



Pragmatic Analysis on the Relationship Between Crime and Drug Abuse in Nigeria

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Abstract

Crime and Drug abuse are both related in terms of the pain in the neck they cause at present disturbing every part of Nigeria. This study is on Pragmatic Analysis of the Relationship between Crime and Drug Abuse in Nigeria. The objective of this paper is to examine drug abuse, crime and criminality in Nigeria as well as the linkages between these variables, to investigate the prevalence and patterns of drug abuse among individuals involved in crime, to determine if a causal relationship exists between substance abuse and crime, to evaluate the impact of drug abuse and criminal behavior on individual and the society in Nigeria. This study adopted a qualitative explanatory research design to employ the linkage between drug abuse, crime and criminality. Two different theoretical models was adopted to explain the drugs-violence relationships and served as relevant framework to analyze the connection between drug abuse and crime. The Situational Crime Prevention Theory, primarily developed and propounded by Ronald V. Clarke in the late 1970s was used for this paper. The paper recommends that, there should be an effective synergy between Drug Enforcement Agency and the Police in areas of drug control and crime prevention, effective drug prevention programs should involve the family, schools, communities and the media, Parent should take extra measures to monitor the activities of their children including their associations and reduce child's exposure to drug users in the family, Government, family, schools, private and religious bodies should work together in the fight against drug abuse, the research and statistics unit of Nigeria Police and Correctional Service should acquire modern assessment tools for gathering detailed information on crime and substance abuse and to dig-up the drug-using past of arrestees and inmates.

Keywords: Drug, Drug abuse, Crime, Criminality, Nigeria

Introduction

Drug trafficking is another outcome of drug abuse that leads to crime. Crime and drug abuse work hand in hand, because when drug abuse is involved in criminal activities, it becomes dangerous to the society. Crime does not just happen, those at the helm of affairs beat the drum for the youths to dance. They supply them with arms and ammunitions and also set the ball rolling. The criminalistic tendency of the leaders

is the vector. A vector is a trigger, or a catalyst, even though it is a scientific construct. It opens the floodgate of insecurity through the corrupt overt behaviours of politicians and senior civil servants who siphon money from the nation's coffer through budget padding and other means. The recent scandal among Nigerian lawmakers is one out of such behaviours. Still in this country that snake eat money. (John et al, 2024. Pg. 128)

Consequences of crime and criminality in Nigeria



society are outrageous; despite increased and concerted efforts on the part of government to curb and control crime, the epidemics of crime is still at alarming state. The effects range from underdevelopment, absence of basic infrastructure, siphoning of nation's resources to finance the ongoing fight against terrorism and other form of violent crime; loss of well-trained and active workforce and security agents as well as military hardware as a result of fire exchange and ambushes made by terrorists and bandits, especially those involved in violent crime fight (Sifawa, et al 2022)

Drug abuse remains a global public health problem and it is one of the nurture causes of criminal behavior in the society (Uye et al; 2023). Drug abuse and crime in Nigeria are interconnected issues, with far reaching consequences for individuals, communities and society as a whole (Azi et al; 2024). To exemplify the trend in the new normal, policy makers observed that the untidy marriage between illicit drugs and crime has taken a more disturbing dimension in Nigeria. "Kidnappers now demand ransom in money and drugs such as tramadol among others from victims' relations" (Marwa, 2019).

The UNODC also revealed that 1 in 7 Nigerians aged 15-64 years are drug abusers, 1 in 4 drug abusers are women and 1 in 5 drug users suffer from the consequences of the drugs (UNODC, 2022). Data from the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Federal Republic of Nigeria 2016 Annual Report (NDLEA, 2022) shows that all categories of illicit drugs are widely abused in all the states of Nigeria including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) (NDLEA, 2022).

