

EFFECT OF DRUG ABUSE ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN UDI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ENUGU STATE

Abstract

This study investigated the effects of drug abuse on the academic performance of secondary school students in Udi Local Government Area of Enugu State. The study adopted a survey research design. Simple random sampling technique was used to select 10 out of 25 secondary schools in Udi local Government Area that were involved in the study. From each secondary school selected, stratified random sampling technique was used to select 15 students totaling 150 students. Out of the 150 students, 93 are females while 58 are males. A questionnaire instrument developed by the researcher and validated by experts was used for data collection. Cronbach alpha was employed in establishing the reliability of the instrument which yielded 0.89. The data collected with the instrument was analyzed using mean to answer the research questions while t-test statistic was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 significant level. The criterion of agreement of positive value is a mean of 2.5 and above and that of disagreement of negative value, a mean of below 2.5. Items with mean value of 3.5 and above were considered as being highly rated, The results showed that students' activities are not always monitored by parents and school authorities which gives them the opportunity to make use of drugs at their own time. It is recommended that school administrators should ensure that serious punishment is given to students who abuse drugs in order to discourage others from such act. Also, school administrators should set up a monitoring committee that should be monitoring the activities of the students in the school premises to ensure that drug abuse is checked.



EFFECT OF DRUG ABUSE ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN UDI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ENUGU STATE

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Abstract

This study investigated the effects of drug abuse on the academic performance of secondary school students in Udi Local Government Area of Enugu State. The study adopted a survey research design. Simple random sampling technique was used to select 10 out of 25 secondary schools in Udi local Government Area that were involved in the study. From each secondary school selected, stratified random sampling technique was used to select 15 students totaling 150 students. Out of the 150 students, 93 are females while 58 are males. A questionnaire instrument developed by the researcher and validated by experts was used for data collection. Cronbach alpha was employed in establishing the reliability of the instrument which yielded 0.89. The data collected with the instrument was analyzed using mean to answer the research questions while t-test statistic was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 significant level. The criterion of agreement of positive value is a mean of 2.5 and above and that of disagreement of negative value, a mean of below 2.5. Items with mean value of 3.5 and above were considered as being highly rated. The results showed that students' activities are not always monitored by parents and school authorities which gives them the opportunity to make use of drugs at their own time. It is recommended that school administrators should ensure that serious punishment is given to students who abuse drugs in order to discourage others from such act. Also, school administrators should set up a monitoring committee that should be monitoring the activities of the students in the school premises to ensure that drug abuse is checked.

Key Words: Drug Abuse, Academic Performance

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Introduction

Drug is defined as a medicine or other substance which has a psychological effect when ingested or otherwise introduced into the body (Akinyemi, 2018). They are being used to relieve pain and help control diseases in an organism. In line with this view, Okoye (2018) asserted that drug is a substance that could bring about a change in the biological function through its chemical actions. He also explained it as a substance that modifies perception, cognition, mood, behavior and general function of the body. They could thus be considered as chemical modifiers of the living tissues that could bring about physiological and behavioral changes. In other words, drug is any substance which is used for treatment or prevention of diseases in man and animals. There are many kinds of drugs depending on their uses, quantity used and effects such as stimulants, narcotics, depressants, inhalants among others and most of them are being abused.

Drug abuse according to Wolmer (2018) is the act of indiscriminate use of drugs with strict adherence to professional advice. According to him, drug abuse is a global problem that poses a great danger to the lives of individuals in the society. The rate of drug abuse has been on the increase due to the increasing availability of many kinds of drugs among ever widening spectrum of consumers. Obot (2017) complained that many adolescents in secondary schools use and abuse some drugs in and outside the school. According to her, many of the adolescents at one point in time search for substances that will sustain and protect them and also act on the nervous system to produce pleasurable sensation. Okechukwu (2017) emphasized that students, especially those in secondary schools tend to see the drug user as one who is tough, bold and strong. He lamented that many youngsters have been known to use drugs at the instance of peers, elders or siblings. Students

who usually feel inadequate have been known to use drugs to achieve social acceptance. Abdullahi (2017) frowned at the uncontrollable ways and manners in which drugs are sold to the public in our markets and medical stores which are the contributory factors to drug abuse. According to him, the use of drugs in a manner that deviates from medically approved way or method constitutes abuse. It is a common thing among adolescents especially those in secondary schools to abuse drugs of various types. Ajala (2016) stressed that over the years, the use of hard drugs like alcohol, sedatives, cocaine, heroin, Indian hemp, tobacco morphine, marijuana and others have drastically been on the increase among secondary school students. In other words, students under the influence drugs shed all inhibitions and produce behavior 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. An International Conference on drug abuse in Kampala (2013) reported that young people in consumption countries are the most vulnerable section of population especially those in secondary schools who are mostly unable to resist peer pressure and start experimenting with drugs in and outside the school. Okorodudu & Okorodudu (2014) in their research work, indicated that the problem of drug abuse know no boundaries or social class. They further explained that it impedes the development of any society as it is a threat to life, health, dignity and prosperity of all individuals. According to them, drug abuse could lead to reduced academic performance or even halt one's entire academic process.

