Factors Influencing the Drug Abuse Menace among Undergraduate Students of University of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria

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Abstract
Drug abuse is noted to be prevalent in most Universities in Nigeria. This study assessed the factors influencing drug abuse among the undergraduates of University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria. A cross-sectional survey was the design used for the study. Multi-stage sampling **technique** was used to select three hundred eighty (380) undergraduate students for the study. The instrument used was a questionnaire with a reliability coefficient of .974. Descriptive and inferential statistical tools were used **for** data analysis, which includes percentage**s and** frequen**c**y tables while chi-square and contingency coefficients were used to test the four formulated hypotheses. The findings of the study shows that there is a relationship between culture and drug abuse (contingency coefficient = 0.610, p= 0.000); there is a significant relationship between parents' marital status and drug abuse (contingency coefficient = 0.657, p= 0.000); there was a significant relationship between peer influence and drug abuse (contingency coefficient = 0.712, p= 0.000); there is a significant relationship between place of residence and drug abuse (contingency coefficient = 0.578, p= 0.000). The multidimensional approach should be used in tackling the problem of drug abuse. It will be extremely useful for parents and counsellors to educate Universities, undergraduate students, on the need to move with friends that can influence them positively. Cultures that promotes the use of drugs should be enlightened on the dangers of drug abuse.
Word count: 223

Keywords: *Drug abuse, Factors, influencing, Menace, Undergraduates,*

Background

A drug is a substance used for medical purposes that changes the state or function of the body *(Stedman's Medical Dictionary, 2014).* Some drugs have the effects of providing relaxation of muscles and heightening of someone's mood, hence some people like to use them often and eventually abuse them**.** On the other hand, drug abuse is a situation when a drug is taken more than it is prescribed (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2018).

Drug abuse is seen as a growing public health challenges especially among undergraduate students in Nigeria (Obi, Adayonfo, Iwueze, & Ekwe, 2017), it repercussion among them are enormous (Okafor, 2020)It peaks in persons between 18 and 25 years of age and is highly prevalent among university and college students (Tulu & Keskis, 2015; Idowu, Aremu, Olumide & Ogunlaja 2018). The prevalence of psychoactive substance use in a Study carried out in the University of Uyo, Nigeria was 27.5% Johnson, Akpanekpo, Okonna, Adeboye, & Udoh (2017)

Youth are at risk of drug abuse especially in developing countries (Osman, et al., 2016) In Nigeria, about 14% of people with age range 15- 64 use hard drugs in 2017 (National Bureau of Statistics 2019). In most of the Nigerian tertiary institution, substance abuse has now become an immense problem that needs a solution (Ojo & Olufemi, 2012). Drug abuse can lead to morbidities and mortality (Chikezie & Uchendu, 2015). More than 29 million people are suffering as a result of drug abuse (Uche, et al., 2017)

Different drugs are abuse by undergraduate which include salicylate analgesics, alcohol, stimulants, antibiotics, sedatives, and cigarettes, cannabis, organic solvents, hallucinogens, cocaine and narcotic analgesics (Adelekana, Imouokhome-Obayanb & Gbolahan, 1993; Makanjuola, Daramola, & Obembe, 2007; Oshikoya & Alli, 2006; Obi, Adayonfo, Iwueze, & Ekwe, 2017)

Use of drugs among undergraduates has an impact on the quality of life they live (Atiri, Samuel & Omole 2019). Drug abuse has devastating effects and these include 0.2 million people deaths resulting from alcohol alone each year, shattering families and bringing misery to thousands of other people (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2012). According to WHO's estimates for 2015, psychoactive drug use is responsible for more than 450,000 deaths per year and the drug attributable disease burden accounts for about 1.5% of the global burden of disease

with injectable drug use accounting for an estimated 30% of new HIV infections outside sub-Saharan Africa and contributing significantly to the epidemics of hepatitis B and hepatitis C in all region (World Health Organization, 2016).

