Effects of Drug Abuse on Delinquency and Well-Being of Juveniles in Abeokuta Ogun State Nigeria

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Abstract
This study investigated the effects of drug abuse on juvenile delinquency in buster home, Abeokuta Ogun State Nigeria. Descriptive survey research design was adopted while a purposive sampling technique was used to select 222 respondents. A self-developed, validated questionnaire with reliability coefficient of r=0.84 titled Drug Abuse and Juvenile Delinquency Questionnaire (DAJDQ) was used for data collection. Data was analysed using the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), and multiple regression analytical tools. Hypotheses were tested at 0.05 alpha level. The study established that drug abuse had a significant effect on juvenile delinquency among juveniles ***(f-cal$_{5,216}$=78.171, p<0.05)****. Also, there was a significant effect of drug abuse on mental well-being among juveniles* ***(f-cal$_{5,216}$=37.465 p<0.05).*** *The result further revealed a significant effect of drug abuse on psychological well-being among juveniles* ***(f-cal$_{5,216}$=91.252).*** *There is a significant effect of drug abuse on sociological well-being among juveniles* ***(f-cal$_{5,216}$=86.207, p<0.05).*** *The study therefore recommended that government should make and implement policy to stop or curb all forms of drug abuse among juveniles because they are the future leaders. Families and all health care providers are stake holders in the improvement of the wellbeing of the youths at all times.*

Key words: Drug abuse, Juvenile, Delinquency, Adolescents, Well-being

Introduction

Drugs are chemical substances that affect the function of the central nervous system that can alter perception, mood or consciousness. A drug is a substance that can be taken into the human body and once taken, alters some processes within the body. Drugs are divided into different groups like stimulants, depressants, antidepressants, anxiolytics, antipsychotics and hallucinogens. *Fox, Oliver and Ellis (2013)* found that the psychoactive drugs are useful in treating wide range of medical conditions including mental disorders around the world. Some most widely used drugs in the world include caffeine, nicotine and alcohol. Tupper (2012) said, abuse of several drugs can cause psychological or physical addiction and all drugs can have potential side effects and excessive use of stimulants can promote stimulant psychosis. Drugs can be used in the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of diseases. Some drugs such as anti-biotics and anti-malarias are used to kill bacteria and help the body recover from infections. According to Sobiecki (2012) some drugs assist in terminating headaches. Some drugs cross the blood–brain barrier and affect neurotransmitter function. The varieties of drugs that produce a direct or indirect effect on neurotransmitter function in the brain are of primary interest. In support of the above, Teale, Scarth and Hudson (2012) confirmed that, drugs when processed by the body may have various side effects. Jenkins (2019) said drug abuse is debatable. The word abuse implies a recognized standard of use for any substance. Occasional glass of wine may be considered acceptable in most western countries; drinking several bottles is seen as drug abuse while drinking even one glass of wine is an abuse to some religious groups.

According to Keane, Williams and Wolfe (2020), drug *changes the way the body functions.* A drug may change *mental, physical and or emotional status of the user*. All drugs including alcohol, tobacco, caffeine, solvents, over the counter drugs, prescribed drugs, and illicit drugs can affect the general body systems. Drugs that affect the central nervous system and alter mood, thinking, perception and behavior are called psychoactive drugs. Njeri and Ngesu (2014) reported that the use of illegal and misuse of therapeutic drugs have spread at an alarming rate among young people. In support of the above, Matowo (2013) had earlier affirmed that no nation could be spared from the devastating problem because drug abuse among juveniles is a global phenomenon. Perhaps Mabeyo's (2010) report that drug abuse among adolescents can be linked to increasing global crime rate, social unrest, family dysfunction, poverty and other malaise was right, based on the global experiences. The youths are said to have been deliberately and tactically recruited into the drug culture through social exposure, personal factor and uncontrolled media influences. McCaig (2021) found that youth between age 12 to 17 who had drug-related emergency episodes had increased by 17% from 2013 to 2020. Regrettably, this increase was reportedly greater than any of the older age groups and of note, is the significant use of marijuana or hashish among youth ages 12 to 17 which has increased 50 % between 2013 and 2020. Office of Applied Studies (2019) found that ninety-one (91) youth between the ages of 12 and 17 died of drug abuse in 2013. In this trend, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (2017) reported high alcohol-related traffic fatalities (2,000) for youth in 2015 alone. These heart-moving examples illustrate the catastrophic health-related consequences of drug abuse among adolescents.

National Survey on Drug Use and Health indicate that in (2018) reported approximately 30% of youths between ages 12 and 17 reported using illicit drugs at least once in their lifetime.

