

DRUG ABUSE AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS IN  
SECONDARY SCHOOLS WITHIN GUCHA  
DISTRICT, KENYA.

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## DECLARATION

I, Orang'i O. Jared, do hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge this work has been as a result of my effort and that it has never been presented any where for any award.


Signature ..... 

Orang'i O. Jared

Date..... 15-04-2011 .....

### APPROVAL

This research paper has been submitted to the university with my approval as a Supervisor.

Signature.....

Mr. **Ssekajugo Derick**

Date.....

## **DEDICATION**

This entire study is dedicated to my dear wife Annastancia Bonareri Ombongi and my children; Elizabeth, Hillary and Isaac for all sorts of support.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION .....	ii
APPROVAL.....	iii
DEDICATION.....	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	vi
LIST OF TABLES.....	ix
ABSTRACT.....	x
CHAPTER ONE .....	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Statement of the Problem.....	2
1.2 Purpose of the Study .....	2
1.3 Scope of the Study.....	2
1.4 Objectives of the Study.....	2
1.5 Research Questions .....	3
1.6 Scope of the Study.....	3
1.7 Significance of the Study .....	3
CHAPTER TWO.....	5
REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE.....	5
2.0 Introduction.....	5
2.1 Effects of Drug Abuse on Academic Performance.....	5
2.2 Causes of Drug Abuse .....	6
2.3 Solutions to the problems of drug abuse.....	10
2.3.0 Counseling Services .....	10
2.3.1 Government action.....	10
2.4 Research questions .....	11

CHAPTER THREE:	12
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	12
3.0 Research Design	12
3.1 Population Size	12
3.2 Selection of Respondents	12
3.3 Sampling	12
3.4 Research Instruments	12
3.4.0 Questionnaires	13
3.4.1 Interviews	13
3.5 Procedures	13
CHAPTER FOUR	14
PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA	14
4.0 Introduction	14
4.2 Research question one: The effects of drug abuse on the academic performance of students	14
4.3 Research Question two: Causes of drug abuse among students	16
4.4 Research Question 3: Solutions to curb drug abuse among students	18
CHAPTER FIVE	21
DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	21
5.0 Introduction	21
5.1 Discussion	21
5.2 Effects of drug abuse on the academic performance?	21
5.3 Causes of drug abuse among students	22
5.4 Solutions put forward to curb drug abuse among students	22
5.5 Recommendations	23
5.6 Conclusion	24
REFERENCES	25

APPENDICES.....	27
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APPENDIX 1 .....	27
------------------	----

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE RESPONDENTS.....	27
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## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Estimated population of students of the sampled school .....	12
Table 2: Analysis on effects of drug abuse to academic performance .....	15
Table 3: Analysis on the causes of drug abuse.....	17
Table 4: Analysis on the solutions to preventing drug abuse. ....	18

## **ABSTRACT**

*This study was set forward to determine the effect of drug abuse on the academic performance of students in Gucha district. The general objective or purpose of the study was to investigate the effect of drug abuse on the academic performance of students in Gucha district. While reviewing related information on the topic of study, the researcher sought for ideas of prior scholars whose suppositions and contentions were similar the problem under study.*

*The study employed a descriptive design as this had been viewed as the most appropriate design and data was analyzed using percentages and frequency tables.*

*The findings from the study revealed that drug abuse had had a significant impact on the academic performance of students in the area of study and a recommendation was made that called for joint intervention of all concerned authorities to address the escalating problem.*

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION.

Several national studies have documented high rates of drinking on college campuses and a wide range of negative repercussions of students' alcohol use. Associated with fighting, vandalism, acquaintance rape, and unprotected sex, drinking has a clear and damaging effect on campus life.

Another national study conducted at four year colleges and universities by Henry Wechsler of the Harvard school Of Public Health found that, since the beginning of the school year, nearly one third of high risk drinkers had missed class and 21% had fallen behind in their school work because of their drinking. Among frequent high risk drinkers—students who had engaged in high risk drinking three or more times in the previous two weeks – over 60% had missed class and 46% had fallen behind in school because of their drinking.

Difficulty in meeting academic responsibilities is one of the most common consequences of alcohol use. In addition to well- documented consequences such as poor performance on assignments and missed classes, available evidence suggests that many students who drop out of colleges and universities are as a result of abuse of drugs.

### **1.1 Statement of the Problem**

There has been an upsurge on drug abuse cases in schools of Gucha district. Indiscipline cases such as drug abuse, early pregnancy, violence, strikes, stealing school properties among others are so alarming.

