

INFLUENCE OF DRUG ABUSE ON THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL FEMALE STUDENTS IN NASARAWA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Drug abuse most especially among female students is causing a lot of concerns and need to be handled with all seriousness. The constant abuse of drugs by female students in our secondary schools has led to juvenile delinquencies, lost of concentration, truancy, school drop outs and poor academic achievements among female students. The study was therefore carried out to investigate the influence of drug abuse on academic achievements of senior secondary school female students in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The study was guided by one objective, one research question and one null hypothesis. The objective of the study was to determine the influence of drug abuse on the academic achievement of female senior secondary school students in Nasarawa State. The study employed a descriptive survey research design and the population of the study was 10,590 female students from 235 public senior secondary schools in the state with a sample of 322 female students selected using multi stage sampling techniques. A questionnaire tagged "Drug Abuse and Academic Achievement" (DA&AA) was used as instrument for data collection. Mean and standard deviations were used to answer the research question while the null hypothesis was tested at 0.05 significant level using t- test. Findings of the paper revealed that drug abuse has led to poor academic achievement among female senior secondary school students in the area. The study therefore recommends that the secondary school authorities in Nasarawa state should liaise with other relevant agencies to embark on sensitization campaign in secondary schools on the danger of indulging in drug abuse.

Keywords: Drug abuse, Academic achievement, Secondary education, Female students, Nasarawa State.

Introduction

Today drug abuse or drug addiction is one of the most vexing and pervasive problems that almost all countries including Nigeria are battling with in as far as administration and management of schools are concerned. The consequences on the youths are disastrous and devastating especially the negative effects in schools and the communities. This had been aggravated by the rapid social and technology changes which have had a corrupting influence on the youth in schools. Drug abuse, according to Ajayi and Ayodele (2002), is the wrong use or inappropriate use of chemical substances that are capable of changing functions of cells in the body. Nodding (2010) also posit that drug abuse is a real threat to the youth; parents; schools and the economies of the world countries that could rely on the valuable youth potential that is being robbed by drugs. It has also translated to an impediment in as far as the management of schools is concerned.

Drug abuse is a global health and social problem. It is one of the major problems affecting the youth both in school and out of school. It seems to have impacted negatively on the academic, social, psychological, economical and physiological development among the abusers (Oluremi; 2012). Therefore, it has become a matter of great concern to educational stakeholders, medical practitioners, sociologists, religious leaders, counselors and parents thus needing urgent attention (Adewuya, 2015).

Undoubtedly, educational institutions worldwide seem to be threatened by the global phenomenon of drug use, abuse and the abuse of other substances. Whereas their aim is to transmit knowledge, beliefs, values, norms, they seem to be over loaded by the monster of drug and substance abuse (Mclean and Ellrod, 2012). The world over the practice is affecting school systems through the commonly abused drugs being cocaine, Indian hemp (marijuana); Kuber; cigarettes, codeine and petrol sniffing. Ajayi and Ekundayo (2010) posited that drug abuse has been identified as a serious constraint to effective teaching, administration of schools and learning process in the Nigerian educational system. According to Sambo (2018) cannabis is by far the most commonly used illicit drug with usage of 4% of the world population compared to 1% for all other drugs combined. Oshodi, Aina and Onajole (2010) also explained that marijuana is the most commonly used substance followed by tobacco.

Nigeria is one of the leading countries with high numbers of users of cannabis and other drugs; with about 5 to 10% using alcohol, cannabis and other drugs. As a consequence of the prevalence of drug abuse in society, schools have now become places where the imparting of morals is a challenge. Students abuse drugs like tobacco, alcohol, tramadol, cough syrup, and other caffeinated substances such as Nescafe to reduce pain, anxiety and tension. Some of the reasons for their use are; parental background, peer group influence, isolation and loneliness. Other reasons are elevation of mood, wakefulness, increased confidence and feeling of euphoria (Sambo, 2018).