Academic performance according to Hattie (2019) is the outcome that indicates the extent to which a person has accomplished specific goals that were the focus of activities in instructional

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environments, specifically in schools. Therefore, academic performance should be considered to be a multi faceted construct that comprises different domains of learning. Kalunta (2017) revealed that the most common drugs or substances that are abused by secondary school students and hinder their academic performance are marijuana, Indian hemp, tramadol, mandrax, caffeine, codeine among others. He stressed that these drugs are abused for different reasons ranging from intoxication and addiction. He also stated that most secondary school students abuse coffee and kolanut which are known to contain high percentage just to keep awake especially during examination. These substances have negative effects on students' health and academic performance as they lead to mental disorder, ill health, death and failure in examination. They make students to have poor concentration in class, high rate of absenteeism and failure in exams leading to poor academic performance. It is therefore highly regrettable that our students are exposed to dangers inherent in drug abuse in their formative years.

Statement of the Problem

Despite the overwhelming intervention strategies by the government, religious organizations and many other keen stakeholders in the educational sector to curb the problem of drug abuse among secondary school students, the number of students who involve themselves in drug abuse seem to be escalating day by day. Nigeria has experienced inefficiencies in the school system especially at the secondary school level such declining academic performance, apathy in learning activities and subsequent dropout in schools due to the problem of drug abuse among secondary school students. The high rate of riots and other forms of students' unrest in secondary schools is alarming and has caused a great deal of public concern. It threatens to derail the students by demotivating them in learning and subsequently

ruining the school going children whom the government intends to rely on in driving the economy to the next level. This therefore forms the justification of the current study that seeks to investigate the effect of drug abuse on the academic performance of secondary school students in public secondary schools in Udi Local Government Area of Enugu State.

Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study:

1. What are the causes of drug abuse among secondary school students in Udi Local Government Area of Enugu State?
2. What are the effects of drug abuse on the academic performance of secondary school students in Udi Local Government Area of Enugu State?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study and were tested at 0.05 level of significance:

H₀₁: There is no significant difference in the mean response scores of male and female students on the causes of drug abuse among secondary school students in Udi Local Government Area of Enugu State.

H₀₂: There is no significant difference in the mean response scores of male and female students on the effect of drug abuse on the academic performance of secondary school students in Udi Local Government Area of Enugu State.

Research Methods

This study adopted a survey research design. The study was carried out in public secondary schools in Udi Local Government Area of Enugu State, Nigeria. The population of the study consisted of all the 1,934 2017/2018 SS2 students in 25 secondary schools in Udi Local Government Area of Enugu State. Simple random sampling technique was used to select 10 out of 25 secondary schools in Udi local Government Area



that were involved in the study. From each secondary school selected, stratified random sampling technique was used to select 15 students totaling 150 students. Out of the 150 students, 93 are females while 58 are males.

A structured questionnaire is the instrument used for data collection. The questionnaire took the form of a four point rating scale which ranges from Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD). They were rated 4, 3, 2, and 1 respectively. The instrument was face validated by three experts in Measurement and Evaluation and also from the Department of Education Foundations from University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

The instrument was pilot tested using 50 subjects that did not participate in the main study. Cronbach alpha was employed in establishing the reliability of the instrument which yielded 0.89. The data collected with the instrument was analyzed using mean to answer the research questions while t-test statistic was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 significant level. The criterion of agreement of positive value is a mean of 2.5 and above and that of disagreement of negative value, a mean of below 2.5. Items with mean value of 3.5 and above were considered as being highly rated.

Results

The findings of the study were presented in line with the research questions and hypotheses.

Table 2: The mean responses of male and female students on the effects of drug abuse on the academic performance of secondary school students.

S/N	ITEMS	Mean Male Teachers	Mean Females Teachers	Mean of Means	Decision
1.	Drug abuse helps students to concentrate while studying	1.9	2.3	2.1	Rejected
2.	Students who abuse drugs tend to avoid classes.	3.5	3.6	3.6	Accepted
3.	Students who abuse drugs do not have interest in academics.	3.0	3.2	3.1	Accepted
4.	Students who abuse drugs pass very well in examinations	2.1	2.3	2.2	Rejected

Research Question 1: The research question one was answered using the table below.