Although the schools in this region have made a considerable effort to reduce on indiscipline cases by introducing punishment such as suspension and expulsion, moral standards are still very low. Therefore, schools should have a fully functional guidance and counseling department, guidance and counseling committees to address the problem of high indiscipline among pupils.

### **1.2 Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study was to investigate the effects of drug abuse on the academic performance of the students.

### **1.3 Scope of the Study.**

The study was conducted in Gucha district because it is nearer and accessible by the researcher in terms of transport.

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The study was intended to:

- Investigate the impact of drug abuse on the academic performance of students in Gucha district.
- To investigate the causes of drug abuse
- To identify solutions on how such habits can be overcome.

### **1.5 Research Questions**

1. What are the effects of drug abuse in schools?
2. What are the causes of drug abuse?
3. What are the solutions to such habits of drug abuse?

### **1.6 Scope of the Study.**

The study was carried out in Gucha District of Kenya. It aimed at finding out the effects of drug abuse on academic performance of students.

### **1.7 Significance of the Study**

The study will:-

1. Provide more insight to the effects of drug abuse on academic performance of students and recommend the necessary solutions.

2. The study will help other researchers and academicians to increase on the available literature for further studies.
3. Enable the students to compete favorably and meet all their learning needs.
4. Form a basis on which others can develop their own studies.



## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

The term 'drug' in the main, would related to "any substance that, when taken into a living organism, may modify one or more of its functions" while abuse' implies " a particular application of a drug more destructive than constructive for society, or the individual."

#### **2.1 Effects of Drug Abuse on Academic Performance**

One may be hooked emotionally and psychologically and may have a physical dependence, where one has a drug addiction whether to a legal or illegal drug; there is a craving for it. The individual wants to use the drug again and again and if it is stopped, there are usually unpleasant physical reactions.

While it is not everyone who uses drug that becomes addicted, many people do. (May, 2006). Drug addiction involves compulsively seeking to use a substance, regardless of the potentially negative social, psychological and physical consequences. Certain drugs, such as narcotics and cocaine, are more likely to cause physical dependence than are other drugs (Mayo, 2006)

Drug abuse among adolescents and young adults, which embrace university undergraduates, increased significantly in the united states of America in the late 60s and early 70s (Eason, 1976). Little was known about hard drug and their usage in Nigeria of the 60s. However, as far back as 1973, an expatriate staff at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, reported a substance purported to be cocaine, which was used by some students but the authenticity of the substance was not precisely established.

Social and Academic Implications of drug abuse in the late 70s, usage of cocaine and heroine became significant in Nigeria. Although, the law- enforcement agencies and the government, were not aware of the development, because of the rampant use of and emphasis on Indian hemp. It was not until may 1983, when the guardian news paper of Nigeria, first related the story of the arrival of the drug known variously in the United States as 'snow' or angek- dust that awareness began to rise. And this reached a crescendo between 1984 and 1985, when the federal government of Nigeria promulgated a decree (d.n.20 of 1984) which prescribes death penalty for possession of hard drugs.

## **2.2 Causes of Drug Abuse**

Biryahwaho Agnes (2004), family neglect is a major cause of drug abuse. She explains that families do forget their roles and therefore children feel neglected and they have chosen friends of their choices who can love them and guide



them. The youth have looked **for love** else where a part from their families.

These young people end up in bad groups thus destroying themselves.

Talcott person (1990), Band wagon effect leads to undesirable behaviors in schools. Students misbehave as a result of the behaviors of their peers they act the many they do because of the influence of their friends they feel that they should be identified as members of a particular group and conform to their behaviors.

According to Koberi and Donn Byrue (1997), they say that human aggression centers on the view that human beings are some how “programmed”. Violence is by their basic nature. People aggress because it is part of their essential human nature to do so. The hostile impulses generated increases over time and if not realized, soon reach high level, capable of generating dangerous acts of violence.

Children today face an extremely challenging social environment. They experienced growing economic disparity increasing acceptance of violence and abuse. Fred Shultz (2000), due to increasing acceptance of violence and abuse. Too many young people feel hopeless and helpless and such feelings and experiences undermine children’s ability to help others, trust and see meaning full possibilities for their future growth.

Jeanne Tillis (2003) some students may face exceptional challenges in their lives for example farming problem, violence during addition that may affect their personal social and moral development. Students cultural and ethnic backgrounds also affects their moral development.

