

Socio-Economic Effect of Drugs and Substance Abuse on Youths' Productivity Within Mubi Metropolis, Mubi North Local Government Area, Adamawa State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study investigated the socio-economic effects of drugs and other illicit substances abuse on the youths' productivity within Mubi metropolis of Mubi North and South Local Government Areas, Adamawa State. The study used 150 well-structured questionnaires to collect primary data from respondents within the metropolis. Rational expectation model was adopted as theoretical framework while triangulation method was used as a comprehensive and standardized research design. Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) was used for data analysis. The overall results revealed that there is high incidences of drug and other illicit substances abuse among the youths within the metropolis. It findings further indicated that youths' productivity is highly and negatively affected by the drug abuse within the study area. This implies that many youths in Mubi metropolis abuse drugs and other illicit substances and it has seriously affected their health and labor productivity. The study therefore recommended that government, community and religious leaders, civil society organizations (CSO) and non-government organizations (NGOs) must begin and sustain a serious campaign and sensitization of youths on the dangers of abusing drugs and other illicit substances on their health conditions and by extension their labor productivity. The study also recommended that all people working in the transportation sector must pass through the processes of drugs screening or test before being issued with driving license.

Keywords: *Drugs abuse; Youths' productivity, economic growth, Youths.*

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background of the research

The impact of drug abuse on the socio-economic dynamics of youths' productivity remains a critical concern, particularly within the context of escalating population growth. This growth, unfortunately, is not proportionately matched by advancements in socio-economic development and the provision of robust welfare systems for citizens. Concurrently, the global rates of unemployment and poverty continue to surge. According to the World Bank's estimations, approximately 8.5 percent of the world's population, equivalent to 685 million individuals, might be living in extreme poverty by the conclusion of 2023. Moreover, global unemployment is anticipated to rise marginally by around 3 million individuals, reaching 208 million. This pervasive rise in poverty and unemployment exacerbates the challenge of addressing drug abuse, notably in less developed nations (World bank, 2023).

The historical context of drug abuse in Nigeria predates the early phases of civilization, evolving from the transition of human societies from nomadic lifestyles to settled agrarian communities. The cultivation of crops like wine, strong tobacco, opium, and other potent substances marked the genesis of drug usage. Over time, drug abuse has deeply entrenched itself in our societal structures, exhibiting catastrophic effects that transcend diverse societal strata in terms of creed, race, and socio-economic status.

Among adolescents and young adults, the consumption of alcohol, tobacco, and other illicit substances constitutes a significant risk-taking behavior. Despite widespread education and awareness programs on psychoactive substances, there remains a limited understanding among adolescents regarding the adverse consequences of substance misuse. Factors such as curiosity, social influence and peer pressure often serve as primary catalysts for initial experimentation with gateway drugs like tobacco, alcohol and marijuana (Oshodi, Aina & Onajole, 2022).

The alarming decline in economic productivity and the upsurge in mental health disorders directly attributed to drug addiction is of immense concern. The World Health Organization's report in 2023 revealed that 15% of working-age adults globally experienced a mental disorder in 2019, with a significant portion stemming from drug abuse or related causes.

Youths, often viewed as the cohort vital agents for achieving societal goals encompassing economic prosperity, political stability, and social equity are grappling with the deleterious effects of drug and illicit substances abuse. This predicament undermines their creative potentials, mental acuity and overall productivity. Concurrently, drug abuse engenders various societal problems including reckless behaviors such as driving under the influence of alcohol and illicit drugs leading to traffic violations and instilling fear and insecurity in public spaces (Ahmed, 2022).

1.2 Statement of Problem

The Socio economic effect of drugs abuse on youths' productivity is a huge subject of concern even with the ever-increasing population growth which is not balanced with increased socio-economic development and welfare system for the citizens. Global rate of unemployment and poverty keeps rising. The World Bank estimates that around 8.5 percent of the world's population

(685 million people) could be extremely poor by the end of 2023, global unemployment is slated to rise slightly in 2023 by around 3 million, to 208 million while. The global extreme poverty rate reached 9.3 percent, up from 8.4 percent in 2019 (World bank, 2023), which makes it more difficult for most countries especially third world countries to control social menaces.