The abuse of drugs in Nigeria is caused by many factors including love for money by peddlers, disobedience to the laws of the country, proliferation of the market with individuals who sell medicines, lack of control of prescription in the healthcare facilities and lack of control of dispensing among dispensers. Other reasons for abuse of drugs include smuggling substances of abuse through our porous seaports and land borders, corruption and compromises at the point

of entries, diversion of legitimate exports to illicit use, weakness in inspections and weak penalties for the sellers and traffickers. Some social factors that have resulted in abuse of drugs include, decline of family value systems, parents not playing their roles properly, children and youth therefore not receiving proper guidance, peer pressure, social media influence, poverty and unemployment and lack of seed capital to start up businesses even after undergoing kills acquisition training (Mercy, 2022 & Mojisola, 2018). It is also assumed as the unspecific use of a drug other than for legitimate purposes. Substance abuse, also known as drug abuse, is the use of a drug in amounts or by methods which are harmful to the individual or others. It is a form of substance-related disorder (Oluwasanmi, 2022).

The most commonly abused substances include cannabis, tramadol, codeine, and heroin, with emerging trends in the abuse of synthetic drugs such as methamphetamine (Abdulmalik et al., 2019). Mojisola (2018). Tramadol is a synthetic opioid analgesic used to treat moderate to severe pain and is the most abused medicine among addicts. It has no effects on the respiratory system but overdose causes arrhythmias, cramps, coma and death. In Nigeria, it is regulated as the 50 and 100mg dosage strengths but very high dosage forms of 200 and 225mg have infiltrated the market. There is also noticeable increase in smuggling of Tramadol capsules. Tramadol use disorder is associated with physical withdrawal symptoms and compulsive behavior. Codeine can be obtained as an over-the-counter painkiller and cough medicines in Nigeria but consumers often become addicted. The risk of addiction is great, and in many countries including Nigeria, consumers are required to have prescriptions for all opioid-based medications.

Few recorded cases of violent crimes and murders that are traceable to drugs will suffice at this juncture. The 23 year Bello Garba, the eldest son of state security officer, Garba Bello, who killed his parents and 3 of his siblings in cool blood in September 2010, in Kano, admitted that he committed the grisly murder under the influence of drugs. A 27 year boy who bears the nickname



“breaker” admitted to a judge in Lagos of consuming a lot of alcohol, gum and tramadol. He confessed that he has never killed but he steals and raped few girls some time ago (Daily Trust, 2019). Against this background, this paper examines the pragmatic analysis on the relationship between crime and drug abuse in Nigeria.

Conceptual Clarifications

Crime

Nanaghan (2025). Crime is the breach of a rule or law for which a punishment may ultimately be prescribed by some governing authority or force. Crime is an offence committed against the law. Crime has been and will continue to be a crucial issue in the affairs of Homo sapiens. In human society, crime has existed since the days of yore to plague human beings in form of threatening their lives and their properties. The constantly touted phraseology “threat to lives and property” is a pointer to the fact that crime is a dangerous phenomenon which should be properly studied to understand what crime is and its place in human society. In this unit, we are going to critically examine the rudiments of the “WHAT” of crime. After this, the nitty-gritty of how crime evolved and the 'WHERE' of crime will be investigated thoroughly. The word crime originates from the Latin word, *crimen* (genitive *criminis*), from the Latin root, *cernō* and Greek *κρίνω* = “I judge”. Originally it meant “charge (in law), guilt, and accusation.”

From the legal point of view, a crime has not been committed unless all seven of the following elements are present. These are Harm, Legality, Actus reus, Mens rea, Causation, Concurrence, and Punishment. Let us look at each of these elements one after the other.

1. Harm

For crime to occur, there must be an external consequence, or harm. The harm may be physical or verbal. For example, if someone punches another individual without reasonable legal cause, then it is considered physical harm. If a person threatens to beat up or kill another person, whether or not the threat is carried out, is verbal harm. Also, if a person slanders or

bears false witness against another individual that dishonours or injures him/her, it is considered harm. The question that readily comes to mind is whether the legal element of harm is present in all crimes. For instance, if one examines victimless offences such as prostitution, gambling, marijuana use, one may believe that engaging in these acts has an element of agreement and consent. The participants may not see their habits as acts of harm perpetrated in the society. However, the family of the participants and the moral fabric of the society are jeopardized by such behaviour (Bohn & Haley, 2002).