S.K. Kochhar (2002), student Join secondary school and colleges Owing to lack of proper educational and vocational guidance they make wrong choices, they fumble and flounder. Feel frustrated they pin their faith in their ring leaders these ring leaders at times, not achieving their personal interest, drug the fellow students into indiscipline acts.

More, certain demoralizing and corrupt practices have also report into almost every educational institution. Methods of marking, attendance, mal practices in examination influence the examination in do many undesirable indiscipline ways thus resulting into mass failures.

Kochhar adds that teachers do not speak the "language of the students". The teacher verbalizes too much. He does not reach the students, that education cannot satisfies the students for long which provides no guidance to conduct no spur to action no inspiration to high endeavor. Bored with futile and barren teaching, students break up into undesirable forms of action. A teacher can cause pupil or student frustration by; humiliating the pupil, ignores a pupil's response or contribution, communicates poorly and is ill-prepared to teach, is late

for class, fails to mark pupils' books, uses homework as a punishment, shuts out a pupil out of class even when there is a good reason for coming late, refuses a pupil permission to go to the toilets to answer call of nature, fails to meet a pupils' learning needs, and fails to show sympathy.

Lack of teacher-parent cooperation, Parents have aggravated in their own way student indiscipline. Parents do not frequently cooperate with leaders and management in enforcing disciplinary measures.

According to Kulbin Sigh (2000), elimination of corporal punishment is a major cause of indiscipline among learners. Today tends to misbehave because they know that teachers cannot inflict physical harm on them.

Indiscipline in school is caused by social influence of peer pressure. Many learners come from well disciplined homes but only misbehave when they join groups of indiscipline students.

According to Glenn Myers (1990), indiscipline is caused by poor school administration. Strict appointment of capable administrators and the study of school administration management would help to remedy this situation.

He further asserts that lack of professionalism on the part of the teachers. Some have not had the professional training that would enable them deal with



psychological aspects of learner's misbehaviors. Knowledge of growth and development phases prepares a teacher so well in handling pupils and students. Most anti-social behaviour occur at adolescence 10-18years. At the same time this is a time of social adjustment. This is a time when most children tend to deviate from socially agreeable norms and fight for their independence. Proper handling is called for at this stage.

## **2.3 Solutions to the problems of drug abuse**

### **2.3.0 Counseling Services**

Counsel to the individual to identify, understand and solve his problems should be the key objective of this service. This service is the core of guidance programme. In this service, cooperation and teachers' will is very essential. A teacher can for instance, spot a pupil who needs help, collect the relevant information about him and refer him to the counselor.

### **2.3.1 Government action.**

The government should take up policies and also strong laws prohibiting the use of drugs especially by students. This would reduce the rate at which the drugs are being taken.

Students who are involved in drug addiction should be discontinued from the institutions of learning such that this can be exemplary to the rest of the students that it is very dangerous and the consequences are very serious.

Drugs should be prohibited from being taken by the students by use of slogans for example 'beer should not be sold to persons under 18 years' slogans like this will discourage the students from buying it hence reducing the drug addiction.

#### **2.4 Research questions**

1. What are the effects of drug abuse in schools.
2. What are the causes of drug abuse.
3. What are the solutions to such habits of drug abuse.

## CHAPTER THREE

### METHODOLOGY

#### 3.0 Research Design

The researcher used qualitative and quantitative design methods and interviews.

#### 3.1 Population Size

This study was carried out in four schools in Gucha District within Kenya. It **constituted 100 students and 50 teachers.**

#### 3.2 Selection of Respondents

The researcher used random sampling from teachers and students.

#### 3.3 Sampling

The study used random sampling and the targeted population had a total of 100 students as the samples number.

**Table 1: Estimated population of students of the sampled school**

	Total population	Sample
Girls	350	65
Boys	300	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>100</b>

#### 3.4 Research Instruments

The following instruments were used for the study:

- (i) Questionnaires
- (ii) Oral interviews and

(iii) Record sheet

### **3.4.0 Questionnaires**

Three types of questionnaires were used. These were

- Students questionnaire.
- Teachers questionnaire.
- The principal's questionnaire.

The questionnaires were composed of both open- ended and closed types of questions.

### **3.4.1 Interviews**

The researcher held face to face interviews with both the students and the teachers.

### **3.5 Procedures**

The analysis was taken through purposive sampling because the researcher happens to be from the same area where the research was done. The researcher first got a letter from the administration of Kampala International University which was presented to the District Education Officer of area of the study for permission to carry out the research in that area, then the letter from the District Education Officer was presented to the Head teachers of the schools where the research was to be carried out.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

#### **4.0 Introduction.**

This research was carried out to investigate the effects of drug abuse on the academic performance in Gucha district. The research also went ahead to investigate on how to reduce the continuing drug abuse among students in Gucha district.

