

**THE INFLUENCE OF DRUG ABUSE ON STUDENTS' ACADEMIC
PERFORMANCE IN BENIN CITY
(A CASE STUDY OF UNIBEN STUDENTS)**

BY

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AUGUST, 2021

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**BEING A PROJECT WORK SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT
OF SOCIAL WORK, IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
(B.Sc) DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN,
BENIN CITY**

AUGUST, 2021

CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, certify that this project work was carried out by **EDOMWONUWI OSAZUWA DAYO** with matric number **SSC1608465** in the Department of Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria, in partial fulfillment for the award of B.Sc degree in Social Work.

Barr. Sumaina Yesufu
(Project Supervisor)

Signature and Date

Dr. (Mrs) T.B.E Omoroguiwa
(Head of Department)

Signature and Date

DEDICATION

This project work is dedicated to almighty God for his grace, love and mercy upon me during the programme.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am very grateful to Almighty God for bringing this journey to a fruitful and well deserved end.

I particularly want to appreciate the dominant role played by my project Supervisor - Barr. Sumaina Yesufu , who guided me throughout this project work despite his busy schedule.

I also want to appreciate my soon to be husband, the father of my child, my one and only love – Mr. Urch Ibeleme, darling I am very grateful for your support and assistant through out my years in school. I also to acknowledge my parents who never gets tired in supporting me in whatever I do, may the good Lord bless you.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined influence of drug abuse on students' academic performance in Benin City, (A Case Study of UNIBEN Students). Four (4) research questions were raised to guide the study.

The sample for the study consists of one hundred (100) respondents selected from the area under investigation. The participants were selected using the simple random sampling technique while the data was collected with the aid of questionnaire. The validity and reliability of the instrument were ascertained using the test-retest procedures. Simple percentages and frequency count were used to analyze collected data.

Findings from the study revealed that drug abuse influences students' academic performance negatively and also, that most students consume Indian hemp frequently coupled with the fact that the prevalence of cocaine consumption among students is also high. The study recommended that School authority should enforce strict rules on drug abuse by requiring all social events during orientation of first years to be drug free, disseminate responsible host guidelines for both on- and off-campus parties, install a responsible beverage service program, eliminate residence hall delivery of alcohol purchases, advertise food and activities, such as dancing or sports, rather than drinking as the focus of the event.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background to the Study

Drug abuse, is generally viewed as the use of a substance that modifies mood or behaviour in a manner characterized by a maladaptive pattern of use. It is the use of drug that can cause disorder characterized by the use of a mood or behaviour-altering substance in a maladaptive pattern resulting in significant impairment or distress, such as failure to fulfill social or occupational obligations or recurrent use in situations in which it is physically dangerous to do so or which end in legal problems. What this connotes is that it modifies behavior Oshikoya and Alli (2006).

A drug refers to a substance that could bring about a change in the biological function through its chemical actions. It is also considered as a substance that modifies perceptions, cognition, mood, behaviour and general body functions. This could thus be considered as chemical modifiers of the living tissues that could bring about psychological and behavioural changes. Drug abuse is a major public health problem all over the world (UNODC, 2005).

The use and abuse of drugs by adolescents have become one of the most disturbing health related phenomena in Nigeria and other parts of the world

(NDLEA, 2007). Several adolescents experience mental health problem, either temporarily or for a long period of time. Some become insane, maladjusted to school situations and eventually drop out of school. NAFDAC (2004) explained the term drug abuse as excessive and persistent self-administration of a drug without regard to the medically or culturally accepted patterns. It could also be viewed as the use of a drug to the extent that it interferes with the health and social function of an individual.

Drug abuse is the use of drugs for other purposes other than medical reasons, thus affecting the individual in a negative way socially, cognitively or physically. Social effect may be reflected in an individual's enhanced tendency to engage in conflicts with friends, teachers and school activities. Cognitive effects relate to the individual's lack of concentration on academic works and memory loss. The use of illicit substance (drugs) is increasing, especially among young people.

According to World Health Organisation, WHO,(2001), it was estimated that about 22.3 million persons aged 12 years or older were classified with substance dependence or abuse. Also in a paper presented by Abudu (2008), the President of Red Cross of Nigeria at the 8th Biennial International Conference on Alcohol, Drugs and Society in Africa (2008), it was reported that in Nigeria 22.1%

of school youth aged 12 to 25years use tobacco, in South Africa about 19.4%, 15.1%.

In Ghana and 16.2% The use of marijuana and alcohol in Universities has increased and using these substances (alcohol and tobacco) at young age increases the risk of using other drugs later. Some youth will experiment and stop while some continue to use occasionally without significant problems. Others will develop dependency moving onto more dangerous substances and causing significant to harm themselves and possibly others (Adenuga, and Ijagbone, 2012).

From the foregoing, it is no longer news that the drug abuse by students in Nigerian universities has become an embarrassing phenomenon to parents, schools, government authorities, society at large and even to the students academic performance. As it is often said, the students today are the leaders of tomorrow and they deserve good education in the right direction. But unfortunately, the constant abuse of drugs among this group of persons can cause psycho-social problems in society.

