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EFFECTS OF DRUG ABUSE AND VIOLENCE AMONG THE ADULT LEARNERS IN ILORIN METROPOLIS

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Abstract

This study was conducted to assess the effects of drug abuse among the adult learners in Ilorin metropolis. Drug abuse is a primitive challenge among the adult learners in with serious effects on them and on society at large. The survey research design was adopted for the study while two hundred and eight respondents were purposively selected from all local governments that constitute Ilorin metropolis. Questionnaire were use and been complemented with Focus Group Discussion (FGD) to collect data, while descriptive statistical techniques were employed to analyze the quantitative data obtained. The results of the analyze clearly show that the level of drug abuse is rampant among the adult learners; and that there was a link between drug abuse and violence acts in Ilorin metropolis. Therefore, this paper recommended that empowerment programmes should be often organized for the adult learners to curb their evil acts and media houses should not stop the campaigning on radio and television in order to educate the adult learners and the society at large on the effects of drug abuse and its consequences on adults and society at large.

Keywords: Drug, Drug abuse, Violence, Addiction, Adult learners, Illicit

Introduction

The ideal of taking different type of drugs by the adult learners has become common things in our contemporary societies. Though, some drugs are meant for man's consumption especially to cure illness and pain but there are some abuse of those drugs which have a lot of effects on adult learners. Drug abuse is a fact of daily life for most adult learners in which taking drugs of various types has influence their behaviours. Most of the reason that prompt this attitude is what adult learners saw from their parents that use these drugs, they see advertisements that promotes smoking, drinking and pill taking which encourage them to participate in this adult-like behaviours. Dambazau (2007) in Isiaka and Issah (2015) pointed out the categories of abused drugs in Nigeria which include alcoholic, wine, beer, brandy, Nigerian brewed *burukutu* and *kinkana* (*kaikai*), and other spirits. Alcohol has similar sedative and toxic effects as other drugs, particularly in the central nervous system, where it acts as a depressant. In Nigeria, drug abusers also inhale gas from toilets socketways and petrol, rubber solutions and thinners. Other local drugs found include *marijuana* and *zakami* mainly grown in the northern part of the countries. Though, legal drugs are also abused which is also common that virtually no one recognizes the activity as part of our relationship

with drugs. Many adult learners started their day in the morning when they have drug in their mind by taking a dose of coffee everything morning, hopping that its caffeine will impart energetic feelings.

It is obvious that adult learners constitute a significant portion of the overall drug abusers in the country and they always at the vanguard of violent or aggressive behaviour in Nigerian societies. Thus, it seems there is a connection between drug abuse and adult learner's violence in our societies. Since many studies have shown that there is correlation of adult learners within the age bracket of 18-35 years with violence in almost all societies, while Ilorin Metropolis is not an exception to this. Violence has increasingly become a recurrent occurrence in the metropolis. According to Mohammed (2006) in Isiaka and Issah (2015), these violent acts have taken the forms of murder and murder of politicians and young people; shooting and maiming, assassination, robbery, religious disturbance and secret cultism. This category of violence is also referred to as index crime or part one crimes which are serious offences punishable by the criminal law. Adult learners in Ilorin today involve in different kinds of index crimes which prompt aggressive and violent behaviours. This may include street fighting, drug distribution, rape, car theft, kidnapping, gang activities, and assault among others. There are some designated areas that are known for violent with different gangs that are known as drug abusers. These gangs usually protected their gang members and their areas which any attempt from their rival gangs cause violent. Consequently, violent breaks out in some of these neighbourhoods and people become virtual prisoners in their homes whenever there is an outbreak of violence in the areas. A times, innocent bystanders are at risk and it cause a lot of effects which this paper want to examine the effect of drug abuse and violent behaviours among adult learners in Ilorin metropolis.

Literature Review

Meaning of Drugs

Drug has been has been explained from legal, medical, cultural and psychological perspective depending on one's orientation. Adamu (1989) defines drug as any foreign biological active substance that is deliberately introduced to the body to alter or effect its functioning. It can be simply defined as any substance or chemical agent other than food, which when taking by the living organism, affects or modifies its functioning. World Health Organization (WHO) in 1960 defines drug as any substances when taken into the living organism may modify or explore physiological system or pathological state for the benefit of the recipients. Also, Abdullahi (2006) views drug from a broader perspective to include not only chemo or oral therapy but also marijuana, alcohol as well as traditional alcoholic drinks that are prepared and consumed in Nigeria. He defined drug as any chemical substance including what people ingest, inject, inhale or absorb which is capable of altering both the physiological and biological functions of an organism.

