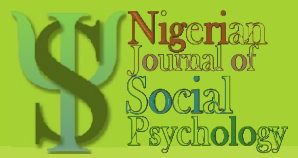


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# **Implication of Drug Abuse on Inclusive Governance, a Reflection on Youth Involvement in Ado Ekiti LGA. Ekiti State.**

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## ***Abstract***

*Using descriptive survey, that adopts multi-stage sampling technique to select randomly respondents to administer (150) for data collection to be analyzed using descriptive statistics such as simple percentage, the study seeks to examine the implication of drug abuse on inclusive governance, a reflection on youth involvement in Ado Ekiti LGA. Ekiti State. Findings revealed that Drug abuse arise from mental disorder that is characterized by a self-destructive pattern of using a substance that leads to significant problems and distress. The study concluded that there is prevalence of drug abuse among youth. To this end, it was recommended that Government should eradicate the issue of god – fatherism so as to curb the drug abuse among the youths, Parents need give proper home training to their children and they must get to know the implication of drug abuse on their future, Government Agencies step up campaign against drug abuse and control.*

***Keywords: Drug abuse; Inclusive governance; Youth involvement; Ado ekiti LGA; Ekiti state.***

## **Introduction**

Worldwide, drug use is as old as drug itself. But the demystification of drug and its use transcends generations, and developmental epochs with attendant changing consequences that directly and indirectly affect society and social relations. The improper use of drugs to the point where the user or society experiences harmful repercussions is known as drug abuse (Olapade, 2022). Drug abuse is a state of recurring or chronic intoxication brought on by drug use that is detrimental to both individuals and society, according to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2021). (natural or synthetic). Some other drugs have been found to have adverse, dangerous consequences (Oloyede, 2022). Only instances where people use drugs just to change their mood and display poor conduct or social functioning are considered drug abuse. Unfortunately, those who take medicines that alter consciousness on a regular basis often develop a dependence on the drugs, grow reliant on them, and can't function without them as affirmed by Odejide, (2022) who also observed that drug abuse is a common problem among adolescents, particularly for the socially acceptable drugs like alcohol and cigarettes. The impact of this menace aside from individual and group relations disruption endanger inclusive governance strategy of youth-government engagement especially due to the high propensity of youth involvement in drug abuse and addiction more than other age bracket. These have significant negative impact on both people, group and societies.

For instance, in recent research, it was observed that 200 million people, or 5% of the world's population between the ages of 15 and 64, are estimated to have used drugs at least once in the year prior, according to a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Report (2020). This is an increase of 15 million from the estimate for the previous year. In a similar vein, the World Drug Report (2020) reveals that illegal drug use has increased recently in all nations. Consequently, the search for political, social and economic solutions through continuous engagement by states in their effort advance inclusive governance that recognize the place of youths in decision making is threatened. This threat is heightened when research suggest that drug use and addiction largely undermine the voice of the and their capacity to commitment progressive engagement. The use of drugs continues to have negative impacts on one's mental, social, economic and physical wellbeing that translate to health jeopardy. The prevalence of illnesses connected to alcohol consumption worldwide (Adewale, 2021).

Africa, particularly Nigeria, has seen a steady rise in political awareness as well as an improvement in mental health system. However, substance abuse as a social and public health issue continue to confront the length and breadth youthful population at the expense of their political participation and involvement in decision making. High propensity to Drug addiction among teenagers and young people has attracted attention from the public on a regional and national scale because it increases the danger of purposeful or unintentional harm or injury to their political career (Babajide, 2022). Hence, the steady vigorous push and advocacy for abstinence from drug to the extent that the disparities in the socioeconomic class status and cultural divide, are no barriers to the broad campaign against drug abuse, addiction, and trafficking (Akintunde, 2020).

### **Statement of the problem**

Drug use is one of the health problems plaguing young people in Nigeria that has complicated socio political and economic development of the youth population on account of how it nuanced political participation and general service delivery. The decline in youth involvement and engagement with those at the corridors of power has increasingly reached an alarming stage that require empirical. Consequently, while literature has it that research largely focus on drug abuse and addiction, scholars have overtime glossed over research on the attendant consequences of drug abuse and addiction decimating the youthful capacity to confront political process for participation, involvement, and engagement with the other stakeholders in decision making process and in political discussions that affect the youth.

Hence, the focus of this study is to examine the prevalence of drug abuse and its implications on youth-government engagement in ado Ekiti local government area of Ekiti state. Arising from the foregoing, are the following research questions: What is the nature of drug abuse among youths that affects youth-government engagement? What local concerns serve as incentive to youth drug abuse and addiction? How does drug abuse prevent youth-government engagement? How can drug abuse and addition be controlled among youth? Answers to these questions have the capacity to address the physical mental and social structure capable of isolating youth from its position as a critical force and stakeholder in the making of decision that affect it and engagements with other stakeholders within the corridor of power for sustainable inclusive governance. Law enforcement agencies, the society, policy makers and academia stand to benefit from the outcome of this studies as it is expected to reveal and provide empirically informed options to drug abuse/addictions and solutions to political isolation and exclusive governance.

