

Full Length Research

Impact of Vocational Education and Rehabilitation on Socioeconomic Development of Drug Addicts in Young Peoples Home in Jos North Local Government Area

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This paper investigated the impact vocational education and rehabilitation on the socio-economic development of drug addicts in Young People's Home in Jos North Local Government Area. Three research questions were formulated to guide the study. Descriptive survey research design was adopted in the study. The population for this study was made up of five hundred and fifty youths in Young Peoples Home in Jos North LGA while the sample of this study consisted of a total of one hundred and twenty (120) youths drawn through the simple random sampling technique. The instrument used in this research for the collection of data was a questionnaire. The content validity of the questionnaire was determined through experts' judgment while test –retest method was used to determine the reliability of the questionnaire. The computed reliability coefficient was 0.89. The data collected in this research was subjected to analysis through the use of simple percentages and frequency counts. The findings of the study revealed that drug addiction has negative consequences on the education of youths as it leads to poor academic achievement and dropout from school. However, vocational education and rehabilitation can be an effective tool for improving the socio-economic development of drug addicts in Young People's Home in Jos North LGA. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that government should revitalize the drug rehabilitation centres in Plateau State by recruiting more qualified personnel and providing adequate materials and facilities for them to work with. Also, more vocational education and rehabilitation programmes should be introduced in drug rehabilitation centres as this will help improve the socio-economic development of the youths in the centres.

KEY WORDS: Vocational, Education, Rehabilitation, Drugs, Addicts, Socio-economic.

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INTRODUCTION

Drug addiction is a significant problem among school-age youths in Nigeria. Studies such as the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) and Jenkins (2019) indicated that drug addiction is prevalent among junior and senior secondary school students. Having realized that majority of drug addiction start during the adolescence stage especially with 'gateway' drugs such as alcohol and cigarettes, the need to check this bad practice in the society is important. Alcohol and cigarettes are described 'as gateway' because they are usually, the first drugs that are used before other drugs are tried out (Indiana Preventive Resource Center, 2023). Drug addiction among students can lead to sharp decline in their academic performance, increase reports of truancy and expulsion from school. It can also lead to other negative vices such as stealing, fighting, gambling, violence and even murder. Continued use of a drug over a prolonged period of time often leads to drug tolerance –physiological reaction in which the body requires larger and larger doses in order to experience the same impact. In some cases, tolerance for one drug increases tolerance for another; this is known as cross-tolerance. Patterns of drug use may vary greatly around the world and overtime. In Nigeria, the use of many consciousness-altering drugs by young people dropped during the 1990's, but increased again during the 2000s. In fact, the result of one large survey indicated that teenagers use of many drugs – including, alcohol, pills, codeine, marijuana, and nicotine (in cigarettes) – had increased substantially (Adamson, 2017).

In order to address the problem of drug addiction in the society, the drug rehabilitation was introduced to the society particularly through rehabilitation homes such as the young peoples' home. Drug rehabilitation is the process of medical or psychotherapeutic treatment for dependency on psychoactive substances such as alcohol, prescription drugs, and street drugs such as cannabis, cocaine, heroin or amphetamines. The general intent is to enable the patient to confront substance dependence, if present, and cease substance abuse to avoid the psychological, legal, financial, social, and physical consequences that can be caused, especially by extreme abuse. Treatment includes medication for depression or other disorders, counselling by experts and sharing of experience with other addicts. Psychological dependency is addressed in many drug rehabilitation programs by attempting to teach the patient new methods of interacting in a drug-free environment. In particular, patients are generally encouraged, or possibly even required, to not associate with peers who still use the addictive substance. Drug rehabilitation programmes encourage addicts not only to stop using alcohol or other drugs, but to examine and change habits related to their addictions. Many drug rehabilitation programmes emphasize that recovery is a permanent process without culmination. For legal drugs such as alcohol, complete abstinence—rather than attempts at moderation, which may lead to relapse—is also emphasized. Whether moderation is achievable by those with a history of abuse remains a controversial point, but is generally considered unsustainable (Adelekan, 2022). An important aspect of drug rehabilitation programme in the young people's home is vocational education and rehabilitation.

