

INFLUENCE OF INSECURITY AND NON-SCHOOLING ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN NORTH EAST OF NIGERIA: COUNSELLING IMPLICATIONS

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Abstract

The study examined the influence of insecurity and non-schooling on abuse of substance among adolescents in Nigeria North-East. The study espoused descriptive survey design, three research questions were responded and three hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance. The area of study was Yobe and Borno States. Three hundred adolescents were selected using purposive sampling technique; they are adolescents not in school from Yobe and Borno States. Data were collected with the research instrument tagged "Influence of Insecurity and non-schooling on Adolescent Substance Abuse" (IINSOASA). The reliability was proven using Cronbach Alpha and it generated a consensus coefficient of 0.82, 0.78. Descriptive statistics were used to answer Research Questions and Multiple Regression and t-test statistical tools were used to trial the formulated hypotheses. The findings discovered that insecurity significantly influenced substance abuse among the adolescent, non-schooling significantly influenced substance abuse and established gender difference in abuse of substance amid adolescents of North East Nigeria. Recommendations made include that all stake holders should come together to fight insurgency and any form of insecurity to ensure security of Nigerians, government should make schools available in affected areas and adolescents should be enlightened on the vices of use of substance.

Key words: Insecurity, non-schooling, substance abuse, adolescent

Introduction

Substance abuse is termed as the use of chemicals for purposes of achieving pleasurable effects on the brain. It is also the repeated use of psychoactive substances which lead to dependence (WHO, 2016). Cheprasov (2019) also defined substance abuse as an inappropriate pattern of using a drug such that its use results in negative consequences upon the child's physical and psychological well-being.

All over the World the issue of adolescent substance abuse has become a fast rising issue, especially in the developing countries. American declared adolescent substance use the No.1 public health problem in the nation (Diclemente, 2006). According to World Health Organization (WHO) and UNODC (2016), 246 million Nigerians around 65- 15 years of age, were estimated to have used a psychoactive substance in the year 2013, while Hamisu, Ahmed and Limi (2014), reported that the

North East has a data of 11.54% Adolescents Drugs users in Nigeria.

Adolescence marks the onset of puberty; it is a transitional period. It is a precarious stage of life; psychologists tag it as a stage of stress and storm due to the peculiarities of the stage, which include adolescents not in conformity with the norms and values of the society. Undiyaundeye (2017), sees adolescence as a period of trial and error, survey, snooping and self-recognition. Some of such involvement lead to jeopardy taking ventures, like the use of psychoactive substance like drugs that have major effects on brain, causing sedation and change in mood of the victim or individual. Thus, the developmental changes push the adolescents to experiment with new behavior.

The incidence of the use of substance, mainly among the adolescents of the North East of Nigeria has become a social issue and major concern in Nigeria, being a developing country. Lots of efforts have been take by stakeholders in curbing the menace; however, since the inception of insecurity in the North East, substance abuse among the adolescents is becoming more epileptic and erratic, as observed.

Security is a first-order or necessary precondition for the development of human beings and society. Therefore, it is the most basic need of human beings and societies. In early years, Nigeria was among the peaceful nations and there was no major threat to its security until its political problems degenerated into "Militancy" "kidnapping" and "Boko Haram" insurgency in 2009 and, till date, it is the biggest problem facing Nigeria, most particularly the North East of Nigeria. It is posing a serious threat to educating the children living in the North East and other affected areas. There was displacement of the residents; lots of children and Youths were killed and brutally troubled, whereas lots were rendered homeless. In the report of Ezeoha, S.L. (2011), schools in Gujba, Buni Yadi, and Potiskum were greatly attacked; this led to arson, killing and maiming of schoolchildren, destruction and schools closure.

The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) 2018, posits that in Nigeria above 10 million pupils and adolescents were out of school, while UNICEF supported that the North has 60 percent of out-of-school children, while officials in charge of Education interviewed by Human Rights Watch (2016) confirmed that the population in Borno and Yobe States is majorly affected by insecurity, non-schooling and substance abuse.

Refusal of formal education progressively gained a central locus in the rebellion against the Federal Government of Nigeria in the North East, due to various corruption and other social systems perpetrated by their political leaders in the name of education or westernization as thus education became the target of the bandit. Many people in the North East, including students, school drop-outs, and unemployed youth have this believe as the remedy to the social inequalities and economic penury that manifest in their lives.

Under Human Right Watch work, Education for All (EFA) resourcefulness (2015) having under rated the literacy level in the North East, seeks to ensure that all children, especially girls, Adolescents can access free quality primary education.

Before insecurity menace in the North East, many of the North East adolescents obliviously or

purposely depended on the use of substance in their daily activities such as schooling, partisan, societal among others. mostly abused substance are Indian hemp, Barbiturates, Tobacco Benilyn, Tramadol, shisa, heroine, caffeine, burukutu, alcohol, ephedrine, morphine, among others (Hamisu, Ahmed & Limi, 2014). Since the menace of insecurity, substance abuse among adolescents may be on the increase, most especially when going to school has become so difficult or not possible (Skinner and Pitzer, 2012).