One may hope that this obnoxious practice and its associated problems would not lead to the breeding of deranged generation of youths. This fear is not unfounded because of what happens to be the frequent and rampant drug crises in many Nigerian universities. The alarming evidence in the prevalence of drug

abuse in tertiary institutions, coupled with the consequences among the students themselves has called for concern and challenge to all helping professions so as to mount strategies of equipping youths with skills of living devoid of substance abuse (Egbochuku, 2008).

In Edo State today, the prevalence and consequences of substance use are diverse, including acute and chronic health, social as well as psychological problem. There is disruption of interpersonal relationships particularly within the family, marginalization, criminal behaviour, school failure, vocational problems and failure to achieve normal adolescent milestones, yet these adolescents are expected to be the leaders of the country in the future when they do not even have any focus for the future (Aluede, 2000).

Drug abuse has become such a problem of great concern to all well meaning Nigerian and particularly the Federal Government to the extent that an Agency has been established to combat the social disease with a view to reducing the spread of drug abuse to the barest minimum or eradicating it totally. The Nigerian National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has stated that substance abuse is a major problem in schools, colleges and universities in Nigeria (NDLEA, 2013).

Many of these students' behaviors are heavily tied to the peer culture, as students learn from and imitate the peers they like and admire. Wanting to be attractive to others becomes very important in adolescence, and this factor is significant in the development of eating disorders, alcohol consumption, tobacco and drug use, tanning, not practicing safe sex, and vulnerability to injury, among other behaviour. These adolescent who get involved in such risky behaviour often have high levels of conflict with their parents and poor self control, suggesting that they engage in such behaviour to manage a stressful life Jacob and Windle (2000).

The use of hard drugs by students in Nigerian universities has become an embarrassing occurrence to parents, schools, government authorities, and the society at large. The constant abuse of drugs among this group of students can cause psycho-social problems in society. One may hope that this hateful practice and its associated problems would not lead to the breeding of deranged generation of youths. This fear is not speculative because of what happens to be the frequent and rampant drug crises in many Nigerian educational institutions (Jacob and Windle, 2000).

In University of Benin, drug abuse on campus is very common; students take these drug to feel bold to chase the opposite sex which most of them cannot ordinarily do without the use of some drugs. The timid type purposely take some

drugs especially during social gathering to enable them feel on top not minding its impact on their academics. It is in this connection that this study examines the influence of drug abuse on the academic performance of students in University of Benin, Benin City.

Statement of the Problem

Drugs are tearing apart our societies and unpleasant youthful activities are being spread in Edo State and all over Nigeria, to the extent that it has been giving a lot of concern to the government and general public. For instance, in University of Benin, students now engage in organized crimes and disrupt normal academic programme coupled with incessant cult-related activities known to threaten lives and property.

Furthermore, the academic performance of students who abuse drugs is also at the risk of being influenced by the abuse of drugs. The impact of drug abuse among youths has been a hallmark of a morally decadent wasted generation, loss of our societal values, ideas and spreading diseases. The situation now appears to be such that no one can claim ignorance of what is happening. Drug abuse is on the increase and in an alarming rate in Nigeria today. About two decades ago, incidence of drug trafficking in Nigeria was low and the abuse was minimal, but

today drug has skyrocketed the drop out and academic failure rate of students in tertiary institutions which is taking its toll in the society at large.

It is against this backdrop this study seeks to examine the influence of drug abuse on the academic performance of students in University of Benin, Benin City.

Objective of the Study

The general objective of this study is to examine the influence of drug abuse on the academic performance of students in University of Benin. However, the specific objectives of the study are to:

1. Examine the influence of drug abuse on the academic performance of students in University of Benin.
2. Identify the factors responsible for drug abuse among students in University of Benin.
3. Ascertain how drug abuse can be reduced among students in University of Benin

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

1. What is the influence of drug abuse on the academic performance of students in University of Benin?
2. What are the factors responsible for drug abuse among students in University of Benin?
3. How can the menace of drug abuse be reduced among students in University of Benin?

Significance of the Study

The findings of the study will be useful to the parents, community, institutions of higher learning and Nigeria government. The study will reveal the influence of major drugs on students' academic performance. The research work would be useful in educating all youths and adults in University of Benin and its environs, on the risk of drug consumption. Thus this study would play an important role in reducing, or even preventing high rate of drug use and abuse.

The study will also provide a background for other studies in relation to drugs abuse. This would help in promoting a drug-free school environment and

better academic performance, thus improving the standards of education in the country particularly in University of Benin and its environs.

The study is also aimed at helping parents to have better understanding of their children and know the best way to model and guide them to live a meaningful life.

The research will also help to create awareness among young people on the effects of substance abuse.

Scope / Delimitation of the Study

The scope of this study focuses on the influence of drug abuse on the academic performance of students in tertiary institutions. However, the study is delimited to undergraduate students in University of Benin, Benin City.

Definition of Terms

Influence: The power to change or affect someone, the power to cause change without directly forcing them to happen

Drug: Any product other than food or water that affect the way people feels, think, see and behave. It is a substance that due to its chemical nature affects physical, mental and emotional functioning.

Drug Abuse: The use of drugs for purposes other than medical reasons, thus affecting the individual in a negative way socially, cognitively or physically.

