

An Evaluation of Drug-Crime Nexus amongst Youths in Yobe State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to investigate the relationship between drug abuse among youths and their involvement in criminal activities in Yobe State. The specific objectives of study are: to identify the common types of drug abused by the youths in Yobe State; to examine the nexus between drug abuse and crime in Yobe State; and to provide the possible solutions to drug abuse among the youths in Yobe State. The study adopted differential association theory, which proposes that person becomes criminal because of a stronger exposure to law breakers than law abiding others in qualitative rather than quantitative terms. In other words, drug abuse is a function of association with drug addicts. Methodologically, the research is a survey research design, having both descriptive and explanatory research design because it explained the causal link between drug abuse and crime and described the influence of drug abuse on criminal activities among youths in Yobe State. A total of 504 sample size was selected through multi-stage sampling method. Primary and secondary data sources were used. Questionnaire and interview were used as instruments of collecting the primary data and mixed method was used in analysing the data. The study finding indicated that drug abuse has strong connection with criminal activities in Yobe State. Most of the terrorist activities carried out by Boko Haram are under the influence of drug. The most common types of drugs used by the youths include; Pharmaceutical opioids, tramadol, codeine and morphine. The study concluded that the availability of drugs abuse in the State have increased the rate of crimes in the area. However, the drugs do not cause crime but it facilitates and motivates young people to commit different types of crime. The possible solutions to drug abuse among youths in Yobe State include; the involvement of policy makers, religious institution, the community members and the criminal justice system, parents or guardians, and teachers to fight drug abuse among youths.

How to cite this paper: Dr. Bukar Jamri
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Published in
International Journal
of Trend in
Scientific Research
and Development
(ijtsrd), ISSN: 2456-
6470, Volume-6 |
Issue-5, August
2022, pp.1497-1506, URL:
www.ijtsrd.com/papers/ijtsrd50688.pdf



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KEYWORDS: *Crime; Drugs; Drug-crime nexus; Yobe State; Youths*

1.0 Introduction

The phenomenon of drug abuse exists for about a century in Nigeria, but studies on it at national level have not started until the second half of the 20th century. In the 1960s, for instance, isolated reports of drug abuse problems were reported by the few psychiatric hospitals at that time. Subsequently, sporadic community surveys, such as the pioneering effort of Odejide (as cited in Adamson *et al.* 2015), who surveyed a rural community in Western Nigeria, emerged. This was followed in 1988, by the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions'

(ICAA) study in the urban and rural communities of five university towns in three, of the current six geopolitical zones.

It took another decade before the 1998 UNDCP-funded, multi-city; rapid situation analysis of drug problems in Nigeria was conducted. However, it was carried out in four geographically representative states (Adamson *et al.* 2015) and it was followed closely by the 1999 rapid situation assessment of drug abuse in Nigeria, also by the UNDCP, in which 19,550 community samples from twenty-two of the

thirty-six states of the country were interviewed. In 2002 - 2003 there was a household community survey on drug use among 6,752 participants in 21 states of Nigeria that covered 5 of the current 6 geopolitical zones (Adamson *et al.* 2015).

In Yobe State, the use of drug without medical experts' prescription is a commonplace as the trend is prevalent among the educated and non-literate people. Youths of secondary and tertiary school ages are all involving in the drug in Yobe State. Given the security implications of the problem on the individual drug addicts, their families and all that relate with them, as well as on the entire Yobe State which is currently battling with Boko Haram insurgency, systematic study of this kind is needed in order to analyse the problem and suggest a way forward for the safety and security of the society. It is of more important to note that the problem is associated with various types of violent crimes in cities within the State, such as Potiskum, Gashua, Nguru and Damaturu Local Government areas.

