

Knowledge and Perception of Substance Abuse among Okada Riders in Laaniba Community, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Road traffic accidents (RTAs) from commercial tricycle, motorcycle and bus have been on alarming increase and this has been attributed to psychoactive substances use among the drivers in most developing countries. Psychoactive substances affect the function of the nervous system and have negative impact on other aspects of health. Hence, this study assessed the Knowledge and Perception of Substance

Abuse among Okada riders in Laaniba community, Ibadan. Oyo State, Nigeria and identified factors influencing substances abuse. Community Health Nurses should take the lead in conducting research on innovative approaches and best practices for prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of individuals with substance abuse issues. Use of substances can cause serious damage to health, sometimes irreversible damage to physical and psychological development.

Purpose: To assess the Knowledge of Okada riders on substance abuse. To determine the Perception of Okada riders on substance abuse.

Methodology: The study assessed knowledge and perception of substance abuse among Okada riders in Laaniba community. Descriptive cross-sectional research design was adopted for this study. The target populations were the Okada riders in Laaniba community, Ibadan. Oyo State, Nigeria. Health Belief Model was adopted for this study. Simple random sampling technique was used to select the respondents. The instrument used for data collection was validated self-developed questionnaire. The instrument was validated and has reliability coefficient of 0.78 for the two scales. Two research questions and one hypothesis were raised and tested at 0.05 alpha level. All items in the instruments were closed ended. The completed copies of the questionnaire were collected, coded and analysed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentages were used to analyse section A, charts and graphs were used to describe the analysed data of research questions while inferential statistics of chi-square was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The data will be entered using Epidata version 3.1 and exported to Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS package) 25th edition for analysis.

Findings: The findings revealed that 145 (98.63%) of respondents have knowledge about substance abuse, 2 (1.4%) of respondents have no knowledge. Majority (94.5%) of these respondents believed that drugs are harmful to their health, while few (5.5%) of the total respondents do not believe. Factors that influence the perception of the respondents on substance abuse, stress was the highest (65%), followed by accessibility (15%), peer pressure (12.5%) and stigma (7.5%).

Recommendation: Healthcare providers should intentionally address various misconceived benefits that these drivers have about the psychoactive drugs through awareness campaign, coupled with governmental approaches in addressing other factors contributing to Road traffic accidents; will help in reducing resultant effects of RTAs in the society.

Keywords: Knowledge, Okada Riders, Perception, Substance abuse.

Introduction

Background to the Study

Substance abuse is a pattern of compulsive substance use marked by recurrent significant social, occupational, legal, or interpersonal adverse consequences, such as repeated absent from work or school, arrests, and marital difficulties. (Bako, 2022; Altima, 2018.; Ajayi, 2017). Psychoactive substances use lead to dependence syndrome, a cluster of behavioural, cognitive and physiological phenomena that develop after repeated substance use and that typically include a strong desire to take drugs, difficulty in controlling use, persisting in its use despite harmful consequences, a higher priority given to drug use than to other activities and obligations, increased tolerance and sometimes a physical withdrawal state. Psychoactive drugs are chemical substances that affect the function of the central nervous system, altering perception, mood or consciousness. These drugs are divided into different groups like: stimulants, depressants, antidepressants, anxiolytics, antipsychotics, and hallucinogens.

These psychoactive drugs have been proven useful in treating wide range of medical conditions including mental disorders around the world. The most widely used drugs in the world include caffeine, nicotine and pleasure rather than medicinal purposes. People who abuse drugs have a high rate of suicide, (Ogundipe, 2019.; Jumare, 2018) This is because of the changes in the brain caused by drugs, both when they are being used and the changes they cause over time. Another implication is the loss of family and friends because of the drug abuse. In the United States, about 30% of all people who perform suicide have abused alcohol at some point (Burbawa, 2023.; Omumu, et al., 2017).