Academic: belonging to an academy or other higher institutions of learning, also a socially society or organization.

Academic Performance: the extent to which a student has achieves his or her educational goals.

Student: a person who studies a particular academic subject. A learner or someone who attempt an educational institution.

Tertiary Institution: includes universities as well as institution that teach specific capacities of higher learning such as colleges.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The review of literature related to the study was made under the following sub-headings in this chapter.

- Concept of Drug and Drug Abuse
- Prevalence of Drug abuse among students.
- Gender, Defective Homes and drug abuse.
- Classification of drugs used by Drugs
- Most commonly abused substance in Nigeria and their effects on the users.
- Causes of substance (drug) abuse among students
- Steps taken to solve the prevalence of substance abuse among students.
- Summary of Literature Reviewed

Concept of Drug and Drug Abuse

Drugs are any chemical (substance) that produces some therapeutic or non-therapeutic effects in the body. Drug abuse may be defined as the arbitrary or miss-use of one particular drug, with or without a prior medical diagnosis from qualified health practitioners (Abudu, 2008). According to World Book Medical Encyclopedia (2010), drug abuse is the harmful use of mind altering drugs.

Substance abuse is a global health and social problem which has resulted to unpleasant youthful activities in schools and all over Nigeria to the extent that it has been giving lot of concern to the government and general public.

In primary schools, peers engage in organized crimes and disrupt normal academic programme in secondary schools and most Nigerian Universities, the activities of secret cults are known to have been on the increase, killings are taking place and the impact of these morally decadent, wasted generations, loss of our societal values and ideals. (Aluede, 2000).

Drug Abuse among Secondary School Student

Majority of the Nigerian youths (secondary school age) ignorantly depend on one form of drug or the other for their various daily activities - social, educational, political, moral etc. According to(Abudu, 2008), studies have shown widespread drug use among adolescent and that in a study carried out there was an indication that 65% secondary school students used drugs to have good time, 54% wanted to experiment to see what is like, 20 - 40% used it to alter their moods.

Subsequently, in 2001, World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Health Foundation's (WHF) data reports that in Nigeria, 22.1% of school youth age between 12 to 17 years use tobacco and using it at young age increase the risk of using other drugs later (WHO, 2002)

Gender, Defective Home and Drug Abuse

Surveys have consistently documented over the years a greater occurrence of illicit substance use among males and females. According to (NHSDA,2007) survey reports, men reported a higher rate of illicit substance use than woman. The same pattern was also observed by (Johnson et al,2007) for college students and young adults regarding alcohol use, cigarette smoking. The-reported that males drinks and smokes more and more often than females. (Johnson, 2007) concluded that the persistence of gender differences in rates of drug use was due to the socialization of males and females.

Modern theories in developmental psychology show that the interaction between the caregiver and the child as crucial to all psychological growth. A child's parents and the emotional situation in the home greatly influence the kind of person the infant will become (Surge, 2006). Studies on family structure around the world have found that youth who lived with both biological parents are significantly less likely to use substance or to report problem of their use than those who do not live with both parents. Challier (2000) in their observation reported that the characteristics of the family structure offer family support and

favorable environment for children and that children need to experience a favorable climate throughout childhood period.

They added that, children need the support of parents as they seek to meet the challenges of this age. Favorable home environment are those capable of providing warmth and acceptance to children, positive home climates usually employ consistent measure of discipline, encourage social and emotional competence, learning, develops self-esteem and provide harmony and stability. On the other hand, a child from unfavorable home environment often becomes withdrawn, resentful, lonely, insecure and can even take to substance use and abuse. Tarter (2000) indicated that unstable family environment (i.e. father absence, one or both parent who had immigrated or death of parents) accounts for greater percentage of youth involvement in substance abuse.

Classification of Drugs Used by Youths

The use of drugs among youth started attracting the attention of researchers around 1950 s and recently there was an indication that 65% high school students use drugs. Aluede (2000), Oshikoya and Ali (2006) in their research studies indicated that youth uses drugs such as: Tobacco, Indian hemp, Cocaine,

Morphine, Heroin, Alcohol, Ephedrine, Caffeine, Glue, Barbiturates, Amphetamines, etc.

Drugs are generally classified into three major groups, they are;

1. Depressants (Sedatives)
2. Stimulant (Amphetamines)
3. Hallucinogens (Psychedelics)

1. Depressants (sedatives); these are drugs used medically to relieve anxiety, irritability and tension. There is a high potential for abuse and if combined with alcohol effects are heightened and risks are multiplied. Longman Dictionary of contemporary English (2000) defined Depressants as “a substance or drug that make one's body's process slower and make one feel very relaxed or sleepy, and calm”. Depressants are divided into tranquilizers and sedatives. Tranquilizers are drugs that induce a calm state of mind without allowing consciousness. Sedatives are drugs that make somebody go to sleep or make them calm and relaxed- Longman Dictionary of contemporary English (2000), To the layman, tranquilizers and sedatives are classed as sleeping pills or capsule. Examples are valium, piriton, phenigal and alcohol.