It is in this chapter that the researcher tried to present, analyze, and interpret data obtained from the two selected groups of individuals namely: - The teachers, and the students.

#### **4.2 Research question one: The effects of drug abuse on the academic performance of students.**

The study was taken and the results were tabulated in table 3 below as per the respondents



**Table 2: Analysis on effects of drug abuse to academic performance**

	Items Asked	Responses				
	Statement	SA	A	SD	D	
1	Most students drop out of school mainly because of drug abuse.	60%	30%	5%	5%	
2	The performance of students on drugs is relatively very low	40%	30%	15%	15%	
3	Acts of indiscipline at schools are as a result of students taking drugs	50%	40%	0	10%	
4	Students drop out of school majorly Because of drug addiction	60%	30%	8%	2%	
5	Drug addicts in school engage least in Social activities that are useful.	35%	45%	15%	5%	
6	Students on drugs are very unruly and Difficult to teach	40%	30%	5%	25%	
7	A great number of kids on streets are Drug addicts.	30%	40%	15%	15%	
8	The students' attitude towards studies Is very low	65%	25%	8%	2%	
9	Drug addiction is a major cause of Family neglect.	45%	35%	2%)	0	
10	Immorality are a result of drug addiction	50%	30%	15%	5%	

From table three above, 60% of the respondents strongly agreed that most of the students dropping out of school mainly because of drug abuse 30% disagreed and the smallest percentage disagreed.

When students were asked about their performance the study showed out 40% of the respondents asserted that the performance of students on drugs is pretty low the small percentage of 15% strongly disagreed and also 15% disagreed to the question.

35% of the respondents declared that few of these students who are addicts to different drugs engage in social activities at school while the small percentage still of 15% strongly disagreed.

Family neglect is also another factor caused by drug addiction as per the respondents in that 45% of respondents strongly agreed to it, 35% just agreed and the rest which is the smallest percentage disagreed.

#### **4.3 Research Question two: Causes of drug abuse among students**

Drug addiction has been a major influence on the academic performance of students; the researcher went ahead and made an analysis on the causes of drug abuse. The results were tabulated in the following table 4 below

**Table 3: Analysis on the causes of drug abuse.**

	Items Asked	Responses				
	Statement	SA	A	SD	D	
1	The teacher-parent cooperation with Students is not very good.	60(60%)	30(30%)	5(5%)	5(5%)	
2	Corporal punishments are not a Common practice	40(40%)	30(30%)	15 (15%)	15(15%)	
3	The school administration is not proper	50 (50%)	40(40%)	0	10(10%)	
4	Peer pressure is a major cause of drug Abuse	60(60%)	30(30%)	8(8%)	2 (2%)	
5	The teachers lack professionalism	35(35%)	45(45%)	15 (15%)	5 (5%)	
6	The rate at which students are taught Morals is not to the standards.	40(40%)	30(30%)	5(5%)	25(25%)	
7	School rules are not so strict on drug Addiction.	30(30%)	40 (40%)	15(15%)	15(15%)	
8	The students' attitude towards studies Is very low	65(65%)	25(25%)	8(8%)	2(2%)	
9	Parents have poor child rearing skills	45(45%)	35(35%)	20(20%)	0	
10	The drugs are readily available to the Students	50(50%)	30(30%)	15(15%)	5(5%)	

From table 4 above the researcher found out that Most of the causes of drug addiction are with in their daily behavior ranging from the conduct of their parents and teachers towards them:- The issue of corporal punishments on students is



not practiced as by 40% of the respondents, which actually was used as a measure for discipline in schools among students.

The administration in schools is not very proper according to 50% of the respondents who strongly agreed to this and this was the biggest percentage. Peer pressure was also outlined as one of the daring causes of drug abuse according the respondents (60%) strongly agreed that peer pressure is a major cause of drug addiction.

On teachers' professionalism, 35% strongly agreed that the low professionalism of teachers is a major cause of drug abuse 45% agreed to it and 45 percent strongly disagreed and finally 5 % disagreed to it.

