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**ASSESSMENT OF DRUG ADDICTION AND TRAFFICKING AMONG SECONDARY
SCHOOL STUDENTS IN IKENNE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF OGUN STATE,
NIGERIA**

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Abstract

The worrisome situation that has drawn the concern of the researcher is that drug addiction and trafficking among youths. This study examined the assessment of drug addiction and trafficking among secondary school students in Ikenne Local Government Area of Ogun State. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design and the sample size comprised 300 secondary school students randomly selected across Local Government Area adopting multistage sampling technique. The research instruments used for this study were self-designed titled: Drug Addiction and Trafficking Questionnaire (DAATQ). Descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation was used to answer the research questions while t-test was used to test the hypotheses formulated. It was found out that the level of students' involvement in drug addiction and trafficking was high at $\bar{x}=3.09$ while students' level of taking drugs to school was ranked 1st at $\bar{x}=3.5$. There was a statistically significant difference between male and female secondary school students involvement in drug addiction and trafficking. The study therefore recommended a collaborative approach by government, religions leaders, community leaders and educational managers to tackle the menace of drug addiction and trafficking among the secondary school students.

Keywords: *Drug Addiction, Trafficking, Involvement, Secondary and School*

Introduction

Young people desire an autonomous and independent life that is free from the check of adult, thereby resulting in to various delinquent acts (drug abuse, rape, robbery, cultism and vandalism) that are harmful to the home, school, society, nation and the world at large (Fareo, 2012). The change or developmental experience at adolescent stage led to engaging in risk-taking behaviour whereby they try out their new decision-making skills and receive acceptance and respect of their peers (Akanbi, Godwin, Anyio, Muhammad & Ajiboye, 2015)

The world today is witnessing an upsurge in the incidence of drug abuse, drug addiction and drug trafficking. The menace of drug addiction and trafficking have eaten deep into the fabrics of our society in which educational system hard its own share; however, with effective school management, counselling programmes, through campaign against drug abuse by government and educational stakeholders in cubing of the menace in the schools (Fareo, 2012).

Globally, many public figures/celebrities perceived as role models for youths have been indicted in one scandal or the other. Many of such personalities include musicians, sportsmen and artists. Asian countries frown at the act of this with which a lot of people have been sentenced to death as a result of their involvement in drug abuse and trafficking. The use of hard drugs/substance among students in Nigerian schools has become an embarrassing trend to parents, schools, government authorities, and the society at large (Akanbi, et al., 2015). The Nigerian National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) (2013) stated that substance abuse is a major problem among students of post-primary education institutions in Nigeria. This has made it a worrisome activity and major cause of poor academic performance and act of indiscipline in Nigerian schools. Drug abuse is the application of drugs/substances for other purposes rather than medical/health related issues, thus affecting the individual in a negative way socially, cognitively or physically (King, 2016). Drug abuse is any substance other than food or water that influences the negative way people feel, think, see and behave (Kwinsohn, 2007; Okoye, 2001; Fareo, 2012).

The NDLEA (1998) described drug as natural and synthetic chemical substances which can affect the body and its processes as well behaviours and feelings. Although most drugs are legally accepted and used for medical purposes, their usage must be as based on the prescription by medical doctor after proper diagnosis has been made. There are drugs that are not legally accepted nor used for any medical purpose due to their dangerous nature on physical and mental health. Drugs can kill and also cure which implies that every drug is regarded as Poison until it is taken in the right quality and combinations (Wahab, 2009).

In Nigeria, there is high rate of students' failure in external examinations. The failure has been attributed to several factors, some of which are inadequate facilities, unqualified teachers and negative attitude of students to schooling (Onyilo & Onyilo, 2010). Students' academic performance is a complex product of family and home environment, community and values, peers, teachers, schools and other social contacts.

Statement of the Problem

The frightening evidence in the prevalence of drug addiction and trafficking and their effects and consequences among students has risen for concern to all helping professions to raise strategies of educating students with skills and knowledge of living without substance abuse. In Nigeria today, the consequences of drug addiction and trafficking are diverse, including acute and chronic health, social as well as psychological problem, drop-out rate, and poor academic performance among others. There is disruption of interpersonal relationships particularly within the family and school, marginalisation, criminal behaviour, academic failure, vocational problems and failure to achieve normal adolescent milestones. These youths who are expected to be the future leaders of the nation are been ruined with this painful act. Several studies carried

out among students by scholars such as Omaye (2005), Fayombo (2000) and Obianwu (2005), Akanbi, Godwin, Anyio, Muhammad and Ajiboye (2015) found out that students are involved in cannabis abuse and stimulants such as amphetamines.

