

Title of Abstract: Knowledge Level and Attitude of School Going Male Adolescents towards Drug Use and Abuse.

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Abstract:

The study sought to find out the knowledge level and attitude of school going male adolescents towards drug use and abuse. The sample for the study consists of 300 students with age range of 14-19 years. Three research questions and two hypotheses were formulated to guide the conduct of the study. T- test of independent samples, frequency counts and percentages were used to analyze the data. Oral interview with the subjects indicate that they use drugs like marijuana because it gives them sensation and it increases the likelihood of risk-taking behaviours. Cigarettes and alcohol constitutes the most abused drugs. Peer pressure/ influence, media and advertising were found to contribute to adolescents' use of drug because they portray drugs as socially acceptable. It was also observed that school going adolescents use drugs because their friends uses them and because of curiosity: that is they want to see how it feels. The result of hypothesis one indicates that school going adolescents have knowledge of drug use and abuse though the "older" adolescents showed more knowledge of drug use and abuse. Hypothesis 1 was rejected. Hypothesis 2 was accepted. The result shows that school going adolescents have negative attitude to the use of drugs regardless of religious affiliation. Statement such as drugs may lead to death; drug is bad for good health; drugs ruin lives... were all agreed to by the subjects. At the end of the study, recommendations were proffered because realistically, it is difficult to completely eradicate drug use and its abuse among youths especially school going male adolescents in Nigeria.

Key Words: Adolescents, knowledge and attitude, drug use and abuse