

**AN INVESTIGATION OF PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES USED  
IN PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO CURB DRUG AND ABUSE  
IN  
MUKURU SLUMS IN NAIROBI COUNTY IN KENYA**

**By**

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## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.0 Background to the study.

Drug and substance abuse is recognized as a global threat with serious ramifications on people's health, security, socio-economic and cultural welfare. In Kenya, it is increasingly being recognized as one of the major problems affecting developments alongside poverty, corruption, insecurity, unemployment and HIV/AIDS. The effects of drug and substance abuse cut across all sections of society, especially the youth.

“Drugs destroy lives and communities, undermine sustainable development and generate crime. Drugs affect all sectors of society in all countries: in particular, drug abuse affects the freedom and development of young people, the world's most valuable asset. Drugs are a grave threat to health and well-being of all mankind, the independence of state, democracy, stability of nations, the structure of all societies and the dignity and hope of millions of people and their families,” Political declaration by special session of the general assembly devoted to countering the world drug problems together 8-10 June 1998.

“Substance abuse is widespread affects the youth mostly, but cuts across all social groups and alcohol, tobacco bhang and Miraa are substances most abused in order of prevalence. The youth consume alcohol and drugs to the extent that these substances pose great danger to the health of the youth and ultimately to the well-being of the nation, youth in peril, alcohol and drug abuse in Kenya report national baseline survey 2001 – 2002 (NACADA)

Heroin and cocaine abuse is growing rapidly in Kenya, and is spreading from cities to rural areas. Of great concern is the finding of a 2001 WHO report indicating an estimated population of heroin users in Nairobi of 10,000 with 50% of those being injecting drug users (IDUS). Consistent with that, records from 2000 show that opioid-related diagnosis were among the top ten diagnosis of patients morbidity accounting to 7% of in – patient