Drug abuse leads to habitual dependence on drugs which gives rise to mental, emotional, biological, physical, social and economic instability. Drug abuse, no doubt, has distressing and extremely awful consequences on society. Violence, social deviance, mental disorders, increase in Hepatitis B and C virus, increase in HIV/AIDS diseases, the collapse of the veins, premature death, upsurge in crime, corruption, destruction of individuals, erosion of societal values, and undermining of national economies are some of the consequences of drug addiction (Oshodi, Aina, & Onajole, 2016)

The problem of drug abuse among college and university students remains an important area of research due to the implications of early substance dependence on the future of the youth (Cohen & Brook, 2014). Drug use behaviours among university students have important implications for the welfare of the general population since today's university students are tomorrow's generation to own the country. Drug abuse has a quite sum of adverse effect on students such as absenteeism in classes, memory impairment which can lead to poor academic performances, emotional instability, financial problem as a result of procurement of drugs with all money and so on (Akanbi, Augustina, Theophilus, Muritala, & Ajiboye, 2015; Chikezie & Uchendu, 2015;

Though different factors combined that influence an individual to make use of drugs and sometimes abuse its use (U.S. Congress, Mice of Technology Assessment, 2015 and different studies have assessed various factors influencing drug abuse (Akanbi, Augustina, Theophilus, Muritala, & Ajiboye, 2015; Adayonfo, Iwueze, & Ekwe, 2017) this study focused on the influence of culture, parents' marital status, place of residence and peer

influence on drug abuse of undergraduate students of University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria**Hypotheses**

The study will test the following hypotheses:
1. There will be no significant relationship between culture and drug abuse among undergraduates.
2. There is a significant relationship between parents' marital status and drug abuse among undergraduates.
3. There is no significant relationship between peer influence and drug abuse among undergraduates
4. There is no significant relationship between place of residence and drug abuse among undergraduates.

Materials and Methods
Research Design: - A cross-sectional survey was adopted for the study. This method helps to generate large quantitative data needed for the study.
Research Setting: - The study was conducted at the University of Ilorin. The University of Ilorin is a federal government-owned tertiary institution in Nigeria. The university now has 12 faculties and 82 academic departments in total. The student population was 34,000
Population of the Study: The study population comprises of all the undergraduate students of University of Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria

Sample size and Sampling Technique: Total number of 380 respondents was used and a multi-stage random sampling method was used in selecting the respondents
Instrument for data collection:- A self-developed questionnaire was used as an instrument of data collection.

Psychometric Properties of the Instruments

Validity of Instrument: - The instrument for data collection was constructed in line with the objective of the study after reviewing relevant literature, it was presented to expert in the field for face and content validity and necessary corrections made where applicable before the instrument was used on the field.

Reliability of Instrument: A pilot study was conducted in which the internal consistency method was used to assess the reliability of the questionnaire. The Cronbach's alpha coefficient was .974

Method of Data Collection: Permission was sought from the ethical committee for approval to carry out the study. The respondents were met, the objectives of the study were explained to them after which informed consent was signed. Questionnaires were administered and retrieved after the respondents have filled it.

Method of Data Analysis: Descriptive and inferential statistical tools were used **for** data analysis, which includes percentage**s and** frequen**cy** tables while chi-square and contingency coefficients were used to test the four formulated hypotheses.

Ethical Consideration: Ethical approval was obtained from the ethical committee of the institution. The respondents were met and the purpose of the study was explained to them after which informed consent was signed. Other ethical principles of non-maleficence, anonymity, confidentiality, autonomy were explained to them and that they are free to withdraw at any time they do not feel like participating.

Results
The Socio-demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table1: *Frequency Distribution of the Respondents base on socio-demographic Characteristics (n=380)*

Variables	f	%
Gender		
Male	212	55.8
Female	168	44.2
Total	380	100
Age (Years)		
Less than 20	126	33.2
20-25	205	53.9
26 and above	49	12.9
Total	380	100
Religion		
Christianity	163	42.9
Islam	195	51.3
Others	22	5.8
Total	380	100
Ethnic Group		
Yoruba	169	44.5
Hausa	63	16.6
Igbo	91	23.9
Others	57	15
Total	380	100
Level		
100	46	12.1
200	81	21.3
300	106	27.9
400	98	25.8
500	49	12.9
Total	380	100

Table 1 shows that majority 212 (55.8%) of the respondents were male, and majority 205 (53.9%) are in the age group of 20-25 years. 195 (51.3 %) are Muslims and a few 22 (5.8%) from other religions. As for the ethnic background, 169 (44.5%) are Yoruba; 91 (23.9%) Igbo; 63 (16.6%) Hausas and 57 (15%) from other ethnic groups in Nigeria; 106 (27.9%) are in 300L; 98 (25.8%) in 400L and 49 (12. 9%) in 500L.