## Literature review

This section presents a critical review of related literature, with the view of identifying gaps not filled by previous researchers to direct the direction of this study. These reviews are done sub-thematically under the following sub-themes; drug and substance abuse among youths, inclusive governance, Common Drug abuse and Youth Involvement abuse, Prevalence of Substance Use and the isolation of Youths in decision making, Preventive measures against Drug abuse among the Youths

### Drug and substance abuse among Youths

Drugs are claimed to have existed before man. Drug use and abuse have a long history in many cultures and society (Musk and De Klerk 2017). For many years, natural plants including opium, coca, and cannabis have been used. Cannabis has been used in religious rites by priests, opium has been prescribed for medical purposes by healers, and individuals have generally used nicotine and caffeine in ways that are considered acceptable in society. Alcohol was not just a common beverage in Colonial America; it was also a useful treatment for a number of illnesses. Over the course of the Incas' extensive civilization, which spanned roughly from AD 1200 to AD 1550, cocaine had a significant role in both their religious and social institutions. (1990, Wolmer). Mexican immigrant laborers introduced marijuana to the South Western US in the 1920s”.

According to Konto (2019), the Vietnam War's accessibility of inexpensive, practically pure heroin in Southeast Asia contributed to the high rate of heroin use among American military personnel. All alcoholic beverages are primarily made of ethanol, also referred to as ethyl alcohol. Beer has a low ethanol content of 3 to 4%, wine has a higher ethanol content of 12 to 14%, and distilled spirits like liquor have a higher ethanol content of 45 to 50%. The early man studied the properties of every plant, fruit, root, and nut he encountered. The use of these products would therefore depend on their pharmacological effects brought on by the unique experiences, as well as the style of life of a particular population. In one culture, a substance might be viewed as a form of love.

It's probable that some drug abuse was less a cause and more a reaction of oppression and destitution. Thomas, a well-known psychiatrist and opponent of many social policies that restrict choice, asserted that drugs were exploited as a convenient excuse for the issues in urban culture (Thomas, 2020). A few examples of the synthetic compounds that were created as a result of the development of medical chemistry include barbiturates, benzodiazepines, and amphetamines. Initially, it was suggested that these be used as medicines to restore health. Later, the drugs were made more strong and speedier delivery techniques were created, favoring the fastest passage of the central nervous system and escalating addiction. Social attitudes and drug use trends have changed throughout time. The drug usage environment globally

Drug use poses a severe threat to the social, economic, and health conditions of families, communities, and nations. The majority of drug and alcohol users are in the 15 to 29 age range. The causes of alcohol-related mortality account for 9% of all fatalities. The World Health Organization reports that 148 countries—120 of which have rates of HIV infection among this demographic—had recorded 15 cases of drug use and injecting drug use (WHO report, 2019). Estimates indicate that 10% of US individuals either routinely use drugs or are dependent on them. Despite the fact that opium contains 10% morphine by weight, drug users may use samples with morphine concentrations ranging from 2.6% to 9.9%. (1977, Kalant).

Africans of all ages, from the wealthy to the destitute, from rural to urban areas, use drugs (United Nations Drug Control Program, 2017). They claim that drug use is more common among men than it is among women, but that things are swiftly shifting as drug use among women turns more and more inward and away from the public eye. Younger males have been seen to like beer, while women, young drinkers, educated people, and individuals with few diseases favor wine. Alcohol is preferred by men, heavy drinkers, people with lower levels of education, middle-aged and older people, as well as those who are more prone to major illnesses”.

The increase in drug production, distribution, and usage that has recently taken place in various African countries, including Nigeria, predominantly affects young people. Several of these countries have developed into drug markets as a result of the operations of organizations and individual traffickers who use Africa as a transit area in their trade with the northern countries (Affinith, 2020). As a result of the drug epidemic, Africa has created its own drug control laws. Many have passed anti-drug laws, established drug control organizations, or both. The United Nations Drug Conventions (UNDC) are ratified by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Related Crime (UNODC), the United Nations International Drug Control Program, and many of these countries (UNIDCP). In the light of this, the overall

Drug misuse and abuse are concepts that are sometimes misinterpreted. Understanding these concepts is essential given their significance in the treatment of drug abuse. Drug abuse is defined as the non-medical, self-administration of a substance to produce psychoactive effects, intoxication, or altered body image, despite knowledge of the substance's potential adverse effects. Drug misuse denotes the improper use of a drug that has a valid medical purpose and a prescription (Falade, 2019). Two well-known examples of drug abuse are self-prescription and drug overdoses.

These have a lot of systemic organ dysfunctions and significant adverse effects include altered metabolism. One of the main outcomes of drug abuse is dependence and addiction, which are characterized by compulsive drug-seeking behaviors and consumption that persist despite adverse effects. These modifications put the person in danger of harm because they are detrimental and inappropriate for the social or environmental circumstances. In Nigeria, where drug use is more prevalent for social purposes than for legitimate medical needs, youth drug usage is a problem (Akinkunmi, 2017). This prevalence is brought on by peer pressure, the desire to try new things, and the need to learn. 807 out of the 1000 teens contacted in research at the University of Lagos in Nigeria using a WHO youth drug survey proforma actually responded to the questionnaire, earning an 80.7 percent response rate. Most of the youngsters (77.9%) were single and between the ages of 19 and 30”.

