

**THE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF DRUG ABUSE AMONG STUDENTS IN  
PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS- VOI LOCATION, TAITA TAVETA  
COUNTY.**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This was a cross sectional study designed to determine the causes and effects of drug abuse among public secondary schools in Voi Location, Taita Taveta County. The objective of this study was to determine the causes that led students to engage in drug abuse, identify the type of drugs that were commonly abused. The researcher was also to find out the challenges that faced students who abused drugs and came with the intervention strategies to reduce the problem. 6 secondary schools were randomly selected for the study. A total of 110 students were selected for sampling. The drugs commonly abused were tobacco 60%, bhang 47.7%, alcohol 27.4%, Miraa (khat) 18.2%, and lastly inhalants were 3.7%. The causes of drugs were mainly availability of drugs 71.8%, peer pressure 67.1%, curiosity 52.0%. The study also showed drugs related behavioural problems were declined in performance 60% lack of concentration 47.1%, withdrawal 44.3%, ignorance and carefree attitude 37.1%. The mostly affected gender were males with 49.1% and females 27.3%, the age bracket mostly affected were between 14 to 18 years. The best intervention strategies were strengthening of guidance and counselling in schools 66.3% followed by parents monitoring their kids at home 30%, tough penalties were to be imposed on those students caught abusing drugs. From this study it was spread in schools in Voi Location. The study also recommends that early intervention should target school attendees at early age with the aim of preventing drug abuse in Voi Location, Taita Taveta County