

## GLOBAL PROBLEM OF ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONGST YOUTHS AS A CHALLENGE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN OGUN STATE

BY

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### Abstract

*Addictive misuse of substances amongst the youths have become a global problem and this has resulted into a major challenge in international relations. It is against this backdrop that the study investigated addictive abuse of substances amongst the youths and the effect it has on international relations. The methodology adopted was quantitative and simple random sampling technique was employed. Data gathered was collected by administering questionnaire, through the use of Google forms. The use of library, books, articles, journals and internet complemented the major sources of data. Findings revealed that the addictive abuse use of substances such as marijuana, alcohol, codeine and cocaine are illegal in most countries and associated with criminal activities. The study concluded that addictive abuse of substances has globally contributed to the anxiety, criminal activities, depression, aggressiveness, and social isolation of the youths. The study recommended that there should be a global call to enact more laws and policies that will make it difficult for the youths get involved in addictive abuse of substances. Again let there be strict regulations and monitoring of the importation of any form of substance that can be easily abused amongst countries in within the international society.*

**Keywords:** Addictive, Abuse, Substance abuse, Addictive substance abuse, Global problem, and International relations

### Introduction

Drug abuse is a persisting relapsing disorder, characterized by an irresistible use of addictive substances despite adverse consequences to the individual and society (Goode, 1973). Addiction to drugs and alcohol has increasingly become a worldwide trend in lifestyle that is prevalent amongst youths (Elizabeth, Susan & Sunman, 2013), regardless of countries they belong. Getting addicted to alcohol, drugs and cigarette smoking is now seen as a major international problem. Generally there are types of addiction that can include computer games, gambling, sex and food and all of these have great consequences on the health of the individual and the international society (WHO Drug Report, 2019). The commonly abused drugs have profound action in the nervous system, particularly in the brain. Some of these substances for instance marijuana, cocaine, nicotine, caffeine and what have you are obtained from natural sources while others are synthetic or designer drugs (Sadock & Sadock, 2013).

Again, some of these substances like alcohol and nicotine are legal while some others that are legally available (Oshodi, 2013) by recommendation have addictive potential in vulnerable individuals. A number of addictive substances are illegal in most countries and this fuel the illegal drug trafficking and business that are often associated with criminal activities. The initiation of the use of these substances according to Pike (2011) induces euphoria, reward and a state of well-being that can lead to physical and psychological dependences. Withdrawal syndrome occurs when the individual attempts to stop the use of addictive substances and this leads to the cycle of dependency. A number of factors can be linked to the youths getting addicted; these include the availability, cost, method of administration, environmental factors such as behaviours acceptable in a community, peer influences and genetic factors. Over the years a number of therapeutic approaches for drug and alcohol addiction have been utilized. However, relapse the resumption of drug taking following a period of drug abstinence, is considered the main hurdle in curbing drug addiction. Unfortunately drug addiction is also influenced by the interaction with the environment (Odedeji, 2010). This study will examine the vulnerability of the youths who are addicted to these drugs and how it affects the international society.

As drug addiction has become a continuous challenge and global problem, there is therefore, the need to engage in a vibrant and exciting international mechanism, among countries and for public policy information across nations. This is an exciting period in the study of the drug addiction as many youths are becoming vulnerable and target of moral destruction in the international scene. Illicit drug use has well-known detrimental effects, but the legal drugs tobacco and alcohol have far greater impact on human health world-wide. By a standard measure of morbidity, daily, tobacco is at 4.1%, alcohol 4.0% (6.6% for males, 3.1% for females (Obot, 2012); all illicit drugs combined add only 0.8% to global disease burden (Fawaz, 2003). Alcohol consumption is common: in one survey, 82% of respondents over 14 had imbibed it in the previous 12 months (Udo & Ajala, 2016). The social cost of alcohol use is also very high (Oketch, 2013, Elizabeth & Martins, 2007). Alcohol misuse leads to selective brain pathology, though subjects differ markedly (Moronkola, 2013). Brain shrinkage, reduced white-matter volume, and dendritic pruning may be reversible with abstinence.

### Research Objectives

The main objective is to examine the global problem of drug abuse amongst youths as a challenge in international relations. The specific objectives are to:

- 1 Examine the common addictive substances by the youths
- 2 discover the knowledge of addictive substances as illegal in most countries and associated with criminal activities
- 3 identify the knowledge of factors that can be linked to getting addicted to substance abuse
- 4 determine the knowledge of respondents on how international society is a cause of substance abuse

### Research Questions

- 1 What are the common addictive substances by the youths?
- 2 What is the knowledge of addictive substances as illegal in most countries and associated with criminal activities?
- 3 What is the knowledge of factors that can be linked to getting addicted to substance abuse?
- 4 What is the knowledge of respondents on how international society is a cause of substance abuse?