Table 2: *Showing respondents' perception on factors influencing drug abuse*

Variables	F	%
Does Cultural Practices influence drug abuse?		
Yes	81	21.3
No	299	78.7
Total	380	100
Does Parental Marital Status influence drug abuse?	**F**	**%**
Yes	233	61.3
No	147	38.7
Total	380	100
Peer group has an influence on drug abuse?	**f**	**%**
Strongly agreed	184	48.4
Agreed	120	31.6
Disagreed	45	11.8
Strongly disagreed	31	8.2
Total	380	100
Living in a residence where a drug abuser lives has an influence on drug abuse?	F	%
Strongly agreed	173	45.5
Agreed	119	31.3
Disagreed	48	12.6
Strongly disagreed	40	10.5
Total	380	100

Table 3 above shows that 299 (78.7%) reported that cultural practices do not lead to drug abuse among the undergraduate students while 81 (21.3%) agreed that cultural practices lead to drug abuse among them. Also, 233 (61.3%) agreed that parental marital status influences drug abuse among the undergraduate students while 38.7% (147) disagreed to that. Furthermore, majority (304 of 80%) agreed that students whose peers are drug abusers are more likely to be drug abusers than students whose friends are not drug abusers and also, majority of the respondents 292 (76.8%) of the respondents agreed that students who live in neighbourhoods where there are drug abusers are more likely to be drug abusers.

Table 3: *Relationship between Culture, Parents' Marital Status, Peer Influence, place of residence and Drug Abuse*

Variables	Culture	X^2	Df	P	Contingency coefficient(C
Drug use		224.864[a]	**3**	**0.000**	**0.610**
Yes	**81**				
No	**299**				
Total	**380**				
Variables	Parents marital status	X^2	Df	P	Contingency coefficient(C
Drug use		288.277[a]	**9**	**0.000**	0.657
Yes	**233**				
No	**144**				
Total	**380**				
Variables	Peer influence	X^2	Df	P	Contingency coefficient(C
Drug use		389.922[a]	**9**	**0.000**	0.712.
Yes	**304**				
No	**76**				
Total	**380**				
Variables	Place of Residence	X^2	Df	P	Contingency coefficient(C
Drug use		190.562[a]	**3**	**0.000**	0.578
Yes	**292**				
No	**88**				
Total	**380**				

Table 3 above shows that there is a significant relationship between culture and drug abuse. The contingency coefficient of the two variables was 0.610. This means that about 61 percent of drug abuse can be explained by culture. Also, there is a significant relationship between parents' marital status and drug abuse as the contingency coefficient of the two variables was 0.657, the chi-square value of the relationship was $(X^2) = (288.277^a)$ and p= 0.000 This means that about 65 percent of drug abuse can be explained by parents' marital status. Furthermore, there is a significant relationship between peer influence and drug abuse as the chi-square value of the relationship was $(X^2) = (389.922^a)$, p= 0.000 and the contingency coefficient of the two variables is 0.712. This means that about 71 percent of drug abuse can be explained by peer influence.

There is a significant relationship between place of residence and drug abuse as the chi-square value of the relationship is $(X^2) = (190.562^a)$, P= 0.000 and the contingency coefficient of the two variables is 0.578. This means that about 57 percent of drug abuse can be explained by place of residence.

Discussion of findings

Table 2 shows that 299 (78.7%) reported that cultural practices do not lead to drug abuse among the undergraduate students of University of Ilorin, while 81 (21.3%) agreed that cultural practices lead to drug abuse among the undergraduate students of University of Ilorin. Therefore, based on this information, cultural practices are not a factor influencing drug abuse among the undergraduate students of the University of Ilorin. These findings do no support Kasundu, Mutiso, Chebet and Mwirigi (2012) who contended that social-cultural is a factor determining drug abuse because some cultures recommend taking of stimulants, depressants

and hallucinogens such as beer, liquor, wine, tobacco and cannabis sativa during cultural functions, cultural ceremonies or festivities. This study shows that 147 (38.7%) agreed that parental marital status does not influence drug abuse among the undergraduate students of University of Ilorin, while 61.3% (233) agreed that parental marital status influences drug abuse among the undergraduate students of University of Ilorin. Therefore, based on this information, parental marital status is a factor influencing on drug abuse among the undergraduate students of the University of Ilorin. This finding of this study is consistent with the findings of Ndegwa, Munene and Oladipo (2017) in which they all found a significant relationship between parents' marital status and drug abuse. This study also agrees with Aklog, Tiruneh &Tsegay, (2013) who reported that parents or older family members who abuse alcohol or drugs, or who engage in criminal behaviour, can increase children's risks of developing their own drug problems.