The major issue with drugs is not in its use for curative purposes but in the abuse and misuse of these drugs especially when these drugs are psychoactive drugs (Owoeye, et al., 2022; Atoyebi, 2021). The consumption level of hard drugs has risen sharply in Nigeria within the last two decades (Adetunji, 2021)

However, Okada riders use drugs for several reasons which are, for experimentation, to make them stronger and be able to do more than their normal capacity can cope with, mere fun and excitement, peer pressure, to get over depression and other psychological problems, etc. Also, the use of these drugs among young people has so much effect on individuals, families and society at large.

Drug as defined by World Health Organisation (2016) is any substance which is taken by living organisms that may modify the functions of such living organism. The National Agency for Substance abuse is now a major Public Health challenge all over the world. Complications of substance abuse by young people are grave including: increased odds of engaging in risky sexual behaviour, personality disorders, sexual violence, criminal tendencies and drug dependence among others (WHO, 2017). Globally, the harmful use of alcohol alone has estimated to result in 3.3 million deaths each year and at least 15.3 million persons worldwide have been documented to be suffering from drug use disorders. Consequently in 2008, 155 to 250 million people all over the world were estimated to have used psychoactive substances with cannabis being the most commonly abused substance.

More over WHO estimated that 0.7% of the global burden of disease in 2004 was due to cocaine and opioid use, with the social cost of illicit substance use being in the region of 2% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in those countries which have measured it. Meanwhile, more than 2.6 million young people aged 10 to 24 die each year in the world. These deaths are mostly due to preventable causes such as substance abuse. Furthermore, many factors have been identified to be responsible for drug abuse among young people, these include: experimental curiosity, peer pressure, poor socio-economic condition at homes and the need for extra energy for daily activities among others. Also, several theories have been propounded to explain why people abuse drugs. Such theories include; personality theory which says that people with low-self esteem and poor impulse control are at higher risk

of drug abuse. Substance abuse is usually associated with time sense alteration, decreasing auditory discrimination and difficulty in concentration.

The use of hard drugs including alcohol and cigarette is a major source of health and psychological problems among adults and young people in both developed and developing countries, including Nigeria. Substance abuse is a major problem worldwide. It is generally believed that most people who use these substances often begin at an early age and may continue throughout life. Despite hazards and other implications of the use of these substances, government and religious organisations still experience difficulty in cubing the problem. Use of substances can cause serious damage to health, sometimes irreversible damage to physical and psychological development. The use of drugs could be beneficial or harmful depending on the mode of use. This study therefore sought the knowledge and perception of substance abuse among Okada riders in Laaniba community, Ibadan. Oyo State, Nigeria.

Methodology

The study assessed knowledge and perception of substance abuse among Okada riders in Laaniba community. Descriptive cross-sectional research design was adopted for this study. The target population were Okada riders in Laaniba community, Ibadan. Oyo State. Nigeria. Health Belief Model was adopted for this study. Simple random sampling technique was used to select the respondents. The instrument used for data collection was validated self-developed questionnaire on knowledge and perception of substance abuse among Okada riders in Laaniba Community, Ibadan. Oyo State. Nigeria. The instrument was validated and has reliability coefficient of 0.78 for the two scales. Two research questions and one hypothesis were raised and tested at 0.05 alpha level. All items in the instruments were closed ended. The completed copies of the questionnaire were collected, coded and analysed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentages were used to analyze section A, charts and graphs were used to describe the analysed data of research questions while inferential statistics of chi-square was used to test the hypothesis at 0.05 level of significance. The data will be entered using Epidata

version 3.1 and exported to Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS package) 25th edition for analysis.

Ethical Consideration: The consent of the unit head was taken before administration of questionnaire to respondents. All pieces of information were treated confidentially. The study followed the ethical principles guiding the use of human participants in research.

Research Questions

1. What is the knowledge of Okada riders on substance abuse in Laaniba community?
2. What are the perceptions of the Okada riders in Laaniba community, Ibadan. Oyo State on substance abuse?

