



Extent to which drug abuse contributes to suicide and domestic violence among adolescents in public secondary schools in Orumba south LGA

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KEY WORDS

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated on the extent to which drug abuse contributes to suicide and domestic violence among adolescents in public secondary schools in Orumba south LGA. Specifically, the study determined the extent to which drug abuse contributes to suicide among adolescents in public secondary schools in Orumba south LGA, the extent to which drug abuse contributes to domestic violence among adolescents in public secondary schools in Orumba south LGA. Two research questions were answered. The study adopted a survey research design. The population of the study comprised of one hundred and thirty (130) students randomly selected from the 13 public secondary school in Orumba south LGA. Questionnaire was used for data collection and the instrument was validated by three experts, the data were collected and analyzed using mean scores. It was discovered that drug abuse contributes to suicide and domestic violence among adolescent in public secondary school in Orumba south LGA. Based on the findings, some recommendations were made among others that, Parents should help their children out of drug abuse as most of them start drinking right from the home even with the parents. Parents should take their children to a psychologist at an early stage so as to help the child overcome the challenges of drug abuse or avoid getting addicted. Parents should always take their children to a psychologist when noticed signs of distress so as to help the child overcome psychological health related issues.

1. Introduction

Drug use is as old as the history of human race, people have used herbs, roots, barks, leaves and all kinds of plant to relieve pain and help control disease. When drugs are properly administered, they become a blessing to human beings. It should, however, be noted that some drugs unfortunately produce enticing side effects such as a sense of feeling good, elation serenity and power such that what began as means of relaxation evolved in time into a problem of dependence and abuse (Adam, 2023). More so, domestic violence at home is a critical issue and one of the most unavoidable human rights difficulties particularly for most parts of African societies where issues that are related with intimacy/family issues are to a great extent treated as concealed fact.

Domestic violence is the deliberate and determined maltreatment of anybody in the home such that causes agony, misery, or damage (Uzohuo, 2018). It refers to any harsh treatment of one relative by another, therefore damaging the law of fundamental human rights. It incorporates battering of partners and others, sexual abuse of adolescents, conjugal assault, and customary practices that are hurtful to people (Dahlberg & Krug, 2012). Domestic violence does not segregate based on sexual orientation, race, age, religion, financial status, or training (Johnstone 2020). Domestic violence may set in when an adolescent in the house abuses a drug and may not have control of him not to talk of respecting any person in the family. In this

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dynamic period, people experience a lot of stress and anxiety, especially the adolescents which make them susceptible to health-risk behaviours such as abuse of substance or drug abuse.

Drug can be defined as a substance that is purposely introduced into the body to change normal body functions. Drugs provide pleasure by giving inner peace, joy, relaxation and exhilaration (Johnstone 2020). Drugs help the adolescents to escape anxiety and emotional problems (Akpan, & Usoroh, 2020). Some students indulge in drug to cope better in their world. For instance, amphetamine and Khat help them to stay awake and study for exams, anabolic steroid helps them perform better in athletics. Some students believe that drugs help them to adapt to the ever-changing environment (Johnstone, 2020).

Drug abuse means the persistent excessive use of chemicals or substance for any reason other than its acceptable medical purpose. Drug abuse or substance abuse refers to the use of certain chemicals for the purpose of creating pleasurable effects on the brain. Drugs mainly abused as stimulant like Amphetamine sedative and tranquilizers like Barbiturates, Valium and Mandrase Hauvelnogens. These drugs do not only have mild altering capacity but they may often be harmful. Clark, (2022), noted that drug abuse have been identified as a major cause of unrest in public secondary school leading to poor performance in exams, suicide ideation, domestic violence and mass drop outs of students from secondary schools.

The world drug report (2019), reports that a total of 190 million people consume drugs and alcohol worldwide and the majority of these are youths. Bennet (2021) observes that alcohol, tobacco and marijuana are the most common consumed substances by the adolescent (boys and girls) across the globe. The injection of some drugs such as heroin has caused heightened concern as intravenous drug use assists in the continued spread of HIV/AIDS (Desjarlais, 2024). Ministry of Education (2019) have established guidance and counseling departments in schools which deal with cases of guiding and counseling the learners when they fail victims of unwanted behaviours especially the adolescents.

