



Title: STUDY OF YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN DRUG ABUSE; TRAFFICKING AND ADDICTION IN JIGAWA STATE OF NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT: This study was an attempt to investigate the level of youth involvement in drug abuse in jigawa state with special focus or reference to drug trafficking and addiction. Seven research questions were formulated. A well structured questionnaire was designed with the purpose of extracting all necessary information from arrested abused drug culprits and officers of the Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA). Purposive sampling was used, involving all the available officers and youth between the age brackets of 12-40 years in the custody of the NDLEA, Dutse command. The instrument used for data collection was the validated questionnaires and record of stored data NDLEA forms, Duste Command. Descriptive statistical analyses involving percentages, simple frequency tables with component bar charts were used during this study. NDLEA data record showed that, the proportion of youths involved in drug use/abuse was highest in the year 2009 under the three years of study. It was also observed that about 296 persons filled questionnaires which were evaluated. The study revealed that, the incidence of drug use/abuse is highest among the male than the female in the three years of study. Marijuana is the most common abused drug in jigawa state. The researcher recommends that, youths should not be involved in drug abuse. Curriculum planners should ensure that drug education as a course or subject is included in the National curriculum of education. Parents on their part should give their children good moral upbringing. All tiers of government should provide good teaching and learning environment for youths as well as create employment opportunities for all, especially youths.

INTRODUCTION: BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

It is a universally accepted fact that drug abuse is a worldwide problem. It is a problem of great magnitude in many countries of the world such as United States of America, India, Holland, Italy, Japan, Germany and most of other countries including Nigeria.

Drug abuse may be defined to be persistent, excessive and improper use of drug without regard to accept medical practice. According to Comer (1992), many of these substances called drugs have proved beneficial to health and have gained use as medicine or drugs while some have been found to have calming or stimulating effects and are used to enhanced social and recreational experiences. It is also worthy to note that many of these drugs are capable of harming the body or adversely effecting behavior or mood.

The abuse of these substances by the youths has become one of the society's disabling problems and also a canker worm that eats deep in the fabrics of our nation today. In Nigeria today, many lives especially youths have been ruined through the abuse of drugs. Youths commit homicide or steal as a result of addiction to drugs. It may be pertinent to say that no day passes without some persons especially youths being arrested in different parts of the country for drug related offences.

Drug Trafficking is a global illicit trade involving cultivation, manufacture, distribution and sale of substance which are subject to drug prohibition laws.

UNODC is continuously monitoring and researching global illicit drug markets in order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of their dynamics.

The United Nation General Assembly Resolution 39/14 of the 4th December, 1984 stipulated: The United Nations General Assembly, recognizing the concern that prevail, in the international community about the problem of illegal production, illegal trafficking, defense and abuse of drugs – declares that drug trafficking and drug use have become an international criminal activity demanding urgent attention and maximum priority and that, the eradication of trafficking in narcotic drugs is the collective responsibility of all states.” In the same vein, the government of Nigeria declared war on narcotics in 1989 with the setting up of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA). In a similar manner, the united Nation International mapped out every 26th June of every year as the international day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The united nation international drug control has seen the adverse effects drug abuse and illicit trafficking could have on the world as a global village and the youths in particular. In their bid to sensitized and educate the youths on the dangers of drug abuse, they mapped a program for the youths in the world with theme: the youth uniting to prevent drug abuse, but have the youths appreciated this unalloyed effort of UN? We are yet to find out.

Research has shown that people who are addicted to drugs may steal, kill or embezzle money to enable them to maintain the habit. Again addictive drugs create euphoric or elevated feelings of being pleased with oneself and the entire world even when the situation calls for the opposite. Drug addiction is very common among students (youths) in the recent time and this has lead to a general breakdown of social order, resulting to increase in violence, crime, prostitution, family crisis, economic problems, mental disorientation, eventual madness or death and destitution among the youths. Illicit drug business has devastated and permeated political institutions, national commerce, labour productivity and the entire society. Many countries of the world including Nigeria has set up stringent laws and punitive measures aimed at deterring offenders. However, these laws and measures have not been very adequate in eradication of this global chronic headache or drug epidemic.

