

Societal Variables and Prevalence of Substance Abuse among Youths in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria

Article by Umoh Edet Okon

Ph.D in Nursing, Texila American University, Nigeria

Email: edetokonu@ymail.com

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to examine societal variables and prevalence of substance abuse in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. In order to achieve this purpose, four objectives, four research questions and four hypotheses were formulated to guide the study. The ex-post facto research design was used for the study. This design was considered suitable for the study because the variables under study are assumed to have occurred and could not be experimentally manipulated in the course of the study. The population of this study comprised 371,022 youths of Calabar Municipality and Calabar South Local Government Areas of Cross River State, Nigeria. The sample of this study consisted of 1000 youths. Simple random sampling technique was used for this selection. An instrument titled ‘societal variables and prevalence of substance abuse among youths Questionnaire’ was used for data collection’. Simple Percentages and Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis were the statistical tools used for data analysis. The result of the analysis revealed that there are significant relationship between tradition, availability of substance agents, peer group as well as government security agents and the prevalence of substance abuse among youths. Based on this result, it was concluded that societal variables contributes to the prevalence of substance abuse among youths. It was recommended that government should arrests and punishes substance abusers.

Keywords

Societal Variables: *These are various environmental factors that influence youths to substance abuse like age, sex, family background, and lack of supervision, belief system, employment, peer group, government activities, and others (Ebosele, 2010).*

Prevalence of substance abuse: *This indicates existence and indiscriminate use of illicit and proactive substance like alcohol, Indian hemp and cocaine by majority of youths in Calabar*

Drug: *National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA, (2015) said this is a chemical substance working to modify the physical and psychological status of the body.*

Substance Abuse: *this is also referred to as drug abuse, a situation where an individual consumes the substance to the quantity and manner that it becomes injurious to him and others (Wikipedia, 2014).*

Substance: *here they are illicit proactive drugs like tobacco, cocaine, heroin, cannabis, opioids and others (WedMD, 2016).*

Dependence: *This is psychological and physiological reliance on a particular substance which results in habitual intake, and followed by compulsive demand.*

Introduction

Generally, in Nigeria societies and the world over substance abuse are common among youths and adults who feels they are frustrated, unemployed and cannot do well in life and as such indulge themselves into substance abuse Simon, Chen, Abram, & Haynie,(2014). Substance abuse is an excessive intake of psychoactive substance, illicit drugs and alcohol like beer (WHO, 2015). These are drugs consumed to obtain high feelings with false sense of self satisfaction, which continual usage produces dependence syndrome—clusters of behavioural, cognitive and physiological phenomena. They are chemical agents that changes

activities of the mind and body. Drugs of easy abuse are alcohol, pot, cocaine, tobacco and marijuana (webMD.com, 2015). Reckless use of substance and alcohol is a public health issue posing over 4.0% of global disease burden—Poznyak, Saracemo, & Obot (2005). Sadock, (2007), reports that youths are the largest abusers of alcohol, cannabis, nicotine and opioids. This is because they take substance to feel good, stop feeling bad, or perform well in school, work and play (webMD.com, 2015). It's estimated that over 120 million use substances like cocaine, Indian hemp, heroin, and others. Global Burden of Disease study (GBD), 2013 reports on 127,000 deaths from drug abusers; 51,000 from Opioid users, 4,300 from Cocaine users, 3,800 from amphetamine and 139,000 from alcohol users.

Societal variables are close and accessible factors that convince subjects on usefulness of substance. They range from parents, peer group, neighbourhood, economic status and government activities (Nestler, 2004). Calabar is reported of constituting major locations with recreational centres and entertainments (Felix, & Ukwai, 2014). Here numerous people gather in their leisure time to drink variety of alcohol and smoke cigarettes without questionings.

Eze & Omeje (1999) confirmed in his socio-cultural findings that, Efiks and Ibibios who are major occupants of Calabar incorporate alcohol consumption in their cultural practice. This is observed in their ritual pouring of libation, entertainment and organization of celebrations with ufofop (local gin), palm wine (Efik wine), hot drink and beer. These accounts for their apathy and none reporting of smokers and alcoholics who live with them, and even carry out anti-social practices on its effects (Adeniyi, 2013).

The World Health Organization (WHO) resolution adopted by the 58th World Health Assembly in 2005 pleads for global, regional and country's efforts to address the social determinants of harmful use of alcohol and reduce its related dangers (Fekjaer, HD, 1992).