What is evident is the student's lack of academic concentration and the falling academic standards in schools most especially Mc Crystal, Higgins and Percy (2007) confirmed that for many adolescent girls, drug abuse has now become a part of their lives and perhaps may have

now contributed to their academic failure. At the center of the habit of drug use is the inconveniences school administration are faced with such as breaking the rules by students and lawlessness and anti social behavior. In most cities in Nasarawa State, drug and substance abuse among secondary school students is a menace. It has percolated into the school systems and thus making their management difficult (Oshodi et al, 2010). Drug and substance abuse among secondary school students has been linked to, intolerance, violence, insecurity, and antisocial behavior in schools that pose difficulties in management of schools. It has also been linked to students' poor academic performance; defiance to school rules and regulations and poor student academic performance in secondary schools in the Nigerian states (Oshodi et al, 2010). Hence, the study was set to determine the influence of drug abuse on the academic achievement of senior secondary school female students in Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Drug abuse is a common phenomenon among secondary school students in Nigeria and Nasarawa State in particular. It has also been noted that parents, peer groups, and society at large contribute to the alarming rate of drugs or substance abuse. Secondary schools rampantly experience acts of vandalism, weapon carrying, alcohol abuse, rape, examination malpractices, school violence, strikes, bullying, cultism, truancy, and school drop-outs and other anti-social behavior. There is on redeemable juvenile delinquency and disobedience to teacher and school administrators. These have posed a threat in the administration and management of schools. Undoubtedly, Secondary school education is regarded as the most important stage in the educational cycle of a child as it is the level at which learners acquire proficiency in both academic and applied subjects, and the foundation of further education and work.

Unfortunately, drugs and substances have an impact on students' academic achievement because they affect students' health, discipline, behaviour and participation in learning. It is possible that drugs and substance abuse could be the cause of low performance of girls in Nasarawa state given that the state has been experiencing an increase in cases of drugs and substances use among female students. Reports from the Nasarawa State Ministry of Education indicated that students, teachers, and the communities around schools are concerned with the level of alcohol and tobacco abuse.

The aim of the study was to determine the effects of drug abuse on the academic achievement of Senior Secondary School female students in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The specific objective is to:

1. determine the influence of drug abuse on the academic achievements of Senior Secondary School female students in Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

The following research question guided the study:

1. What is the influence of drug abuse on the academic achievements of Senior Secondary School female students in Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

The following null hypothesis will be tested at 0.05 level of significance;

H₀: Drug abuse has no significance influence on the academic achievements of Senior Secondary School female students in Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

Literature Review

This section provides information on some concepts associated with the study. It also looks at the assessment of literatures in connection to this topic. Hence, this section emphasizes on these few sub-topics; concepts of drug abuse, drug abuse among female students and academic achievement.

Concept of Drug Abuse

“Drug is defined as any substance, which is used for treatment or prevention of a disease in man and animals. Drug alters the body functions either positively or otherwise depending on the body composition of the user, the type of drug used, the amount used and whether used singly or with other drugs at the same time”. NAFDAC (2000) as cited by Haladu (2013) 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 rapidly growing global problem (UNODC, 2007).

The problem of drug abuse places a significant threat to the social, health, economic fabrics of the families, society and the entire nations. (Oshodi, Aina&Onajole, 2010). Almost all the countries in the world are affected from one or more drug being abused by its citizen’s (UNODC, 2007) and the increase of drug abuse globally has brought problems such as increase in violence and crime, increase in Hepatitis B and C virus, increase in HIV/AIDS diseases, collapse of the veins and in the social structure (UNODC, 2007; Oshodi, Aina, &Onajole, 2010). Horrible youthful activities are widespread in Nigeria to the extent that they have been giving a lot of concern to the society, government and other stake holders in Nigeria. In primary schools, peers engage in organized crimes and disrupt normal academic programs. In secondary schools and most Nigerian Universities, the activities of secret cults are known to have been source of threat to lives and property. Outside the campuses, a lot of ritual killings are taking place (Oshodi, Aina&Onajole, 2010).

