

## **Drug Abuse among Nigerian Youths and its Impact of (TVET) Technical Vocational Educational Training in the National Development**

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### **Abstract**

The paper described the used of drug among youths in Nigeria and its implications towards technical and vocational training education in Nigeria. However, the impact of drug abuse has posted series of burden in the quest to National development; the study examined the social, psychological and emotional destructions of drug abuse among Nigerian youths and how it affected the growth and development of the nation, particularly, in the area of training. The Psychoactive substances or drugs can be said to be global calamity found among such diverse people from across the globe. Nigeria is one of the victim, where youths have demonstrated actively in the area of drug such as smoking of Indian hemp, cocaine, heroin, codeine, urine, alcoholic, and other forms of intoxicated substances that would affects their psychological thinking. However, the study was basically conceptual, data was drafted through secondary source, collections and data explanation were directly from valid second hand information such as books, journals, internet, magazines, and many more. The applications of frustration aggression model, grid and grievances theories were introduced so as to identify the pattern of relationship the relationships between drug abuse among youths in Nigeria and its effects towards national development. Particularly, in the areas of skills, training and development of youths, finally, the study looked at findings, which revealed that, several skills acquisitions programmes were established with the aim of promoting the socio and economic status of the youths in Nigeria, due to engagement of drugs abuse among Nigerian youths the programmes have become ineffective. The study therefore, recommend ways in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of those programmes so as to enable Nigerian youths in developing dependent attitudes and to stay away from any form of drug abuses. The study virtually, lines some vital conclusions as ways of improving the number of youths engaged in to drug abuse.

**Keywords:** *Drug, Abuse, Youths, Nigerian and National Development*

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### **Background of the Study**

According to a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Report (2005), some 200 million people, or 5 percent of the world's population aged 15 - 64 have used drugs at least once in the last 12 months – 15 million more than the previous year's estimate. Likewise, according to the World Drug Report (2005), the use of illicit drugs in all nations has increased in recent years. The report goes on to note that the increasing availability of a variety of drugs to an ever widening socio-economic spectrum of consumers is disconcerting, although the main problem at the global level continues to be opiates (notably heroine) followed by cocaine. However, numbers of programmes and policies were introduced to beautify the lives of the youths in Nigeria such as “PEP” “NAPEP”, “NYSC”, “AMINESTY PROGRAMME”, FADAMA 11, FADAMA 111, SURE-P, & N.POWER PROGRAMMES. Increasingly all of these programmes were created with primary objectives, that is to exposed youths on skill acquisitions programmes and to empowered them so as to reduce the number of drug abuses and other crime against humanity.

### **Statement of the Research Problems**

It is unfortunate that Nigeria is a blessed country, originated with weak and accounts for the highest percentage of drug abuse in Africa such has been resulted to high rates of unemployment, generalized illiteracy, and poor empowerment programmes among youths. The increasing spread of political activities have manufactures political dugs, kidnapping, human trafficking, Boko Haram, raping and other forms of social problems that affected the significant number of people in human society. Gellman (2011).

### **Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of the study is to explore the Role (TVET) as a spirit of innovation and youth employment in Nigeria

The specific objectives are to examine the impact of drug abuse among Nigerian youths,

1. To identify THE IMPACT OF (TVET) as and empowerment strategy in Nigeria
2. To explain the roles of Nigerian government in improving (TVET) programmes among Nigerian youths
3. To offer recommendations in improving youths empowerment programmes

### **Conceptual Framework**

According to the World Bank report (1975:3), empowerment is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people while disempowered includes the rural poor. The group of the poor includes others as small-scale farmers, tenants and the landless. Meanwhile, Ekanem (2004:52) views empowerment as a means to extend the benefits of socio- economic and political development in the economy to the poorest among those who seek a livelihood in the rural areas (cited in Chukuma, n.d.). For the purpose of this study the researchers, argued that, empowerment as an approach developed by the government, non-governmental agency or stakeholders to enable the weaker ones adequate mobility and to enhance their socio-economic status in the society. All of these could improve the productivity and reduces the rate of drug abuse among youths. Whereas, poverty is