2. Legality

Legality has two aspects. First, the harm must be legally forbidden for an act to be a crime. For example, robbing other citizens while armed is against the law in Nigeria. If caught, it is generally agreed that the individual has committed a crime and should be dealt with accordingly. This means that the individual has committed a crime from the view point of legality. The second aspect is that the criminal law must not be retroactive or *ex post facto*.

3. Actus Reus

This is a Latin word, which refers to criminal action or inaction that causes harm. If individuals do not act in situations where the law requires them to act, then they are legally committing a crime. We can therefore say that actus reus is the physical element of the guilty act, and it requires proof. Where there is no actus reus, there is no crime. This includes all the elements in the definition of the crime, with the exception of the mental element. Actus reus can also be seen to be made up of the conduct, its consequences and the circumstances in which the conduct takes place.

4. Mens rea

This is a Latin word that refers to a criminal intent or a guilty state of mind. It is the mental aspect of a crime. Here, criminal conduct is limited to intentional, premeditated or purposeful action or inaction and not accidents or mistakes of omission and commission. For example, If one individual slaps another and the assaulted party does not retaliate immediately, but allowed a significant period (1-2 days) to pass before retaliating with a slap; such an action will be viewed as intentional



and purposeful. As such, the individual will be criminally responsible for the outcome of his/her action. This is what is regarded as *Mens Rea*.

5. Causation

This is a process where the criminal act must lead directly to harm without a long delay. It is a causal relationship between the legally forbidden harm and the *Actus Reus*. The purpose of the requirement of causation is to prevent people from facing the threat of criminal charges for the rest of their lives. When the cause of a crime is known, it makes it possible to understand the intricacies surrounding its commission.

6. Concurrence

For any act to be considered crime there must be concurrence between *actus reus* and *mens rea*. In other words, the criminal conduct and the criminal intent must occur together. For example, if you invite a plumber to your house to repair your water closet, and that plumber on his way out, picks your property (mobile phone/silverware) and leaves. In this situation, you cannot accuse the plumber of being guilty of entering your house illegally (trespass), because that was not his initial intention. However, the plumber can be found guilty of stealing the mobile phone.

7. Punishment

This is the last of the ideal legal elements of crime. For any behaviour to be considered a crime there must be a statutory provision for a punishment or at least the threat of punishment. The threat of punishment and actual punishment is usually directed at crime and illegal acts and not innocent behaviour.

Drug Abuse

National Cancer Institute (NCI). Defines Drug Abuse as the use of illegal drugs or the use of prescription or over-the-counter drugs for purposes other than those for which they are meant to be used, or in excessive amounts. Drug abuse may lead to social, physical, emotional, and job-related problems. There is no universal agreement on the definition of the term drug abuse. Edward, and Arif (2016) defined it as the use of a drug which is viewed as posing a problem by the society

concerned. It is also assumed as the unspecific use of a drug other than for legitimate purposes. Substance abuse, also known as drug abuse, is the use of a drug in amounts or by methods which are harmful to the individual or others. It is a form of substance-related disorder. The use of illegal drugs or to use of prescription or over the counter drug for purpose of other than those for which they are meant to be used, or in excessive amounts. Drug abuse may lead to social, physical, emotional, and job-related problems. Drug abuse or substance abuse refers to the use of certain chemicals for the purpose of creating pleasurable effects on the brain.

Some causes of Drug Abuse:

1. Lack of basic knowledge about the effects and dangers of consuming drugs/ addictive
2. Urge to try something new, coupled with peer influence and pressure, make young people vulnerable to drug abuse.
3. Young people are highly influenced by their peers and mimic their behaviours. Hence, parents should always be aware of their children.
4. In many instances, young people are influenced by their peers to experiment with cigarettes, alcohol and other harmful substances.
5. Commonly prevalent myths that drugs can help overcome boredom, depression, stress and fatigue may encourage young people to abuse these substances. Also, media images that glamorize substance abuse may also mislead young people.
6. Young people may be under pressure from family or friends to perform beyond their capacity.
7. In any field related to academics, sports or winning over friends and under the false impression that drugs may help them; many young people fall into the vicious cycle of substance abuse.
8. If an elder (parent, grandparent) in the family engages in substance abuse, young people in that family are more likely to start abusing the same or a different substance.