1.1 Problem Statement

The non-medical use and abuse of drugs and the abuse of other drug is not only a serious public health problem, but also poses greater social risk in terms of violence and crime among youth. As observed by Brown (2005), drug and solvent or glue use is extremely high among street youths. The trend is not limited to street youths, even universities and collegiate students are involving in drug in Nigeria. This is why alcohol abuse, and alcohol-related problems continue to be topics of concern, and researchers identify marijuana as the most commonly abused illegal drug on college campuses (Perrone, 2006; Chikere & Mayowa, 2011; Fareo, 2012; Abdurraheem, 2013; Abdullahi, Deribe & Kura, 2014; Mamman & Othman, 2014; Giordano *et al.* 2015). While other types of drugs, such as cocaine, heroin, are used in developed countries, Cannabis is the most commonly used illicit drug worldwide (Lundholm, 2013). In Nigeria, the cannabis (marijuana) is as common as in other parts of the world. In addition, alcohol, tobacco, and some sorts of prescription drugs, such as benilyn, codyn, emzoklyn, lizard's shit, rochy, tramol, and gadagi (tea leaves-like herb used by youths in the northern Nigeria), etc. are also used by the youths in Yobe State.

According to Abdurraheem (2013), stimulant use and abuse appears to increase nowadays with unparalleled frequency in Nigeria. The motive behind drug abuse among in Nigeria, Yobe State in particular, is a combination of social, economic, and psychological or emotional. The consequences of drug abuse are

many as they affect the physiological, behavioral, and social aspects of the drug abuser. However, drugs elicit the individual's tendency to involve in criminal and violent activities, such as theft, pickpocket, and aggravated assault. In fact, there is a link between the violent activities of terrorism and insurgency perpetrated by Boko Haram and drug abuse. Most of the activities of the terrorists are carried out under the influence of drug.

The possible solutions to drug abuse among youths in Yobe State are many. Njeri & Ngesu (2014), suggested that fighting drug abuse among youths required the involvement of policy makers, parents or guardians, and teachers. In the context of this study, controlling drug abuse in Yobe should involve the role of religious institution, the community members and the criminal justice system. The religion has a stake because the use of belief system to reinforce obedience to norms and values is paramount in dealing with issues related to drug abuse. The community members will also play a vital role through neighbourhood watch, vigilantism, and therapeutic community for counseling and the rehabilitation of drug addicts. The criminal justice system is perhaps the most important because it is shouldered with the responsibility of maintaining social order and imposing sanction on law violators, including users of illicit drugs.

In view of the above, the present study is designed to investigate the relationship between drug abuse among youths' populations and their involvement in criminal activities in Yobe State. The specific objectives of study are:

1. To identify the common types of drug abused by the youths in Yobe State;
2. To examine the nexus between drug abuse and crime in Yobe State; and
3. To provide the possible solutions to drug abuse among the youths in Yobe State.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1. Concepts of Crime, Drug and Youths

2.1.1 Crime: Crime is defined variously. In legal terms, Des Rossier & Brittle (2004) said crime is something that is against the law. The work of Gottfredson & Hirschi (1990, ac cited in Des Rossier & Brittle, 2004), for example, suggests that crime is of a consensual nature given that everyone has the potential to break rules and that those who transgress the law make a rational choice to do so (based on the need for excitement, risk taking, or immediate satisfaction). In this instance the law necessarily differentiates appropriate from illegal behaviour.

Crime is to some extent different of overall concept of deviance. Deviance is the violation of social norms. There are violations of norms that are criminal in nature, such as smoking cigarettes and chewing cola-nut.

Yet, all criminal activities are deviant behaviours. It is because all crimes are deviance but not all deviant acts are crimes, Muhammad & Mukhtar (2015: 336) contend that “activities deviation from norms and rules is what is referred to as deviance and crime respectively”. Crime is therefore any deliberate act or omission which violates criminal law, and which attract punishment by the state. It should be noted that while drug abuse is commonly regarded as a deviant act, it can lead to a variety of serious crimes, such as murder and rape.

2.1.2 Drug: Drug includes any drug or mixture of drug s manufactured, sold or advertised for use in the diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of any disease disorder, abnormal physical state, or the symptoms thereof, in man or in animals; restoring, correcting or modifying organic functions in man or in animals; disinfection, or the control of vermin, insects or pests; or contraception (Federal Ministry of Health, 2005). According to Siro (2014: 146), drug is scientifically defined as a “drug that affects the function of living cells used in medicine to diagnose, cure, or prevent the occurrence of diseases and disorders”. Sociologically, Siro (2014: 146-7) adds, drug is “any habit-forming drug that directly affects the brain or the body function, like mood, perception or consciousness that has a potential for misuse and may be harmful to the user or to society”.