Hypothesis

H₀: There is no significant relationship between the ethnicity of respondents and perception of substance abuse.

Research Settings

Laaniba was established in 1845 by a man named Laaniba, who was one of the three children of a man named Onawusi, who hailed from Ogbomoso. Laaniba was a great warrior who brought lots of spoils from battle, and keeps them in his compound at Ayeye in Ibadan.

These became so much that the Ayeye compound could no longer contain them, hence he relocated to another place which was named after the warrior himself, that is Laaniba. Some of the people at the Ayeye area also moved down with the warrior to the Laaniba. The inhabitants of Laaniba were primarily farmers.

Laaniba of today is bounded on the eastern side by Geru Ibikunle, on the western side by Awumoro Ajibode, on the northern side by Adeogun and on the southern side by Sode Apete. Laaniba consists of over 300 houses and accommodates close to 2,000 persons. The community is divided into three (3) zones (Zone A, B & C) each of which has a chairman, each of them report to a central chairman.

Two government-owned schools were domicile in the community, primary school which was established in 1995, and a secondary school

which was established in 2003. There were 3 private owned primary schools.

The community was majorly dominated by civil servants, traders and lecturers along with indigenous people. Majority of the residents were Christians, 23 churches, while minority were Muslims, and has one central mosque. There was no industry in the community except for few block making industries.

The community has no health facility and the Baale complained bitterly that government has not done anything about their predicament despite several efforts made.

Target population

These were two hundred Okada riders in Laaniba community.

3.4 Sample size Determination

The sample size for this study was calculated using the Taro Yamanes formula.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where:

n signifies the sample size

N signifies the population under study

e= signifies the margin error= 0.05

$$n = \frac{200}{1 + 200(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{200}{1 + 200(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{200}{1 + 0.5}$$

$$n = \frac{200}{1.5}$$

$$n = 133.3 = 133 \text{ respondents} + 10\% \text{ attrition rate}$$

$$= 146.6 = 147 \text{ respondents}$$

A sample of 147 Okada riders in Laaniba community.

Sampling Technique

Purposive sampling technique was used to select One Hundred and Forty Seven (147) respondents for the study.

Inclusion criteria: Only riders who showed their interest in the study.

Exclusion criteria: Respondents who did not give their consent to participate in the study.

Results

Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

This section presents the frequency distribution of the demographic characteristics of the respondents.

Analysis on Age of the Respondents

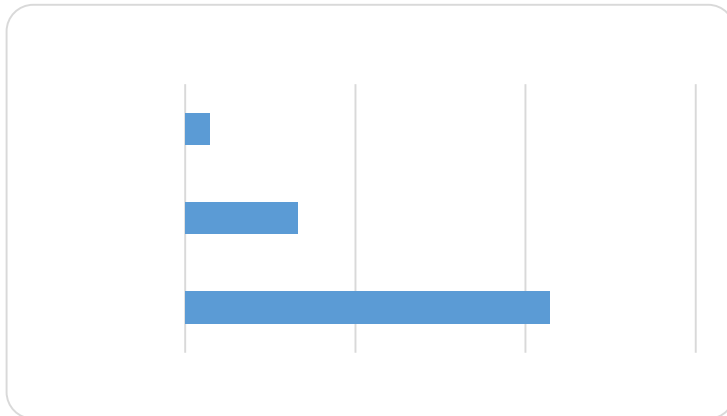


Fig 1: *Age of the respondents*

The frequency distribution of Okada riders ages indicates that a substantial portion, numbering 107 riders, falls within the age range of 18-23 years. Moreover, 33 Okada riders are in the 24-30, 7 Okada riders belong to the other age group.

