

EFFECT OF DRUG ABUSE ON MORAL BEHAVIOUR OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN ILORIN- SOUTH LGA, KWARA STATE

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Abstract

Sales of Alcohol, Marijuana, Indian hemp and other dangerous herbs that can easily be purchased from unregistered drug vendors in the Community, especially in school surroundings encourage drug abuse. Similarly, failure of Government to strictly enforce its existing laws against drug abuse through its regulatory agencies is also a contributory factor to youths getting involved in drug abuse specifically, Secondary School students who will be our future leaders. Thus, this study examined the effect of drug abuse on moral behaviour of Secondary School students in Ilorin-South Local Government Area of Kwara State. The simple random sampling technique was adopted to select 30 teachers and 150 students from the five selected public Secondary Schools in the Local Government Area as sample. The instrument used was the questionnaire while analysis of variance was employed to test the three hypotheses generated in this study. The findings revealed that there was significant relationship between the drug abuse and students' riot, bullying of fellow students and students' disobeying school authorities in Secondary Schools. Based on the findings, it is recommended that Government should prevent the cultivation or sales of Indian hemp, other dangerous herbs that encourage drug abuse and strictly enforce its existing laws against drug abuse through its regulatory agencies. Also, parents and guardians should endeavor to monitor their children so that they do not engage in drug abuse. Counseling education should be introduced in schools to prevent those who have already engaged in the act.

Keywords: Drug abuse, Moral behaviour, Secondary School Students and Adolescence.

Introduction

Drug abuse is a global epidemic which has become a matter of great concern to educational stakeholders, medical practitioners, counselors, religious leaders, mass media, parents, guardians as well as relatives. It is a sensitive nation-wide challenge that needs urgent attention due to the alarming rate of involvement of young people, especially the youths who will be our future leaders. Studies and statistics show that globally more pre-adolescence and teenage children are using drugs and alcohol (McCabe, Boyd & Teter, 2009). West and Grahah, (2005) asserted that students as a subset of the youth population, consume large quantities of alcohol, tabaco, Indian-hemp and other drugs which could make them misbehave in the society.

According to a United Nations Office on drugs and crime (UNODC) report 2008, some 200 million people or 5 percent of the total world's population age 15 – 64 years have used drugs at least once in the 12 months. Akinyemi, (2008) revealed that despite the efforts of the Nigerian National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and other Governmental Agencies to stem the tide of substance abuse in Nigeria, there has been a consistent rapid rise in the number of cases of drug abuse among young people between the ages of 10 – 24 years in Nigeria. Oshodi, Aina & Onajole (2010) indicated that marijuana is the most commonly used substance followed by tobacco. They further stressed that in the United Kingdom, cross-sectional studies have shown that among students aged 15 –16 years, at least 40% had used illicit drugs, mainly cannabis, at some time during their lives.

Chikere and Mayowa (2011) found that in a number of school and college surveys in Nigeria, alcohol use is the most common among students, with many drinking students having had their first drink in family settings. They found that the majority of students affected were initiated into the use of alcohol at a tender age of 16 to 20years. The term drug abuse is an 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 (Haladu, 2003). Manbe, (2008) defined drug abuse as the excessive, maladaptive or addictive use of drugs for non-medical purpose. A drug refers to a substance that modifies perceptions, cognition, mood, behaviour and general body functions. Ngesu and Masese, (2008) reported on the act of indiscipline among students in the Nigerian educational institutions which were blamed for the use and abuse of drugs. In addition, they stated that some students who had either one or both of their parents drinking alcohol were unable to take care of their children properly during their schooling days, they were unable to give them money required to buy necessary things at school, such as purchasing of Text-books and others. This act affected the students greatly and some had to drop out from school when they could not cope.

Esen, (1970) stated that Nigerian Secondary school students under the influence of Indian hemp shed all inhibitions produce behaviour that is inconsistent with school discipline. He observed that the increasing incidence of drug abuse among Secondary School students is a contributory factor in the ugly confrontation between School administration and students. On the submission of Sanni, Udoh, Okediji, Modo and Ezech, (2010) identified vandalism, drug abuse, weapon carrying, alcohol abuse, rape, examination malpractices, school violence, bullying, cultism, truancy and drop-out as anti-social behaviours often associated with juvenile delinquents. Therefore, core values to live, such as honesty, tolerance, peace, responsibility are lacking and this affects their social skills development. Since most of the students are in their adolescence stage of development, if they engage in drug abuse they also lose their identity Kyalo and Mbugua (2011).

