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## **Youth and High Consumption of Illicit Drugs Substance in Katsina State: Need for Multi-Agency Approach to Tame the Peril**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

*This study examined the growing trend of drugs abuse in Katsinastate, despite laws and agencies set up to tame the menace over the last three decades. The objectives of the study are to: To determine the factors responsible for the increase in drugs abuse in the state, despite government efforts towards its reduction, to assess the most commonly abused drugs in the state, and to suggest an alternative approach towards the war against drug abuse in the state. The significance of this research is to assist policy makers and other stakeholders to come up with unconventional way of tackling the menace of drugs addictions prevalent among youth. It is a descriptive research. The data for the research was collected via administration of questionnaires to six NDLEA officials in Katsinastate, as well as 270 respondents randomly selected from NDLEA Katsinare habilitation center, and Katsina Central Motor Park. The research findings indicate that drugs abuse is on the increase especially amongst youth irrespective of their gender and that the present strategy adopted by the government in tackling drugs abuse is not entirely successful, hence there is the need for an alternative approach. The research recommends amongst others the development of an entirely new approach/strategy (i.e. holistic approach – collaborative efforts of government; Ministry of health, Education, Youth development, Pharmaceutical companies, parents, Non-governmental agencies, NDLEA, security services – Police, Customs etc) towards curbing drugs abuse in the state, strengthening of the existing legal framework to ensure drug suppliers are dealt with in accordance with existing legal framework to serve as deterrent to others, the strengthening of government institutions in charge of drugs consumption and trafficking to effectively carry out their mandates, particularly enlightenment campaign with active collaboration of the media, parents, religious leaders, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders .*

**Keywords:** *Drug abuse, NDLEA, Multi-Agency approach, Central motor park, Rehabilitation*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Government across the globe, are worrying on the alarming rate at which their citizenry especially youth, were affected from one or more drugs being abused (Lakhanpal, Agnihotri, 2007; United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, 2007; (UNODC) Abudu, 2008, Leadership, 2015, NDLEA, 2015). Therefore this problem of drugs being abused by youth had places a significant peril to the social, health, families, societies, Non-governmental agencies and the

entire nations. (Aina & Onajole, 2010, Giade, 2012,). Moreover, these atrocious activities prevailing among youth in their prime ages in primary schools, secondary schools and activities of secret cults and Thuggery, by most Nigerian universities are branded to have a threat to people lives and property due to influenced of illicit drugs (Abudu, 2008; Oshodi, Aina, & Onajole, 2010). Therefore, the growing trend of drug abuse in societies of the world including Nigeria had brought with it problems such as increase in violence and crimes, low performance in class, dropped out of schools, increase in Hepatitis B and C virus, increase in HIV/AIDS diseases, collapse of the veins and collapse in the communal make-up of the society (UNODC, 2007).

Thus, this ugly situation has forced the Nigerian government to evolve lots of concerted efforts through implementing some strategies and policies to tame the peril in view of its negative effects on not only its victims, but the society at large. Consequently, since 1935, successive Nigerian governments have made numerous attempts towards fighting drug abuse and drug trafficking but with little success, as the menace appear to be increasing. Some of the government efforts included the enactment of the following legislations: Dangerous Drugs decree No.20 of 1984; Decree No.20 of 1989; 2004 Act of parliament (Under this new law, a new body charged with fighting drug abuse known as National Drug Law and Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) were established). At the international scene, Nigeria is a signatory to the 1988 United Nations convention on drugs abuse.

Drug abuse is sometimes used as a synonym for substance abuse, drug abuse, psychotropic substance, Illicit drug abuse; Narcotic abuse; Hallucinogen abuse drug addiction and chemical dependency, but actually all these names is use inter changeably and referring to the use of substances in a manner outside socio-cultural conventions (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia 2015). Moreover, all use of controlled drugs and use of other drugs in a manner not dictated by convention (e.g. according to a medical practitioner/ physician's orders or societal norms) is abuse according to this definition; hence there is no one universally accepted definition of substance abuse/drug abuse.

