

Effect of Drug Abuse Among Youth and Its Impact on Learning

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Abstract: Drug abuse is a global phenomena found in most countries of the world among youth. Although it covers various age range group, its mostly common in youth between 18 – 35 years of age. A total of 100 structured questionnaires were distributed to the respondents, followed by face to face interview to establish a relationship between what is in the questionnaire and responses from the interview. It has been found out that youth of the age range 18 – 25 years were more in number in terms of drug misuse. Unemployment and low level of education also play a role in drug abuse. Males are more in number than female in drug abuse misuse due cultural and religious reasons. Memory losses, school attendance, difficulty in concentration, poor performance are some of the educational consequences in drug abuse. Parents must keep watchful eyes on the movement of their children and their peers.

Key words: Drug misuse, youth, adverse effect and learning.

I. Introduction

Drug is any chemical substance which when taking into the body interact with tissues to modify the biochemical process of the body. Some of the drug exerts major effect on the body or brain causing (sleeping) stimulation which results in change of mode and behavior. Substance abuse is widespread with an estimated 120 million users of hard drugs such as cocaine, heroin, and other synthetic drugs. In 2013 drug use disorders resulted in 127,000 deaths up from 53,000 in 1990 (1). The highest number of deaths is from opioid use disorders at 51,000 (1). Cocaine use disorder resulted in 4,300 deaths and amphetamine use disorder resulted in 3,800 deaths (1). Alcohol use disorders resulted in an additional 139,000 deaths.^[5] In many cases criminal or anti-social behavior occurs when the person is under the influence of a drug, and long term personality changes in individuals may occur as well.^[3] In addition to possible physical, social, and psychological harm, use of some drugs may also lead to criminal penalties, although these vary widely depending on the local jurisdiction (2).

These methods of taking drug are through injection, sniffing, rubbing all over the body and translating (3). Model drugs are drugs which are not addictive in nature e.g. paracetamol, dagger etc they are used for restoration and are socially accepted and also are freely available. Local/herbal drugs are drugs extracted from the branches of tree, herbs and shrubs used locally by people to cure disease like fever, headache etc. Illicit are drugs which are addictive in nature e.g. cocaine, marijuana, Indian hemp, etc they are synthetic drugs and socially unaccepted. Controlled availability, these groups of drug have peculiarities because it's under strike made available (4). disclose that use of drug without prescriptions from medical officer or advices of a pharmacist constitute abuse of drugs. This is a very common phenomena in our society today, people feel that the uses of a particular drug can cure the ailment they are suffering from and they purchase their drug and uses them without prescription of a medical officer or even an advice by the pharmacists, other go for the past of earlier prescription received a different ailment. All ailments must receive medical attention and have the right drug prescription received in the hospital after a thorough examination and accurate diagnosis.

Substance abuse, also known as drug abuse and substance use disorder, is a patterned use of a drug in which the user consumes the substance in amounts or with methods which are harmful to themselves or others, and is a form of substance-related disorder. Widely differing definitions of drug abuse are used in public health, medical and criminal justice contexts. The exact cause of substance abuse is not clear, with theories including: a genetic disposition; learned from others - or a habit which if addiction develops, manifests as a chronic debilitating disease.^[2] Drugs most often associated with this term include: alcohol, substituted amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines (particularly alprazolam, lorazepam, diazepam and clonazepam), cocaine, methaqualone, cannabis and opioids.

Drug misuse is a term used commonly when prescription medication with sedative, anxiolytic, analgesic, or stimulant properties are used for mood alteration or intoxication ignoring the fact that overdose of such medicines have serious adverse effects. Prescription misuse has been defined differently and rather inconsistently based on status of drug prescription, the uses without a prescription, intentional use to achieve

intoxicating effects, route of administration, co-ingestion with alcohol, and the presence or absence of dependence symptoms (5)(6). Chronic use leads to a change in the central nervous system which means the patient has developed tolerance to the medicine that more of the substance is needed in order to produce desired effects. When this happens, any effort to stop or reduce the use of this substance would cause withdrawal symptoms to occur (7). The aim of this paper is to assess the role of peer group, home orientation, modern communication system, vendors & herbalists on the prevalence drug misuse among youth in Kano state

II. Methodology

2.1 Research Design

The design is survey research in which population or items are studied by collecting and analyzing data from only few people (i.e. sample).

2.2 Population of the Study

The population of the study comprises one hundred sample questionnaires. This population is from three (3) different towns, i.e. Danhassan, Karfi and Gundutse (A suburb of Kano metropolitan) all in Kura District, Kano state and 100 questionnaires were used for the study. Systematic sampling is used for sample selection.

2.3 Instrument for Data Collection

The instrument used to collect out data includes:-

Questionnaires: were used to obtain information and gather data from a potentially large number of respondents.

Interview: Refers to face-to-face/telephone encounter between the interviewer and the interviewee in order to generate desired data.

III. Results and Discussion

3.1 Age

Respondents of the range 18-25 years were found to engage in drug abuse more than 26-35 age range years, this is may likely be because a person of 18-25 years is at late adolescents want to established hundred percent control like an adult of 26-35 years. Those age groups (18-25) are great in multi dimensional perception and can easily be taken away by the object of the social set up

3.2 Gender

Male is more strongly abused than female due to the number of respondent shown in this work, this is because male are more in number than females in the society, because of the religious/societal values attached to them.

