

**A STUDY ABOUT THE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF DRUG ABUSE BY
TEENAGERS ON HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION IN KASARANI
CONSTITUENCY , NAIROBI, KENYA**

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ABSTRACT

The researcher is carrying out this study to determine the factors that are associated with drug abuse in secondary school student's education in Kasarani constituency, Nairobi, Kenya. The effects and causes of drug abuse form the major goal in my study.

The effect of drug abuse on the performance of the students is an objective.

The researcher would also like to establish the reasons why students abuse drugs in their schools. The researcher is targeting a number of students from different schools in Kasarani constituency for her research to be effective. The researcher is also targeting to interview a total of five hundred students from different schools in the constituency. The students will be both male and female. The data will be grouped into those who abuse drugs (abusers) and those who do not abuse drugs (non-abusers).

According to the students that the researcher has already interviewed, the results show that the number of students abusing drugs in their respective schools is getting high as time goes by. The number of boys abusing drugs is higher than that of the girls. The most abused drug is prescription drugs because they are readily available. Another drug that is abused highly is alcohol. Other drugs that are being abused by students include; miraa, cigarettes, bhang (marijuana), cocaine, contraceptives, inhalants/solvents and heroine.

The results from the respondents showed that at least each one of them had taken alcohol in their lifetime. That shows that 90% of the 500 students the researcher has interviewed as a sample from different schools has taken alcohol. Most of them giving the information that they abuse it with their school mates. 60% of them admitted that they have used cigarettes in their school life. Almost each one of them had used miraa/khat and some of them had used bhang. Only one of them had used heroin.

The age that was affected by this drug abuse was between 13-23 years, and in high school.

These are the reasons they gave for abusing these drugs

1. For enjoying themselves
2. Peer pressure

3. Frustration from parents, teachers
4. Inability to achieve goals set thus feeling like a failure
5. False ideas and perceptions example bhang enhances academic performance
6. Lack of knowledge of drugs
7. Low self esteem
8. Rebellion against parents /teachers/religion
9. Poor role models
10. For experimentation

According to this research, the researcher found out that the use of drugs has affected the students' performance in school.

Students from the low social class are abusing drugs more than students from higher social class in the same area. According to the interview findings drug abuse is high in the high schools in Kasarani area and measures need to be put in place to prevent drug abuse in the schools.

This will lead to the development of the area and country.

Statistics from the National Authority for the campaign against Alcohol and drug Abuse (NACADA) indicates that alcohol is the most abused drug in secondary schools, followed by Miraa, bhang, tobacco and shisha which is mostly abused by girls. It is also likely that that students staying with friends who abuse drugs or relatives are most likely to start abusing drugs.

In Kenya, students living in urban areas are more likely to abuse drugs like alcohol, miraa, bhang and tobacco as compared to those living in rural areas who may not have tasted any of these. Findings of a study conducted by the Child Welfare Association revealed that one student in every fifteen Kenyan students were abusing Khat, bhang and alcohol. I found this as evident when conducting my interview in Kasarani constituency in secondary school students on drug abuse. The researcher therefore found it important to carry out the study on student's drug abuse and how it has affected education in the constituency and try to come up with the preventive measures that can be taken to curb this vice.