Concept of Academic Achievement

Academic achievement is the measure of what a student has accomplished after exposure to educational program. Edinyang, (2012) defined academic achievement as the outcome of education which reveals the extent to which a student, teacher or institution have achieved their educational goals. Levin (2011), posits that academic achievement is important for the successful development of young people in every society as students who perform academically well in schools are better able to make good transition to adulthood and achieve occupational and economic successes. On the other hand, children from poor family background and poor parenting faced so many challenges in their educational pursuit which lead to their low academic achievements.

Methodology

The design adopted for this study was descriptive survey design. This design allowed the researcher to collect data from respondents using questionnaire and subject them to statistical analysis. The choice of the survey design is based on the opinion of Ali (2006) who stated that, when a study involves a population or a sample of respondents from whom information is obtained either verbally or through questionnaire, the ideal design method to be adopted is the descriptive survey design.

The target population for the study was 10590 SSII female senior secondary school students from all the public senior secondary schools in Nasarawa State. There are 235 public senior secondary schools in Nasarawa State which are distributed across the three Senatorial zones of the state as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Population of the Study (Students)

S/N	Zone	No. of schools	No. of female students
1	Nasarawa South	105	3685
2	Nasarawa North	60	2049
3	Nasarawa West	70	4856
	Total	235	10,590

Source: Nasarawa State Ministry of Education, 2021/2022

The sample size for the study comprises of 322 SS II students from the public senior secondary schools in Nasarawa State. The sample size was adopted using a table for determining sample size for research activities by Paul C. Boyd, Educational and Psychological Measurement (2006). The study adopted multi-stage sample procedure. The schools for the study were clustered into three (3) Senatorial zones, Nasarawa South, Nasarawa North and Nasarawa West. A non-proportionate stratified random sampling procedure was used to draw two (2) schools from each zone; this is to accommodate zones with few schools, a total number of six schools were drawn to represent the entire schools. A proportionate stratified random sampling procedure was used to select students from the sampled school in each senatorial zone.

The researchers purposely used SS II students as the respondents considering the fact that students at that level have been academically exposed and may be able to handle the questionnaire, while those in SS III, are preparing for their final examination and may not have time to participate in the study, and SSI are new in the school and may not be stable enough to participate as respondents. The sample of the study is shown in Table2.

Table 2: Sample Size of the Study

S/No	Schools	Population	Sample
1.	GSS Maina- Lafia	158	77
2.	GSS Shabu	105	43
3.	GSS Akwanga Central	120	42
4.	GSS N/Eggon	106	36
5.	GSS Karu	84	51
6.	GSS Yelwa- Keffi	156	73
	Total	729	322

The study used questionnaire as the main source of data collection. Questionnaire is a data gathering method that will enable the researcher to ask specific questions dissected to a particular purpose to the target population either directly or by post. The questionnaire labelled "Drug Abuse and Academic Achievements (DA&AA)" was structured based on a five-point likert-scale and consists of two sections. Section A deals with the demographic data of the respondent such as Gender and School location while section B deals with items

revolving around the research question and hypothesis on drug abuse and academic achievement.

The research instrument was administered by the researchers directly to the respondents and was collected back by the researchers immediately after completion. The questionnaires were administered to public senior secondary students when the school is in session and during school hours. This is important because the schools will provide the most suitable pool of children within the target population. The researchers were assisted by two research assistants that were recruited among the secondary school teachers in the sampled schools.

Data collected was analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Mean and standard deviations was used to answer the research question while the hypothesis was however tested at 0.05 level of significance using t- test. In answering the research question, any weighted mean below 2.5 was considered disagree while above was considered agree. In testing the hypothesis, if the p-values were found to be less than 0.05, the null hypotheses will be rejected while for those greater than 0.05 will be accepted or retained.