It is important to note that in this study, majority of the respondents 304 (80%) agreed that students whose peers are drug abusers are more likely to be drug abusers than students whose friends are not drug abusers. Therefore, based on the above information, the peer group is a factor influencing drug abuse among the undergraduate students of the University of Ilorin. This study support Aklog, Tiruneh &Tsegay, (2013) who observed that friends and acquaintances can also have an increasingly strong influence during adolescence**.** Kwamanga, Odhiambo & Amukoye (2003) also is also in line with this study because they reported that an adolescent is more likely to drink alcohol if his/her friends drink and Barrett, (2006) observed that adolescents whose peer groups are involved in alcohol and other drugs are also more likely to become involved. This study corroborates with the findings of Ndegwa, Munene & Oladipo (2017) who found that peer influence was a contributing factor to drug use among the respondents. Majority of the respondents 292 (76.8%) of the respondents agreed that

students who live in neighbourhoods where there are drug abusers are more likely to be drug abusers. Therefore, based on the above information, place of residence influence drug abuse among the undergraduate students of the University of Ilorin. This study is in tandem with Hamisu, Ahmad & Lim, (2014) who agreed that environmental influence during childhood is a very important factor in drug addiction especially when they live in communities which suffer from multiple deprivations.

Information in Table 3 shows that there is a significant relationship between culture and drug abuse. The contingency coefficient of the two variables was 0.610. This means that about 61 percent of drug abuse can be explained by culture. The result of this study corroborates with the findings of Adekeye et al (2015) and Kasundu, Mutiso, Chebet & Mwirigi (2012) who discovered a relationship between culture and drug abuse. Specifically, they revealed that drug abuse is more common by students whose culture permits smoking and drinking of alcohol during social events.

This finding is also in line with the salient assumption of cultural identity theory by (Nora, 2013), the theory asserts that the extant popular culture on drugs in the environment influences drug abuse. Also, there is a significant relationship between parents' marital status and drug abuse as the contingency coefficient of the two variables was 0.657, the chi-square value of the relationship was $(X^2) = (288.277^a)$ and p= 0.000 This means that about 65 percent of drug abuse can be explained by parents' marital status. This corroborates the findings of Duru, Oluoha, Okafor, Diwe & Iwu (2017) that reported a relationship between marital status of parent and drug abuse. Furthermore, there is a significant relationship between peer influence and drug abuse as the chi-square value of the relationship was $(X^2) = (389.922^a)$, p= 0.000 and the contingency coefficient of the two variables is 0.712. This means that about 71 percent of drug abuse can

be explained by peer influence. This finding of this study supports the findings of most extant studies (Ndegwa, Munene & Oladipo, 2017; Oshodi, Aina & Onajole, 2016), on peer influence and drug abuse. They all found a significant relationship between peer influence and drug abuse. This finding also corroborates the assumption of social learning theory. According to this theory, the causal mechanisms that explain drug abuse is interaction with the primary group members- family and friends- who expose individuals to illicit drugs and provide normative definitions and reinforcements for them. There is a significant relationship between place of residence and drug abuse as the chi-square value of the relationship is $(X^2) = (190.562^a)$, P= 0.000 and the contingency coefficient of the two variables is 0.578. This means that about 57 percent of drug abuse can be explained by place of residence. This study corroborates with the study of Ndegwa, Munene & Oladipo (2017) who found a significant relationship between drugs in the environment and drug abuse. This finding is also in line with the salient assumption of cultural identity theory by (Nora, 2013). The theory asserts that the extant popular culture on drugs in the environment influences drug abuse.

Conclusion

The findings of the study shows that there is a significant relationship between culture and drug abuse (contingency coefficient = 0.610, p= 0.000); there is a significant relationship between parents' marital status and drug abuse (contingency coefficient = 0.657, p= 0.000); there was a significant relationship between peer influence and drug abuse (contingency coefficient = 0.712, p= 0.000); there is a significant relationship between place of residence and drug abuse (contingency coefficient = 0.578, p= 0.000)

Conflict of interest: The authors declare that there was no conflict of interest.

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