When compared to other third-world countries, Nigeria ranks among the top users of dangerous drugs such alcohol, cigarettes, cannabis, benzodiazepines, cocaine, and opioids. The prevalence of drug use and the consequences associated with it have steadily increased over the past three decades, according to a review of the literature (Afolayan, 2016). Nearly all forms of drug abuse exist in Nigeria as a result of the country being used by drug traffickers to transport narcotics from South East Asia and South America (Bolivia, Peru, and Brazil) to Europe and North America. Particularly among teenagers, the illness is very common.

This style is characterized by one-way communication from the source to the audience and limited interaction between the two, according to Botvin and Griffin (2017). Sometimes it is accompanied with terrifying methods designed to attract attention and deter people from consuming drugs and alcohol. This technique includes the use of information and education communication (IEC) materials including booklets, posters, and campaign T-shirts as well as

the use of videos that show different drug types and the negative impacts they have when used. It is possible for outside facilitators, such as medical professionals, to lead lectures or conversations about the seriousness of the physical and societal effects of drug and alcohol misuse.

The goal of the affective education technique, according to Botvin (2019), is to address the individual's feelings or moods. The technique's main objectives include the improvement of self-awareness, value clarification, decision-making, assertiveness, and interpersonal connections. It also supports effective communication. It employs a method based in the classroom. This approach is predicated on the notion that adolescents misuse drugs because they lack or display weaknesses in their capacity for self-assurance, self-worth, and sound judgment. By fostering these anti-drug attitudes among pupils, it is believed that they will promote drug-free conduct.

### **Influence of Drug Abuse among Youths**

Numerous factors can have an impact on young people's decisions to misuse substances. The availability of drugs in the community, negative peer pressure, myths about the frequency of illicit drug use, violent parenting styles, exclusion from the community, academic failure, and feelings of low self-worth are all factors that contribute to youth drug addiction and abuse, according to Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agent NDELA (2016). Bolaji (2019) asserts that adolescents who feel pressure to participate in activities their classmates are engaging in and feel the need to belong may end up taking drugs, particularly if their peers are consuming drugs as well. Siziya et al. (2020) conducted a study to ascertain the prevalence of current cigarette smoking and associated factors among Kafue students.

According to a study done by Akanbi (2020) in a few neighborhoods close to Mushin Lagos, Nigeria, young people abuse cannabis because of cultural norms, traditional medical practices, opinions about how potent it is, peer and family pressure, and positive emotions. Furthermore, a prevalent belief among young people is that they possess superior intellectual ability or perform well academically at higher institutions, which encourages them to abuse drugs and develop drug addictions. Marijuana was the second-most often misused substance, with heroin being the most popular narcotic ever used, first used, and presently used (85%, 35%, and 50%, respectively) by young drug users. The third most common drug abuse and addiction was cough syrup (NSRP report, 2017)".

Whether or not a prior medical diagnosis has been established by qualified healthcare professionals, drug abuse is the "arbitrary" overuse or dependency on a single drug. (Lakhanpal, Agnihotri, 2017). Drug abuse, according to Oluremi (2019), is the harmful use of psychoactive chemicals. The word often refers to a problem with illegal drugs, he continued, but it can also refer to dangerous usage of legal prescription medications, including self-medication. For their daily activities, including social, educational, political, and moral ones, the majority of teenagers in Nigeria unintentionally depend on narcotics of one form or another. Oshikoya and Alli (2006); Oshodi, Aina, and Onajole (2021) identified dependence and addiction as one of the main outcomes of drug abuse, characterized by compulsive drug craving seeking behaviors that persist even in the face of negative consequences. These researchers conducted studies on the perception of drug abuse among Nigerian undergraduates. Tobacco, Indian hemp, cocaine, morphine, heroin, alcohol, ephedrine, Madras, and caffeine are some examples of these drugs.

These modifications put the person in danger of harm because they are detrimental and inappropriate in the social or environmental setting. All Nigerians, especially the government, the community, the leaders of the many organizations and NGOs, the society, and the religious

authorities should be worried about drug usage among young people and adolescents. Adolescents (aged 11 to 25) frequently experiment with drugs. At this age, they experiment with a ton of different things. They take drugs for a variety of reasons, including curiosity and the desire to find out how effective a certain substance is, as well as to feel good, decompress, or feel mature. The chance of later drug usage increases with early alcohol and tobacco use. Data from the World Heart Foundation and the WHO indicate that 22.1

The Nigerian government seems to lose sight of its responsibilities despite stating that tobacco should be regulated in a market-oriented framework that strikes an optimum balance and the need to produce a healthy labor force. It is claimed that teen smokers are being persuaded to die young from CVDs, lung cancer, and other tobacco-related diseases. (Abudu) 2019 and 2020 (Giade). In Nigeria, commercials and performances already promote smoking to teenagers. While some kids will experiment with drugs, quit using them, or use them infrequently without suffering negative effects, others will develop an addiction, graduate to harsher drugs, and severely harm not only themselves but also society as a whole (Akinlade, 2019).