The involvement of youths in drugs and illicit substances abuse and associated criminal activities such as political thuggery and brigandage in some places across Nigeria, reflects the prevailing lethargy and pessimistic future prospects for the affected communities and the society at large. Numerous studies, including those conducted by Sambo (2008), Ekpenyong (2012), Fareo (2012) and Akanbi, Augustina, Theophilus, Muritala and Ajiboye (2015) have underscored the grave and irreversible physical and psychological ramifications of chronic substance abuse among adolescents. Reports from reputable sources like Vanguard newspapers indicate a concerning prevalence of drug abuse among students and youths, underscoring the widespread ignorance concerning the dangers associated with substance abuse.

Moreover, the absence of a universally accepted method to combat this societal malaise has exacerbated its entrenchment within subcultures, obstructing productive endeavors across families, communities and the broader society. Lack of comprehensive data further complicates efforts to gauge the precise extent of health and social issues arising from drug abuse. Nonetheless, it is evident that illicit drug use predominantly results in problems and diseases rather than mortality. Tailored interventions necessitate an understanding of the specific characteristics of affected groups, aiding in the formulation of effective strategies.

The ramifications of drug abuse manifest in both economic and social spheres. The economic repercussions encompass the loss of potential human capital, diminished productivity and an inhospitable environment for investors, directly impacting Nigeria's Gross National Income (GNI). Socially, drug abuse contributes to escalating criminal activities like robbery, burglary, rape, vandalism of public property, and heightened rates of HIV/AIDS transmission, among other adverse effects. Notably, Nigerian youths represent approximately 48 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and play a pivotal role, contributing 7.27 percent to the country's exported goods and services, underscoring their significance despite prevailing challenges (NBS, 2021).

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective is to examine the socio-economic effect of drugs and illicit substances abuse on youths' productivity within Mubi town, Mubi North Local Government area, Adamawa state, Nigeria. The specific objective are:

- (i) To comprehensively categorize and analyze the prevalent types of drugs abused by the youth within the study area, including their frequency and patterns of usage.
- (ii) To quantify and assess the impact of drug abuse by estimating the total number of hours lost due to substance misuse within the study areas.
- (iii) To accurately determine the financial burden attributed to substance and drug abuse within the study area, encompassing both direct and indirect costs.

(iv) To assess and document the scope and nature of occupational hazards directly linked to substance and drug abuse within the study area.

1.4 Research Hypotheses

This study seeks to test this null hypothesis

H₀: Drugs and illicit substances abuse has no significant effect on the youths' productivity within Mubi metropolis

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Conceptual Clarification

Drugs

Bassi, Idoko, Ogundeko, Ramyil, Abisoye, Ogboke and Ihenacho (2017) delineated drugs as substances affecting living cells, serving medicinal purposes to diagnose, cure, or prevent diseases. Conversely, sociological perspectives, as elucidated by Siti (2014), conceptualize drugs as habit-forming substances altering brain function, mood, perception, or consciousness, potentially harmful and subject to misuse. Sarkingobir, Dikko, Namalam, Umar and Ashafa (2020) and Abubakar and Nasiru (2019) emphasize the multifaceted purposes of drug use, encompassing sedation, stimulation, weight loss, arousal, sleep induction, or therapeutic aims. Essentially, the consensus portrays drugs as chemical substances beyond food that alter organismal structure or function.

Drug abuse

Hodge, Marsiglia and Njeri (2011) defined drug abuse as the continued use of psychoactive substances contravening accepted social norms. This usage becomes socially disapproved when it jeopardizes health, relationships, or poses threats to society. Yusuf (2013) and Cofie (2010) amplified this by delineating drug abuse as the utilization of substances beyond their intended purposes, resulting in detrimental consequences for individuals and society. The broadening scope of drug abuse extends beyond illicit substances to encompass pharmaceuticals like Benylin, Codeine, and Valium, misused for purposes other than their prescribed intent.

While scientific definitions highlight drugs' medicinal roles, sociological perspectives emphasize societal impacts and the potential for misuse. The diversity in drug abuse definitions reveals a paradigm shift from mere recreational use to a broader societal concern encompassing pharmaceutical misuse and its resultant societal implications. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) defined youths as individuals transitioning from childhood dependence to adult independence and community interdependence. Moreover, the United Nations sets the age bracket for youth between 15 and 24 years old (UNESCO, 2017)

The synthesis of these definitions underscores the complex interplay between drugs, drug abuse, and their socio-cultural implications on the youth demographic. Understanding drug-related terminology aids in comprehending the intricate challenges faced by youths in navigating societal norms, influences, and risks associated with substance abuse. It also provides a foundational

understanding for interventions geared toward safeguarding the well-being and potential of this demographic as they transition into adulthood.