Adolescence is a period of transition, a significant period in human development that take place rapidly within an individual biologically, psychologically, emotionally and socially (WHO, 2020). It is a time of independence and discovery; a time during which adolescents develop their sense of self, advance knowledge and skills, and learn to manage emotions and relationships. Adolescents, as characterized by the United Nations, are those between the ages of 10 and 19 (UNICEF, 2021).

Adolescence is a vulnerable age during which they engage in health risk behaviours such as smoking, experimenting illegal drugs and consumption of alcohol. The brains of adolescents are malleable in nature and are additionally super-helpless to other negative impacts, for example, stress, weakness, melancholy, and injury among others. The developing brain is mostly defenseless against the effect of awful encounters (WHO, 2010). Cummings (2020) explains that drug addiction creates an enabling environment for violence and suicide as it gives the abuser a false sense of greatness and power. Curiosity, social pressure and peer group influence are reported to be primary reasons for substance misuse. Most often the student of public secondary schools starts by experimenting with the so called "GATEWAYDRUGS" such as tobacco, alcohol and marijuana which might lead to suicide and domestic violence. Numbers of authors and researchers have shown that there are many contributing factors to drug abuse among students, Youth Plan (2005-2009) states that in a school setting, drug abuse affects the children of the rich as well as those from poor families. Lambert, (2020) argue that drug abuse is caused by a combination of biological, psychological and environmental factors. The most influential include the family, peer association, school performance and social class membership of which it is envisaged. Some students use drugs for the purposes of satisfying curiosity, adolescents are curious to discover the sensation and get unique profound feelings, which might lead them into domestic violence and suicide conduct (Johnstone 2020).

Suicide is "death caused by self-inflicted injuries with the intent to die as a result of such actions". Suicidal behaviour comprises of a range of activities ranging from suicidal ideation, suicidal plans, suicidal attempts and completed suicide. Drug abuse is one of the important risk

factors of suicide. Studies have found that suicide is higher in drug abusers compared to non-users and that the risk for committing suicide. According to the World Health Organisation (2019), suicide is the third leading cause of death among 15-19-year-olds and the second leading cause of death among 15 – 29 – year olds. Almost 800,000 people commit suicide worldwide with a global suicide rate of 10.5(Kerkhof, 2019).

In any case, since adolescents' psyches are delicate and their brain delicate, committing suicide may stream in when confronted with awful accidents particularly when exposed to drug abuse.

Kerkhof (2019) affirms that suicide is any intentional idea proposed to take one's life so as to escape terrible affliction or to help change antagonistic states of living. Lester (2012) considers suicide as a multifaceted marvel with numerous risk factor including psychosocial, neurobiological, and psychopathological elements.

Drug abuse and its attendant undesirable behaviours have been increasing over the years in the world which Orumba south is not out of it (NACADA, 2019). Thus causing concern over the role the schools are playing as primary socializers of students. The increase in drug abuse threatens to derail national objectives of education, the curriculum and National development goals country wide. According to (Ndirangu, 2021) the escalating level of students abusing drugs is making stakeholders in education, parents, religious leaders and the mass media quite uncomfortable. This indicates that the efforts that the schools have been putting in place to eliminate drug abuse have not been working effectively. Consequently drug abuse has led to increase in cases of indiscipline as reflected through domestic violence, theft, suicide, truancy, sneaking out of school and disobedience to teachers. There is therefore, need to investigate on the Extent to which drug abuse contributes to suicide and domestic violence among adolescents in public secondary schools in Orumba south LGA.

Purpose of the Study

The aim of this study is to examine the extent to which drug abuse contributes to suicide and domestic violence among adolescents in public secondary schools in Orumba south LGA. Specifically, this study intends:

1. To examine the extent to which drug abuse contributes to suicide among adolescents in public secondary schools in Orumba south LGA.
2. To examine the extent to which drug abuse contributes to domestic violence among adolescents in public secondary schools in Orumba south LGA.

Research Questions

1. To what extent do drug abuse contributes to suicide among adolescents in public secondary schools in Orumba South LGA?
2. To what extent do drug abuse contributes to domestic violence among adolescents in public secondary schools in Orumba south L.G.A?

