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THE NEXUS BETWEEN DRUG ABUSE AND CRIME IN ANGWAN BABA ARAGO AREA OF AKWANGA LOCAL GOVERNMENT, NASARAWA STATE

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Abstract

Three suppositions have generally governed studies on drug use and crime, and these include drug use leads to crime, crime leads to drug use, and both drug use and crime are manifestations of a general orientation towards delinquency and are not causally related. Several studies supported the contention that both drug use and delinquency are manifestations of a general orientation toward crime, but did not eliminate the possibility of a causal relationship between the two. It is on this premise that this study sought to explain the Nexus between drug abuse and crime in Nigeria. The personality, learning, biological and socio-cultural theories of drug abuse, were adopted to help us understand the dynamics of drug abuse and criminal behaviour. The study adopted the survey design, which entails collecting data from a fraction of the population of study 3,874, while the sample of 194 was selected, using Israel 1992 sample determined table but only 188 instruments were retrieved from the field, in the same vein the study adopted the snowball sampling technique. The findings revealed amongst others that there is a strong nexus between drug abuse and criminal/hostile behaviour in Angwan Baba Arago. The study concluded that, because drug abuse and crime are indissolubly interconnected, identifying drug-abusing youth in the juvenile justice system is an important first step for intervening in both their substance abuse and their criminal behaviour. Amongst the recommendations was that drug testing can be used to help youth achieve and maintain recovery and curtail other deviant behaviours.

Keywords: Drug abuse, Crime, Baba Arago, Nexus and Relationship.

Introduction

The Relationship between drugs and crime has a long history and a mainstay of fiction, widely documented in media reports, and the subject of substantial scientific investigation. Drugs and crime are related to each other in at least three ways. First, the immediate effect of drugs on the mind and body may create mental or physical states that somehow facilitate aggression. Second, drugs are connected to crime when a drug user has a pressing need to consume them but lacks the necessary funds to do so, such situations may lead to predatory crimes, including burglary, robbery, or theft, among others. A third way in which drugs and crime are related is that some psychoactive substances are illegal to use, trade (buy or sell), or grow/manufacture. When drugs are illegal, illicit market participants are unlikely to report being victimized to the police, which means that predators are more likely to prey on them, in turn, there may be retaliation when this happens. In short, drugs can be related to crime if they cause a mental or physical state conducive to lawbreaking, lead to a perceived need that results in motivation to steal, or result in a decrease in access to formal mediation and a corresponding increase in predatory and retaliatory crimes

Drugs, are chemical substances which when taken, can limit cognition, perception, mood, behaviour and overall body function. It can also produce a change in biological functions through its chemical actions (Balogun, 2006). A drug is used for reasons such as curing or alleviating pain and diagnosing ill-health and is seen as a common process in many communities. Studies by Kypri, Cronin & Wright (2005), Melchior, Chastang, Goldberg & Fombonne (2008) submitted that across the countries of the world, drug abuse tends to be rampant among youngsters between the ages of 18 and 25. Falco (2008) stated that the chronic use of drugs can cause serious damage, sometimes irreversible physical and social damage. To this effect, some of these youths, who are still in their growing stage, become insane, socially misfit in school situations and eventually drop out of school and become irrelevant to the society at large. The misuse of medication, self-medication and the use of illegal substances is also called Drug Abuse. Some of these substances are in form of medication given pleasure to the user and some brain nerves becomes the end user (which is known as pleasurable pathways). The user at first may enjoy it and will

want to experience the sensation again (Seraphim, 2005). A person who allows himself/herself to be controlled by a psychoactive substance is called a 'drug abuser' (Merck, 2009). A drug abuser brings forth a condition called neurological functions and his/her moods, perception, consciousness, and energy levels change and the drugs can take over his/her normal functioning and well-being (King, 2008).

However, it can be concluded that the problem of drug abuse is more prominent in Nigeria compared to other developing nations. This was verified by Adamson, Onifade & Ogunwale (2010) that many people of younger age are getting engaged in the consumption of illicit drugs in Nigeria. Azuike, Oni & Dirisu (2012) further asserted that young grown-ups whose ages are in the range of 18 years and 25 years old constitute the populace that are most astoundingly powerless to psychoactive drugs misuse, at the same time, young people between 11 and 17 years accounted for the second most astounding populace with vulnerability to drug abuse. It is on this premise that this study is designed to examine the relationship between drug abuse and crime in Nigeria, particularly as it relates to Nigerian youths in Angwan Baba Arago.

