



INFLUENCE OF DRUG ABUSE ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF SENIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS IN OBIO-AKPOR LGA, RIVERS STATE.

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Abstract: The study investigated influence of drug abuse on academic performance of senior secondary school students in Obi-Akpor L.G.A of Rivers State. A correlational research design was adopted for the study. Three research questions and three hypotheses guided the study. The population was made of (16500) senior secondary students from ten public secondary schools in Obio-Akpor L.G.A. Stratified sampling technique was used to select (391) respondents, using Taro Yamane method to determine the sample size. Self-structured instruments title "Influence of Drug Abuse (IDA) and Academic Performance of Students in Economics (APSE)", were used for data collection. The instruments were validated by two experts from Guidance and Counselling and one expert in Measurement and Evaluation, all in Department of Educational Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education. The reliability of the instruments was established using Cronbach Alpha which yielded 0.79 and 0.83 for (APSE) and (IDA) respectively. Regression analysis was used to answer the research questions and test of null hypotheses a 0.05 significant level. The findings of the research revealed that alcohol, marijuana, and illicit drugs have significant negative influence on academic performance of senior secondary school students. Based on these findings, it was recommended that; there should be an enlightenment programme on the dangers and consequences of drug abuse on health and academic performance of students. Parents and guardians should endeavour to monitor their children and wards so that they do not engage in drug abuse. Government should prevent the cultivation/sales of illicit drugs, marijuana and other deadly herbs that encourage drug abuse of students

Keywords: Drugs, Drug Abuse and Academic Performance of Secondary School Students

Introduction

The term drug is defined as any substance that when absorbed into a living organism may modify one or more of its physiological functions. The term is generally used in reference to a substance taken for both therapeutic purpose and abuse of substances (Attah, et al., 2016). Globally and even regionally, drug and substance abuse is an ever expanding problem and is recognized as a threat with serious effects on people's health, security, social-economic and cultural welfare. In Nigeria, in which Obio-Akpor L.G.A is not exempted, students have consistently shown considerable involvement in abuse of drug with varying preference rates found for both overall and specific drug abuse (NACADA, 2016). Some of these commonly

abused substances include tobacco, Mirajuna, alcohol, cocaine, mandrax and heroine, etc (NACADA, 2016).

Drugs pose a very big problem in the world today and it is ruining the lives of many millions of people both in adolescent and general population. The use of illegal drugs has spread at a high rate and has penetrated every part of the world. No nation has been spared from the devastating problem caused by drugs and substance use. The consumption and dependence on hard drugs among secondary and college students has led to unrest and consequently wide-ranging destruction of life and property (Ngesu et al., 2018).

The problem of drug abuse poses a significant threat to the social, health, economic fabrics of the families, society and



the entire nations (Fayombo & Aremi, 2014). Almost every country in the world is affected from one or more drug being abused by its citizens. The increase of drug abuse globally has brought problems such as increase in violence and crimes and diseases such as HIV/AIDS, collapse of the veins and collapse in the social structure (Oshodi et al., 2010).

Therefore, Adelekar and Lawal (2018) recorded that drug abuse is the harmful use of mind-altering drugs. He added that the term usually refers to problem with illegal drugs, which also include harmful use of legal prescription drugs, such as self-medication. Majority of the students ignorantly or deliberately depend on one form of drug or the other for the daily activities—social, educational, political, moral among others. Such drugs include: Tobacco, Indian hemp, Cocaine, Morphine, Heroine, Alcohol, Ephedrine, Madras, Caffeine, Glue, Barbiturates, and Amphetamines. Other drug abuse may include Benilyn, Burukutu, or local beer, codine, cigarette, solution, beer and tramadol (Kawafha, 2018). There is no doubt that the abuse of drug among secondary school students in Obio-Akpor in Rivers State, has continued unabated, thereby creating a social and emotional problem for both users and the society because they have now become a burden to their families and the society.

Furthermore, a drug is also referred to as chemical substances that affect the central nervous system, such as tobacco, alcohol, dagga, cocaine and heroin. These drugs are used for perceived beneficial effects on perception, consciousness, personality and behaviour. These chemical substances, both medicinal and recreation can be administered in a number of ways; orally, inhaled and injected (Blazer & Wult, 2016). These substances can be legal or illegal. In this study, drugs is refer to illegal substances abused by secondary school students, which are not used for medicinal purposes and which have a negative effect on their mind, thinking, perception, and their behaviour, for example, alcohol, cannabis, marijuana, cocaine and heroin.