In a nutshell, drug can be defined as a drug that, when taking into the body system, alters or modifies the metabolic functioning of the user. Drug is not permanently harmful or useful. It depends on the component, the side effects, over use or under use by the user, as well as the tendency for improper and non-medically prescribed use of it.

2.1.3 Youth: Youth, as a concept, has generated more controversies as it cuts across a variety of disciplines, like sociology, education, political science, biology and psychology (Muhammad & Mukhtar, 2015). The simplest way of defining the term ‘youth’ is by using age bracket as a parameter. The National Youth Development Policy (2001, as cited in Muhammad & Mukhtar, 2015) defined youth as people aged 18-35. It is a stage in life when a person is young, especially the time before a person becomes an adult. But there are definitions which have psychological underpinnings, and they, in other words referred to it as adolescence characterized by exuberance. Essential to this conceptual framework is the concept that the

risk for drug use and abuse evolves over time and is particularly high during the maturational period of the individual, mainly the adolescent years.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

Differential Association theory is adopted to explain how drug abuse is learned and other forms of crime and deviance ensued. Differential Association theory was developed by Edwin Sutherland. The theory is built based on the proposition that, like conformity, criminal behavior is learned in the course of interaction with others; most people come into contact with those individuals who think that laws can be broken. In other words, the principle of differential association states that, a person becomes criminal because of a stronger exposure to law breakers than law abiding others. This is likely to be qualitative rather than quantitative. The theory of differential association is based on two key notes; learning takes place within intimate personal groups and the content of what is leaned include not only techniques for committing crimes, but also motivates attitudes and rationalization (Ibrahim & Mukhtar, 2016).

The differential association theory is relevant to the study because it has explanatory power for understanding why youths involve in drug abuse in Yobe State. Frequency of association or interaction with friends who involve in the drug abuse in the neighbourhood and in schools can entice an adolescent to join the drug abuse subculture. As observed by Akanbiet *al.* (2015), drug abuse usually learned behavior, especially among secondary and tertiary school youths. This is because many of these students’ behaviors are heavily tied to the peer culture, as students learn from and imitate the peers they like and admire. As observed by Akers & Sellers (2004) intimacy with peer group is a critical element in explaining deviance. In the social learning perspective adolescents learn delinquency by modeling-exposure to friends’ delinquent behavior, peers’ social approval of delinquent acts, and anticipated rewards for engaging in delinquency.

In view of the above, youths that involve in drug abuse in YobeState can be said to do this deviant behavior due to peer group and (sometimes) siblings’ influences. For instance, in his review on the learning theory of drug abuse, Fareo (2012) observes that dependence on drugs or drug abuse occurs as a result of learning in the course of direct or indirect association with other group members. The learning could be by means of conditioning, instrumental learning or social learning.

2.3 The Nexus Between Drug Abuse and Crime Amongst Youths in Nigeria

The involvement of youths in drug abuse and its attendant crime and violence consequence is witnessed in various Nigerian cities. The trend is not limited to street youths, even universities and collegiate students are involving in substance in Nigeria (Chikere & Mayowa, 2011). This is why drug abuse and alcohol-related problems continue to be one of the various issues of concern in Nigeria. Thus, the link between drug use and criminal behaviour is correlational and complimentary. Drug abuse can lead to crime, crime can cause to drug abuse and both behaviours can mutually reinforce each other (Hussein *et al.* 2017). Karofi (2010: 35) states that “the drug and crime relationship is interactive”; that is, crime aids the use of drugs and a continuous usage of drugs can lead to drug addiction and dependence, while more use of drugs encourages crime (Hussein *et al.* 2017).

Drug use is also associated with minor criminal offenses as it can lead to reckless driving and traffic violations and, consequently to, accident injuring people or loss of lives and it is linked with vandalism, theft, thuggery, assault, gang warfare, rape and larceny (Dukku, 2010). Hence, Clinard & Meier (2011) indicate that some terms appear to be more commonly and with more confusing or misleading meanings than drugs, drug (ab)users, and under the influence of drugs. These terms are commonly used because of their strong relationship—drugs are used in everyday life events, but the users of the drugs can abuse them. Under the influence of the drugs, people can get in trouble with the criminal justice like the NDLEA, the Police, Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), courts and even prisons (Hussein *et al.* 2017).