defined as a severe deprivation of some basic human needs at the individual or household level inform of material and physical deprivation, this can be viewed as monetary term. In another view point is that poverty as the failure to attain basic capabilities such as being adequately nourished, living a healthy life, possession of skills to participate in economic and social-political life, permission to take part in community activities (Odeh and Okoye, 2014). Chukuma (n.d.) views poverty as a situation of low income and/or low consumption. By World Bank (1990), poverty is inability to attain a minimum standard of living (cited in Chukuma, n.d.). The concept of poverty is multidimensional and multi-facet in nature and the situation of poverty is depended on people to people, society to society, economy to economy and history to history. For more definition and concept of poverty, see Abdussalam (2014); Abdussalam and Abdul (2014).

Researchers, contributes towards the study concepts defined poverty as a person who could not eat, dress, get marry, visits qualify health personals, get good education, good environment to live and many more all of these are basic fundamental requirement of human development. However, if the government could be enable to introduce effective quality of live that would have effect on the social beings, and it would improve in the development of a nation.

## **Review of the Related Literature**

### **Who Are Youths?**

Youths particularly in the developing countries, are the driving force for economic development. They possess the potentials which if properly harness promotes economic, cultural, social and political values of a society (Usman, 2016). To Gwary, Kwaghe, Ja'afar-Furo, and Dennis (2011), youths are the young people in a society who are characterized by ample ideas, energy and new ways to seek life and face problems. The educated youths in particular, are more likely to adopt new innovations if they are involved in an activity. Isah (2015) opened that the youths are a cross-section of the country's population with abundant energy that needs proper channeling and harnessing for increase productivity. Empowerment in a nutshell is about creating/provision of condition conducive to enhance through motivation the performance of a person(s) (Jimoh, 2014). It is geared toward developing person's sense of self determination and enhancing his/her belief in self-efficiency.

The researchers, positions in respect of Isah, 2015, Jimoh 2014 & Usaman, 2016 that, youths are engine of development, and they were very true. However, if the government in position has declared some fundamental responsibility in established adequate (TVET) Programmes on youths, categorically, these skills learned from the youths would directly improve the socio-economic and political development of Nigeria and African in general. Similarly, on the basis of the argument, and contribution to knowledge, Arc. Muhammad. S. A. & M.D. Isah noted that, youths are the engine that could transformed modern agricultural development and could be supporting schemes in providing everlasting drug abuse and other of violent such as Boko Haram, Kidnapping, Rape, and human trafficking etc. among Nigerian youths. Such training such as education, and skills acquisitions programmes, would not only stop the youths from engaging into other forms of violence rather improved the country economic and at the same time enhances their socio- economicstatus as individual, which directly shall

transformed the nature and pattern of their behavior. Increasingly, Isah, 2019, and Muhammed, argued that, if the government in power who control all the economic and political resources and could not effectively and efficiently provide all of these schemes, to the youths and the rate of poverty is high it would produce insecurity, and backwardness to any nations particularly Nigeria. However, Jimoh, 2014 furthered argued that, thus, youth's empowerment through participation in entrepreneurial activities will not only create carrier opportunities for the teaming youths, but reduce insecurity and other related social violence that are associated with unemployment in the country.

### **Various Programmes Set to Empowered Youths in Nigeria**

Thus, In-line with institutional and political constraints models on economic development, which emphasized the need for government to put in place major opportunities and new policies to eradicate poverty and provide more diversified employment opportunities and to reduce income inequalities, the successive governments in the country have at different times, came up with some specialized programmes, schemes and policies that are meant to develop the potentials among the teaming youths of the country Jimoh, (2014). Among the Central government programmes identified in the study area includes National Youths Policy of Nigeria (NYPN), Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP); National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) under which there were Youth Empowerment Scheme (YES)' Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP)' Mandatory Attachment Programme (MAP), Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP), Micro-Credit Programme (MCP). Others are State/local Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDS/LEEDS); Fadama II, III; the Seven –Point Agenda and the present administration Youths Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture (YISDA), Youths Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (YOU-WIN) and Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) of the transformation agenda. The SURE-P which provide a whole range of activities and programmatic schemes, such as Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS), Community Services Scheme (CSS), Vocational Training Scheme (VTS), and Community Services, Women and Youth Empowerment (CSWYE). Ogwumike, (2002), Gwaryet'al, 2011, Oba, (2012), Dauda, (2016), Akande, (2014).

