

**DRUG DEPENDENCE AND ABUSE IN SECONDARY  
SCHOOLS OF CHEPSEON DIVISION IN KIPKELION  
DISTRICT, KERICHO COUNTY:  
STRATEGIES FOR INTERVENTION**

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## ABSTRACT

Drug and substance abuse in Kenya as in other countries permeates every sphere of the society and, indeed, threatens the very fabric of nationhood. Effective response to the challenge of drug abuse as well as mitigation of the negative effects of use of drugs relies critically on accurate information on extent and pattern of use of various drugs and substances by different segments of the population.

The objective of the research is to investigate the effects of drug abuse on learning in secondary schools of Chepseon Division, Kipkelion District. Its principal goal was to establish the extent of use of various drugs and substances to facilitate evidence based programming among the government, the private sector, and other players involved in drug abuse prevention programme.

The studies revealed that majority of education stakeholders were not fully conversant with the effects of drug abuse. It showed the importance of underlining drug and substance abused as a key area for thorough treatment in the educational curriculum development; especially our teachers' training colleges and primary schools. It further highlighted the importance of stepping up awareness campaigns among the youths as an antidote for the menace in our learning institutions.

Among other findings, the study established that Kenyans generally hold positive attitudes towards licit drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and tobacco products, and Miraa and a good number use such drugs and substances. Peer pressure and availability of drugs in the schools are closely associated with drug and substance abuse among secondary school children. There are a number of issues that need urgent attention for reduction in drug abuse among the different segments of the population, especially among learners in secondary school, including scaling up of prevention activities, development of behavior change communication strategy, and review of drug and substance abuse policies.