

Drug Abuse Practice and Its Predictors Among Youths in Kwara State

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doi: <https://doi.org/10.37745/ejbmsr.2013/vol11n44052>

Published January 2, 2023

Citation: Akinduyo E.T. (2024) Drug Abuse Practice and Its Predictors Among Youths in Kwara State, *European Journal of Biology and Medical Science Research*, Vol.11, No.4, pp.,40-54

ABSTRACT : *Drug abuse among youths is a public health concern that has several social, economic, and health consequences. Understanding the variables and underlying factors linked to drug abuse is critical for establishing effective prevention and intervention. The study was conducted in Kwara state (covering University of Ilorin, Kwara State University, Federal Polytechnic Offa, Kwara State Polytechnic). A total of 410 students were included in the study using multi-stage sampling technique. Quantitative was applied. Frequency counts, graphs, Bivariate and multivariate logistic regression model was fitted to identify drug abuse practice and predictors. The result revealed that the common drug abuse by students were codeine, Elle (a mixture of codeine and other substances), Gerigemu (a mixture of thorn apple and ogogoro), Marijuana/ Canadian-Loud/CDB/ Canabis, Methylamine (Methyl), Refnol and tramadol. The easy access and the availability of codeine (with different mixture like Sprit Drinks), Marijuana/ Canadian-Loud/CDB/ Canabis of the respondents had significant relationship regards abusing these drugs, while Xylozine (Tranq) has no significant relationship. There is significant relationship between drug abuse practices and common drug abuse among students, Kwara State. The study had revealed that the common drug abuse recently by students in Kwara stare were codeine, Elle (a mixture of codeine and other substances), Gerigemu (a mixture of thorn apple and ogogoro), Marijuana/ Canadian-Loud/CDB/ Canabis, Methylamine (Methyl), Refnol, tramadol. There is significant relationship between drug abuse practices and common drug abuse among students, also, experiment users, dependency and high-risk behaviour significantly contributed to common drug abuse among students, Kwara State.*

KEY WORDS: drug abuse, drug abuse practice, and its predictors.

INTRODUCTION

Globally, the extent of youths' involvement in the use of various substances is concerning, and this appears to be a neglected trend or culture that youths use as a means of socialization. Nigerian youths that abuse drugs invest in new substance abuse on a regular basis, by combining different inconceivable mixtures to consume and they have a large network of suppliers in Nigeria and

constantly communicate in code. The concern about drug abuse practice is that it is a serious and complex societal misery that encompasses the misuse or overuse of both legal and illegal substances, including prescribed medications, alcohol, and illicit drugs. It poses significant health, social, and economic challenges.

Drug abuse is a significant public health issue in Nigeria, as it is in many other countries around the world. Several factors tend to contribute to the prevalence of drug abuse in Nigeria (Johnson, Akpanekpo, Okonna, Adeboye, & Udoh, 2017). Social and economic factors are one of the major factors contributing to the prevalence of drug abuse in Nigeria. According to Soremekun, Folorunso, and Adeyemi (2020), common factors motivating students to abuse drugs include experimental curiosity, peer influence, lack of parental supervision, personality problems, the need for energy to work for long hours, availability of drugs for use, exposure to social media, the need to prevent the occurrence of withdrawal symptoms, purchasing power, and cultism.

These factors have been confirmed in several findings (Alhyas et al., 2015; Ugboha, Muhammed & Nwokocho, 2023) to be responsible for youths involvement in drug abuse. However, the researchers' personal observations revealed that many youths (especially those in tertiary institutions) in Kwara State got involved in drug abuse for the following reasons:

- to feel among and follow trends
- boredom
- frustration
- peer pressure
- availability of illicit drugs
- prevalence of cybercrime

These facts were gathered from young addicts via oral interview in the Tanke area of Ilorin metropolis. Basically, more than forty percent of the respondents for this study were from Kwara Central Senatorial District, which covers mainly the city of Ilorin, a metropolitan senatorial district of all three in Kwara State. Kwara Central Senatorial Districts covers four Local Governments, which include Asa, Ilorin East, Ilorin South, and Ilorin West.