Analysis on Religion of the Respondents

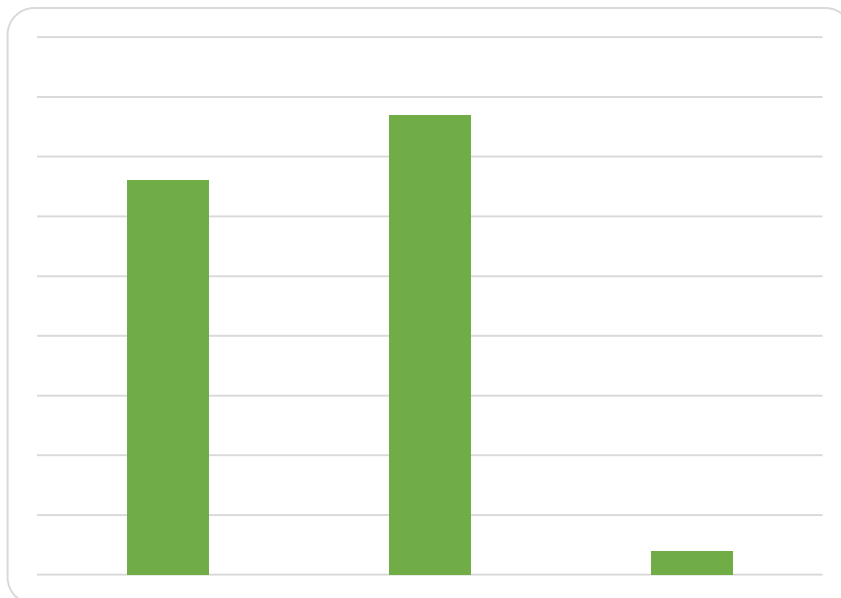


Fig 2: Religion of the respondents

The religious affiliation of the respondents in our study is as follows: 66 individuals identified as Muslims, 77 as Christians, and 4 belonged to other religious denominations.

Analysis on Ethnicity of the Respondents

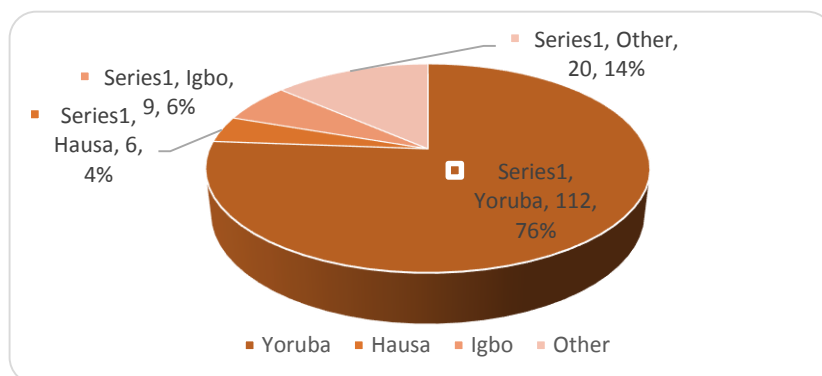


Fig 3: Ethnicity of the respondents

This figure revealed a diverse representation of the ethnicity of the respondents. The data showed that 112 individuals, identified as Yoruba. In contrast, a smaller number, consisting of 6 participants, were of the Hausa ethnicity, and 9 individuals identified as Igbo. Additionally, there were 20 participants from various other ethnic backgrounds. This ethnically diverse sample allowed us to capture a range of cultural perspectives and experiences, contributing to the richness of this study.

Research Questions

Research Question One: What is the knowledge of respondents about substance abuse?

Table: 1 showing the knowledge of the Okada riders on substance abuse.

NO	QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS	Yes	No
1	Have you heard about substance abuse ?	103 (70%)	44 (30%)
2	These drugs are cheap to buy	25 (17%)	55 (73%)
3	These drugs are expensive to buy	74 (50.3%)	73 (49.65%)
4	Drugs are harmful to your health	139 (94.5%)	8 (5.5%)
5	Drugs enable you to perform well at work	97 (65.9%)	50 (34.01)
6	Drugs enable you to be focal at among peers	45 (30.61)	102 (69.38%)
7	Drugs enable you to sleep well at night	117 (79.59)	30 (20.4)

Research Question Two: Perception of the respondents on substance abuse.

