

## Effects of Substance Abuse Consumption and Socio-Economic Development in Kontagora Local Government Area, Niger State



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**ABSTRACT:** Substance abuse and its effects on socio economic development, a study of Kontagora Local Government area of Niger State is the topic of the study. The study rise some questions on some of the effects of substance abuse on socio economic development, how do the abusers access the substance both local and industrialized substance, why do people engaged in substance abuse, what are the challenges face by law enforcement agents in tackling the menace of substance abuse in Kontagora local government area of Niger state. The study aimed at finding out whether or not substance abuse has effects on socio economic development in Kontagora. The study examine and investigates ways, methods and manners on how do people abuse local and industrialized substance. The study adopted Merton's Structural Strain Theory as the study theoretical framework, and the method used in data collections was documentary. The following are some findings of the study, substance abusers do not face much challenges in accessing the substance of both local and industrialized substance as far as they have the means (Money) to buy the substance, furthermore, the study revealed that some of the factors that contributes to the escalation rate of the substance abusers are broken home, peer group influence, unemployment, nurture, and inadequate parental care, etc. Finally, the study recommends Establishment of Counseling Centers for Substance Control, Designing Curriculum on Substance education in our schools, Establishment of Substance Awareness Units in all our political wards across the country, and frequent Campaign against Substance abuse by law enforcement agencies.

**KEYWORDS:** Substance abuse, economy, development, Unemployment, Counseling

### INTRODUCTION

Substance abuse is a social and contemporary social problem which is a condition that affect a significant number of people in so many ways considered undesirable about which it is felt that something should be done through collective social action across the world. In other words, social contemporary problem is a matter which affects an organized group of people in one form that needs immediate solutions. Thus, substance abuse is part of the social problems that falls under human or behavioral social problem which are broadly resulted from the action ways and manners of the individuals or group of individuals in a given society.

In Nigeria, the general observation shows that some people procure and utilize substances for every activity they engage in. The situation has been in many states of Nigeria, including Niger state and Kontagora local government to be precise, especially among adolescents and youths of both sex (male and female) who constitute the high risk group. Substance abuse is one of the biggest social problems of the modern age affecting both developed and developing nations (Shehu, 2012). Substance abuse is associated with criminal activities such as murder, armed robbery, suicide bombing, violence, political thuggery and all sought of deviant act, (Abudu, 2008).

Some of these substances are drugs that people ingest, inhale, absorb or apply/rub on to their bodies, as industrially processed chemical components which are capable of affecting the physiological and psychological functions of an organism. These substances comprise all kinds of medicine, such as tablets, syrups, balms and capsules which are sold at patent medicine stores, at pharmaceutical shops, and by street itinerant hawkers. They also include locally and industrially processed or produced substances such as beverages, chemicals, marijuana, cigarettes, alcohol, leaves or bark of trees and the likes. They can be harmful, if misused or abused, and when the use is continuous, it could lead to addiction. Substance abuses are phenomena that have taken a wider and frightening dimension worldwide (Dukku, 2010).

Since the early times, herbs, leaves and plants have been use to heal and control diseases. The use of drugs in itself does not constitute any danger, because drugs correctly administered have been a blessing. Sambo (2008) viewed that "chronic use of substances can cause serious, sometimes irreversible damage to adolescent's physical and psychological development. The use of

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drugs could be beneficial or harmful depending on the mode of use. A substance refers to a substance that could bring about a change in the biological function through its chemical actions (Okoye, 2001). It is also considered as a substance that modifies perceptions, cognition, mood, behavior and general body functions (Balogun, 2006). Substance abuse is a major public health problem all over the world (UNODC) (2005).

Drug abuse 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 as a result to the activities of persons under the influence of one substance or the other.

Moreover, Peer group influence to a great extent is a crucial factor that role in predisposing youths generally. The abuse of most chemical substances by youths is thus, socially acquired through peer group, class mates etc.

Substance abuse, in whatever form, is a social and contemporary problem that threatens the abuser's personal development, which includes mental challenges, falls of family reputation, and society's socio-economic, cultural and political structure imbalances. The phenomenon of substance abuse constitutes a contemporary global social problem, because it is found in all societies. The problem was previously associated with males but, in some cases the rate at which young ladies between the age brackets 18-25 years abuse industrially, and locally processed substance which are intoxicants and very alarming. This has a number of negative consequences on society's progress. For example, Siro (2008) identified violence, unemployment, peer group influence, high rate of divorce and marital instability as parts of the side effects of substance abuse. He further maintained that even married women do engage in abusing the substances.