The prevalence of drug abuse and its practices in Kwara State vary over time and across different regions of Kwara State. In order to obtain the most up-to-date and specific information regarding drug abuse in Kwara State, the researchers for this study consulted Local Government health agencies, law enforcement and public health organizations. These agencies often collect and maintain data on drug abuse and can provide insights into the current situation and efforts being made to address the issue. However, it is unfortunate that all the information provided was basically oral, with no tangible records or documents for proper citations.

A recent study by Veta (2023) reported that ogogoro (local gin), skushies (a mixture of herbs and ogogoro), gerigemu (a mixture of thorn apple and ogogoro), monkey tail (a mixture of weed and ogogoro), dried pawpaw leaves and asa (a mixture of tobacco and other substances), amongst others, were the most commonly used substances locally by youths in Kwara State. Similarly, in August 2023, there was a report from the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency about the arrest of three men allegedly notorious for the supply of illicit drugs in different locations of Kwara State (The Punch, 2023). Prior to this arrest, the agency previously announced the nabbing of the major supplier of psychotropic substances in the state capital (Ilorin).

This is to understand that, apart from the aforementioned drugs and substances as stated above, there are other legitimate drugs being abused by youths. These drugs are referred to as over-the-counter (OTC) medications. OTC are drugs that can be purchased by consumers without a medical prescription, believed to be relatively safe, and are appropriate for use without the supervision of healthcare professionals (Nagaraj, 2015). These drugs are self-medication with the aim of preventing diseases and maintaining health, but such products can be misused or abused. The drugs used for self-medication are mostly OTC drugs; that is, they are legally available without a prescription. (Akande-Sholabi & Akinyemi, 2023). However, some youths tend to discover other uses and purposes for these drugs, either by overdosing or by adding and making mixtures with other substances.

These negative innovations of making mixtures with other substances birth the street slang “Awon Omo Science Students (meaning youth scientists)” among the youths. OTC medications, such as cough syrup, can be abused for their psychoactive effects, when taken in large quantities. Codeine-based cough syrups were a significant concern in Nigeria (Ibimiluyi, Fasina, & Ireto-Oscar, 2023). Codeine is an opioid that, when misused, can lead to addiction and health problems. In 2018, the Nigerian government banned the sale of codeine-based cough syrups over the counter, due to the widespread abuse and addiction associated with them.

The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration (NAFDAC) reported in 2018 that due to insufficient evidence gathered and apparent resistance to provide needed documents during inspection on May 2, 2018 at the respective companies in Ilorin and Lagos, respectively, it has become necessary to shut down all product lines of the three companies: Peace Standard Pharmaceutical Limited, Plots 3 and 8, Adewole Industrial Estate, Lubcon Avenue, Ilorin, Kwara State; Bioraj Pharmaceutical Limited, No. 405 Kaima Road, Ilorin, Kwara State; and Emzor Pharmaceuticals Ind. Ltd., Ajao Estate, Lagos. This is to allow for a full and comprehensive investigation (NAFDAC, 2018).

According to the study of Dumbili, Ezekwe, and Odeigah (2020), the use of drug “concoctions” and cocktails was widespread among the participants. Some used what they called the *Codeine Diet* (codeine-based cough syrup mixed with a Coca-Cola product or malt drink), while others

took *Gutter Water* (a cocktail of cannabis, codeine, tramadol, vodka, and juice or water). The use of *Monkey Tail* (a mixture of local gin, cannabis leaves, stems, roots, and seeds) and petrol mixed with glue and La Casera (a carbonated soft drink) combined with Tom-Tom (menthol-flavored candy) were also abused. Pleasure, better highs, the need to experience prolonged intoxication, and the use of one drug to douse the effects of another substance motivated polysubstance use (Dumbili & Odeigah, 2023).

Statement of the problem

Drug abuse among youth is a growing concern with significant social, economic, and health disasters. In recent years, the prevalence of drug abuse among young people has been on the rise in Nigeria, including Kwara State. This alarming trend necessitates a comprehensive examination of the problem to better understand its scope and identify the predictors contributing to this phenomenon. It appears there is a paucity of research and data on the current prevalence of drug abuse among youths in Kwara state, though it appears that there are discernible trends over time and the prevalence of over-the-counter (OTC) medications and common locally used substances such as ogogoro (local gin), skushies (a mixture of herbs and ogogoro), gerigemu (a mixture of thorn apple and ogogoro), monkey tail (a mixture of weed and ogogoro), dried pawpaw leaves, and asa (a mixture of tobacco and other substances), amongst others.