3.3 Employment

This is another factor that causes drug abuse. Unemployment was found to have more devastating effect on the youth. In the study area we visited, youth take depressant in order to have peace of mind as the only alternative to escape from frustration and committing other offences such as robbery, theft, e t c.

3.4 Higher Educational Qualification

The respondent shows that the drug abuse is mostly at secondary school level, followed by students of tertiary institution and lastly primary school pupils. This is because secondary level students are adolescence who appears to be ego-centric.

Table 1: Results on the personal data and drug abuse information on the respondents

S/No	PERSONAL DATA	RESULT	PERCENTAGE %
I	Age		
	18-25	37	61%
	26-35	23	38%
ii	Gender		
	Male	39	65%
	Female	21	35%
lii	Employment		
	employment	15	25%
	Unemployment	45	75%
Iv	Marital status-		
	Single	35	58%
	Married	25	41%
V	Highest education qualification		

Primary	3	5%
Secondary	41	68%
Tertiary	16	27%

Table 2: Influence of peer group, home orientation, communication system and vendors and herbalists on drug abuse.

S/No	Questionnaire	Result	Percentage%	
I	Peer group influence	Yes	42	70%
		No	10	16%
ii	Home orientation	Yes	17	28%
		No	39	65%
Iii	Communication system	Yes	38	63%
		No	16	26%
Iv	Vendors & herbalist	Yes	43	71%
		No	14	23%

The summary of this finding shows the effect of drug abuse among youth, as we have seen on peer group influence where about 70% out of hundred 100% of drug users are influenced by their peers as target, through interaction. The second of this is home orientation, 28% of the respondents out of hundred 100% were agreed, lack of proper checking of the activities and proper orientation of the youth, as some of the reason that resulted into this problem. The influence of modern communication system plays a vital role in influencing youth into drug abuse on this concept. Youth access mobiles phone to view indiscriminate use of drugs via pictures, films e t c and later experiment it, so parent must keep a regular surveillance on their ward.

The last factor of concern is the vendors & herbalist were seventy one (71%) out of hundred (100%) of the respondents strongly agreed on their influence over youth drug misuse through selling the drug to the youth indiscriminately

Consequently, results obtained from our studies indicated that a greater percentage of those who are engaged in drug abuse are youth of the age range 18-25 years and males were found to more in number than females, this may likely be due to the cultural and as well as religious factors that prevent females from participation and intermingling with male counterpart. Peer group, communication system and vendors and herbalist plays vital role in influencing youth in to drug abuse. (8) state further that three strategies have been discovered by science of controlling drug abuse, the strategies involves in controlling drug abuse are primary, secondary and and tertiary controls.

Primary Controls: - In this regard individuals should desist from using drugs for which there is no medical test. Parent and guardian should watch for their children and watch any change in the usual behavioral of a child.

Secondary Controls: - In this case, anyone who has been found to be experimenting on drugs should not be allowed to become a full pledge addict. There should be proper counseling on the harmful' effect of drug abuse among youth and rehabilitate the affected child.

Tertiary Controls: - In this aspect measures are taken to rehabilitate the full pledge addict, these could be achieved in the rehabilitation centres or at homes under the strict medical supervision. The individual should be in the society and full supervision of these day to day activities should be carried toward relapse of addiction and process should include educating the affected children.

Some Common Adverse Consequential Effect of Drug Abuse are;

- a. Signs of physicals deterioration e.g. memory losses, short attention, and difficulty in concentration.
- b. Poor physical coordination, slurred or incoherent speeches unhealthy appearances, bloody or dilated eye.
- c. Change in behavior pattern like
 - i. Downward performance at schools
 - ii. Changes of friends
 - iii. Increase absence during schools
 - iv. Increase hostility, irritability and secretiveness
 - v. All or part of these symptoms are observed in the drug addict

The summary of this finding shows us the influence of drug abuse among youth, as we have seen on peer group influence, its about 70% out of hundred 100% as through which peer group influence appears as target, though interaction, pressing them to do what they don't intend to do.

The second of this is home orientation, 28% of the respondents out of hundred 100% were agreed, lack of proper checking of the activities of the youth, lack of proper orientation on the youth. These are the some of

the roles that parent play in the concept. The third finding is the influence that roles of modern communication system play on this concept. Youth access mobile phone to view indiscriminate use of drugs via pictures, films etc and later experiment it, so parent must keep a regular surveillance on their ward. Vendors & herbalist plays a vital role in influencing youth in drug abuse as seventy one (71%) out of hundred (100%) of the respondents strongly agreed on this view and only 14% and strongly disagreed on their role, as they take part by selling the drug to the youth indiscriminately.

IV. Conclusion

The area where we conducted our research are Kura District which comprises the different towns like Dan Hassan, Gundutse, and Karfi town, smoking of cannabis and drinking beer among others are prevalent among youth in that area although more common with the secondary school students than tertiary and primary school boys. Other measures to be taken are:

1. Parent should take appropriate measure to see that their children should not engaged themselves in this bad habit.
2. Government should enforce a law by arresting anybody who is found taking drugs.
3. Society has their own roles to play on these bad behaviors (drug abuse) anybody found they should be reporting to nearest police station or district head of the town.

V. Recommendation

We recommended that government must enact measures on people that are selling drugs indiscriminately and should be supervising the target area at least monthly (if possible) and be checking up the activities of the victims. When children are at home their parent should know the friends (peer group) they keep and interact with.

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