

DRUG ABUSE AND STUDENT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN OYO STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY, IGBOORA, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to find out the extent to which the students (both males and females) use and abuse drug at the Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora. This study adopted the descriptive cross-sectional method as research design. The target population of this study comprised of students of Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora. The study adopted stratified sampling technique. By this technique, samples of One Hundred and Twenty (120) respondents of the institution were used by answering questionnaires for the purpose of getting the findings of the study. From the analysis of the study, majority of the respondents in the study area were male with age group 24 – 28 being the most prominent amongst the respondents. Most of the respondents in the study area were Muslims and they were single. All assertions used in this study were strongly agreed to by the majority of respondents. Based on the analysis of this study, one can conclude there is a significant relation between drug abuse and student academic performance in Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora.

Keywords: Drug abuse; Student academic; Performance; Tertiary institution

Introduction

Drug abuse is the use of drugs for other purposes other than medical reasons, thus affecting the individual in a negative way socially, cognitively or physically. Social effect may be reflected in an individual's enhanced tendency to engage in conflicts with friends, teachers and school activities. Cognitive effects relate to the individual's lack of concentration on academic works and memory loss, while Kiiru (2004) defines a drug as any product other than food or water that affect the way people feel, think, see and behave. It is a substance due to its chemical nature which affects the physical, mental and emotional functioning. It can enter the body through chewing, eating, smoking, drinking, rubbing on the skin or through injection.

The use of hard drugs by adolescent students in Nigerian higher tertiary institutions has become an embarrassing occurrence to parents, schools, government authorities, and the society at large. The constant abuse of drugs among this group of students can cause psycho-social problems in society. One may hope that this hateful practice and its associated problems would not lead to the breeding of generation of deranged youths. This fear is not speculative because of what happens to be the frequent and rampant drug crises in many Nigerian educational institutions.

Drug use and abuse is the primary reason why many youths are incarcerated. It is as well as a source of crime and health problem in our society today. It has become an unprecedented problem in Nigeria that the number of youth incarcerated in various prisons across the country has increased dramatically over the last few decades. As a matter of fact, majority of these youths have been arrested for drug offences, and/or have a drug abuse problem. Some of the factors contributing to this arrest are the public awareness of the danger in drug abuse and the "war on drugs" declared by the Federal Government using various agencies like the NDLEA, NAFDAC etc. However, since the year the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) was set-up in 1999, frantic efforts are being made to collect relevant information on drugs through variety of drug indicators for policy formulation. The impact of these agencies in terms of intervention strategies and control is tremendous. The world today is witnessing an upsurge of issues that are of global dimension. For example drug abuse, human trafficking, HIV/AIDS, environment degradation and pollution etc. The problems including drug abuse heralded an unending desire in our nation to sensitize her citizens especially the youths of the evil of drug use and abuse which has reached an alarming stage. As a matter of fact, the social effects

of abuse of alcohol which include road accidents, loss of jobs, poor academic and job performances, instability family set up etc. are sources of concern to the government.

Effects of drug abuse

Some identified numerous negative effects of drug abuse on the body chemistry as follows:

1. Alcohol-related problems includes:
 - a. Physical problems e.g liver cirrhosis, pancreatic, peptic ulcer, tuberculosis, hypertension, neurological disorder.
 - b. Mental retardation for the fetus in the womb, growth, deficiency, delayed motor development.
 - c. Craniofacial abnormalities, limbs abnormalities and cardiac deficits.
 - d. Psychiatric e.g. pathological drunkenness, suicidal behaviour.
 - e. Socially-broken homes, increased crime rate, sexual offences, homicide and sexually transmitted diseases.
2. Tobacco: Causes stimulation of heart and narrowing of blood vessels, producing hypertension, headache, loss of appetite, nausea and delayed growth of the fetus. It also aggravates or causes sinusitis, bronchitis, cancer, strokes, and heart attack.
3. Stimulants: Lethargy, irritability, exaggerated self-confidence, damage nose linings, sleeplessness, and psychiatric complications.
4. Inhalants: Causes anemia, damage kidney and stomach bleeding.
5. Narcotics: Causes poor perception, constipation, cough, suppression, vomiting, drowsiness and sleep, unconsciousness and death.