It appears that majority of youths now see drug abuse as a normal way of life, as the report from reputable studies, surveys, and statistics has provided a more accurate and nuanced view of the situation. For instance, Dumbili, Ezekwe, and Odeigah (2020) explored polydrug use and the factors that motivate the use of multiple substances among selected young adults in Nigeria and reported that pleasure, better highs, the need to experience prolonged intoxication, and the use of one drug to douse the effects of another substance motivated polysubstance use. Olaniyi, Akanni, and Adepoju (2023) also emphasize the influence of drug users on non-drug users. If drug abuse practices and its predictors especially in Kwara State need careful investigation to prevent the spilling effects of drug abuse on all sectors. To this end, this study intends to examine drug abuse practices and its predictors among youths in Kwara State.

Research Hypothesis

There is no significant relationship between drug abuse practices and its predictors among youths in Kwara State.

METHODS

Study area and period: The study was conducted in Kwara State (covering the University of Ilorin, Kwara State University, Federal Polytechnic Offa, and Kwara State Polytechnic), all of which are government academic institutions in Kwara State. The total number of regular undergraduate students at the University of Ilorin was estimated to be above 55,863. Out of this, 51.48% are females, and the rest 48.52%, are males (University of Ilorin, students' affairs office, 2020, unpublished). The total number of regular undergraduate

students at Kwara State University is estimated to be above 48,000 (Kwara State University, students' affairs office, unpublished). The total number of regular students at Federal Polytechnic Offa is estimated to be above 44,925; at Kwara State Polytechnic, it is estimated to be above 53,500. The study was conducted from March to October 2023.

Study design: An institution-based cross-sectional survey was employed among randomly selected students of two universities and two polytechnics. A research advisor was used to determine the sample size. The purposive sampling technique was used to select the only federal university and polytechnic in Kwara State. Also, the only state university and polytechnic in Kwara State were selected. The target population of students in four institutions (two universities and two polytechnics) According to the information from various institutions (2023), the researcher estimated the projected number of students in these four institutions in Kwara State as 202,288. With reference to the Research Advisor (2006), a sample size of 400 respondents will be chosen for a target population of 251,453. sample size determined at 95% confidence and 5.0% margin error. However, to cater for attrition, a total of 5% of the suggested figure was added to make a total of 410 respondents.

Data collection, quality control, data processing, and analysis: Quantitative data were collected using pre-tested and self-administered questionnaires at the participants' institutions. The questionnaire was tested for internal consistency (reliability) by Cronbach's alpha test using the statistical package for social sciences, and a coefficient score of 0.92 was obtained. Binary and multiple logistic regressions were done to examine the possible association between the determinant and the outcome variable. Multiple logistic regression variables with a p-value <0.05 were considered statistically significant.

Ethical Statement: Written consent was obtained from the study participants. The information obtained was kept confidential and anonymous.

RESULTS

A total number of 410 respondents was sampled for the study.

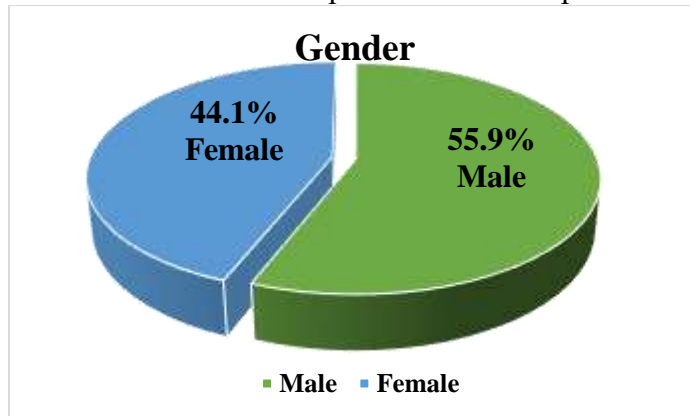


Figure 1: Respondents' Demographic Information based on Gender

Figure 1 above revealed that majority of 229 respondents which represent 55.9 percent of the total sample were male while 181 (44.1%) respondents were female. This implies that more male respondents participated more in the study.

