

Drug Abuse Among Students in Public Secondary Schools in Kenya, The Case of Vihiga County

By

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Abstract

Drug Abuse is one of the major challenges facing the world today. The purpose of this study was to investigate drug abuse among Students in public secondary schools in Vihiga County, Kenya. Two theories namely the Social Learning Theory and the Social Control Theory guided this study. The study employed descriptive survey design and ex-post facto Approach. The target population was 15,222 students enrolled in 45 public secondary schools in Vihiga County. The accessible population was 3,769 Form Three students. Out of this population, a sample of 181 students was selected from nine Public secondary schools through simple random sampling. Data from students was collected using a students' questionnaire and a Students' Drug Involvement Scale (SDIS). Reliability of the research instruments was ensured through piloting the research instruments using a student sample size of thirty selected from three public secondary schools in Kakamega County which is a neighbouring County to Vihiga. The collected data was quantitative. Data analysis utilised descriptive statistics with the help of the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The study found that the extent of involvement in drugs by students in public secondary schools in Vihiga County was 55.9%. The study also found that the commonly abused drugs by students in public schools in Vihiga County are alcohol, cigarettes, miraa, and marijuana and that cocaine and heroin were beginning to infiltrate into public secondary schools. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that Drugs and Drug Abuse Education should be incorporated into the school curriculum for timely intervention.

Keywords: *Drug Abuse, Students, Secondary School*