Each of these programmes, aimed at empowering the youths and other disadvantage segment of the population as explained in the aforementioned paradigm shift of the models adopted for the study. In Adamawa State, Achor, George, Mathias, Muazum, and Elazeh (2011) noted that the previous governments (2007 – 2015), in an effort to work with the strategic principles of the National Policies and programmes in promoting entrepreneurial activities particularly among the youths in the state, came up with a comprehensive measures to curb the menace of unemployment. These approaches were in three (3) phases under the Skill Acquisition Programme. Phase 1: a graduate cadre. Here unemployed graduates are enrolled into a six months vocational training programme during which they are stipends to start their business at the end. The second phase is the technical training programme, which is sub-divided into vocational, technical professional technical training and specialized works technical trainings. Unemployed youths are enrolled into a three year training programme. The third phase is the local apprenticeship skills meant only for the illiterates. They are trained in

automobile repairs, tailoring and generator repairs among others. All the canters are expected to produce 2,300 technicians yearly. Other strategy in the state is in the area of agriculture. The state has a programme called Farming Skills Acquisition Programme (FSAP) which entails establishing in each of the twenty one (21) local government areas of the state, a farming skill acquisition centre where world best practices in agricultural production are impacted. All these efforts were geared toward self-sustainability, self-help, self-participatory, and equality within the context of community development as explained in the concept of empowerment Jimoh, (2014).

Based on these efforts of the governments, it has become imperative to assess the performance of the programmes in supporting youths to participate in entrepreneurial activities in the country and Adamawa State in particular. In Kebbi state number of beneficiaries have enjoyed from various schemes established by the government despite several attacks from corrupts leaders, yet it has some vital transformation in the area of dry farming system created by President Muhammadu Buhari 2015 where he launched the first dry farming schemes in the north eastern Nigeria, in Kebbi state. Numbers of youths have changed their socio-political status by engaging in rice farming activities through the collaboration of Central Bank of Nigeria.

### **Causes of Drug Abuse**

Haladu (2003) gave the following as the main causes' Experimental Curiosity: Curiosity to experiment the unknown fact about drugs thus motivates adolescents into drug use. The first experience in drug abuse produces a state of arousal such as happiness and pleasure which in turn motivate them to continue. Peer Group Influence: Peer pressure plays a major role in influencing many adolescents into drug abuse. This is because peer pressure is a fact of teenage and youth life. As they try to depend less on parents, they show more dependency on their friends. In Nigeria, as other parts of the world, one may not enjoy the company of others unless he conforms to their norms. Lack of parental supervision: Isah, 2019. Argued that, despite all of these factors that fundamentally, contributed in the quest that triggered youths into drugs abuse are students who have the believed that, talking drug will before exams or at the period of studies shall quick and easy learning, this directly harm individual behavior on drug abuse. Most of the broken homes, some divorces women, widows orphans and many more, and they could not have adequate and efficient provision of some basic social needs. They may one way or the other engage in selling drug and drug abuse.

### **Theoretical Framework (Social, Psychological & Biological Models)**

**The Genetic Addictive Theory** “(addictive personality).” This concept presumes the existence of specific personality traits that characterize individuals who develop substance use or addiction disorders. The idea is that people are predisposed to developing addiction based on specific personality traits (in much the same way we might theorize a predisposition based on genetics).

**Global Biogenic Theories:** In this line of thinking, a person uses substances to avoid or blunt their negative or disturbing feelings. The underlying basis for the pain that is being medicated is usually attributed to trauma—adverse childhood experiences (ACES), sexual or violence



trauma as an adult, or other experiences associated with post-traumatic stress. We do know that trauma experiences and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are commonly reported among women and men with substance use disorders. Yet another set of psychological theories address human information processing. This area of cognitive psychology explains how substance use can affect the way that a person takes in (perceives) information from the environment, stores the information as a short-term memory, moves information into long-term memory, and later retrieves information in order to influence behavior.