However, the abuse of different types of substances among people has become a common phenomenon particularly pharmaceutical drug substance. Furthermore, substance abusers involve in the act due to one reason or the other. The existence of varieties of drug substances, many ways of accessing the substances and other factors influencing the abusing of substances among peoples undermines the efforts of the law enforcement agents to tackle the menace of substance abuse. It has been observed in Nigeria that substances abusers are being abused and the ways in which abusers have access to the substance it varies, for example, Magaji (2012) reports various ways in which abusers had access to the substances to abuse which include among others; friends, patent medicine shops, underground agents (local hawkers), mammy markets, security agents etc.

Furthermore, some official of law enforcement agents (NDLEA and collaborative agencies) who are responsible for the task of controlling the menace are assumed to be involved in the act, yet the emergent of substance abusers add burden to these agencies which resulted to an episode of substance abuse in the society. The recent involvement of females in substance abuse seems to be against what was obtainable in the past when such acts were mostly associated with their male counterparts, but today the rate of female substance abuser is going concurrently with that of male substance abusers. (Musa, 2012). The abuse may increase the level of deviant activities in the society. As a result of that if the abuse of substances persists among females, the effects will not only affect them, but equally their children and the society at large. This necessitates the investigation on the commonly abused substances among people including males and female, means of accessing the substances, factors of predisposing to the abuse of substances, effects of substance abuse and the challenges facing law enforcement agencies in tackling the menace of substance abuse in Kontagora Local government area.

### **AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The study aim at finding out the effects of substance abuse consumption on socio-economic development in Kontagora local government area of Niger state, Nigeria.

1. To find out do substance abuse have effects on socio economic development in Kontagora local government.
2. To examine the relationship between substance abusers (buyers) and the hawkers (sellers) in accessibility of the substance.
3. To investigate ways, methods and manners on how do people abuse locally and industrialized substance.

This study will focus primarily on substance abuse. And the study area is Kontagora local government area, the assessment of the deviant acts, and to what extent substance abuse implicates socio economic development, the ways of curtailing the menace of substance. Therefore, the study of substance abuse is limited to Kontagora township, these is because, other part of the Local government (villages) is not that too easy to have access with the substance abusers, even if you do, you will not get exactly the information you need from them, because they are afraid of the secrete security agency more than those who leaves in the metropolitan part of the local government which is the Kontagora township.

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## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS

### Substance

Perspective differs between and among scholars on the meaning of commonly abuse substance. (Musa, 2012. Siro, 2008. Abdullahi, 2003. Coleman, 2010). Sees the commonly abuse substance as: A study by Musa (2012) on benelyn consumption among female in Tarauni Local Government Area of Kano State indicates that majority of the respondents constituting 65% abused benelyn and that they were introduced by their friends either in schools or out of schools, and his findings also revealed that majority of the respondents fall within the ages 18-23 years. Also, Siro (2008) reveals that the common substances of abuse in Kano include: cough syrup with codeine, Indian hemp, rubber solution and 'Gadagi' though low abuse is recorded on heroin, cocaine and Roche. Similarly, Abdullahi (2003) reveals that non-medical Substances used by youths include: *Hankufa* (waltheria americana), *goro* (kolanut), *tabagari* (powdered tobacco), and *dankamaru* (bitter root usually imported from Cameroon).