#### **4.4 Research Question 3: Solutions to curb drug abuse among students.**

The table below shows the researcher's results on the analysis of the solutions that are to be put forward to curb down drug abuse

**Table 4: Analysis on the solutions to preventing drug abuse.**

	ITEMS ASKED	RESPONSES				
	Statement	SA	A	SD	D	
1	Students are not often counseled about the	60%	30%	5%	5%	

	dangers of drug addiction					
2	Teachers do not often have organized seminars on how to handle students addicts	40%	30%	15%	15%	
3	The supply of drugs to the students is not Curbed	50%	40%	0	10%	
4	Students are prevented from joining peers	2%	8%	30%	60%	
5	Students are encouraged to be positive about Studies	5%	15%	45%	35%	
6	Parents are trained on how properly to treat their children	25%	5%	30%	40%	
7	Strict rules are put by the government Against drug addiction by the government	15%	15%	40%	30%	
8.	Corpora punishments are used for drug Addicts	5%	15%	30%	50%	

From table 5 above 60% of the respondents strongly agreed that students are not counseled to the problems of drug addiction, 30 % agreed , 5 % strongly disagreed and 5% disagreed to the initiative that students are not properly counseled.

25% of the respondents strongly agreed to the reality that parents are properly trained on the proper child rearing skills, though the greatest percentage 40% strongly disagreed to it.

On the issue of corporal punishments 5% of the respondents agreed that the punishments are used to discipline individuals who are addicted to drugs while the greatest percentage disagreed to the fact that the teachers use corporal punishments to prevent or curb down drug addiction.

2% of the respondents strongly agreed that the students are being prevented from joining peer groups 8% agreed and the rest (the biggest) percentage disagreed to this assertion.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.0 Introduction**

In this chapter, attempt was made to present a detailed discussion that eventually progressed towards a comprehensive conclusion. This formed a standing ground for coming up for the recommendations.

#### **5.1 Discussion**

In this section, vigilant evaluation and scrutiny of the findings were represented by the results. The section was organized according to the three research questions, which were formulated to guide the survey.

#### **5.2 Effects of drug abuse on the academic performance?**

From the research the researcher found out a number of effects of drug abuse that were associated with the students and the particular impact these effects had on the students' academic performance.

From the research it was pointed out that students who abuse drugs are very unruly and difficult to teach and that this makes it hard for the teachers to offer their services to them hence poor performance, the study also critically showed that drug addicts in school engage least in social activities that are useful for the studies and instead center their interests on taking drugs and the sort.



It was also realized that drug addiction also leads to students dropping out of school, different acts of indiscipline at schools are as a result of students taking drugs, and the performance of students on drugs is relatively very low.

Most students drop out of school mainly because of drug abuse. A great number of kids on streets are drug addicts, the students' attitude towards studies is very low, Addiction is a major cause of In addition family neglect, Immorality are a result of drug addiction

### **5.3 Causes of drug abuse among students**

On the issue of the causes of drug addiction among the students the results that were got pointed out a number of factors that are leading to drug addiction,

It was realized that the teacher-parent cooperation with the students is not very good and that corporal punishments are not a common practice in the school,

The researcher also found out that teachers lack professionalism and the rate at which students are taught morals is not to the standards. School rules are not so strict on drug addiction. The students' attitude towards studies is very low, parents have poor child rearing skill, and the drugs are readily available to the students

### **5.4 Solutions put forward to curb drug abuse among students.**

The researcher also pointed out a number of solutions to curbing down drug abuse among students it was found out that a number of solutions are not put into action



Students are not often counseled about the dangers of drug addiction, teachers do not often have organized seminars on how to handle students addicts, the supply of drugs to the students is not curbed, students are prevented from joining peers, students are encouraged to be positive about studies

In addition parents are trained on how properly to treat their children, strict rules are put by the governments, against drug addiction by the government, corporal punishments are used for drug addicts

#### **5.5 Recommendations.**

The researcher recommended that students should be often counseled about the dangers of drug addiction. If this is done, the students will realize the how they should fight and lead a straight life free of violations. The researcher found out that most parents do not have good child rearing skills and indicated that some parents do not go for organized seminars on how to treat students with addictions especially drug addictions.

Secondly, there's need to for the government to put strong and strict laws against drug addiction so that these students can take the issue of quitting drugs much more seriously.

The Involvement of students in peer groups should also be highly discouraged as much as possible in order to avoid poor disciplinary acts that crop up due to

drug addictions. On the side of teachers, it is important that they use as many methods of teaching as possible such use of corporal punishments on drug addicts, curbing down the supply of drugs among the students.

### **5.6 Conclusion.**

In conclusion, the researcher found out that in terms of curbing down drug abuse among students, there is still a great deal to do in order to attain that and the effect of drug abuse on academic performance is a rampant problem that needs jointed efforts from the teachers, parents and the students in order to deal with.

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