

**EFFECTS OF DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG THE YOUTH ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: A CASE STUDY OF KIGUMO VILLAGE OF
MURANGA COUNTY CENTRAL PROVINCE, KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to establish if there is a relationship between drug and substance abuse among the youth and the economic development in Kigumo Village. Specifically the study was guided by the following objectives among others:- (i) To establish the health, social and economic consequences of alcohol and drug abuse in Kigumo Village, (ii) To determine the extent of chemical dependence and perceptions related to counseling, treatment, rehabilitation and re-integration of persons with substance use disorders. The study employed descriptive research design. Stratified sampling technique was used to select the sample. The technique produced estimates of overall population parameters with greater precision. The Study grouped the population four strata i.e. Youths in school, youth not in school, teachers and parents totaling to 179 respondents. The findings recorded a high knowledge and abuse of drugs and other substances where the leading was alcohol at 41% followed closely by Miraa (Khat) at 31%. The study also revealed a low education level among the respondents with 30.2% having only primary education. The study also registered that even parents and some teachers have quoted to have abused drugs. It was concluded that the abuse of drugs and other banned substances have shrunken the economy of Kigumo Village thereby having many people trapped in the cycle of poverty. This has deteriorated education performance thereby most youth dropping out of school or only managing primary education level. This led the conclusion from the findings to be drawn that the effect of drug abuse and other banned substances among the youth can cripple the economic development of a given society. The researcher therefore recommended for a prevention and intervention mechanisms to be initiated to help societies understand the nexus of drug abuse and economic development and then appropriate measures taken to address drug abuse among students and young people in general in Kenyan. The researcher further recommended more research on other topics related to socio-economic development and drugs, culture and drugs amongst other recommendations.