Methodology

Research Design: This study adopted descriptive survey research design

Area of the study: The population of the study was students from public secondary schools in Orumba South Local Government Area of Anambra State. Orumba South L.G.A. has 13 secondary schools with 5236 students.

The population of the study: The population of the study was students from public secondary schools in Orumba South Local Government Area of Anambra State. Orumba South L.G.A. has 13 secondary schools with 5236 students (Source: school record of the 13 different schools in the study area. This however, comprised of both male and female secondary students from the 13 secondary in Orumba south LGA.

Sampling and Sampling Techniques: Simple random sampling technique was used to select 10 students from each of the thirteen public secondary schools. At the end of the exercise, 130 students were selected for the study.

Instrument for data collection: Data was collected through structured questionnaire consisting of thirty six (36) items. It was developed through literature review based on the specific purposes of the study. The items of the questionnaire were structured on a four-point scale thus strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD) representing 4, 3, 2, and 1 respectively. The instrument was face validated by three experts, from two secondary school in Orumba North who did not form part of the population. The reliability of the instrument was established using Cronbach Alpha statistical tool which yielded the reliability co-efficient of 0.87.

Method of Data Collection: A total of 130 copies of the instrument were administered by hand at the various schools. All were returned properly completed and used in the analysis of data.

Data analysis techniques: Data collected from the study were analyzed using means score and standard deviation. A mean score of 2.50 and above was accepted while a mean score below 2.50 was rejected.

Result

Table 1: Mean response of the students on the extent drug abuse contributes to suicide among adolescents in public secondary schools in Orumba south L.G.A

S/N	ITEM	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	N	X	REMK
1.	To what extent do drugs motivate or push adolescent to commit suicide?	100	16	8	6	130	3.00	Agree
2.	To what extent do drug abused influence domestic violence?	100	20	8	2	130	3.25	Agree
3.	To what extent do drug abuse mental health on adolescent in public secondary schools?	120	6	2	2	130	3.19	Agree
4.	To what extent do drug abuse contribute brutal activities to adolescent in public secondary schools?	119	10	1	-	130	3.31	Agree
5.	To what extent do drug abuse contribute cult activities involvement?	120	8	2	-	130	2.94	Agree
6.	To what extent do drug abuse increase violent on continuous basis?	116	9	3	2	130	3.00	Agree
7.	To what extent do drugs champion intimidation on adolescent in public secondary schools?	118	8	2	2	130	2.75	Agree
8.	To what extent do drugs abuse influences normal thinking on adolescent in public secondary schools?	115	15	-	-	130	3.00	Agree
9.	To what extent do drug abuse contribute problems between parents and adolescent	120	8	2	-	130	3.06	Agree
10.	To what extent do drugs abuse contribute rioting in public secondary schools?	121	9	-	-	130	3.18	Agree
11.	To what extent do drug abuse influences attendance of adolescent in public secondary schools?	117	10	2	-	130	3.17	Agree
12.	To what extent have do drug abuse contribute physical fight among adolescent in public secondary schools?	117	12	-	-	130	3.45	Agree
13.	To what extent do drug abuse contribute missing of examination among adolescent in public secondary schools?	119	11	-	-	130	3.50	Agree
14.	To what extent do drug abuse contribute unusual behavior on adolescent in public secondary schools?	115	10	5	-	130	3.00	Agree
15.	To what extent do drug abuse contribute in engagement of illegal activities among adolescent in public secondary schools?	116	10	4	-	130	3.06	Agree
Grand mean							3.06	

Table 1 above shows the mean rating of respondents on the extent to which drug abuse contributes to suicide among adolescents in public secondary schools in Orumba south L.G.A. all the items were rated above the criterion mean of 2.50 and above showing that respondents accepted that drug abuse contributes to suicide among adolescents in public secondary schools in Orumba south L.G.A.

Table 2: Mean response of the students on the extent drug abuse contributes to domestic violence among adolescents in public secondary schools in Orumba south L.G.A?