Factors like relatively easy availability of drugs, community norms, and adverse family situations



may push young people into substance abuse. If you or your loved one is addicted to any drug, it is best recommended that you consult a psychiatrist at the earliest. Dependence on any drug can limit you and your body. Addiction can have adverse effects on your health.

Types of Drugs Abused in Nigeria

The most common illegal drugs used among Nigerians is cannabis according to Foster (2004), other illegal drugs used include cocaine, heroin, amphetamine-type stimulants and inhalant and solvents such as glue. Whether you smoke marijuana, drink alcohol, or snort cocaine, there are risks involved with using drugs that can range from addiction to death. Knowing the risks can help you make better decisions that positively affect your health. Understanding the effects of these drugs on your body and the serious threat of addiction they pose is the first step in protecting yourself.

1. Marijuana.

This mild hallucinogen, derived from the Cannabis sativa plant, is the most commonly abused illegal drug in Nigeria, according to Oni (2008). When used, usually through smoking, marijuana acts as a central nervous system stimulant. It speeds up heart rate and raises blood pressure, (Stacey 2006). It can stimulate the nervous system enough that some people become paranoid while taking it. At the same time, marijuana can dull memory, making it harder to concentrate or remember things. Death from smoking too much marijuana is rare, but as with smoking cigarettes, habitual marijuana use can lead to heart disease and other cardiovascular problems. Smoking Marijuana is a process of introducing a dirty substance into your lungs. And just like tobacco smokers, marijuana smokers are at risk for respiratory problems such as chronic cough and frequent lung infections. Marijuana smoke also contains many carcinogens, though a definitive link between it and cancer remains unclear at this time.

2. Cocaine.

A powerful, addictive stimulant, cocaine gives users a euphoric feeling when ingested, which, depending on the person, may or may not actually feel good. Some people experience that rush as very pleasurable, but others don't like it. The

euphoric feeling is short-lived, lasting anywhere from 30 to 45 minutes (Stacey 2006). Cocaine is usually snorted as a powder, but it can also be modified into rock form so-called crack and smoked. Cocaine tightens blood vessels and speeds up the heart. These cardiovascular effects are the main reason for most cocaine-related deaths. According to Smith (2014), even in small doses, it can kill you, sudden death is not uncommon.

3. Opiates.

These drugs, which include both street drugs like heroin and pharmaceutical painkillers like morphine and /, act on the body's central nervous system by stimulating the brain's reward center, which controls pleasurable feelings. Opiates mimic the effects of healthy feel-good activities, like having sex or eating. However, in high doses, opiates can cause some of the brain's critical functions, like breathing, to slow down or stop working. In an overdose, the brain shuts off the thermostat that drives respiration, the person goes into a coma and dies. Since heroin is commonly injected, users are also at risk for HIV and hepatitis, which can be transmitted through shared needles (Oni 2008).

4. Methamphetamine.

Usually a white powder that is smoked, snorted, or injected, this powerful stimulant is highly addictive. Like cocaine, methamphetamine, according to Oni (2008) can speed up the heart, as well as cause hyperthermia, an extremely high body temperature. When used over a long period of time, methamphetamine can cause anxiety, insomnia, and even psychotic symptoms, like hallucinations. Severe dental problems can also occur; the drug is acidic and can wear down teeth over time. Users often grind their teeth as well, further damaging them. As with heroin users, people who inject methamphetamine are at risk for HIV and hepatitis.