Many people continue to advocate for the safety of these medications despite the efforts of numerous organizations and concerned individuals to stop this hazard. With words like "for grandeur" and "for a brighter life," they give them. There have been important reports about the drug use hazard on a global scale. 13 percent of kids between the ages of (11 and 15) had used drugs, according to the British officer for National Statistics. Amphetamine use among teens (Oshodi, 2021) Barbiturates are taken more frequently by suicidal teens than by drug addicts. In the past, youth abuse in Madras reached epidemic levels (Abudu, 2019). On the other hand, marijuana, commonly referred to as cannabis, appears to be the drug that youngsters abuse the most frequently. (UNODC, 2020). In Nigeria, you can get drugs in parking lots, on street corners, on university campuses, in unfinished buildings, and beneath flyovers. If you conducted a survey of the cannabis and other drug consumption by youths in the Ring Road stores in Benin City, Ajegunle in Lagos, Mabushi in Abuja, and the underpass in Onitsha, you would be startled (Abudu 2019).

There is no doubt that family and self-identity are linked. In 2021, Moore believes that the development of an adolescent's personality or sense of self will be heavily influenced by familial interactions. Additionally, social orientations can be positively modeled and accepted thanks to individual adaptations and familial exposure to cultural norms. From a traditional standpoint, the family has a duty to protect and support all of its members, strong and weak, helping them to manage stress while raising its younger and more vulnerable members, the children”.

During the socialization process, families and parents have an impact on young people's conduct by guiding them in the proper directions and enforcing social norm compliance. In traditional African civilization, socialization developed gradually from the time of a child's birth until old age, building on a person's earlier socially accepted accomplishments. Socialization includes acquiring the necessary knowledge of society. A child who has grown up in a loving, dependent home values themselves highly and feels a strong sense of familial loyalty. He or she is an independent worker who is needed in every society. It's important to keep in mind that children learn by seeing and copying what adults say and do, and that socialization is usually unplanned. It's possible that as they mature, they will pick up both beneficial

Adewumi (2022) asserts that youngsters who are exposed to the bar culture by their parents while taking part in family events are more likely to consume alcohol in adulthood. The study claims that this will affect young people's development over the long term. It is difficult for

parents to teach their children about the dangers of alcohol usage when they frequently drink in the company of the very people whose character they are expected to mold. The family has undergone significant structural and role changes as a result of being a part of society. In some situations, rapid social, economic, and technological development can weaken family bonds and a person's sense of belonging in many social circumstances. A huge extended family is being replaced by a smaller nuclear family plus close relatives in the traditional African family structure. In contrast to past periods, children's socializing has been ignored. Many young individuals are left in the care of domestic servants because their parents must work.

Drinking was not considered appropriate in aboriginal culture. As a result of modern parents freeing their kids from the restrictions that once restricted alcohol consumption, binge drinking has become a popular pastime. According to the same poll, youngsters as young as 10 are not only using alcohol but also suffering its harmful effects. Concern is sparked by accounts of adolescents who are just starting rehab for alcoholism (NACADA, 2020). The problems are unquestionably signs of a bigger problem and are a direct outcome of the way that alcohol and drug use is socialized among young people.

Thanks to a number of socialization mechanisms, including the peer group, instructors, the media, the government, the church, the mosques, and interactions with diverse individuals, people are acquiring values that go beyond those of their immediate localized culture. Since the family is less active in the socialization of the young, nothing in the way of values and customs is transmitted to them. As a result, the traditional value system has degraded, leading to moral degeneration. The majority of youths' time is spent in the community with their peers.

Strong family relationships can prevent young people from consuming drugs by providing support for the family's children. Lack of parental security, prosperity, or employment can exacerbate family stress and vulnerability, which can encourage marginalized people to seek solace or "solutions" in alcohol or drugs. Adolescent drug use should be prevented by understanding the elements that are likely to influence young people's behavior. Instability in the family, drug use by parents, harsh punishment, and lack of emotional interaction are all thought to be familial factors that may contribute to or aggravate drug use (Adewale, 2022)".

### **Common Drug abuse and Youth Involvement abuse**

**Alcohol:** Alcohol is a very addictive drug. It affects the body depressively and slows brain activity. However, a variety of alcoholic beverages, such as bear, stout, (burutkutu, pito), illegal gin or ogoro, palm wine, and other alcoholic beverages are consumed by teens in Nigeria.

**Hallucinogens:** Commonly referred to as hallucinogens, psychedelic drugs disrupt one's state of consciousness and result in hallucinations. This chemical typically takes the form of LSD (Lysergic acid diethylamide).

**Marijuana:** Cannabis sativa, a type of hemp that originated in central Asia but is now grown all over the globe, is the plant that gives rise to marijuana, a stronger psychedelic chemical. The dried resin of the hemp plant, from which marijuana is made, is known as hashish. The psychotropic chemical in marijuana is called THC, short for delta tetrahydrocannabinol. Due to how slowly marijuana is absorbed, its effects may linger for several days.

**Stimulants:** Stimulants are a class of drugs that stimulate the central nervous system. Cocaine, amphetamines, nicotine, and coffee are the stimulants that are used the most frequently. Depressants are a different class of drugs that slow down the central nervous system as well as bodily functions and behavior. Among these depressive drugs include barbiturates and tranquilizers.



## Causes of Drug Abuse

**Experimental Curiosity:** Thus, the desire to experience drugs' uncharted potential drives young people to utilize drugs. When someone consumes drugs for the first time, they experience an arousal state, such as happiness or pleasure, which encourages them to continue taking drugs.

**Peer Group Influence:** Peers frequently influence young individuals to use drugs. Peer pressure is a fact of life during puberty and youth, which accounts for this. They aim to depend more on their friends and less on their parents. In Nigeria, as in other parts of the world, one cannot interact with others until they accept him for who he is.