According to Garnier and Stein (2019), 55% of adolescents have used an illicit drug, 65% have tried cigarettes, and 80% have tried alcohol by the time they leave high school. Substance use prevalence is highly disturbing among delinquent youths in Nigeria. According to Snyder (2020), the number of juveniles arrested for drug abuse violations has increased to 59%. It was found that juvenile arrest rates for driving under the influence of alcohol (46%) and liquor law violations (17%) also increased between 2013 and 2019. Substance abuse is a persistent problem. National Center on Addiction and Drug abuse (2020) found that up to 78% of arrested youths were either involved in alcohol or drug use. Tubman, Gil and Wagner (2014) affirmed that research consistently finds a strong relationship between drug use and delinquency. In general, Ellickson and

McGuigan (2010) earlier confirmed that delinquent youths tend to be more involved in drug use than non-delinquent youths.

Drug abuse indicates incessant use of any chemical substance including cigarettes, inhalants, alcohol and others. Drug abuse is any form of uncontrolled use of both legal or illegal drugs that can lead to drug abuse. Friedli (2019) defined drug abuse as any drug that can be used and that is abnormally used or consumed. Drug abuse is popular among delinquent youths on a regular basis. In support of this, Gray and Wish (2018) found that many delinquent-involved youths have demonstrated heavy usage of substance use disorders. In this trend, Wagner and Kassel (2015) noted that many delinquents may not use substances, and many of them that use substances do not commit delinquent acts. According to the National Center on Addiction and Drug abuse (2020), juveniles involved in drugs or alcohol intake have increased likelihood of continued contact with the juvenile justice system. There is the need to note that drug abuse, according to Sealock, Gottfredson and Gallagher (2017), increases the rate of offense and the severity of the offense committed. To corroborate this, Loeber, Green, Lahey, Frick, and McBurnett (2020) asserted that, when drug abuse starts early in life, there is a greater likelihood of committing offences. To support this, Bureau of Justice Statistics (2012) earlier documented that a low level of commitment to education, higher truancy rates, cognitive and behavioral problems are common to drug abuse among adolescents. Other problems and consequences of teenage drug abuse according to Loeber, Green, Lahey, Frick, and McBurnett (2020) include: injuries due to accidents, effects of drug overdoses, physical disabilities and mental health challenges.

Juvenile delinquency is about the participation of a minor child in illegal behavior or activities. The age range of a minor is usually between the ages of 10 and 17 years. Juvenile delinquency is used to address children who exhibit a persistent behavior of mischievousness or disobedience. Such children are considered out of parental control and they are subject to legal action by the court system. According to Loeber, Green, Lahey, Frick, and McBurnett, 2020), juvenile delinquency is also known as "juvenile offending." Each state government has a separate legal system in place to deal with juveniles who break the law. Juvenile delinquency occurs when a minor violates a criminal statue. The procedures that take place when a juvenile commits a crime differ from those of an adult offender. Premised on the above, Horney, Osgood and Marshall (2015) affirmed that juvenile court systems, and juvenile detention facilities, deal specifically with underage offenders. In the same vein, Loeber and Farrington (2018) had found that, the behavior of a minor child that is marked by criminal activities, persistent antisocial behavior, or disobedience is a violation of the law, which is not punishable by death or life imprisonment.

Well-being according to Herrman, Saxena and Moodie (2015) is more than the absence of disease. It is an ingredient that make individuals to fulfil their aspirations, satisfy their needs and to cope with the environment so as to enhance longevity. Well-being make people productive and live a fruitful life. Well-being enables social, economic and personal development; all of which are fundamental to health. Frederickson (2019) refers to well-being as environmental and social resources which include: peace, economic security, a stable ecosystem and safe housing. It also include: engaging in physical activity, eating healthful diet, maintaining social ties, resiliency, emotional stability and autonomy. Wellbeing is a positive outcome that is meaningful for people and for many sectors of society. Diener (2019) said the quality of relationships, positive emotions and resilience, the realization of potential and overall satisfaction with life constitutes what is called well-being. Diener, Scollon and Lucas (2019) paraphrased well-being as global judgments of life satisfaction and feelings ranging from depression to joy. In another study by Frey and Stutzer (2012), well-being is said to integrate mental health (mind) and physical health (body) culminating in more holistic approaches to disease prevention and health promotion. Diener, Lucas, Schimmack and Helliwell (2019) confirmed that well-being is all about measuring a valid population outcome beyond morbidity, mortality, and economic status. It has to do with how people see their life from their own perspective. It is important to recognize that health promotion activities improve well-being. Different aspects of well-being also include physical, economic, social, emotional and psychological well-being have been examined in social work domain. Therefore, this study ventured into social, emotional and psychological well-being of the juvenile respondents.