Statement of Research Problem

In recent years, the availability and misuse of illicit drugs among the youths around the globe, including developing countries like Nigeria remained a serious social problem confronting society (Fareo, 2012; Emmanuel, 2013; Yunusa, 2016). According to Oshikoya & Alli (2006), there has been consistent rapid increase in the incidence of substance abuse in Nigeria starting from 10 years of age. Despite efforts by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and other tiers of government in the country to prevent and control the use of drugs, it has remained a source of serious law violation and other criminal acts by all categories of users. The physical, psychological, social and economic consequences of the drug problems among youth are becoming more obvious and disturbing.

Young people who persistently abuse substances often experience an array of problems, including academic difficulties, health related problems (including mental health), poor peer relationships and involvement in social vices such as stealing, bullying, secret cult activities. All these have negative consequences on family members, community and the entire society. Angwan Baba Arago has had its fair share of violence and labelling several studies on drugs and crime were undertaken in Akwanga but much reference wasn't given to Angwan Baba Arago, it is against this background that this study seeks to unravel the dynamics of drug abuse in Nigeria, particularly in the light of the fact that drug abuse instigates criminal and hostile behaviour among people of diverse age group, this study throws its search light on the residents of Angwan Baba Arago area of Akwanga Local Government, Nasarawa State, Nigeria.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of this studies is to establish whether there is nexus between drug abuse and criminal behaviour among the residents of Angwan Baba Arago in Akwanga local government area of Nasarawa State, with other specific objectives that includes:

- i. To establish the factors responsible for drug abuse among residents of Angwan Baba Arago area of Akwanga Local Government area.
- ii. To ascertain the level of the availability of such drugs in Angwan Baba Arago area of Akwanga local government.
- iii. To ascertain if there is a link between drug abuse and hostile behaviour most found among the residents of Angwan Baba Arago area of Akwanga local government.

Hypothesis

- H₀. There is a significant relationship between Drug Usage and Criminal Behaviour in Angwan Baba Arago Area of Akwanga Local Government District of Nasarawa State.
- H₁. There is no significant relationship between Drug Usage and Criminal Behaviour in Angwan Baba Arago Area of Akwanga Local Government District of Nasarawa State.

Conceptualizing Drug Abuse and crime

Several general treatments provide a comprehensive review of the drugs-crime relationship. Although Goldstein 1985 is limited by his focus on violence, the framework it suggests is obviously applicable to nonviolent crimes. Conceived in general terms, Goldstein suggested that the psychopharmacological effect of drugs can increase the chances of any kind of crime occurring, the

perceived need for drugs can increase predatory crimes (e.g., robbery, burglary, and theft) and entrepreneurial crimes (e.g., drug dealing or prostitution), and the absence of formal mediation can increase crimes of predation but can also spark retaliatory measures such as assault and murder. Therefore, there appears a close relationship between drug abuse and crime. Drug abusers commit crimes to pay for their drugs and this inflicts damages to the society. Moreover, many criminals are under the influence of drugs while committing crimes. Drug trafficking is another outcome of drug abuse and it is a crime in most countries of the world including Nigeria.

Review of Relevant Literature

The issue of drug abuse is a common global phenomenon in contemporary times. The majority of the crimes being committed today are directly or indirectly connected to drug abuse (Siro, 2008). The persistence of drug abuse behaviour in urban Kano has become a universal phenomenon, not only among the teeming youth but across all population segments. Preliminary investigation revealed that peer group influence, parenting style, broken homes and law enforcement corruption are some of the factors responsible for drug abuse menace (Siro, 2017). Abdullahi (2003), argued that, drugs are mainly substances that are taken to sedate, excite, slim, arouse, and put to sleep or cure. People usually ingest or inject those drugs into their bodies to achieve these goals. Drug abuse is seen as a problem that is causing serious concern to both individuals and governments world over.