Vocational education and rehabilitation services deals with equipping persons with skills that make them employable or self-reliant. It is a process which enables persons with functional, psychological, developmental, cognitive, and emotional disabilities, impairments or health disabilities to overcome barriers to accessing, maintaining, or returning to employment or other useful occupation (Adamson, 2017). Vocational education and rehabilitation can require input from a range of health care professionals and other non-medical disciplines such as drug addiction rehabilitators and career counsellors. It also involves assessment, appraisal, programme evaluation, and research; goal setting and intervention planning; provision of mental health advice and promotion, in support of returning to work; support for self-management of health conditions; making adjustments to the medical and psychological impact of an addiction; case management, referral, and service co-ordination; psychosocial interventions; career counselling, job analysis, job development, and placement services and functional and work capacity evaluations (Ajala, 2019). This study therefore investigated the impact of vocational education and rehabilitation on the socio-economic development of drug addicts in Young Peoples' home in Jos North Local Government Area.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Over the years, there has been serious public outcry about the rapid growth in drug addiction among youths in Jos North Local Government Area. Due to drug addiction, youths indulged in frequent fights, stealing, rape and armed robbery. Such sporadic violent behaviours exhibited by young people are mostly carried out on the influence of drugs. The health implication of drug addiction has also become a source of concern for so many well-meaning Nigerians.

Drug addiction among young people is matter of concern to all Nigerians especially the government, school heads, leaders of religious groups and other NGOs. Experiment with drugs during adolescence (11-35 years) is common as they try so many new things. They use drugs for many reasons, some teen will experiment and stop or continue to use

occasionally without significant problems. Others will develop addiction, moving on to more dangerous drugs and causing significant harm to themselves and the society at large.

Over the past decades, hard drugs retail centres and abuse spots also known as 'jungles' have developed rapidly and are found in almost every street of Jos North Local Government Area. The problem of drug abuse has eaten deep into the fabric of the society and is threatening the future development and aspirations of our youths. It is in the light of this problem that this study was conceived to assess the impact of vocational education and rehabilitation on the socio-economic development of drug addicts in Young Peoples' home in Jos North Local Government Area.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the causes of drug addiction among youths in Young People's Home in Jos North Local Government Area?
2. What are the impact of drug addiction on education of youths in Young People's Home in Jos North Local Government Area?
3. To what extent does vocational education and rehabilitation enhances the socio-economic development of drug addicts in Young Peoples' home in Jos North Local Government Area?

METHODOLOGY

The design for this research was the descriptive survey research design. The population for this study was made up of youths in Young People's Home in Jos North Local Government Area. There is a total of five hundred and fifty youths in Young Peoples Home in Jos North LGA undergoing rehabilitation. The sample of this study consisted of a total of one hundred and twenty (120) youths in Young People's Home in Jos North LGA. In selecting the sample for this research, the researcher made use of the simple random sampling technique. The instrument used in this research for the collection of data is the questionnaire. To determine the content validity of the questionnaire items, the questionnaire was given to two experts; one in Educational Psychology and one in Test and Measurement Unit of the Faculty of Education, University of Jos for scrutiny. The experts scrutinize the questionnaire items for comprehensiveness, appropriateness and adequacy in line with objectives of the study, research questions and hypotheses while test –retest method was used to determine the reliability of the questionnaire. In this case, the same questionnaire was administered twice within an interval of two week and then scores on the two sets of results were correlated to obtain the coefficient of stability, the Pearson- Product moment correlations was used to compute the reliability coefficient of the instrument. The computed reliability coefficient was 0.89 which ascertained the instrument adequately reliable for use in the study. The data collected in this research was subjected to analysis through the use of simple percentages and frequency counts

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research Question two: What are the causes of drug addiction among youths in Young People's Home in Jos North Local Government Area?

Table 1: Causes of Drug Addiction among Youths in Young People's Home in Jos North Local Government Area

s/n	Item	Number	%
1	Juvenile delinquency	29	24.2%
2	Societal/Peer influence	31	25.8%
3	Excitement/leisure	30	25%
4	Broken homes	30	25%
6	Frustration	20	16.6%
	Total	120	100

Table 1 shows the responses to the causes of drug addiction among youths. 29 respondents representing 24.2% said juvenile delinquency is responsible for drug addiction among Youths, 31 respondents representing 25.88% said

societal/peer influence is responsible for drug addiction among Youths. 30 respondents representing 25% said youths take drugs for excitement and leisure reasons, 30 respondents representing 30% said broken home is responsible for drug addiction among Youths while 20 respondents representing 16.6% said frustration is responsible for drug addiction among youths.

Based on the percentage scores, it can be deduced that the leading causes of drug addiction among youths in Jos North LGA include juvenile delinquency, broken home, societal/peer influence and frustration.

Research Question Two: What are the impact of drug addiction on education of youths in Young People's Home in Jos North Local Government Area?