In fact, the use of illegal drugs, such as cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and even alcohol goes in pari passu with the commission of criminal offenses. Dawnkin (1997, as cited in Karofi, 2010) reported that there is a positive correlation between crime and the use of illicit drugs, as well as alcoholism. The degree to which violent crime is associated with the abuse of drugs and alcohol is an important aspect of this link. In addition, delinquency is categorised into “crimes against persons” and “crimes against property” and in terms of the nature of alcohol and drug involvement

to measure rate of the two types of offences. Consequently, the violent crimes against persons are found to be more likely committed by persons who abuse hard drugs, such as heroin and cocaine (Hussein *et al.* 2017). The less serious offenses against property were found to be committed by the users of alcohol and marijuana.

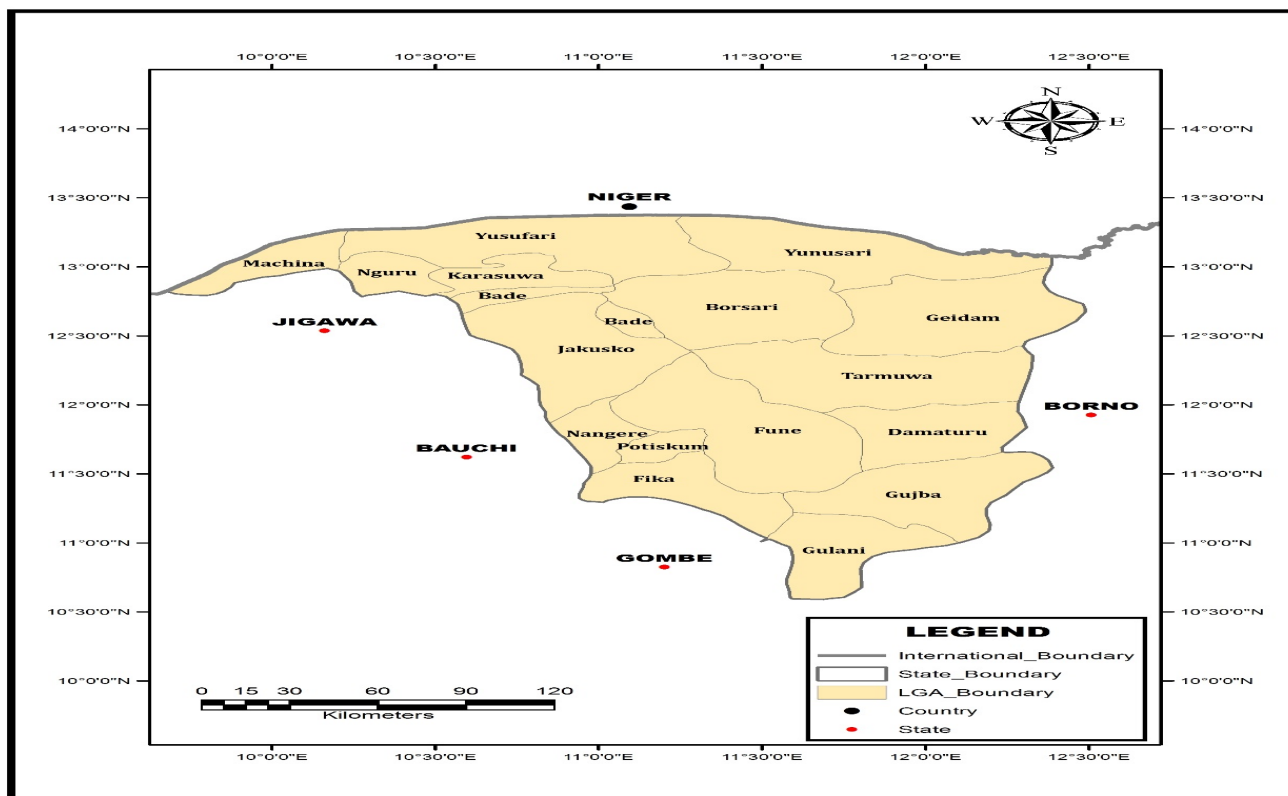
3.0 Methods and Tools

3.1 Background of the Study Area

Yobe State is the study area. Yobe State is diverse and rich in terms of cultural heritage. The major ethnic groups in the state include the Kanuri/Manga, Fulani, Ngizim, Bolewa, Bade, Kare-Kare, Hausa, Ngamo, Babur/Maga and several other ethnic groups from different parts of the country. Most of the people are peasant farmers which the main reason why guinea corn, ground nuts, beans; maize, millet, wheat, and rice are produced in commercial quantities. A significant number of the inhabitants also engaged in trading, fishing, livestock and animal rearing. The state has the largest cattle market located at Potiskum town which makes it the supplier of livestock in the country. Traditionally, the people are known for the world famous durbar usually organized on important occasions like turbaning ceremonies of traditional rulers as well as honouring august visitors (Fartua, & Palmer, 1970).

It is important to point out that, nature has endowed Yobe State with diverse economic potentials such as Diatomite, Limestone, Kaolin, Quartz, Gypsum, Gum-Arabic, and Potash. The capital of the Yobe State is positioned at Damaturu. The name Yobe was derived from River Yobe an important geographical feature in the state. The State is strategically located in the far north eastern part of Nigeria carved out of the old Borno State in 27th August, 1991 by the then Military administration of General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida. It has seventeen (17) Local Government Areas which all together covers an estimated area of 47,153 square kilometres. The state shares international boundary with the Republic of Niger to the North (YBS Gazette, 2013). Within the country, it shares borders with Jigawa and Yobe States to the West, Borno State to the East as well as Gombe and Borno to the South. Based on the national head count, the population of the state stood at 2.5 million (CENSUS, 2006).

Fig 1.0: Map of Yobe State



3.2 Research Design

