

## **Exploring Parents and Teachers Perceptions on Causes and Effects of Drug Abuse on Academic Pursuit of Students in Selected Secondary Schools in Nasarawa State**

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### **Abstract**

*The researchers conducted a research work on causes and effects of Drug abuse on Academic pursuit of Students in selected Secondary Schools in Nasarawa state. The study had six objectives, and as a guide six null hypotheses were raised. Descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The study targeted 3879 parents and teachers that attended Parents, Teachers Association (PTA) meetings in selected five secondary schools in the state. The sample size was 776, comprising 622 parents and 154 teachers. Data were generated through four rating structured questionnaire. SPSS was used to analyze data collected using regression analysis to test null hypotheses one, two and three, while t-test was used to test*

*null hypotheses four, five and six. All the null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. The study revealed, among others, that 88% of the variance in academic pursuit of students is attributed to drug abuse. Among the recommendations provided to address the situation is that parents should monitor the activities of their children and guide the type of friends they move with. This will help to protect them from undue influence of friends on their attitude towards the use of unauthorized drugs.*

## **Introduction**

The misuse and abuse of drugs by adolescent school children is a global issue, and Nigeria is not exempted. The rapid increase in the prevalence of this behaviour among school age children has remained prominent concern in the country. Most of school age children first try drugs out of curiosity, to have a good time or ease another problem, such as stress, anxiety, or depression. This was affirmed by Nevadomsky (1985) who reported that students take stimulants to remain alert while studying and reduce tension during examinations. The implication of this is that, many of them use drugs without knowing consequences on their school attendance, academic performance and other suspicious behaviours.

In Nigeria, doctors and scholars have recognized that drug and alcohol abuse have effect on schooling and educational achievement of students. Atoyebi and Atoyebi (2013) reported that most of inappropriate classroom behavior, such as aggression and impulsivity; academic failure are attributed to drug abuse. This is also in line with Mayo (2013) who argued that drug abuse leads to low self-esteem or poor social coping skills and academic failure among the youths. As a result of this ugly incidence, the federal and state agencies have responded to problems of substance abuse by introducing health tips and guidance services in the curriculum of secondary schools. It therefore follows that schools have become the major focus of drug and alcohol abuse education and prevention activities of youths in Nigeria.

Despite the interference of drug abuse on students' ability to think clearly, exercise good judgment, and academic pursuit, misuse of drugs has become a common thing among students. In Nigeria, drug abuse among students is at increasing rate, shifts in the pattern and types of drugs

abuse among school age children have been reported and increasing female involvement and multiple drug use pattern have also been noticed (Ifabumuyi 2007). As a result, the researchers investigated the causes and effects of drug abuse on academic pursuit of students. Based on this the researchers aimed at determining the:- (i) influence of peer groups on secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state; (ii) influence of parental behaviour on secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state; (iii) Effect of drug abuse on academic pursuit of secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state; (iv) difference between male and female parents on effect of drug abuse on academic pursuit of secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state; and (v) difference between male and female teachers on effect of drug abuse on academic pursuit of secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state; and (vi) difference between parents and teachers perceptions on effect of drug abuse on academic pursuit of secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state.

### **Research Hypotheses**

The following null hypotheses were raised and tested

- HO<sub>1</sub>** Peer groups have no significant influence on secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state
- HO<sub>2</sub>** Parental behaviour has no significant influence on secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state
- HO<sub>3</sub>** Drug abuse has no significant influence on academic pursuit of secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state
- HO<sub>4</sub>** There is no significant difference between male and female parents on effect of drug abuse on academic pursuit of secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state
- HO<sub>5</sub>** There is no significant difference between male and female teachers on effect of drug abuse on academic pursuit of secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state

**HO<sub>6</sub>** There is no significant difference between parents and teachers perceptions on effect of drug abuse on academic pursuit of secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state