NAFDAC, (2000), therefore, defined drugs abused as “excessive and persistent self-administration of a drug without regard to the medically or culturally accepted patterns”. Similarly, it has been defined as the “use of illegal drugs, or the misuse of prescription or over the counter drugs for at least a year with negative consequences” Harvard Health Publications (2014). Furthermore, University of Maryland Medical Center (2015) defined drug abuse as a persistent use of illegal drugs or the misuse of over the counter drugs that leads to negative consequences. Substance Use Disorder or illicit use of drugs according to Mosby’s Medical, Nursing & Allied Health Dictionary (1998), refers to the overuse of, or reliance on, a drugs leading to effects that are injurious to the individual's physical and mental health, or infringing on the welfare of others. Drugs abuse has also been viewed as some forms of Deviance behavior which violates cultural norms, which guides virtually all human activities” Macionis (1999). Furthermore, deviance is seen as a “behavior that violates the standards of conduct or the expectations of a group or society” Madaki (2011).

However, drugs abuse and trafficking among Nigerian youths irrespective of gender is not declining, but rather increasing at an alarming rate, thus causing concern among parents, political leaders, social analysts and other stakeholders from the wider society. For example

NDLEA (2011) reported that 2,267,830.53 kilogram of different illicit drugs for consumption by Nigerian youth was intercepted by its agents. This worrisome revelation, motivated this researcher to conduct a study with the aim of determining the factors responsible for the increase in drugs abused amongst youths in Katsina State, despite the numerous government efforts in tackling the menace, identify the commonly abused drugs, to find out why government initiatives put in place over years to tame the monster (i.e. drugs abuse) seems to achieve very little success if any and to determine a multi-sectoral approach to fight the monster that is drugs abuse/trafficking.

The theoretical framework guiding this research is based on the work of inter-actionist sociological perspectives which argued that most criminal behavior is learned through socialization and those criminals can be re-socialized, thus saving huge public funds, increasing productivity of individuals and making society safer. This is in contrast with rational choice theory which supports the view that the way to control human behavior is through more severe punishment, through the state agencies such as police, court and prisons etc (Haralambos & Holborn, 2005).

## CONSEQUENCES OF DRUG ABUSE

National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), classified the consequences of drugs abused into three: **Physical Consequences** (These includes: brain damage, liver damage, hypertension, excessive heartbeat, chronic bleeding, and damage to unborn babies, impaired visual ability, cancer, Anemia, respiratory illness (e.g. pneumonia), kidney damage/failure, and AIDS); **Psychological Consequences** (These includes: sleeplessness, anxiety, depression, psychosis, craving desire, withdrawal symptoms, distorted perception, impaired judgment, reduced coordination, slow reaction time, irritability, hallucination, panic attacks, memory loss and premature death); and **Social Consequences** (These includes: loss of job, family disintegration, expulsion from school, delinquency, criminal offences, stealing, assassination/murder, rape, armed robbery, destitution, prostitution, cultism, accidents, roaming the streets, poverty, violent and bizarre behaviors, spread of HIV/AIDS)(NDLEA, 2011; Gate Way Foundation, 2015).

However, in Canadian a study by Rehm, Baliunas et al. (2006), stated that the outcomes of illicit drug use, includes: mortality, morbidity, disability, and crime. Similarly, research conducted in American reaffirmed that, Statistics has shown that 60 percent to 80 percent of all crime is drug related" Deitch, Koutsenok et al. (2000). Moreover, a study conducted on category of crime, attributed to prisoners in detention in Australia, in 2001, as reported by Collins, Lapsley et al. (2006) reaffirmed that the highest category of crime is illicit drugs and alcohol

Martin and Bryant, in(2001), used Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) data to test the hypothesis that gender differences existed between users of alcohol and illicit drugs who committed violent crimes. Although men were more likely than women to commit violent crimes after consuming alcohol and/or illicit drugs, women were more likely to have consumed alcohol as opposed to other drugs before committing violent acts compared to men. This suggests a stronger effect of alcohol on women than men.