Relationship between drug abuse and academic performance.

Drinking two or more times in a typical two weeks period is linked to significantly lower semester grades (Presely *et al.*, 2007). The probability of getting a high grades significantly decreases as the frequency of heavy episodic drinking increases This is because the heaviest drinkers obtain the lowest grades (Presely *et al.*, 1996). Heavy college drinking predicts a reduction in the probability of having an A average cumulative GPA. Those with higher grades of B and above consumed lower drinks per week or even a month. Therefore, there is a significant decline in mean grade when comparing abstainers to heavier drinking categories (Rau and Durand, 2000). Drugs make the students to have negative attitude to learning, failure

to do assignments and impaired capacity to reason. Hence influencing academic performance.

Statement of the problem

Nigeria has experienced rapid growth of population in recent years; the increasing demand for education has led to more polytechnics being formed. Due to the rapid development, drug use has become common among students on campuses and is even affecting their performances in class. Despite the worldwide concern and awareness about the dangers of drug abuse, most of the students have limited knowledge of how dangerous the habit is (Ngesu, 2008). Many students have dropped out of school and others opted to engage in criminal activities thus endangering the lives of the people living in the communities. Despite the government concern and heightened campaigns against the vice among high school students who are illicit drug users, the habit still exist default of their prior expected awareness of its consequences. This study therefore, seeks to establish the correlation between drug abuse and students' academic conduct in tertiary institutions in Nigeria using Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora as the main scope.

Objective of the study

The purpose of this study was to find out the extent to which the students (both males and females) use and abuse drug in the Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora. Specifically, the study aim:

- a. to determine the nature, trend and prevalence of drug use and abuse in Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora.
- b. to know the factors responsible for the use and abuse of drugs by students of Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora.
- c. to access the effect of drug abuse on the academic performance of Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora students.

Research questions

- a. What are the nature, trend and prevalence of drug use and abuse in Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora?
- b. What are the factors responsible for the use and abuse of drugs by students of Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora?
- c. Does drug abuse have any effect on the academic performance of Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora students?

Hypothesis of the study

H₀: There is no significant relationship between abuse of drug and Student's academic performance at Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora.

Scope of the study

This investigation focuses on the influence of drug abuse on academic performance of students in tertiary institutions of Nigeria using Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora as empirical evidence. It will cover the influence of drug addiction on the student performance especially in Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora as a higher institution of learning.

Significance of the study

The findings of the study will be useful to the community, institutions of higher learning and the Nigerian government. The study will reveal the influence of major drugs on students' academic performance. The research work would be useful in educating all youths and adults in Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora, Oyo State tertiary institutions and other institutions in Nigeria as a whole, on the risk of drug consumption.

Methodology

This work was carried out by oral interview and survey involving administration of questionnaires designed to gather relevant information from Students

of Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora.

Study area

The study will be conducted in Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora, Nigeria with Students population of about five thousand (5000). The major reason for selecting this location for the research is the equivalent spacing among respondents which favors even distribution of questionnaires. 125 students were randomly selected across five faculties that made up the Institution.

Population of the study

The population comprises Students of the Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora, Nigeria.

Method of Data Collection

The source of data used for this study is primary data this involved the use of an interview schedule with a well designed structure questionnaire to administer to the respondent.

Representation and data analysis

This is designed to analyze the questions retrieved from respondents. This data will be analyzed on the basis of hypothesis made.

The information represented is based on data collected from observations and questionnaires.

Table a: Socio-economic characteristics of respondents

Table a1: Ages of respondents

Ages	No of respondents	Percentage%
14-18	10	8.3
19-23	40	33.3
24-28	50	41.7
29 and above	20	16.7
TOTAL	120	100