The use of substances that may not be medically prescribed or supervised have a huge negative effect on secondary school students and the society at large. No wonder, World Health Organization (2019) reported drug abuse as a harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive substances,

including alcohol and illicit drugs that interfere with the normal functioning of the body. Psychoactive substance use progressively leads to dependence or addiction syndrome. There have been a cluster of behavioural, cognitive and physiological phenomena that develop after repeated abuse of drugs and other substance and typically include a strong desire towards the uptake of drugs, difficulties in controlling its use and persisting in its use irrespective of harmful condition (WHO, 2019). Drug abuse contributes to physio-mental deterioration and damage to self and the society. The use of unprescribed substance is a health-risky behaviour which can cause a lot of evil in our society even in secondary schools irrespective of gender disposition (Oluyemi & Adayonfo, 2016). Substance abuse could also be seen as chronic or habitual use of any chemical substance to alter states of body or mind, other than medically warranted purposes leading to effect that which is detrimental to the individual's physical or mental health or the welfare of others (Adeyemo et al., 2019). Secondary school students who are dependent on substances are often unable to quit on their own, therefore need treatment to help them to stop using such substances (Abd-Allah et al., 2015).

Certain illicit drugs such as tramadol, cannabis, cocaine, tobacco, inhalants, rophynol, amphetamues, among others has a variation of intoxication among users. Blazer and Wult, (2016) noted that illicit drugs are associated with increased blood pressure, Poor motor co-ordination, loss of muscle control and difficulty in concentration. This also has a negative influence on academic performance of students. Illicit drugs disrupt academic foundation of a child. Smith et al., (2018) also revealed that illicit drugs present cases such as: decrease in mental sharpness, anxiety or paranoid thinking, poor performance in school or at work, agitation, psychotic, violent behaviour, irritability and insomnia. It also lead to poor academic performance of students.

Atuoli et al., (2019) reported that alcohol is basically a central nervous system depressant and dulls the brain making learning a difficult task. When students get to the behaviour of abusing alcohol their reasoning get impaired and education becomes of less priority in the student's life. Simatwa et al., (2019) also acknowledged that alcohol



abuse leads to anti-social behaviour and poor academic performance of secondary school students.

Again, marijuana acts like a hallucinogen, but also produces depressant effects. Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drugs at different parts of the world today. Moreover, smoking affects school achievement of students, children who have smoked are more likely to decrease in attentiveness, cognitive, and memory functions, have difficult remembering information and verbal learning impairment, drop out of school and engage in delinquent behaviour (Koch & McGeary, 2015), Mental health disorders have been strongly associated with smoking marijuana especially among adolescents and youths. Smoking marijuana has been associated with suicidal tendencies and other anti-social behaviour.

Age is a factor that determines abuse of drugs among students. Younger students who are faced with developmental task possess the likelihood of using one or more illicit substance. Kiriru (2018) opined that alcohol and drug abuse were infiltrated into society were youth and young adult are the potential risk group. The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (2017) reported that increased abuse of drugs especially illicit substance was observed among youths in Lafia metropolis where a youth was arrested with 3,683kg of hard drugs, including 804.22kg of cannabis, 2,873.8kg of tramadol, 5.3g of cocaine and 57.2L of codeine syrup.

Most secondary school students develop drug abuse habit from their parents. Students whose parents utilize any form of psychoactive substance such as tobacco, alcohol among others possess the likelihood to become drug abuse. Sometimes, parents send children to buy cigarette, beer, dry gin, spirit, tramadol etc and drink same in front of the child and such student will not see the use of such substances as anything dangerous to them. Aduoti (2019) found a strong significance influence on the use of illicit drugs based on family setting. In regard to this, students from separated family were prone to vices in the society because of lack of parental care and monitoring. The issues of poor parental guide have contributed to social problem in the society.