**Lack of parental supervision:** Many parents lack the free time necessary to watch over their children. Some parents engage with their family members infrequently or not at all, while others put pressure on their children to do well in school or pass tests. These phenomena start drug misuse and make it worse.

**Personality Problems due to socio-Economic Conditions:** Young people's drug use has been associated with personality problems brought on by cultural pressures. Most Nigerians experience subpar social and economic situations. Because of the widespread poverty, the large number of dysfunctional households, and the rising rate of unemployment, our youth wander the streets looking for work or resort to begging. These issues have gotten worse due to a lack of skills, chances for training and retraining, and a lack of commitment to supporting private and community entrepreneurs that create jobs. We turn to substance use to temporarily reduce the tension and problems these problems generate when they annoy us.

### **The Need for Energy to Work for Long Hours:**

Since the economy is failing and the people are becoming poorer and less empowered, many parents have sent their kids out to find jobs to help support the family. These young individuals put in a lot of overtime at tasks including bus driving, head loading, scavenging, and serving in canteens. To boost their vitality, they frequently use medications.

**Availability of the Drugs:** In many countries, drugs have dropped in prices as supplies have increased.

**The Need to prevent the Occurrence of Withdrawal symptoms:** When a drug user stop using it, they go through "withdrawal symptoms." Such symptoms include ache, anxiousness, heavy sweating, and shaking. The drug user is encouraged to keep using since he is unable to withstand the symptoms.

### **Prevalence of Substance Use and the isolation of Youths in decision making**

The criminal justice system, the healthcare system, and worker productivity in the community are all significantly hampered by alcohol and drug abuse. Addiction to drugs and alcohol has also been established as a risk factor for domestic violence and road accidents (Manning 2019). Direct tobacco uses causes more than 5 million fatalities worldwide each year. 2019 (BMC Psychiatry). The public health problem of tobacco usage is becoming more significant in developing countries. The prevalence of smoking cigarettes is relatively high in Africa. 2019 (BMC Psychiatry). Favorable perceptions of the problem behavior (such as low perceived risk of harm, family history of the behavior, having friends who use substances, community laws and norms favoring drug use, firearms and crime, community disorganization, and poverty) are risk factors linked to an increase in adolescent substance use. Drug abuse is a social issue that has an impact on general health.

Estimates indicate that the average annual retail price of psychotropic medications in Nigeria is over \$15,000 USD, as opposed to the more than 30,000 USD produced by sales of alcoholic beverages, excluding spirit, to a market of between 30 and 35 million people. 2017 (Matthew 0.0). Recent events in Nigeria seem to suggest that young people are being used to conduct various crimes, including terrorism, while using drugs. Analysis and regulation of the use of these substances are required to halt the growth of these social diseases”.

Drug abuse is common in many countries (UNODC, 2017). Studies show that the problem is more common in developing countries, and even in highly developed societies, prevention and control methods might be difficult (UNODC, 2017). The uneven distribution of medical facilities is to blame for this. The abundance of connected social issues makes the situation in developing nations seem hopeless (Obot, 2017). Drug abuse has no geographic boundaries. A global problem exists (UNODC, 2019). Ignorance and illiteracy have also significantly contributed to a fair amount of this societal issue in many rural regions. The presence of some of these events and rituals in Nigeria implies that there are cultural limitations on widespread drug use.

Due to the historical significance attached to them, this. Local commodities like kolanuts, tobacco, and snuff are usually required as part of custom in numerous traditional rituals. Alcohol in the form of palm wine and regional gin are among the other native substances. The extended family system and social order in Nigeria seem to have fallen apart recently. Use of alcohol and other drugs is a recent development that has reached lethal levels. Young people are at risk because of the socioeconomic repercussions that have been well documented. These drugs' use has been associated with a large resurgence of social and economic problems as well as a higher likelihood of people developing mental illness (Igwe, 2017).

Abuse has the impact of making more people more likely to develop a mental illness. Therefore, it is essential to limit and outlaw the use of these substances if efforts are to be successful in reducing the associated social and health dangers. Despite the rising negative social indicators of these substances in Nigeria, the widespread usage as well as the novel pattern and type, including prescription pharmaceuticals, appear to indicate that there are insufficient control strategies”.

### **Preventive measures against Drug abuse among the Youths**

Gorman claims that over time, scholars have created drug usage prevention strategies that have been applied in communities (2017). These include conventional and psychological measurements. Two components of classical or traditional educational approaches are imparting truthful knowledge to youngsters and promoting favorable feelings. These strategies were frequently used throughout the 1960s and 1970s. Some of the psychological strategies include resistance skill training as well as social and personal skill development. These were prevalent around the middle of the 1980s. In North America, Europe, and Australia, many of these strategies were created and put into use. Botvin addresses the use of community-based drug and alcohol prevention strategies in the US and Canada (2019). These include social influence, the development of competency, and the efficient dissemination of knowledge (education).