2. Stimulant (Amphetamines): These are group of drugs or substance that affects the nervous system, acting upon the sensory areas of the brain. They stimulate self awareness and hormones which stimulate the entire body hence they are referred to as agents that excite the central nervous system. Drugs in this group include cocaine, coffee, caffeine and tobacco. Natural stimulant include kola-nuts and they are also taken by students and other layman.

3. Hallucinogens (Psychedelics):

These are drugs that cause the users to see, hear or other- wise sense something that exist only in the mind. Oxford Advanced learner's dictionary 7th edition (2005} defined hallucinogens as "substances or drugs that affect people's minds and make them see and hear things that are not really there". Examples of hallucinogens are marijuana, mescaline, psilocybin, LSD i.e. lysergic acid Diethylamide and cannabis.

Most Commonly Abused Substance (Drugs) In Nigeria and Their Effects on the Users

The most common substance of abuse in Nigeria includes the following:

(1) MARIJUANA: Marijuana is a hallucinogenic drug found in the flowering tops and leaves of the Indian hemp plant. The term marijuana has become synonymous with cannabis which is derived from the resin of the female hemp

plant. The plant grows wild and is usually found in the temperate or semitropical climate of the world. The primary drug ingredient of marijuana is a chemical called Tetra-hydrocannabinol (THC).

Marijuana is most frequently smoked, either in the form of cigarette or in a pipe. The smoker retains the deeply inhaled smokes as long as possible in order to enhance absorption across the alveolar capillary bed. The absorbed material is then carried from the lungs directly to the brain. Today because of its medicinal properties, it is estimated that over one hundred and forty-four million (144m) people of the world population use the drug regularly UNODCGP (2001). In Nigeria, the street names are grass, Igbo, Indian hemp, ganja, pot, morocco, wee wee, etc.

Effects of Marijuana on the Users

The effect of the drug (marijuana) according to Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System BRFSS (2009) report indicated that, effects depend on the potency of the preparation and the amount consumed but most experts have said that marijuana abusers risk all the dangers of smoking including brain damage, infertility, loss of memory.

(2) Alcohol: Alcohol is a colorless liquid that is obtained from the fermentation of sorghum and other carbohydrates containing food especially grains. Consumption

of alcoholic beverages in higher quantity is a very common phenomenon among contemporary adolescent especially secondary school students. This phenomenon is observed more when these students mix up among peers or are at home during special occasions. Because the consumption of alcoholic beverages is accepted in most societies, alcohol is rarely regarded as a drug yet it can be truly categorized such because it affects the central nervous system.

Effects of Alcohol Intake on the Users

Apart from the astronomical increase in the number of breweries in Nigeria, the effects of alcohol depends on the quantity produced and the rate of fermentation, alcohol numbs the higher brain centers and as the concentration of blood alcohol increases a progressive impairment or reduction in normal brain functions results.

According to Alcohol-Related Diseases Impact (ARDI, 2005) reports, indicated that excessive alcohol use is responsible for approximately 79,000 deaths annually. Medical reports have also said that the use of alcohol can lead to increased risk health problems such as liver diseases, vision and speech impairment, lack coordination and balance.

(3) Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD);

It is a popular party drug which is extremely potent even in small quantities. It is a synthetic derivation of ergot, a fungus found in cereals and grasses. This odorless, tasteless and colorless drug can induce strong hallucination/ where the user sees different colors and has strange experiences. It is usually licked or swallowed, sold as tablets, capsules or in its liquid form. It could be added to sugar cubes, postage stamps, window panes (Cellophanes) blotters.

Effects of LSD on the Users

According to Medical Caregiver, the visible effects of LSD on the users include high body temperatures, sweating, dilation, increased heart beats and blood pressures. The worst effects of LSD is what is known as "a bad trips" in which users develops extreme form of paranoia and fear, schizophrenia and severe depression may occur with long term use (WHO, 2001).

(4) NICOTINE: Nicotine is an addictive found in cigarette and some form of tobacco product: such as cigar and pipes. It is the primary component in tobacco that acts on the brain. Smokeless tobacco products such as snuff and chewing tobacco also contain matoxins as well as high level of nicotine.

Nicotine is recognized as one of the most frequently used addictive drug, it is a naturally occurring colorless liquid that turn brown when burnt an acquires the odor of tobacco when exposed to air.

Cigarette smoking is the most prevalent form of nicotine and through inhaling the smoke; the average smoker takes in 1-2mg of nicotine per cigarette.

Effects of Nicotine on the Users

Since nicotine was first identified in the early 1800s, it has been studied extensively and shown to have a number of complex and sometimes unpredictable effects on the brain and the body. According to the Surgeon General's (2006) reports indicated that the health consequences of involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke, and smoking increases the risk of heart disease and lung cancer. Tobacco use is responsible for an estimated million deaths worldwide each year.

(5) COCAINE: Cocaine is derived from the South American shrub called coca. It is not a narcotic but a stimulant not physically addictive but psychologically addictive. It is usually white crystalline powder and users of this substance call it varieties of names including coke, snow, blow, toot, nose candy, heaven dust, flake, crack and the ladies either snorted through the nose or dissolved in a liquid

and then injected into vein. Some also mix cocaine with cannabis, tobacco and smoke it.