Adolescents are increasingly engaging in substance abuse to relieve severe pain and other unpleasant conditions (Oyebiyi & Adeniji 2019). Adolescents in school with personal problems and critical issues, can experience calmness, if well managed without psychoactive substance, but when insecurity affects their schooling and other ways of life, the problem could be aggravated into feelings of hopelessness, failure, hatred and weakness.

Bachman, et al. (2008), buttressed that adolescents who are not schooling may indulge in maladaptive behaviors, such as abuse of substance, which may excarbate their out of school. According to Wang and Fredricks (2014), adolescents that decline in behavior, lacks comfort in school can increased the use of substance as tobacco, sedatives and barbiturates. Skinner and Pitzer (2012) buttressed that the level of adolescent engagement in school, determines the extent they will be able to handle problems.

It was noted that there are Sex differences in the abuse of substance among the adolescents; pattern and manners seem different between the feminine and masculine. The study of Chikere and Mayowa (2011), showed that male adolescents abuse substance more than their female counterparts. This is in line with the study of Obogo and Njoku (2017), which showed that the problems of substance abuse may range from physiological and physical changes and they tend to be higher in boys than girls. However, the survey carried out by National Survey on drug abuse and Health (2010) indicate adolescent female aged 12-17 have higher drug dependence and abuse prevalence rate(7.4%) than males in the same age group (6.7%). Simon & Chen (2006) result indicates that the rate of the abuse of substance was low among females, but high compared with males.

The effects of substance abuse among the adolescents in North East of Nigeria, is a stigma of moral decadence,, loss of societal values and ideas and elimination of the youth potentials. Individual substance abuser appears to have low self- esteem, inferiority complex, depression, psychosis and many more.

Adolescents who are the youths of the society are the rock, foundation and future of every society. They are the potential leaders and investments for a country's development, so substance abuse among the adolescents in the North East of Nigeria, should be of serious concern to well meaning Nigerians, different Organizations and communities in general due to the fact that the results of this menace is grievous on the society. With respect to the implications of substance abuse on the society and individuals, there is need to research on the influence of substance abuse among the adolescents of Nigeria North East.

Purpose of the study.

The work examined the influence of insecurity and non-schooling on substance abuse among adolescents in North East of Nigeria: implication for counseling. The precise aims of this study are

as follows:

1. determined the combine influence of insecurity and non - schooling on substance abuse among adolescents in Nigeria North East.
2. determine the relative influence of insecurity and non-schooling on abuse of substance among adolescents in Nigeria North East.
3. determine the sex difference on substance abuse among adolescents in Nigeria North East

Research Hypothesis

1. There is no significant combined influence of insecurity and non- schooling on substance abuse among adolescent in North East of Nigeria
2. There is no significant relative influence of insecurity and non-schooling on substance abuse among adolescents in North East of Nigeria
3. There is no significant difference between male and female adolescent substance abuser in North East of Nigeria

Method of study

This study espoused descriptive Survey research design. The populace included all the adolescents in North East of Nigeria. Two States, Yobe and Borno, were sampled. From each State, 150 adolescents were selected by Purposive sampling technique, which makes a total of a 300 sample size.

The tool used for statistics collection was a researcher self-constructed four point item type questionnaire measuring insecurity and non-schooling on substance abuse, tagged “Influence of Insecurity and non-schooling on Adolescent Substance Abuse ” (IINSOASA). The instrument had three sections. Section A, explored respondents data, age, gender and level. Section B covered 15 items self –report scale on insecurity and substance abuse, while section comprised 15 self-report scale on non- schooling and substance abuse.

Two experts from the Department of Educational Psychology and Measurement and Evaluation, FCT College of Education, Zuba, affirmed Face and content validity of the instrument. The validity effort was to certify that it trials what it purports to test and that items were appropriate.

The reliability of “IINSOADA” was established with Cronbach Alpha statistics, the consensus reliability index was 0.82 for section B, while section C yielded 0.78. Multiple Regression Analysis and t-test was used to analyze the data .

Results and Discussion of Findings

Table 1: Mean, Standard Deviation and Correlation Matrix for the Study Variables

	Insecurity	substance abuse	non schooling
Insecurity	1	.101**	.38
Substance abuse	.101**	1	.13
Non schooling	.38	.13	1
Mean	8.991	17.957	22.87
Std. Deviation	1.9317	4.0085	4.3645

Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2- tailed).

The results in Table 1 showed the mean, standard deviation and correlation matrix for all the study variables. The mean and standard deviation for insecurity (mean = 8.991; SD = 1.9317); for substance abuse (mean = 17.957; SD = 4.0085); and for non-schooling (mean = 22.87; SD = 4.3645). The Table revealed a significant influence amid insecurity and substance abuse ($r = 101$; $p < .5$). It also indicated an influence amid abuse of substance and non-schooling ($r = 38$; $p < .5$); insecurity and non-schooling ($r = 104$; $p < .5$). The higher their insecurity the lower the schooling. The study of Skinner and Pitzer (2012) supported the findings; it agrees that the menace of non-schooling, substance abuse among adolescent may be on rise, most especially when the level of insecurity is high.

