

CAUSES OF DRUG ABUSE AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN OREDO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF EDO STATE

Johnson Agbonavbare Osaigbovo, (Ph.D)
Department of Education,
Benson Idahosa University,
Benin City,
Edo State.

Helen I. Ajudeonu, (Ph.D)
Department of Primary Education Studies,
College of Education,
Agbor,
Delta State.

And

Anyanwu Ndubuisi Godwin,
Department of Education,
Faculty of Arts & Education,
Benson Idahosa University,
Benin City,
Edo State.

Abstract

The study focused on the causes of drug abuse among secondary school students in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State, Nigeria. Five research questions were raised and analyzed in order to accomplish the purpose of this study, while survey design method was used in the study. The population for the study was drawn from eight (8) public and private secondary schools. The one hundred (100) students sampled for the study were randomly selected using simple random sampling technique. The instrument used for the collection of data was the questionnaire, which has a test reliability of 0.75. The data collected were statistically analyzed using simple percentage. The findings of the study revealed that secondary school students in Oredo Local Government of Edo State engaged in drug abuse which led to anti-social behaviour rampant

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among them. It was recommended that the government should handle the issue of drug abuse with the urgency it deserves, like other issues involving adolescent. Also, introduced drug education into secondary school curriculum in Nigeria, and this will deter students from the dangers of drug abuse medically, socially and legally.

Keywords: Drug, drug abuse, danger of drug abuse, drug education

Drug abuse is a social problem that has assumed an unprecedented dimension in educational institutions especially among the secondary school students in Nigeria. The undergraduates in universities that are using and abusing drugs did not start immediately they entered the university. There is a starting point. This problem is considered an issue of serious concern as it adversely affects the lives and performance of students involved as well as harmonious functioning of the entire structure of the society. Drug abuse and other associated problems are inimical to the survival and effective functioning of human societies. Experience has shown that every drug addict in the street came from a family and started his or her drug voyage from a point, the home or the school. The society dread and treat drug addicts as criminals that fall from the sky, but that is not the case, as the saying goes; the environment makes the master and the master makes the environment. There is a root to every problem, the earlier the root is discovered the nearer to the solution.

Drug abuse has been defined in various ways by different researchers. Amosun (2009) defined drug abuse as the use of mood modifying substance illegally excessively and in a socially unacceptable manner. According to him the drug range from those that should not even be taken without medical prescription such as cocaine, heroin, marijuana, LSD 25, to those socially acceptable beverages such as whisky, local gin (ogogoro, beer and other alcoholic drinks). In a related development, Ohire (1990) viewed drug abuse as the improper use or application of drugs by a person without proper knowledge of the drug and without due prescription from a qualified medical practitioner; this definition focuses on the psychoactive drugs, all drugs can be used to an extent that it turns into addiction when the drug user is unable to stop the use of drugs despite the harmful effect on the users social and economic life. Ajala (2009) opined that the problem of drug abuse is so grave that although it was originally conceived as the problem of selected few, it has extended beyond the characteristic of abusers. He went on to say that the abusers erroneously believed that drugs enhanced their performances, put them in a good mood; the accompanying problems of this act constitute a major threat to the well being of the society. The spread of the cases of truancy, examination malpractices, lack of cultural values and other anti-social behaviours, have become a challenge to secondary schools administrators. Hence this study is to determine the

causes of drug abuse among secondary school students in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.

Statement of the Problem

The rate at which cases of mental misbehaviour, truancy, examination malpractices, lack of cultural values, sexual promiscuity, and other anti-social behaviours are being reported among secondary schools in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State prompted this study to determine the causes of drug abuse among secondary school students.

Research Questions

The following research questions were posed for the study:

1. Are there evidences of drug abuse among secondary school students in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?
2. What drugs are mostly abused by students in secondary schools in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?
3. What are the sources of the drugs abuse among secondary school students in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?
4. Are there notable effects of drug abuse among secondary school students in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?

Purpose of the Study

The purposes of this study are:

1. to find out the extent to which the students (both males and females) use and abuse drug in secondary schools in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.
2. to determine the nature, trend and prevalence of drug use and abuse in the secondary schools in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.
3. to identify the factors responsible for the use and abuse of drugs by secondary school students in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.
4. to provide theoretical explanation to the causes of drug abuse among secondary school students in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State with a view for combating the health hazard.

Significance of the Study

The findings of this study will give guides in checking the pitfall and adjustment problems of drug abuse among secondary school students in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. It will also help the community, the general public and the government to stop or minimize the use and abuse of drugs especially by the young people because of its harmful effects on health.

