

**PARENTAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND ITS PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS ON THE
ADOLESCENTS IN BAHARI DIVISION, KILIFI COUNTY, KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

Adolescents in Bahari Division suffer psychologically as a result of exposure to drugs by their parents who take and sell drugs. Illicit drug abuse has increased rapidly in the past ten years along the coastal line. Adolescents are influenced by the presence of tourism industry in Kilifi which incorporates the Western culture where some parents serve as beach boys and influence their sons on the same and expose them to drugs. Poverty makes the drug abusing parents to sell and buy cheap traditional brew due to the availability of coconut/ palm trees .Boys are used in harvesting the liquor while girls involve in selling it. The coastal culture like the funerals and social gatherings promote drug misuse since most of the rites are performed under the influence of alcohol, bhang and other illicit drugs. Men and women are allowed to take traditional brew as a social drug which also exposes these adolescents to drugs. The purpose of this study therefore was to investigate parental substance abuse and its psychological effects on adolescents. It sought to establish the extent to which substance abusing parents expose adolescents to drug abuse, its effects on both their social behavior and academic achievement. It also investigated on the intervention measures put in place by the society to curb substance abuse. Descriptive research design was employed in the study to guide in data collection, both qualitative and quantitative data was collected by the use of questionnaires and focus group discussion guide. The sample population was 260 pupils and 60 parents in the 5 sampled out of the 45 primary schools in Bahari division, Kilifi County. A pilot study was conducted in two schools to enable the researcher to determine validity and reliability of the instruments. The study employed thematic and descriptive analysis to calculate the mean value and percentages during data analysis process, tables and figures were used to present the outcome of the analyzed data. The findings will be used to create awareness on the psychological effects caused by parental substance abuse on adolescents, emphasize the importance of health parental care and as well as filling the knowledge gap.