In summary, the multifaceted definitions of drugs and drug abuse highlight their dual nature – as substances with medicinal utility and as agents posing societal risks when misused. The definition of youth contextualizes these discussions within the demographic most vulnerable to the adverse effects of substance abuse, laying a foundational understanding crucial for targeted interventions and policy formulations.

YOUTHS

Youth is best defined as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence and awareness of our interdependence as members of a community (UNESCO, 2017). The United Nations for Statistical Consistency across regions defines youth, as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years

Theoretical Literature Review

Theory of cultural identification

Some of the success within culture brings benefits which are defined in terms of cultural value, such as money, rank, property, control or admiration, other benefits may be fundamental such as greater opportunities to have and raise children or even the possibility of a longer lifespan. The consequences on the part of culture can be devastating (Taylor, 2003). From this point of view that culture play an important role in the life of the children we rear from adolescent to adulthood age, virtually in all society cultural pattern varies which serve as a major determinant for the upbringing of our children's youths. In fact, no society -homogeneous or heterogeneous without one form of unique culture or the other which at the initial stage of one's life determines one's attitude or behavior in the society. Culturally, marginal individuals lack influence and interpersonal regards within their cultural contexts and their social environment usually presents few rewards. They must turn elsewhere to find an involvement in life or find satisfaction and enjoyment in living and more likely to engage in deviant and destructive behaviors. The use of psychoactive substances is found in essentially all culture and provides examples illustrating how cultural identification may be related to behavior.

Cultural identification, a personality trait is a persistent and long -term. Understanding characteristics that organize cognition and behavior. In fact, those with high identification with a culture perceive themselves as adapted or adjusted to that culture. Invariably they see themselves as involved in the culture and as capable and competent with it. Some with high cultural identification are more likely to see events from the perspective of that culture. They will make evaluation judgment about values, choose behaviors that are based culturally congruent and will be successful in cultural activities.

In essence, cultural identification, like other personality traits, develops and is maintained through interactions with the government. In other words, caffeine is a psycho-active substance and across the world, coffee and tea are perhaps the most commonly used drug; they exemplified cultural appropriate substance use. They are such an integral part of social intercourse; these substances

also provide useful example of the power of cultural acceptance. The widespread use of coffee and tea as social lubricators shows that a higher level of cultural identification can virtually require involvement with psychoactive substance. Similarly, the level of cultural identification will be more likely to use tobacco. On the other note, the use of alcohol is also cultural appropriate within many groups and occurs in many contexts which has its own cultural requirement for using alcohol, and person who meets those requirements is reinforced for the behavior (Hall, 2017).

Rational-Choice Theory

According to this approach, law-violating behavior occurs when an offender decides to risk breaking the law after considering both personal factors (such as the need for money, revenge, thrills, and entertainment) and situational factors (how well a target is protected and the efficiency of the local police force). Before choosing to commit a crime, the reasoning criminal evaluates the risks of apprehension, the seriousness of expected punishment, the potential value of the criminal enterprise, and his or her immediate need for criminal gain. Conversely, the decision to forgo crime may be based on the criminal's perception that the economic benefits are no longer there or that the risks of apprehension is too great (Shekarchuzadeh, Khami, Mohebbi, Ektiari & Virtanen, 2013). On this basis, drug abusers in Mubi Metropolis might abuse drugs purposely for financial gain, to take revenge against a rival party or for a thrill. Engagement in drug abuse is decided by calculating the most possible outcome of the action. This may be a benefit, escape and possible apprehension. It can be speculated therefore, youth are being supplied with substances and weapons to commit offences in favour of their political masters who in turn stand for them against any punishment by the law. This theory is adopted to guide the study.

2.2 Empirical Review

The prevalence of drug abuse among the youth in contemporary society has become a concerning issue. Through a comprehensive review of empirical studies and research findings, various factors contributing to this trend have been identified and analyzed.

