

**FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO DRUG ABUSE AMONG YOUTHS  
(18-35YRS) IN KIKUYU DISTRICT, KIAMBU COUNTY, 2012**

**NJOROGE WILLIAM KIRIKA**

**BED (SB)/09/04839**

**A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL  
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF A  
DEGREE IN EDUCATION**

**MT KENYA UNIVERSITY**

**OCTOBER, 2012**

## ABSRTACT

The issue of drug use is as old as human race. Man has been known to use herbs, roots, barks, leaves and other parts of plants for medicinal purposes in an attempt to relieve pain and cure illnesses.

However, certain drugs are known to produce certain side effects such as anxiety, restlessness and sense of feeling high that eventually become a habit hence leading to drug abuse. It therefore alters the normal bodily functioning of the user. This creates short and long term effects on the user and gives negative effects on an individual, family, community and entire society.

The Kenyan youths are at a higher risk of drug abuse. Dangerous drugs use has been noted in the youths. Drug abuse interferes with the brain development of the young people. Therefore a lot of sensitization on drug and substance abuse among them needs special emphasis in an attempt to save and rescue our future generation.

Early detection on drugs and substance abuse is vital for prevention and rehabilitation of the youth. Several factors like peer pressure, parental guidance, parental drug abuse, availability of the drug and drug culture not forgetting urbanization process appears to foster this drug culture. Drug culture offers counterfeit satisfaction and for some, dangerous means to a livelihood.

A large number of Kenya youths have been exposed to tobacco, khat, glue, marijuana and even heroin and cocaine. Drugs have found their way in the Kenyan schools. Study shows that 22% of secondary school students in Kenya use drugs both male and female.