### **Literature Review**

The study was based on two theories. The theories are Classic Theory of Festinger, (1954) and Social psychology of Bruce, Aria, Denise and Keith (1999). The Classic theory argued that peer groups conspire to move individuals to perceive their world as the group does, to adopt peer group attitudes. Such factors include friendship affiliation needs and social comparison processes, pressures toward peer group conformity (Asch, 1951), and the formation and acquisition of reference group norms (Newcomb, 1943; Newcomb & Wilson, 1966; Sherif, 1936, 1972). Social psychologist viewed that problem behaviors are contagious. Youth culture of academic negativism and misconduct can thwart learning and disrupt the school routine. The theory posits that most school age children conceived drug abuse as the means of easing the transition and improve their social and academic life in schools. This belief led to increase in prevalence certain traits among both males and females in all socioeconomic groups as opined by (Dryfoos, 1990; Johnston *et al.*, 1994). This therefore means that students who drink or use drugs are much more likely to encourage more problems in their schools than those who do not use substances. Supporting this theory, East (2006) maintained that there is association between drug use deviant behaviour among adolescent students. Based on this philosophy, it then follows that if drug abuse causes misbehavior among students, then policies designed to reduce it may succeed to promote the interest and academic pursuit of school age children. In Nigeria, this theory was supported by Atoyebi and Atoyebi (2013) who opined that the use of drug among students will lead to hampered memory and learning, distorted perception, trouble with thinking and problem solving and loss of motor coordination.

Study titled "Drug abuse in Nigerian Schools" was conducted by Ekpenyong in 2012. Selected secondary institutions in Bayelsa state, Nigeria were used for the study. The sample of this study was drawn

from four public secondary schools: Southern Ijaw Secondary School (Oporoma), Community Secondary School (Eniwari), Government Secondary School (Amassoma), and Community Secondary School (Angiama), all in southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, Nigeria. The survey research design was used in this study. Data was collected through a student questionnaire and an interview schedule for teacher counselors in the selected schools. The data collected was organized, tabulated and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Frequencies and percentages were used and the presentation of data was done through summary graphs. Gender differences on perceptions of drug abuse were analyzed with the t-test at the 0.05 level of significance. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 16 for Windows assisted in the data analysis. The data from the interview schedule for teacher counselors was also analysed using descriptive statistics. The study established, among others that student respondents had a positive perception of drug abuse. It was recommended, among others, that behaviour modification techniques should be employed to rehabilitate students.

Moses and Oriahi (2012) conducted a study on Causes and Effects of Drug Abuse among Secondary School Adolescents in Esan West Local Government Area of Edo State, Nigeria. Cross-sectional descriptive survey design among senior secondary school adolescents in public schools was employed for the study. The population of this study comprised of 2500 students, sample size was achieved using the simple random sampling technique from 5 public secondary schools of 30 students each, having a sample size of 150. Responses were elicited using a structured self-administered questionnaire on knowledge, causes and effects of drug abuse. Data collected were analyzed using the chi-square( $X^2$ ) method ( $p < 0.05$ ). One of the outcomes of the study was that adolescent students were influenced by peer group (51.3%) on the use of drugs and (48.6%) were influenced by parents. The researchers recommended that, since majority of drug abuse among youths start in schools, the school population is the best place for early detection and prevention.

James and Omoaregba (2013) conducted a research on Nigerian Medical Students' Opinions about Individuals who Use and Abuse Psychoactive Substances. The population of the study was 210 students and 200 of them were used in the study. A structured Likert scale questionnaire was used for data collection. Data collected were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), version 16 (IBM SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL). Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the data and the summaries were presented in tables. The study revealed among others drug abuse among youths was associated with family history and attitude. The researchers recommended among others that the family of an individual should be involved in addressing the situation. This research works focuses on cause and effect of drug abuse on psychological characteristics of student and the academic implications. An area in which research is still limited that the study addressed is on the effect of drug abuse on the academic pursuit of the drug abusers.

### **3.0 Methodology**

To investigate the Teachers and Parental Perceptions on effect of Drug abuse on Academic pursuit of students, descriptive survey research design was used for this study. The population of the study was 3879, comprised of 3112 parents and 767 teachers. 20% of the population was taken out of the population of study. The sample size was 776, comprised of 622 parents and 154 teachers.

Four rating structured questionnaire titled "Effect of Drug Abuse on Students" (EDAS) was used to generate data from the respondents. Validation of the instrument was determined through consultations with professors in Faculty of Education and Faculty of Medicine in Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Nigeria. A pilot test was carried out with 40 respondents that attended Parents teachers Association (PTA) meeting at Government Girls Secondary School Abaji. The reliability co-efficient of the instrument was 0.73. This shows that the questionnaire verified is adequate and appropriate for this study.