The research is both descriptive and explanatory research design because it will seek to explain the causal connection between drug abuse and crime and to describe the influence of drug abuse on criminal activities among youths in Yobe State. To generate the data, primary and secondary data sources are to be used. The research is thus survey, because questionnaire and interview would be used as instruments of collecting the primary data. The secondary data are not more than library materials, text-books, journals, newspapers, available in libraries, etc.

3.3 Population of the Study

The target population of the study is the entire youth and adult populations (males and females, literates and non-literates, Hausa-Fulani, non-Hausa speaking population, business owners or traders and civil as well as public servants) of the Yobe State. Security personnel from the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, National Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) and community leaders (ward heads, district heads and religious leaders or imams) will also be part of the target population.

3.4 Sample Size

Because the population of Yobe State is too large, a total of 504 sample size will be selected. From this total sample, 486 will represent respondents for quantitative data; questionnaire guide will be

administered to this segment of the sample. Eighteen (18) respondents out of the total sample will represent respondents for qualitative data; that is 2 in-depth interviews (IDIs) in 9 LGAs. Thus, 486 out of the selected sample (504) would give quantitative data, while qualitative data would be generated from the rest (18 subjects). The total sample is therefore as stated $(486+18) = 504$.

3.5 Sampling Techniques

Multi-stage sampling technique will be adopted in order to carry out the survey. In the first stage, probability sampling using cluster sampling will be used to divide Yobe State into three (3) areas, based on the 3 senatorial zones that make up the State. Each zone constitutes a cluster. In the second stage, purposive sampling will be used to select three LGAs from each senatorial zone. This gave a total of 9 LGAs. Purposive sampling will be used in the second stage because there are LGAs that are more urbanized and complex. Because of their complexities, these selected LGAs have higher rates of drug abuse and, by implication, higher crime rate.

In the third stage, simple random sampling (SRS) will be used to select three political wards from each LGA; that is, (3×9) 27 political wards. In the fourth stage, the same method (SRS) will be used to select three (3) streets from each political ward, which is 81 streets. In the fifth stage, accidental sampling will be used to select 6 respondents from 6 houses, including shops. Six multiplied by 81 will give 486

respondents. In addition, 18 participants (2 from each of the selected 9 LGAs) were selected using purposive sampling technique for qualitative data, i.e. IDI. Hence the total respondent for quantitative data is 486 and that of qualitative data is 18. The grand total is $(486+18) = 504$.