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## FACTORS INFLUENCING DRUG ABUSE

Various factors have been identified as motivators towards drugs abuse. These are social pathologies (such as unemployment and parental deprivation), emotional and psychological stresses (such as anxiety, frustration, and economic depression), peer group pressure characterized by the desire to be accepted among friends or social circles, the desire to achieve success in a competitive world and warped (materialistic) value system in the society such as the craze to get rich quick ( <http://www.ndlea.gov.ng> ). A similar study conducted in Malaysia by Dr Tam under Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Monash University (2015) stated that Peer group influence, curiosity and stress are contributing factors to drugs abuse.

### Drugs Commonly Abused

The most commonly abused drugs in Nigeria include: **Stimulants**( these are substances that directly act and stimulate the central nervous system e.g. caffeine substances); **Hallucinogens**(these are drugs that alter the sensory processing unit in the brain e.g. Marijuana); **Narcotics** ( these are drugs that relieves pains, induce sleeping and cause addiction e.g. heroin, codeine, opium) and **Sedatives** ( these are the most abused drugs because of the belief that they relieve stress and anxiety, induce sleep, ease tension, cause relaxation or help others to forget their problems; e.g. valium, alcohol, promethazine, chloroform etc.) (NAFDAC, 2000; UMMC, 2015; Disney, Hayward, &LaVallee, 2010). In contrast, to the commonly drugs abuse by youth, as mentioned above, a new development that is taking a national dimension and so disturbing is the cocaine consumption. However, it is now noted that, it is freely and recklessly consumed by young people, and even the poor inclusive. Moreover, before then, this particular substance (i.e. cocaine)which is particularly referred to as the ‘white angel’ was considered the depravity of the rich and only affluent person NDLEA, cited in Leadership newspaper, (2015). They further lamented that the cocaine consumption is becoming widespread in most states in Nigeria with more emphasis to Benue State, the North Central of Nigeria.

Additionally, according to Benue state agency’s commandant in the state, Mrs Florence Ezeonye, stated that over 400 persons have been convicted for the consumption of cocaine in the state. Though the report was silent over the period during which these 400 convictions were made, the situation is not only alarming but also calls for urgent action on the part of the authorities to check the unpleasant trend, as the ugly development is taking a national dimension (Leadership, 2015).

Furthermore, Leadership (2015) in their recent study reported that the youth go to the extent of taking unconventional substances such as adhesive solution, lizard excreta, sniffing pit latrines among others just to get ‘high’. This therefore, has reached a worrisome stage, because of the unhygienic hideous attitudes it can caused to the mental and physical health of those consuming it.



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## **MEANS OF SOCIALS CONTROL**

Social control is simply defined as “series of measures that serve as a general guarantee as people conforms to norms (i.e. doing what is expected / appropriate) (Robyn: 2001). In other words, all societies attempt to prevent and reduce criminal and undesirable deviant behavior through social control mechanisms, (such as police, courts, prisons, family, communities etc.).

Social control can be achieved through the socialization process whereby members of society learn the behavior that is deemed desirable in the culture.

The conventional approach so far adopted by the Nigerian government in tackling drugs abuse and trafficking is through the established law enforcement agencies such as the Nigeria police Force, Nigeria Custom Services, Nigeria Immigration Services and National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA). These agencies arrest and prosecute drugs traffickers, while the victims of drugs addiction are usually arrested and rehabilitated by the NDLEA in their detention centers. This strategy seems not to be yielding the desired results as so many youth – both males and females are now enmeshed in drugs abuse. These innocent victims, comes from all strata of society i.e. from rich families and poor families alike. This therefore raises the urgent need to adopt an entirely different non-conventional approach in taming the menace of drugs abuse amongst our youth, as future leaders.

## **TACKLING CRIME: NEED FOR NEW APPROACH**

The traditional approach of dealing with crime and criminals (such as drugs addicts and drug pushers etc.)based on rational choice theory, which supports the view that the way to control human behavior is through more severe punishment, through the state agencies such as police, court and prisons, seems to be having less success, hence the ever growing menace of drugs related crimes in our societies today. A new approach is therefore needed to combat crimes, especially those related to drugs, i.e. a Multi-Agency Approach/Multi-Sectoral: involving the state, the family, media, religious institutions etc. (Haralambos et al: 2004). This is because, despite severe punishments “crime rates generally remains higher in the united states than in other countries ... Japan’s crime rate is roughly one-third that of united State, yet the lower rate is not attained through harsher penalties”(Kornblum& Smith, 2000).