Methodology

The descriptive survey research design was adopted to generate and analyze data to determine the causes of drug abuse among secondary school students in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. The target population comprised 800 students in six (6) public and two (2) private schools in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. The students in selected eight (8) public and private secondary schools in Oredo Local Government of Edo State formed the sample for the study. The researchers used simple random sampling procedure in obtaining the students' population sampled from each of the schools selected for the study. The sample size was therefore one hundred (100) students randomly selected from the eight (8) public and private secondary schools. The researchers used a structured questionnaire to collect data from the respondents. The questionnaire was divided into two sections for the purposes of generating data for the study. Section A was to collect personal information from the respondents while section B was meant to collect information about the research problem, that is, the "causes of drug abuse among secondary school students in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State". The instrument was face and content validated by experts in the Department of Education, Benson Idahosa University, Benin City. The test-retest method was used to establish the reliability of the instrument, using Pearson's moment correlation which produced a co-efficient of 0.75. The instrument was personally administered by the researchers and 95% rate of return was achieved. Data collected from returned questionnaires were scored on raw sheets and presented in tables. Frequencies and percentage ratings were used to analyze the data to elicit answers to the research questions.

Results

Data collected were analyzed using the descriptive statistics of simple percentage. The results of the findings are presented as follows:

Table 1: Number of Respondents

Sex	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
Male	50	62.5%
Female	30	37.5%
Total	80	100%

In the above table 1, 50 questionnaires representing 62.5% were administered to males, while 30 questionnaires of 37.5% to female.

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Table 2: Known Drugs among Secondary School Students

Drugs	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
Capsules	15	18.75
Cocaine	5	6.25
Indian hemp	25	31.25
Alcohol	15	18.75
Cigarette	15	18.75
Tobacco	5	6.25
Total	80	100%

Table 3: Reasons for Drug Involvement

Reasons	Numbers of Respondents	% of Respondents
To relieve pain	10	12.5%
To ease boredom	10	12.5%
To make one bold	15	18.75%
To make you happy	10	12.5%
To pass exams	25	31.5%
To pass right judgment	10	12.5%
Total	80	100%

Research Question 1

Are there evidences of drug abuse among secondary school students in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?

Table 4: Drug Abuse is the Use of Drug without Medical or Professional Direction

Responses	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
Yes	75	90%
No	5	10%
Total	80	100%

Table 4 indicated that majority of the respondents which is 90% are aware that drug abuse is the use of drugs without medical or professional direction by implication, the students were aware that drugs are abused by the students.

Research Question 2

What drugs are mostly abused by students in secondary schools in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?

Table 5: Have You Used any Drugs?

Responses	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
Yes	65	70%
No	15	30%
Total	80	100%

From the data in table 2, one will observe that majority of the respondents have used drugs, 70% while 30% declined.

Research Question 3

What are the sources of drugs abuse among secondary school students in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?

Table 6: How Did You Get the Drugs You Used?

Responses	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
Friends	30	37.5%
Buy	20	25%
Hospital	25	31.25%
I do not know	5	6.25%
Total	80	100%

From table 3, the respondents indicated that 37.5% of them got the drug they used from friends, 25% of them bought the drugs themselves, 31.25% of them got their drugs from the hospital while 6.25% say they do not know.

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Table 7: How Often Do You Take Drugs?

Responses	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
Everyday	15	18.25%
Once a week	10	12.5%
At parties	25	31.5%
Occasionally	20	25%
Not at all	10	12.5%
Total	80	100%

From table 7 above, it showed that majority of the respondents take these drugs at parties which represent 31.25%. 25% take the drugs occasionally, 18.25% take it everybody, 12.5% take it once a week, while 12.5% declined taking any drug.

Table 8: Do You Still Take any Drugs?

Responses	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
Yes	50	62.5%
No	30	37.5%
Total	80	100%

The statistics on table 5 showed that the number of respondents that still take drugs by far out weigh the number that say no. 62.5% say yes while 37.5% say no. It showed that there were evidences of drug abuse in secondary schools in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.

Table 9: Which of These Drugs Do You Take?

Responses	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
Capsule	15	18.75%
Cocaine	5	6.25%
Indian Hemp	25	31.25%
Alcohol	15	18.75%
Cigarette	15	18.25%
Tobacco	5	6.25%
Total	80	100%

From the above table 9, it showed that majority of the respondents take Indian Hemp 31.25% while capsule, alcohol and cigarette ranked second with 18.75% each while cocaine and tobacco were the last with 6.25% each.

Table 10: Do You Think Taking Drugs has Changed Your Life?