Table 1. The mean responses of male and female students on the causes of drug abuse among secondary school students in Udi LGA.

S / N	ITEMS	Mean Male Teachers	Mean Females Teachers	Mean of Means	Decision
1	Students abuse drugs in order to stay awake during examinations.	3.4	3.6	3.5	Accepted
2	Students abuse drugs because they want to identify with their friends.	3.4	3.6	3.5	Accepted
3	Students abuse drugs because it helps them maintain good health	2.2	2.4	2.3	Rejected
4	Students abuse drugs because it gives them the boldness to face anybody	3.3	3.2	3.3	Accepted
5	Students abuse drugs because it gets them intoxicated	2.7	3.0	2.9	Accepted
	Total				

Table 1 showed that the respondents rated all the items as the causes of drug abuse among secondary school students except item 3 which has the mean below the acceptance criterion of 2.5.

Research Question 2: What are the effects of drug abuse on the academic performance of secondary school students



5.	Students who abuse drugs do not comprehend well during lessons.	3.5	3.6	3.6	Accepted
Total					

Table 2 revealed that the respondents rated items 2, 3 and 5 as the effects of drug abuse on the academic performance of students while items 1 and 4 were rejected since their means were below the acceptance criterion.

Table 3: Analysis of t-test statistic of mean responses of male and female students on the causes of drug abuse among secondary school students.

Respondents	N	Mean	S.D.	Df	t-cal val.	t-crit. Val	Decision
Males	58	3.1	1.732	149	0.35	1.96	Accept Ho
Females	93	3.0	1.760				

Table 3 shows that the t-cal. Value (0.35) is less than t-crit. Value (1.96) which means that the hypothesis of no significant difference is not rejected ($p < 0.5$). Therefore, there is no significant difference in the mean response scores of male and female students on the causes of drug abuse among secondary school students.

Table 4: Analysis of t-test statistic of mean responses of male and female students on the effects of drug abuse on the academic performance of secondary school students.

Respondents	N	Mean	S.D.	Df	t-cal val.	t-crit. val.	Decision
Males	58	3.0	1.673	149	0.71	1.96	Accept Ho
Females	93	2.8	1.732				

Table 4 shows that the t-cal. Value (0.71) is less than t-crit. Value (1.96) which means that the hypothesis of no significant difference is not rejected ($p < 0.5$). Therefore, there is no significant difference in the mean response scores of male and female students on the effect of drug abuse on the

academic performance of secondary school students.

Discussion of Results

Research question one was on the causes of drug abuse among secondary school students. Table 1 showed that all the items were positively rated by the respondents as the causes of drug abuse among secondary school students except item 3 which was rejected. This finding showed that students' activities are not always monitored by parents and school authorities which gives them the opportunity to make use of drugs at their own time. In support of this finding, Abdulahi (2009) suggested that schools should at least once in a session, organize a program involving the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) to educate students on the adverse effects of the use of drugs. He maintains that schools should encourage effective study habit for students which involve sufficient recreational activities, enough resting time and sleep.

Table 2 revealed that items 2, 3 and 5 are the effects of drug abuse on the academic performance of students while items 1 and 4 were rejected. The accepted items suggested that students take a lot of risks while trying to show off their youthful exuberance. This could be the reason (Nwobodo, 2012) stated that during adolescence, there is increased propensity for risk taking. He explained that without risk taking, teenagers would not have the motivation or confidence to make changes in the society.

Conclusion

The study has demonstrated that drug abuse is being caused by a lot of factors which could be avoided by applying close monitoring of the students both in school and at home. The study also showed that drug abuse has great negative

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effects on the academic performance of secondary school students which leads to failure in examinations and possibly, making the students to be academically frustrated which can lead to dropping out of school. The respondents (students) all agreed that students who abuse drugs avoid classes, do not concentrate, do not comprehend when the teacher is teaching and end up not passing well in examinations as were seen from no significant difference in the mean response scores of male and female students on the issue. In view of this research report, the curbing of drug abuse among secondary school students is very important in order to sanitize our education system and produce youths who will be mentally stable to handle the affairs of the society.

Recommendations

Recommendations were made based on the findings of the study:

1. School administrators should ensure that serious punishment is given to students who abuse drugs in order to discourage others from such act.
2. School administrators should set up a monitoring committee that should be monitoring the activities of the students in the school premises to ensure that drug abuse is checked.
3. Programs such as workshops and seminars should always be conducted in the school in order to enlighten the students more on the negative effects of drug abuse both on their academic performance and their health.
4. The Ministry of Education should include drug abuse as a subject in the curriculum. By so doing, enough awareness will be created among the students about the dangers of abusing drugs.

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