Two groups of respondents were targeted during Parents Teachers Association (PTA) meetings held in selected 5 secondary schools in the

state. A teacher is selected from each of the selected secondary schools that assist the researchers in data administration. 542 copies of questionnaire administered were retrieved and used in the study. Data collected were coded using SPSS and subjected to statistical analysis using Logistic Regression (LR) to test null hypotheses one, two and three, while t-test was used to test null hypotheses four, five and six. All the null hypotheses were tested at the 0.05 level of significance. In the test of the null hypotheses, if the calculated value is less or equal to the critical value, the null hypothesis is retained. On the other hand, if the calculated value is greater than the critical value the null hypothesis is not retained.

#### 4.0 Findings

##### 4.1 Test of null hypotheses

**HO<sub>1</sub>** *Peer groups have no significant influence on secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state*

Result of analysis regarding null hypothesis two is as presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Influence of Peer groups on secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse

Model	B	Std. Error	T	Sig.	R-crit	R-cal	R-cal <sup>2</sup>	Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>
Drug Abuse	3.011	2.232	1.349	.122				
Peer groups	0.029	.014	2.071	.164	0.088	0.91	0.83	0.041

Analysis of data used to determine the influence of peer groups on students' involvement in drug abuse shows the Beta, (constant) value of 3.011. R calculated value was 0.091 > 0.088 R-critical value of 0.088. The R<sup>2</sup> value is 0.83, indicating that 83% of the variance in the drug abuse was determined by peer groups. The null hypothesis was not retained

**HO<sub>2</sub>** *Parental behaviour has no significant influence on secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state*

Result of analysis regarding null hypothesis two is as presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Influence of Parental behaviour on secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state

Model	B	Std. Error	T	Sig.	R-crit	R-cal	R-cal <sup>2</sup>	Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>
Drug Abuse	3.011	2.362	1.275	.122				
Parental Behaviour	0.028	.021	1.333	.172	0.088	0.89	0.79	0.032

The summary of regression analysis used to test null hypothesis two showed R calculated value of 0.089 which is greater than the R-critical value of 0.088. The calculated R-value (.089) is significant. The value of Beta, (constant) is 3.011. The R<sup>2</sup> value is 0.79, indicating that 79% of the variance in the drug abuse is determined by parental behaviour on the students. Hence, the null hypothesis is not retained

**HO<sub>3</sub>** *Drug abuse has no significant effect on academic pursuit of secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state*

Result of test of null hypothesis three is as presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Influence of Drug abuse on academic pursuit of secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state

Model	B	Std. Error	T	Sig.	R-crit	R-cal	R-cal <sup>2</sup>	Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>
Drug Abuse	3.011	2.362	1.275	.122	0.088	0.94	0.88	0.48
Academic Pursuit	0.23	0.16	1.438	.188				

The result in Table 3 revealed that the value of Beta, (constant) of 3.011. The calculated R value is 0.94, which is greater than R critical value of 0.088. The R<sup>2</sup> value is 0.88 indicating that 88% of the variance in academic pursuit of students is attributed to drug abuse. The calculated R-value (.094) is significant. Therefore, the null hypothesis is retained

**HO<sup>4</sup>** *There is no significant difference between male and female parents on effect of drug abuse on academic pursuit of secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state*



The result of test of null hypothesis 3 is presented in Table 3

Table 4: Test difference between male and female parents on effect of drug abuse on academic pursuit of secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state

Status	N	Mean	SD	Df	t-cal	t-crit	p
Male parents	384	2.99	1.01	576	1.77	1.96	0.53
Female parents	194	3.05	1.06				

T-test analysis used to test null hypothesis four in Table 4 shows mean score of 2.99 and 3.05 for male and female parents. Their standard deviation was 1.01 and 1.06 respectively. n score of those in private schools is 3.15, with standard deviation of 0.78. The t-cal is 1.77, less than t-critical value of 1.96. Thus the null hypothesis is retained. Therefore, both male and female parents agreed that drug abuse significantly affects academic pursuit of secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state. The null hypothesis is retained.