Table 2: Showing the perceptions of the Okada riders towards substance abuse.

NO	QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS	Yes	No
1	I believe that substance abuse is a concern of the community in general	103 (70%)	44 (30%)
2	These drugs are cheap to buy	25 (17%)	55 (73%)
3	These drugs are expensive to buy	74 (50.3%)	73 (49.65%)
4	Drugs are harmful to your health	139 (94.5%)	8 (5.5%)
5	Drugs enable you to perform well at work	97 (65.9%)	50 (34.01)
6	Drugs enable you to perform well at all times	45 (30.61%)	102 (69.38%)
7	Drugs enable you to work when stressed.	117 (79.59%)	30 (20.4%)

One hundred and three (103) Okada riders which were 70% of the respondents believed that substance abuse is a concern in garages in general as opposed to the 44 Okada riders which made up 30% of the respondents. Twenty five (25) riders made up of 17% of the respondents accepted that the drugs were cheap to buy while a good number of the Okada riders believed otherwise. A majority of these respondents agreed that drugs are harmful to their health, while 8 Okada riders made up 5.5% of the total respondents did not agree.

A total of 97 respondents made up 65.9% of respondents agreed that drugs enable them to perform well at work while 50 Okada riders agreed less.

A total of 117 Okada riders agreed that drugs enable them to work throughout the day while 30 riders did not agree.

Hypothesis: There is no significant relationship between the ethnicity of respondents and perception of substance abuse

Table 3: Summary of T test Analysis showing the difference between no significant relationship between the ethnicity of respondents and perception of substance abuse.

Variable	N	Mean	Std. D	F	df	Sig (p)	Remark
Ethnicity				-	147	1.98	Not significant
Yoruba	112	5.29	.69	1.29	3.48		
Hausa	6	5.75	.50				
Igbo	9	5.22	.76				
Others	23	6.02	.45				
Total	147	5.31	.63				

Table 3: shows that there is no significant relationship between the ethnicity of respondents and perception of substance abuse ($t=-1.29$; $df=147,3.48$; $P>0.05$).

This means the Null Hypothesis was rejected.

Discussion of Findings

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Demographics data revealed that 76% are Yoruba, 4% are Hausa and 6% are Igbo. They also had different religions, with 45% Muslims, 52% Christians, others 3%.

Commonly Abused Drugs among the Okada riders

The findings of the current study on the knowledge of various substances among 147 respondents were consistent with recent research. For example, a study by Odivwri, et al., (2021) found that alcohol was the most widely recognised substance among a sample of 1,000 adolescents in South Korea. Cocaine and heroin were also relatively well-known, while cannabis, morphine, and amphetamine had lower awareness levels. Similarly, a study by Iliya, (2016) found that alcohol, cocaine, and heroin were the most widely recognised substances among a sample of

500 adults in India. The study also found that cannabis, morphine, and amphetamine had lower awareness levels.

In addition, both studies found that crystal methamphetamine and tobacco had the lowest awareness levels.

The Perception on substance abuse among Okada riders in Laaniba Community

Overall, the findings of the study on the perception of substance abuse among Okada riders were consistent with previous research of this topic. For example, a study by Kim (2021) found that 98.7% of university students in a sample of 1,000 respondents in South Korea were aware of the harmful effects of substance abuse this was used to compare students and Okada riders.

The findings of the current study also suggested that Okada riders in Laaniba Community were aware of the factors that influence the perception of substance abuse, such as peer pressure, stress, accessibility, and stigma. This is consistent with previous research, which found out that these factors were important in shaping respondents' attitudes and beliefs about substance use. In addition, the findings of the current study suggested that Okada riders were concerned about the perception of substance abuse and believed that it was a significant issue in the parks and garages. This was also consistent with previous research, which found that Okada riders were more likely than other populations to view substance abuse as a problem.