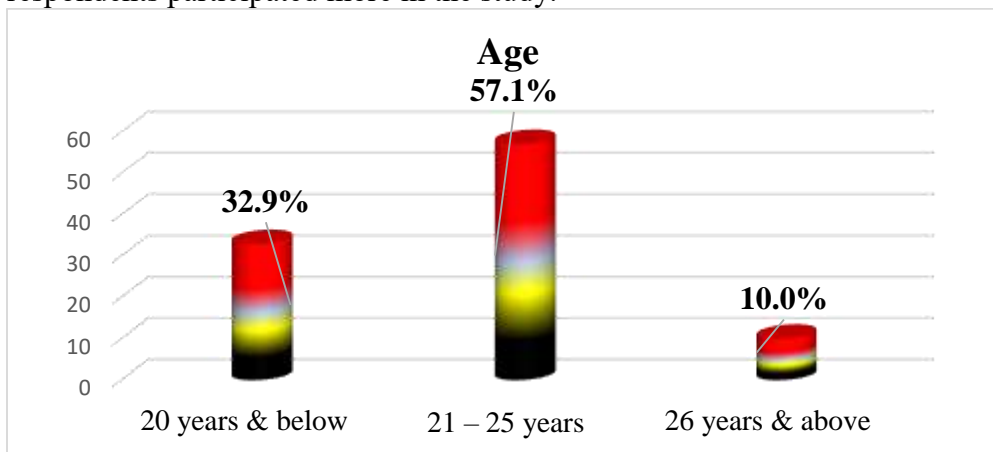


Figure 2: Respondents' Demographic Information based on Age

Figure 2 present data distribution based on respondents' age. The result revealed that majority of 234 respondents which represent 57.1 percent of the total sample were between the age group of 21 – 25 years, 135 (32.9%) respondents were 20 years old and below, while 41 (10.0%) respondents were 26 years and above. This implies that more respondents were between the age group of 21 – 25 years participated more in the study.

Table 1: Frequency Count and Percentage Showing Respondents Drug Use

S/N	Items	YES	NO	Rank Order
1	I have one particular drug I take often	301 (73.4%)	109 (26.6%)	2 nd
2	I have abused drugs more than once	170 (41.5%)	240 (58.5%)	9 th
3	I have taken an hard drug before	121 (29.5%)	289 (70.5%)	10 th
4	I have engaged in illegal activities to obtain a drug before	337 (82.2%)	73(17.8%)	1 st
5	I have used drugs other than those required for medical reasons	258 (62.9%)	152 (37.1%)	5 th
6	I cannot use a week without taking drugs	262 (63.9%)	148 (36.1%)	4 th
7	I cannot resist the urge to use a certain drug	232 (56.6%)	178 (43.4%)	7 th
8	Mostly I abuse the prescription of a particular drug	245 (59.8%)	165 (40.2%)	6 th
9	sometimes I blackout while using drugs	212 (51.7%)	198 (48.3%)	8 th
10	sometimes I experienced withdrawal symptoms like sickness when I stop taking drug	290 (71.0%)	120 (29.0%)	3 rd
Total		2429 (59.2%)	1671 (40.8%)	

Table 1 presents respondents drug use. 337 respondents, which represents 82.2% of the total sample, attested that "I have engaged in illegal activities to obtain a drug before." 301 (73.4%) respondents attested "I have one particular drug I take often" and 209 (71.0%) respondents attested, "Sometimes I experience withdrawal symptoms like sickness when I stop taking drugs." 262 (63.9%) respondents attested that they cannot go a week without taking drugs, and 258 (62.9%) said that "I cannot resist the urge to use a certain drug". 245 (59.8%) attested that I mostly abuse the prescription of a particular drug. 232 (56.6%) attested that "I cannot resist the urge to use a certain drug. 212 (51.7%) respondents attested that "sometimes I blackout while using drugs", and 170 respondents, which represent 41.5 percent, attested that "I have abused drugs more than once" and 121 (29.5%) respondents attested that "I have taken a hard drug before". This implies that the majority of 59.2 percent of the respondents to this study engage in drug abuse or misuse, while the minority of 40.8 percent do not abuse or misuse drugs.