Effects of Cocaine on the User

According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse (2004) reports indicated the visible effect of cocaine use include; increased heart rate and blood pressure restlessness, irritability, cardiac problem, mental illness and permanent brain damage respiratory problem that can lead to death and hallucination.

(6) CAFFEINE: Caffeine is the main ingredient in tea and coffee. It is widely used as a stimulant indiscriminately in Nigeria. According to Medical experts, caffeine can cause or produce dependence known to cause harm such as agitation, headaches and tremor. High dose of caffeine for instance (at level above eight cups) per day for coffee can produce mood changes such as anxiety and depression, difficulty in sleeping and irritation of the stomach. (Chritensen and Bilenberg, 2000).

(7) INHALANTS: Paint, petrol, gases (butane, propane, laughing gas are easily available but highly dangerous, causing death within seconds. Every year several

teenagers accidentally inhale these substances with some developing addiction overtime.

Apart from the various effects already highlighted, I wish to add that the various consequences of drug abuse are so devastating and very shameful to the extent that both the nation and international organization all over the world are also worried about the spread of this scourge among youths. In addition to the health implication, a lot of criminal acts such as armed robbery, gang formation, cultism, social miscreant (area boys and girls) lack of respect for elders, lawlessness among youths are done under drug influence. (Chritensen and Bilenberg, 2000).

Causes of Substances (Drug) Abuse among Students

There are many crucial factors in substance (drug) abuse especially among youths. Curiosity is identified as one major cause. The curious nature is the one that makes youths smoke the first stick of cigarette. Apart from the above, according to (Abudu, 2008), other studies have shown the following factors as responsible for substance abuse among youths.

- (1) Parental neglects of their children.
- (2) The availability of drugs in the community.

- (3) Pathological family background, broken homes, illegitimate relationship, alcoholic parent or parent's involvement in anti-social and illegal activities,
- (4) Peer pressure (influences)
- (5) Imitation of film stars and teenage idols.
- (6) Media adverts-Radio, television, billboard,
- (7) Ignorance of the dangers of illegal drug abuse,
- (8) Urbanization and unemployment.
- (9) Alienation i.e. they feel isolated and want to belong etc.

Steps Taken To Solve the Problem Of Substance Abuse

Due to the great concern substance (drug) abuse has on the members of the Nigerian society, great efforts are being made to curb the prevalence of substance abuse among youths in our society. Religious leaders, personnel in the medical field, health institutions, education institutions and parents have mounted campaigns. There are warnings in newspaper some magazines and television about the dangers involved in taking unauthorized drugs. More also, there are radio jingles educating the people about the effects of substance (drug) abuse.

However, a decree was made that there should be no more advertisement of cigarette and alcohol drinks in the radio and television stations. The decree also

stated that there should be no more smoking of cigarettes publicly and anyone caught doing contrary should be prosecuted and sentenced to 21years imprisonment.

Medical caregivers, outside the treatment given to their patients (drug abusers) has done a lot to reduce drug abuse among our youths or school age children by giving of information on the health implication or dangers of using substance (drug) wrongly. Also security efforts are being made to detect and apprehend all illegal importers users of hard drugs. Agencies on substance abuse have set up committees to monitor and educates the masses on the dangers of substance abuse.

Summary

Drug abuse continues to emerge as a strategy among youth to cope with the problem of unemployment, neglects, violence and sexual abuse. During the last few decades, Nigeria teenagers have faced a growing number of challenges particularly with respect to drug use and abuse.

The pattern and trend in drug abuse among young people different from region to region and there is a considerable abuse of drug among young people particularly in the industrialized world and this has been attributed to the fact that significant portions of the world's youth population are being exposed to a culture that

appears to be more tolerant towards the use of drugs. Many different factors correlate with initiation into experimentation with drugs,) maintenance of drug use and transition into abuse or dependence and it is universally recognized that familiar factors contributed to each stage of drug involvement.

Young people who uses drugs appears to be negatively influence by many factors including friends and family members who may use or sell drug or who do not actively prohibits their use but these same negative influences can be overcome if parents, school, communities and government works with concerted effort to educate young people regarding the dangers of illicit substance use and abuse. Also effective monitoring of behavior and activities of children should be encouraged in order to advise people to stay away from drugs.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the method and procedure that was used in the study. It focused on the following:

- Research Design
- Population of the Study
- Sample and Sampling Technique
- Research Instrument
- Validity of the Instrument
- Reliability of the Instrument
- Administration of the Instrument
- Method of Data Analysis.

Research Design

A descriptive survey research design was used for this study to assess the influence of drug abuse on the academic performance of students in University of Benin, Edo State. It was considered appropriate because it enables the researcher to study a large group of students through a selected respondents and allow generalization on the whole group.

Population of the Study

The population of this study consists of students in University of Benin which has been estimated to be 87,134 students (UNIBEN, 2019).

Sample and Sampling Techniques

The sample size consists of One hundred (100) undergraduate students from five faculties in the area under study which were selected using the simple random sampling technique with twenty (20) students from each of the selected Faculties.

Research Instrument

A questionnaire will be designed to generate information from the respondents. The questionnaire contains two sections: Sections A and B. Section A of the questionnaire was aimed at gathering data relating to the demographic or personal data of the respondents such as age, sex etc. Section B was designed to gather data relating to the research questions raised for the study and other issues considered relevant to the study.