Drugs affect the students' concentration span, which is drastically reduced and boredom sets in much faster than for non-drugs and substance abusers. The student will lose interest in school work, including extra curriculum activities. As a result of this, there is absenteeism in school which normally resulted to one taking long than the normal time to complete his/her studies. Most of the psychoactive drugs affect the decision making process of the students' creative thinking and the development of the necessary life and social skills are stunted. They also interfere with the awareness of an individual's unique potential and interest, thus affecting their career development Louw, (2001). Drug abuse has some social, economic, psychological, cultural, physical, morally and health consequences among the students that may lead to poverty, disability, mal-adjustment or death of the abusers. Ajayi & Ekundayo, (2010) affirmed that the consequence of drug abuse was that it aids crime-rate, cultism, mental illness, low self-esteem, injuries to one's health, become a social outcast and bringing shame to their kin. Theoretically, family and peer relationships are important for adolescent drug use because both are primary groups where attitudes and behaviors are learned. According to social learning theory, an individual learns to take drugs in small, informal groups. Baron, (2003) noted that children of addicted parents are the highest risk group of children to become alcohol and drug abusers due to both genetic and family environment factors.

Thus, this study investigates the effect of drug abuse on moral behaviour of Secondary School students in Ilorin-South Local Government Area of Kwara State.

Statement of the Problem

Some students are addicted to drugs which resulted to drug abuse. This may be as a result of unregistered drug vendors in the society and selling of Indian hemp, alcohol, cigarette, cocaine, marijuana and so on that can easily be purchased in the community and especially in school neighbourhood. NACADA (2007) carried out a research on effects of drug and substance abuse on students' discipline and found

that drug abuse either illicit or licit is forming a sub-culture among the students. Also, it was revealed that the use of alcohol and cigarettes by students were 21.6% and 6.1% respectively. The rising level of students abusing drugs is making stakeholders in education, parents, religious leaders and the mass media quite uncomfortable. This indicates that the schools which have been putting in place measures to eliminate drug and substance abuse have not been working effectively.

Many scholars have carried out research work on the effect of drug abuse and substance abuse on students discipline in Secondary Schools. Fayombo & Aremu, (2000) worked on the effect of drug abuse on educational performance of some adolescent drug abusers in Ibadan and find out that the misuse of marijuana had reached an epidemic level in the present day Nigeria' society and that drug abuse could reduce academic achievement or even halt one's entire academic career. Also, Ajake, Isangedihi & Bisong, (2009) carried out research on child rearing styles, premarital sexual practices and drug abuse among Senior Secondary School students in Cross River State and found that premarital sexual practices and drug abuse constitute social ills that have been age-long problems in the Secondary School system.

To the best knowledge of the researcher, no study has been carried out on the effect of drug abuse on moral behaviour of Secondary School students in Ilorin-South Local Government Area, Kwara State.

Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to find out the effect of:

1. Drug Abuse on student riot in Secondary School
2. Drug Abuse on student bullying fellow students in Secondary School
3. Drug Abuse on student disobeying authorities in Secondary School

Research Questions

1. Does drug abuse have effect on student riot in Secondary School in Ilorin-South Local Government Area, Kwara State?
2. Does drug abuse have effect on student bullying fellow students in Secondary School in Ilorin-South Local Government Area, Kwara State?
3. Does drug abuse have effect on students disobeying School-authorities in Secondary School in Ilorin-South Local Government Area, Kwara State?

Research Hypotheses

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between drug abuse and student riot in Secondary Schools in Ilorin-South Local Government Area, Kwara State

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between drug abuse and student bullying fellow students in Secondary Schools in Ilorin-South Local Government Area, Kwara State

H₀₃: There is no significant relationship between drug abuse and students disobeying School-authorities in Secondary Schools in Ilorin-South Local Government Area, Kwara State

Methodology

The study employed descriptive survey research type. The population of this study comprises of all the teachers and students in fifty-nine (59) Public Secondary Schools in Ilorin South Local Government Area, Kwara State while the target population was teachers and students from the five (5) selected Secondary Schools in the Local Government Area. Simple random sampling technique was adopted to select six (6) teachers from each of the five (5) selected schools to make a total number of thirty (30) teachers and thirty (30) students were randomly selected from each of the five (5) selected Secondary Schools which equal to One hundred and fifty (150) students as sample. The Questionnaire titled, "Effect of Drug Abuse on Moral Behaviour of Students in Secondary Schools" (EDAMBSSS) was designed as the instrument to obtain necessary information from the respondents. The questionnaire contains 20 items which were used to answer the three (3) Research Questions and test the three (3) hypotheses. In order to validate the research instrument, the draft was presented to two lecturers in the Department of Arts Education, and two experts in the field of Test and Measurement, Faculty of Education, University of Ilorin for vetting. All the corrections made were effected, before the final questionnaire was drafted. In order to ascertain the reliability of the instrument, test re-test method was used. Research questions 1 to 3 had corresponding hypotheses and were tested using Pearson product-moment correlation statistics at 0.05 level of significance.

Result

Hypothesis Testing

There were three operational hypotheses formulated to guide the study. Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Statistic was used to test all the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance.

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between drug abuse and students' riot in Secondary Schools in Ilorin-South Local Government Area of Kwara State.