The findings on table 3 were generally consistent with other studies on the factors contributing to substance abuse among Okada riders. However, there were some minor differences. For example, the study by Eze, et al., (2021) found that stress was a more significant factor associated with substance abuse than economic background. Conversely, the study by Atoyebi et al., (2021) found that economic background was a more significant factor associated with substance abuse than stress. Another difference was that the study by Ogochukwu (2021) also found that factors such as the university's policies on substance abuse and cultural norms and expectations were significant factors associated with substance use. These factors were not specifically assessed in the study by Jumare (2018) or in the current study. Overall,

the findings of table 3 were consistent with previous research on the factors contributing to substance abuse among Okada riders.

Community Health Nursing Implication of Findings

The findings of this study held significant implications for nursing in the context of substance abuse, with potential impacts on nursing practice, education, administration, and research:

Nursing Practice: Community Health Nurses are integral in addressing substance abuse issues within the community and healthcare settings. The study underscored the importance of integrating these findings into nursing practice. This includes the need for nurses to be well-equipped to identify signs of substance abuse in patients, offer non-judgmental support and referrals to appropriate resources, and play a key role in intervention and counseling.

Nursing Education: Nursing education must adapt to the evolving landscape of substance abuse. The study highlights the need for nursing curricula to place a stronger emphasis on substance abuse prevention, detection, and intervention. Nursing educators should ensure that students are well-prepared to address these complex issues with empathy and competence.

Nursing Administration: Nursing administrators can utilize these findings to develop and implement policies and programs within healthcare institutions aimed at addressing substance abuse. This may include establishing protocols for identifying and managing substance abuse cases, providing training for nursing staff, and creating a supportive environment for both patients and healthcare professionals.

Nursing Research: Given the ongoing challenges associated with substance abuse, nursing as a profession should engage in research efforts to continually improve the understanding and management of substance abuse. Community Health Nurses should take the lead in conducting research on innovative approaches and best practices for prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of individuals with substance abuse issues.

By integrating these findings into nursing practice, education, administration, and research, Community Health Nurses can contribute significantly to addressing the complex issue of substance abuse, improving patient outcomes, and promoting healthier communities.

Limitations of the Study

The major limitation of this study was the small size of the studied population which was confined in a defined geographical area. For this reason, the findings should be generalised with caution.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study on drug abuse among Okada riders offered valuable insights into the complex dynamics surrounding substance abuse within the community. The findings revealed a significant awareness of various substances, with distinct differences in recognition levels. While substances like alcohol, cocaine, and heroin enjoyed relatively high awareness, others like cannabis, morphine, and amphetamine remain less recognised. The study also shed light on the perception of substance abuse, emphasizing the importance of addressing stigma and proactive community strategies to foster a positive perception of substance abuse. Riders were well-aware of the factors influencing substance abuse, including family background, peer pressure, school environment, economic stress, socio-cultural norms, awareness, and psychological challenges. The high level of concern expressed by the respondents regarding substance abuse underscored the importance of continued efforts in substance abuse prevention and intervention.

Recommendations

Based on the compelling results from the study on substance abuse, the following recommendations were made:

Enhanced Public Campaigns: Develop and implement public/community campaigns aimed at increasing knowledge and perception about various substances among Okada riders. Given the high knowledge levels for substances like alcohol, it is vital to build on this foundation by providing comprehensive information about the risks

and consequences associated with all substances abused, including those with lower awareness rates like cannabis, morphine, and amphetamine.

Knowledge and Occupation: The community's awareness of the factors influencing the perception of substance abuse was significant, and this awareness should be further nurtured. Diverse factors influencing perceptions of substance abuse, it is essential to take a holistic approach to prevention and intervention. Factors such as family background, peer pressure, school environment, economic stress, socio-cultural norms, awareness, and psychological challenges all play a role and should be addressed in substance abuse prevention programs.

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