Social and Psychological Influences: Sarkingobir et.al (2020) conducted a research at Dawanau Rehabilitation Center and the findings revealed that a substantial percentage of respondents resort to drug abuse either to attain material success or to escape personal problems. These findings were further substantiated by a motorcyclist's statement, indicating enhanced performance and fearlessness after using Gadagi.

Tracy's study (2003) on drug abuse among youths highlighted diverse reasons for substance abuse, including curiosity, pursuit of pleasure, social pressures, and tension relief. Peer groups, as identified by Nasiru and Musa (2019) significantly influence the initiation of drug abuse, serving as sources of information and influence regarding drug availability and effects.

Socio-Economic Dynamics: Numerous socio-economic factors contribute to the prevalence of drug abuse among the youth. Profit maximization by drug sellers, rapid urbanization, bribery, corruption, and ineffective social control measures are identified by Oshikoya and Ali (2006) as influential factors. Additionally, Sarkingobir et.al (2020) observed specific occupational groups consuming drugs to enhance performance and achieve material success.

Political and Law Enforcement Nexus: Sue, Sue and Sue' comparative study (2009) unveiled a concerning symbiotic relationship between political and law enforcement entities and local distributors of vices, including drugs. This finding raises concerns about the complicity of authorities in perpetuating drug distribution, potentially enabling drug abuse among the youth.

Societal and Health Implications: Drug abuse not only impacts individual health but also poses broader societal challenges. Balogun (2006) identified societal consequences, including increased cases of mental health issues, crimes, and a burden on government resources. Moreover, the NDLEA's report (2008) on the impounding of Indian hemp highlights the magnitude of drug abuse within society.

Implications on Productivity: Recent research by Bangbade et al. (2021) underscores the negative impact of drug abuse on productivity in the construction industry. Symptoms such as inability to follow instructions, carelessness, violence, and friction among workers were identified, significantly affecting productivity levels.

Conclusion: The collective findings of various empirical studies underscore the multifaceted nature of youth drug abuse, encompassing social, economic, political, and health-related dimensions. Addressing these complex issues requires multifaceted interventions aimed at societal, governmental, and individual levels to mitigate the detrimental impacts of drug abuse among the youth.

This revised structure aims to present a comprehensive and academically convincing analysis of the causes and implications of youth drug abuse by organizing the content logically and highlighting key empirical findings from various studies.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

Rational Expectations Model (REM) is adopted as the theoretical foundation of the study because it is rooted in economic theory, specifically in the field of macroeconomics. It posits that individuals make decisions based on all available information, including expectations about the future. In the context of drug abuse and youth productivity, this model provides a framework to understand how rational decision-making processes might be altered or influenced by drug consumption. It allows for an examination of how individuals, in this case, youth, weigh the potential short-term benefits of drug use against the long-term impacts on their productivity.

2.4 Gap in the Literature

This study essentially has identified three major gaps from the empirical literature reviewed which includes temporal gap in research, scope variations in previous literature and methodological differences in the analysis of data collected. Brief explanations of these gaps are provided below. Temporal Gap in Research: The existing body of research on drug abuse among youth predominantly stems from studies conducted several years ago. This temporal gap implies that these studies might not accurately represent the current societal landscape and dynamics surrounding drug abuse. Society evolves continuously, marked by rapid changes in technology,

socio-economic conditions, cultural norms, and access to various substances. As such, the relevance and applicability of older research findings to the contemporary context might be limited. The absence of recent investigations could lead to an inadequate understanding of the present-day challenges and nuances associated with youth drug abuse.

Scope Variations in Previous Literature: Another gap observed in the existing literature pertains to variations in the scope of previous studies. These variations might include differences in geographic locations, target populations, methodologies, or specific aspects of drug abuse examined. Consequently, this discrepancy in scope limits the comprehensive understanding of the broader socio-economic implications of drug abuse on youth productivity. A more comprehensive and unified approach is required to bridge these gaps and provide a holistic understanding of the issue. **Methodological Differences in Analysis:** The methodological approaches employed in previous review literatures and studies might differ significantly. These variations could encompass diverse analytical frameworks, research methodologies, data collection methods, and sample sizes. Such methodological differences could lead to varying conclusions, making it challenging to draw generalizable insights or comparisons across studies. Harmonizing the analytical approaches and methods is essential for ensuring a more consistent and reliable analysis of the socio-economic effects of drug abuse on youth productivity.