Friends as well as peer groups contribute to the menace of drug abuse especially among teens in secondary school. Students who keep more friends may likely use substance

improperly as compared with those who are careful with their peers. George (2015) reported that 34.7% of drug abusers said that their friends introduced them to it. Most secondary school students are lured by friends to take substance in order to maintain their friendship which gradually leads to addiction. Friends may likely be the commonest source of introduction of drugs among secondary school students. Several studies have indicated that secondary school students who are likely to become drunkards and smokers may have at least one friend who smokes and consumes alcohol (Al-Alawi et al., 2018).

Drug abuse has a negative influence on academic performance of secondary school students. Academic performance has been an issue of concern to students, teachers, parents, school administrators, and the society at large. Therefore, academic performance could be seen as the level of proficiency and knowledge demonstrated by an individual after learning has taken place. It has to do with the use of mental effort and skill acquisition. It deals with the level of success made by the students in their academic pursuits and performance recorded in the school (Elliot et al., 2019). It also deals with the students' success in meeting a goal while in school. It could be high or low performance. It is high when a student is able to excel in his academic activities and perform extra-ordinarily well, scoring high marks. It is conversely low when a child performs poorly in academic activities and consistently scores very low marks in examination.

Hijazi and Naqvi (2016) defined Academic performance as the display of knowledge attained or skills developed by students in the school subject. It is the level of performance in the subject as exhibited by a student. Academic performance is the exhibition of knowledge attains or skills developed by learners in the school subject usually designed by test scores or by marks assigned by teachers which can be low or high. It means how well one does in school. Poor grades are considered as bad academic performance. Al-Zoubi and Younness (2019) asserted that student's academic performance is the main focus in the overall educational performance. It is a veritable tool that can be used to determine and predict the standard of any educational system in Nigeria in terms of its efficiency and effectiveness. It portrays the quality of education offered in Nigeria.



Statement of the Problem

Drug abuse among secondary school students is a major challenge bewildering our society and it is not only a concern to the teacher and parents but also to the government and the society at large, because of the havoc it has caused families, schools and the large society. The social endemic condition of drug abuse has done more damages and engendered the tendency of crime and loss of values in the country. This condition invaded the educational institution mostly public secondary schools contributing to poor academic performance, criminal tendencies, stealing, raping, assault, fighting, robbery, cult related activities among secondary school students. Despite all the measures such as institutional laws and regulations, penalty and strategies that have been deployed to curb and control the menace of drug abuse among students, crime, violence, raping and various forms of criminalities continue to spread in secondary schools.

Drug abuse and other illicit drugs are common in public secondary schools in Rivers State in which Obio-Akpor is not exempted. This may be so due to the negligence of parents at family level which involves building bad family structures and creating negative impression for the children in the family. Hence, drug abuse has brought about grave health challenges and social consequences, such as; risky behaviour, poor educational achievement, mental illness, violence, injury, absenteeism to school, stealing, crime and anti-social behaviour..

Therefore, this study attempts to address influence of abuse drug on academic performance of secondary school students in Obio-Akpor of Rivers State.

Research Questions

To guide the study, the following research questions were formulated:

- 1 To what extent does alcohol abuse influences academic performance of senior secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A of Rivers State?
- 2 To what extent does marijuana influences academic performance of senior secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A of Rivers State?
- 3 To what extent do illicit drugs influence academic performance of senior secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A of Rivers State?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were formulated to guide the study at 0.05 level of significance.

H₀₁: Alcohol abuse does not significantly influence academic performance of senior secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A of Rivers State.

H₀₂: Marijuana does not significantly influence academic performance of senior secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A of Rivers State.

H₀₃: Illicit drugs do not significantly influence academic performance of senior secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A of Rivers State.

Methodology

The study adopted a correlational research design. Creswell (2015) noted that Correlational research design helps to determine the extent or degree of relationship existing between two or more variables and to use such relationship in making future predictions. Nwankwo (2013) also noted that Correlation research can also be used to estimate the accuracy of such predictions or direction of relationship. Correlational studies have been regarded as relational studies or prediction studies. The population of the study comprised of (16,500) senior secondary school students selected from ten public schools in Obio-Akpor L.G.A. Stratified sampling technique was used to draw a sample of 391 senior secondary students, using Taro Yamane method to determine the sample size. The instruments for data collection were a self-structured questionnaire titled "Influence of Drug Abuse (IDA) and Academic Performance of Students in Economics (APSE)". The instrument was segmented into two sections. Section "A" contained information on bio-data of the respondents, while sections "B" elicited information on variables that were captured in the research questions. The research instruments were responded on a modified 4 point Likert scale and weight as follows: Very High Extent (VHE) = 4 High Extent (HE) = 3, Low Extent (LE)= 2, Very Low Extent (VLE) = 1, while the academic performance in Economics has four options in which the respondents are requested to tick the best option.