Results

Data obtained from the administration of questionnaire was presented in form of table, mean and standard deviations and also t- test statistics. The section tried to answer the research question and testing of hypothesis.

Answer to Research Questions

The research question was answered using mean and standard deviations.

Research Question: What is the influence of drug abuse on the academic achievements of Senior Secondary School female students in Nasarawa State, Nigeria?

Table 3: Mean Scores of Respondents' Opinions on the Influence of Drug Abuse on the Academic Achievement of Senior Secondary School Female Students in Nasarawa State

S/N	Items	SA	A	D	SD	Mean	Std Dev.	Remarks
1	Drug abuse leads to psychological trauma, cognitive and memory dysfunction	106	108	67	41	2.87	.95	Effective
2	Drug abuse is closely associated to depression, fear and anxiety.	98	126	74	24	2.93	.90	Effective
3	Taking of hard drugs lead to loss of concentration in schools	114	136	53	19	3.07	.85	Effective
4	Hard drugs is one of the major causes of student' drop out in schools	109	121	66	36	3.00	.89	Effective
5	Students who engaged in taking of hard drugs do not attend classes regularly	157	83	50	32	3.13	.82	Effective

6	It is difficult for students involved in taking of hard drugs to do their homework and assignments	141	93	53	35	3.06	.80	Effective
7	Taking of hard drugs leads to phobia in most subjects offered in the school	118	96	78	30	2.94	1.17	Effective
Total						3.00	0.91	

Table 3 revealed the mean and standard deviation ratings regarding the responses of respondents on the influence of drug abuse on the academic achievement of senior secondary school female students in Nasarawa State. The mean values obtained based on responses to items were 2.87, 2.93, 3.07, 3.00, 3.13, 3.06 and 2.94 which were all more than 2.5 benchmark. Also, the grand mean score of 3.0 was greater than 2.50 bench mark set for the study. Therefore, this means that the respondents have agreed with all the items to have influence on academic achievement. This has also implies that drug abuse has influence on academic achievement of senior secondary school female students in Nasarawa State.

Testing of Hypothesis

The null hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance

H₀: Drug abuse has no significant influence on the academic achievement of senior secondary school female students in Nasarawa State.

Table 4: Regression Statistics on Influence of Drug Abuse on the Academic achievement of Senior Secondary School Female Students in Nasarawa State

Variable	N	Df.	r	r ²	Adj. r	Beta	Sig.	Remark
Academic Achievements of Female Students Drug Abusers	285	568	.540	.437	.437	.540	.000	Rejected

****Significant at 0.05 level (2-tailed)**

Results of Table 4 show the influence of drug abuse on academic achievement of senior secondary female students in Nasarawa State. The analysis revealed calculated r-value of .540, adjusted r-value of .437 and Beta value of .540 at sig. value of .000. The Beta value therefore shows that drug abuse has influences academic achievement by 54%. The adj. r-value also means that a unit increase in drug abuse will lead to 54% decline in academic achievements of the female students. The sig. value of .000 is less than the alpha value of 0.05 hence, the null hypothesis which states that drug abuse has no significant influence on academic achievements of senior secondary school female students is hereby rejected. This therefore implies that drug abuse has significant influence on academic achievement of senior secondary school female students in Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

Conclusion

Based on the finding of this study, it was concluded that a good number of female senior secondary school students engaged in the abuse of drugs or intoxicating substances such as like Indian hemp, codeine, marijuana, cannabis sativa, cocaine, tramadol, nicotine, opium among others which has led to so many psychological and emotional disorder like cognitive

disorder, loss of concentration or attentiveness decrease, depression, fear, anxiety, frustration, truancy, school dropout and above all poor academic achievement. The study therefore recommends that the Nasarawa State Government in collaboration with the secondary school authorities and other relevant agencies should embark on sensitization campaign aimed at sensitizing the students on the danger and consequences of indulging in abuse of any harmful substances and the need to shun away from all forms of drug abuse.

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