By passing a series of anti-drug laws, the Nigerian government has taken unilateral steps to minimize, eliminate, or dissuade the use, sale, trafficking, and recycling of illegal narcotics in Nigeria. The NDLEA was founded in accordance with the well-known Anti-narcotic Decree. Decree 48, currently known as Cap N30 Law of the Federation, was passed in 1989 by the Federal Military Government Journal of Social Sciences Vol.3, No.2, 2020, and it formed the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency. Both the supply and demand sides of the drug

equation are within the purview of the Agency. The Federal Government of Nigeria is aware that addressing the drug problem just with supply reduction measures will not be sufficient, hence the emphasis on demand reduction. The Drug Reduction Directorate is responsible for lowering the demand for illegal narcotics. When the Agency originally started out, the Drug Demand Reduction directorate was known as the Counselling Unit. The former name was deemed inappropriate because it only mentioned a tiny percentage of the Directorate's responsibilities and constitutional obligations. Be a result, the Directorate's efforts are now collectively referred to as the Drug Demand Reduction Directorate, changing the name of the Units (Nwodo, 2020).

Competence enhancement (life skills training) is a supplementary drug and alcohol abuse prevention strategy that transmits social and personal skills, according to Adeyemi and Olakunle (2017). Teaching social coping skills, personal self-management abilities, and the application of general skills to peer pressure situations like smoking, drinking, and using other substances are given a lot of attention in this course. In order to assist pupils, resist peer and media pressure, self-management strategies such as problem-solving, decision-making, and critical thinking are taught. These skills also promote improved self-control and self-worth. Drug resistance skills involve teaching drug rejection tactics, but basic social skills also include assertiveness and effective communication”.

Competence improvement measures are based on the theory that drug and alcohol addiction behavior is socially learnt through modeling, imitation, and reinforcement and is influenced by pro-drug cognitions, attitudes, and beliefs. If these characteristics are not addressed, they enhance the young person's vulnerability to social influences that favor drug use, along with poor social and personal skills. The Ministry of Education (2017) promotes the use of experiential strategies and interactive techniques such role playing, demonstrations, modeling, feedback and reinforcement, behavior rehearsal, and homework assignments in order to develop competence. Additionally, focus groups are used to educate teenagers and help them make sensible decisions. These groups include brainstorming, buzz groups, discussion, mini-dramas, story-telling, music, and brainstorming to do this. A person's environment assessment.

### Research Methodology

Using descriptive survey research design, multi-stage sampling technique, quantitative approach for data collection using questionnaires. The data gathered from the respondents will be analyzed by using the SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). Analysis will be carried out with the generation of frequency and percentage tables to ascertain the relationship between the variables.

**Table 1.1 Socio Demographic Data of the respondents**

		Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age	18 -20 years	20	13.3
	21 - 30 years	71	47.4
	31 years and above	59	39.3
	Total	150	100.0
Gender	Male	95	63.3
	Female	55	36.7
	Total	150	100.0
Religion	Christianity	125	83.7
	Islam	20	13.3

	Traditional Religion	5	3.0
	Total	150	100
Educational Qualification	Primary	11	7.4
	Secondary	83	55.3
	Tertiary	56	37.3
	Total	150	100

*Source: Researcher's field work (2023)*

Table 4.1 revealed that 71(47.7%) of the respondents' age lie between 21-30 years, this signifies the youthful age of the study population, 95(63.3%) of the respondents are male, also 125(83.70%) of the respondents are Christians, finally, 83(55.3%) of the respondents have secondary education.

## Research Questions

**Research Question 1:** (What are the causes of the drug abuse among the youths in Ado Ekiti LGA, Ekiti State?)

Table 1.2: Causes of the drug abuse among the youths in Ado Ekiti LGA, Ekiti State

Items	SA	A	SD	D
Influence of peer pressure play major role in youth drug abuse	78(52.0%)	57(38.0%)	1(.7%)	14(9.3%)
Curiosity to experiment the unknown facts about drugs motivates youth into drug use	45(30.0%)	90(60.0%)	0(0%)	15(10.0%)
Availability and accessibility of the Drugs	45(30.0%)	72(48.0%)	18(12.0%)	15(10.0%)

*Source: Researcher's fieldwork (2023)*

Table 1.2 revealed that 78(52%) of the respondents strongly agreed that influence of peer pressure play major role in youth drug abuse, 90(60.0%) agreed that curiosity to experiment the unknown facts about drugs motivates youth into drug use, 72(48%) of the respondents agreed that Availability and accessibility of the drugs. Findings of this study is in line with finding of Denga (2019), who conducted a study on the Demographic Factors as Predictors of Drug abuse and Violent crimes Among youth in Some Selected Secondary Communities in Nasarawa State, Nigeria. The study employed the survey method and a Scale on Perception of Drug abuse Effect and Violence (SOPPSEV) was used to elicit information from the participants in selected communities in two Local Governments, Lafia and Kokona Local Government Areas of Nasarawa State. There were 103 participants, 80 males and 23 females. A  $2 \times 2 \times 4$  design was used to analyse the data. The results revealed that there was generally positive public perception on Drug abuse and violent crime among youth. Study also, revealed that there is a statistically significant positive influence between age and gender group on the perception of Drug abuse and violent crimes among youth. The study concluded that there are numbers of factors that are responsible for the causes of drug abuse among the youths.

Research Question 2: Does family background have any significant effect on drugs abuse among the youths in Ado Ekiti LGA, Ekiti State?