3.6 Instruments of Data Collection

Two instruments of data collection are proposed for the study. They are questionnaire guide and interview schedule. Both will be employed in the study for complementarities. Questionnaire is instrumental in providing statistical or quantitative representation of the opinions of the subjects, hence positive outcome is guaranteed, whereas interviews have provided an insight into the in-depth or feelings of the respondents, i.e. qualitative data. This is relevant in order to increase the validity of the research finding because methodological triangulation (or at least mixed method) is encouraged in the current trend of social scientific research endeavors. In addition, secondary data are to be used throughout the study, especially in the literature review and theoretical framework.

3.7 Methods of Data Analysis

Mixed method will be adopted in the data analysis stage. Quantitative data analysis would be employed to analyze data generated through questionnaires and to conveniently achieve this, statistical tool; Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) is going to be utilized during the data analysis stage. Frequency distribution table with simple percentages, cross-tabulations and chi-square test will all be used in the analysis. The outcome of this quantitative analysis has provided a vivid description and inferential statistics on the influence of drug on crime among youths in the study area and other opinions of the respondents. In addition, qualitative method of data analysis was used to analyze the data generated through interview sessions with the participants.

4.0 Results and Data Presentation

The data collected from Eight (8) Local Government Areas from the Three (3) Senatorial District where a total of 486 questionnaire were self-administered by the researcher. A total of Eighteen (18) In-Depth Interviews were conducted with participants from the Eight (8) Local Government Areas selected for the study in Yobe State. The researcher has retrieved a total of 355 questionnaires out of the 486 administered during the fieldwork which is 73.4 percentage response rate. The data elicited from both quantitative and qualitative methods is presented below.

4.1 Socio-economic and Demographic Information

Table 1: Socio-demographic Profile of the Respondents

Demographic profile	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<i>Gender</i>		
Male	183	51.5
Female	172	48.5
Total	355	100.0
<i>Age group</i>		
23-33	205	57.8
34-45	118	33.2
>45	32	9.0
Total	355	100.0
<i>Marital status</i>		
Married	122	34.4
Divorced	10	2.8
Widowed	14	3.9
Single	209	58.9
Total	355	100.0
<i>Educational level</i>		
Non-formal	105	29.6
Primary	34	9.6
Secondary	115	32.4
Tertiary	101	28.4
Total	355	100.0
<i>Religion</i>		
Islam	257	72.4
Christian	96	27.0
Tradition	2	0.6
Total	355	100.0
<i>Occupation</i>		
Trading	108	30.4
Farming	17	4.8
Civil servant	73	20.6
Artisan	31	8.7
Others	126	35.5
Total	355	100.0

Composite table 1 has portrayed the population of characteristic of Yobe State where majority of the residents are youth. Similarly, the result showed that significantly majority of the sampled respondents were unmarried but engaged in different forms of trading as a means of earning an income. Additionally, majority of the youth in the State are relatively literate with Non-Formal education (Qur'anic education), primary and secondary school education which is related to their dominant occupation which is trading in informal sector of the economy.

Table 2: Local Government Areas Surveyed

LGAs	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Damaturu	57	16.1
Tarmuwa	16	4.5
Gujba	37	10.4
Bade	43	12.1
Nguru	14	3.9
Yusufari	29	8.2
Potiskum	128	36.1
Nengere	31	8.7
Total	355	100

Table 2 showed the respondents who responded to the questionnaires during the field survey. Potiskum is among the largest and the most populated LGA in Yobe State is also a home to youth who are into substance abuse and crime. Damaturu, the State Capital, too, as a cosmopolitan LGA is faced with the challenge of young people who are into drugs and crime at the same time. This indicates that the problem of youth who are into drugs abuse and crime is largely an urban phenomenon because all the Eight LGAs visited during the fieldwork are not remote villages.