It is prevalent among adolescents (male and female) who in most cases are ignorant about the inherent dangers of drug abuse. Many of the abusers engage in the act out of frustration, poverty, lack of parental supervision, peer influence, pleasure and so on. (Oluremi, 2012). According to Yunusa (2016), in his study of substance abused by delinquents (male and female) in Zaria metropolis, found that inhalants or industrial solvents such as glue/gum solution, gasoline/petrol, nitrous oxide and laughing gas were abused to intoxicate their minds. Also, commonly abused substance in the study area include codeine, cannabis, cough syrups, rafenol, tramadol, heroin, steroids, mandrax and cocaine, alcohol, designer/club drugs. However, types of locally made organic abused drugs were sniffing or smoking dry lizard faeces, dry human faeces and dry faeces from other animals to intoxicate themselves. The study was also able to establish that some delinquents inhaled the odour of contaminated water from the gutter or drainage, inhaling the odour from pit toilets and sand from gutter to make them high or intoxicated. *Sakami* (Daturametel) was the most abused concoction in Zaria metropolis. The juvenile delinquents (both male and female who are involved in the abuse of concoctions are combining two or more concoctions to intoxicate themselves. The place where juvenile delinquents used for drug abuse include uncompleted buildings, their rooms, bushy areas, specific spots where illicit drugs are sold, nooks, premises of motor parks for drug abuse. Furthermore, the methods used to abuse substances were by drinking, smoking, inhaling, injecting, chewing, sniffing, swallowing, and mixing with food or beverage drink and combination of two or more methods (Yunusa, 2016).

In a study conducted by Hali (2017), on the predisposing factors of drug abuse among women in Kano Metropolis, found that factors that predispose women to drug abuse are parental negligence, over protection by parents, having parents/guardians who are drug abusers, drug availability, to reduce tension, peer group pressure, early marriage, due to the negative influence of western media, frustration, depression and cowives rivalry. Furthermore, women abuse drugs to either increase or decrease their performance. It was found that some of the women abused substances to control their emotions, especially their sexual urge when their husbands are away. It induces sleep and also keeps them calm. The study established that drugs mainly abused by women in Kano metropolis were cough syrup/Roche. Others include cannabis, rafenol, tramadol, alcohol prescriptive drug etc. Also, cocaine and steroid are least abused by women in Kano metropolis (Hali, 2017).

Categories of Drugs

- a. **Stimulants:** These are substances that act and stimulate the central nervous system directly. The users of these substances at the initial stage experience pleasant effects such as energy increases. The major source of these comes from caffeine substances.
- b. **Hallucinogens:** These are drugs that alter the sensory processing unit in the brain. They produce distorted perception, feelings of anxiety and euphoria, sadness and inner joy. They normally come from marijuana, LSD, etc.
- c. **Narcotics:** These drugs relieve pain, induces sleep and are addictive. They are found in heroin, codeine, opium, etc.
- d. **Sedatives:** These drugs are among the most widely used and abused because of the belief that they

relieve stress and anxiety. Some of them induce sleep, ease tension, cause relaxation or help users to forget their problems. They are sourced from valium, alcohol, promethazine, and chloroform.

- e. Miscellaneous: This is a group of volatile solvents or inhalants that provide euphoria, emotional disinhibiting and ever-lasting distortion of thought to the user. The main sources are glues, spot removers, tube repair, perfumes, chemicals, etc.

Factors Responsible for Drug Abuse

Haladu (2003) in Fareo (2012) gave the following as the main causes of drug abuse; Experimental curiosity, that is, Curiosity to experiment the unknown facts about drugs thus motivates people into substance use. The first experience in substance abuse produces a state of arousal such as happiness and pleasure which in turn motivate them to continue. Peer group influence is another one which plays a major role in influencing many into substance abuse. Then, Lack of parental supervision in which many parents have no time to supervise their sons and daughters and these phenomena initialize and increases drug abuse. Also, People with personality problems arising from social conditions have been found to abuse drugs. The social and economic status of most Nigerians is below average. Poverty is widespread in the country, broken homes and unemployment is on the increase, therefore our youths roam the streets looking for employment or resort to begging. The need for energy to work for long hours also seems to be symptoms with the commercial vehicle drivers. They often want to work for long time so as to make money. Also, increasing economic deterioration that leads to poverty and disempowerment of the people has driven many parents to send their children out in search of a means of earning something for contribution to family income. These children engage in hawking, bus conducting, head loading, scavenging, serving in food canteens etc and are prone to drug taking so as to gain more energy to work for long hours. Others are, availability of the substances, the Need to prevent the Occurrence of Withdrawal symptoms.