5. Alcohol.

Moderate consumption of alcohol is safe for most people, but too much consumption can lead to problems. Many do consume more than their capacity, and this brings out the abnormality in such person. It doubles the consumer's mind. Those who are unable to confront certain challenges do engage in high consumption of



alcohol. It is a liquid content that gradually affect the operation of the brain. Alcohol also has short-term health effects. Since alcohol is a depressant, it can slow motor skills and impair the user's ability to make clear judgments

Relationships between Crime and Drug Abuse

1. There is a close relationship between drug abuse and crime. Drug abusers commit crimes to pay for their drugs and this inflicts damages to the society. Moreover, many criminals are under the influence of drugs while committing crimes. Drug trafficking is another outcome of drug abuse (World Drug Report 2012).

2. According to a research in the United States in 2010, 70% of male prisoners were drug abusers which is significant compared to the 11.2% rate of drug abuse in the entire male population (United States:Idaho state police statistical analysis center, 2010).

3. Alcohol has the highest relationship with aggressive crimes. According to reports, criminals who had abused drugs and alcohol simultaneously committed 21.4% of aggressive crimes. Among individuals who were arrested in Australia during 2004, 82% had a history of drug abuse, 69% had abused drugs at least 6 months before their arrest and 62% frequently abused drugs (Young UK, 2004).

4. One perspective focuses on the link between drug use and criminal behavior, suggesting that substance abuse can lead individuals to engage in illegal activities to support their addiction.

5. Drug users may resort to theft, burglary, or drug dealing to obtain money to purchase drugs, consequently driving up crime rates.

6. Another dimension of this relationship involves the organized criminal networks that emerge to control the production, distribution, and sale of drugs. These illicit drug markets often operate outside the legal framework, fostering a criminal subculture where violence and other criminal activities become prevalent. The lure of lucrative profits from drug trafficking incentivizes individuals to engage in criminal behavior, leading to increased violence and instability in affected communities.

7. Moreover, the societal impact of drug addiction can extend beyond individual criminal acts.

8. Substance abuse can destabilize families and communities, resulting in strained relationships, financial hardships, and reduced productivity.

9. The strain on social and economic resources further contributes to the perpetuation of criminal behavior.

Causes of drug-related crime

Economic factors: Poverty and lack of economic opportunities are often cited as underlying causes of drug-related crime. In disadvantaged communities, drug trafficking can present an avenue for economic survival, leading individuals to engage in illicit activities.

Addiction and dependency: Substance abuse can alter an individual's judgment and decision-making abilities, leading to impulsive and criminal behavior. Drug addiction drives individuals to prioritize obtaining drugs over legal means, pushing them into a cycle of criminal activity.

Gang involvement: Gangs and organized criminal networks play a significant role in drug trafficking. The allure of power, protection, and financial gain draws individuals into these criminal enterprises, fostering an environment of violence and crime.

Policy and legal factors: The criminalization of drug use and punitive drug policies can inadvertently contribute to the association between drugs and crime. Mass incarceration resulting from drug-related offenses can perpetuate cycles of criminal behavior, hindering rehabilitation and reintegration efforts.

Consequences of drug related-crime

The consequences of drug-related crime reverberate through society, impacting individuals, families, and communities:

Public safety: Drug-related crimes, such as violence between rival gangs, drug-related homicides, and turf wars, pose a significant threat to public safety. Communities plagued by drug-related crimes often experience increased fear, reduced trust, and a diminished quality of life.

Overburdened justice system: The criminal



justice system bears the brunt of drug-related crime, leading to overcrowded prisons, strained law enforcement resources, and significant financial burdens. This diverts resources that could be allocated to prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation efforts.

Health and social costs: Drug addiction and drug-related crimes have profound health and social consequences. Substance abuse can lead to physical and mental health issues, broken families, and increased strain on healthcare systems.

Prevention of Drug Abuse

Preventive interventions can provide skills and support to high-risk youth to enhance levels of protective factors and prevent escalation to drug abuse.

Parents can use information on risk and protection to help them develop positive preventive actions (e.g., talking about family rules) before problems occur.

Educators can strengthen learning and bonding to school by addressing aggressive behaviors and poor concentration risks, associated with later onset of drug abuse and related problems.

Community leaders can assess community risk and protective factors associated with drug problems to best target prevention services.