### Test of Null Hypothesis five

**HO<sub>5</sub>** *There is no significant difference between male and female teachers on effect of drug abuse on academic pursuit of secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state*

Analysis of t-test used to test null hypothesis five is as presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Differences between male and female teachers on effect of drug abuse on academic pursuit of secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state

Status	N	Mean	SD	Df	t-cal	t-crit	P
Male teachers	89	3.08	1.03	141	1.83	1.96	0.04
Female teachers	54	3.03	1.01				

Table 4 presents the analysis of data relating hypothesis four. The result showed a mean score of 3.08 and standard deviation of 1.03 for male

teachers. Female teachers had mean score of 3.03 and standard deviation of 1.01. The t-calculated value was  $1.83 < 1.96$  critical value. The hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference between male and female teachers on effect of drug abuse on academic pursuit of secondary school students' involvement in drug is retained.

### Test of Null Hypothesis Six

**HO<sub>6</sub>** *There is no significant difference between parents and teachers perceptions on effect of drug abuse on academic pursuit of secondary school students in Nasarawa state*

The result of test of difference in null hypothesis six is as presented in Table 6

Table 6: Test of difference between parents and teachers perceptions on effect of drug abuse on academic pursuit of secondary school students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state

Status	N	Mean	SD	Df	t-cal	t-crit	P
Parents	578	3.02	1.04	719	1.72	1.96	0.00
Teachers	143	3.06	1.02				

Analysis of respondents' opinion used to test null hypothesis six shows mean score of 3.02 and standard deviation of 1.04 for parents. Teachers had mean score of 3.06 and standard deviation of 1.02. The calculate t was 1.72, less than t-critical value of 1.96. Thus the null hypothesis is retained. Therefore the null hypothesis of no significant difference between parents and teachers perceptions on effect of drug abuse on academic pursuit of secondary school students is retained.

## 4.2 Discussion of the Findings

The research work revealed among others that peer groups and parental behaviour have significant influence on students' involvement in drug abuse in Nasarawa state. The result is line with that of U.S. Department of Education, (1986) and Towers, (1987) who shows that peer pressure plays the largest role in causing children to begin using drugs acceptance by peers becomes especially important when children leave elementary

schools and begin junior high. In Nigeria, the study of According to the Daily Times Newspaper (2001), genetic and innate factors, as well as learned and acquired habits can be identified as creator of dependence on psychotropic drugs among students. Faupel (1996) opined that most young users were first turned on by close experienced users. Affirming this view, Omokhodion and Pemedede (2005) reported that adolescent often try their first drug at the urging of their friends. Moses and Oriahi (2012) further confirmed that majority of adolescent students were influenced by peer group (51.3%) on the use of drugs and (48.6%) were influenced by parents. Lonnie, Lukoye, David and Paula (2012) further reported that, the strength of the addiction to drugs, the dual role that peers and family play in substance use, and how the social, cultural, and economic context influence or impede cessation

The result further revealed that 88% of the variance in academic pursuit of secondary schools students is attributed to drug abuse. Thus drug abuse has no significant effect on academic pursuit drug abusers. Wagner, (1984) earlier reported drug users skip school or arrive late to class. U.S. Department of Education (1986) reported that drugs abuses distort memory, perceptions, sensation and caused brain damage. The study of Towers (1987) revealed that regular drug users are twice as likely as their classmates to receive low grades. Hawkins, Catalano and Miller (1992) reported that persistent substance abuse among school age children leads to declining grades, absenteeism from school and other activities, increased potential for dropping out, and other school-related problems. Both parents and teachers regardless of their gender had the same opinion that drug abuse has negative effect on academic pursuit of secondary school students.

## **5.0 Conclusions and Recommendations**

### **5.1 Conclusion**

Based on the outcome of the study, the following conclusions were made:-

- (i) The type of friend secondary school children associate and relate with could lead them to partake in drug abuse. Hence peer is one of the most influential factors causing drug abuse among the school children.
- (ii) Parent serves as role models to their children. Hence their attitudes, behaviours and actions have significant influence on their children behaviour.
- (iii) Students tend to use drugs to keep them alert while they are studying, however the reaction of such drugs distort memory, perceptions, sensation and causes brain damage of the users.

## **5.2 Recommendations**

To address the situation, the researchers recommended that:-

- i. The stake holders should introduce the use of drugs as a general course in the curriculum of secondary schools in Nigeria.
- ii. Federal and state government should organise public enlightenment programme, this will assist in orientating the general public on the danger of drug abuse in the society.
- iii. Parents should be exemplary to their children by avoiding any behaviours or action that will influence their children attitudes and actions.
- iv. Parents should monitor the activities of their children and guide the type of friends they move with. This will help to protect them from undue influence of friends on their attitude towards the use of unauthorized drugs.

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