The findings agree with Human Rights Watch (2016), that confirmed that the population in Borno and Yobe States is majorly affected with insecurity, non-schooling and substance abuse.

Hypothesis One

There is no significant combine influence of insecurity and non-schooling on substance abuse among adolescents, in North East of Nigeria

Table 2: Model Summary of the Multiple Regression Analysis for the influence of insecurity and non-schooling on substance abuse among adolescents in North East of Nigeria

	Sum of Squares	dF	Mean Square	f	sig
Regression	1285.576	2	642.788	4.857	.000 ^b
Residual	12836.065	297	44.110		
Total	14121.641	297			
Model Summary	R = 0.106; R ² = 0.91; R ² (adj.) = 0.83				

- a. Dependent Variable: substance abuse
- b. Predictors : (constant), Insecurity and schooling

The results in Table 2 indicated that insecurity and non-schooling significantly combined to influence the substance abuse among adolescent in North East of Nigeria ($R = 0.106$; $R^2 = 0.91$; R^2 (adj.) = 0.83; $F_{(763,6)} = 4.857$; $p < .5$). This implies that insecurity and non-schooling accounted for 8.3% of the variance in the substance abuse among adolescent in North East of Nigeria.

The null hypothesis, which stated that there is no significant combined influence of insecurity and non-schooling on substance abuse among adolescents in North East of Nigeria, was rejected by this finding. Wang and Fredricks (2014) adolescents that decline in behavior, lack comfort in school can increased the use of substance as tobacco, sedatives and barbiturates. Skinner and Pitzer (2012) stressed that the level of adolescent engagement in school, determines the extent they will be able to handle problems.

Hypothesis Two

There is no significant relative influence of insecurity and non-schooling on substance abuse among adolescents in North East of Nigeria

Table 3: Beta Coefficients and Ratio for relative influence of insecurity and non-schooling on substance abuse among adolescent in North East of Nigeria

	Unstandardized Coefficients		standardized Coefficients		
	B	Std. Error	Beta	T	sig.
(Constant)	23.478	1.680		4.657	.000
Insecurity	.207	.0386	.297	1.785	.000
Non schooling	.003	.052	.003	.050	.960

a. Dependent Variable : substance abuse

Data in Table 3 revealed that insecurity ($\beta = -.97$; $t = -1.785$; $p < .5$) was the potent predictor of substance abuse among adolescent in North East of Nigeria. However, non-schooling ($\beta = -.003$; $t = 0.50$; $p < .05$) was also a good predictor of substance abuse among adolescents in North East of Nigeria.

The null hypothesis, which stated that there is no significant relative influence of insecurity and non-schooling on substance abuse among adolescent in North East of Nigeria, was rejected by the result of the study.

Hypothesis Three

There is no significance difference between male and female adolescent substance abuser in North East of Nigeria.

Table 4: t- test result showing the mean difference between male and female adolescent substance abuser

Gender	Number	\bar{x} Mean	S.D	df	T-value	p-value Sig (2- tailed)
Male	50	35.14	12.03	98	1.96	1.72
Female	50	42.56	8.89			

$P < 0.05$

Table 4 shows the calculated t- value of 1.96 is greater than the critical t- value of 1.72 at 0.05 Alpha levels. Thus, the null- hypothesis is rejected and concludes that there is a difference between the rate of male and female substance abuser among the adolescents in North East of Nigeria.

This is in line with the study of Obogo and Njoku (2017), which showed that the problems of substance abuse may range from physiological and physical changes and it tend to be higher in boys than girls. Also, Morton & Chen (2006) posit that abuse of substance was less among girls, compared with boys, while Chikere and Mayowa (2011) buttressed that male adolescents abuse Substance more than their female counterparts

Implications for Counselling

The outcome of this study is an indication that creating campaign awareness to government to stop

insecurity and make school available for the children of North East of Nigeria and other affected areas, will be of great benefit to the adolescents in the North East of Nigeria, because by comfortable school engagements, there might be a reduction in the rate at which substances are abused among the adolescents in Nigeria's North East.

In the course of this study, assertive training and group counselling were carried out among the population, but not part of the sample size, so there is need for follow up.

Conclusion

Considering the finding of this study, it was established that there was a significant influence of insecurity on non-schooling among the adolescents in Nigeria's North East. There was significant influence of insecurity and non-schooling on substance abuse among the adolescents in North East of Nigeria. There was significant difference between the male and female adolescent's drug abusers in Nigeria's North East. The higher the insecurity in the North East, the lower the adolescents' interest in schooling and the increase in substance abuse.

Recommendations

In line with the findings of the work, the following recommendations were considered

- There should be serious awareness campaign to sensitize the government on the influence of insecurity and non-schooling on the adolescents' substance abuse.
- All stake-holders should come together to fight insurgency and any forms of insecurity to ensure security of Nigerians
- Government should provide schools in affected areas and adolescents should be enlightened on the vices of use of substance.

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