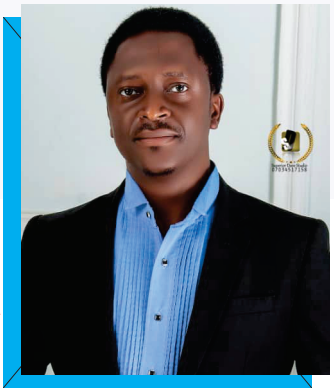
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SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND THE AFRICAN YOUTHS

A CASE STUDY OF NIGERIA YOUNG PEOPLE



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ABSTRACT

Substance abuse continues to evolve in different dimensions and along new lines with advancement in age over time. This menace which has become a global burden has been ravaging the future of african youths, destroying individuals especially young people and leading to castastrophic conditions in the societal structure of the continent and debilitation in the pace of development of African countries.

Psychosocial derailment following substance abuse is a prelude to the increasing incidence and rate of crime in Nigeria.

Identified as one of the biggest risk factors for disease burden globally, as evidenced in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, where prevention and treatment of substance use disorders feature in SDG No 3 two targets are of particular relevance to this current report: target 3.5 – strengthen prevention and treatment of substance use disorders including opoid use and harmful use of alcohol and target 3.8 - Universal health coverage.

This study aims to find out the prevalence; pattern and sociodemographic risk factors of substance abuse disorder; the proportion of young people with these disorders who were aware that they needed treatment and who washed to receive care; the proportion of those seeking care who received it; and the proportion of such treatment that met minimum national standards for treatment quality.

The study assessed 390 young Nigerian People 15-29 years in rural and urban areas of Jos, plateau State,Nigeria.

Substance abuse was prevelent in 23.3% of the 390 young men and women of whom 96.1% were using various forms of substance. There was statistically significant association between substance abuse and age, religion, socio economic status, place of residence (Urban or rural). Most of the people reported initiation of substance use at 14 years of age due to peer pressure.

Data suggest that only a small minority of people with substance use disorders received minimally adequate treatment. Three challenges were reported; awareness/ percieved treatment need, accessing treatment once a need is recognized, and compliance to obtain adequate treatment. Various factors are to be likely to be involved in each of these challenges all of which need to be addressed to improve treatment coverage of substance use addictive disorders. Peer educators would be a useful strategy for communication to counter peer pressure especially in adolescents and prevention and control measures should be started at primarily education level, while inter-sectorial (Academic institutions,

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religious institutions, traditional institution, non-governmental organization, CSOs, CBOs, NDLEA and UNODC) inter-agency collaborations are imperative to curb down the menace.

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BIOGRAPHY

Dr Reuben Kamah, 35 years is a graduate of medicine from University of Jos, Nigeria, Postgraduate Diploma in Public Health with concentration in community psychatric from college of public health, Addis Ababa University, Ethopia and master of public health in view. He has worked as medical officer with Bauchi State Ministry of Health from 2015 to 2018, He is a co founder and the executive Director "Medical Doctors Inter-Community Health Initiative, MICHI", a commuinty based health development and humanitarian NGO. As a public health enthusiast in the field of substance addiction, he has published 6 papers in some medical journals and has been serving as the Director of Substance Abuse programs in MICHI even as the executive director.

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SESSION OF INTEREST

· Substance abuse

CATEGORY

· Oral presentation