**Table 1.3:**

Lack of parental supervision or lack of parental guide	83(55.3%)	45(30.0%)	4(2.7%)	18(12.0%)
Poor family background causes youth to engage	88(58.7%)	62(41.3%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Separation and divorcement in the family causes youth to engage	45(30.0%)	75(50.0%)	15(10.0%)	15(10.0%)

*Source: Researcher's fieldwork (2023)*

Table 1.3 revealed that 83(55.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that lack of parental supervision or lack of parental guide, 88(58.7%) strongly agreed that poor family background causes youth to engage, also 75(50%) of the respondents agreed that Separation and divorcement in the family causes youth to engage. Finding of this study contradict the finding of Kobiowu (2021) on the study titled the Social Demographic Data and Academic Implications of Drug Abuse among Undergraduates: A Case Study of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. The sample for the study was 140 males, and 40 females. The data collected were presented in tables and subjected to chi-square statistic. The findings indicated there is no significant effect of family background on youth involvement in drug abuse poor social adjustment on the part of the user characterized by elevated by situational hostility, low level of academic adjustment and that most substances abused by youths were marijuana, cigarettes, cough syrups, locally made gin, beer, kola-nuts and cocaine but the later was not widely abused unlike the other ones.

Research Question 3: What is the impact of drug abuse among the youths in Ado Ekiti LGA, Ekiti State?

**Table 1.4**

Items	SA	A	SD	D
Drug abuse causes youth to engage in risky sexual behavior	77 (51.3%)	53(35.3%)	10(6.7%)	10(6.7%)
Drug abuse can cause youth to become hooliganism or cultist	27(18.0%)	93(62.0%)	15(10.0%)	15(10.0%)
Drug abuse can make youth to become mentally disorder	85(56.6%)	43(28.7%)	4(2.7%)	18(12.7%)

*Source: Researcher's fieldwork (2023)*

Table 1.4 revealed that, 77(51.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that drug abuse causes youth to engage in risky sexual behaviour, 93(62.0%) of the respondents agreed that drug abuse can cause youth to become hooliganism or cultist. While 85(56.6%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Drug abuse can makes youth to become mentally disorder. Finding of this study is in agreement with submission of Onajole (2022) on the study titled "Substance use among community youths in an urban of Edo State, Nigeria. This was a cross-sectional and descriptive study among selected community youths. Finding of the study revealed that there is negative effect of drug use among the youth such as rape, thuggery etc.

Research Question 4: What is the possible solution to tackle the menace of drug abuse among the youths in Ado Ekiti LGA, Ekiti State?

**Table 1.5:**

Government Agencies such as NDLEA, should intensify more effort in curbing the menace of drug abuse among the youths	75(50.0%)	54(36.0%)	11(7.3%)	10(6.7%)
Individual families and parents should take proactive measures to take proper care of their children.	74(49.3%)	46(30.7%)	15(10.0%)	15(10.0%)
Non-governmental organization should intensify more effort in campaigning against the drug abuse among the youths	94(62.7%)	26(17.3%)	15(10.0%)	15(10.0%)

*Source: Researcher's fieldwork (2023)*

Table 1.5 revealed that, 75(50.0%) of the respondents strongly agreed that government Agencies such as NDLEA, should intensify more effort in curbing the menace of drug abuse among the youths 74(49.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Individual families and parents should take proactive measures to take proper care of their children, while 94(62.7%) of the respondents strongly agreed that non-governmental organization should intensify more effort in campaigning against the drug abuse among the youths. Finally, findings of this study are in line with the work of Njeru and Lewis (2022), who researched on causes and possible solution of drug and substance abuse among community youths in Dagoretti Division, Nairobi West District-Kenya. The study aimed at finding out the effect and possible solution of youth's involvement in drugs and the effects that arise out of this practice. The study employed survey research design and was conducted in community in Dagoretti Division, Nairobi. Data was collected with the help of questionnaires. Data was organized and prepared for analysis by coding and entry in the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software programme. The study findings indicate that the possible solution to the drug abuse among the youth is for government to be proactive in strengthening the security agents on drug abuse.

### **Discussion of the findings**

Drug abuse is a disorder that is characterized by a pattern of self-destructive substance use those results in significant problems and suffering. Contrary to what many authors have said, there are various elements that lead to drug misuse, as revealed by the findings of this study. It's caused by at least two or more factors working together. Drug misuse has emerged as a global, social, and psychological problem. It has also been clear that young people in Ado Ekiti, the Ekiti States, and elsewhere openly sell and consume drugs such cigarettes, nicotine, alcohol, cocaine, India herpes, syrup, and tremolos. In addition, drug use among young people is significantly influenced by peer pressure, frustration, and unemployment. Children who get adequate parental guidance will not become involved in drug use.

The results discussed above show that drug abuse is increasingly common and growing exponentially among young people in Ado Ekiti. This study highlighted problems affecting both children and families as well as the increasing hazards of drug use. The majority of these young people who take drugs do so because they want to be like their parents or peers, which is another crucial caution that was highlighted. This amount of risk appears to be influenced by a number of factors, including the number of parents who are impaired, the parents' level of substance abuse and state of recovery, co-occurring parental psychopathology, and the presence

of additional caregivers. Additional, well-documented characteristics include the type of substance used and family history”.

