

**THE EFFECTS OF DRUG ABUSE AMONG UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS ON THE
SECURITY OF KIBERA SLUMS- NAIROBI COUNTY.**

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ABSTRACT

This study focused on the effects of the drug abuse in Kibera slums which is the largest slum city in the world. Drug abuse is considered being the use of any substances whether illegal or legal, which damages some aspects of the user's life whether, his mental or physical health, his ability to work, study or function normally in the society. Commonly abused substances are alcohol and tobacco. Morphine and cocaine were used to treat human illness. Most drug abusers fall between 6-30 years of age, although experimentation begins much earlier at 5 years. When these young people indulge in drug abuse at this early age, their future is bleak and so is the country. The Government of Kenya views the problem seriously and has therefore ratified the United Nations Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and formed a special anti-narcotic unit within national police and enacted a law to curb drug abuse and trafficking. Drug abuse affects most of the children in the slum as they may see difficulty in school going. Some of them become violent because of the drugs abused, which later lead to family disintegration. Drug abuse also leads to suicide among the youths. Mental sickness is also caused by drug abuse among the unemployed youths. Depression is also an effect of drug abuse. Crime is therefore committed by at least youths who are victims of drug abuse. Kibera originated as settlements in the forest outside Nairobi, when Nubian soldiers returned from service with King's African Rifles (KAR) were located plots there in return for their effort around 1904. Kibera is situated on the KAR military exercise grounds in close proximity to the KAR headquarters along Thika Road. It also borders artificial Lake Nairobi and Nairobi Dam to the south, and is approximately 5 km from city centre. Kibera slum is to provide affordable housing to the less privileged people who have moved from rural areas to look for employment within Kenya's capital city of Nairobi. Findings were presented using reports, charts, figures, and diagrams. The study was conducted between January and July.