Drug addiction and trafficking have become such a problem of great concern to all stakeholders in Nigeria and particularly the Federal Government to the extent that an Agency has been established to combat the social disease with a view to reducing the spread of drug addiction and trafficking and eradicating it totally. The worrisome situation that has drawn the concern for this study is that drug abuse, drug addiction and drug trafficking are some of the issues that have attracted global attention today. Therefore, this study sought to assess the drug addiction and trafficking among secondary school students in Ikenne Local Government Area of Ogun State.

Purpose of the Study

The main objective of the study is to investigate the assessment of drug addiction and trafficking involvement among secondary school students in Ikenne Local Government area of Ogun State, Nigeria. Specifically, the sought to find out:

- The level of secondary school students' involvement in drug addiction and trafficking in Ikenne Local Government area of Ogun State;
- The consequences of drug addiction and trafficking on secondary school students in Ikenne Local Government area of Ogun State;
- difference in the involvement of male and female secondary school students in drug addiction and trafficking in Ikenne Local Government area of Ogun State;
- difference between public and private secondary school students' involvement of drug addiction and trafficking in Ikenne Local Government area of Ogun State;

Research Questions

To guide the study, the following research questions were put forward.

1. What is the level of secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse addiction and trafficking in Ikenne Local Government area of Ogun State?
2. What are the consequences of drug addiction and trafficking on secondary school students in Ikenne Local Government area of Ogun State?

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated to be tested in the study:

HO₁: There is no significant difference between male and female secondary school students in terms of their involvement in drug addiction and trafficking in Ikenne Local Government area of Ogun State.

HO₂: There is no significant difference between public and private secondary schools students in terms of involvement in drug addiction and trafficking in Ikenne Local Government area of Ogun State.

Methodology

The study adopted the descriptive survey research design of survey type because it attempts to assess the drug addiction and trafficking among secondary school students in Ikenne Local Government Area of Ogun State. The population of the study consists of all students of 18 public

and 12 private secondary schools in Ikenne Government Area of Ogun State. Multistage sampling technique was adopted for the study. Stratified and purposive sampling techniques were used to select 5 public and 5 private secondary schools on the years of establishment. Convenience sampling technique was adopted 30 students from each sampled school. Hence, 300 students drawn from the sampled schools were used for this study.

The research instrument used for this study is a self-designed questionnaire titled: Drug Addiction and Trafficking Questionnaire (DATQ). The DATQ was based on the four Likert scale. Three experts helped on the face, content and construct validity of the instruments. Meanwhile, the reliability of DATQ was measured with the use of Cronbach's alpha (α) to ensure internal consistency and demonstrated an acceptable reliability at 0.69. The research questions raised were analyzed using the mean and rank ordering while t-test was used to test the hypotheses formulated at 0.05 confidence level.

Results

Research Question 1: What is the level of secondary school students' involvement in drug addiction and trafficking in Ikenne Local Government area of Ogun State?

Table 1: Level of secondary school students' involvement in drug addiction and trafficking

Items	\bar{x}	Ranking
Many students are involved in drug abuse in the school compound.	3.42	2 nd
Many students are involved in drug abuse outside the school compound	3.12	3 rd
Many students are addicted to drug	2.78	4 th
Many students are involved in drug trafficking	2.60	5 th
Many students take drugs to school.	3.54	1 st
Average	3.092	

Key: Low= 0-2.5, High = 2.60-5

Stem from Table 1, it is revealed that the level of secondary school students' involvement in drug addiction and trafficking involvement in drug addiction and trafficking is high at \bar{x} 3.09. Students' level of taking drugs to school was ranked 1st at 3.5 while students' involvement in drug trafficking was rated to be 5th in the table as perceived by the students.

Research Question 2: What are the consequences of drug addiction and trafficking on secondary school students in Ikenne Local Government area of Ogun State?

Table 2: Consequences of drug addiction and trafficking on secondary school students

Items	\bar{x}	Rank
Loss of memory	3.36	2 nd
Hindrances to learning	3.36	2 nd
Poor academic performance	3.14	9 th
Restlessness in the class	3.16	7 th
Nervousness in the class	2.88	14 th
Loss of concentration in class	3.16	7 th
Hindrances to assimilation	2.80	15 th
Abnormal behaviour in the class	3.04	12 th

Poor performance in examinations	3.12	10 th
Wrong interpretation of educational concept	3.02	13 th
Truancy	3.20	4 th
Prolonged absence from school	3.20	4 th
Irregular class attendance	3.42	1 st
Hindrances to personal study	3.10	11 th
Hindrances to take-home assignment	3.18	6 th
Average Mean	3.14	

Key: Low = 0-2.5, High = 2.60-5

With the average mean of 3.14 as shown in Table 2, the consequences of drug addiction and trafficking on the secondary school students was found to be moderately high. This implies that drug addiction and trafficking have caused irregular class attendance, loss of memory, truancy etc. among students in Ikenne Local Government area of Ogun State. Irregular class attendance was ranked 1st, followed with loss of memory and hindrances to learning 2nd among others.