Given these identified gaps, the current research aims to address these deficiencies comprehensively. It seeks to bridge the temporal gap by conducting a contemporary study that captures the recent societal changes influencing drug abuse among youth. The research also aims to streamline the scope, focusing on the broader socio-economic effects of drug abuse on youth productivity in Mubi Metropolis. Furthermore, the study endeavors to employ a standardized and rigorous analytical methodology that aligns with the most updated research practices, ensuring reliability and comparability with contemporary literature.

In summary, this study seeks to fill the gaps in the existing literature by conducting a current, focused, and methodologically sound investigation into the socio-economic impacts of drug abuse on youth productivity in Mubi Metropolis, thereby contributing to a more comprehensive and updated understanding of this critical societal issue.

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Description of Study Area

Mubi Metropolis comprises two Local Government Areas (LGAs), namely Mubi North and Mubi South, out of the twenty-one LGAs within Adamawa State. The metropolis is located between latitude $10^{\circ} 05'$ and $10^{\circ} 30'$ of the equator and longitude $13^{\circ} 12'$ and $13^{\circ} 19'E$ of the Greenwich meridian and has a land area of 4,728.77 km². The temperature regime in Mubi region is warm to hot throughout the year, because of high radiation income which is relatively evenly distributed throughout the year. However, there is usually a slightly cool period between November and February with minimum temperature of 12.7°C around January and maximum temperature of 37°C around April. It is one of the urban areas in Nigeria that existed since the colonial era and has the second largest population in the state after Yola the State capital, with a population of

260,009 from the 2006 population census. However, the projected population of the metropolis stood at 372,305 in 2019 according to Adebayo et al., 2020 as cited in Dikko et.al. (2023).

The area shares a boundary with Maiha L.G.A in the south, Hong L.G.A in the west, Michika L.G.A and Cameroon Republic in the east (Figure 2). The vegetation of Mubi and its environments fall within the Sudan savannah belt of Nigeria. The vegetation zone is referred to as cambretaceous woodland savannah. About 70% of the vegetation is grasses and weeds with few scattered woody plants which make up part of the natural vegetation and the exotic which were brought from other areas into the region.

The growth of Mubi town is traced to the agricultural, administrative and commercial functions it performs. By 1902, Mubi was a German base from where the neighboring tribes such as the Fali, Gude, Kilba, Higgi, Margi and Njanyi of the region were subjugated. On 1st April 1960, Mubi was made the native authority headquarters. The same year, July 1960, the town became provincial headquarters of the defunct Sardauna province. In 1967, It was made L.G.A headquarters while in 1996, the town was splinted into two LGAs (Mubi-North and Mubi-South). Currently, the town is the seat of Mubi Emirate Council and is the headquarters of the Adamawa-North Location and Extent of Mubi Town According to Adebayo (2004),

Mubi is geographically well placed and functions not only as the centre of commerce in the region but also extends its sphere of influence to countries such as Cameroun, Central Africa Republic and Chad. Numerous banks, filling stations and hotels exist in the town to support the commercial activities. Another factor that led to growth of the town is rural-urban migration experienced from the surrounding villages. More over the town has become centre of learning with numerous tertiary and secondary institutions established in the metropolis such as the Federal Polytechnic, College of Health and Adamawa State University (Enoch, 2019).

3.2 Research Design

The research design for the proposed study is going to be a mix method of using evidence from the literature that will inform the choice of appropriate quantitative and qualitative methods of collecting data from the field. In other words, triangulation method will be adopted as a standardized and comprehensive research design. The quantitative method of data collection will be achieved via the deployment of both structure and semi-structured questionnaires that will be administered across different households within the study location. The qualitative technique on the other hand, will be achieved through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) whereby comprehensive interviews guides will be designed to achieve that. Indeed, critical stakeholders in the water sector will be given priority while searching for the right persons to speak during both the FGDs and the KIIs sessions.