Mental well-being refers to a positive state of psychological and emotional health of an individual. Seligman (2012) found that a person is able to function cognitively and emotionally in a manner that is productive and fulfilling if he or she is mentally and psychologically healthy. Mental well-being is a multi-dimensional construct that involves more than just being in a good mood or feeling happy. Ryan and Deci (2010) said, in addition to positive emotions, mental well-being is achieved through optimal development, a meaningful life, and satisfaction of basic human needs for autonomy, competence and relatedness. Therefore, m**ental well-being** is an umbrella term encompassing a range of mental health status. In support of the above, Huppert and So (2019) found that, mental wellness signals greater access to psychological resources, which can be assessed at an individual or population level.

Sociological well-being refers to belongingness and sociological contact. Sociological well-being can come from sports clubs, community groups, volunteer organisations, churches, political parties, special interest and hobby groups, and so on. Schools, gyms, swimming pools, libraries and community events (like fairs and markets) provide opportunities for sociological contact and sociological well-being. In addition, local restaurants, cafes, bars, pubs and clubs are places to meet other people to improve sociological well-being. Lane (2018) found that much of the research done on sociological well-being over the last several years shows that sociological ties do not only affect personal health, but also societal well-being. Lane (2018) further observed that as prosperity in a society increases, sociological solidarity decreases. Therefore, happiness being an aspect of sociological

wellbeing with others in society does not only decline, but people become more distrustful of each other. It was argued that humans must alter their priorities; they must increase their levels of sociological contact and companionship even at the risk of reducing their income to improve sociological well-being.

Statement of the Problem

In Nigeria, drug abuse has been an increasing challenge among juveniles. This is because a number of young people have been continually involved in the use of psychotic drugs such as Tramadol, Rephnol and Codeine along with Indian hemp (cannabis) and its derivatives with street names such as Colorado, Arizona, Paw-Paw and Skunk among others. There has been an alarming increase in the number of juvenile delinquent behaviours, like aggression, theft, burglary, destruction of public property, truancy, rudeness, rape, theft and sexual harassment. These negative behaviours are observed amongst male and female adolescents of different categories and varying locations, including Ogun State, Nigeria. For the fact that previous studies had ignored the influence of drug abuse on juvenile delinquents in Nigeria, this study examined the effects of drug abuse on juvenile delinquents and their well-being in Abeokuta, Ogun State using buster home as the research location.

Objective of the Study

This study examined the effects of drug abuse on juvenile delinquents and the specific objectives are to:

1. Assess the effect of drug abuse on juvenile delinquency.
2. Examine the effect of drug abuse on mental well-being of juveniles.
3. Examine the effect of drug abuse on psychological well-being of juveniles.
4. Assess the effect of drug abuse on sociological well-being of juveniles.

Hypotheses

$H0_1$: There is no significant effect of drug abuse on juvenile delinquency

$H0_{2:}$ There is no significant effect of drug abuse on mental well-being.

$H0_{3:}$ There is no significant effect of drug abuse on psychological well-being

$H0_4$: There is no significant effect of drug abuse on sociological well-being

Methodology

The study employed descriptive design method. The target population comprised juveniles who are resident in buster home, Abeokuta, Ogun State. Purposive sampling technique was used to select 222 male and female juveniles of ages less than 18 years. A self-designed, validated instrument tagged Drug Abuse and Juvenile Delinquents Questionnaire (DAJDQ) and with a reliability coefficient of 0.84 was the major instrument used for the study. The data gathered from respondents were analysed using Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and Multiple Correlation Analysis. Hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance.

Results

Testing the Hypotheses

Hypothesis one: There is no significant effect of drug abuse on juvenile delinquency among juveniles.

Table 1: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the effect of drug abuse on juvenile delinquency.

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	1000.955	5	200.191	78.171	.000
Within Groups	12.671	216	3.188		
Total	1013.626	221			

Table 1 shows that there was a significant effect of drug abuse on juvenile delinqu ency **(f-cal$_{5,216}$=78.171, p<0.05)**. Hence, abuse of drug is a major cause of juvenile delinquency. The hypothesis was thus rejected.

Hypothesis two: There is no significant effect of drug abuse on mental well-being among juveniles

Table 2: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the effect of drug abuse on mental well-being

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	1379.649	5	275.930	37.465	.000
Within Groups	193.846	216	1.897		
Total	1573.495	221			

Table 2: shows that there was a significant effect of drug abuse on mental well-being among juveniles **(f-cal$_{5,216}$=37.465 p<0.05)**. Hence, abuse of drug affects the mental well-being of juveniles. The hypothesis was rejected.