H₀₁: There is no significant difference between male and female secondary school students in terms of their involvement in drug addiction and trafficking in Ikenne Local Government area of Ogun State.

Based on the responses collated, t-test was used to test the hypothesis 1 as indicated in the Table 3.

Table 3: Difference between Male and Female Secondary School Students involvement in Drug Addiction and Trafficking

Gender	N	Mean	SD	SEM	T	df	p	Decision
Male	150	117.9	17.69	.148	2.77	298	.006	H ₀
Female	150	85.41	10.47	.164				Rejected

The result in Table 3 showed that there was a significant difference between male and female secondary school students' involvement in drug addiction and trafficking ($\bar{x} = 117.9; 85.41$); $t(298) = 2.77, .006, p < .05$. Since the p-value was less than .05 significant point. The hypothesis was thus rejected. This shown the mean score of male students' involvement in drug and trafficking was higher at 29% than female students. This implies that the involvement of students in drug addiction and trafficking varies among male and female students.

HO₂: There is no significant difference between public and private secondary school students in terms of involvement in drug addiction and trafficking in Ikenne Local Government area of Ogun State.

Table 4: Difference between Public and Private Secondary School students on Drug Addiction and Trafficking

School Type	N	Mean	SD	SEM	T	df	p	Decision
Public	190	25.23	6.37	.148	0.27	298	.08	H ₀ Rejected
Private	110	26.22	7.51	.164				

The result in Table 4 indicated that there was no significant difference between public and private secondary school students' involvement in drug addiction and trafficking ($\bar{x} = 25.23$; 26.22); $t(.298) = .80$, $p > 0.05$. Since the p-value was greater than .05 thresholds, the hypothesis was therefore accepted. This means that the rate of participation of secondary school students in drug addiction and trafficking is not different between public and private schools.

Discussion

Finding based on the research question 1, as shown in Table 1 revealed that the level of secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse addiction and trafficking is very high. The high involvement of the students could be traced to the community ways of live. This supported the findings of Mjema and Nadanshau (2004) and Effiom (2005) that majority of people who participated in drug business, trafficking and abuse were youths.

Moreover, Table 2 showed that the implication of drug addiction and trafficking has a lot of negative effects on the corroborated the assertions of Adegoke (2003). Part (2007) and Santrock (2010) also submitted that drug abuse and addiction always impact negatively on students' academic performance.

Furthermore, three null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 confidence level, one of them was rejected while two were retained. The study found a significant difference in the ways male and female secondary school students involved in drug addiction and trafficking. This could be as a result of cultural belief on female children as house maker while the male children believed to struggle for means of surviving. This gives more attention/protection on female children than male children. This buttressed the findings of Mbatia (2004) and Poss (2012) that more males are involved in the drug business and consumption than female.

The study found no statistic significant difference in secondary school students' involvement in drug addiction and trafficking on the basis of school type. The non-significant different could be as a result of environmental factor whereby, they both lived within the same local government area. This contradicted the assertions of Oyewole (2009) and Kandel (2012) that the rate of students' involvement in drugs is higher in public schools than that of private schools.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were drawn. The rate of secondary school students' involvement in drug addiction and trafficking is very high. Drug addiction and trafficking have many negative effects on the academic performance of secondary school students. It was established that the involvement of male students in drug addiction and trafficking is higher than that of female students statistically.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made in view of the aforementioned findings of the study as cubing strategies to drug addiction and trafficking among secondary school students.

- There should be a rigorous campaign against drug addiction and trafficking in all secondary schools. This can be achieved by engaging in an intensive public publicity and orientation programmes via social media, Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), banners among others.
- Parents, principals and teachers towards cubing drug abuse and trafficking should properly monitor their students' activities inside and outside the classroom.
- Anti-drug abuse group should be established in all secondary schools to sensitise students on the implications on their academics and its possible consequences.
- Religions leaders and community leaders should collaborate with the government to tackle the scourge of drug addiction and trafficking among the youths in the society via preaching against the acts and its consequences.

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