

**AN INVESTIGATION OF THE DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE EFFECTS ON  
THE YOUTH'S CRIMINAL CONDUCT IN EASTLEIGH SOUTH WARD, NAIROBI  
COUNTY**

**BY**

**KHALIF AHMED**

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## ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the effect of drug abuse on youth criminal conducts. The findings show that use of drugs among youths of Eastleigh South Ward have led to criminal effects. The results also suggest that controlling the use of drug among youths in Eastleigh South Ward have positive effects on youths' criminal conduct thus reducing such criminal case due to drugs and substances abuse. Eastleigh South Ward has been taken as the Population and the sample size is 100 respondents. 50 youth with male and female in equal proportions and 50 adults of balanced gender male and female. Data was collected using a questionnaire and the data analysis done using simple percentages through drawing inferences into tables and developing graphical representation of data and finally explaining the happenings in the graphs. The research concludes that using drug abuse can disrupt brain function in areas critical to motivation, memory, learning, judgment, and behavior control and that who use alcohol and other drugs often have family and social problems, poor academic performance, health-related problems including mental health. Substance use, leads to a cluster of behavioral, cognitive and psychological phenomenon that develops after repeated intake like violence, and that youth commit violent offences while under the influence of drugs, particularly alcohol. The research revealed that drug and alcohol abuse can easily lead to road and work accidents dues to inebriation or a hangover, drunk drivers have a significantly higher risk of being in a crash than drivers who have not consumed any alcohol and that alcohol and other drugs can cause changes to a persons' mood, reaction times, skills and concentration; The study recommends that urgent and deliberate measures be put in place by the government, the school administrators, religious leaders, civil society organizations and parents to raise the level of awareness on the effects of drugs among students and society in general. The ward administrators need to ensure high discipline among youth and other members of the community. Families and churches should also be encouraged to intensify their efforts of imparting moral values as well as discussing the issue of drugs with the youth to increase the awareness level. The government should strengthen drug legislation and enforcement in the country to address the issues of drug trafficking, peddling and use. Rehabilitation centers should be set up in every district to enable that already affected get medical assistance. The government should declare drug use a national disaster so as to Marshall the financial and human resources towards addressing this problem. School administrators in conjunction with local administrators should carry out close surveillance in school neighborhoods to prevent drug peddlers from selling drugs to students.