nigeria*. This questionnaire is discerned strictly for academic purpose. Kindly respond sincerely to the items in the questionnaire as your responses shall be treated with high confidentiality.

Thanks for your understanding and assistance.

**Section A:** Bio-data of respondents *Instructions: please tick /V/ where applicable.*

- Age: 18-25yrs [ ] 26-33yrs [ ] above 33, please specify:

Sex : Male [ ] Female [ ] Other [ ]

- Region : Christian [ ] Muslim [ ] African Traditional Religion [ ] Other [ ]

- Level: 100 [ ] 200 [ ] 300 [ ] 400 [ ] 500 [ ] PG [ ]

- Department:

### **Section B**

*Please tick f^ljfor the following:* strongly agree (SA), agree (A), (UD) undecided, disagree (DA), and strongly disagree (SD)

	VARIABLES	RESPONSES				
		SA	A	UD	DA	SD
	<b>Social Effect of Drug Abuse</b>					
1	I become hyperactive when I take					
2	I am prone to violence when I take drugs					
3	It makes me feel high					
4	I am addicted to drugs					
	<b>Psychological Effect of Drug Abuse</b>					
5	It makes me very aggressive and hostile to others					
6	It makes me lack pleasure to my academic work					
7	I feel lazy and drowsy when I take it					
8	It makes me feel dejected, frustrated and hopeless when I take it					
	<b>Reasons for Drug Abuse</b>					
9	I feel more relaxed when I take it					
10	I engage in drug abuse to increase my sexual performance					
11	To make feel happy and boost my confidence level					
12	I abuse drugs because of pressure from my friends even though I know it is harmful					
	<b>Measures to Curb Drug Abuse</b>					
13	Constant orientation by the Guidance and counselling department					

	can help reduce drug abuse among student					
14	Parental communication and care can help reduce the abuse of drugs by youth					
15	Continuous orientation by the schools, religious centers and NGOs on the negative effect of drug abuse can help reduce the abuse of drugs amongst youth					
16	Punishment, rehabilitation and other related measures by schools authority and government agencies can help reduce the abuse of drugs by youth					

### Frequency Table

AGE					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1.00	249	54.1	54.1	54.1
	2.00	145	31.5	31.5	85.7
	3,00	66	14.3	14.3	100.0
	Total	460	100.0	100.0	-
GENDER					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
		306	66.5	66.5	66.5
	2.00	154	33.5	33.5	100.0

	Total	460	100.0	100.0	
RELIGION					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1.00	311	67.6	67.6	67.6
	2.00	106	23.0	23.0	90.7
	3.00	43	9.3	9.3	100.0
	Total	460	100.0	100.0	
LEVEL					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1.00	4	.9	.9	.9
	2.00	198	43.0	43.0	43.9
	3.00	180	39.1	39.1	83.0
	4.00	30	6.5	6.5	89.6
	5.00	25	5.4	5.4	95.0

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DEPT					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
Valid	1.00	36	7.8	7.8	7.8
	2.00	66	14.3	14.3	22.2
	3.00	70	15.2	15.2	37.4
	4.00	74	16.1	16.1	53.5
	5.00	87	18.9	18.9	72.4
	6.00	74	16.1	16.1	88.5
	7.00	53	11.5	11.5	100.0
	Total	460	100.0	100.0	

Q1					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
^alid'	1.00	3	.7	.7	.7
	2.00	17	3.7	3.7	4.3
	3.00	37	8.0	8.0	12.4
	4.00	244	53.0	53.0	65.4
	5.00	159	34.6	34.6	100.0
	Total	460	100.0	100.0	

Q2					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
Valid	1.00	17	3.7	3.7	3.7
	2.00	11	2.4	2.4	6.1
	3.00	34	7.4	7.4	13.5
	4.00	231	50.2	50.2	63.7
	5.00	167	36.3	36.3	100.0
	Total	460	100.0	100.0	

03					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative

Valid	1.00	7	1.5	1.5	1.5
	2.00	29	6.3	6.3	7.8
	3.00	15	3.3	3.3	11.1

	4.00	1 289	62.8	62,8	73.9
	5.00	120	26.1	26,1	100.0
	Total	460	100.0	100.0	

04					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
i Valid	.	41	8.9	8.9	8.9
	3.00	21	4.6	4,6	13.5
	4.00	226	49.1	49.1	62.6
	5.00	172	37.4	37.4j	100.0
	Total	460	100.0	100.0	