Accordingly, inter-actionist sociological perspectives argued that most criminal behavior is learned through socialization and those criminals can be re-socialized, thus saving huge public funds, increasing productivity of individuals and making society safer (Haralambos et al. 2005). Therefore, based on the inter-actionists sociological perspective it is imperative to adopt an alternative approach of dealing with drugs abuse and drugs abuse related crimes, that would not only be holistic in its approach, but far cheaper for the state to shoulder.

Consequently, many sociological theories on crime and crime control, advocates the employment of different methods of treatment other than incarceration. These may include adopting a holistic approach by the government, parents, and other stakeholders. Strategies such as prison reforms, rehabilitation, training programs, review of educational curriculum,

skill acquisition/employment as well as other alternative programs that are intended to discourage drugs taking and abuse, should be evolved and executed (Haralambos et al. 2005).

Similarly, family is considered in all societies across the globe, as the most important primary agent of socialization, because they are the center of the child's life, as infants are totally dependent on others to survive. Our parents, or those who play the parent role, are responsible for teaching us to function and care for ourselves. They, along with the rest of our family, also teach us about close relationships, group life, and how to share resources. Additionally, they provide us with our first system of values, norms, and beliefs - a system that is usually a reflection of their own social status, religion, ethnic group, and a lots more, to include who we associates with. Among the influence of illicit drug abuse by youth are their peer mates and they are part of the secondary agents of socialization. Most of our children stay more with their peer mates outside, therefore parents have to be vigilant with who their children associated with.

## METHODOLOGY

Data for the study was a combination of primary and secondary sources. The secondary data was sought from published materials, textbooks, journals and other vital documents dealing with the subject matter. The primary source was the administration of structured questionnaires to the respondents; an in-depth interview was conducted with six NDLEA officials in charge of the Drug Demand Reduction Unit (DDRU). 270 respondents were selected randomly at the NDLEA rehabilitation center, schools, tea joints, motor parks and markets.

## DATA ANALYSIS

### Analysis of Responses Abusing Drugs

**Table 1: Age of respondent**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
0-18	53	20
18-36	195	72
36 and above	22	8
Total	270	100

Table 1 above, shows that majority of those who abused drugs are between the Ages 18-36years. This is followed by youth of age 0-18years, while people of ages 36years and above constitutes the least of those who engages in drugs abused. However, studies have shown that 18-36 years is the age group that abused drugs, as indicated by the research findings above, which reiterates with Lynn, D., Ashley, H., Robin, V. (2010), in their gathered researches in America, Austria, Canada etc. in their titled Illicit Drug Use and Criminal Behaviour. Similarly, in a research conducted regarding age at which drug use is most prominent, it was discovered among people of ages between 25-30 years old (Anthony, 2001). Conversely, this study reaffirmed with the findings of this research study, where it reveals that majority of the respondents 195 or 75% and falls under ages 18-36 abuse drugs.

**Table 2: Educational background**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Primary/secondary	53	20
Tertiary education	148	54
No formal education	69	26
Total	270	100

Table 2 above, shows the educational attainment of respondents. 54% of the respondents' investigation into their educational background of the respondents reveals that 54% have or are attending higher institutions, 26% have no formal education, while 20% are attending primary/secondary schools. Majority of the respondents 148 or 54% that attains tertiary education had use one form of illicit drugs. This high number of respondents that uses illicit drugs in higher institutions correlates with an in-depth exploration study on crime in America by Nabors (2010), where he looked into drug use and intimate partner violence among college students.