Table 2: Bivariate and Multivariate analysis of drug abuse predictors among students

Drugs Abuse/Misuse	YES	NO	COR	SIG
Cocaine				
20 years and below	80	55	-0.04	0.39
21 – 25 years	77	157		
20 years and above	25	16		
Codeine				
Experimentation	21	15	0.38	*0.021
Regular use	56	23		
Risky Use/Abuse	99	74		

Addiction and Dependency	76	46		
Colorado				
20 years and below	97	38	0.09	0.079
21 – 25 years	116	119		
20 years and above	17	24		
Ecstasy (Molly) MDMA				
Female	80	149	0.34	0.49
Male	103	78		
Elle (a mixture of codeine and other substances)				
Aware and Use (Experimentation)	93	63	-0.15	*0.002
Aware (Regular/ Risky Use/Abuse)	61	53		
Only Awareness of Elle local substances	55	33		
Unaware	46	6		
Gerigemu (a mixture of thorn apple and ogororo),				
Female	88	141	0.064	*0.04
Male	100	81		
Marijuana/ Canadian-Loud/CDB/ Canabis				
Female	146	35	-0.16	*0.002
Male	171	58		
Methylamine (Methyl)				
Yes	26	155	0.073	0.14
No	22	207		
Tramadol				
Female	98	83	-0.18	*0.041
Male	156	73		
Refnol				
Female	120	109	-0.14	0.01
Male	97	84		
Xylozine (Tranq)				
Female	9	220	0.14	0.81
Male	47	134		

*Statistically significant p-value < 0.05

Table 2 presents the results of the bivariate and multivariate analyses of drug abuse practices among students, which revealed that respondents between the age groups of 20 and below had the highest percentage of 80 (19.8%) who attested to having been involved in cocaine abuse. The summary of the analysis revealed that the most common drugs used by students were codeine, Elle (a mixture of codeine and other substances), Gerigemu (a mixture of thorn apple and ogororo), Marijuana/Canadian-Loud/CDB/Canabis, Methylamine (Methyl), and Refnol.

Table 3: Summary of Correlation Matrix Showing the Relationship between Common Drug Abuse by Respondents

Variables	1	2	3	4	5
Easy access and availability	1.000				
Codeine/cough syrup (with different mixture like Sprit Drinks)	.298	1.000			
Marijuana/ Canadian-Loud/CDB/ Canabis	.246	.217	1.000		
Xylozine (Tranq)	.067	.057	.176	1.000	
Tramadol and Refnol	.101	.035	.027	.212	1.000

The results from Table 3 revealed that easy access and availability of these drugs have a significant correlation with the respondent's use of Codeine/cough syrup (with different mixtures like Sprit Drinks) ($r = 0.298$, $p < 0.05$); Marijuana/Canadian-Loud/CDB/Canabis ($r = 0.246$, $p < 0.05$); Xylozine (Tranq) ($r = 0.067$, $p > 0.05$); and Tramadol and Refnol ($r = 0.101$, $p < 0.05$). This implies that easy access and the availability of codeine (with different mixtures like Sprit Drinks), marijuana, Canadian-Loud, CDB, and canabis among the respondents had significant relationships with abusing these drugs, while xylozine (Tranq) had no significant relationship.