According to Coleman (2010) the findings of NDLEA yearly data on substance abuse (1991, 1992, 1996 and 1997) reveals tremendous increase in the abuse of cannabis by the youths in Nigeria. Study by Okaza and Aluede (2009) on drug abuse among students of Ambrose Ali University, Ekpoma reveal that the substances/drugs used by respondents are in the following: Alcohol 25%, marijuana 32%, cocaine 9%, Kola nuts 8%, tobacco 7%, librium 2%, valium 1%, dexamphetamine 9%, reactivan 2% mandrax 1% and Chinese capsules 4% respectively. Fatoye and Morakinyo (2002), report that the most commonly used drugs and their current prevalence rates were salicylate analgesics, 40.7%; stimulants, 20.9%; antibiotics, 16.5%; alcohol, 13.4%; hypnosedatives, 6.4% and Tobacco, 3.0%. Abudu (2008), reports that majority of the Nigerian youths ignorantly depend on one form of drug or the other for their daily activities, including educational and political activities. These include Tobacco, Indian hemp, Cocaine, Heroin, Alcohol, amphetamines, Caffeine etc. Oladele and Olufunmilayo (2013), reveals that the most commonly abused types of substances were analgesics, cannabis, tobacco, alcohol and sedatives. Similarly, Egbuoma, Chukwuma and Uwaka (2004), posit that majority of their respondents with 38.3% used tobacco, 35.2% alcohol and 27.4% sedatives respectively. Similarly, study by Eneh and Stanley (2004) on patterns of substance use among secondary school students in Rivers State reveals the prevalence of alcohol use to be 65%. Studies by Magaji (2012), Okaza and Aluede (2009), Fatoye et al (2002) etc., all have adequate data, but most of their findings revealed the prevalence of the abuse of industrially processed substances. Equally, most of the studies were carried out in educational institutions. Therefore, there is the need to explore the commonly abuse substances (locally and industrially) in Kontagora in order to fill in the gaps based on the experience in the society.

According to Abudul (2008), Substance is any chemical that carries negative conditions which when taken inhale or ingest it will harm functions of the body of the user. Abdul further defined substance abuse as the use of mood modifying substances illegally, excessively and in a socially unacceptable manner. The drugs range from those that should not even be taken without medical prescription such as cocaine, amphetamine, heroin, marijuana, LSD25 to the socially acceptable beverages such as whisky, local gin, beer and other alcoholic drinks. Bukarti (2009) viewed substance abuse as the improper use or application of drugs by a person without proper knowledge of the drugs and without due prescription from a qualified medical practitioner. This definition focuses on psychoactive drugs, all drugs can be abused to an extent that it turns into addiction when the drug user is unable to stop the use of drugs despite the harmful effects on the user's social, personal and economic lives.

### Development

Development is a complex concept but there are certain words that are associated with it, thus includes improvement, advancement, progress, transformation, change etc. All these concepts are associated with development due to the critical nature. As such, several definitions of development as offered by scholars with different perspective. To Palanbora (1966) sees development as a continues process of positive transformation change in the quantity and span of life of a person or group of a persons. To Rodney (1972) development implies increased skill and capacity, greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material wellbeing. Moreover, development means improvement on the material and non-material aspect of life which involves actions, reactions and motion.

### Socio Economic

Socio economic development, therefore is a process of social and economic development in a society. Socio economic development is measured with indicators such as, gross domestic product (GDP), life expectancy, literacy, levels of employment, human development index (HDI) etc. In a general term, socio economic factors include Occupation, Education, Income, Wealth and Where someone lives. Moreover, the core principles of socio economic development are to live and make a living in a sustainable society, people must respect the economic principles scarcity, efficiency, and sovereignty.

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### **METHODOLOGY**

This chapter provide an explanation on the methodology used in this research which is documentary. It also includes qualitative approaches such as journals, publications and other records materials for analysis.

### **Overview of Global Perspectives on Substance Abuse in relation to Kontagora Local government area of Niger state, Nigeria**