Drug Abuse

Drug abuse could be defined as the excessive and persistent self-administration of a drug without recourse to the medically or socially accepted pattern. Kester (1990) opines that drug abuse is an excessive use of socially acceptable drugs. Abdullahi (1997) opines that drug abuse is when an individual or group of individuals uses drugs in a quality capable of devastating or causing hazard to his own health, his community and the society at large through illicit channels and sources taking it on one's initiative rather than on professional recommendations. Idris (2006) defines drug abuse as the repeated misuse of drugs without doctor's prescription. It is the use of a drug to the extent that it interferes with the health and social functioning of an individual. This drug abuse include when drug is not prescribed by a health worker; when the law forbids its use or it is socially unacceptable; when its use is not medically necessary; when it is used excessively regardless of its acceptance. Drug abuse is harmful to an individual consumer with devastating effects and on the society at large with high social and economic cost effects required at the rehabilitation or treatment level. If the abuse of drug persist, then the user becomes addicted which can lead to a stage of dependency. The illicit drugs commonly abuse in Nigeria by adult learners include Narcotic, Depressants/ Sedatives, Stimulants, Cannabis sativa, Inhalants, Alcoholic and Tobacco among others. Some of these drugs is smoked, sniffed or injected. Some of them induce sleep and relieve tension or anxiety. Inhalants surprisingly include petrol glue, kerosene, correction fluid, rubber solution, nail polish remover which some adult learners cannot live without them. They are stimulants to violence in the societies.

The Relationship between Drug Abuse and Violent Behaviour

The relationship between drug addiction and violence is a well known issue. Many researchers like Parker and Canmill (1998) and Baron (1999) have worked on these and have concluded that there is a correlation between drug abuse and violent behaviour among the adult learners. There was an establish fact that the relationship drug and conflict is interactive. Drug abuse initiates violence, while violence on the other hand attracts drug use and abuse.

Methodology

The survey research design was adopted for the study. The population comprised of the entire adult learners (18-36 years), who have in one time or the other used or abused drugs in Ilorin metropolis. Ilorin metropolis has five local government areas (Ilorin West, Ilorin East, Ilorin South, Asa and Moro). One hundred were purposively selected from each local government areas. The sample size of three hundred was drawn from the entire population.

Questionnaire and the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) techniques were used to collect data. FGD was adopted because of some respondents that were illiterates and this will enable to get facts directly from them. And fifteen were specifically and purposefully selected for the interviews. Questionnaire is in two sections (A and B). Section A contained the socio-demographic information of the respondents, while Section B dealt with the prevalent rate of drug abuse and the link between drug abuse and violent or

aggressive acts in Ilorin metropolis. Questionnaires were administered on the remaining two hundred and eighty five respondents with the help of five research assistants, one from each local government. Two hundred and eighty questionnaire were recovered which is an indication that the respondents' response to the instruments was impressive. The descriptive statistics of frequencies and percentages were used to analyze the two principal sections of the questionnaire, while content analysis techniques was used to analyze the qualitative data derived from Focus Group Discussion.

Results and Discussion of Findings.

Table 1: Socio-Demographic Information

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1. Sex		
Male	280	100.00
Female	0	0
Total	280	100.00
2. Age		
19-24	128	45.7
25-30	104	37.1
31-36	48	17.1
Total	280	100.00
3. Tribe		
Yoruba	164	58.6
Hausa	33	11.7
Igbo	39	13.9
Others	44	15.7
Total	280	100.00
4. Religion		
Christianity	86	30.7
Islam	188	67.1
African Traditional Religion (ATR)	6	2.1
Total	280	100.00
5. Marital Status		
Single	204	72.8
Married	68	24.3
Divorce	8	2.9
Widow	0	0
Total	280	100.00
6. Accommodation Type		
Single Room/Room and Parlour	213	76.1
Self-Contained apartment	18	6.4
Flat/ Duplex	5	1.8
Others	44	15.7
	280	100.00

Total		
7. Parents Level of Education		
No formal education	147	52.5
Primary Education	68	24.2
Secondary education	41	14.6
NCE	20	7.1
Degree and above	4	1.4
Total	280	100.00
8. Parents Occupation		
Unemployed	56	20.0
Self-Employed	131	46.7
Civil servant	62	22.1
Others	31	11.1
Total	280	100.00

Source: Researchers' Fieldwork (2016)

Table 1 shows the socio-demographic distribution of the respondents who are males because the numbers of females who use drugs in Ilorin metropolis were not significant. 58.6% of the respondents were Yoruba which may be because of the dominance of the Yoruba language in the research area. On the age distribution, 45.7% of the respondents were between 19-24 years of age; while 17.1% of the respondents were between 31-36 years of age. This implies that the majority of the respondents were between 19 and 30 years of age. Majority of the respondents were Muslims. This could be so due to the fact that Ilorin metropolis is largely dominated by the Muslims. Marital status data shows that 72.8% of the respondents were singles. This is not a surprise since the average age for marriage is between 25- 30 years for males (Issah, 2014). On accommodation type, 76.1% of the respondents were dwelling in single room or single room apartment and this signifies respondents' socio-economic status. The result of Parental level of education and their occupation were observed because of their implications on socio-economic status of the respondents. The results clearly shows that majority of the respondents belong to low socio-economic category.