Know your wards activities, pay attention to your wards on regular basis, establish rules and consequences in your house and know your wards friends.

Addressing the issue in relation to Crime and Drug Abuse

To effectively address the relationship between Crime and drug Abuse, a comprehensive approach encompassing prevention, treatment, and harm reduction strategies is crucial:

Prevention: Focusing on early intervention programs, education, and community-based initiatives can help mitigate the risk factors associated with drug abuse and criminal behavior. Targeted interventions should address socio-economic disparities and provide alternative opportunities for at-risk individuals.

Treatment and rehabilitation: Accessible and

evidence-based substance abuse treatment services are vital to breaking the cycle of addiction and reducing drug-related crimes. Investing in treatment programs, counseling services, and support networks can help individuals reintegrate into society and reduce the likelihood of relapse.

Harm reduction: Adopting harm reduction strategies, such as needle exchange programs and opioid substitution therapies, can minimize the negative consequences of drug use. These initiatives prioritize the reduction of harm to individuals and communities, emphasizing health and safety.

Policy reform: Rethinking drug policies to emphasize public health approaches over punitive measures is crucial. Shifting the focus towards decriminalization, regulation, and harm reduction can help reduce the societal impact of drug-related crimes while allowing for more effective resource allocation.

The idea that drug abuse is strictly connected to the very concept of criminality is well rooted in the popular tradition everywhere. This idea has evidently constituted one of the bases for the restrictive legislation which in each country regulates and controls the use of drugs and represses its abuse. Nevertheless, the issue of the interaction between drug abuse and criminality is more complex than it may appear at first glance: in fact, even if it is possible to guess the existence of a correlation between criminal behaviour and drug abuse, so far it has not been possible to demonstrate, from a scientific point of view, the type and nature of such correlation (UNODC, 2018).

Akinpelu (2021), in a study found that drug abuse fuels crimes, particularly among Nigerian youths with cannabis, heroin, cocaine and prescription opioids being commonly abused substances. Specifically, the study reported that drug abuse increase violent crimes and aggression, youth restiveness and unproductiveness thus eroding human capital and poses national security threat. However, quantifying all crime stemming from the illegal drug market in Nigeria appears impossible.



And there are dearth of empirical data on drug abuse and criminality. Police statistics, for example, describe crimes not criminals. Importantly, the mere fact that crimes are committed by drug users is not enough to say that drug use does cause crime or vices versa.

Methodology

This study adopted a qualitative explanatory research design to employ the linkage between drug abuse, crime and criminality. The researchers gathered textual data from secondary sources and other research information sources including journal article, textbooks, published reports, policy documents, government publications and credible online (internet) sources. The data collection process involved purposive selection of literature materials that are relevant to the research questions and objectives of this study. The study also employed documentary (i.e. textual and content) analysis approach. The analytical induction was used instead of case study because illicit drug users/criminals might be reluctant to give out honest information about themselves and more importantly, professional ethic forbid the publication of case histories reports of research subjects.

Theoretical Framework

Various theories have been used to explain drug abuse. For example, Availability Proneness theory is exclusively used as a theory of drug and substance abuse, based on how availability and accessibility of drugs leads to drug abuse; Differential Association theory is used to explain the problem considering the influence of socialization and association with peers and family members on the individuals' process of learning deviant behaviour, particularly drug abuse; while Social Structure and Anomie theory is used because of the influence of structural conditions (poverty, unemployment and inequality) on the involvement of youths in drug abuse, etc. This paper will use different approach to the understanding of drug abuse as well as providing solution to the problem in Nigeria. This deviation from the commonly used theories mentioned above is informed by the focus of the paper.

Thus, this paper adopted Situational Crime Prevention theory. Situational Crime Prevention theory suggests that crime takes place when two things are present: opportunity and motivation. Clarke (1997) states that situational prevention comprises opportunity-reducing measures that: 1) are directed at highly specific forms of crime; 2) involve the management, design or manipulation of the immediate environment in a systematic and permanent way possible; and 3) make crime more difficult and risky, or less rewarding and excusable as judged by a wide range of offenders.

