

**AN INVESTIGATION OF THE EFFECTS OF ILLICIT
BREW AND DRUG ABUSE ON CRIME IN KENYA. CASE
STUDY OF KAWANGWARE AREA, NAIROBI COUNTY.**

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ABSTRACT

Illicit brews and Drugs and substance abuse are one of the major problems affecting the society and many slums in Africa. This problem impacts negatively on the academic, social psychological and physical development among the abusers. This study was aimed at establishing the effects of illicit brews and Drugs and substance abuse on crime. Drug abuse is a major global problem. Survey research design was used in the study. The study was carried out in Kawangware area in Nairobi County. It is one of the largest slums outside of Nairobi, Kenya. In a population of over 400,000 people, 65% are children and youth. From the accessible population the sample size of 105 respondents was selected by Purposive sampling. A questionnaire was used to get information from the respondents. The questionnaire and interview schedule were self administered to ensure confidentiality. Piloting was done for the purpose of establishing the reliability and the construct validity of the instruments. Reliability was tested using the Cranach alpha method, and was established at alpha 0.7. The data obtained was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The representation was done through frequencies, percentages and charts. The Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 16 was used in data analysis. The findings of the study revealed that drugs and substance abuse contributed considerably to crime. Factors that explained both drug use and criminal activity included poverty, lack of social values, personality disorders, association with drug users and/or delinquents, and loss of contact with the agents of socialization. The study recommends that parents, schools, the government should address the issue of drugs and substance abuse at all levels of child development. This is because perception on drug use starts to be formed at a very early age. This should be through counseling and drugs awareness centers in the country. Media should be used to address the same issues due to its influence on the youth. The result of this study supported the results of some earlier studies. Some suggestions for consideration in future were made.