3.3 Sources and Method of Data Collection

The data for the proposed study will purely be primary source that will be collected via certified and piloted structured questionnaire and FGDs/KIIs guides. The process will be achieved through the use of an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) platform known as the Open Data Kit (ODK) or Kobo collect. Smart phones or android table will be required as the major ICT

devices that will assist in collecting the data. The choice for this method is predicated on the fact it has proven to be very effective and efficient in collecting high quality data within the shortest possible time and at minimal cost. It is also environmentally friendly, since none of the questionnaire will be printed. Indeed, one could also vouch for the integrity of the data because a lot of quality insurance measures are imbedded in the software. Lastly, it also simplifies the process of the data analysis since the back end of the data will be monitored by the research team as soon as the data collection process commences.

3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Technique

Sampling Techniques: Snowball chain referral and clustered proportionate sampling techniques were chosen to access a representative sample of 350 respondents who abuse drugs. This selection method ensures inclusivity and diversity within the sample. The Sample Size was determined using Berlett, Kotrlile, and Huggins' standardized formula which ensures statistical reliability and minimizing sampling errors. The Target respondents are those from the transportation sectors (motor parks), construction sites, and abattoirs. The justification for this is premised on the fact that there is high prevalence of drug abuse among actively engaged youth. This approach ensures capturing diverse perspectives and prevalence rates across various sectors.

3.5 Method of Data Analysis:

Both descriptive statistics (percentage tables and measures of central tendency) and inferential statistics (regression analysis) were utilized. This comprehensive approach enables a detailed examination of the collected data, providing both summary statistics and relationships between variables. b. Empirical Model Design: The construction of an empirical model helps in gauging the impact of drug abuse on productivity. Variables such as youth productivity, level of drug abuse, hours lost, income earned, accidents, drug-related illness, socio-economic attributes, education level, and work experience were identified and incorporated into the model. Equation (i) provides a clear functional notation of the model, allowing for a structured analysis of the variables' relationships. A simple empirical model has been designed to gauge the extent of the effect of drugs abuse on their productivity. Three major variables were identified for the model (youth productivity, level of drugs abuse, numbers of hours' loss, income earned, incidence of accident recorded, history or frequency of drugs abuse related illness reported) and some socio-economic attributes of the respondents. Equation (i) provides the functional notation of the model.

$$YP = F(LDA, NHL, IAR, FDRI, INC, Edu, WE) \dots\dots\dots (i)$$

Where:

YP = Youth productivity proxy by either number of hours used per day or week or month or daily or weekly or monthly income earned as a result of work done;

LDA = Level of drugs abuse proxy by the amount of income spent on addictive substance per day or week or month;

NHL = Number of Hours Lost per day or week or month attributed to drugs abuse;

IAR = Incidence of Accident Recorded in a Year attributed to drugs abuse during work;

FDRI = Frequency of Drugs Related Illness Reported in Year;

INC = Income of the respondent spent on drugs abuse;

Edu = number years spent during education (0 for no formal education, 6 for primary education, 9 for Junior Secondary Education, 12 for senior education, 15 for ND/NCE, 16 for University education and 17 for Post Graduate Education); and

WE = Working Experience of the respondent.

The quantitative data collected was analyzed using both descriptive (tables/charts) and inferential statistics (regression analysis). While as the thematic analysis was used for the analysis of the qualitative data.

Qualitative Analysis: Thematic analysis was used for the qualitative data obtained. This method enables a systematic identification and exploration of patterns and themes within the qualitative data, offering a deeper understanding of the subjective experiences and perceptions of the respondents.

In conclusion, this comprehensive methodology combines quantitative and qualitative approaches, utilizing robust sampling techniques, data collection tools, and analytical methods. It aims to provide a holistic understanding of the socio-economic effects of drug abuse on youth productivity in Mubi Metropolis, offering valuable insights and empirical evidence for policy formulation and interventions.

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Data Presentation and Discussion of Findings

A total of 150 questionnaires were distributed but 133 (given a response rate of 88.67%) were successfully retrieved, cleaned and analyzed.