**Table 3: Factors responsible for drugs abused**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Unemployment	132	48.9
Family/community disintegration	83	30.7
Failure of educational/religious institutions	55	20.4
Total	270	100

Table 3 above, shows the factors causing drug abused by respondents. 48.9% of the respondents cited unemployment as the major factor that pushed them into drug abuse. Similarly 30.7% and 20.4% of the respondents mentioned family/community disintegration, as well as failure of educational /religious institutions respectively as some of the factors causing drugs abuse. These factors mentioned above as causing drug abused in Nigeria societies among youths, is similarly to research findings titled illicit drug use and criminal behaviour: A literature Review; a summary of US studies on drug use and crime (Lynn, Ashley, & Robin, 2010). Similarly, in a study carried out in Malaysian societies by Dr. Tam CaiLian (UMMC, 2015), in a paper titled Contributory Factors: Drug Abuse avowed that family factors like parental upbringing and home atmosphere were contributing factors to drug abused in youth, which in this research finding, 83 of the respondents or 30.7% stated same. Consequently, vast majority of other drug abusers come from homes where child neglect, child abuse and/or domestic violence were present (Bourgois, 2003).

**Table 4: commonly abused drugs**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Indian hemp, cannabis sativa	113	42
Psychotropice.g. exol-5, tramol, sprit, diazepam, rohypnol etc.	83	31
Cough syrup with codeine content	74	27
Total	270	100

Table 4, above shows the commonly abused drugs by respondents, these includes; 42% of respondents (i.e. majority) cited, Cannabis sativa e.g. Indian hemp, Marijuana etc. 31% of the respondents mentioned Psychotropic drugs (these includes: exol-5, tramol, sprit, diazepam, rohypnoletc.). However, 27% of the respondents indicated Cough syrup with codeine content as the drugs commonly abused. The commonly abused drugs found in the field study that is 42% of the majority of respondents abused cannabis sativa, this is in line with the report of (UNODC, 2011; UMMC, 2015), where they affirmed that the commonly abused drugs by the adolescents is cannabis (marijuana) and UMMC, (2015) further stated in their reports that about 2 in 5 Americans had used Marijuana at least once in their life time. Furthermore, a survey conducted at Ring road outlets in Benin City, Ajegunle in Lagos, Mabushi in Abuja, confirms the same, that youth involvement in intake of cannabis and other drugs is very high (Abudu, 2008; Oshodi, Aina and Onajole, 2010).

**Table 5: Side effects experienced**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Physical effects	83	31
Psychological effects	139	51
Social consequences	48	18
Total	270	100

Table 5, above shows the various effects of drugs abuse on the respondents, 51% of the respondents cited psychological effects (e.g. sleeplessness, depression, anxiety, lack of coordination, slow reaction etc.). Similarly, 31% of the respondents cited physical effects (e.g. liver/brain/kidney damage, hypertension, excessive heartbeat, damage to unborn babies, cancer, respiratory illness etc.). While 18% which constitutes the least said social consequences (e.g. loss of job, family disintegration, violent and bizarre behavior, delinquency, expulsion from school, criminal offences such as stealing, rape, armed robbery etc.). This side effects found in the responses view above, correlates with the report revealed by (Stevens, Trace et al. 2005; Factsheet, 2015; UUMC 2015), that illegal drug use can cause stress and mental illness. Moreover, (NIDA, 2012; Gate Way Foundation, 2015), affirmed that the effects of drug abuse causes behavioral problems, health problems, birth defect(i.e. pregnant women who use illicit drugs) which in turn results in paranoia, aggressiveness, hallucination, seizures, stroke, brain damage, poor nutrition, nausea, mental confusion etc.

**Table 6: Rehabilitation facilities provided by government**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Aware	177	66
Not aware	93	34
Total	270	100

Table 6 above, shows the Respondents knowledge about the existence of rehabilitation programs/ facilities provided by government, 66% of the respondents reported that they are



aware of rehabilitation facilities provided to help at NDLEA office, while 34% simply said not aware of any rehabilitation facilities

**Table 7: Types of rehabilitation services provided**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Counseling in rehabilitation centers	186	69
Residence counseling	84	31
Total	270	100

69% of the respondents mentioned counseling at NDLEA rehabilitation center. While 31% said counseling as out- patient through regular visits to the NDLEA office. When discussed with Officer in charged put more emphasis on adding more facilities and rehabilitation services especially that of women, as number of women into illicit drugs taking is becoming higher and no facilities for them. As can be seen by the researcher who is a Sociologist and a Social policy analyst, rehabilitations facilities for women have to be provided, in order to have counseling services, this will help greatly towards minimizing the menace of drugs being abused.