According to Wilfred (2009), found that the youths in the upper class strata abused medicinal substances by 15%, non-medicinal substances 20%, hard substance 65% and 10% for others. The youths in the middle class showed 25% abuse of medicinal substances, 30% non-medicinal, 45% hard substance, and 50% others. While the lower class youths indicated 30% abuse of medicinal substances, 35% non-medicinal, 20% hard substance and 10% others. Similarly, Watt (1997), reports that the result of a survey in UK 1996 revealed that over five million people used cannabis, one million use amphetamines, nine hundred thousand used LSD and over five hundred thousand use Ecstasy. Leonard and Marvin (1970) report that social learning from peers, or group influenced by individuals or playmates, group activities or behaviors often influence their members to behave in a similar manner. South Africa for example, it has been a tradition of drug consumption in the country. The use of cannabis substance, known as "*dagga*" in South Africa date back to the 15th century. Arabs as well as Persians and Indians merchants were inter alia responsible for the spreads of substance abuse along the eastern coast of African continent in the (13<sup>th</sup> Century). In the 15<sup>th</sup> century Swahili merchants in eastern Africa and some Bantu tribes in central and southern Africa cooperated and in brought the plant to South Africa where it was later also cultivated. Cannabis gained in popularity in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century. (OGD, 1996). In 1928 authorities in south Africa introduces the first drug legislation concerning cannabis (Wright, 1991). The use of cannabis was for a long time largely limited to the African population. Only over the last two decades, cannabis also gained popularity among the coloured and the population. In the case of Nigeria history of substance abuse dates back to the pre-colonial era when a man settled from being a gatherer to a farmer, among the first crops he cultivated intoxicants such as wine, strong tobacco and other hard substance. Illicit drugs as we know today are not of Nigerian origin, they were introduced by world war ii veterans who fought in Malaysia and Burma. After the world war they returned with huge amount of concealed packets of cannabis as souvenirs. After its introduction. There was an irregular and illegal cultivation of cannabis as a farm produce. Research shows that between the 60<sup>s</sup> and 70s, drugs trafficking was very low because it was mostly cannabis that was cultivated. However, as time went on, the 80s arrived and so also did drugs like cocaine, heroin and other traditional substance abuse find their way into the country (Nigeria). And the reaction of the Nigerian government towards curtailing the menace of the substance abuse is by introducing an agency to fight for the illicit act of substance abuse. These agencies are National Agency for Food Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC). And the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA). To check the excesses of drug production, circulation, distribution and consumption.

### **Access to Substances of Abuse**

Bukarti (2009) and Abdullahi (2000), report that there is unrestricted availability of various kinds of drugs in Nigeria despite the existence of restrictive laws; drugs like sedatives and stimulants are easily accessible in shops, mobile shops, patent medicine stores and open market and so on. Furthermore, they argued that the tendency to abuse drug is enhanced by the state of affairs in Nigeria. Dukku (2012), notes that drugs can only be abused when they are available irrespective of strong desire in individual without availability (supply) there can be no drug abuse. He further reveals that the stands of literature on drug use specifically indicate that the opportunity to take a given drug depends on easy access of it, such that without the availability of such substances, the abuse will not take place. Studies by Dukku (2012), and Burkati (2009) reveal that female youths often access substances of abuse due to their availability in many places like patent medicine stores, motor parks, unlicensed drug sellers/hawkers and the poor legal framework and ill prepared laws in Nigeria, because much of the substances of abuse are not prohibited by the law thereby limiting the effort of the law enforcement agencies to control the circulation of these substances in the market. The supply side of it are the factors that contribute to the supply of substance such as factories, patent medicine stores, hospitals, drug traffickers/pushers, dealers of cannabis, ill-prepared law enforcement agencies, etc., all of which facilitate the supply side. The demand side on the other hand, deals with factors associated with abuse of a particular substance. Equally, Shehu (2012) points out that whenever drugs are available in our societies and people have easy access to them without legislation guiding the sales, people are more likely to abuse them and continue with the abuse, this is very common in Nigeria where substances of abuse are easily accessible in many places and consequently female youths access and use substances like codeine, Roche etc. Abdullahi (2000), notes that the sources of dependence providing substance include: patent medicine shops, off license mobile sellers (using bicycles and motorcycles, motor vehicles) road hawkers to mention but few. He further revealed that almost all the respondents noted that the drugs are not difficult to get unless one is new to the environment where substances of abuse are sold.

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### **Predisposing Factors for Substance Abuse**

So many factors have been proffered for the causes of deviant acts in general and substance abuse in particular. Durkheim used the term anomie in an attempt to explain why deviant acts such as substance abuse, theft and so on occur in human society. In his work titled "suicide" he argued that deviance is as a result of social and personal disorganization. He argued that in normal time, norms are clear and are followed by almost all and sundry, but in periods of social disorganization people find themselves in confusing situation. In this period, the ability to differentiate between acceptable behavior and deviant act becomes difficult.