The most visible and specific risk of drug usage may be among young people. Heritability estimates range from 50 to 60 percent, and behavioral genetics studies demonstrate that a significant genetic component contributes to the family transmission of alcohol and substance use disorders. However, environmental factors unquestionably affect this risk and can change it. Dick and colleagues, for instance, showed that situations with less parental supervision and a higher percentage of peers who use drugs have greater genetic repercussions. Current ideas suggest that distinct developmental interactions between hereditary and environmental factors affect the probability of substance use problems in offspring of substance-using parents. The results of this study indicate that drug use among young people is widespread in Ekiti State's Ado Local Government Area.

“In the cause of finding the effects of Drug abuses, it was discovered that Drug abuse can cause mental disorder, truancy, hooliganism, risk sexual behavior, increase body size, staying awake. These discoveries are in accordance with the discovery of Yusuf (2020) who asserted majority of the respondents agreed that substance use leads youth bad habit such as hooliganism, kidnaping, rape, armed robbery etc being absent from community due to various negative health effects associated with the substance. Also, Ogunlesi (2021), is in support, the onset of substance use in youth brings about conduct disorders, juvenile offences, severe truancy, community dropout, anxiety among others. Simply put, substance use does not only result in truancy in community attendance but also other immoral acts that may end up destroying the future that the users could have prepare for themselves”.

The trend presented by the respondents indicate that trainees who are found to indulge themselves in substance use are not often motivated to learn which will eventually lead to poor class performances. Even though the daily use of cannabis does not impair motivation in medical users, continuous use of it will affect the wellbeing of individuals involved in it leading to increase ill health. When substance users are ill, they cannot be actively involved in the learning process.

This could mean that their motivation to learn will also decrease. In order to determine the factors influencing Drug abuse usage, the current study opined that factors such as: peer pressure, paternal education, perceived insincerity of law enforcement agents and availability of Drug abuses can influence the usage of Drug abuse. This result is in congruent with the previous study of Olakunle (2020), indicated that Drug abuse by friends and family member, alongside with feelings of insecurity within the family were significant risk.

Also, in community where some Drug abuses like alcohol and cigarette is available for all, not prohibited by law youth are at high risk of Drug abuse usage. Jumba (2019) also, assert that noteworthy results regarding youth' use of Drug abuses due to peer pressure and confidence during entertainment. Youth who had mothers with primary and secondary education were, respectively, three times and about two times more likely to use Drug abuses compared to mothers who attained tertiary education. It was discovered from the current study that male gender use Drug abuse for than the female gender this discover is consistence with Aguocha, Chukwuma, & Nwefoh, (2020), which observed that there was a higher rate of Drug abuse among male youth than in female youth. The current study finds out that there is significant relationship between youth' class and Drug abuse utilization among senior youths similar finding was observed by Adediji (2019), age and class of youth is significantly associated with Drug abuse consumption.

## **Summary**

This study examined prevalence of drug abuse and its implication to youth-government engagement in Ado Ekiti Local Government Area of Ekiti State. Chapter one of the study evaluate the background to the study, statement of the problem and objective of the study. Chapter two reviewed the related literatures, the authors reviewed were of opinion that, young people are being indoctrinated and used under the influence of drug abuse to penetrate various crimes including terrorism. There is need to examine and control use of these substances in order to prevent escalation of these social maladies. Studies have shown that the problem is more in poorly developed countries, the control and prevention are difficult even in advanced societies (UNODC, 2020). This is because health facilities are not equally distributed. In developing countries, the situation seems to be over whelming due to the myriads of associated social problems (Obot, 2020) Drug abuse is not limited to geographic boundaries. It is a universal problem (UNODC, 2019). Chapter three presented the methodology used for the study, study area, population of the study and sampling technique, while chapter four presented the results of the data generated for the study, finally chapter five presented the summary, conclusion and recommendations.

## **Conclusion**

Consequently, while literature has it that research largely focus on drug abuse and addiction, scholars have overtime glossed over research on the attendant consequences of drug abuse and addiction decimating the youthful capacity to confront political process for participation, involvement, and engagement with the other stakeholders in decision making process and in political discussions that affect the youth.

Hence, the focus of this study is to examine the prevalence of drug abuse and its implications on youth-government engagement in ado Ekiti local government area of Ekiti state. Arising from the foregoing, are the following research questions: What is the nature of drug abuse among youths that affects youth-government engagement? What local concerns serve as incentive to youth drug abuse and addiction? How does drug abuse prevent youth-government engagement? How can drug abuse and addition be controlled among youth? Answers to these questions have the capacity to address the physical mental and social structure capable of isolating youth from its position as a critical force and stakeholder in the making of decision that affect it and engagements with other stakeholders within the corridor of power for sustainable inclusive governance. Law enforcement agencies, the society, policy makers and academia stand to benefit from the outcome of this studies as it is expected to reveal and provide empirically informed options to drug abuse/addictions and solutions to political isolation and exclusive governance.

## **Recommendation**

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were mad;

- i. The government needs to address the issue of God-fatherism in order to decrease drug abuse among young people in Ekiti state and throughout Nigeria.
- ii. Parents are urged to raise their children appropriately and should be cautioned about the effects drug abuse will have on their future.
- iii. Government drug control agencies are urged to work harder so that the risk of drug abuse among youth in Ekiti State is eliminated.
- iv. Finally, communities must work with the government to lower the number of young people abusing drugs.



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