Implications of Drug Abuse

Drugs are used for a variety of reasons. A number of effects were established by a number of researches. Physical effects of drug abuse include liver cirrhosis, pancreatic, peptic ulcer, hypertension, neurological disorder, tuberculosis, etc. Also, mental effects consist of retardation, growth deformity, nervous system deficiency, delayed motor development, amnesia and dementia among others (Mba, 2008). The various consequences of drug addiction or drug abuse are so devastating and very shameful to the extent that both the nation and international organizations all over the world are also worried about the spread of this scourge among the youths. They are as follows: Mental disorder, social violence, gang formation, cultism, armed robbery, 419 syndrome, internet frauds, social miscreants (area boys and girls) lawlessness among youths, lack of respect for elders, rape, loss of senses, instant death and wasting of precious and innocent lives and many more (Dankani, 2012). These behaviours are criminal inclined.

The effect produced by smoking tobacco depends on the nicotine that is absorbed from the smoke. Many of the youths' progress from tobacco smoking to Marijuana smoking, which they believe will be more powerful on them and make them hyperactive. It is cheap and can easily be purchased from drug peddlers that are increasingly targeting the youth, as a symbol of revolution. Drug addicts may become a nuisance and criminal to the society, problems to themselves and their family members. There are distinct changes in the physical appearance, behaviour and the general health of an addict. Such changes may include emaciated and malnourished look, neglect of personal hygiene and unkempt appearance. From homes, drug addicted adolescents associate with fellow addicts. Drug habit is not only expensive, it is also difficult to sustain. The social problem of substance abuse among youths has in most cases resulted in low, moderate and high physical and psychological dependence resulting to complete withdrawal from schools and the emergence of future criminals and illiterates in the society (Schmalleger, 2006; Fareo, 2012).

Theories of Drug Abuse

Theories of drug abuse indicate that some people truly depend on certain drugs for their survival due to a number of factors. The major emphasis of the theories is that people have their individual reasons for depending on one type of the drug or the other. Such reasons are explained by the personality, learning, biological and socio-cultural theories (Eze & Omeje, 1999). Personality theories of drug abuse emphasize that there are certain traits or characteristics in the individuals that abuse drugs. Such personality characteristics, according to Eze and Omeje (1999), are inability to delay gratification, low tolerance for frustration, poor impulse control, and high emotional dependence on other people, poor coping ability and low self-esteem. Individuals with these personality characteristics find it difficult to abstain from drug

perceived need for drugs can increase predatory crimes (e.g., robbery, burglary, and theft) and entrepreneurial crimes (e.g., drug dealing or prostitution), and the absence of formal mediation can increase crimes of predation but can also spark retaliatory measures such as assault and murder. Therefore, there appears a close relationship between drug abuse and crime. Drug abusers commit crimes to pay for their drugs and this inflicts damages to the society. Moreover, many criminals are under the influence of drugs while committing crimes. Drug trafficking is another outcome of drug abuse and it is a crime in most countries of the world including Nigeria.

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abuse. Learning theory of drug abuse maintains that abuse of drugs occurs as a result of learning. The learning could be by means of conditioning, instrumental learning or social learning (Bandura, 1986). Biological theory of drug abuse maintains that drug abuse is determined by the individuals biological or genetic factors which make them vulnerable to drug addiction. Socio-cultural theory of drug abuse maintains that abuse is determined by socio-cultural values of the people. For instance, while certain cultures permit the consumption of alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana, other cultures do not. Among the Urhobo, Ijaw, Ibibio, Edo, Igbo, Yoruba and Itsekiri tribes, alcohol (i.e., Oogoro) is used in cultural activities. In Northern Nigeria, alcohol is forbidden due to Sharia law but tobacco is commonly used by many people.