Hypothesis: *There is no significant relationship between drug abuse practices and common drug abuse among students, Kwara State.*

Table 4a: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.325	.106	.094	6.55

a. Predictors: (Constant), experiment use, dependency, high-risk behaviours, injection drug use, self-medication

Table 4b: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p-value
Regression	1972.01	5	394.403	9.19*	.000 ^b
Residual	16700.31	389	42.93		
Total	18672.32	394			

a. Predictors: (Constant), experiment use, dependency, high-risk behaviours, injection drug use, self-medication

b. Dependent Variable: Common Drug Abuse

Table 4c: Relative Contributions of Independent Variables (Experiment Use, Dependency, High-Risk Behaviours, Injection Drug Use, Self-Medication) to common drug abuse

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	58.562	3.041		19.254	.000
Experiment Use	.408	.133	.192	3.061	.002
Dependency	.718	.146	.327	4.907	.000
High-Risk Behaviours	.881	.145	.336	5.701	.000
Injection Drug Use	.146	.189	.044	.774	.440
Self-Medication	.057	.146	.026	.393	.694

As shown on Table 4a, the five independent variables (i.e., experiment use, dependency, high-risk behaviours, injection drug use, and self-medication) jointly contributed an r-square of 0.106, representing 10.6% of the dependent variable (drug abuse). Therefore, experiment use, dependency, high-risk behaviours, injection drug use, and self-medication types of drug abuse practices jointly explained 10.6% of the total variance in drug abuse among youths in Kwara State.

In Table 4b, the result of the ANOVA table indicates an F-value of 9.19, a degree of freedom of 389, and a p-value of .000, which is less than the 0.05 significant level. Since the calculated p-value is less than the significant level, the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, there is a significant relationship between drug abuse practices and common drug abuse among students in Kwara State.

The model in Table 4b indicates the linear combination of predictor variables (experiment use, dependency, high-risk behaviours, injection drug use, and self-medication). The F-value of 9.19 was obtained with a p-value of 0.000 when computed at the 0.05 alpha level. Since the p-value of 0.001 is less than 0.05 alpha level, the null hypothesis is rejected, and thus, the combination of the independent variables significantly correlates with the dependent variable ($F_{(5, 389)} = 9.19, p < 0.05$).

Hence, there is a significant relationship between drug abuse practices and common drug abuse among students in Kwara State. To determine the contribution of each of the independent variables, beta weight was calculated, and the outputs are shown in Table 4c. The relative contribution of each of the independent variables (experiment use, dependency, high-risk behaviours, injection drug use, and self-medication) to common drug abuse is shown in Table 4c.

Experiment users have a beta weight () of 0.192, $t=3.061, p < 0.05$; dependency has a beta weight () of 0.327, $t=4.907, p < 0.05$; high-risk behavior, injection drug use, and self-medication, respectively, have a beta weight () of 0.102, $t=1.478, p > 0.05$; () of 0.026, $t=0.393, p > 0.05$; and () of 0.044, $t=0.774, p > 0.05$. Based on the result, it could be seen that experiment users, dependency, and high-risk Behaviour significantly contributed to common drug abuse among students in Kwara

State. While injection drug use and self-medication did not have a significant relationship with drug abuse by students,

Summary of Findings

- The findings of this study revealed that the most common drugs used by students were codeine, Elle (a mixture of codeine and other substances), Gerigemu (a mixture of thorn apple and ogogoro), Marijuana/Canadian Loud/CDB/Canabis, Methylamine (Methyl), Refnol, and tramadol.
- The easy access and availability of codeine (with different mixtures like Sprit Drinks), marijuana, Canadian-Loud, CDB, and canabis among the respondents had significant relationships with abusing these drugs, while xylozine (Tranq) had no significant relationship.
- There is a significant relationship between drug abuse practices and common drug abuse among students. Kwara State
- Experiment users, dependency, and high-risk behaviour significantly contributed to common drug abuse among students in Kwara State. while injection drug use and self-medication did not have a significant relationship with drug abuse by students.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study revealed that the most common drugs used by students were codeine, Elle (a mixture of codeine and other substances), Gerigemu (a mixture of thorn apple and ogogoro), Marijuana/Canadian Loud/CDB/Canabis, Methylamine (Methyl), Refnol, and tramadol. This result implies that all the substances mentioned are regularly abused by students, and this is associated with various risks and potential health problems. Among the drugs abused, "Elle" is not a recognized drug name, but it is a street name for a mixture of substances, including codeine. The exact composition and risks associated with "Elle" would need further clarification, as it appears to be among new drug abuse practices. This finding is corroborated with the earlier finding of Quednow, Steinhoff, Bechtiger, Ribeaud, Eisner, and Shanahan (2022), who reported that codeine, ecstasy, and cannabis are among the drugs regularly abused.

