

FACTORS INFLUENCING PREVALENCE OF SUBSTANCE
ABUSE AMONG STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SECONDARY
SCHOOLS IN KANDARA SUB-COUNTY, MURANGA COUNTY
IN KENYA

BY

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ABSTRACT

Drugs and substance abuse is one of the major problems affecting secondary school students. This problem impacts negatively on the academic, social psychological and physical development among the abusers. The purpose of this study was to investigate factors influencing prevalence of drug use among secondary school students in Kandara Sub-County with an aim of suggesting extra corrective measures to the vice. The study was guided by the following objective: To establish the influence of parenting roles on prevalence of drug use among secondary school students, to establish the influence of availability of drugs on prevalence of drug use among secondary school students, to establish the influence of school administration on prevalence of drug use among secondary school students and to establish the influence of peer pressure on prevalence of drug use among secondary school students.

Descriptive survey research design was used in conducting this study. The target population for the study was 18226 students in 52 secondary schools in the district and 2 teachers in counseling department in each school. A sample size of 300 students, with 200 boys and 100 girls was selected from the 16 schools that were selected using stratified random sampling to include one third of all schools in each category. One teacher from each school was selected making 16 teachers.

A student's questionnaire was used to collect data and interview sessions for teachers in counseling department. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics such as percentages and mean values. Standard deviation was also computed for each research question to test for the variability of responses across the study participants.

The general findings of the study revealed that the family as the primary institution of socialization plays a pivotal role in determining the future behavior of children. Drug and substance abuse among students is a bigger problem than can be handled by guidance and counseling teachers who are hardly trained to deal with the depths and complexities presented by the situation. There is need for a holistic approach to be employed to address the problem. The approach should be more proactive targeting on prevention.