**Table 8: Ways to curtail drug abuse**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Empowerment through provision of employment/ skills by government	111	41
Enlightenments on dangers of drugs abuse at schools/public places	62	23
Parents/community/ religious bodies to play proactive role	97	36
Total	270	100

Table 8, above indicated measures suggested by the respondents on how to curtail drugs abuse by the respondents. 41% of the respondents suggested provision of employment and skills acquisition programs by the government as a way of keeping youth off drugs abuse. However, 36% of the respondents felt that a holistic approach where all stakeholders- parents, community, religious bodies, schools etc. should be involved in the fight against drugs abuse amongst youths. Similarly, 23% of the respondents advocated for more resources campaigns on media (print/electronics), bill boards etc. to enlightened parents, youths, drivers etc. on dangers of drugs abused and drugs supply such as cannabis etc. In a similar vein, by a research conducted in Malaysia by Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and health sciences titled Contributory factors: Drug Abuse in Malaysia presented in 2015, through a Counseling Psychology lecturer reaffirmed that compulsory courses should be provided in schools by government to educates youth on the negative consequence of drugs and substance abuse.

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## DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Discussion of major findings would be in line with the objectives of the study and relevant sociological theories.

The first objective of the study is to assess the factors responsible for the increasing abused of drugs. The major findings of the study reveals a number of factors as responsible for the ever increasing menace of drugs abused amongst youth, particularly those in the ages of between 18-36 years; as highlighted in table 1. The major factors causing drugs abused as reported in table 3 is unemployment with 48.9%, while family/community disintegration constitutes 30.7%. Similarly, 20.4% of the respondents cited failure of educational/religious institutions. The traditional belief that crime can be controlled by simply improving the efficiency of the police/courts or similar agencies needs to be revisited.

This is because family, educational and religious institutions are very important institutions of social control and therefore, need to be strengthened in order to check mate crime. In a similar vein by a research conducted in Malaysia by Jeffrey Cheah School of Medicine and health sciences titled Contributory factors: Drug Abuse in Malaysia presented in 2015, by Dr Tam a psychologist, confirms similar reporting, that family factors such as parental upbringing, economic status and family relationships etc are factors that pushed teenagers to use of illicit drugs. However, in contrast to factors given in the findings as factors responsible for increased drugs abused by youth, an empirical study was carried out by Steinberg (1986) on group of youngsters, and found that children of working mothers and he referred to this children as ‘latchkey children’ are likely to experience with and use substances, because their time is spent more with peer friends/groups, than their mothers.

The second objective of the study is to assess the commonly abused drugs in Nigeria. The study indicates that a commonly abused drug could be grouped into three. These are Indian hemp and cannabis (marijuana) constitutes the most commonly abused drugs with 42%, is found to be in line with the report of (UNODC, 2011; ), where it affirmed that the commonly abused drugs by the adolescents is cannabis (marijuana). Furthermore, a survey conducted at Ring road outlets in Benin City, Ajegunle in Lagos and Mabushi in Abuja, also confirmed same, that youth involvement in intake of cannabis and other drugs is very high (UNODC, 2007; Abudu, 2008; Oshodi, Aina and Onajole, 2010). Others are psychotropic drugs (31%) and cough syrups 27% respectively, the researchers’ study avowed the report of (UNODC, 2007). These drugs are commonly sold at our pharmaceutical chemists with or without doctor’s prescription, while Indian hemp is probably home grown. Government in Nigeria has banned the production and sales of Indian hemp and other related drugs, but yet it is sold in blacks market by drugs suppliers and baron that are from all available records known to our law enforcement agencies. So in order to check drugs abused, the supply side has to be checked properly, either by outright banning their supply as is the case now or introduce some kind of regulations.

One ways to reduce drugs abused; the study noted various ways of reducing drugs abused in the country. Majority of the respondents 41% suggested government intervention through empowerment i.e. provision of Seed Capital to youths who could not be gainfully employed either by government or private sector to start some scale businesses that would keep them

off drugs and off our streets. 36% of the respondents advised that parents and communities should leave up to their expectations of inculcating moral characters into their children, while the community should play its traditional role of monitoring and policing the neighborhood. However, 23% of the respondents were of the view that educational sector especially from secondary level to tertiary level should modify their educational curriculum to include moral character of molding the youths, particularly as it relates to drugs abuse, rape, cheating, prostitution etc.