The easy access and availability of codeine (with different mixtures like Sprit Drinks), marijuana, Canadian-Loud, CDB, and canabis among the respondents had significant relationships with abusing these drugs, while xylozine (Tranq) had no significant relationship. This implies that there is a well-established link between the ease with which drugs can be obtained and the incidence of drug usage. Individuals are more inclined to misuse or abuse medicines when they are freely available and easily accessible. McNeil, Muzzin, DeWald, McCann, Schneiderman, Scofield, and Campbell (2011) had earlier established that medication misuse had a connection with the availability and ease of obtaining stimulant medications; similarly, the study of Smith, Yan,

Charles, Mohiuddin, Tyus, Adekeye, and Holden (2017) established a correlation between substance use, misuse, abuse, and the availability of stimulants and drugs.

There is a significant relationship between drug abuse practices and common drug abuse among students in Kwara State. This implies that common drug abuse practices have a relationship with the types of substances abused. Singh and Gupta (2017) asserted that drug abuse practices and the pattern of substance use and substance use-related syndrome can be described using substance intoxication, user dependence, and withdrawal symptoms, which include anxiety, restlessness, and body aches, while some withdrawal symptoms are drug-specific. The general trends of drug abuse practices and individual behaviors may vary widely, as some individuals may use multiple substances simultaneously, which can further complicate the picture of drug abuse practices (Kinner, Jenkinson, Gouillou, & Milloy, 2012).

The results of the study revealed that experiment users, dependency, and high-risk behaviour significantly contributed to common drug abuse among students in Kwara State. While injection and self-medication did not have a significant relationship with drug abuse by students. This finding affirms the position of an earlier study by Akintunde, Akintunde, and Gurumyen (2022) that found that youths construct the abuse of drugs and substances at two major points and in two major ways: before their experience with drug and substance abuse and after their involvement with drug and substance abuse. Before their actual experiences, drug and substance abuse was perceived as an activity that came with numerous benefits at a low cost. After their actual experiences, however, drug and substance abuse was seen as a behaviour that enslaved the actor and rendered them unproductive to themselves and society.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

The major findings from this study show that the most common drugs used recently by students in Kwara State were codeine, Elle (a mixture of codeine and other substances), Gerigemu (a mixture of thorn apple and ogogoro), Marijuana/Canadian-Loud/CDB/Canabis, Methylamine (Methyl), Refinol, and tramadol. According to Jatau et al. (2021), commonly abused drugs include cannabis, cocaine, amphetamine, heroin, diazepam, codeine, cough syrup, and tramadol. Sources where abusers obtained drugs were pharmacies/patent medicine shops, open drug markets, drug hawkers, fellow drug abusers, friends, and drug pushers (Egwuaba & Adeyi, 2023). The present study examines respondents' awareness and use of xylozine (Tranq). There is relatively average awareness and low use due to its unavailability. Tranq is a veterinary medication and sedative used primarily for large animals, such as horses and cattle. There is room for further research that will provide adequate knowledge on the concepts of "Elle" (a mixture of codeine and other substances) and Xylozine (Tranq).

There is a need for proper civic education to erase the idea of bystanders or spectators who keep quiet and allow illicit drugs to fly freely down the street. According to Durosaro, Otaru, and Akerele (2020), the main goal of civic education is to teach a citizen how to acquire the necessary minimum knowledge. This will help reduce the easy access to and availability of illicit drugs. As such, counsellors with the help of stakeholders, can develop effective prevention and intervention strategies for drug abuse.

There is a significant relationship between drug abuse practices and common drug abuse among students in Kwara State. The drug abuse practices among youth in Kwara State include experimentation, dependency, and high-risk behaviors. Kellam et al. (2014) asserted that drug abuse practices among youth encompass a range of behaviours, including experimental use, dependency, and high-risk behaviours. It's important to address these issues comprehensively to prevent harm and provide support to those affected. Experiment users, dependency, and high-risk behaviour significantly contributed to common drug abuse among students in Kwara State. while injection drug use and self-medication did not have a significant relationship with drug abuse by students.

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