4.2 Substantial Issues on Drug-Crime Nexus amongst Youths in Yobe State

Table 3: Do you Abuse Drugs/Substance

View	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	154	43.4
No	201	56.6
Total	355	100

Table 3 showed that majority of the respondents (56.6%) who participated in this research do not abuse different types of drugs. However, there are some who have experience about substance and drug abuse (43.3%) amongst the respondents. This revealed that the researcher was able to capture those who are into drugs in the Eight (8) Local Government Areas of Yobe State. Qualitative result revealed that they have been using drugs for the past ten years. Also, some of the participants during IDI stated that they were using different types of drugs since when they were teenagers.

Table 4: Reasons for Taking Drugs

Reason	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Before committing Crime	205	57.7
Leisure	41	11.5
Both	109	29.6
Total	355	100

Table 4 has revealed the main reasons why some youth drugs or substance in Yobe State. Significant proportion of the respondents stated that they take substance or drugs before venturing into crime. This implies that drugs or substance are what motivates some criminals to boost their courage to commit crime of different types. Similarly, the qualitative results showed that youth interviewed were into drugs for two or three different reasons. This implies that majority of the youths who are into different sorts of crimes commit under the influence of abused drugs or substance. In the same vein, qualitative data elicited during interviews revealed some commit crime to get money to buy more drugs or substance not necessarily they have a prior intention of being into crime. This explained that drugs her is a motivating factor not a causal factor of crime among youths who participated in the IDI sessions.

Table 5: Commonly Abused Drugs/Substance in Yobe State

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Cannabis	111	31.3
Solvents/inhalants	21	5.9
Pharmaceutical opioids (tramadol, codeine, morphine)	167	47.0
Hallucinogens	6	1.7
Cough syrups	36	10.1
No response	14	3.9
Total	355	100

Results of Table 5 showed the most popularly abused drugs or substances among youths in Yobe State. Significant proportion of the respondents which constituted 47.0% use Pharmaceutical opioids which is a group name that include drugs such as tramadol, codeine and morphine. These drugs are cheaper and easily accessible from unlicensed drug peddlers in towns and villages in Yobe State. Qualitative data also revealed that Amphetamines and Tranquilizers/sedatives are drugs often used by the participants in different parts of Yobe State. Some of these drugs are locally produced in Nigeria and neighbouring African countries. The participants stated they buy the drugs and substance in Drug Stores, Patent Medicine Stores which majority of them are operates illegally.

Table 6: Nexus between drug abuse and crime in Yobe State

Crime	Drugs					χ^2	P
	Cannabis	Solvents/inhalants	Pharmaceutical opioids	Hallucinogens	Cough syrups		
Shoplifting	5(33.3)	5(33.3)	0(0.0)	1(6.7)	4(26.7)	48.1 61	0.001
Armed Robbery	7(43.8)	6(37.5)	0(0.0)	2(12.5)	1(6.3)		
Burglary	39(34.8)	29(25.9)	10(8.9)	23(20.5)	11(9.8)		
Cybercrime	50(26.2)	56(29.3)	4(2.1)	78(40.8)	3(1.6)		
Total	101(30.2)	96(28.7)	14(4.2)	104(31.1)	19(5.7)		

Table 6 depicted the relationship between crime and drugs in Yobe State. The result revealed that majority of the youth are into computer or internet based crimes popularly called yahoo boys use cannabis. The cannabis enable the users to spend long hours working on computers or with their smartphones. Also, those who carry out physical crime such as theft and burglary often abuse hallucinogens and cough syrup. This implied the existence of an intricate relationship between drug use and crime in Yobe State. The qualitative data showed that those who criminals also use drugs to give them confidence and energy. It can deduced from both quantitative and qualitative data that all criminals are drug users but not all drug users are criminal in the areas surveyed in Yobe State.