Drugs affect consciousness and behavior by influencing the activity of the neurons. Most psychoactive drugs whether stimulants (cocaine, amphetamines, ecstasy) depressants (alcohol, barbiturates, tranquilizers) hallucinogens (marijuana) produce their effects by either increasing or decreasing the synthesis, storage, release binding or deactivation of neurotransmitters. An agonist is a drug that increases the activity of a neurotransmitter. The agonists may (a)enhances a neuron's ability to synthesize, store or release neurotransmitters., (b)mimic the action of a neurotransmitter by binding with and stimulating postsynaptic receptor sites (c) bind with and stimulate postsynaptic receptor site (d) make it more difficult for neurotransmitters to be deactivated, such as by inhibiting re-uptake. An antagonist is a drug that inhibits or decreases the action of a neurotransmitter. An antagonist may (a) reduce a neuron's ability to synthesize, store or release neurotransmitters., (b) prevent a neurotransmitter from binding with the postsynaptic neuron by fitting into and blocking the receptor site on the postsynaptic neuron.

Drug use is responsible for a variety of cardiovascular problems, including rapid heart rate, irregular heartbeat, and increased blood pressure. Chronic use can cause the heart muscle to become enlarged, thick or rigid, making it harder for the heart to pump blood. According to one analysis, methamphetamine use can exacerbate pre-existing underlying cardiac disorders like coronary atherosclerosis or cardiomyopathy, which increases the risk of myocardial infarction or even sudden cardiac death.<sup>7</sup> And people who misuse methamphetamine appear to be at the highest risk for cardiovascular damage like premature coronary artery disease. Significant anxiety, confusion, violent behavior, insomnia, and mood disturbances can all occur in people who misuse methamphetamine. In addition, a long-term user may present with various psychotic features such as paranoia, visual and auditory hallucinations, and delusions. Drug alters the brain structures that are instrumental in decision-making, hinders the ability to suppress counterproductive, useless behaviors, and impairs verbal learning. Drug use also is associated with structural and functional changes in the parts of the brain that are linked with memory and emotion, which could explain the emotional and cognitive problems seen in people who use drugs.

- a. Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) Family therapy currently has the most research evidence for the treatment of substance abuse problems. Well-established studies also include ecological family-based treatment and group CBT. These treatments can be administered in a variety of different formats, each of which has varying levels of research support. Research has shown that what makes group CBT most effective is that it promotes the development of social skills, developmentally appropriate

emotional regulatory skills and other interpersonal skills. A few integrated treatment models, which combine parts from various types of treatment, have also been seen as both well-established and probably effective. A study on maternal alcohol and other drug use has shown that integrated treatment programs have produced significant results, resulting in higher negative results on toxicology screens. Additionally, brief school-based interventions have been found to be effective in reducing adolescent alcohol and cannabis use and abuse.

- b. Medication. A number of medications have been approved for the treatment of substance abuse. These include replacement therapies such as buprenorphine and methadone as well as antagonist medications like disulfiram and naltrexone in either short acting, or the newer long acting form. Several other medications, often ones originally used in other contexts, have also been shown to be effective including bupropion and modafinil. Methadone and buprenorphine are sometimes used to treat opiate addiction. These drugs are used as substitutes for other opioids and still cause withdrawal symptoms. Antipsychotic medications have not been found to be useful. Acamprostate is a glutamatergic NMDA antagonist, which helps with alcohol withdrawal symptoms because alcohol withdrawal is associated with a hyperglutamatergic system.
- c. Dual diagnosis: It is common for individuals with drugs use disorder to have other psychological problems. The terms “dual diagnosis” or “co-occurring disorders,” refer to having a mental health and substance use disorder at the same time. According to the British Association for Psychopharmacology (BAP), “symptoms of psychiatric disorders such as depression, anxiety and psychosis are the rule rather than the exception in patients misusing drugs and/or alcohol.

