

**IMPACT OF DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG
SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ON THE ACADEMIC
PERFORMANCE IN THE GENGGE LOCATION
NYERI COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

Drug abuse is becoming an ever increasing menace in Kenya. Numerous studies carried out countrywide show that almost every Kenyan youth at one time or another experiments with drugs, especially beer and cigarettes.

They get this influence from peer pressure, exposure to wrong media showing that alcohol and smoking is a cool thing to do. Another factor is wrong choice of role models who are exposed to drug abuse and therefore the youth end up emulating them

The major cause of concern is that a significant proportion of these young people eventually get addicted posing a threat to their own health and safety, while creating difficulties for their families and the society at large into difficulties.

This study seeks to establish the current trend of drug abuse among secondary school students in Kenya and to analyze the strategies used to address the problem. The ultimate aim is to propose a programme for prevention and intervention and ways to improve on the current drug abuse prevention strategies.

The study is a descriptive survey. The field survey method was adopted to collect quantitative and qualitative data, using open-ended questionnaires. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used in data analysis.

An interview guide will also be used to provide a format and guidelines on the main research questions and objectives to be met

The key findings from previous studies conducted in other regions were that drug abuse among students is common; both boys and girls have abused drugs with the majority being in boys' schools; the greatest ratio of drug abusers to non-abusers among the sampled schools are aged between 16 and 21years; there is a significant relationship between drug abuse and age, use of drugs by other family members and easy access to drugs.

This study seeks to confirm this findings laying emphasis on secondary schools in Thegenge Location, Nyeri County. The research study selected various secondary schools that are mixed, day, boarding and single gender.

Questionnaires were used that are both open ended and close ended. They will be categorized into questionnaires for students and another for teachers and school counsellors.

A variety of factors contribute to drug abuse with the majority of students citing acceptance by peers, ignorance, exposure to media and curiosity. Both the school administration and teachers face a number of challenges in an attempting to address the problem of drug abuse in schools.

The study made a number of recommendations that can supplement existing policies and further research. A number of guidelines are proposed for developing a programme for prevention and intervention

These recommendations are region specific since it covers secondary schools in Thegenge Location. Therefore the recommendations can be used by the administrators, education officials and society in Thegenge Location. This can later be replicated in other locations and counties across Kenya.