Table 1 provides a description of some key socio-economic attributes of the respondents

Table 1: - Summary of Socio-economic Attributes of the Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percent(%)	Cumulative Freq.
Female	10	7.52	7.52
Male	123	92.48	100.00
Total	133	100.00	

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Cumulative Freq.
Divorced			
/Separated	10	7.52	7.52
Married	38	28.57	36.09
Single	84	63.16	99.25
Total	133	100.00	

Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Cumulative
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Qur'anic Edu	16	12.03	12.03
Primary	24	18.05	30.08
Junior	24	18.05	48.12
Secondary	54	40.60	88.72
ND/NCE	15	11.28	100.00
Total	133	100.00	

Major Occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Cumulative Freq.
Transportation	55	40.60	42.10
Construction Site	58	43.61	84.96
Abattoir	20	15.04	100.00
Total	133	100.00	

Types of drugs /substance	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Cumulative. Freq.
Alcohol,	21	15.38	15.38
Cocaine	3	2.31	17.69
Codeine family	6	4.62	22.31
Ice	15	11.54	33.85
Marijuana	7	5.38	39.23
Others	12	9.23	48.46
Tramadol family	65	49.23	98.46
Total	130	100.00	

Source: Outcome of Field Survey, 2024.

A careful examination of the above table 1 reveals that about 92.48% (123) of the sampled population are males while 10 of them comprising 7.52% are females. Indeed, the skewing of the sampling to the male gender was attributed to the fact that the three clusters (transportation, construction and abattoir businesses) selected are dominated by male gender in the northern Nigeria. It was also established that most of them (63.16%) are singles because the study is aimed at the youthful population. The educational status suggests that majority of them (40.60%) completed their Senior Secondary education. The highest education qualification attained by the respondents was National Diploma/National Certificate of Education (ND/NCE).

While considering the various subsectors that mostly employ youths who are perceived to be into drugs in Mubi metropolis, the table shows that those working on the construction sites constituted the majority, followed by the transportation business, and lastly those working in abattoirs with the respective percentage of 43.61%, 40.60% and 15.04% respectively

Taking into accounts the aspect of drugs, it was established that majority of the respondents, about 65 of them, representing 49.23% used tramadol family as a substance that is commonly abused, followed by alcohol consumption with 21 respondents, representing 15.38% and Ice with 15 respondents, constituting 11.54%. The least drug being abused is cocaine, comprising just 2.31%

of the entire population sample. This could be attributed to the high cost and difficulty of accessing the substance itself.

Furthermore, table 2 provides the summary statistics for all the variables for the econometrics model.

Table 2: - Summary Statistics for the variable of interest

Variable	Observation	Mean	Std. Dev.	Minimum	Maximum
Age	133	29.37594	9.041656	15	50
Total Monthly Income	133	50384.64	23191.42	15000	150000
Work Experience	133	6.646617	5.616798	1	30
Average Daily Hours for work	129	11.38992	43.351	5	500
Average Daily Income Earned	126	2077.262	4054.912	900	6500
Average Weekly Income	126	12350.67	8802.962	1495	94500
Daily Income Spent on Drugs	133	710.9023	473.476	100	4000
Est. Income spent on Accident	81	12490.6	15982.5	333.2	99960
Frequency of Incidence of Acc	100	6.78	5.024345	1	40

Source: Outcome of Researchers' Field Survey, 2024.

Table 2 revealed that the sampled population had an average age of 29 which lies within the range of youthful population with the youngest age of 15 and the maximum age of 50 years. This affirmed the fact the right population was reached for the survey. The sum of fifty thousand, three hundred and eighty-four and sixty-four kobo (₦50,384.64) was established to be the average monthly income of the respondents with the maximum and minimum income of fifteen thousand naira (₦15,000) and one hundred and fifty thousand naira only (₦150,000) respectively. The average income is indeed 40% above the national minimum wage of the country. The mean working experience was estimated to be approximately 7 years and 11 hours, 39 minutes was the average daily working hours.

It was also revealed from the survey that the average daily wage rate/income (using weighted mean) was ₦2, 077.26k out of which the sum of about ₦701 was spent on drugs/additive substances. The amount represents 35% of the total daily income of the respondents.

Furthermore, findings from the table showed that the respondents experienced approximately seven (7) work-related accidents in a year which is attributable largely to the influence of drugs and substances abuse. This has resultant medical bills of about ₦ 12,500 as average cost of treatment with significant numbers of days lost for working.

In order to ascertain the level or magnitude of drug abuse on the youths' productivity, table 3 provides the regression results for models **A** and **B** with average daily income and average daily hours used for productivity activities as their respective proxies for the dependent variables.