However, the Sharia law does not forbid cigarette consumption and thus nicotine dependence. It should be noted, however that no theory fully explains the etymology of drug abuse. This is due to individual differences. It then becomes obvious that the disorder (drug abuse) is an acquired one. The acquisition then is dependent on a host of personal inclinations and environmental factors, a situation explained suggestively by Bandura (1986) social cognitive theory (i.e., the triadic reciprocity involving behaviour, environment and the person).

The relevance of these theories to this study is that, social learning of substance abuse as theorized, maintained that usage or dependence on a drug is either as a result of conditional learning or social learning. The exposure to drugs being used is a contributory factor, and among the factors associated with such are the prevalence of drug use in one's social environment and the general availability of drugs in one's surroundings, as well as social norms favouring drug related behaviours. The above statements show why drug abuse is prevalent among youths in AngwanBaba Arago area in Akwanga local government area of Nasarawa State. The social environment and the availability of substances/drugs at the area largely encourage its consumption.

Research Methods

Research Design

For the purpose of this study the design adopted for this study is survey research. Here the design focused on exploratory cross-sectional study of the population, what this means is that a fraction of the population was selected for study, the data was only extracted once. Exploratory survey studies are used to investigate and understand a particular issue or topic area without predetermined notions of the expected responses. The design is mostly quantitative in nature, seeking input from respondents with open-ended questions focused on why and/or how they perceive certain aspects of the society or a phenomenon. An example is the qualitative survey by Susan Sherman & Carl Latkin, (1999) in their qualitative study on Exploratory Study of Injection Drug Users' Participation in a Long-Term Epidemiological Study of HIV predicated on a survey of exploratory study conducted with 15 current or former injecting drug users to gain an understanding of the motivations for and reactions to participating in ALIVE (AIDS Link to Intravenous Experiences), a longitudinal natural history study of HIV among urban drug users in Baltimore, Maryland.

Study Population

The target population for the study was drawn from the Independent Electoral Commission voters register, this was due to the fact that there is no breakdown of population by area or electoral ward in the 2006 census data. Angwan Baba Arago was selected because of its known shared violence, this is because a lot of stories of ills about the area has always been in the lips of most people, as such the area was selected to ascertain what the general populace thinks about the area, the population of people in the area according to the voter's register is 3,874 people.

Sample Size

The study made use of Israel 1992 sampling determined table to arrive at the sample of 194 was selected but only 188 instruments were retrieved from the field, even though this is not the entire population Angwan Baba Arago but this rather represents a fraction under study.

Israel (1992) sample size for $\pm 3\%$, $\pm 5\%$, $\pm 7\%$ and $\pm 10\%$ precision levels where confidence level is 95% and $P=5$.

Size of Population	Sample Size (n) for precision (e) of			
	$\pm 3\%$	$\pm 5\%$	$\pm 7\%$	$\pm 10\%$
500	A	222	145	83
600	A	240	152	86
700	A	255	158	88
800	A	267	163	89
900	A	277	166	90
1,000	A	286	169	91
2,000	714	333	185	95
3,000	811	353	191	97
4,000	870	364	194 ^a	98
5,000	909	370	196	98
6,000	938	375	197	98
7,000	959	378	198	99
8,000	976	381	199	99
9,000	989	383	200	99
10,000	1,000	385	200	99
15,000	1,034	390	201	99
20,000	1,053	392	204	100
25,000	1,064	394	204	100
50,000	1,087	397	204	100
100,000	1,099	398	204	100
100,000	1,111	400	204	100

a= Assumption of normal population is poor (Yamane, 1967). The entire population should be sample. (Israel, 1992).

Sampling Technique

The study adopted the snowball sampling technique, the choice of snowball sampling technique was informed by the facts that it is difficult to know who actually abuse drugs and who does not really abuse, as such having first hand contact with one drug user will help in leading one to other users and even down to their jungles where they hide.

Method of Data Collection

Data were collected through the use of questionnaire. The questionnaire consists of close ended and open-ended questions which were administered to the respondents in their various houses and were retrieved back 24 hours after.