S/N	ITEM S	VHE	HE	LE	VLE	N	X	REMARKS
16.	To what extent do drug abuse contribute fights among siblings?	122	6	2	-	130	3.31	Agree
17	To what extent do drug abuse contribute hurting others by making fun of them or calling them names?	122	5	2	1	130	3.25	Agree
18	To what extent do drug abuse contribute death in families?	120	7	2	1	130	3.62	Agree
19	To what extent do drug abuse influences family's discussions?	119	9	1	1	130	3.12	Agree
20	To what extent do drug abuse causes parental-child misunderstanding?	118	10	1	1	130	3.06	Agree
21	To what extent do drug abuse causes sexual harassment?	119	11	-	-	130	3.12	Agree
22	To what extent do drug abuse causes self-elimination at home?	117	11	1	1	130	3.00	Agree
23	To what extent do drug abuse contribute deformation of character?	118	12	-	-	130	3.06	Agree
24	To what extent do drug abuse contribute disorderliness in society?	120	9	1	-	130	3.09	Agree
25	To what extent do drug abuse contribute rape in the society?	112	14	3	1	130	3.06	Agree
26	To what extent do drug abuse contribute hot temper on adolescent in the society?	113	15	2	-	130	3.00	Agree
Grand mean							3.21	

Table two above shows the mean rating of respondents on the extent to which drug abuse contributes to domestic violence among adolescents in public secondary schools in Orumba south L.G.A. The result shows, that all the items received mean rating that are above the cut off mark of 2.5 the result therefore, suggest that drug abuse contributes to domestic violence among adolescents in public secondary schools in Orumba south L.G.A since the grand mean was 3.21 which is above the cut-off point

Discussion of the findings

As regards to research question one (1), the study revealed that drug abuse contributes to suicide among adolescents in public secondary schools in Orumba south LGA. This implies that the higher the drug abuse, the higher the suicide. In accordance with this discovering, King (2011) discovered that most of the young people who are involved in drug abuse have the ability to commit suicide. In attestation, Ruler and schools (2021) found that young people who had been involved in drug abuse for year or past a half year had a considerably expanded recurrence of suicide attempts. However, an adolescent who engages in drug abuse in most cases thinks of committing suicide. In consonant, Johnston, et al (2019) found that drug abuse students, who co-abuse cannabis show serious examples of substantial drinking including heavy drinking cases just as raised alcohol utilization on each drinking event the two of which are related with expanded dangers for suicide endeavours.

Research question two shows that, adolescents who abuse drugs are likely to cause domestic violence since they cannot control themselves and behave very well at home after the abuse of drugs. This is in line with Ruler and schools (2021), who found that young people who had encountered much drug abuse suffer loss of memory which might lead them to disrespect people including their parents thereby causing domestic violence either by bullying their younger once or even the parents as they fill on top and being in charge of their world.

Conclusion

The paper deals with the extent to which drug abuse contributes to suicide and domestic violence among adolescents in public secondary schools in Orumba south LGA. Domestic violence at home is a critical issue and one of the most unavoidable human rights difficulties particularly for most parts of African societies. While some close relationships can be

pleasurable and satisfying, others might be described by assaultive and coercive practices including physical, sexual, mental assaults, and monetary intimidation, which are unsafe to the person's physical and emotional wellbeing. Uzohuo (2020) stated that individuals who witness frequent domestic violence at home regularly experience the ill effects of strain, blame, uneasiness, gloom, misery, or dread from what sociologists depict as "support of brutality" or a "shelter in a wanton world" or the most exceedingly terrible, which is injury. There is the need therefore, for the examination of the extent to which drug abuse contributes to suicide and domestic violence among adolescents in public secondary schools. From the findings of this study, it is clear that drug abuse can lead to suicide and as well as domestic violence. The is need to neutralize the effect on domestic violence on adolescents, otherwise, this situation might eventually lead to suicide. Likewise, drug abuse/substance use among adolescents should be discouraged. This is because when adolescents abuse drug as their comfort when faced with domestic violence, at a stage, this might lead to suicide. However, neglect of this situation might worsen the cases of adolescents who abuse drugs especially those in society where this schools are sited and might not mean well with society.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following are recommended:

1. Psychologists and counsellors should be employed in every school to help students that have problems or need help to be counselled so as to avoid them committing suicide
2. Parents should help their children out of drug abuse as most of them start drinking right from the home even with the parents.
3. Parents should take their children to a psychologist at an early stage so as to help the child overcome the challenges of drug abuse or avoid getting addicted

Parents should always take their children to a psychologist when noticed signs of distress so as to help the child overcome psychological health related issues.

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