Source: Field Research, 2022

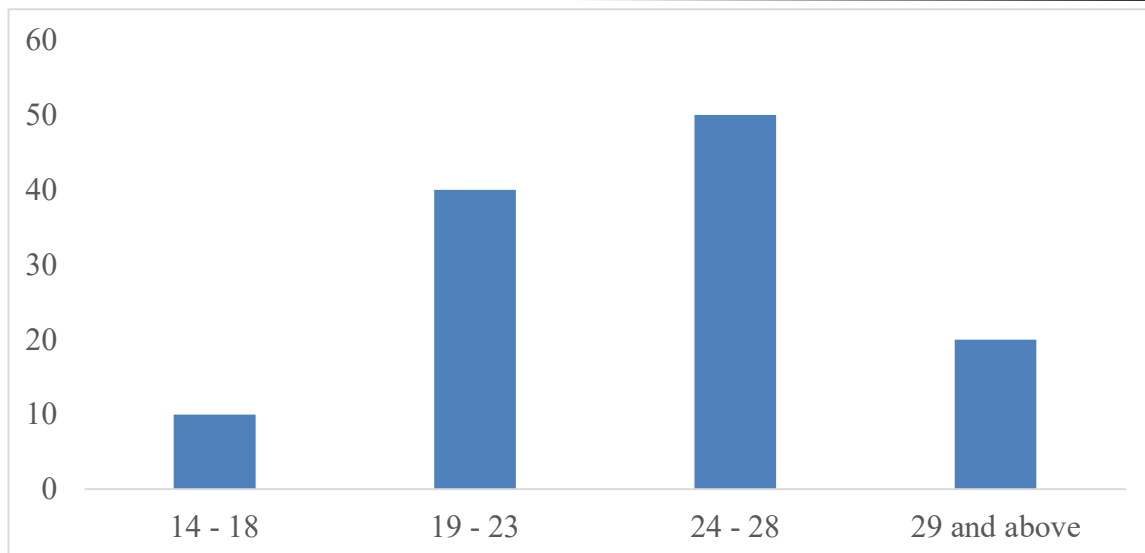


Figure A1: Bar chart Presentation of Respondents Age Distribution

Table A1 and Figure A1 shows majority of respondents are of age 19 and above. i.e. (19yrs-23yrs) 33.3% (24yrs-28yrs) 41.7%, 29yrs and above 16.7%. This reflects that most of the correspondents have attained adulthood.

Table A2: Gender

Sex	No of respondents	Percentage%
Male	80	66.7
Female	40	33.3
Total	120	100

Source: Field Research, 2022

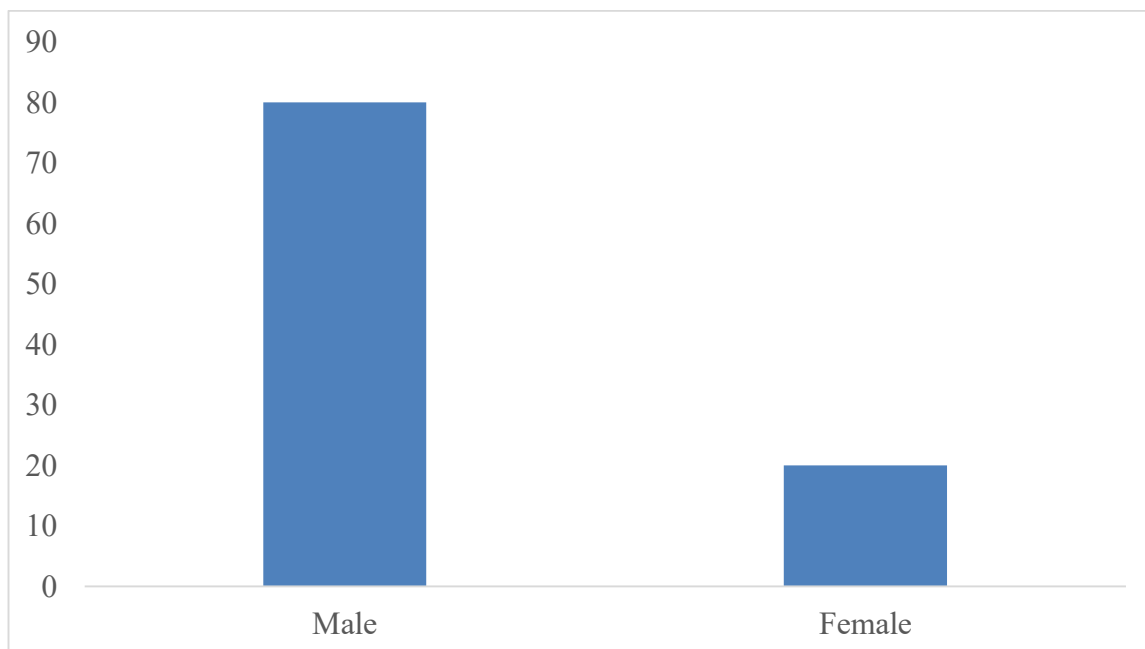


Figure A2: Bar chart Presentation of Respondents Age Distribution

Table A2 and Figure A2 revealed that majority of respondents are male (60%). This goes in line with the general perception that male students are always additive to drug abuse.