## CONCLUSION

Drug abuse is on the increased in Katsina state and indeed Nigeria as a whole. This partly because the present strategies of fighting drugs abuse based on rational choice theory, which supports the view that the way to control human behavior is through more severe punishment, through the state agencies such as police, court and prisons, seems to be having less success, hence the ever growing menace of drugs related crimes in our societies today. A new approach is therefore needed to combat crimes, especially those related to drugs, i.e. a Multi-Sectoral Approach/Multi-agency Approach: involving the state, the family, media, religious institutions etc. (Haralambos et al: 2004; Dr. Tam, 2015). Since drugs abuse affects not only the person involved in it, but the society at large, there is the need to device other all-inclusive strategy to tackle this menace. Parents who are the primary socialization agent should begin with because before school begins to teach individuals, parents are the first teachers of their children Clausen (1968), while school and other social control agencies followed as secondary agents of socialization on individuals in society. Youth are leaders of tomorrow, therefore, we will not watch idly by its youth being destroyed through the systematic abused of drugs. In conclusion therefore, I still recommend as stated above, a more Multi-agency approach where parents/family, community, Ministry of education, Ministry of health, Nigerian Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Ministry of Youths and Sports, Non-government Organizations etc., as Nigerian Drugs Law Enforcement Agency, cannot handle this ugly monster alone, because if care is not taken, this is so as each community you go, one will finds incidences of drugs abused in their young children. it will destroy our future leaders of tomorrow.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### New approach to the fight drugs abused:

1. There should be a **multi-sectoral approach** in fighting drugs abuse i.e. all stake holders such as families, communities, religious/educational institutions, Non-governmental agencies, Ministry of Education, Ministry of health, Ministry of Youth and Sports etc. must be involved. This is because the existing strategies of counseling, rehabilitation of drug abusers by the NDLEA seems not to be working effectively, as drugs abuse is not only increasing but even females including married women are gradually getting involved in drugs abuse. Therefore, a new approach which will educate youth about the dangers of drugs abuse right from home through to school should be adopted, as it is cheaper and eliminates drugs abuse entirely over time.

2. **Counseling strategies** from families to educate on dangers of illicit drugs to their children/wards, because family is the nucleus of the social organization where socialization begins and ends. Furthermore, community should collaborate with NDLEA, to fight drugs abused by youths, as the agency alone cannot do it.
3. Government should **establish compulsory courses** in schools/colleges for students, to educate them on the negative consequences of drugs and substance abuse/illicit drugs.
4. **People hawking drugs** including those selling herbal medicines should be regulated or outrightly banned and farmers growing marijuana, heroin, cocaine, and other herbal substances should also be banned. Any person found trafficking within Nigeria and also abroad should be executed, just like how countries like Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, China, Iran, Vietnam, Singapore, Indonesia etc.
5. **Trade associations and unions** such as student unions, national association of transport authority, motor cycle riders association etc. must all join in the fight against drugs abused, since their members constitute the majority of those abusing drugs. They should provide code of conduct for their members; they must device a means of detecting offenders and device a means of punishing them to serve as a deterrent to others.
6. **Industrialists:** They should try and expand their businesses in order to provide employment to the teeming unemployed youth. This is necessary because majority of drug abusers are adolescents or youth and one of the main reason which pushes them into the habit of drug abused is simply unemployment. It is said that “an idle mind is the workshop of the devil”.
7. **Pharmaceutical industries:** They should engage in research and development of new drugs that would have fewer side effects even when they are deliberately abused. Furthermore, the government should tax the pharmaceutical industries, at least 5% to 10% of their annual profits, which could be utilized in the fight against drugs abused, rehabilitating of drug abusers by the NDLEA.
8. Holding **public awareness** programs through posters to public gatherings, airports, train stations, motor parks, tea joints, youth joints, youth forums, in schools etc.

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