Table 2: Impact of drug addiction on education of youths in Young People's Home in Jos North Local Government Area

s/n	Item	Agreed	Percentage
1	Drug addiction leads to poor academic achievement of youths in school	26	21.6%
2	Drug addiction leads abuse leads to truancy in schools	24	20%
3	Drug addiction leads to dropout of youths from school	28	23.3%
4	Drug addiction leads to poor attitude to learning among youths	42	35%
	Total	120	100%

Table 2 shows the responses to research question two on impact of drug addiction on educational development of youths. 26 respondents representing 21.6% said drug addiction leads to poor academic achievement of youths in schools. 24 respondents representing 20% said drug addiction leads to truancy in school, 28 respondents representing 23.3% said drug addiction leads to dropout of youths from school while 42 respondents representing 35% agreed that drug addiction leads to poor attitude to learning among youths.

From the percentage score, it is discovered that drug addiction leads to poor academic achievement of youths, it leads to truancy, poor attitude to learning and dropout from school.

Research Question Three: To what extent does vocational education and rehabilitation enhances the socio-economic development of drug addicts in Young Peoples' home in Jos North Local Government Area?

Table 3: Effectiveness of vocational education and rehabilitation programme in enhancing the socio-economic development of drug addicts in Young Peoples' home in Jos North Local Government Area

s/n	Item	Agreed	Percentage
1	Very effective	20	16.7%
2	Moderately effective	69	57.5%
3	Not effective	31	25.8%
	Total	120	100%

Table 3 shows the responses of the respondents on how effective the vocational education and rehabilitation is in enhancing the socio-economic development of drug addicts in Young Peoples' home in Jos North Local Government Area. 20 respondents representing 16.7% agreed that it is every effective, 69 respondents representing 57.5% agreed that it is moderately effective while 31 respondents representing 25.8% disagreed.

From the analysis of data collected, it could be deduced that vocational education and rehabilitation programme is moderately effective in enhancing the socio-economic development of drug addicts in Young Peoples' home in Jos North Local Government Area.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Findings on the causes of drug addiction among youths of Jos North Local Government Area is analysed. From the analysis of responses collected, the major factors identified include – juvenile delinquency, peer influence and frustration. This finding is in conformity with Adelekan (2020) who noted that the major factors responsible drug addiction among youths and youths are societal/peer pressure and juvenile delinquency.

Research question two on the impact of drug addiction on educational development of youths in Jos North is analysed. From the analysis of responses collected, it is discovered that drug addiction has negative impact on educational development of youths. It leads to poor academic achievement in schools, it leads to truancy, poor attitude to learning and dropout from school. This finding is in agreement with the findings of Baron and Kalsher (2018) that discovered that youths who are drug addicts do not give their academic work the needed attention and often drop out from school.

Findings from the analysis of research question three which sought to know which on how effective the vocational education and rehabilitation is in enhancing the socio-economic development of drug addicts in Young People's Home is analysed. From the analysis of data collected, it was discovered that vocational education and rehabilitation is moderately effective in enhancing the socio-economic development of drug addicts. This finding is in agreement with the findings of Ajala (2019) who discovered vocational education and rehabilitation is viable means of combating drug addiction among drug addicts in Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

Drug addiction is a social problem that has spread and increased rapidly in our educational institutions especially among our youths. In Nigeria, this social menace is considered an issue of serious concern as it adversely affects the lives and performance of youths involved as well as the harmonious functioning of the entire structure of the society. Drug addiction and other associated problems are inimical to the survival and effective functioning of human societies. A significant number of untimely deaths and accidents have been ascribed to the activities of persons under the influence of one drug or the other.

From the findings of this study, it is discovered that vocational education and rehabilitation can be an effective tool for improving the socio-economic development of drug addicts in Young People's Home in Jos North LGA. This is because vocational education and rehabilitation can improve the income and improve the employability of drug addicts. Therefore, it is concluded in this study that there is need to improve the standard of vocational education and rehabilitation for drug addicts in Young Peoples' Home in Jos North Local Government Area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Government should revitalize the drug rehabilitation centres in Plateau State by recruiting more qualified personnel and providing adequate materials and facilities for them to work with
2. More vocational education and rehabilitation programmes should be introduced in drug rehabilitation centres as this will help improve the socio-economic development of the youths in the centres.
3. Drug education should be introduced into the secondary school curriculum to enlighten youths on the negative impact of drug addiction on their health and academic pursuit.
4. Government should put more strict measures in place to control the sale of illicit drugs in the society

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