Table A3: Educational level of respondents

Level	No of respondents	Percentage%
ND I	10	8.3
NDII	30	25
HND I	50	41.6
HND II	30	25
Total	120	100

Source: Field Research, 2022

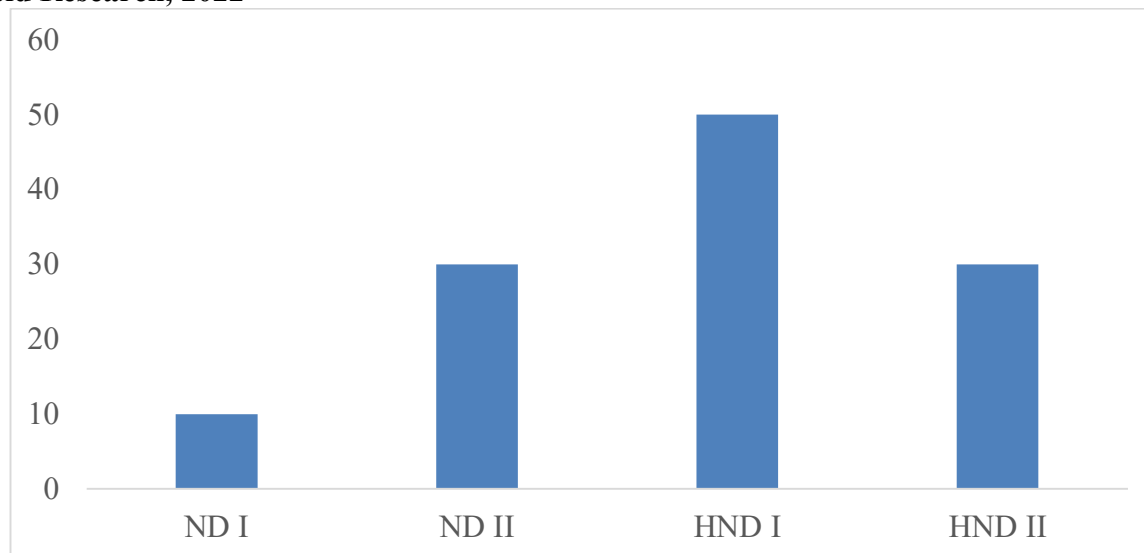

Figure A3: Bar chart Presentation of Respondents Age Distribution

Table A3 and Figure A3 revealed that majority of the respondents are in Higher National Diploma (41.6% and 25%). This authenticates the reliability of this research as they would have gained several experiences in the study of Drug abuse among Students of Tertiary Institutions.

SECTION B: FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR DRUG USE AND ABUSE

Table B1: NON CHALANT ATTITUDE OF PARENTS LEADS TO DRUGS ABUSE

Response	No of respondents	Percentage%
Seriously Agree(SA)	60	50
Agree (A)	40	33.3
Disagree (D)	20	16.7
Total	120	100

Source: Field Research, 2022

Table B1 revealed that majority of the respondents (50% seriously agreed, 33.3% agreed) succumbed to the fact that most drug abused Students are influenced by nonchalant attitude of their parents towards moral orientation against drug abuse.

Table B2: Peer group influence drug addiction of students

Response	No of respondents	Percentage%
SA	60	50
A	40	33.3
D	20	16.7
Total	120	100

Source: Field Research, 2022

From Table B2, 50% seriously agreed and 33.3% agreed that bad groups students peered with on campus influences/lured them greatly to drug addiction. This reveals that peer groups can influence students into drug addiction in a very large extent.