Table 2: The Accessibility of Drugs in Ilorin metropolis

Access	Yes	No
Pharmacy/Drug store	39(13.9%)	241(86.1%)
Multipurpose Shop	42(15.0%)	238(85%)
Hospital	2(0.7%)	278(99.3%)
Hideouts	243(86.8%)	37(13.2%)
Friends	232(82.9%)	48(17.1%)
Home	6(2.1%)	274(97.9%)
Stolen	12(4.3%)	268(95.7%)
Drinking Bars/Restaurants	228(81.4%)	52(18.6%)

Source: Researchers' Fieldwork (2016)

Table 2 shows that hideouts, friends and drinking bars and restaurants were the major common modes of access to drugs for the adult learners in the Ilorin metropolis. 86.8% of the respondents reported that they got drugs from their joints (hideouts); 82.9% of the respondents reported that they got drugs from their friends who initiate them in the neighbourhood; while 81.4% of the respondents got drugs from drinking bars and restaurants where they were been influenced by their peers.

Table 3: Predisposition and implication of substance on the respondents for drug Abuse in Ilorin metropolis

Predisposition	SA	A	D	SD
I am taking drugs against my desire	88 (31.4%)	152 (54.3%)	22 (7.9%)	18 (6.4%)
It is possible to refuse drugs from peers friends	72 (25.7%)	103 (36.8%)	91 (32.5%)	4 (1.4%)
You can be molest if you refused to take drugs among peers	112 (40%)	131 (46.8%)	17 (6.1%)	20 (7.1%)
Taking drugs will make one feel high and mature	103 (36.8%)	141 (50.4%)	15 (5.4%)	21 (7.5%)
Taking drug makes one to fit in among your peers	99 (35.4%)	148 (52.9%)	10 (3.6%)	23 (8.2%)
One will feel secured when taking drugs	144 (51.4%)	104 (37.1%)	8 (2.9%)	23 (8.2%)
Drug abuse leads to poor finance management	123 (43.9%)	131 (46.8%)	8 (2.9%)	18 (6.4%)
Drug abuse leads to violence and unrest	158 (56.4%)	120 (42.9%)	2 (0.8%)	0 (0%)
Drug abuse leads to brain damage and poor physical health challenges	111 (39.6%)	140 (50%)	9 (3.2%)	20 (7.1%)
Drug abuse leads to aggressive sexual intercourse	138 (49.2%)	131 (46.8%)	5 (1.8%)	6 (2.1%)

Source: Researchers' Fieldwork (2016)

According to table 3 above, about 84% of the respondents agreed that they are taking drugs against their desire. Also, 86% of the respondents strongly agreed that one can be molest if they refused to take drugs among their peers. From the findings on the table, it means that there is a strong influence of peers on adult learners' behaviours. And this is in line with Adegoke and Ajiboye that peer use to take drugs out of boredom, curiosity or in response to peer pressure. And that adults exposure to drugs usually begins with experimentation from their peers. On the ideal of security, about 88% of the respondents agreed that taking drugs will make them feel secured when taking drugs, while 87% agreed that taking drug will make one fit in among their peers. This shows that there is a link between taking drugs and element of violence in Ilorin metropolis. It was observed that about 90% of the respondents strongly agreed that drug abuse leads

to poor finance management and about 98% of the respondents agreed that drug abuse leads to violence and unrest. 89% of the respondents agreed that drug abuse leads to brain damage and poor physical health challenges, while 95% of the respondents strongly agreed that drug abuse leads to aggressive sexual intercourse. From all the facts, it is obvious that drug abuse has implications for violence and this must stop among the adult learners.

From the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) reports, it was observed that drugs are what some adult learners believe that until you take them, you will not be recognized with your peers. One of the respondents confesses that he started cigarette from Primary school and he graduated to taking marijuana at secondary school level:

A friend of mine introduce cigarette to me when I was in primary six and find it interesting. When I get to Secondary school, I was not satisfied with cigarette and I look for a way of tasting marijuana which makes me to feel on top of the world. I will look for all means of getting money to buy it and during the night, I will look for a hidden place especially on playing ground of a school opposite my house to enjoy myself with my friends.

In addition, another respondent reveal that:

Whenever they want to cause violence, they must be drugged themselves in order to face the challenges ahead of them. This will make them to overcome anybody or groups that come on their way, even the force agents....

Conclusion

In conclusion, it is clear that drug abuse is a big problem and great challenge to the adult learners and society at large. And that there is a correlation between drug abuse and violence of different kinds in our society especially in Ilorin metropolis among the youths that constitutes adult learners. There are strong influences of peers on adult learners behaviours and taking drugs among the adult learners is an element of violence in Ilorin Metropolis.

Recommendations

In order to cube and reduce violence in our society especially in Ilorin metropolis, it was recommended that:

- Adult learners should be empowered in different forms so that they can be enlighten and open their eyes to run away from been an addicts to drugs.
- Religious bodies should not stop to preach and educate their members to be a good citizen of their communities.
- Frequent lectures, campaigns and rallies should be organize often by local and state governments to occupied by adult centres to educate the adult learners on causes, effects and consequences of drug abuse to their life.

- Mass media houses must not stop on education programmes on drug abuse on radio and television to reduce the effect of drug abuse on adult learners and the society at large.
- There should be law that will guide the acts of anybody that violate the law to face the consequences among the adult learners.

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