Therefore, it is not surprising for some people to behave contrary to the social norms by engaging in deviant acts such as substance abuse, prostitution, theft etc. among the youths including males and females. Abdullahi (2003), reports that some earlier works on substance abuse in Nigeria revealed that Nigeria is an achievement oriented society which the major concern of most members is to earn money quickly in order to attain the goal of richness and be respected in the society. Consequently, since the emphasis is on money, whatever one does to get it is tolerated by many. Hence, drug users such as students, commercial motorcycle riders, commercial sex workers, long distance drivers etc., for reasons other than medical purposes do so in order to be able to endure the hardship in their work with the goal of becoming materially successful in the society. These reasons may account for why some people engaged in the abuse of substances like codeine, Rafeinol, Roche, Tramadol to mention but few. Dambazau (2000), links the occurrence of deviant acts like drug abuse to poverty and unemployment which he argued created an environment which breed frustration and increased stress which resulted in feelings of hopelessness, especially in a country where there is no provision for social welfare in order to give temporary relief to the poor and unemployed. Thus, these problems become the catalysts for deviant acts like substance abuse among Nigerian youths in particular. Consequently, if the behavior of substance abuse is reinforcing the individual persistence use of substance tends to be maintained. He further maintained that there are primary reinforces i.e. events that have inherent ability to provide the recipient with reward or satisfaction and the secondary/learned reinforces. The view of Dambazau support the argument of Sutherland who posits that deviant acts such as substance abuse among people are learnt in the process of interaction just like any other behavior. Peer group influence to a great extent is a crucial factor that plays a role in predisposing people generally, and particularly youths which includes males and female in substance abuse. Radda and Bukarti (2009) report that social learning from peers, or group influenced by individuals or playmates, group activities or behaviors often influence their members to behave in a similar manner. Alemika (2003), posits that those not smoking while in contact with smokers began learning the habit and eventually became chain smokers through the process of 'Nurture' which is the behavior and act learnt as a result of a societal factor.

The abuse of most chemical substances by people especially the youths is thus, socially acquired through peer group, class mates etc. in Nigerian society (Wilfred, 2009). The view of Wilfred linked the causes of substance abuse to social learning from peers. To Wilfred (2009), notes that Nigerian youths in general and female youths in particular often get involved in substance abuse in order to express the need for independence or hostility towards the adult world. He further argued that since adolescents often live in a fantasy world most of the time, the peculiarity of their personalities often lures them into substance abuse, such as alcohol consumption, smoking habits, even hard substance. Due to personality difficulties, or desire to get rid of stress or strenuous situations or circumstances, some youths of both sexes also indulge in substance abuse in order to minimize internal or external discomfort, though it provides only a temporary relief, most of the times. Furthermore. sexual inadequacies may also result in the use of substances such as stimulants.

### **Classifications of Substance that Individuals do Abused**

In Nigeria, the most common types of abused Substance according to NAFDAC (2000) as cited. by Haladu (2003) are categorized as follows: -

1. Stimulants: These are substances that directly act and stimulate the central nervous system. Users at the initial stage experience pleasant effects such as energy increase. The major source of these comes from caffeine substance.
2. Hallucinogens': These are drugs that alter the sensory processing unit in the brain. Thus, producing distorted perception, feeling of anxiety and euphoria, sadness and inner joy, they normally come from marijuana, LSD etc.
3. Narcotics: These drugs relieve pains, induce sleeping pills and they are addictive. They are found in heroin, codeine, opium etc.
4. Sedatives: These drugs are among the most widely used and abused. This is largely due to the belief that they relieve stress and anxiety, and some of them induce sleep, ease tension, cause relaxation or help users to forget their problems. They are sourced from valium, alcohol, promethazine, chloroform etc.
5. Miscellaneous: This is a group of volatile solvents or inhalants that provide euphoria, emotional disinhibition and perpetual distortion of thought to the user. The main sources are glues, spot removers, tube repair (Solution), perfumes, chemicals etc.



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6. Tranquilizers: They are believed to produce calmness without bringing drowsiness, they are chiefly derived from Librium, Valium etc.

### **2.9 Implications of Substance Abuse on Socio economic Development**

Substance abuse is circled with a number of negative consequences. Islamically, in the holy Qur'an there was a verse that point out the danger of abusing substance which says, "Do not straight your hand to what may course your own destruction..." abusing substance leads to a psychological imbalance in which as a result of that it will yield and escalate into a deviant act such as Thuggery, Theft, Rapping, Prostitution, Terrorism, to mention but few. Abudu (2008), stated that drug abuse among Nigerian youth have been a major threat to the peaceful co-existence of all and sundry in a contemporary society, thereby destroying the socio-economic and political dignity, personality and integrity of dependence on life.