In effort to clean up Calabar of narcotics indulgers, Adeniyi, (2013), a National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) officer in Calabar said they raided the town and arrested 115 suspects: 101 males and 14 female. Out of this 38 persons were prosecuted and only 16 convicted. Nmodu, Ojih, Okojie, & Abubakar, (2014) reports on Calabar being an NDLEA counselling zone for arrested drug addicts to be put on proper reorientation.

It is on the light of the foregoing the researcher is poised to investigate on societal variables and prevalence of substance abuse in Calabar, Cross River State-Nigeria.

Key variables of the study are:

Independent variables which are represented here as:

- Tradition
- Availability of substance agents,
- Peer and family influence on substance abuse and
- Government security agents on substance abuse. While,

Dependent variables are the practice of substance abuse in Calabar which permit users to:

- Perfect in antisocial practices
- Meditate well in their spiritual aspirations
- Perform well in sex
- Work hard in their physical labours
- Read well for their academics
- Gain stamina in physical labours
- Regain lost appetite and promotes eating habit
- Increases body defence against sickness
- Boosts moral to face challenges
- Quicken child's activity and development

Statement of the problem

The issue of drug abuse in Nigeria, in the contemporary time has become one major case casting gloomy shadows on the entire nation including youths in Calabar, Cross River State, even to the world over.

Nevertheless, user of drug either by youths of Calabar, Cross River State-Nigeria or other members of the larger society in all its ramifications appears to be a social problem. This problem is widely spread, affecting all and sundry.

Observation have also shown that drug abuse does not only hinders individual progress, but wrecks down subjects, shatters family and weakens the entire society/community with its burden of socio-economic loss, increased health cost, lawlessness and crime. Drug abuse may promote a lot of social problem ranging from family neglect, deviance behaviours and crime involvement.

In Federal Psychiatric Hospital Calabar records revealed that over 80% of male admission, either as a fresh case or in a relapsed state is related to substance abuse. Many teenagers in Calabar-South who are cultists and non-cultists smoke and sniff hard drug which they call 'itiat or stone'—a stimulant that pushes them to anti-social practice like violent, rape, stealing and kidnapping. Some times in broad day light, youths are seen in small groups sharing lighters to ignite their Indian hemp and cigarettes in public view without fear and remorse. Occupants of Calabar hold in view that the presence of lunatics on the street results from abuse of narcotics.

One factor hindering the eradication of drug abuse among youth is because our health care workers, security agencies like National Drug Law Enforcement (NDLEA), Nigerian Police Force and the Military are equal partakers and could not do their best to check this scourge.

To this end and judging from the aforementioned problems, this study aims at ascertaining social variables and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar, Cross River State-Nigeria.

General objective

The general objective of this study is to find out societal variables related to prevalence of substance abuse among youths of Calabar in Cross River of Nigeria. In the study they are traditions of the people of Calabar, availability of substance within Calabar, peer/family influence to lure in more youths to the habit and activities of the government security agents.

Specific objectives of the study

- 1 To examine the relationship between traditions and prevalence of substance abuse among youths.
- 2 To determine the relationship between availability of substance agents and prevalence of substance abuse among youths.
- 3 To examine relationship between peer group and prevalence of substance abuse on youths.
- 4 To determine the relationship between government security agents and prevalence of substance abuse among youths

Research questions

1. To what extent does traditions relate with prevalence of substance abuse among youths?
2. To what extent does availability of substance agents relate with prevalence of substance abuse among youths?
3. How does peer group relate with prevalence of substance abuse among youths?
4. What relationship exists between government security agents and prevalence of substance abuse among youths?

Hypothesis

The following null hypotheses are formulated to guide the studies:

1. There is no significant relationship between traditions and substance abuse among youths in Calabar.
2. There is no significant relationship between availability of substance agents and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.
3. There is no significant relationship between peer group and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.
4. There is no significant relationship between government security agents and prevalence substance abuse among youths in Calabar.

Limitation of studies

The study is hindered with lots of problems like:

1. Majority of the approached respondents were unwilling to respond to the items for fear of prosecution.
2. Shuttles between work schedules, family commitments, and Church activities almost hindered the work
3. Poor funding as its only individual effort to procure power supply, computer accessories, internet subscriptions, transportations, employing research assistant and motivating some respondents to co-operate.