In order to prevent crime (drug abuse in this case), the law enforcement and all concerned authorities shall put in place all impediments to the successful perpetration of the crime. These measures encompassed a multiplicity of ideas (Tierney, 2010). In this context, Situational Crime Prevention suggests that the opportunity for accessing drugs should be blocked and the motivating factors for the drug abuse among youths should be inhibited. By implication, criminal activities are also reduced. For example, adolescence's chances of accessing drugs are through neighbourhood drug seller and youths' motivating factor for drug abuse is poverty or unemployment. By apprehending and rehabilitating the drug seller through reformatory therapies and alternative legitimate occupations, the adolescence cannot find a place to buy the drug. Provision of decent job will also prevent the youths from drug abuse.

Exclusion is frequently at the heart of situational crime prevention strategies and is now being extensively used in privately owned spaces that have public functions. However, the use of zero-tolerance policing, community policing, intelligence-led policing, and total policing can be combined to fight drug abuse in Nigeria. The use of both public and private agencies, as well as collaboration with community members will contribute in identifying drug sellers, drug users and treating them by the criminal justice.

Thus, the three stages of crime prevention strategy: primary, secondary and tertiary will all be used.



They include making sure that crime does not occur; early identification of crime and the potential criminal, and the efforts put in place to ensure that the crime does not recur by habitual offenders or drug addicts.

In general, the three levels of crime prevention strategies involves the role of the community, law enforcement agencies, national and international anti-drug institutions as well some social welfare packages or social crime prevention strategies, like job opportunities and empowerment schemes to ensure that the youths are engaged in certain social acceptable activities. These will represent the policy implication of the situational crime prevention approach and they will prevent the possibility of drug abuse among the youths in Nigeria.

Discussions

Drug abuse is a significant concern in Nigeria contributing to various crimes, criminality and economic problems. Based on the analytical induction, this study found that there is a linkage between drug abuse and crime as well. This finding was supported by the propositions of the two theoretical models that explain the drugs-violence nexus and that served as a framework to analyze the relationship between drug and crime. In addition, this study indicates that abuse of psychoactive substance have connection with crime and criminality. This implies that drug abuse can contribute to commission of criminal offences and criminal activities in the country. The finding is in line with Brochu (2000) observation that drug use is only one factor among a group of variables that may account for criminal behaviour.

Findings

There is a direct relationship between the level of drug abuse and the type of drug and committed crimes. With increased drug abuse, delinquency rate and its intensity increased. Addicts are forced to commit crime to acquire drugs. Addicts are not hired. As a result, they don't have an income to fulfill their needs. That's why they turn to illegal activities such as smuggling, drug dealing, theft and prostitution. Thus the cycle of poverty, addiction, and crime is repeated. The necessity of

developing preventive strategies is felt more than before.

Hence, there is the need for further studies and data on how drug relates to crime. However, the present study has considerable implications for drug intervention and policy development, in that any explanation of crime which attributes sole importance to drugs may lead to the implementation of ineffective policy initiatives.

Recommendations:

1. There should be an effective synergy between Drug Enforcement Agency and the Police in areas of drug control and crime prevention.
2. Effective drug prevention programs should involve the family, schools, communities and the media.
3. Parent should take extra measures to monitor the activities of their children including their associations and reduce child's exposure to drug users in the family.
4. Government should provide easy and affordable access to rehabilitation centres, implement effective addiction counseling and prevention programmes, provide policies that will address the wider availability of drugs in the society and create job opportunities for youths to become self-reliant.
5. Religious leaders education training program on substance addiction prevention should be provided to all religious leaders in order to raise their awareness and increased their self-efficacy and knowledge levels since they play a significant role in curbing substance abuse by leveraging their trusted positions offer education, moral, guidance and community-based-support systems.
6. Government, family, schools, private and religious bodies should work together in the fight against drug abuse.
7. The research and statistics unit of Nigeria Police and Correctional Service should acquire modern assessment tools for gathering detailed information on crime and substance abuse and to dig-up the drug-



using past of arrestees and inmates.

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