Table 7: Possible Solutions to Drug Abuse & Crime among the Youths in Yobe State

Solution	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Stiff Punishment for Drug Peddlers	91	25.6
Stiff Punishment for Drug Users	190	53.5
Monitor the sales of controlled Drugs	15	4.2
Public awareness against crime and drugs	45	12.7
No response	14	3.9
Total	355	100

Majority of the youths suggested that the best mechanism that will provide solution to the problems of drugs and crime is for the Government to ensure implementation of serious punishment for the drug users. This will serve as a deterrent to current and potential users in the State. This implied that majority of the youth are into drugs because of the availability of the illegal drugs in patent stores and Chemists in towns and villages. During IDI, it was found that those drug users are more than the peddlers but

without the peddlers, there will be no users. Therefore, there is a symbiotic relationship between the drug users and sellers in Yobe State which solution to the problem must be twofold: stop the supply chain of the drugs to Yobe State and punishment for anybody caught using the drugs.

4.3 Discussion of the Findings

It can deduced from the findings that there are different control drugs in circulation and found in illegal patent medicine stores in Yobe State. This make it easy for the criminals to access drugs anytime and anywhere they want it. The sales of control drugs over the counter by unlicensed drug dealers in Yobe has increased the rate of drugs abuse in the State. Additionally, majority of the drug users in the State are youths who are into crime. The most commonly abused drugs in the State are pharmaceutical opioids (tramadol, codeine, morphine) because they are easily found in the Patent Stores and are less expensive to buy. This is related to the findings of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (2018) survey on drug use in Nigeria where it found that in Northeast where Yobe State is among that the use of opioids (tramadol, codeine, and morphine), ecstasy, and non-medical use of cough syrups is higher than the national estimates in Northeast.

The existence of insurgency in Northeast which Yobe State is part of it increased the rate at which illicit drugs are common in the areas surveyed. This is because the findings revealed that criminals need drugs to motivates them before committing crime either insurgency or conventional crimes. The findings of this study is substantiated by the UNODC World Drug Report (2022) which stated that historically, parties to conflict have used drugs to finance conflict and generate income. It also reveals that conflicts may also disrupt and shift drug trafficking routes, as has happened in the Balkans and more recently in Ukraine. This indicated the universality of the nexus between youth and crime in different parts of the world not only in Yobe State.

5.0 Conclusion

Drawing conclusion on the basis of the valid findings, nexus between drug abuse and crime in Yobe State and the availability of drugs abuse in the State have increased the rate of crimes in the area. However, the drugs do not cause crime but it facilitates and motivates young people to commit crime of different types. The inability of the authorities concerned and community to implement both formal and informal measures of social control to stop the importation of the contraband drugs to Yobe State has enabled the illegal drug dealers to thrive. Additionally, unlicensed Patent Medicine and licensed Chemists who sells control drug to individuals without prescription from a certified Physician also made the drugs available to users in Yobe State. In the same vein, since the inception of insurgency in the Northeast Nigeria which include Yobe State the demand for drugs has increased because young people who became jobless as a result of the destruction of economic activities need drugs such as hallucinogens to alter their mood as a result of their economic condition and traumatized experience they encountered. As a result, some become addicted and venture into crime when they run of money to purchase the drugs or substance. Therefore, the existence of strong and positive relationship between drugs use and crime means it requires threefold measures to break the relationship and bring an end to the menace contained in the recommendations.

5.1 Recommendations

1. Relevant agencies of Government, both State and Federal should ensure strict monitoring of pharmaceutical companies in Nigeria and importer of pharmaceutical products to prevent the importation of illicit drugs. This is a measure that will not make the drugs and substance available and accessible to any user.
2. Effective surveillance and closure of all Patent Medicine Stores, Chemist and Pharmacy that sells control drugs over the counter without a prescription from a certified Physician by the Government agencies charged with the constitutional responsibilities to regulated and control drugs and related items.
3. Prompt implementation of punishment to any person found guilty of drug use, trafficking and peddling in Nigeria.
4. Government and community leaders should train young generation to be productive and self-reliant hence desist from involving in criminal activities that will require them to use drugs as stimulants, influencer and motivators. This can be done

through teaching children tradition craft from childhood such as farming, fishing, blacksmithing, carpentry, Dyeing, Pottery, building, mechanical engineering (Automobiles, Motorcycles, Generators), satellite connection etc.

Acknowledgement

The researcher is indebted to the contribution of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) for sponsoring the conduct of the study. The contribution of the various research assistants is equally acknowledged.

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