Hypothesis three: There is no significant effect of drug abuse on psychological well-being among juveniles.

Table 3: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the effect of drug abuse on psychological well-being

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	663.698	5	132.740	91.252	.000
Within Groups	75.541	216	6.913		
Total	739.239	221			

Table 3 shows that there is a significant effect of drug abuse on psychological well-being among juveniles **(f-cal$_{5,216}$=91.252 p<0.05).** Hence, abuse of drug affects the psychological well-being of juveniles. The hypothesis was rejected.

Hypothesis 4: There is no significant effect of drug abuse on sociological well-being among juvenile.

Table 4: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the effect of drug abuse on sociological well-being.

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	2564.656	5	512.931	86.207	.000
Within Groups	48.462	216	.224		
Total	2613.117	221			

Table 4: shows that there is a significant effect of drug abuse on sociological well-being among juveniles **(f-cal$_{5,216}$=86.207, p<0.05)**. Hence, abuse of drug affects the sociological well-being of juveniles. The hypothesis was rejected.

Discussion of Findings

The study found that there is a significant effect of drug abuse on juvenile delinquency among juveniles. The result is in line with Sealock, Gottfredson and Gallagher (2017) who found that drug abuse increases the rate of offense and the severity of the offense committed. The results also corroborate Loeber, Green, Lahey, Frick, and McBurnett (2020) that, when drug abuse starts early in life, there is a greater likelihood of committing offences.

The study further found that there is a significant effect of drug abuse on mental well-being among juveniles. Hence, abuse of drug affects the mental well-being of juveniles in the study. This finding supports the finding of Jayawickreme, Forgeard and Seligman (2012) that drug abuse affects the mental well-being of juveniles, and also affects the way users see things, their mood and mental processes. The study corroborates the findings of Ramsay and Partridge (2019) that the effects of drug abuse might be short-lived or longer-lasting on the mental state of juveniles. In the same vein, Huesti (2012) found that for some young people, taking street drugs can also lead to long-term mental health problems, such as depression and schizophrenia. The finding further aligned with the finding of Chida and Steptoe (2018) that approximately half of all young people, including juveniles with mental illness abuse drugs.

The study also found that there is a significant effect of drug abuse on psychological well-being among juveniles. Hence, abuse of drug affects the psychological well-being of juvenile in the study. This finding corroborates the study of Battistella (2013) that evaluated the impact of cannabis on the driving ability of occasional smokers by investigating changes in the brain network involved in a tracking task. The study found negative effect of drug abuse on the psychological well-being of participants. Similarly, Ramaekers (2016) found that Cannabis can also have an effect on behaviour of juveniles and other users.

The also study found that there was a significant effect of drug abuse on sociological well-being among juvenile. Hence, abuse of drug affects the sociological well-being of juvenile in the study. This finding is consistent with the finding of Huesti (2012) that the effects of drug abuse on social well-being of juveniles and other users may differ depending on the type of drug, whether the drug has been mixed with other substances, and what these other substances are, the amount users take, the environment or social situation in which they take it, how often users take it, users' previous experience of it, what users want and expect to happen jointly affect users social well-being.

The study found that there is a significant relationship between drug abuse and juvenile delinquency, mental wellbeing, psychological wellbeing, and sociological wellbeing respectively. This finding aligns with the finding of Ogden and Moskowitz (2014) that the high rate of abused substances in studied cab-juveniles can be associated with sociocultural factors such as low education or stress of long duration. Similarly, Girotto, Mesas, DeAnde and Birolim (2014) found that the prevalence of psychoactive substances such as amphetamines, cocaine and marijuana vary across settings and jointly influences users' mental, psychological and sociological well-being.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it is concluded that there is a significant effects of drug abuse on juvenile delinquency, mental, psychological and social well-being. Although the latest information on youth drug use trends suggests a noticeable decrease in usage levels, alcohol and other drug use continue to be serious problems among youths in Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on these findings, it was recommended that:

1. Government and policy makers should make an effective policy with adequate implementation to stop all forms of drug abuse among juveniles as a way forward to improving the psychosocial and mental well-being.
2. Every parents and guardians should ensure good home training of their wards. Charity begins from home. Parents should also be empowered socially and economically to have the strength to cater for their children and to prevent joining street gangs. Parental moral support is said to enhance native intelligence.
3. Education should be made free and compulsory for all juveniles to prevent many from joining drug abusers on the streets. Any juvenile found on the street or not in school during school hours should be arrested and parents or guardians traced to punish them for the offence in order to prevent others from doing same.
4. Social workers and welfare officers should be recruited and empowered to sensitize the public and drug users on the negative effects of drug abuse on young people, in order to improve the psychosocial and mental well-being of juveniles

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