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**PERCEIVED INFLUENCE OF DRUG ON ACADEMIC
PERFORMANCE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN ILORIN
METROPOLIS, NIGERIA.**

By

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Abstract

This study investigated the perceived influence of drug on academic performance of secondary school students in Ilorin West L.G.A of Kwara State, Nigeria. The descriptive design of the survey type was employed for the study. A total of (400) subject (students) in SS II and SS III ranging between the ages of 13 and 18 years old and above, male and female, formed the research sample. The variables of gender and socio-economic background were tested. A researcher structured questionnaire was used to gather data from the sample. The coefficient of reliability obtained was 0.76 using Pearson product movement statistics. Two research hypotheses were analyzed using percentages, t-test analysis of variance (ANOVA).The result from the study reveal that there is difference in the way male and female students perceived, used drug and its influence on academic performance. Also, there is difference in the way students perceived the use of drugs in relation to economic background and its influence on academic performance. Therefore, it was recommended that Senior Secondary Schools students should be educated more on the influence of drugs on academic performance; this could be done through Symposium, Seminars and also by encouraging the formation of free drugs clubs to serve as medium of campaign on illicit drug use among students and it implication on academic performance.

Introduction

For years, many people have been craving for plants and substances to prevent and cure all sort illness, getting the body into a state of readiness or maintaining good health and wellbeing. Ordinary drugs are very useful to mankind.

Jaiyeoba (1993) and Center for Disease Control (CDC, 2008) stated that life and drugs are related from creation. They asserted that drugs are substance that could prevent, cure or relieve symptoms of disease thereby preserving life; that this occur when a substance hasbeen introduced into or on the users, depending on their effects. The team "drug" has being viewed by many people from different perspective but with the same concept. Fajemibola (2000)viewed drug as chemical substance natural or synthetic which may alter the normal functions of the body and that drug is any chemical compound that will in some ways affect the functioning of the body.

According to Afridi and Shahid (2002) drug is any substance which when taken into living organism may modify one or more of its functions. The sources and administration of drugs may be legal or illegal. That is why Eddy (1973) defined drugs as illegitimate medication that is, if they are used without medical advice which is common among students and teenagers.

According to Abioye (2006) consumption of alcohol by teenagers, young men and women is one of the greatest evils in the country today. Abioye (2006) added that abuse of drug is a global health problem and it has been fully identified by virtually all organizations such as the Association of Medical Personnel as well as alternative medicine practitioners across the globe.

On the views of Arira (2008) drug abuse as the act of taking drugs for the purpose of fulfilling a need that the drug cannot pharmacologically fulfill. Arira (2008) added that drug abuse is the persistent, excessive and improper use without regard to medical practice. Drug abuses could be seen as a particular application of drug more on destructive seeking to use a substance regardless of the potentially negative social, psychological and physical consequences. In recent time, indiscriminate use of drug among adolescent youths in Nigeria has increased at an alarming rate. It is now a common occurrence among secondary school students. Male and female students take drug and smoke cigarette in the open places within the school environment (Olanrewaju, 2010). Sarah (2010) reported that many students are regularly using them for both academic and recreational purposes without even truly understanding the physical, ethical or legal dangers that they present. Sarah (2010) added that students all over the country are beginning to experiment with the drugs at an alarming rate, with some campus statistics showing as many as 25% of the students population using such drugs within academic careers.

Reasons for the increase in students involvement in drug use reported by Sussman, Peritz, Metz and Miller (2006) is that more people are diagnosed with attention Deficit/Hyper-activity Disorder (ADHD) each year, these stimulants drugs are becoming more readily available and students across the country are recognizing their benefits and therefore using them more than ever (McCabe, Knight, Teter and Wechsler, 2005).

Harris (2009) identified that there are definitely reasons for concern over the misuse or abuse of these drugs within the college age population. Sarah (2010) listed some of the reasons why students engaged in drug misuse or abuse as ranging from family and societal pressure and expectations as well as the intensity of school curriculum, college students across the country are unknowingly putting themselves at the great risks in the name of better grades. However, Denis, Scott, Susan, Janice Dolly and Jurgen (2009) reported that characteristics of students who engaged in higher maximum number of drinks are men and freshmen. Moreso, Wechsler and Nelson (2001) and Denis et al (2009) confirmed the frequency of consuming five or more drinks on at least one occasion (four for women) in the prior two week period alcohol intake at this level or height has consistently been found to predict drinking problems, including those related to school performance (Denis et al, 2009).

In other hand, people with low self-esteem are more likely to abuse drugs than people with high self-esteem and when people become addicted to

drugs, they continue its use because of the pleasure experienced (Chau, 2007). Individuals from homes most especially children and those without siblings have a greater risk of becoming problem drinkers (Singleton, 2001). Similarly, Ogunsakin (1990) found that the position of drug abuse is already in our school system. He further said that drug abuse has no boundary line that is, it can affect all age group and no country is completely out of the scourge; men, women and even children can be counted among the victims who experience debilitating health problems as a result of their physical and psychological addiction.

However, many authorities have reported in a negative perspective on the relationship of drug misuse or abuse to academic performance among students using drugs.