### Methodology

The methodology adopted was quantitative and simple random sampling technique was employed. Data gathered was collected by administering of questionnaire, through the use of Google forms. The use of library, books, articles, journals and internet complemented the major sources of data. The population was the international society and the global youths in particular. The respondents, who are 396 youths, were randomly selected. The population of the study comprises of the residents in Ikenne LGA, Ogun State. Respondents were drawn across the area and information solicited on the issue of addictive substance by youths. The total population of Ikenne LGA amounts to 118,735 at the 2006 census. However, this research placed emphasis on Ilishan-Remo town, in Ikenne LGA which amounts to 44,000. The respondents were selected due to their knowledge on how international society is a cause of substance abuse. The sample was determined at 5% error tolerance and 95% level of confidence. In determining the sample size of the study, the study adopted Taro Yamane's formula because the population is finite and known. The formula is:

$$n = \frac{N}{(1 + N(e)^2)} \dots\dots\dots(i)$$

Where n = sample size

N = population of the study

e = level of significance (5% level of significance)

N = population = 65,736

$$\text{Applying the formula, } n = \frac{44000}{(1+44000(0.5)^2)} \dots\dots\dots(ii)$$

= 396 respondents

To select the 396 sample of residents from the population of 44000, the study used systematic sampling technique. Thus, the respondents were randomly selected across the major areas in Ilishan-Remo town.

## Results

**Table 1: Common substances addicted by Youth**

The following are the common addictive substance abused	Frequency	Frequency%
Marijuana(cannabis)	332	83.8
Alcohol	314	79.3
Codeine	314	79.3
Cocaine	307	77.5
Tramadol	304	76.8
Heroin	270	68.2
Nicotine (cigars, cigarette)	269	67.9
Tobacco	251	63.4
Caffeine	243	61.4
Total	396	100%

*Source:* Fieldwork 2020

Table 1 showed the respective proportions of the common types of addictive substances abused.

**Table 2: Knowledge of addictive substances as illegal in most countries and associated with criminal activities**

Addictive substance to drugs as illegal in most countries and associated with criminal activities complication	Frequency	Frequency%
Yes	350	88.4
No	20	5.1
I do not know	26	6.6
Total	396	100%

*Source:* Fieldwork 2020

Table 2 showed the knowledge of respondents on addictive substances as illegal in most countries and associated with criminal activities. 88.4% of the respondents are aware of addictive substances as illegal in most countries and associated with criminal activities, 5.1% are not aware that addictive substances are illegal in most countries and associated with criminal activities, while 6.6% did not know.

**Table 3: Knowledge of factors that can be linked to getting addicted to substance abuse**

Cost, method of administration, environmental are all causal factors linked to getting addicted to substance abuse	Frequency	Frequency%
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Yes	342	86.4
No	28	7.1
I do not know	26	6.6
Total	396	100%

*Source:* Fieldwork 2020

Table 3 showed the knowledge of respondents on cost, method of administration and environmental as factors that can be linked to addicted substance abuse 86.4% are aware that cost, method of administration and environment as factors that can be linked to addicted substance abuse, 7.1% are not aware of cost, method of administration and environmental as factors that can be linked to addicted substance abuse, while 6.6% did not know.

**Table 4: Knowledge of respondents on how international society is a cause of substance abuse**

International society is a cause of drug abuse?	Frequency	Frequency%
Yes	324	81.8
No	34	8.6
I do not know	38	9.6
Total	396	100%

*Source:* Fieldwork 2020

Table 4 showed the knowledge of respondents on how the international society is a cause of substance abuse. 81.8% are aware that international society is a cause of substance abuse, 8.6% are not aware that the international society is a cause of substance abuse, while 9.6% did not know.

### Discussions

From the study, result showed that marijuana 83.8%, alcohol 79.93%, codeine 79.93%, cocaine 77.5%, tramadol 76.8%, heroin 62.8% and narcotics 67.9% are the respective proportions of the common types of addictive substances abused. This is in line with the findings of Nkyi, (2015) who noted that alcohol, tobacco, cocaine marijuana are common types of substance that can be a gateway to being addictive to substance abuse

Findings also showed the knowledge of respondents on addictive substances as illegal in most countries and associated with criminal activities. Again, it revealed 88.4% of the respondents who are aware of addictive substances as illegal in most countries and associated with criminal activities. It also discovered that 5.1% are not aware that addictive substances are illegal in most countries and associated with criminal activities, while 6.6% did not know. This is relevant to the assertion made by Odejide (2009) who advocated that law enforcement agencies should be at alert and shun all forms of substance abuse. Again, Pike, (2011) emphasized that National drug law enforcement agency including the global security should be on the watch out and frown at any offenders who are found with the use of illegal substances.

The study discovered the knowledge of respondents on cost, method of administration and environmental as factors that can be linked to addicted substance abuse are on a very high side. 86.4% are aware of cost, method of administration and environment as factors that can be linked to addicted substance abuse, 7.1% are not aware of cost, method of administration and environmental as factors that can be linked to addicted substance abuse, while 6.6% did not know.

Also, the study showed the knowledge of respondents on how the international society is a cause of substance abuse. 81.8% are aware that international society is a cause of substance abuse, 8.6% are not aware that the international society is a cause of substance abuse, while 9.6% did not know. This is in line with how Okafor, (2010) sees the international society as being evil and a panacea to commit all manners of wrongdoings

**Conclusion**

Addictive abuse of substances is a growing international problem with youth users worldwide. The usage of these drugs is becoming one of the most leading causes of criminal problems in international relations. Addictive abuse of these substances has globally contributed to the anxiety, depression, aggressiveness, social isolation, psychosis, mood disturbances of the youths; and all of these have had adverse effects and challenge on international relations.

**Recommendations**

Based on the findings and conclusion of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. There should be a global call to enact more laws and policies. This will make it difficult for the youths to be involved in addictive abuse of substances practices to take place.
2. Again, let there be strict regulations and monitoring of the importation of any form of substance that can be easily found and abused amongst countries within the international society.
3. There should be more creation and establishment of several counseling centers that will help to deal with issues on peer group discussion.

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