The introduction of this subject matter 'drug abuse' among youths will never be complete without our tracing the origin of the hard drugs. The history of drug use dates back to the use of plants that were discovered to have had medicinal effects on the body. This shows that drugs use has lasted for thousands of years. One analyst report that the earliest existing record of opium was linked to a Venetian trader who visited Burma in the year 1581 and sold opium to a people in Pegu but never mentioned where it originated from. According to Robert O'Brien and Sidney

Coheu in their book titled the encyclopedia of drug abuse, stated that cannabis was first introduced into India about the year 2000B.C and the Indians may have been the first people to dry the plant and smoke. This probably accounted for the nick name “Indian Hemp”, by which the drug is popularly known all over the world.

Narcotic or psychoactive drugs in its entirety is harmful and very disastrous, therefore youths should endeavor to desist from its use as drug abuse can destroy life while drug trafficking can destroy the nation. Youths should also remember that that drug free child is the pride of parents.

Finally let us remember that Nigeria has great potentials so let us not destroy it with drugs.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Drug abuse among youths and within the Nigerian society is a big problem to the whole nation. It could be said without argument that it is a problem to the whole nation. It could be said without argument that the problem of drug trafficking and drugs addiction among the youths is fairly new in the country. If we would brows down our memory lane to thirty five years back, it will be recalled that there was peace and harmony in the country. Presently, we cannot boast of a drug free society neither can we talk of our youths the supposed great leaders of this great country being free from drug addiction, trafficking or general abuse.

Consequently, we cannot discuss drug abuse problems in Nigeria without highlighting the facts that brought its abuse amongst our youths. Some major factors which could influence or enhance drug abuse among youth are: availability of the psychoactive drugs to the masses especially to extinct the feeling of insecurity, immaturity, depression as well as for curiosity to experience a new state of consciousness, peer group influences pressure as to belong or be accepted by the peers, parental factors or influence as in the case of youths from broken homes, model parents and neglected children.

Furthermore, the problem of drug abuse have since independence grown from bad to worse and it has taken toll in the increase of the number of young people becoming school dropouts. It has also lead to an increase in the number of young patients suffering in our psychiatric hospitals and prison asylum. Some youths are in prisons for committing one crime or the other under the influence of drugs. It must be said that many lives have been lost through road accidents, some of which were caused by driving under the influence of either psychoactive drugs or alcohol. The phenomenal rise in the habit for smoking, drug abuse and intense alcoholism among the youths in the recent years has lead to high violent crime wave in the nation.

It is in view of the above that researcher intend to survey youths involvement in drugs abuse with special references to addiction and trafficking in Jigawa State Nigeria.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

This study is geared towards finding out the rate at which youths get involved in drug abuse (addiction and trafficking), as well as the drugs which are commonly abused by the Nigerian youths. These will be achieved by verifying:

The prevalent use of drugs among youth in Jigawa state.

The prevalent rate at which Jigawa state youths get involved in drug trafficking.

If age has any influence on drug abuse and trafficking.

Which gender is more prone to drug use and trafficking.

Whether age influences drug addiction.

Which gender gets addicted to drug more easily

Common drugs of abuse among youths in Jigawa State.

The future fate of our youths in Jigawa State with regards to the use of psychoactive drugs.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The youths that are involved in the act of abusing drugs are either affected psychologically, physically, socially or economically thereby making them a nuisance to the society. This goes a long way in affecting the economy of the nation since youths are the workforce of every society or nation.

This study analyzed the consequences and dangers of drug abuse and then made recommendations.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Which gender is more prone to drug abuse, trafficking and addiction?

What influence age has on drug abuse, trafficking and addiction?

What influence does the social and family living have on drug abuse, trafficking and addiction?

What is the prevalent rate of use of drugs among youths in Jigawa State?

What is the prevalent rate of drug trafficking by the Jigawa state youth?

What is the common drug of abuse among youth in Jigawa state?

What is the prevalent rate of drug abuse, trafficking and addiction?