Sarah (2010), reported that stimulants assist in academics in long run and that the highest rates of illicit use on college campuses are typically associated with students with the lowest grade point averages. Sarah (2010) added that the drugs provide a quick but will likely not be long term aid for many students. Wechsler et al (2001) reported missing classes and performing poorly on a test or project as a result of effects of drugs abuse in school. Denies et al (2009) reported that heavy drinking, frequency of alcohol use at all level and average intake could affect academic performance.

Purpose of The Study

The purpose of the study was to investigate the perceived influence of drug on academic performance of secondary school students in Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara State. To ascertain whether the use of drugs enhance better academic performance of the students who use drug or not.

Hypotheses

In order to achieve the purpose of this study, the following hypotheses are formulated and tested thus;

1. There is no significant difference in the perceived influence of drug of male and female students on academic performance in Ilorin West L.G.A of Kwara State.
2. There is no significant difference in the perceived influence of drug of students from different socio economic background on academic performance in Ilorin West L.G.A of Kwara State.

Methodology

Population of this study consisted of all Senior Secondary School Students in Ilorin West L.G.A of Kwara State. Sample used for this study was carefully selected using multi-stage sampling technique. These samples were drawn from four schools chosen using clustered sampling technique after all schools were alphabetically grouped into four (that is, Group A- Group D) based on the four cardinal points (East, South, West and North) and thereafter four hundred (400) participants (students) were selected in SSII and SSIII ranging between the ages of 13 and 18 years old male and female through simple random sampling technique.

Instrumentation

The main instrument used for this study was a self-structured questionnaire subjected to content and item validation by experts from Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education, University of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria before administration. Kimberlin and Winterstein (2008) described validity as the extent to which an instrument measured what is purported to measure and can be inferred from observations of specified behaviours of phenomena that are thoughts to be indicators of the presence of the construct. The instruments consist of two sections; Section A, demographic data and Section B; Questions on variables tested at 0.05 alpha level. The data collected were analyzed using percentage, t-test analysis of Variance(ANOVA).

Result And Discussion

Hypothesis 1

There is no significant difference in the perceived influence of drug of male and female on academic performance in Ilorin west L.G.A Kwara State.

Table; t-test table showing difference in the perception of male and female respondents on the influence of drug on academic performance.

Source of variables	NXSDDF	Calculated	Critical value	Decision	t-test
Male	216	42.00	6.452	31127.87	81.658
Hypothesis is rejected					
Female	176	26.483	9.463		

Result in table 1 above shows t-test investigation in perception of male and female respondents on the influence of drugs on academic performance. The calculated t-value is 27.878 while the critical t-value is 1.658 and 311 degree of freedom at 0.05 level of significance, therefore, the null hypothesis which stated that there is no significant difference in the perception of male and female on the influence of drugs on academic performance was rejected. This signifies that there is no significant difference in the perception of male and female students on the influence of drug on academic performance; this finding collaborates the finding of Ogunsakin (1990) who found that the position of drug abuse is already in our school system. He further stressed that drug abuses have no boundary lines that is, no country is completely out of this scourge; men, women and even children can be counted among the victims who experienced debilitating health problems as a result of their physical and psychological addictions. This implies that both male and female secondary school students are differs in the way they used drugs to influence their academic performance. The reason not far-fetched is their exposure to different concept of drug abuse and it influence on educational performance before now.

Hypothesis 2

There is no significant difference in the perceived influence of drugs of students from different socio-economic background on academic performance in Ilorin West L.G.A of Kwara State.

Socio-economic status	Sources of square	DF	Mean square	F	Significant
Between group	39277.554	3	13092.518	65.407	0.000
Within group	7155.174	30923.156			

Total 46432.728312

Remark: $P > 0.05$ significant at 0.05 level, H_0 upheld.

The result on table 2 aboveshowed that the calculated F-value (f- ratio) 65.407 is greater than the table value of 0.000.

This shows that there is no significant difference in Socio-economic background of the respondents about their perceived influence of drug on academic performance. On this basis, the hypothesis was upheld. The finding of this research was also in line with the report of Ogunsakin (1990) that drug abuse has no boundary lines, that is, men, women, children, the rich and the poor all can be a victim of drug abuse and in disagreement with the report of Singleton (2007) that individuals from broken homes and those without siblings have a greater risk of becoming problem drunker and also with that of Chau (2007) that people with low esteem are more likely to abuse drug than people with high self-esteem. This implies that irrespective of individual status at a time can either abuse drug or not.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study, it was concluded that male and female secondary school students may differ in their perception in the use of drug and its influence on academic performances.

Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made thus;

1. More symposium, seminars should be organized for secondary school students where more light will be shed on the influence of drugs on academic performance
2. Male and female students in secondary school should be encouraged to form free drug club to serve as medium of campaign on illicit drug among students.
3. Parents and guardian at any level of the socio-economic should live up to their responsibilities by creating awareness among their children and wards on the influence of drugs on academic performance.
4. The secondary school curriculum should be review to reflect teachings on drug abuse and its implications on academic performance thereby giving the opportunities to all students to learn about drugs on equal scale to resolve the issues of differences in perception on effects of drug abuse among students.

Finally, it is definite that no nation aspires greatness will afford to fold its arms and watch its youth being gradually destroyed. The war against drug abuse and addiction must therefore be collective efforts of all citizens of the nation irrespective of class or discipline to which they belong.

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