Shehu (2012), points out that the damage done by drug abuse is so enormous, that our morality level is drifting at frightening proportion leading to all sorts of crimes, insecurity and other social vices. Magaji (2012), reveals some of the problems associated with substance abuse which include among others: academic problem, medical problem, crime, causes cultism, mental disorder etc. His findings showed that about 26.5% of the respondents have poor academic performance and 22.4% had medical problems as a result of continue abuse of substance. In the view of Zango (2003), addiction is the most serious problem of substance abuse which he argues has some adverse effects on both the individual and the society at large. He further noted that drug addiction is associated with continuous use of particular substance which manifest certain symptoms both physical and psychological in drug dependent persons. Garba (2005) and Dukku (2010), report that the activities of area boys, motorcyclist, and armed robbers and so on in Nigeria are at times compounded by the implication substance abuse. In some cases, organizers of political rallies and campaigns take the advantage of substance users and use them as political body guards that are easily pushed into violent crimes. Obembe (2012), in a study on the impact of substance use on youths of north western Nigeria reveals that as at 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012, the number of patient on admission in the Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital, Kware, Sokoto State stood at 129 and 54 of the patients equivalent to 41.9% were admitted for substance abuse cases.

Apart from mental illness cause by substance abuse, other implications include: academic problems, physical health, and delinquency, socio economic and political consequences as well as addiction. The study lacks comprehensive information because, it only relied on the records from Neuro-psychiatric hospital, Sokoto.

### **Challenges of Law Enforcement Agencies**

The challenge facing the law enforcement agencies in Nigeria is corruption which resulted from poor welfare packages and these have dented the image of law enforcement agencies (Alemika and Chukwuma, 2008). Closely related to these problems is incidence of collusion of officers of the law enforcement agencies with criminals resulting to inefficiency in addressing criminal activities. Otegwu (2013), reports that the occupational hazards and risks involved in the discharge of their statutory duties do not commensurate with the pay they receive. It has been observed that the average law enforcement personnel in Nigeria is underpaid compared with their counterparts in the advanced countries. He further reveals that the sad reality that personnel of law enforcement agencies are not only underpaid but that only 30% of them are accommodated in the barracks; this is a predisposing factor for the involvement of law enforcement personnel in corrupt practices. In addition, challenges facing law enforcement agencies have generated a wide range of criminal and deviant activities in Nigeria. Some of these challenges according to Otegwu (2013), include lack of logistic support, increasing level of corruption, weak recruitment process and training of personnel as well as poor attitude of Nigerians towards law enforcement agencies. The statutory functions of police force and other law enforcement agencies are clearly spelt out in the constitution, however, discharging these functions is highly dependent on the availability of operational logistics like patrol vehicles, arms and ammunition, communication gadgets, well-structured ammunitions etc. Law enforcement agencies in Nigeria suffer due to the fact that it is ill equipped with operational logistics (Abdu, 2008). Activities of some unpatriotic politicians tend to promote degeneration in the effective discharge of law enforcement agencies duties; and of particular note, is the exploitation of unemployed youths as political thugs during electioneering campaigns. Such political thugs, most of who are introduced to hard drugs become easy tool for use by these politicians. The interference of politicians during investigations that involve such miscreants does not help matters (Gusau, 2001).

Moreover, to (Shehu, 2012). Inadequate legal frameworks to deal with issues of substance abuse that would have enhanced effective control to some extent has hampered the law enforcement agencies from taking proactive measures to apprehend offenders. In Nigeria, some of the substances of abuse are not classify as illicit substances that are prohibited by the law. Sometimes, law enforcement agencies receive information about imminent committal of an offence but are unable to act promptly due to lack of 'concrete' evidence and legal backing to arrest. These therefore, account for why most sellers (hawkers) of locally and industrialized substances are not arrested and prosecuted.