Data Analysis

All the data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics, such as frequency distribution tables, and Univariate of Variance statistical measures for data reduction.

Results

Tests of Between-Subjects Effects

Table 1: Link between Drug Abuse and Crime in Angwan Baba Arago

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	89.945 ^a	2	44.973	1009.557	.000
Intercept	579.324	1	579.324	13004.855	.000
Q2	89.945	2	44.973	1009.557	.000
Error	8.241	185	.045		
Total	593.000	188			
Corrected Total	98.186	187			

a. R Squared = .916 (Adjusted R Squared = .915)

Source: Field Survey 2020.

Table 1 shows that the Univariate of Variance Analysis, which the study tried to see if there is a link between drug abuse and crime in Angwan Baba Arago area of Akwanga local government, Nasarawa State, based on the output our R Square is 0.916 while our Adjusted R Square is 0.915, we therefore accept the result which simply means that there is a relationship between drug abuse and criminal behaviour, the relationship is strong and moving in a positive direction.

Table 2: Factors Responsible for Drug Usage in Angwan Baba Arago

Reasons for Drug Usage	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Availability of Drugs	75	39.9	39.9	39.9
Environmental Factor	40	21.3	21.3	61.2
Peer Group Influence	35	18.6	18.6	79.8
Desire to Experiment	18	9.6	9.6	89.4
Socio-Economic Factor	20	10.6	10.6	100.0
Total	188	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey 2020.

Table 2 shows the factors responsible for drug abuse among the youths in Angwan Baba Arago area of Akwanga local government, Nasarawa State, the above table revealed that one of the leading factors responsible for drug abuse is the availability of the drug which is at 39.9%, followed by environmental factor which is at 21.3%, in the same vein peer group influence is next which is 18.6%, also some of the respondents are of the view that drug abuse occurred as result of Socio-Economic Factor which is 10.6%, finally 9.6% of the respondents believed that Desired to Experiment is also a leading factor in drug usage. Based on the above data it is clear that drug abuse is on the increase due to the availability of the drugs in the streets of Nigeria.

Table 3: Drug Availability in Angwan Baba Arago

Drug Availability	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	162	84.4	86.2	86.2
No	26	13.5	13.8	100.0
Total	188	97.9	100.0	

Source: Field Survey 2020.

Table 3 shows us the availability of this drugs in Angwan Baba Arago area of Akwanga local government, 84.4% of the respondents are of the opinion that there is high availability of the hard drugs in the area, while 13.5% of the respondents are of the view that there is no availability of such drugs in the area. Based on the above data it is clear that there is wide spread availability of hard drugs in the area.

Table 4: Nexus between Drug Usage and Hostile Behaviour in Angwan Baba Arago

Nexus between Drug Usage and Crime	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Strongly Agree	117	62.2	62.2	62.2
Agree	62	33.0	33.0	95.2
Disagree	9	4.8	4.8	100.0
Total	188	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey 2020.

Table 4 shows us the nexus between drug abuse and hostile behaviour in Angwan Baba Arago area of Akwanaga local government, Nasarawa State, from the above table it is clear that 62.2% of the respondents strongly agree that there is a connection between drug usage and hostile behaviour, in the same vein 33% of the respondents Agreed that there is a connection between drug usage and hostile behaviour, finally 4.8% of the respondents Disagree that there is no connection between drug usage and hostile behaviour. Based on the opinion of the respondents represented in the table above one can will say that there is a somewhat connection between drug usage and hostile behaviour.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study revealed that there is a strong relationship between drug abuse and criminal behaviour in Angwan Baba Arago. This further clarifies the main objective of this study which is to establish whether there is a link between drug abuse and crime in Angwan Baba Arago area of Akwanga local government. This finding aligns with Siro, 2008assertion that “The majority of the crimes being committed today are directly or indirectly connected to drug abuse”. This also supports the chart on table 4 of this study above, which clarify that majority of the respondents strongly agree that there is a link between drug abuse and hostile behaviour which is represented in colour blue, followed by those who agreed that there is a link between drug abuse and hostile behaviour represented in colour green.