Table 1
Drug Abuse and Students' Riot in Secondary Schools
**Significant $p < .05$*

| Variable | N | \bar{X} | SD | Df | Cal r-value | P-value | Decision |
|---------------|-----|-----------|-----|-----|-------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Drug Abuse | 180 | 1.58 | .49 | 178 | .714 | .000 | Ho ₁ Rejected |
| Students Riot | 180 | 1.41 | .42 | | | | |

Table 1 shows the calculated r-value of .714 while p-value (0.000) is less than the significance level (0.05) for 178 degrees of freedom. Therefore, the hypothesis which stated that, there is no significant relationship between drug abuse and students' riot in Secondary Schools in Ilorin-South Local Government Area of Kwara State was rejected. The finding revealed that, there was significant relationship between drug abuse and students' riot in Secondary Schools in Ilorin-South Local Government Area, Kwara State.

Ho₂: There is no significant relationship between drug abuse and student bullying fellow students in Secondary Schools in Ilorin-South Local Government Area, Kwara State

Table 2
Drug Abuse and Students Bulling Fellow Students in Secondary Schools

| Variable | N | \bar{X} | SD | Df | Cal r-value | P-value | Decision |
|---|-----|-----------|-----|-----|-------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Drug Abuse | 180 | 1.58 | .49 | 178 | .527 | .000 | Ho ₂ Rejected |
| Students Bulling Fellow Students in School | 180 | 1.31 | .46 | | | | |

**Significant $p < .05$*

Table 2 shows the calculated r-value of .527 while p-value (0.000) is less than the significance level (0.05) for 178 degrees of freedom. Therefore, the hypothesis which stated that, there is no significant relationship between drug abuse and student bullying fellow students in Secondary Schools in Ilorin-South Local Government Area of Kwara State was rejected. The finding revealed that, there was significant relationship between drug abuse and students bullying fellow students in Secondary Schools in Ilorin-South Local Government Area, Kwara State.

H₀₃: There is no significant relationship between drug abuse and students disobeying School-authorities in Secondary Schools in Ilorin-South Local Government Area, Kwara State.

Table 3
Drug Abuse and Students Disobeying School Authorities in Secondary Schools

| Variable | N | \bar{X} | SD | Df | Cal r-value | P-value | Decision |
|--|-----|-----------|-----|-----|-------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Drug Abuse | 180 | 1.58 | .49 | 178 | .396 | .000 | H ₀₃ Rejected |
| Students Disobeying School Authorities | 180 | 1.53 | .36 | | | | |

***Significant $p < .05$**

Table 3 shows the calculated r-value of .396 while p-value (0.000) is less than the significance level (0.05) for 178 degrees of freedom. Therefore, the hypothesis which stated that, there is no significant relationship between drug abuse and students disobeying School-Authorities in Secondary Schools in Ilorin-South Local Government Area of Kwara State was rejected. The finding revealed that, there was significant relationship between drug abuse and students disobeying School-Authorities in Secondary Schools in Ilorin-South Local Government Area, Kwara State.

Discussion of the Findings

The findings showed that, there was significant relationship between drug abuse and student causing riot in Secondary Schools. Drug abuse is usually associated with aggressive behaviours, irritability and over excitement among other anti-social behaviours. This leads to violence and destruction of prosperity in Secondary Schools. This findings is in line with the findings of Sanni, Udoh, Okediji, Modo & Ezech (2010) who identified vandalism, drug abuse, weapon carrying, alcohol abuse, rape, examination malpractices, school violence, bullying, cultism, truancy and drop-out as anti-social behaviours often associated with juvenile delinquents.

The findings from research hypothesis two show that, there was significant relationship between drug abuse and students bullying fellow students in Secondary Schools. This is because drug addicted students usually threatened other students to join them in their bad habit. Also, the results from hypothesis three indicate that

there was significant relationship between drug abuse and students disobeying School Authorities in the Schools. This finding is similar to the findings of Esen, (1970) who stated that Nigeria Secondary School students under the influence of Indian hemp produce behaviour that is inconsistent with school discipline. He observed that the increasing incidence of drug abuse among Secondary School students is a contributory factor in the ugly confrontation between School administration and students.

Conclusions

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were drawn;

Drug abuse is usually associated with aggressive behaviours, irritability and over excitement among other anti-social behaviours which make some youths, especially students to misbehave in Schools by causing riot, bullying fellow students and disobedience to school authorities. This is because most Secondary School riots are usually led by drug addicted students and threatened other students to join them in order to cause violence in schools. Similarly, some drug addicted students come to school late and break-down school rules and regulations when they are under the influence of drugs. Therefore, stakeholders and members of the public at large should devote urgent and adequate attention to controlling alarming rate of drug abuse among the students who will be our leaders tomorrow.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendation are made;

1. Government should prevent the cultivation/sales of Indian hemp and other dangerous herbs around the neighbourhood of schools.
2. Government should strictly enforce its existing laws against drug abuse through its regulatory agencies.
3. Parents and guardians should endeavor to monitor their children and wards so that they do not engage in drug abuse.
4. School security should be heightened to carry out regular checking.
5. Counseling education should be introduced in schools to discourage those who have been engaging in the act.
6. Effort of the school authority should be geared towards intensive use of print and electronic media for public enlightenment on the negative effects of drugs.

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