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study addressed the issue on youth involvement in drug abuse; trafficking and addiction in Jigawa State. The study is focused on the youths between the ages of 12 – 24 years.

Based on the information collected from the DDRU section of the Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the researcher intends to dwell more on the common drugs of abuse by the Nigerian youths e.g. Cannabis or Marijuana, Cocaine and Heroin.

Consequently, based on the information given by the PSO of the NDLEA, Dutse Command, any exhibit like cannabis that weighs 1kg and above is for trafficking while the reverse is for abuse. Cocaine or heroin that weighs more than 0.4 grams is for trafficking, while anything less is for abuse. The researcher intends to use this classification as it relates to youths involvement in trafficking and addiction to drugs.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Drug abuse is a worldwide or global health problem, which has been fully identified by the World Health organization (WHO). It was in recognition of this problem that WHO set out its objectives and priorities in its drugs dependence programs that forms a part of its overall mental health program (World Health, August, 1981 p. 21).

Drug abuse occurs in all levels of social and economic strata; it is not limited to slum areas. According to Eze (1998), it is stated that the world is passing through an unprecedented wave of drug culture and to confirm this, the world health organization (WHO, 1994) tagged the 20th century “drug era”. What still baffles everybody is that most of these drugs are as old as man, yet is only recently that most countries of Africa as well as affluent west have become hotbeds or transit routes for the epidemic growth of drug cultures.

In other words, most people seem unable to give a coherent account of any real, concrete, causative reasons for the sudden movement towards afflicting youths of today throughout the world. With this malady Nigeria is no exception. Brain stimulant drug like amphetamines, also known as pro-plus tablets, pep pills, dizzies or speeds are used by indolent students to seek some short-cut to their studies. Instead of planning their day with help of a balanced time-table for hard works, exercise and relaxation, they reckon that they can cheat nature by keeping awake at night when their mates are sleeping. They mistakenly believe their brain will absorb and retain more under the influence of these drugs. This is false! You cannot cheat nature. I have seen a colleague of mine, who read for two consecutive days and nights before a vital examination, leave the examination hall at about half an hour after it started because, according to him, his brain had over heated. He was found lying in bed fast asleep with a wet towel around his head when we finished the examination that day! He had to fall back one year. Fortunately the government has officially banned the sale of drugs containing amphetamine. Addiction to marijuana (pot, wee-wee, grass or whatever else it is called) is more dangerous than that of amphetamines. Unfortunately it is easily available as it is obtainable from a plant which can be grown in the garden or backyard. The usual route of addiction is by smoking. Some very dangerous drugs found in other countries are opium, cocaine and heroine. The mind and body are destroyed in much the same way as by alcohol. Ozoman and Craver (1976) observed that man is the only being that needs education and that discipline is a primary ingredient of education which leads man to seek out the good. Many dependents spend so much time under the influence of drugs; hence they neglect health, work, family and friends. Due to bad effects of these drugs, these youths that make use of them turn to crimes such as robbery and prostitution to support their drug habits. Iman (1989), believed that drug abuse is self administration of drugs without medical advice, while drug addiction is drug abuse resulting in psychic and physical dependence with intoxication, harmful to the individual or the society. The addicts destroy not only their own lives, but also of those with whom they live and love. He further laments thus “drug abuse in Nigeria is a crisis of which all Nigerians must face”.

Durojaiye and Folawiye (1988) believe that drug abuse is a problem for youths everywhere nowadays. According to them, many bright promising young men and women have been affected by drug abuse; the lucky ones

temporarily, while the unfortunate ones for prolong periods. What is required of youths is to smoke Indian hemp not knowing the possible consequences of their action. According to Trounce (1985), pressure from peer group and curiosity play a part particularly with drugs like alcohol and cannabis. In addition, Enekewchi (1984) and Agu (1988) noted that peer pressure and modeling contributes very significantly to people's decision on taking drugs. Gibbins (1985) believe that drugs are chosen by chance to ease and escape from psychological pains and social mal adjustment. Eze (1996) supported this view when he stated that youths opt for drugs in order to banish feelings of insecurity, immaturity and depression as well as for curiosity or the urge to experience a new state of consciousness. Invariably, it implies that the youths of Nigeria today do not know how to cope with their problems. They find it difficult to maintain their personality, they are easily frustrated whenever they experience any form of disappointment, psychic stress and inferiority complex.