Responses	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
Yes	40	50%
No	40	50%
Total	80	100%

From the table 10 above, 50% of respondents agreed that taking drugs has changed their lives while 50% say no.

Table 11: Do You Smoke Cigarette?

Responses	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
Yes	30	37.5%
No	50	62.5%
Total	80	100%

Table 11 showed that 62.5% say no to cigarette while 37.5% agreed that they smoke.

Research Question 4

Are there notable effects of drug abuse among secondary students in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?

Table 12: How Do You Feel After You Have Taken the Drugs?

Responses	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
Happy	15	18.75%
Mentally quick	30	37.5%
Sad and unfriendly	15	18.75%
Very excited	20	25%
Total	80	100%

Table 12 indicated that majority of the respondents 37.5% admitted being mentally quick and alert, 25% feel much excited, 18.75% feel unhappy and 18.75% equally feel sad and unfriendly.

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Table 13: How Long Do these New Feeling Last?

Responses	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
5 minutes	15	18.75%
1-3 hours	25	31.25%
One day	15	31.25%
Very excited	20	31.25%
Total	80	100%

The above table 13 showed that 31.25% say 1 – 3 hours, 31.25% equally admitted that they do not know, 18.75% of the respondents say 5 minutes and 18.75% also say one day.

Table 14: Do You Take Drug More Often?

Responses	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
when you are alone	30	37.5%
When you are with friends	15	18.75%
When your exam is near	20	25%
Only parties	15	18.75%
Total	80	100%

The above table 14 showed that 37.5% of respondents take drugs when they are alone, 25% take drugs when their exam is near and 18.75% take drugs when they are with friends and at parties respectfully.

Table 15: Do You Think Events at Home Influence Your Decision to Take Drugs?

Responses	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
Yes	30	37.5%
No	50	62.5%%
Total	80	100%

Table 15 indicated that majority 62.5% take drugs not because of events at home while 37.5% take drugs because of events at home.

Table 16: Do You Think Drug Abuse Removes the Feelings of Fear and Insecurity and Such Enables One Fit Appropriately to the Group?

Responses	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
Yes	60	75%
No	20	25%
Total	80	100%

Table 16 above revealed that 75% percent say yes to the question while 25% say no to the above question.

Table 17: What Effort has Your Family Made in Stopping You From Drug Abuse?

Responses	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
Keeping drugs away	15	18.75%
Discipline their children about the friend they keep	35	43.75%
Educate them about drugs and its effects	20	20%
Discourage the use of drug without doctor's prescription	10	12.5%
Total	80	100%

The result on this table 17 showed that family that try to discipline their children about the friends they keep got the highest percentage of about 43.75%, the ones that educate them followed with 25%, the ones that keep away from them 18.75%, while the ones that discouraged the use of drugs without doctor's prescription was 12.5%.

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Table 18: Has there Been Unpleasant Issue Since You Started Taking Drugs?

Responses	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
Yes	55	68.75%
No	15	31.25%
Total	80	100%

Table 18 showed that majority of the respondents with 68.75% have had unpleasant experiences, ranging from sleeplessness, lack of concentration, aggressiveness to mental alertness, while 31.25% say they notice nothing.

Table 19: Do You Think Drug Abuse Leads to Mental Illness?

Responses	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
Yes	30	37.5%
No	50	62.5%
Total	80	100%

From table 19 above, result showed that majority of the respondents do not believes that the use and abuse of drugs most of the time led to mental illness, while 37.5% do agreed that it led to mental illness.

Table 20: Do You Support the Use and Abuse of Drugs?

Responses	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
Yes	50	62.5%
No	30	37.5%
Total	80	100%

Table 20 showed that majority of the respondents 62.5% supported the use of drugs because they believed it makes them bold, it relieves boredom, pain and unhappiness, while 37.5% disagreed.

Table 21: If Yes Why?

Responses	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
It relieves boredom	25	18.75%
Relieves pain	18	22.5%
Makes you bold	40	22.5%
Makes you happy	7	8.75%
Total	80	100%

Table 21 indicated that 40 of the respondents which represent 50% agreed that taking drugs makes you bold, 22.5% said it relieves pain, 18.75 said it relieves boredom while 8.75% said it makes them happy.

Table 22: Do You Think Drug Abuse Lower's the Body Resistance to Disease?

Responses	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
Yes	55	68.75%
No	25	31.25%
Total	80	100%

Table 22 indicated that majority of the respondents do agreed that drugs abuse lowers the body resistance to disease, this group represents 68.75% while 31.25% think otherwise.

Table 23: If Student is Caught Taking Drugs, Do You Support Capital Punishment for Such a Student?