Rationale of the study

This study would help the researcher in the following ways:

- understand several drugs of abuse commonly used by Calabar youths
- understand routes that youths get reach at substance
- understand why several youths consume substance
- use the medium to relate with substance users

Significant of studies

The study would be a useful tool in Federal Psychiatric Hospital, Calabar in counselling of youths over proper use of their time to attain a better future. Family would also be well directed on parental guide and child's upbringing.

The results from studies would furnish the public to be aware of the effects of the abused drug on their health.

Information from management of substance abuse might be useful to government and healthcare providers in counselling and directing on how to live without drug.

More so, the information may be helpful to government security agents on where and how to curb drug traffickers, block their route and apprehend culprits.

Finally, this research may be helpful to other researchers and provide outlet for further research study.

Scope/Delimitation of studies

The scope of this study was Calabar, also regarded as Canaan city—Falola, (2007). It comprises of Calabar Municipality and Calabar South Local Government Areas of Cross River State in Nigeria. The study is also delimited to four variables which are relationship between traditions of Efik/Calabar; availability of substance; influence of peer group; as well as government security agents and effects of the prevailing substance abuse on the partaking youths.

Methodology

Research design

The ex-post facto research design is used for the study. This design is considered suitable for the study because the variables under investigation are assumed to have occurred and

cannot be experimentally manipulated in the process of the study. This research design utilizes instruments like questionnaire and interview for the collection of data in order to accurately and objectively study causes after they might have presumably exerted influence on another variable. This research design is suitable for opinion and attitude studies, hence the reason for adoption in this study.

Area of the study

The area for this study is Calabar comprising of Calabar Municipal Council and Calabar South Local Government Areas Cross River State. It was the first capital city of Nigeria from 1914, and now one of the 36 states of Nigeria. Calabar is a business and commercial city with sea port, air port, export processing zone, and a Tinapa business resort—Tinapa Free Zone & Resort", (2009). Simon, (2010) described the city as measuring 157 square meter with a population of 371,022 at the census of 2006. Calabar is bounded northward by Odukpani local government area, southward by Calabar River, eastward by Cameroon Republic and westward by Akwa Ibom State. Calabar is made up of 3 ethnic tribes: Efik, Efut, Quas and host of other neighbouring tribes like Ibibio, Oron, Anang, Atam, Igbo, Yoruba and Hausas who live and settle together for business and civil duties. It is equipped with a prominent university—University of Calabar, Cross River State University, sport stadium, cultural centre complex and a botanical garden. It is also blessed with grand hotels, resort and amusement park. The inhabitants are hospitable, very accommodative and peaceful. Calabar is regarded as home for tourists, always receptive and welcoming to visitors, as the name interpreted in a slogan—‘Come and Live and Be At Rest’. This then prompts lawlessness, indiscipline, non-supervision, porous borders for free trafficking and consumption of substance, alcoholism and substance abuse, leading to insanity and poor mental state. This made Adeniyi, (2012) blamed the public of apathy and unwillingness to furnish NDLEA officials on area of cultivation, trafficking, and transaction of substance in the town.

Population of studies

The population of the study comprised all the youths in Calabar Municipality and Calabar South Local Government Area, Cross River State of Nigeria. This is composed of ten political wards of 179,392 youths in Calabar Municipality and twelve political wards with 192,000 youths in Calabar South; totalling 371,022 youths (Simon, 2015).

Duration of study

The study lasted for 7 months starting from November, 2015 till May, 2016

Sampling size

The sampling size of the study is 1000 youths from all wards of Calabar Municipality and Calabar South Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria.

Sampling method/techniques

A sample size of 1000 youths was used for the study with respondents met at various drinking spots across the 22 wards of Calabar was done using simple random sampling technique among substance users. The criterion used for inclusion of subjects in the study was “those who consume alcoholic drinks”, while the exclusion criterion was based on “those who do not consume alcohol “.

In order to ensure representation, the researcher administered the instruments in all the drinking spots in Calabar Municipality and Calabar South Local Government Areas.

Data analysis, results and discussion

The results of data analysis carried out on data collected for the study are presented in this chapter. The findings that emerged from the analyses are also presented. The presentation was done according to the trend of the four research questions and hypotheses directing the study.

Answering of research questions

Research question one

To what extent does traditions relate with prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar?

A simple percentage was used for answering the research question, the result of the analysis is as presented in Table 1:

Table 1. Simple percentages of the responses of youths on the relationship between tradition and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.