Ndubuisi (2001) is of the opinion that drug problem has raised more controversy than almost any other problem in the world. Unfortunately, only few people really understand its seriousness. Sijuwola and Uforha (1993) expressed their opinion by saying that the problem of drug abuse exists throughout the world, but perhaps the greater the problem is how to control it as well as to reduce the supply and demand of the various drugs of abuse. They also believe that effective legislation, effectively enforced by the law enforcement agencies would help in fighting the problem of drug abuse. Echika (2002) stated "the rising scourge of drug consumption and trafficking has effected the health and economy of this nation. It has become a menace which deserves ruthless action to check. "He strongly believes that, youths contribute more to this menace, therefore he suggested that adequate provision must be made to keep the youth busy, thereby discouraging them from getting involved in the drug menace. According to Ogbalu (1999), there is the need to prevent and control drug abuse among our youths especially students. The prevention and control of drug abuse in our society requires both legal and educational approaches. While punitive or legal approach is required to stop the provision of particular dangerous drugs from the source, making it unavailable to users by punishing suppliers, and social workers is of paramount importance because it has a more lasting and positive effects of molding the behaviors or the behavioral change of individual than the legal approach. Iheonye (1997) in quoting Ernesto Sampers (President of Columbia) and a drug crusader: "I invoke the memory of the thousands of young people by who combating or consuming drugs have lost their lives, and also invoke the future of our children who are threatened by drug doses and guns. I call on the solidarity of the world to commit ourselves to this formidable challenge of blocking the way to organized crime. "Edozie (2004) quoting Uforha (1993) in his project stated that even if the problem of drug trafficking and addiction cannot be eradicated entirely; utmost best should be done to reduce it to the minimum in our society especially Jigawa State and the world at large.

This chapter has highlighted on some factors that bring about the abuse of drugs, at the same time provides some useful ways of approaching the problem. The common abuse of drugs among the Nigerian youths and their effects is not only on the users but also on the entire society were also highlighted.

METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH DESIGN:

The descriptive survey method is the research adopted for this study. According to Ekwe and Obimba (2003), descriptive survey is a type of research method that explained conditions as they occur in natural setting through the use of questionnaire to elicit responses on the issues involved. For the achievement of the stated objectives of this research, Survey method were used to determined the extent of knowledge of danger of Youth Involvement in drug trafficking and abuse in Jigwa state.

The design of this study is a descriptive cross sectional research, which intended to examine the Youth Involvement in Drug Abuse; Trafficking and Addition in Jigawa State of Nigeria.

STUDY POPULATION:

The study population was all possible accessible persons. In view of the above, the researcher used all the arrested youths between the ages of 12 – 40 years remanded within the cell of the Nigerian Drugs and Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Dutse command, Jigawa State.

SAMPLE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUE:

The researcher used purposive sampling technique, used all the available youths (12 – 40 years) arrested in connection with drug abuse by the NDLEA, Dutse Command, Jigawa State.

INSTRUMENT FOR DATA COLLECTION

Questionnaire and stored records were the main instruments used for data collection. Items on the questionnaire were meant to find out the level of youth involvement in drug abuse; trafficking and addiction within Jigawa State, verify common drugs of abuse by the youths.

Subsequently, 20 questions were structured from 7 research questions and the items were constructed to reflect the purpose of the study. The questionnaire also emphasized personal data and instruction or guideline to respondents, while the stored records contain the year/month of arrest, the quantity of exhibit, the type of exhibit, the set and age of the culprit, and it cover the years 2009-2011

VALIDATION OF THE INSTRUMENT:

A copy of the questionnaire was given to the project supervisor for critical examination of the instrument and relevance of the content as well as clarity of the statement/sentences.

RELIABILITY OF THE INSTRUMENT:

Three copies of the questionnaire were given to the officers of NDLEA, Dutse Command and their responses from the pre – testing exercise were used in revisiting the questionnaire.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The questionnaires were administered to some Culprits in the cell through some officers of the NDLEA, Dutse Command. The filled questionnaires and copy of data from stored record were collected by the researcher after some weeks through the PSO of NDLEA Dutse Zone.

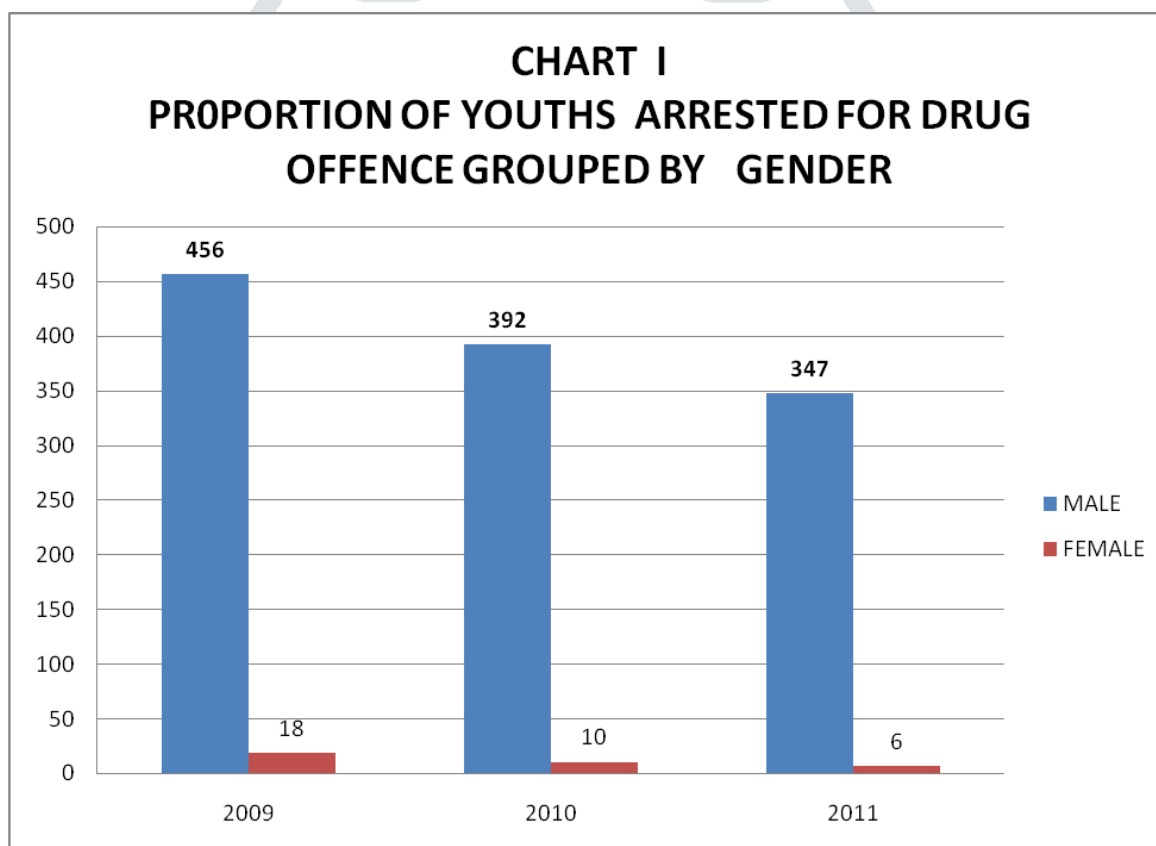
METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

The data from stored records was analyzed statistically in a tabular form and presented in a multiple bar chart as shown in chapter four while the responses are added up in frequencies and converted to percentages. To find the percentage, the formula below was used:

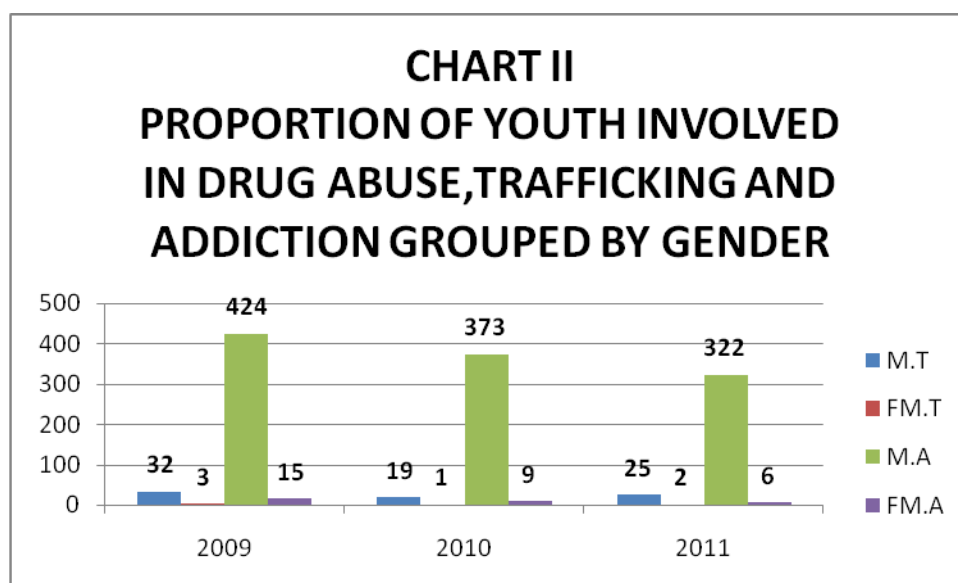
$$CF/N \times 100/1$$

Where CF is cumulative frequency of responses; N is the total number of response. The option that has the highest percentage is regarded as the generally accepted response option.

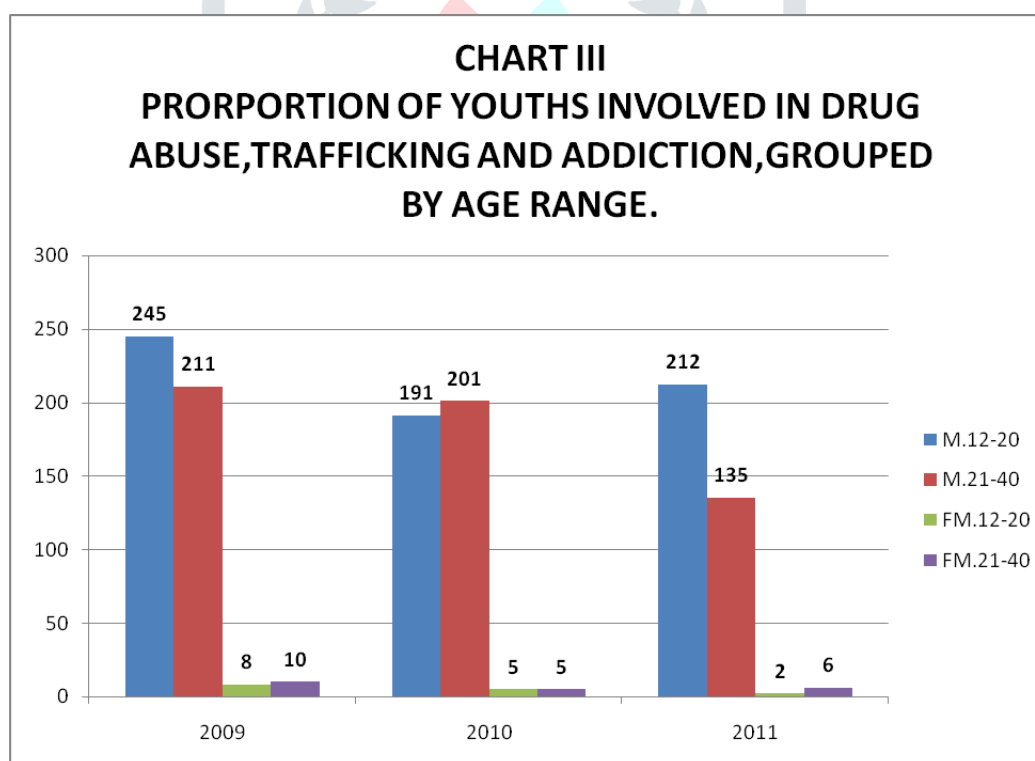
ANALYSIS OF DATA



From the above chart one, it is observed that the incidence of drug use/abuse is highest among male youths than the female youths in three years of study. It is observed that, the incidence of drug use/abuse among male youth drastically decreased in the year 2010 and 2011 respectively. It is also observed that, the incidence of drug use/abuse among female decreased slowly in the three years of study.

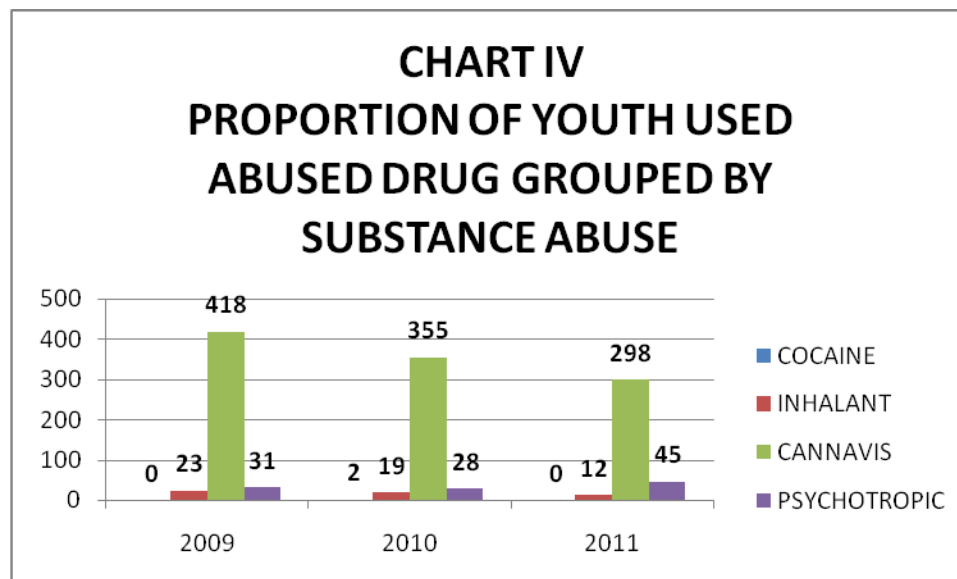


From the above chart II, it is observed that, the incidence of drug traffics among male youths is decreased in the year 2010 and increased in the year 2011. The incidence of drug traffics among female youth is fluctuated slowly in the three years of study. The incidence of abused drug among male youth decreased drastically in the three years of study. The incidence of abused drug among female youth decreased in the three years of study.



From the above chart III, it is observed that, the incidence of drug use/abuse among male youths age between 12- 20 years fluctuated in the three years of study. The incidence of drug use/abuse among male youths age between 21- 40 years decreased slowly in the year 2010 and drastically decreased in 2011 respectively. The incidence of

drug use/abuse among female youth age between 12-20 years decreased in the three years of study. The incidence of drug use/abuse among female youth age between 21-40 years fluctuated in the three years study.



From the above table and chart, it is observed that, the incidence of cocaine abused in the year 2009 is zero, increased in the year 2010 and decreased to zero in the year 2011. The incidence of inhalant abused decreased in the three years of study. The incidence cannabis abused increased drastically in the three years of study. The incidence of psychotropic substance abused fluctuated in the three years of study. We can opine that cannabis sativa is the most or the widely abused/used drug by the youths in jigawa state.

DATA COLLECTED FROM THE RESPONDENTS.

Two hundred and ninety six (296) filled questionnaires were collected from the respondents, data analyzed and calculated in percentage.

THE FINDINGS:

The male gender are more prone to drug abuse, trafficking and addiction than the female gender in Jigawa State.

Social and family learning has a great influence on drug abuse and trafficking in Jigawa State.

Age has great influence on youth's involvement in drug abuse and trafficking. Youth between ages of 12 – 20 years are more into drug use while youths within the age bracket of 21 – 40 years of age are more involved in drug trafficking?

The level of male youths in drug use and trafficking which is very alarming as it kept increasing over the years 2009 – 2011 under the study.

The level of youth involvement in drug trafficking is less than the drug use in Jigawa State.

Cannabis sativa or Indian hemp is the widely abused drug among youth in Jigawa State.

The rate at which youths in Jigawa State get involved in drug abuse, trafficking and addiction is high.

CONCLUSION

From the result on the findings analyzed, the researcher discovers the following;

That the prevalence rate of drug use among youths in Jigawa state is decreasing annually base on the data records from NDLEA Dutse command, in 2009 is 474 2010 is 402 and 2011 is 355 involve themselves in the act of abusing drugs and trafficking. Male youths are more into drug abuse and trafficking than their female counterparts, and the male are more prone to addicts than the female in all three years (2009-2011).

Conclusively, male youths or rather youths in Jigawa State generally and commonly abuse marijuana or Indian hemp than other psychoactive drugs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Youths should be discouraged not to involve themselves in drug abuse. This can only be achieved through drug education program which should be made to feature prominently on radios, television as well as in print media.

The curriculum planners should ensure that drug education as a course or subject is included in the National curriculum and that it involves all facets of education; the primary, secondary, tertiary institution or colleges and universities. Not only including drug education in the curriculum but should also develop a good programme on drug education to which these youths must be exposed.

Parents should endeavour to give their children good upbringing. This can be attained by attending to the needs of their children, giving attention to their children, advising and counseling them on issues that need clarification, charting with their children will always give the children a sense of belonging and security, making themselves their children's best friend will help to keep the mind of the young ones away from any thought of abuse drugs either trafficking or addiction. Parents should also try to give their children sound and qualitative education. Watching out the kinds of friends they keep will also help in curbing out this menace of drug abuse. Broken homes should be discouraged thus parents should avoid break up in their relationship for when happiness cannot be seen in a home, children will always seek for alternative means of happiness by engaging in drug abuse.

All the three tier of government should take education as their priority by providing good teaching and learning environment. Stability in educational system must be ensued as this will encourage children to spend relatively large portion of their time in school attendance and activities other than going about the street where they may be exposed to drug abuse. Government should also create job opportunities for the youths and also encourage youths to actualize themselves for an idle mind they say is the devil's workshop. Must youths that traffics drug do so because they have nothing doing. The federal government should endeavour to make the economy of this nation stable as to bridge the gap between the have and the have not. For when the economy is bad, people always find a quicker and shorter way to make both ends meet, may be by trafficking drugs. Government should organize seminars, workshops, youth camping, discussions involving children, youths, parents and other organizations at local government, state and national level. Health organizations or agencies like world Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and the Red Cross should also help the government in the drug use and abuse.

Counseling and rehabilitation centers should be provided in rural areas and urban cities of this nation to which citizens especially youths with drug abuse problems can be referred. These centers should be encouraged to form organizations and clubs that will educate students on the dangers of drugs abuse.

Enactment and enforcement of law by the government and its agencies will be of good help in control and prevention of drug abuse. The law should prohibit the use of all types of psychoactive drugs, alcohol and cigarettes should be prohibited to be sold to adolescents. Punitive measures or legal approach should help to stop the provision of these dangerous drugs sources there by making it unavailable to users by punishing suppliers.

Citizens should be encouraged to report any drug abuse cases to the National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (NDLEA). They should as a matter of urgency and commitment attend to any reported cases without wasting time or looking for any financial benefit. The NDLEA should undergo a radical reorganization in order to achieve its set objective. the counseling unit of the NDLEA should as a matter of urgency be equipped adequately and supported in terms of finance, staff, logistics and otherwise as to achieve motive behind its creation. Top government officials must be ready to purge themselves of any involvement in drug. Finally the government must be seen as being ready to curb this menace in our society. It is only by so doing that they will be serious in fighting the menace of drug abuse in our nation.

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