Q5					
k		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
Valid	1.00	3	.7.	.7	.7
	2.00	35	7.6	7.6	8.3
	3.00	41	8.9	8.9	17.2
	4.00	226	49.1	49.1	66.3
	5.00	155	33.7	33.7	100.0
	Total	460	100.0	100.0	

Q6					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
Valid	2.00	21	4.6	4.6	4.6
	3.00	56	12.2	12.2	16.7
	4.00	240	52.2	52.2	68.9
	5.00	143	31.1	31.1	100.0
	Total	460	100.0	100.0	

07					
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		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
Valid	1.00	14	3.0	3.0	3.0
	2.00	27	5.9	5.9	8.9
	3.00	15	3.3	3.3	12.2

	4.00	233	50.7	50.7	62.8
	5.00	171	37.2	37.2	100.0
	Total	460	100.0	100.0	

Q8					
"^\		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
*,	1.00	13	2.8	2.8	2.8
	2.00	28	6.1	6.1	8.9
•_!••, "	3.00	33	7.2	7.2	16.1
	4,00	265	57.6	57.6	73.7
•••	5.00	121	26.3	26.3	100.0
	Total	460	100.0	100.0	

1 Q9					
&, _		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
Valid	1.00	9	2.0	2.0	2.0
	2.00	38	8.3	8.3	10.2
	3.00	26	5.7	5.7	15.9
	4,0,0	285	62.0	62.0	77.8
	5,00	102	22.2	22.2	100.0
	Total	460	100.0	100.0	

Q10					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
Valid	1.00	7	1.5	1.5	1.5
	2.00	33	7.2	7.2	8.7
	3.00	8	1.7	1.7	10.4
	4.00	310	67.4	67.4	77.8
	5.00	102	22.2	22.2	100.0
	Total	460	100.0	100.0	

Q11					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
Valid	.00	3	.7	.7	.7
	1.00	7	1.5	1.5	2.2
	2.00	54	11.7	11.7	13.9
	3.00	20	4.3	4.3	18.3
	4.00	249	54.1	54.1	72.4
	5.00	127	27.6	27.6	100.0
	Total	460	100.0	100.0	

Q12					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
Valid	.00	2	.4	.4	.4
	1.00	21	4.6	4.6	5.0
	2.00	26	5.7	5.7	10.7
	3.00	34	7.4	7.4	18.0
	4.00	246	53.5	53.5	71.5
	5.00	131	28.5	28.5	100.0
	Total	460	100.0	100.0	

Q13					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
Valid	1.00	8	1.7	1.7	1.7
	2.00	27	5.9	5.9	7.6
	3.00	44	9.6	9.6	17.2
	4.00	279	60.7	60.7	77.8
	5.00	102	22.2	22.2	100.0
	Total	460	100.0	100.0	

Q14					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative

Valid	1.00	6	1.3	1.3	1.3
	2.00	33	7.2	7.2	8.5
HP'	3.00	23	5.0	5.0	13.5

	4.00	272	59.1	59.1	72.6
	5.00	126	27.4	27.4	100.0
	Total	460	100.0	100.0	

015					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
	.	17	3.7^	3.7	3.7
	2.00	37	8.0	8.0	11.7
	3.00	17	3.7	3.7	15.4
	4.00	286	62.2	62.2	77.6
	5.00	103	22.4	22.4	100.0
	Total	460	100.0	100.0	

016					
fc <sub>v</sub>		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative
Valid	1.00	12	2.6	2.6	2.6
	2.00	35	7.6	7.6	10.2
	3.00	24	5.2	5.2	15.4
	4.00	312	67.8	67.8	83.3
	5.00	77	16.7	16.7	100.0
	Total	460	100.0	100.0	

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
01	460	1.00	5.00	4.1717	.77745
Q2	460	t.OO	5.00	4.1304	.92198
03	460	1.00	5.00	4.0565	.82516
.Q4<	460	2.00	5.00	4.1500	.86904
05	460	1.00	5.00	4.0761	.88603
Q6	460	2.00	5.00	4.0978	.77908
07	460	1.00	5.00	4.1304	.94762
QS	460	1.00	5.00	3.9848	.91334
Q9	460	1.00	5.00	3.9413	.88490

Q10	460	1.00	5.00	4.0152	.81502
on	460	.00	5.00	3.9261	1.01351
Q12	460	.00	5.00	3.9435	1.03167

Q13		460	1.00	5.00	3.9565	.84163
Q14		460	1.00	5.00	4.0413	.85331
Q15		460	1.00	5.00	3.9152	.95394
Q16		460	1.00	5.00	3.8848	.86432
Valid	N	460				