Validity of the Instrument

To ascertain the validity of the research instrument, a draft of the instrument prepared by the researcher was presented to the supervisor and two other experts

in the Department of Social Work. The inputs made by them were used to prepare the final copy which was used for the study.

Reliability of the Instrument

The reliability of the instrument was determined through a test-re-test method. A sample of 20 students were first tested with the instrument and their responses were rated and scored. After a period of two weeks, the same instrument was again administered to the same respondents. The two scores were correlated. A reliability coefficient of 0.72 was obtained.

Administration of the Instrument

In administering the questionnaires, the face-to-face method was adopted. The questionnaires were given out to the students through personal visit to the faculties and departments.

Method of Data Analysis

In analyzing the collected data, the researcher adopted percentages and frequency counts.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS OF DATA AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

This chapter deals with the presentation of results; interpretation and analysis of data collected using the closed structured questionnaire during the study. The questionnaire contained two broad segments. The first segment contains the respondents bio-data, the second segment analyses responses related to the research questions for the study.

SECTION A: Demographic Data

Table 1: Sex Distribution of Respondents.

SEX	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
MALE	62	62%
FEMALE	38	38%
TOTAL	100	100%

Table 1.1 shows that 62 respondents representing 62% were males while 38 respondents representing 38% were females used in the study.

Table 2: Age Distribution of Respondents

AGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Below 20 years	18	18%
21 – 30 years	54	54%
31 years above	28	28%
TOTAL	100	100%

The data in the table above shows the age distribution of respondents. The data shows that most of the respondents are within the age of 21-30 years which forms 54% of the population. 18 respondents representing 18% were below 20 years while 28% of the respondents representing 28% were above the age of 31 years of age.

Table 3: Education / Class Distribution of Respondents

RELIGION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Muslim	41	41%
Christian	59	59%
Others	-	-
TOTAL	100	100%

Table 3 above shows that majority of the respondents which represents 59% of the entire respondents are Christians, followed by the Muslims who represented 41% of the entire sample size for the study.

SECTION B: Analysis of Research Questions

RESEARCH QUESTION 1: What is the influence of drug abuse on the academic performance of students in University of Benin?

Table 1: *Responses on the influence of drug abuse on the academic performance of students in University of Benin.*

S/n	Items	Frequency		Percentages	
		YES	NO	YES	NO
1	The use of drug can make a student loses interest in his/her academics	88	12	88%	12%
2	Drug abuse can affect the cognitive ability of students.	55	45	55%	45%
3	Students who are addicted to drugs always find it difficult to pay attention to the teacher in the classroom	72	18	72%	18%
4	Drug abusers always have decreased interest in class work and negative attitude which make them drop out of school.	60	40	60%	40%
5	Most psychoactive drugs affect the decision	44	56	44%	56%

	making process of students and their creative thinking.				
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From the analysis in table one, 88% which represent majority of the respondents in the entire sample size agreed to the assertion that the use of drug can make a student loose interest in his/her academics while only 12% refuted the claim. From item 2, 55% of the respondents believed that Drug abuse can affect the cognitive ability of students, with 45% of the respondents of a different view. To 72% of the respondents Students who are addicted to drugs always find it difficult to pay attention to the teacher in the classroom whereas 18% countered the claim. Similarly, it is the opinion of 60% of the respondents that drug abusers always lead to decreased interest in class work and negative attitude which can make students drop out of school; this claim was however refuted by 40% of the respondents. Lastly, on whether most psychoactive drugs affect the decision making process of students and their creative thinking, it was massively disagreed by 56% of the respondents, while only 44% of the respondents agreed.

RESEARCH QUESTION 2: What is proportion of University students that engage in drug abuse?

Table 2: Responses on the proportion of University students that engage in drug abuse.

S/n	Items	Frequency		Percentages	
		YES	NO	YES	NO
6.	Is it true that most senior students consume Indian hemp?	94	6	94%	6%
7.	The prevalence of cocaine consumption among students in public is high.	46	54	46%	54%
8.	Is it true that the extent at which S.S.S 3 students indulge in tobacco is alarming?	64	36	64%	36%
9	Are you of the opinion that s students in Egor LGA are known to consume “igbo” ?	81	19	81%	19%
10	Is it true that only few students in Egor LGA do not indulge in ganja?.	30	70	30%	70%

From the analysis in table one, 94% which represent majority of the respondents in the entire sample size agreed to the assertion that senior students consume Indian hemp in the last one year while only 6% refuted the claim. From item 2, 46% of

the respondents believed that prevalence of cocaine consumption among students in public is high while 54% of the respondents were of the opposite view, Similarly from item 3, 64% of the respondents subscribed to the claim that the extent at which S.S.S 3 students indulge in tobacco is alarming. From item 4, majority of the respondents (81%) were of the opinion that s students in Egor LGA are known to consume “igbo” while only 19% of the respondents believed otherwise. Lastly 30% of the respondents were of the opinion that only few students in Egor LGA do not indulge in ganja whereas majority of the respondents said they do.

RESEARCH QUESTION 3: What are the factors responsible for drug abuse among students in University of Benin?

