

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CAUSES OF DRUG ABUSE & ITS
EFFECTS ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AMONG SECONDARY
SCHOOL STUDENTS IN SEGERO ZONE, UASIN GISHU COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed at investigating the causes of drug abuse and their effects on students' academic performance and the interventions required to alleviate the problem. There has been an alarming increase in the number of children in Kenyan secondary schools engaged in drug consumption and abuse. This sad situation has resulted in a myriad of social ills and is a contributory factor in the diminishing standards of education in the country. Students who abuse drugs are usually poor performers in school and eventually end up engaging in vices such as crime once they are out of school. This study used Modified Social Stress Model which was developed by Rhodes and Jason (1988) and modified by WHO to include the effects of substances, the personal response of individual to the substances and additional environmental, social and cultural variables. Many risk factors which are associated with drug abuse also cause other anti-social behaviour (Hawkins et al 1988). There is evidence that adolescent drug abuse is correlated with delinquency, teenage pregnancy, school misbehaviour and drop-out (Elliott et al 1989). In Segero Zone, Uasin Gishu County students are dropping out of school due to this menace. The study will benefit teachers, school administrators and parents in finding solutions to the drug menace in schools. Descriptive survey research design was used in conducting this study. The target population for the study was 1500 students in 3 secondary schools in the zone. A sample size of 120 students (10% of the population), with 58 boys and 60 girls was selected from the 3 schools that were selected using stratified random sampling. Purposive sampling was used to sample three head teachers from the selected schools. Therefore, the total sample size was 123 respondents. A student's questionnaire was used to collect data. Data was analysed using descriptive statistics such as percentages and mean values. The study findings were interpreted and the findings presented using tables and percentages. The tools were checked for their validity and reliability through a pilot study