However, Muhammed, and Isah, 2019. Try to filled the gabs on the views of the above scholars, that, Noted various, ways of acquiring drug abuse, however, the researchers increasingly, argued that, poor skills acquisition programmes, like exposing youths into entrepreneurship activities is the major causes of drug abuse among youth. Social Learning Theory of Drug Abuse: This theory maintains that dependence or abuse of drugs occurs as a result of learning. The learning could be by means of conditioning, instrumental learning or social learning. Human Security Analysis is adopted. Mahbulul, first drew global attention to the concept of human security. Human security perspective is a combination of threats associated with war, genocide, and the displacement of populations (Human Security Research Group, 2010). At a minimum, human security means freedom from violence and from the fear of violence. It is people centered, focusing on the safety and protection of individuals, communities, and their global environment (Human Security Policy Briefing, 2011). In-line with the two theories employed by the researchers, which are learning and human security analysis where all fundamental in understanding and explanation the subject matter. “ drug abuse among Nigerian youths and the impact of (TVET) in national development” however, the fundamental argument was if the government need adequate security, there is need to introduced skill acquisition programmes on youth.

## **Findings**

The study on this research yielded thorough understanding of several explanations that focused on the process of this reviewed paper. The researcher found that several scholars have contributed in several field on a several subjects of discussions, yet, little have been done in respect to drug abuse among Nigerian youths and the impact of TVET in the national development. However, some of Authors, are Anyadik and Emeh, 2012, argued that, entrepreneurship was one of the capability that enhances youths productivity. Likewise, Adejo, 2012, noted that non-governmental organization, governmental policies. And international bodies should joined had in the efforts to promote the fundamental empowerment among youths in Nigeria.

Similarly, National Policy for Youths & Development 2018. Argued that, number of policies and programmes were created in providing youth empowerment. Hassan 2016, Usman, and Jimoh also cited that youths have been the engine of development but yet government could not be able to cater for their need. However, the fundamental arguments are, it was true that, the government have developed series of programmes since from 1999 to 2018. But after all consultations of relevant and valid literature it came to the notice of the researchers that, all of the programmes where not effectively and efficiently demonstrated in the mind of the youths, because it could not protect the Nigerian youths in terms of engaging into drug abuse and other related offences against humanity. Yet Nigeria government is doing nothing to solve this ugly problem. In a similar, vain, corrupt leaders have attacked number of programmes and policies established by the government, non-governmental bodies and stakeholders in transforming the lives of the youths, but indeed, the agencies that have the power to fighting corruptions were very weak. Therefore, they could not be able to handle it, this directly produce's high number of unemployment in the country. Finally, the researchers findings reveled that, if care is not properly talking the country will go out of control, due to number of unemployed, youths in the country.

## **Conclusion**

Drug abuse among Nigerian youth and the impact of TVET in the national development, TVET is a beautiful transformation that promote socio-economic and political status of the youths in the third world nations particularly in Nigeria, and denied them engaging into drug abuse and other related offences. Series of policies were developed due to the fact that to improve the lives of Nigerian youths, but all in vain. General Olusegun Obasanjo, 1999-2006. President Umar Yardua 2006-2008. President Good Luck Jonthan 2008- 2015. President Buhari, 2015-date. Have produce's series of policies and programmes ranges from Poverty reduction programmes, 7. Point Agenda, SURE-P & N-POWER programmes with the hope to provide and reduce the burden of poverty and unemployment among Nigerian youths. But indeed the programmes sets to benefit only few people.

## **Recommendations**

1. Government should develop ways to improve the ideal factors such as skills acquisition, training, monthly allowances and many more schemes that will promotes the economic wellbeing of the youths in Nigeria



2. Government should introduce entrepreneurship education in all primaries, secondary and tertiary; institutions so as to promote and create self-reliance among youths in Nigerian
3. Extensive investigation on those hard drugs including the farms where they were planted should be search by join force authorities.
4. Parents should monitor their children and whom their children where interacting with.
5. All schools across the nation should introduces new pattern of teaching the effects of drug on national development
6. Continuation of campaign against elicits at the federal, state and local level
7. Stiff penalty should be melted against anyone found dealing with hard drug.
8. Technical and vocational training should be introduced so as to engage the youth in various small scale businesses.
9. Technical schools such as polytechnics, technical universities and technical colleges of educations across the nations should as matter of urgency enact some measures that could tackle the rate of youth engaging into drug abuse, fine a way innovating the mine of the youths

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