S/N	Traditions	SA		A		D		SD	
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
1.	Our tradition forbids members from taking substance	276	27.6	164	16.4	307	30.7	253	25.3
2.	Our society accepts alcohol as traditional rites	322	32.2	394	39.4	90	9.0	194	19.4
3.	Our society uses alcohol for entertainments	506	50.6	318	31.8	79	7.9	97	9.7
4.	Our community uses hot drinks to pray and appease the gods and ancestors	444	44.4	364	36.4	88	8.8	104	10.4
5.	Our community offers substance to youths for motivation	297	29.7	399	39.9	125	12.5	179	17.9

The result of item 1 in Table 1 reveals that 276 respondents representing 27.6 % strongly agreed that their tradition forbids members from taking substance, 164 respondents representing 16.4% agreed, while 307 respondents representing 30.7% disagreed and 253 respondents representing 25.3% strongly disagreed. This was followed by item 2 with 322 respondents representing 32.2% strongly agreeing that their society accepts alcohol as traditional rites, 394 respondents representing 39.4% agreed while 90 respondents representing 9.0% disagreed and 194 respondents representing 19.4% strongly disagreed. The Table also reveals that 506 respondents representing 50.6% agreed that their society uses alcohol for entertainments, 318 respondents representing 31.8 % agreed while 79 respondents representing 7.9% disagreed and 97 respondents representing 9.7% strongly disagreed. The Table also reveals that 297 respondents representing 29.7% strongly agreed that the community offers substance to youths for motivation, 399 respondents representing 39.9% agreed while 125 respondents representing 12.5% disagreed and 179 respondents representing 17.9 % strongly disagreed. This result implies that traditions relate with prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.

Research question two

To what extent does availability of substance agents relate with prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar?

A simple percentage was used for answering the research question, the result of the analysis is as presented in Table 2:

Table 2. Simple percentages of the responses of youths on the relationship between availability of substance agents and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.

S/N	Availability of substance agents and substance abuse	SA		A		D		SD	
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
6.	Substance are available in my environment	312	31.2	236	23.6	211	21.1	241	24.1
7.	Substance can easily be transported	356	35.6	276	27.6	186	18.6	182	18.2
8.	I have money from dealing on substance	189	18.9	247	24.7	314	31.4	250	25.0
9.	Substance are planted in my environment	197	19.7	191	19.1	388	38.8	224	22.4
10.	Substance are cheaper for me to buy	233	23.3	363	36.3	227	22.7	177	17.7

The result of item 6 in Table 2 reveals that 312 respondents representing 31.2% strongly agreed that substance are available in their environment, 236 respondents representing 23.6% agreed while 211 respondents representing 21.1% disagreed and 241 respondents representing 24.1% strongly disagreed. This was followed by item 7 with 356 respondents representing 35.6% strongly agreeing that substance can easily be transported, 276 respondents representing 27.6% agreed, while 186 respondents representing 18.6% disagreed and 182 respondents representing 18.2% strongly disagreed. The Table also reveals that 189 respondents representing 18.9% strongly agreed that they have money from dealing on substance, 247 respondents representing 24.7% agreed while 314 respondents representing 31.4% disagreed and 250 respondents representing 25.0% strongly disagreed. The Table also reveals that 197 respondents representing 19.7% strongly agreed that Substance are planted in their environment, 191 respondents representing 19.1% agreed while 388 respondents representing 38.8% disagreed and 224 respondents representing 22.4% strongly disagreed. This result implies that availability of substance agents relate with prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.

Research question three

How does peer group relate with prevalence of substance abuse among youths?

A simple percentage was used for answering the research question, the result of the analysis is as presented in Table 3:

Table 3. Simple percentages of the responses of youths on relationship between peer group and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.

S/N	Peer groups	SA		A		D		SD	
		Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
11.	Most of my friends from school uses substance	301	30.1	203	20.3	198	19.8	298	29.8
12.	Sometimes I have substance from friends free of charge	122	12.2	331	33.1	376	37.6	171	17.1
13.	I was introduced into substance by a friend	371	37.1	229	22.9	218	21.8	182	18.2
14.	All my friends are substance users	155	15.5	319	31.9	322	32.2	204	20.4
15.	I enjoy smoking with friends	382	38.2	340	34.0	212	21.2	66	6.6