These instruments were validated by two experts in measurement and evaluation, department of educational psychology, Guidance and counselling. The reliability of the instruments was estimated using the Cronbach Alpha reliability method for internal consistency of the items. The



sample for determination of the Cronbach Alpha was 30 senior secondary school students. A reliability co-efficient of (0.79) and (0.83) were obtained for (IDA) and (APSE) respectively. Simple Linear Regression Analysis was used to answer the research questions and test of null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significant.

Table 1.1: Summary of Simple Linear Regression Model of Alcohol Abuse on Academic Performance of Secondary School Students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.235 ^a	.0552	-.0550	2.2012

a. Predictors: (Constant), Alcohol abuse

Table 1.1 shows the model summary influence of alcohol abuse on academic performance of senior secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A.

The simple linear regression model gave a coefficient of 0.235, R^2 of 0.0552 and adjusted R^2 of -.0550. This shows that alcohol abuse negatively influence academic

Presentation of Results

Research Question One: To what extent does alcohol abuse influences academic performance of senior secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A of Rivers State?

performance of senior secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A.

Research Question Two: To what extent does marijuana influences academic performance of senior secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A of Rivers State?

Table 1.2: Summary of Simple Linear Regression Model of Influence of Marijuana on Academic Performance of Secondary School Students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.273 ^a	.0745	-.0747	2.3016

a. Predictors: (Constant), Marijuana

Table 1.2 shows the model summary influence of marijuana on academic performance of senior secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A.

The simple linear regression model gave a coefficient of 0.273, R^2 of 0.0745 and adjusted R^2 of -.0747. This shows

that marijuana negatively influence academic performance of senior secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A.

Research Question Three: To what extent do illicit drugs influence academic performance of senior secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A of Rivers State?

Table 1.3: Summary of Simple Linear Regression Model of Illicit drugs on Academic Performance of Secondary School Students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.335 ^a	.0112	-.0114	2.3754

a. Predictors: (Constant), Illicit drugs

Table 1.3 shows the model summary influence of illicit drugs on academic performance of senior secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A.

The simple linear regression model gave a coefficient of 0.335, R^2 of 0.0112 and adjusted R^2 of -.0114. This shows that illicit drugs negatively influence academic

performance of senior secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A.

Hypothesis One: Alcohol abuse does not significantly influence academic performance of senior secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A of Rivers State.

Table 1.4: ANOVA Associated with Regression: Summary Influence of Alcohol Abuse on Academic Performance of Secondary School Students

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F-value	P-value
Regression	3319.456	1	2721.110	40.504	.025 ^b
Residual	1524.327	389	28.734		



Total	4843.783	390
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a. Dependent Variable: Academic Performance

b. Predictors: (Constant), Alcohol abuse

Table 1.4 reveals the results of ANOVA associated with simple regression which yielded an F-value of 40.504 at degree of freedom between 1 and 389 with its corresponding P-value of 0.025 which is less than the chosen significant level of 0.05 ($p < 0.05$). The null hypothesis is **rejected**. It, therefore, indicates that, alcohol

abuse significantly influence academic performance of secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L. G. A. of Rivers State

Hypothesis Two: Marijuana does not significantly influence academic performance of senior secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A of Rivers State.

Table 1.5: ANOVA Associated with Regression: Summary Influence of Marijuana Drugs on Performance of Secondary School Students

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F-value	P-value.
Regression	2514.216	1	2323.231	45.324	.020 ^b
Residual	1211.127	389	35.134		
Total	3725.343	390			

a. Dependent Variable: Academic performance

b. Predictors: (Constant), Marijuana drug

Table 1.5 reveals the results of ANOVA associated with simple regression which yielded an F-value of 45.324 at degree of freedom between 1 and 389 with its corresponding P-value of 0.020 which is less than the chosen significant level of 0.05 ($p < 0.05$). The null hypothesis is **rejected**. It, therefore, indicates that marijuana drugs significantly influence academic performance of secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L. G. A. of Rivers State

Hypothesis Three: Illicit drugs do not significantly influence academic performance of senior secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L.G.A of Rivers State.