Table 3: Responses on factors responsible for drug abuse among students in University of Benin.

S/n	Items	Frequency		Percentages	
		YES	NO	YES	NO
11	Peer pressure is a factor responsible for substance abuse among students	50	50	50%	50%
12	Religion is a factor responsible for substance abuse among students	22	78	22%	78%
13	Broken homes is a factor responsible for substance abuse among students	60	40	60%	40%
14	Parental neglect is a factor responsible for substance abuse among students	84	16	84%	16%
15	Imitation and indiscipline are factors responsible for substance abuse among students	82	18	82%	18%

From the analysis in the table above, it was very surprising to note that the respondents were divided on the issue of whether Peer pressure is a factor responsible for substance abuse among students, half of the respondents (50%)

agreed while the other half (50%) disagreed, as they claimed that drug abuse is a thing of the mind. However, 22% of the respondents believed that Religion is a factor responsible for substance abuse among students. It was agreed by majority of the respondents (60%) that broken homes is a factor responsible for substance abuse among students. Similarly, majority of the respondents (84%) believed that Parental neglect is a factor responsible for substance abuse among students. Lastly (82%) of the respondent believes that imitation and indiscipline are possible factors responsible for substance abuse among students.

Research Question Four: How can the menace of drug abuse be reduced among students in University of Benin?

Table 4: Responses on the menace of drug abuse be reduced among students in University of Benin.

S/n	Items	Frequency		Percentages	
		YES	NO	YES	NO
16	The effect of Drug Abuse can be reduced by public enlightenment	100	-	100%	-
17	The effect of Drug Abuse can be reduced by increasing the price of the hard drugs	84	16	84%	16%
18	The effect of Drug Abuse can be reduced by enacting and implementing a stiffer punishment	66	34	66%	34%
19	The menace of Drug Abuse can be reduced by imprisonment of drug addicts	60	40	60%	40%
20	The menace of Drug Abuse can be reduced by legislation	53	47	53%	47%

From the analysis above, all the respondents agreed that the effect of drug abuse can be reduced by public enlightenment exercise. Also, 84% of the entire sample size agreed to the fact that the effect of Drug Abuse can be reduced by increasing

the price of the hard drugs while 16% disagreed. Furthermore, 66% of the respondent said that the effect of Drug Abuse can be reduced by enacting a stiff punishment, while the remaining 34% disagreed. To 60% of the entire sample size, the menace of Drug Abuse can be reduced by imprisonment of drug addicts while the remaining 40% of the respondents do not see it as such. Lastly, 63% of the respondents claimed that the menace of Drug Abuse can be reduced by legislation; this was however disagreed by only 47% of the respondents.

Discussion of Findings

Findings from this study have been quite revealing. The study revealed that most senior students consume Indian hemp frequently and that the prevalence of cocaine consumption among students in public is high. It was further gathered from the study that the extent at which S.S.S 3 students indulge in tobacco is alarming. The study unraveled that most students in higher institutions are fond of consuming a drug popularly called “igbo”. It was also revealed in the course of the study that substance abuse is more prevalent among male students coupled with the fact that male students abuse alcohol more than female students. They study also found that male students usually take sleep inducing drugs more than the female students adding that the male students usually take these drug to reduce fear, shyness and to boost sexual performance.

Furthermore, the study also found that Peer pressure is a major factor responsible for substance abuse among students meanwhile it was disagreed that religion is a factor responsible for substance abuse among students. This finding on influence of peer pressure on substance abuse by students tallies with the findings of Kwamanga (2003) who reported that, an adolescent is more likely to drink alcohol if his/her friends drink, coupled with the findings of Odejide (2006) and Siringi, (2003) who also found single dominant variable in adolescent drug use is the influence provided by the peers with whom an adolescent chooses to associate.

The study further revealed that broken homes contributes to the high level of substance abuse as adequate parental upbringing is lacking, hence making Parental neglect as a major factor responsible for substance abuse among students. The study also found that imitation and indiscipline are also factors leading to substance abuse among students because most students tend to imitate their peers to take hard drugs probably due to indiscipline. Concerning the prevalence of alcohol consumption among students, the study found it to be on the high side and coupled with the fact that even female students nowadays are gradually joining in taking alcohol now due to peer groups, although the prevalence of alcohol consumption among girls is low, but generally, the menace

of alcohol consumption among youths in the society is becoming worrisome. This confirms the findings of Malley (2008) who asserted that alcohol is the most widely used substance among youths. Finally it was revealed that both teachers and the school authority can help reduce the menace of substance abuse, as it was said that disciplinary measures such as expulsion of substance abusers can help reduce the menace of substance abuse, also it was agreed that proper upbringing of children and mending of broken homes can help reduce the menace of substance abuser. Adequate educational training can also help to reduce the menace of substance by students, as a well-educated person is most likely not going to get involved in drug abuse knowing the attendant consequences.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Summary

This chapter presents a summary of the research findings, conclusions and recommendations. The research was a study to assess the influence of drug abuse on the academic performance of students in University of Benin, Edo State. Four (4) research questions were raised to guide the study, they include: what is the influence of drug abuse on the academic performance of students in University of Benin? What is proportion of University students that engage in drug abuse? What are the factors responsible for drug abuse among students in University of Benin? And how can the menace of drug abuse be reduced among students in University of Benin?