The result of item 11 in Table 3 reveals that 301 respondents representing 30.1% strongly agreed that Most of their friends from school use substance, 203 respondents representing 20.3% agreed while 198 respondents representing 19.8% disagreed and 298 respondents representing 29.8% strongly disagreed. This was followed by item 12 with 122 respondents representing 12.2% strongly agreeing that sometimes they have substance from friends free of charge, 331 respondents representing 33.1% agreed while 376 respondents representing 37.6% disagreeing and 171 respondents representing 17.1 % strongly disagreed. The Table also reveals that 371 respondents representing 37.1% strongly agreed that they were introduced into substance by a friend, 229 respondents representing 22.9% agreed while 218 respondents representing 21.8% disagreed and 182 respondents representing 18.2% strongly disagreed. The Table also reveals that 382 respondents representing 38.2% strongly agreed that they enjoy smoking with friends, 340 respondents representing 34.0% agreed while 212 respondents representing 21.2% disagreed and 66 respondents representing 6.6% strongly agreed. This result implies that peer group relate with prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.

Research question four

What relationship exists between government security agents and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar?

A simple percentage was used for answering the research question, the result of the analysis is as presented in Table 4:

Table 4. Simple percentages of the responses of youths on the relationship between government security agents and prevalence of substance abuse

S/N	Government security agents	SA		A		D		SD	
		Freq	%	Freq	%				
16.	Government security agents had been storming our area regularly to apprehend drug abusers	421	42.1	367	36.7	105	10.5	107	10.7
17	Government officials do smoke with us	394	39.4	334	33.4	96	9.6	176	17.6
18	I had been arrested for using substance before	288	28.8	300	30.0	215	21.5	197	19.7
19	Governments officials obtain bribe and allow us traffic and use substance	375	37.5	369	36.9	111	11.1	145	14.5
20.	Some government officials do not support use of substance	297	29.7	347	34.7	212	21.2	144	14.4

The result of item 16 in Table 4 reveals that 421 respondents representing 42.1% strongly agreed that Government security agents had been storming their areas regularly to apprehend drug abusers, 367 respondents representing 36.7% agreed while 105 respondents representing 10.5% disagreed and 107 respondents representing 10.7 % strongly disagreed. This was followed by item 17 with 394 respondents representing representing 39.4% strongly agreeing that Government officials do smoke with them, 334 respondents representing 33.4% agreed while 96 respondents representing 9.6% disagreeing and 176 respondents representing 17.6% strongly disagreeing. The Table also reveals that 375 respondents representing 37.5% strongly agreed that Governments obtain bribe and allow them traffic and use substance, 369 respondents representing 36.9% agreed while 111 respondents representing 11.1% disagreed and 145 respondents representing 14.5 % strongly agreed. This result implies that government security agents relates with the prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.

Hypotheses testing

Hypothesis one

There is no significant relationship between traditions and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.

Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to test this hypothesis. The result of the analysis is as presented in Table 5:

Table 5. Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis of the relationship between traditions and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar (N= 1000).

Variables	$\frac{\sum X}{\sum Y}$	$\frac{\sum X^2}{\sum Y^2}$	$\sum XY$	r-value
Traditions	13385	25420		
			248765	0.72
Prevalence of substance abuse	11555	22405		

Significant at .05 level, critical r = .052, df = 998

The result in Table 5 shows that the calculated r-value of 0.72 is greater than the critical r-value of .052 at .05 level of significance with 998 degrees of freedom. With this result, the null hypothesis that says there is no significant relationship between traditions and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar was rejected. This implies that there is a significant relationship between traditions and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.

Hypothesis two

There is no significant relationship between availability of substance agents and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.

Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to test this hypothesis. The result of the analysis is as presented in Table 6:

Table 6. Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis of the relationship between availability of substance agents and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar (N= 1000).

Variables	$\frac{\sum X}{\sum Y}$	$\frac{\sum X^2}{\sum Y^2}$	$\sum XY$	r-value
Availability of substance agents	12965	24900		
			237105	0.69
Prevalence of substance abuse	11555	22405		

Significant at .05 level, critical r = .052, df = 998

The result in Table 6 shows that the calculated r-value of 0.69 is greater than the critical r-value of .052 at .05 level of significance with 998 degrees of freedom. With this result, the null hypothesis that says there is no significant relationship between availability of substance agents and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar was rejected. This implies that there is a significant relationship between availability of substance agents and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.

Hypothesis three

There is no significant relationship between peer group and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.

Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to test this hypothesis. The result of the analysis is as presented in Table 7:

Table 7. Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis of the relationship between peer group and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar (N= 1000).