Furthermore, the findings of this study also disclose that there is wide spread availability of hard drugs in the area. This is evident in the analysis of the third objective which seeks to clarify the level of availability of such drugs in Angwan Baba Arago area of Akwanga local government (Table 3).This finding aligns with the study conducted by Hali (2017), on the predisposing factors of drug abuse among women in Kano Metropolis, in which he established several factors that predispose women to drug abuse such as parental negligence, over protection by parents, having parents/guardians who are drug abusers as well as drug availability amongst other factors.It also aligns with the Socio-cultural theory of drug abuse which maintains that abuse is determined by socio-cultural values of the people. For instance, while certain cultures permit, applaud and aid the availability and consumption of alcohol, cigarettes and marijuana, other cultures do not. For example. among the Urhobo, Ijaw, Ibibio, Edo, Igbo, Yoruba and Itsekiri tribes, alcohol (locally called Ogogoro) is used in cultural activities whereas in the Northern Nigeria, alcohol is forbidden due to Sharia law but tobacco is commonly used by many people.

Finally, the finding of this study revealed that desire to experiment was one of the several factors that also result in drug abuse which is represented with colour purple on the pie chart (table 2). This finding aligns with Oluremi, (2012) assertion that many of the abusers engage in the act out of the desire to experiment within peer group, frustration, poverty, lack of parental supervision, pleasure and so on. This agrees with the views emanating from the Learning theory of drug abusewhich maintains that abuse of drugs occurs as a result of learning. The learning could be by means of conditioning, instrumental learning or social learning (Bandura, 1986). One major area of concern is the fact that there is a link between drug abuse and hostile behaviour found among the residents of Angwan Baba Arago area of Akwanga local government as proposed in the fourth objective of this study and buttress in the pie chart of table 4 of this study.

Conclusion

This study reviewed a number of studies dealing with the relationship between illegal drug use and crime in an effort to illustrate the complexity of the connection between drug abuse and crime. Since drug abuse and crime are indissolubly interconnected, identifying drug-abusing youth in the juvenile justice system is an important first step for intervening in both their substance abuse and their delinquent behaviour. Drug identification strategies, followed by effective interventions can help a great deal in preventing further

illicit drug use and delinquency. The new trends and availability of drugs within the streets of Nigeria today posit a great threat to the future generation, the resultant effects of such availability is also of great security threats within the confers of our society because such availability of drugs makes its usage and abuse easy, as such this should become a thing of concern to all and sundry.

One will wonder why the rise in such trends of usage despite studies from relevant scholars and recommendations made by such studies, one will be tempted to ask who is benefiting from such trades and who makes such controlled products readily and cheaply available in our streets?

Recommendations

The following recommendations were put forth by this study.

- ❖ From the data available it is clear that there is a strong link between drug abuse and criminal/hostile behaviour in Angwan Baba Arago. It is on this note that this study recommends that government should promote drug testing program all over the nation as a constructive means of helping youth overcome denial of their substance abuse. Over time, effective drug identification will help juvenile justice agencies achieve the goals of a balanced approach including community protection, youth accountability, and competency development.
- ❖ The program must have written policies and procedures that all staff read and understand. This document should detail areas such as the agency's authority to perform drug testing (i.e., State statutes, court orders, or agency policy), procedures for observed specimen collection, chain of custody, cutoff levels, confirmation procedures, use of results, and confidentiality for youth in the program.
- ❖ Similarly, from the data made available in table four of this study, it is obvious that drug abuse results in criminal and hostile behaviour thereby instigating emotional and psychological trauma, as such this study recommends the need for the establishment of counselling centers in Angwan Baba Arago area to enable the victims of drug abuse and criminal vices seek social supports and advice.
- ❖ In the same vein since the victims of drug abuse suffered diverse forms of injuries be it physical, psychological and economic, there is need for government to enact laws and bye-laws that will protect and rehabilitate the victims of such abuse with no cost to the individual.
- ❖ There is also need for the establishment of mobile courts in Angwan Baba Arago area of Nasarawa State that will attend to the issues of drug abuse and hostile behaviour as fast as possible before such attitude degenerate to criminal behaviour.

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