DRUG ABUSE AMONG STUDENTS OF ADEKUNLE AJASIN UNIVERSITY AKUNGBA AKOKO ONDO STATE, NIGERIA

BY:

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Abstract

This study examined drug abuse among students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko Ondo State, Nigeria. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for this study. Three hundred respondents were randomly selected using multistage sampling technique. The instrument used was a self structured questionnaire. Three experts in health education and test and measurement validated the intrument. The reliability of the questionnaire was established using test-retest method of reliability and a correlation of 0.73 was obtained. Findings revealed that: hallucinogen and analgesics are the mostly abused by the students; age, gender, religion and residence had significant influences on drug abuse among students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko. It was recommended that: Parents should live exemplary lifes so as to be able to control their children's drug use, adequaate drug education program should be integrated into school health program, adequate control measures should be put in place to checkmate sales and illegal assess to drugs of abuse and mass media should be utilized to educate the public on the health implications of drug abuse.

Key words: Drug abuse, Students

Introduction

Drugs were introduced into Nigeria by soldiers returning from the Second World War and since then it has spread among the political thugs, criminals and adolescent population. However, drug use in Nigeria began attracting the attention of researchers in late 60s (Borrofka, 1996).

Proper drug use means taking in medication in the right dosage and discontinuing the medication on the advice of a professional. Drug abuse is the misuse of medication, self medication and the use of illegal substances. Some medication make the user feel good, since they target certain nerve tracks in the brain, known as reward pathways (formerly called pleasurable pathways). The person may enjoy 'the high' and wish to experience it again. Drug such as cocaine and 'crystal meth' stimulate the path of the brain that releases dispamine, which gives the person a feeling of well being and happiness (Seraphim, 2005). When such drugs become a habit, they can be destructive to the user, as the reward pathway starts to run off. This means the dosage must be increased to achieve the same effect.

In the last decade many countries of the word saw a steady increase in the trafficking trade and illicit use of psycho- active substance particularly dangerous substances such as amphetamine, cocaine, heroin and other students' derivatives of lysergic acid. The impact of the community as a whole cannot be over emphasized social menace in our schools such as vandalism, insubordination and cultism are possible harmful consequences of drug abuse.

There is hardly anyone in our society who has not been torched in some ways by the escalation of drugs abuse among youth, Nigeria as a nation is aware of the consequences of inadequate control of the demand for and supply of illicit drugs and has continued to demonstrate her commitment to fight the menace of drugs, their production, trafficking and abuse by the promulgation of decrees such as the decree 20 of 1994 which was amended to decree 47 0f 1994. Decree 20 of 1998 banning smoking in public places and decree 48 of 1999 which set up the national drug law enforcement agency and increase public awareness on the danger of drug abuse. In other to control this dangerous trend there is the need to know the prevalence of this menace among undergraduates and those factor that influence it. The need to generate such data is the central problem of this study.

Research Questions.

The following research questions were generated to guide the study.

1.　　What are the types of drugs taken by students?

2.   What is the rate of drug abuse among students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko?

3.   What is the influence of the following variables on drug abuse among students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko: Age, gender, religion and residence?

Research Hypotheses: the following hypotheses were tested:

i.   Age has no significant influence on drugs abuse among students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko.

ii.   Gender has no significant influence on drugs among students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko.

iii.   Religion has no significant influence on drug abuse among students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko.

iv.   Residence has no significant influence on drug abuse among students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko.

Method of Study

The descriptive survey research design was adopted for this study. The population comprised of all students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko, which was 13,550 students as at 2010/2011 session according to records obtained from student affairs office. Three hundred respondents were randomly selected using multistage sampling technique. Students were randomly selected from each of the five different faculties using population proportional to size which allows the larger faculties to produce more respondents than the smaller ones. The sample size allocated to each faculty was obtained by using systematic sampling technique. A sapling frame obtained by dividing the population of the faculty by the sample size desired from the faculty to get the sample frame. The first sample was randomly picked from the frame after arranging the list of students in the faculty alphabetically, then the frame size was added to the number of the first sample to sellect the next one until the entire population of the faculty is exhausted thus giving every student a calculable and non-zero chances of being selected.

The instrument used is a self structured questionnaire which sought information about the bio-data of the respondents and a list of the drugs they use without proper medical prescription. Three experts in health education and test and measurement validated the intrument,   The reliability of the questionnaire was established using test-retest method of reliability and a correlation of 0.73

was obtained using Pearson Product Moment Correlation Co-efficient this was considered adequate for the study. Copies of the questionnaires were administered on the students in their faculties and completed ones were collected back from them.

Results

Research question 1. What are the types of drugs taken by student?

Table1: the nature of drugs taken by the students.

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Anti-malaria	60	20
Antibiotic	30	10
Analgesic	80	26.7
Expectorant	16	5.3
Hallucinogen	100	33.3
Other	14	4.7
Total	300	100

Table I revealed that most of the respondents 33.3% abused hallucinogens 26.7% abused analgesics, 20% abused anti-malaria drugs, while 5.3% abused expectorants. Therefore, hallucinogens are the most abused drugs.

 Research Question 2: what is the rate of drug abuse among student?

Table II: rate of drug abuse

Question	Yes	%	No	%
use drugs without medical prescription?	84	28	216	72

Table II revealed that most of these respondents 72% does not abuse drug.

However 28% of the respondents were actively abusing drugs.

Hypothesis I: age has no significant influence on drug abuse among students in Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko.

Table III: chi-square analysis of the influence of age on the prevalence of drug abuse.