Other contents included in chapter one comprise of the statement of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, research questions, delimitation/scope of the study, limitation of the problem, definition of terms. This was followed with the review of related literature by various authors where facts having to do with the prevalence of substance abuse among students. Chapter three of this study involved the method used for the study, instrument used by the researcher in carrying out the study as well as the population and sample size of

the study. Chapter four, the analysis of data and discussion of findings in relation to the research questions was done.

Conclusion

In view of the data collected and analyzed on the prevalence of substance abuse among students it can be concluded that peer group constitutes a powerful force in students substance abuse; this is because the need to fit into and belong to a group of friends is a motivating factor in youths'. For those who took alcohol, the principal factors that influenced them to take alcohol were peer pressure and poor parental upbringing. Therefore, students should be given maximum attention and also taught the dangers of indulging in substance abuse and also encouraged to make the right choice of friends, and desist from taking drugs especially for those already taking it and those who have not taken it at all, they should not go into it at all. This is because it destroys the brain and can cause mental problems. The study also concludes that drug abuse can affect academic performance and can make students to drop-out from school.

The study further opined that the family is expected to be a grooming interactive forum where good attitudes and behaviours are expected to be moulded and nurtured. When this role is adequately achieved, the youth would have less likelihood of being influenced by peer pressure. Lastly, as per the role of the

family, it can be concluded that when the family fails in its responsibility, the child/children are therefore left at the mercy of peer pressure and consequently, such precursors as identifying and associating with drug using friends become obvious.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made;

- School authority should enforce strict rules on drug abuse by requiring all social events during orientation of first years to be drug free, disseminate responsible host guidelines for both on- and off-campus parties, install a responsible beverage service program, eliminate residence hall delivery of alcohol purchases, advertise food and activities, such as dancing or sports, rather than drinking as the focus of the event.
- The influence of peer pressure should be tackled especially in our second and third cycle institutions to reduce its negative effects on adolescents by focusing on its positive sides
- Parents should use this opportunity to moderately give their children just the amount that they need in school, also parents should live a model life worthy of emulation by their children and neighbors.

- The government should organize trainings and workshops for youths in the society to improve their knowledge in sensitive areas like the adverse influence of peer groups towards alcohol consumption.
- Parents and teachers jointly have the responsible to provide correct and factual information on how substance abuse affects overall human health.
- Finally, the youth should have vocational and technical skills both in schools and in the community so as to give them less time to indulge in risky behaviors such as substance misuse and abuse.

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Appendix
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK,
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UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY

Questionnaire on
THE INFLUENCE OF DRUG ABUSE ON THE ACADEMIC
PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS
(A CASE STUDY OF UNIBEN STUDENTS)

Dear Respondent,

Kindly read the following questionnaire items and tick the answers that accurately reflect your choice where appropriate. The response you give is purely for research purpose and will be treated confidentially. Please do not write your name.

Thank you.

Researcher

Section A

1. Sex: Male [] female []
2. Age: Below 20 years [] 20 – 30 years [] 31years and above []
3. Religion: Christianity [] Muslim [] Others []

Section B: (Please tick [] where necessary)

RESEARCH QUESTION 1: What is the influence of drug abuse on the academic performance of students in University of Benin?

s/n	Items	YES	NO
1	The use of drug can make a student loses interest in his/her academics		
2	Drug abuse can affect the cognitive ability of students.		
3	Students who are addicted to drugs always find it difficult to pay attention to the teacher in the classroom		
4	Drug abusers always have decreased interest in class work and negative attitude which make them drop out of school.		
5	Most psychoactive drugs affect the decision making process of students and their creative thinking.		

RESEARCH QUESTION 2: What is proportion of University students that engage in drug abuse?

	Items	YES	NO
6.	Is it true that most senior students consume Indian hemp?		
7.	The prevalence of cocaine consumption among students in public is high.		
8.	Is it true that the extent at which S.S.S 3 students indulge in tobacco is alarming?		

9	Are you of the opinion that s students in Egor LGA are known to consume “igbo” ?		
10	Is it true that only few students in Egor LGA do not indulge in ganja?.		

RESEARCH QUESTION 3: What are the factors responsible for drug abuse among students in University of Benin?

	Items	YES	NO
11	Peer pressure is a factor responsible for substance abuse among students		
12	Religion is a factor responsible for substance abuse among students		
13	Broken homes is a factor responsible for substance abuse among students		
14	Parental neglect is a factor responsible for substance abuse among students		
15	Imitation and indiscipline are factors responsible for substance abuse among students		

Research Question Four: How can the menace of drug abuse be reduced among students in University of Benin?

	Items	YES	NO
16	The effect of Drug Abuse can be reduced by public enlightenment		
17	The effect of Drug Abuse can be reduced by increasing the price		

	of the hard drugs		
18	The effect of Drug Abuse can be reduced by enacting and implementing a stiffer punishment		
19	The menace of Drug Abuse can be reduced by imprisonment of drug addicts		
20	The menace of Drug Abuse can be reduced by legislation		