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## Cause of Substance Abuse, Kontagora experience

Haladu (2003) gave the following as the main causes'

1. Experimental Curiosity: Curiosity to experiment the unknown facts 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.
2. 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.
3. Lack of parental supervision: Many parents have no time to supervise their sons and daughters. Some parents have little or no interaction with family members, while others put pressure on their children to pass exams or perform better in their studies. These phenomena initialize and increase drug abuse.
4. Personality Problems due to socio-Economic Conditions: Adolescents with personality problems arising from social conditions have been found to abuse drugs. The social and economic status of most Nigerians is below average. Poverty is widespread, broken homes and unemployment is on the increase, therefore our youths roam the streets looking for employment or resort to begging. These situations have been aggravated by lack of skills, opportunities for training and re-training and lack of committed action to promote job creation by private and community entrepreneurs. Frustration arising from these problems lead to recourse in drug abuse for temporarily removing the tension and problems arising from it.
5. The Need for Energy to Work for Long Hours: The increasing economic deterioration that leads to poverty and disempowerment of the people has driven many parents to send their children out in search of a means of earning something for contribution to family income. These children engage in hawking, bus conducting, head loading, scavenging, serving in food canteens etc. and are prone to drug taking so as to gain more energy to work for long hours.
6. Availability of the Substance: In many countries, drugs have dropped in prices as supplies have increased.
7. The Need to prevent the Occurrence of Withdrawal symptoms: If a drug is stopped, the user experiences what is termed "withdrawal symptoms". Pain, anxiety, excessive sweating and shaking characterize such symptoms. The inability of the drug user to tolerate these symptoms motivates him to continue (Ige, 2000). Moreover, to Alaja, (2009) classify drugs are usually grouped into three namely,
  1. Depressants
  2. Stimulants
  3. Hallucinogens
  1. Depressants include alcohol, barbiturates and heroin. Alcohol is perhaps the most used and abused drug in Nigeria (Ajala, 2009). Alcohol is used to offer prayers in many cultural ceremonies (libation), used for naming new born babies and freely served in wedding occasions in Nigeria. Alcohol is a terrible downer, a sedative depressant of the Central Nervous System. It has been noted to increase violent behavior and a major cause of fatal accident. Heroin is a white powdered substance derived from opium and usually taken by injection. It is a powerful depressant that provides euphoric, the abusers claimed that it is so pleasurable that it can eradicate any thought of food or sex. Barbiturate and sedatives are sleeping pills. Like narcotics, barbiturates exert calming effects on the Central Nervous System.
  2. Stimulants are drugs that excite and sustain activity while diminishing symptoms of fatigue, cigarette, caffeine, amphetamines and cocaine belong to this group. Cocaine is the best known stimulant; it is swallowed, sniffed or injected.
  3. Hallucinogens produce hallucinations. These are drugs that induce changes in perceptions, thoughts and feelings. They are usually called "consciousness expanders". The most common hallucinogens in Nigeria are marijuana, known as Indian hemp or "Igbo".

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Numerous theories exist in this universe that try to explain the causes of why deviant acts occur in society. However, as far as this study is concerned Merton's Structural-Strain theory (1910-2003) was used in this study.

### Structural-Strain Theory

Structural-Strain theory was developed and propounded by Robert K. Merton (1910-2003) to explain why deviant behavior occurs in society. The theory argues that social environment influences people's behaviors (Nurture). The theory further argues that Person's behavior shapes his attitudes towards culturally defined goals and the institutionalized means of achieving those goals. In an attempt to achieve these goals, people use different ways either by conforming to or by deviating from such cultural expectations. And this was supported by Sutherland H. (1883-1950) who propounded the Differential Association theory that assumed that humans are born neutral, but they virtually learn all behaviors, beliefs and tendencies from the social environment.

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According to these theories People who aspire for the culturally prescribed goals but are denied the opportunities to realize those goals will experience what he termed "social strains". It is because of these strains in finding access to legitimate means that some members of society turn to deviant acts. To them if society denies people the opportunity to achieve success through socially approved means, some individuals are likely to choose illegitimate avenues in order to attain the goals of society (happiness, satisfaction, pleasure etc.) through engaging in acts such as substance abuse which may result into difficulties in getting husbands for female substance abusers, difficulties in getting wives for male substance abusers, addiction/dependence on substance, effects on the health which may leads to psychological imbalance of the abusers etc.

### **Importance and Reason on Application of Structural Strain Theory to this Study**

As far as this study is concern Structural Strain Theory explore effects of harms on human and these is because, the theory has many assumptions, but the main arguments of the theory is deviant behaviors such as substance abuse are learnt through the process of interaction just like any other normative behavior, so the theory is relevant to this study because it explains the implication of substance abuse on socio economic and political development of any society. It is because of these strains in finding access to legitimate means that some members of society turn to deviant acts abusing substance for example as asserted by Merton (1910-2003).