Table 3: Outcome of regression results for assessing the socio-economic determinants of youths' productivity

Dependent variables:	Daily Income Earned Model A	Daily Hours Spent Model B
Independent variables		
Daily Income on Drugs	-0.2940** (0.0057)	-0.1940** (0.0030)
Frequency of Accident	-0.05051* (0.0701)	-0.6030 * (0.0533)
Educational level	0.4071 (0.2664)	-0.1663 (0.2019)
Working Experience	0.2586□ (0.9010)	0.1187□ (0.6030)
/Frequency of Drugs Intake	0.0353*** (0.0009)	0.0477** (0.0081)
/Age	-0.0576*** (0.0005)	-0.0515 *** (0.0002)
/Frequency of Drugs Related Illness	0.3700 (0.3537)	-0.7410 (0.892)
Number of Observations	1.0497 (0.3563)	2.2152 (0.2973)
Pseudo R ²	625	626
Log pseudo likelihood	0.0358	0.0414
Wald Chi ²	-948.0629	-874.8512
	62.44 [0.0000]	80.73 [0.0000]

Source: Outcome of Researchers' Field Survey, 2024

Results from the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) regression standard robust estimates (that accounts for heterogeneity among the sampled population) for the two models are all presented on table 3 above. Although the pseudo R² for both models look very small, yet the Wald Chi² statistics are both significant at 1%,

Model A used the daily income earned by the respondents which is the dependent variable, suggested that four of its explanatory variables namely, daily income spent on drugs/illicit substances abuse, frequency of drugs intake, work experience, and frequency of accident attributed to drugs/illicit substances abuse were all significant at 5%, 10%, 1% and 1% respectively. However, educational level, age and frequency of drugs-related illness were not found to be significant in affecting the level of the productivity of the respondents.

For instance, daily income spent on drugs/illicit substances negatively affects the level of youths' productivity and is in line with the a priori expectations of the model. This suggested that a one-naira increase in income spent on drugs/illicit substances will bring about 0.29 decreases on income earned by the victims of drugs abuse while holding other variables constant. Similarly, an increase on the frequency of drugs/illicit substances abuse on one hand, would decrease the daily income of the respondents by approximately 7% while keeping other variables constant.

Working experience however, has a positive and significant relationship with the level of productivity of the respondents. This confirmed the classical position that experience enhances effectiveness and efficiency of productivity of a worker.

In the case of model **B**, the dependent variable is expressed in terms of the number of hours used for productive activities. The outcome suggested that four (daily income spent on drugs, frequency of drugs intake, work experience and frequency of accident) out of the seven independent variables are statistically significant. While age, education and frequency of drugs-related illness are all statistically significant.

Considering the relationship between number of hours used for productive activities and income spent on drugs intake, it was established that they are negatively related, that is, for every one naira spent on drug/illicit substance intake, it will decrease the number of hours for work with 0.19 (19 minutes) keeping other variables to be constant. An increase in the incidence of drugs-related accidents will translate to 0.60 (1 hour) loss of productive time while assuming other variables to be equal.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

Leveraging on the empirical findings, the study therefore concluded that there is high incidence of drugs abuse among the youthful population of Mubi metropolis who are engaged in gainful economic activities in the three clusters selected. Furthermore, outcome from the key indicators of both drugs/illicit substances abuse and productivity established that it has a negative and significant effect on the productivity of the youth within the study area.

5.2 Recommendations

Drawing from the evidences of the research, the study provides the following recommendations: -

- (i) That all critical stakeholders such as the government, community leaders, religious leaders, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) must put hands together to seriously begin and sustain the process of sensitizing the youths on the great dangers of drugs and illicit substances abuse on their livelihood
- (ii) Government at all levels should begin the process of making laws (legislature) that will make it compulsory on every citizen to undergo the process of drugs screening before being employed to work in public and private offices

- (iii) All people working in the transportation sector must pass through the processes of drugs screening or test before being issued with driving license.
- (iv) There should be more surveillance and border control on the drugs supply chains to ensure that those major drugs identified in study are prevented from reaching the primary and targeted users
- (v) Furthermore, drug enforcement agencies like the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) should be well strengthened in the areas of training, retraining, equipment and be motivational remunerated to forestall and discourage indiscipline, bribery and corruption among them.

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