Age range	Abuse	Did not abused	Df	Cal x^2	Tab x^2
15-20	20	40			
21-25	100	50		20.3	5.991
26-above	56	34	2		

Table III revealed a x^2 calculated value of 20.3 and a table x^2 value of 5.991 at 0.05 level of significance and a degree of freedom of 2. Since the calculated value is greater than the table value the hypothesis is rejected meaning that age has significant influence on drug abuse among students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko.

Hypothesis II: gender has no significant influence on drug abuse among students in Adekunle Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko.

Table IV: chi-square analysis of the influence of gender on drug abuse.

Gender	Abuse	did not abuse	Df	Cal x^2	Tab x^2
Male	120	88			
Female	32	60	1	13.4	3.84

Table IV revealed a x^2 calculated value of 13.4 and a table x^2 value of 3.84 at 0.05 level of significance and a degree of freedom of 1. Since the calculated value is greater than the table value the hypothesis is rejected meaning that gender has significant influence on drug abuse among students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko.

Hypothesis III: Religion has no significant influence on drug abuse among students in Adekunle Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko.

Table V: chi-square analysis of the influence of religion on drug abuse.

Religions	Abuse	Did not abuse	Df	Cal x^2	Tab x^2
Christianity	108	32			
Muslim	30	70			
Traditional	36	24	2	53.3	5.991

Table V revealed a x^2 calculated value of 53.3 and a table x^2 value of 5.991 at 0.05 level of significance and a degree of freedom of 2. Since the calculated value is greater than the table value the hypothesis is rejected meaning that religion has significant influence on drug abuse among students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko.

Hypothesis IV: Residence has no significant influence on drug abuse among student of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko.

Table VI: chi-square analysis of influence of residence on drug abuse

Residence	Abuse	Did not abuse	Df	Cal x^2	Tab x^2
Off campus	128	72			
On campus	36	64	1	21.2	3.84

Table VI revealed a x^2 calculated value of 21.2 and a table x^2 value of 3.84 at 0.05 level of significance and a degree of freedom of 2. Since the calculated value is greater than the table value the hypothesis is rejected meaning that residence has significant influence on drug abuse among students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko.

4.2 Discussion

Concerning the type of drugs abuse among students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko, table I revealed that most of the respondents (33.3%) abused hallucinogens 26.7% abused analgesics, 20% abused anti-malaria drugs, while 5.3% abused expectorants. Therefore, hallucinogens are the most abused drugs. This agrees with Rabbebe (2002) who identified different types of drugs used by students as cannabis, benzodiazepines, multiple drug use, stimulants, heroin and cocaine.

On the ratte of drug abuse among students, Table II revealed that most of the respondents (72%) does not abuse drug while 28% of the respondents were actively abusing drugs. This disagrees with Otieno and Avo (2009) who reported that drug abuse was widespread in secondary schools in Kisumu as 57.9% of the respondents had consumed alcohol.

On the influence of age on drug abuse among students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko, table III revealed a x^2 calculated value of 20.3 and a table x^2 value of 5.991 at 0.05 level of significance and a degree of freedom of 2. Since the calculated value is greater than the table value the hypothesis is rejected meaning that age has significant influence on drug abuse among students

of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko. This disagrees with Otieno and Avo (2009) who reported that the age most at risk was 16- 18 years, the age of most students in secondary schools. This is however understandable since the age range of students in the university is higher and they are more likely to be able to control their instinct than the younger ones in the secondary schools.

On the influence of gender on drug abuse among students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko Table IV revealed a x^2 calculated value of 13.4 and a table x^2 value of 3.84 at 0.05 level of significance and a degree of freedom of 1. Since the calculated value is greater than the table value the hypothesis is rejected meaning that gender has significant influence on drug abuse among students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko. This agrees with Sanusi, Gaya & Lanzai (2006) who reported that men are more likely to abuse drugs than women.

On the influence of religion on drug abused among students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko, Table V revealed a x^2 calculated value of 53.3 and a table x^2 value of 5.991 at 0.05 level of significance and a degree of freedom of 2. Since the calculated value is greater than the table value the hypothesis is rejected meaning that religion has significant influence on drug abuse among students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko. This agrees with Mullen (2000) who reported that religion is associated with substance use and abuse however, they tend to be compatmentalized into alcohol tobacco or illicit drugs, few have examined both licit and illicit drug. Heavy drinkers compared to 37% of Catholics and 57% of non-Catholic were self- rated smokers.

On the influence of residence on drug abuse of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko, table VI revealed a x^2 calculated value of 21.2 and a table x^2 value of 3.84 at 0.05 level of significance and a degree of freedom of 2. Since the calculated value is greater than the table value the hypothesis is rejected meaning that residence has significant influence on drug abuse among students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko. This agrees with Otieno and Avo (2009) who reported that drug abuse was found to be higher in students living in low socio-economic class areas of the town 30% compared to high class areas 21.6%.

Conclusion

The following conclusions were made from the finding:

I. That hallucinogen and analgesics are the mostly abused by the students.

II. That age, gender, religion and residence have significant influences on drug abuse among students of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko.

Recommendations

On the basis of the conclusions, the following recommendations were made:

- Parents should live exemplary lifes so as to be able to control their children's drug use.

- Adequaate drug education program should be intergrated to school health program.

- Adequate control measures should be put in place to checkmate sales and illegal assess to drugs of abuse.

- Mass media should be utilized to educate the public on the health implications of drug abuse.

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