### **Review of Current Empirical Studies**

Numerous studies have been carried out by so many researchers on Substance Abuse implications on socio economic development, therefore this same or similar study carried out by Aminu (2016) on a topic The effects of Substance Abuse among female youth in Kontagora local government of Niger State, but still the menace of substance abuse is still revolving between and among both gender and as such it became a major concern in our society because the rate of substance abuser is always escalating into a high figure. As such this work is similar in the area of content, theoretical framework, sampling, and methods used in analyzing the data. In the area of differences, this study is entirely different with the study of Aminu in the methods used for data collection is through interview of some selected individuals by the used of interview guide of Key Informant Interview (KII) and In-depth Interview (IDI). While the present study maintains the used of Questionnaire and oral interview. In addition, the study has difference in the population, these is because the sample size and the sampling technique of this research is more than that of Aminu own was that, the area of the study keeps on growing rapidly, as such the researcher sees that there is need to carefully examine the study area and increase the sample size of the study so that at the end of the research the response from the respondents will gives or helps us achieved a well standard desire outcome. Furthermore, Aminu study covers the entire 13 political wards in Kontagora namely Gabas, Yamma, Kudu, Arewa, Central, Magajiya, Tunganwawa, Rafingora, Madara, Kawo, Usalle, Nagwamatse, and Masuga ward respectively. While this present study focuses only on the political wards within Kontagora township namely Gabas, Yamma, Kudu, Arewa, Central, and Magajiya ward respectively, these is because the menace of substance abuse is common and can easily be access within Kontagora township. The availability of both local and industrialized substance is very certain.

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Substance abuse is a problem that is causing serious concern to both individuals and government all over the world. The problem is prevalent among adolescents who in most cases are ignorant about the dangers inherent in Substance abuse. Many of them engaged in Substance abuse out of frustration, poverty, lack of parental supervision, peer influence and pleasure. However, with effective counselling and by so doing the problems can be tackled. Socio economic development in Kontagora in a recent and past years found to be impacted negatively by many factors in which Substance abuse is one among them to mentioned but few, this is because, the rate of which substance is been abuse in Kontagora is always escalating into a higher rate because of the availability of the substance both locally and industrialized substance, accessing the substance is not too hard, also the abuse of the substance spreads among peer groups, Married, Single, Widowed, and Divorced across the study area. Moreover, Marital Status, Unemployment, lack of good and a proper parental control also leads people to engage in substance abuse. Therefore, based on this research if people were found in the deviant act of substance abuse it tarnishes the image of the society in which at the end of the day the Socialization process will be impacted negatively, and by so it will affect the socio economic development negatively. Therefore, below are some of the recommendations to follows in overcoming the menace of Substance Abuse.



## Effects of Substance Abuse Consumption and Socio-Economic Development in Kontagora Local Government Area, Niger State

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The followings are some of the recommendations that are been made based on the findings of the study to help in addressing the menace of substance abuse implication on socio economic development particularly in Kontagora local Government of Niger State. Thus are as follows: -

- (1) Establishment of Family Education on Substance: The family is the nucleus of the social organization. Parents should give their children appropriate education on drug use. They should be encouraged by health authorities to offer family education on drug abuse to their children. They should inform them of the dangers of drug abuse and dependence on their health, society and the nation.
- (2) Establishment of Counseling Centers for Substance Control: Counselling centers should be established in every community by the government or private individuals. Qualified health counsellor should be employed in helping drug addicts or those dependent on drugs by giving them special advice on how to go about the withdrawal system.
- (3) Designing Curricula on Substance Education: Ministry of education (State and Federal) should as matters of urgency add to the curricula- drug education at all levels of education.
- (4) Campaign against Substance Abuse: National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) should intensify their campaigns on antidrug in order to have a drug free society. The campaign against use of certain Substance and misuse of drugs should be more intensified at the secondary school level because it is the peak of adolescent. Also, government and other relevant authorities should launch campaigns against drug abuse as well as dependence.
- (5) Establishment of Substance Awareness Units: Drug awareness units to be set up in all states and moderated by the federal state and local governments. It should not be a panel established to try people who use drugs as criminals, but to help solve their socio-psychological problem. And finally,
- (6) Parents and adults should refrain from using Substance in discriminately in the presence of youngsters and they should discourage their wards/children from associating with "unknown" gangs or suspicious neighborhood peer groups.

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