YOUTHS AND DRUG ABUSE IN NIGERIA: CHALLENGE FOR THE NIGERIAN CHURCHES

BY

ODO SAMUEL CHINEDU
(REG. NO. PG/MA/07/42554)

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION
UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA
ENUGU STATE

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REQUIREMENT PAGE

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APPROVAL PAGE
DEDICATION

To all haters and fighters of drug abuse
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ABSTRACT

Drug abuse among youths in Nigeria has been a problem to the youths and the society in general. The consequences of drug abuse are not only on the individual user but also on his or her offspring, family and the society.

This work is expected to create awareness, expose and provide useful information to people especially to the Nigerian youths on the effects of drug abuse and the challenges for the Nigerian churches towards drug abuse in Nigeria.

Chapter one is an introductory chapter. It discusses the usefulness of drug in the life of a living thing and how it is being abused in Nigeria by the youths. The second chapter reviews the works of authors on drug abuse. The third chapter explains much about drug. There are a lot of substance like alcohol, cannabis, heroine etc and most of them were discussed including their abuses, uses, effects, causes of drug abuse etc. Chapter four discusses the challenges for the Nigerian churches on drug abuse in the Nigerian society. In this chapter, the researcher dwelt on what the church should do to control or stop drug abuse in Nigeria.

If the Nigerian youths should stop abusing drugs, they will be useful to themselves, their families and the society in general.
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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Drugs are commonly used by everybody whether young or old. Drugs are not only useful for human beings; they are also useful for animals for good health. Human beings give drugs to their animals when they discovered that they are not healthy. Drug is an effective substance in the life of any living thing to cure sickness and to make life healthy. It is true that drugs are used for beneficent therapeutic purposes, effective substance for good health, but they are being abused by people especially youths. They use it illegally and unlawfully, thus it becomes harmful to the body.

The impact of drug abuse among Nigerian youths has been considered a moral decadent. Drug abuse has made the face of the Nigerian youths rough and brought shame to our society. The Nigerian youths are deliberately using drugs illegally, unlawfully and intentionally.

Many of our youths ignorantly or knowingly depend on one drug or the other for their daily activities. According to the statistics provided by World Health Organization (WHO), drug including alcohol and tobacco, have caused a lot of road accidents and have claimed more lives than other sicknesses suffered by mankind. As International Drug Trafficking is gaining strength, the international cooperation against drug trafficking is steadily loosing strength and lacking organization.
The report from world narcotics has shown that confiscation level has fallen below 10 percent of the global circulation level of drug international mortality figures for drug abuse have tripled since 1988. In the United States, medical emergencies coming from cocaine taken rose by 1000 percent between 1976-1993, in the case of the heroine by 6 percent from 1988-1993 and by 155 percent in the case of cannabis. Cocaine addicts between the age of 12 and 17 increased by 166 percent from 1994-1995 in various countries. Drugs are being abused everyday.

In Nigeria, this issue of drug abuse has been a serious concern for the society. Youths have taken to drug abuse. In recent times, the rate at which youths abuse drugs have been so alarming and worrisome that much effort have been made to eradicate it. As the youths are abusing drugs, the effort being made to eradicate it is losing strength. Drug abuse and addiction have a destructive or devastating consequences but our youths are still into drugs. “Not only that it destroys the affected individual but it has a pervasive effect on all those who know or work with the individual (Barber, 1967:85). Drug addiction is a tragedy in our Nigerian society.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Drug abuse among youths in Nigeria is now a common phenomenon. Females are not exempt in this evil act. A recent research shows that 15-20 percent of drug addicts are females while males constitute about 50-55 percent,
all comprising of traders, students, unskilled workers and the unemployed as shown by a retrospective study carried out by NDLEA (Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency).

Drug abuse has contributed in the set back of the society. Inspite of this, many youths do still indulge in it. In many psychiatric hospitals in Nigeria, many of our youths are there undergoing drug treatment. The number of the youths that are insane are more than old people that are insane and youths insanity is mostly caused by drug abuse. Some youths are school drop-outs because they could not continue due to the rate of drug they have taken that resulted to their insanity. University of Nigeria Nsukka is not an exception. Many youths are homeless, wanderers, derelicts, unemployed, rapist, thugs, armed robbers and so on because they are drug addicts. A lot of lives and property have been wasted in accident and violence because of drug. