

**DRUG ABUSE AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS
IN MATHEMATICS IN GOKANA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF RIVERS STATE:
IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNSELLING**

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated drug abuse and academic performance of secondary school students in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State. The study adopted a descriptive research design. Four research questions and three hypotheses were used to guide the study. A sample of 400 SS2 students was drawn from the population through the stratified proportionate sampling technique and used for the study. Two instruments, titled "Drug Abuse Scale" (DAS) and "Academic Performance Test in Mathematics" (ADTM), were used for data collection. Face and content validity of the instruments were ensured by experts. The Cronbach Alpha reliability method was used to determine the reliability coefficients of the instruments, and the coefficients obtained were 0.79 for (DAS) and 0.81 for (ADTM). The researcher personally administered the instruments. Mean, standard deviation, and t-test were used for the data analysis. The findings show that; there is influence of drug abuse on academic performance on students, there is significant influence of drug abuse on academic performance on secondary school students based on gender, family types and family size. Based on the findings, conclusions and recommendations were made.

KEYWORDS: Drug, Drug Abuse, Academic Performance and Secondary Students

Introduction

Drug abuse is responsible for the destruction of properties in schools, communal crises, hopelessness, youth restiveness, conflicts, unstable families, deviant behaviors, some mad youth on the street, school drop-outs etc. Therefore, it is a global problem that poses a great danger to the lives of individuals, society, political stability, and security in many countries (United Nations 2020). Again, Koro (2018) defines a drug as any product other than food or water that affects the way people feel, think, see, and behave. It is a substance that, due to its chemical nature, affects the physical, mental, and emotional functioning of the body. It can enter the body through inhaling, smoking, drinking, injecting, chewing, etc.

Even in Nigeria today, the use of drugs has become so prevalent that the majority of the users are students in secondary schools, colleges, and tertiary institutions. The use of drugs has spread to every nook and cranny of our nation, both in urban and rural areas, respectively. Gokana Local Government of Rivers State is not left behind in terms of the mayhem or havoc it brings on society. Students are no longer interested in going to school; the desire for a high rate of performance among students in schools as it was before is no

longer attractive. What we rather see are pockets of crime generated by drug users in their respective communities. Due to drug use, there are a number of students who have experienced difficulties in academics. Such earnings come from low grades, doing poorly on class tests and examinations, missing classes, and lagging behind in academic performance. Even students who don't use drugs may suffer academically as a result of their peers taking drugs. Kavutha (2015) reports that a significant number of students who drop out of school do so because drugs interfere with their academics.

Drug use and its effects on students' performance can lead to a decline in the overall academic performance of a school. As a result, schools may face declining retention rates and poor reputation that will put them in a bad light. Thus, discouraging prospective students who are looking for an academically vigorous environment. In his study, Ogums (2019) found that drug abuse has a significant impact on the academic achievement of students in school. Amadi (2017) found in this study a significant relationship between family size and drug abuse among learners in school. Drug abuse influences learners and learning outcomes in different ways, such as poor learning ability, poor relationships with teachers, and low scores in most school subjects (Ovia, 2015). Okere (2016) found the monogamous family types have a significant relationship with drug abuse among secondary school students.

The abuse of drugs among students in most of the public schools in Gokana Local Government Area has caused a lot of unrest among communities because it leads them into groups that they use to destroy the peace of the local communities when they become school dropouts. Such groups include: armed robbery groups, cult groups, kidnapping groups, hoodlum groups, ganstainism, drug sellers, etc. If Gokana Local Government is left in such a situation, they will remain behind in terms of development and school certificates from this region will not be able to compete favorably well in the larger society. Therefore, this study sought to investigate drug abuse and academic performance of secondary school students in mathematics in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Statement of the Problem

The incessant abuse of drugs among students in Nigeria, especially secondary school students in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State, has been a source of concern among stakeholders in the education sector. This is because of the negative impact of drugs such as marijuana, cannabis, cocaine, and Indian hemp on the feelings and thinking dimensions of most of the respected learners. This situation is also affecting the ability of the affected students to properly concentrate on their studies in school, relate well with their teachers and other serious students, and perform well in their classroom tests and examinations, which has resulted in the molestation of teachers, disobedience to constituted authorities, and even some of them dropping out of school. If the objective of human development is to be achieved through education, then the issue of drug abuse among learners must be properly educated in our school system by the government and other well-meaning individuals in the education sector. The purpose of this study, therefore, is to examine drug abuse and academic performance of secondary school students in mathematics in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Aims and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to investigate the extent of drug abuse influences on academic performance of secondary school students in Mathematics in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State. The specific objectives are to:

1. Find out the influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Mathematics in Gokana Local Government area of Rivers State.
2. Determine the influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Mathematics in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State based on gender.
3. Ascertain the influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Mathematics in Gokana local Government area of Rivers State based on family types.
4. To examine the influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State based on family size.

Research Questions

The following research questions were used to guide the study.

1. What are the influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Mathematics in Rivers State?
2. What is the extent of the influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Mathematics in Rivers State based on gender?
3. What is the extent of the influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Mathematics based on family types?
4. What is the extent of the influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Mathematics based on family size?

Hypothesis

The following null hypothesis, which were tested at 0.05 alpha level of significance, were used to guide the study:

1. There is no significant influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students based on gender.
2. There is no significant influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students based on family types.
3. There is no significant influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students based on family size.

Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive research design. The population of the study consisted of 1,237 SS2 students in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State (Source: Rivers State Senior Secondary Schools Board 2020/21 Student Enrollment Figures). A sample of 400 students was drawn through a stratified proportionate random sampling technique. Two instruments, titled "Drug Abuse Scale" (DAS) and "Academic Performance Test in Mathematics" (APTM), which contained 30 and 43 items respectively, were used for data collection. Three experts in measurement and evaluation and two others in Mathematics

determined the face and content validity of the instrument. Cronbach Alpha reliability technique with a sample of 30 students and Pearson product moment correlation, the reliability coefficient obtained from the instruments (DAS) was 0.79 and (APTMM) was 0.81, respectively. The instruments were personally administered to the respondents by the researcher, with the assistance of two teachers from each school sampled, who were well instructed on what to do. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the research questions, while the hypotheses were tested with independent T-test at a 0.05 alpha level of significance. Meanwhile, all the scores that fell within and above the criterion mean of 2.5 were accepted, while those that fell below the criterion mean of 2.5 were rejected.

Results

The result of the study were presented in the table below as follows:

Research Question 1: what are the influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Mathematics?

Table 1: mean (X) and standard deviation (SD) on the influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in mathematics

| S/N | ITEMS | N | X | SD | DECISION |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| 1 | I always have poor relationship with my teachers in school. | 400 | 2.7 | 1.1 | Accepted |
| 2 | I don't always involve myself in personal study. | 400 | 3.0 | 1.4 | Accepted |
| 3 | I don't have study group in school due to my involvement in drugs. | 400 | 2.6 | 1.0 | Accepted |
| 4 | I don't value school subjects. | 400 | 2.8 | 1.1 | Accepted |
| 5 | I always absent myself from most classroom activities. | 400 | 2.6 | 1.0 | Accepted |
| 6 | I always have low scores in most school subjects. | 400 | 3.3 | 1.2 | Accepted |
| 7 | I always think of dropping out of school. | 400 | 2.7 | 1.1 | Accepted |
| 8 | Most times I don't see value in going to school. | 400 | 2.6 | 1.0 | Accepted |
| 9 | I always involve my teachers and even my fellow students. | 400 | 2.7 | 1.1 | Accepted |

Table 1 above shows that the mean scores of all the items are above the certain mean of 2.5. This implies that they are accepted as the influence of drug abuse on academic performance of students. Therefore, poor relationship with teachers, inability to involve in personal study, I don't have any study group in school, I don't value school subjects, always absent myself from my classroom activities, always have low scores in most school subjects, always think about dropping out of school, don't see any value in going to school, I always involve my teachers and even my fellow students. These shows the influence of drug abuse on academic performance on the students in the area.

Research Question 2: What is the extent of the influence of drug abuse on the academic performance of secondary school students in Mathematics in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State based on gender?

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Mathematics in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State based on gender.

Table 2: mean (X), standard deviation (SD) and T-test calculation of the influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students based on gender

| VARIABLES | N | X | SD | DF | T-CAL | T-CRIT | ALPHA LEVEL | RESULTS |
|-----------|-----|-------|--------|-----|-------|--------|-------------|---------|
| MALE | 220 | 38.00 | 13.444 | 398 | 8.226 | 1.96 | 0.05 | SIG |
| FEMALE | 180 | 31.17 | 11.059 | | | | | |

Table 2 above depicts the influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Mathematics. The mean scores was 38.00 for male, 31.17 for female with a standard deviation of 13.444 and 11.059. The DF is 398, T-cal 8.228 and T-crit 1.96. The calculated t-value of 8.228 was greater than the t-critical value of 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected, alternative accepted. This implies that there is a significant influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State based on gender.

Research Question 3: What is the extent of the influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Mathematics in Gokana Local Government area of Rivers State based on family types?

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State based on family types.

Table 3: Mean (X), standard deviation (SD) and T-test calculation of influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Mathematics based on family types

| VARIABLES | N | X | SD | DF | T-CAL | T-CRIT | ALPHA LEVEL | RESULT |
|------------------------|-----|--------|------|-----|-------|--------|-------------|--------|
| MONOGAMOUS FAMILY TYPE | 170 | 58.781 | 7.78 | 398 | 2.702 | 1.96 | 0.05 | SIG |
| POLYGAMOUS FAMILY TYPE | 230 | 57.400 | 6.05 | | | | | |

Table 3 above shows the influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Mathematics. The mean scores 58.781 for monogamous family, 57.400 for polygamous family with standard deviations of 7.78 and 6.05. The DF is 398, t-cal 2.702 and t-crit of 1.96. The calculated value t-value of 2.702 was greater than the t-crit of 1.96 at 0.05 alpha level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and alternative accepted. This means that there is significant influence of drug abuse on academic performance on secondary school students in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Research Question 4: What is the extent of the influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Mathematics in Gokana Local Government area of Rivers State based on family size?

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State based on family size.

Table 4: Mean (X), standard deviation (SD) and T-test calculation of influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Mathematics

| VARIABLES | N | X | SD | DF | T-CAL | T-CRIT | ALPHA LEVEL | RESULT |
|--------------------------------|-----|-------|--------|-----|-------|--------|-------------|--------|
| Large family size, 5 and above | 290 | 37.00 | 10.241 | 398 | 8.111 | 1.96 | 0.05 | SIG |
| Small family size, 5 and below | 110 | 11.23 | 9.331 | | | | | |

Table 4 above indicates that the influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in mathematics. The mean scores was 37.00 for large family size, 11.23 for small family size with standard deviation of 10.241 and 9.331. The DF is 398, t-cal 8.111 and t-crit 1.96. The calculated t-value of 8.111 is greater than the critical t-value of 1.96 at 0.05 alpha level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected, the alternative accepted. This implies that there is a significant influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Gokana Local Area of Rivers State based on family size.

Summary of Findings

The findings of the study are summarized as follows:

1. The influence of drug abuse on the academic performance of secondary school students include; poor relationship with teachers, inability to involve in personal study, I don't have any study group in school, I don't value any school subject, I always absent myself from most classroom activities, I always have low scores in most of my subjects, I always think of dropping out of school, I don't see value in going to school and always molest teachers and students.
2. There is significant influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Mathematics in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State based on gender.
3. There is significant influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Mathematics in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State based on family types.
4. There is significant influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students in Mathematics in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State based on family size.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of the study are discussed as follows:

The findings of Research question one shows that the influence of drug abuse of academic performance on secondary school students include; poor relationship with teachers, inability to involve in personal study, I don't have a study group in school, I don't value school subjects, I always absent myself from most classroom activities, always get low scores in most school subjects, always think of dropping out of school, don't see the value of going to school and molest my teachers and fellow students. This also implies that drug abuse has a very dangerous impact on the total academic life of affected learners in school. This finding is in agreement with that of Ogun (2019) who found that there is significant impact of drug abuse on academic achievement on students in school.

The finding of Research question Two and hypothesis one indicates that there is significant influence of drug abuse on academic performance of secondary school students based on gender. This finding also means that there is a difference in the involvement and the impact of drug abuse on male and female students. This finding is in agreement with that of Okoye (2020) who found that there is significant influence of Marijuana on academic performance on students based on gender.

The finding of research and question three and hypothesis two shows that there is significant influence of drug abuse on academic performance on secondary school students based on family types. This finding also means that family types influences involvement into drug abuse differently. This finding is supported by that of Okere (2016) who found that there is significant relationship between family types and drug abuse among students in school.

The finding of research question four and I three revealed that there is significant influence of drug abuse on academic performance on secondary school students based on family size. This means that the size of a family determines the attitude of the individual towards the use of drugs in school. This finding is in agreement with that of Amadi (2017) who found that there is significant relationship between family size and drug abuse among learners in school.

Implications for Counselling

The following are the counselling implications of the findings of this study:

1. There is need for guidance counsellors to engage in more campaigns through organization of seminars and workshops against drug abuse especially, at secondary school level with the aim of discouraging adolescents from the use of illicit and abuse of drugs.
2. There is need for counsellors to provide adequate personal-social counselling services for victims of drug abuse at all times.
3. Counselling services should always be provided to parents and guardians with the aim of informing them on the ways of keeping their wards and children away from indulging into drug abuse.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it was concluded that there is various influence of drug abuse on academic performance on students. There is a significant influence of drug abuse on academic performance on students based on gender, family type and family size.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on the findings of the study:

1. Legislation should prohibit production, distribution, advertisement and sales of drugs and deadly herbs that encourage drug abuse.
2. Legislation should vigorously ensure enforcement of drug control laws through monitoring agencies like NDLEA and NAFDAC.
3. Drug free clubs should be introduced into the educational system in order to have a drug free society.
4. Government and non-government agencies should establish centres that can treat, rehabilitate and even identify young drug users.
5. Government should create the awareness through the media on the effects of drug abuse.

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