Section C: What are the risk involved in drug abuse**Table C: Drug users tends to have mental problems**

Response	No of responses	Percentage%
SA	90	75
A	25	20.8
D	5	4.2
Total	120	100

Source: Field Research, 2022

Table C revealed that 75% of respondents seriously agreed that drug users are liable to have mental problems, this is bone out of the fact that hard drugs contained toxic and harmful reagents that can damage the brain sensors. Meanwhile, 4.2% of respondents that disagreed on this are likely to be a hard drug user.

Section D: Effect of drug abuse on academic performance of students**Table D1: Students on drug perform excellent in classroom**

Response	No of responses	Percentage%
SA	5	4.2
A	25	20.8
D	90	75
Total	120	100

Source: Field Research, 2022

Table D1 revealed that majority of the respondents (75%) totally disagreed that students on drug perform excellently in classroom as drug intake always intoxicated and makes users behaves irrationally; however, 30% has contrary opinion to this, maybe through the natural behavioral attributes of some drug users.

TABLE D2: EXCESSIVE DRUG USE MAKE DRUG ABUSERS FORGET EASILY

Response	No of responses	Percentage%
SA	90	75
A	20	16.7
D	10	8.3
Total	120	100

Source: Field Research, 2022

Table D2 revealed that majority of respondents affirmed that excessive drug use make abusers forget easily. 75% seriously agreed, 8.3% agreed.

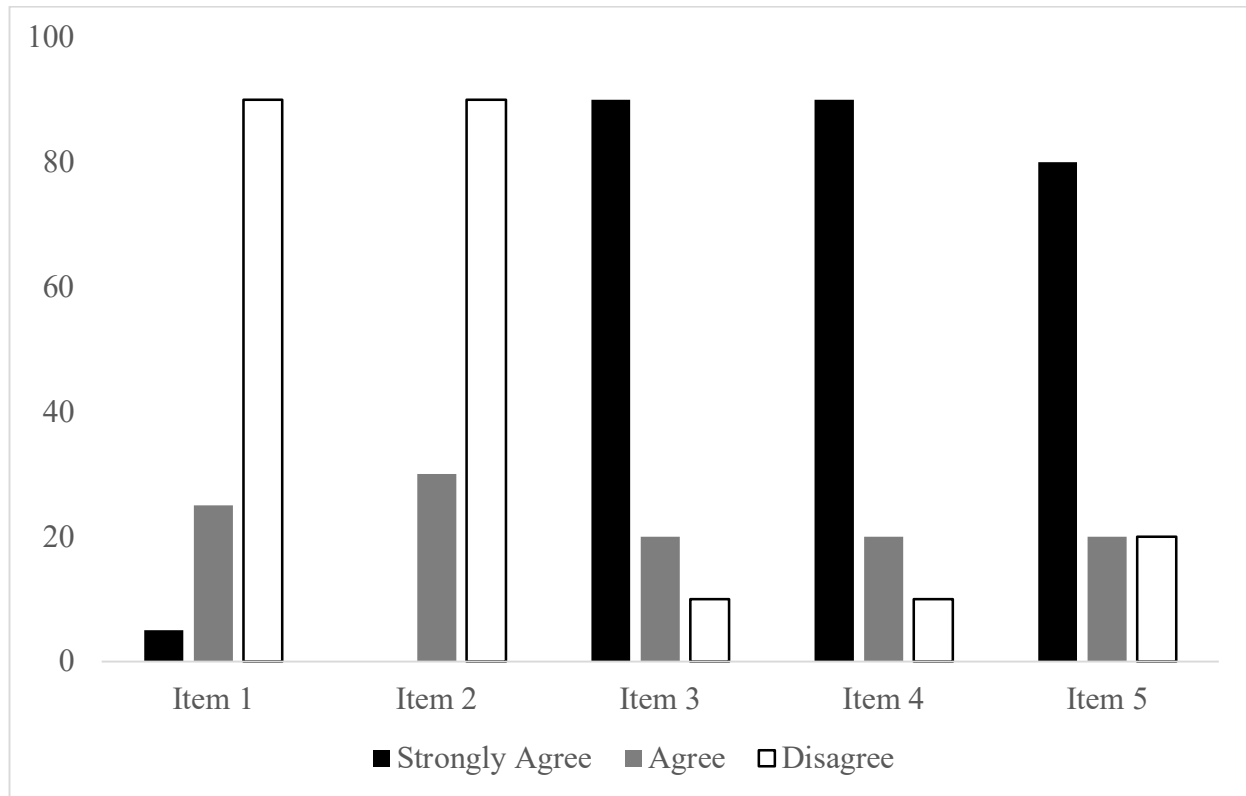


Figure D: Bar chart showing the effect of drug abuse on academic performance of students