Responses	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
Yes	60	75%
No	20	25%
Total	80	100%

The result on this table 23 showed that majority supported capital punishment with 75% responses, their reasons was that it will discourage others, while 25% had contrary view.

Discussion of Results

The data in table 4 and 8 generally shows very high percentage ratings revealing that there were evidences of drug abuse by secondary school students in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. The tables indicated that majority of the respondents which is 90% are aware that drug abuse is the use of drugs without medical or professional direction, by implication, the students are aware that drugs are abused by

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students, while table 8 showed that the number of respondents that still take drugs by far out weighs the number that say no. 62.5% say yes while 37.5% say no. It showed that there were evidences of drug abuse in secondary schools in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. This finding is in agreement with the opinions of Amosun and Ajala (2009) and Adeleke and Afolayan (2010) which stated that majority of secondary school students take psychoactive drugs, such as cocaine, Indian hemp, caffeine, librium capsule and alcohol, to keep them awake, feel bold to woo the opposite sex which most of them can not attempt without taking drugs and to be able to tackle any challenge.

The data in table 5 and 9 indicate that majority of the secondary school students in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State have used drug. Table 5 indicated that majority of the respondents have used drug, 70% while 30% declined, while table 9 showed that majority of the respondents take Indian hemp 31.25% while capsule, alcohol and cigarette ranked second with 18.75% each while cocaine and tobacco were the last with 6.25% each. This finding is in agreement with the opinions of Amosun and Ajala (2009) which contended that drugs mostly used and abused by secondary school students are: depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens, narcotics and sedatives. It is noticeable that most of these drugs are not cheap at all, so most student abusers engaged in all manners of activities to avail themselves of the opportunity to buy and use these drugs and crave for these drugs by dependent students led to crime. The finding in table 6 also indicated that 37.5% of secondary school students in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State got the drugs they used from friends, 25% of them bought the drugs themselves, 31.25% of them got their drugs from the hospital while 6.25% say they do not know.

The findings in tables 12, 19 and 22 revealed that majority of the students in secondary schools in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State agreed that drug abuse lower the body resistance to diseases, this group of students represented 68.75% while 31.25% think otherwise. This findings is in agreement with the opinions of Ajala (2009), Ahire (1990) and Adeleke and Afolayan (2010) which contented that drug abuse has gone a long way to create several health problems and damages in our societies such as health problems, mental illness, cancer of the lung, school drop outs, kidnapping, prostitution, juvenile delinquency and unruly behaviour among secondary school students in Nigeria.

Findings of the Study

The study found out the following:

1. There were evidences of drug abuse by secondary school students in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.
2. Majority of the secondary school students in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State have used different types of drugs for different purposes.

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3. Those students in secondary schools in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State purchased the drugs they used by themselves, also from friends and hospitals respectively.
4. Majority of the students in secondary schools in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State agreed that drug abuse has health implications, it lowers the body resistance to diseases.

Conclusion

The study was conducted to determine the causes of drug abuse among secondary school students in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. The research revealed that some secondary school students in Oredo L.G.A are involved in drugs abuse, it also showed that majority of the abusers are male students and few female students as well. The drugs abused by the students include: Indian hemp (Igbo), capsules, alcohol, cola nut and the sources of these drugs include buying from drug outlets, friends and hospitals. The study also revealed the causes of drug abuse among these students to include: to be bold, to excel academically, to overcome boredom, to be happy and a couple of other reasons. The researchers blamed the school authorities, the families, the government and the students for this ugly development. They therefore recommended that the stake holders in education should sit-up, because education is the most valuable tool in transforming society by generating ideas, skills, knowledge and creativity that would lead to social, economic and political regeneration of the society.

Recommendations

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

1. The government should handle the issues of drug abuse with the urgency it deserves, like other issues involving adolescent.
2. Professional counselors, at least one should be posted to every secondary school to help curtail the unruly behaviour of students by their professional advice, they should teach the students the best way to plan their studies and how to imbibe good reading culture in the school system.
3. Dope test should be conducted for every new student intake into secondary schools, and the test should be conducted again before the students finally graduated from the secondary schools.
4. Drug education should be introduced into the educational curriculum by the curriculum experts to educate the students on the dangers of drug abuse, medically, socially and legally.
5. The school authority should set up monitoring unit to monitor the students during sporting and other extracurricular activities to keep them away from evil habits especially the taking of hard drugs.
6. The activities of National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) should be extended to the secondary schools to create awareness about

the dangers of drug abuse. This can be done by organizing conferences, seminars, symposium and lectures.

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