Variables	$\sum X$ $\sum Y$	$\sum X^2$ $\sum Y^2$	$\sum XY$	r-value
Peer group	12305	24860		
			217875	0.64
Prevalence of substance abuse	11555	22405		

Significant at .05 level, critical r = .052, df = 998

The result in Table 7 shows that the calculated r-value of 0.64 is greater than the critical r-value of .052 at .05 level of significance with 998 degrees of freedom. With this result, the null hypothesis that says there is no significant relationship between peer group and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar was rejected. This implies that there is a significant relationship between peer group and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.

Hypothesis four

There is no significant relationship between government security agents and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.

Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to test this hypothesis. The result of the analysis is as presented in Table 8:

Table 8. Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis of the relationship between government security agents and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar (N= 1000).

Variables	$\sum X$ $\sum Y$	$\sum X^2$ $\sum Y^2$	$\sum XY$	r-value
Government Agencies	12485	24835		
			238495	0.78
Prevalence of substance abuse	11555	22405		

Significant at .05 level, critical r = .052, df = 998

The result in Table 8 shows that the calculated r-value of 0.78 is greater than the critical r-value of .052 at .05 level of significance with 998 degrees of freedom. With this result, the null hypothesis that says there is no significant relationship between government agencies and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar was rejected. This implies that there is a significant relationship between government agencies and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.

Observation of findings of the project

From the study in this project, it therefore reveals that:

- Tradition of Calabar relates with prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.
- Availability of substance agents in Calabar relates with prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.
- Peer group relationships in Calabar relates with prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.
- Government security agents of Calabar relates with the prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.

Discussion of findings

The result of the analysis of the relationship between tradition and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar reveals that there is a significant relationship between tradition and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar. This result could be attributed to the fact that youths are observed being remunerated and motivated during farming, construction work and into risky errands (tucks) with substances like native gin (ufofop), snuff, cigarette, palm wine, combine and hemp. This keeps them alert and awake at night, and those with evil intent goes on the effect to steal and loath people's property with other social vices in the town. This result supports that of Eze & Omeje (1999), who confirmed in their socio-cultural findings that, Efiks and Ibibios who are major occupants of Calabar, incorporate alcohol consumption in their cultural practice. This is observed in their ritual pouring of libation, entertainment and organization of celebrations with ufofop (local gin), palm wine (Efik wine), hot drink and beer. These accounts for their apathy and none reporting of smokers and alcoholics who live with them, and even carry out anti-social practices on its effects (Adeniyi, 2013).

The result of the analysis of the relationship between availability of substance agents and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar reveals that there is a significant relationship between availability of substance agents and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar. This result is possible in view of the fact that with the availability of substance agents close to the youths, they are more likely to engage in substance abuse. This result corroborates Affe, (2012), who wrote that criminals and lunatics in Calabar take advantage of drug outlets which are scattered around Calabar metropolis to traffic and abuse substance. And every day both group have been meeting at designated spots to sell and consume their substance. The findings also supports the Studies conducted by Bello, Oyo-Ita, Fatiregun, & Ikpeme, (2011), which revealed that availability and access of substance is the most determinants of abuse.

The result of the analysis of the relationship between peer group and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar reveals that there is a significant relationship between peer group and prevalence of substance abuse among youths on youths in Calabar. This result is possible in view of the fact that majority of the deviant behaviours indulged in by youths are introduced by peers. This is because most youths tends to do what they observe their fellow youths do in order to be counted among the big boys or girls, most of them smoke or drink substances for fear of rejection. This finding however supports the reports of Botvin (1998), that drinking with peer is paramount cause of substance use, and if it is associated with family background then the influence will be more marked.

The result of the analysis of the relationship between government security agents and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar reveals that there is a significant relationship between government security agents and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar. This is possible because if the government security agents arrests and punishes substance abusers accordingly, cases of substance abuse will dramatically reduced but in cases where government policies against substance are not properly enforced and government officials are equal partakers in substance consumption with youth, cases of drug abusers will increase. This result corroborates with NIDA, (2013), reports that the rate of alcohol drinking and illicit consumption among men and women in military service is far above what is found among civilian. And, this makes Bassey, R. (2013) to blame NDLEA for laxity, negligence of their duty, freeing of arrested cases brought to them for lack of evidence and lodging several excuses that prevents prosecution of suspects.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, that:

- There is significant relationship between tradition and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.
- There is significant relationship between availability of substance and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.
- There is significant relationship between peer group and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar.
- There is significant relationship between government agencies and prevalence of substance abuse among youths in Calabar

It is concluded that societal variables contribute to prevalence of substance abuse in Calabar, Cross River State.

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