TESTING OF HYPOTHESIS

Section D will be used to test for the hypothesis thus:

Ho: Drug abuse has significant relationship on students' academic performances

TABLE D1 will be used to test this hypothesis with the computation of chi-square(χ^2).

Let 0.05 = Level of significance.

Critical value(since we are using 2 contingency table) = (2-1) = 1

$$\chi^2_{0.05} = 5.991$$

$$\chi^2 = \frac{(f_{ij} - e_{ij})^2}{e_{ij}} \text{ where } f_{ij} = \text{observed frequency}$$

$e_{ij} = \text{Expected frequency}$

: - Expected frequency for seriously agreed (SA) response;

$$= \frac{4.2 \times 120}{100} = 5.04$$

$$\text{Expected frequency for Agree (A)} = \frac{20.8 \times 120}{100} = 24.96$$

$$\text{Expected frequency for Disagree (D)} = \frac{75 \times 120}{100} = 90$$

OUTCOME OF STUDENTS PERFORMANCE WHEN UNDER DRUG INFLUENCE

RESPONSES	NO OF RESPONDENTS
SERIOUSLY AGREE	5 (5.04)
AGREE	25 (24.96)
DISAGREE	90 (90)

$$X^2 = \frac{(5 - 5.04)^2}{5.04} + \frac{(25 - 24.96)^2}{24.96} + \frac{(90 - 90)^2}{90}$$

$$\therefore = 0.00032 + 0.000064 + 0 = 0.00038$$

$$0.00038 < 5.991$$

Therefore, since $0.00038 < 5.991$, Null hypothesis is accepted and it is concluded that drug abuse has significant relationship on students academic performance.

Summary

The purpose of this study was to find out the extent to which the students (both males and females) use and abuse drugs in Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora. The study covered the influence of the drug addiction on students' performance especially in Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora as a higher institution of learning. The study revealed the influence of major drugs on students' academic performance which thus will play an important role in reducing, or even preventing high rate of drug use and abuse. It also provided a background for other studies in drug prevention, which will ultimately help in promoting a drug-free school environment and better academic performance, improving the standards of education in the country particularly in Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis of this study, one can conclude there is a significant relation between drug abuse and student academic performance in Oyo State College of Agriculture and Technology, Igboora. However, it is worrisome that despite government's establishing agencies to regulate against the use of drug abuse; nonchalant attitude of parents which may stem from their inability to properly monitor their wards, parents' lifestyles as a result of maybe the parents themselves being drug addicts, influence of peer group and inability of government to back drug

agencies to regulate sales, use and purchase of drugs are the main reasons for the prevalent and incessant use of drugs by youths in Nigeria.

More so, the risk associated with drug abuse ranges from drugs users having the tendency to have mental problems, poor academic performance, increase in social vices ranging from fighting, stealing and truancy by students and body resistance due to drug over dosage which implies that students abusing drugs derive no academic nor health benefit from drug abuse.

Finally, the effects of drugs abuse on academic performance of students revealed that students who partake in the act are usually low in academic activities, forgetfulness, intentional class missing and disrespectful towards lecturers.

All the above can point blankly to the fact that drug abuse has been a source of problem and not solution to the students in the study area.

Recommendations

Based on the study, the following recommendations were made;

1. Government agencies should wake up to their responsibilities by enforcing necessary laws to reduce drug abuse and improper circulation of drugs.
2. Government should increase the budgetary allocation to drugs agencies to ease their work.

3. State of the art drug detectors should be procured by government to easily detect hard drugs.
4. Seminars, workshops and training should be organized by non-government organizations about the dangers of drug abuse.
5. The management of Tertiary Institutions should wake up to their responsibilities by probably rustivating some known drug abusers to discourage the others from partaking in it.
6. Sales of drug should be monitored and regulated to prevent drug abuse.

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