Table 1.6: ANOVA Associated with Regression: Summary Influence of Illicit Drug on Academic Performance of Secondary School Students

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F-value	P-value.
Regression	3211.245	1	3365.573	50.227	.015 ^b
Residual	1131.123	389	35.134		
Total	4342.368	390			

a. Dependent Variable: Academic performance

b. Predictors: (Constant), Illicit drugs

Table 1.6 reveals the results of ANOVA associated with simple regression which yielded an F-value of 50.227 at degree of freedom between 1 and 389 with its corresponding P-value of 0.015 which is less than the chosen significant level of 0.05 ($p < 0.05$). The null hypothesis is **rejected**. It, therefore, indicates that illicit drugs significantly influence academic performance of secondary school students in Obio-Akpor L. G. A of Rivers State

The study is in agreement with the studies of Atuoli et al., (2019) who found significant influence of alcohol abuse on academic performance of students. They added that alcohol is basically a central nervous system depressant and dulls the brain making learning a difficult task. When students abuse alcohol their reasoning get impaired and education becomes of less priority in the student's life, which leads to academic deficiency. Simatwa et al., (2019) also supported that alcohol abuse leads to anti-social behaviour and poor academic performance of secondary school students.

Discussion



The study is in harmony with the studies of Koch and McGeary (2015) who found that marijuana drugs affect school achievement of students, children who have smoked are more likely to decrease in attentiveness, cognitive, and memory functions, have difficulty in remembering information and verbal learning impairment, drop out of school and engage in delinquent behaviour. The study is also in accordance with the studies of Kiriru (2018) who reported that mental health disorders have been strongly associated with smoking marijuana especially among adolescents and young adults. Smoking marijuana has been associated with suicidal tendencies and other anti-social behaviour. Smoking has a negative influence on academic performance of students as it leads to poor performance in school.

The study is also in line with the studies of Blazer and Wult (2016) as they noted that illicit drugs are associated with increase in blood pressure, Poor motor co-ordination, loss of muscle control and difficulty in concentration. This also has a negative influence on academic performance of students. Illicit drugs disrupt academic foundation of a child. Smith et al., (2018) also supported that illicit drugs present cases such as decrease in mental sharpness, anxiety or paranoid thinking, poor performance in school or at work, agitation, psychotic, violent behaviour, irritability and insomnia. This results in poor academic performance of students. Therefore, illicit drugs have negative influence on academic performance of students.

Possible Implications of Drug Abuse

- i. **Problems at school or work:** Drop-out, missing lecture or classes, a sudden disinterest in academic activities, drop in grades, poor academic performance among others.
- ii. **Physical health issues:** Lack of energy and motivation, loss of weight, lip damage, red eyes, emaciation, seizures, strokes, brain damage, lung disease, memory failure, increase in body temperature among others.
- iii. **Neglected appearance:** Lack of interest in clothing, grooming.
- iv. **Changes in behaviour:** Very secretive about where he/she goes with peers or friends, poor relationship with family members and teachers.
- v. **Money issues:** Sudden request of feeding money, unreasonable explanation, stealing of money (Otieno & Ofulla, 2017).

Conclusion

The drug abuse of students may directly impair academic abilities which limit their academic performance. Most of the users are engaged in anti-social behaviours which have a long term direct effect on educational attainment. It can also alter and disrupt a child's academic foundation. Therefore, preventive measures should be taken in order to correct this abnormality from the cradle. The findings of the result also showed that drug abuse leads to school dropout, deviant behaviour and poor academic performance of secondary school students.

Recommendations

- 1 Government should prevent the cultivation/sales of illicit drugs, marijuana and other deadly herbs that encourage drug abuse of students.
- 2 Parents and guardians should endeavour to monitor their children and wards so that they do not engage in drug abuse.
- 3 Drug free clubs should be established in secondary schools so as to help students not to be involved in abuse of drugs
- 4 There should be an enlightenment programme on the dangers and consequences of drug abuse and health and academic performance of students.
- 5 Social media advertisement of illicit drugs and alcohol should be stopped but emphasize more on negative effect of usage which can lead to untimely death.

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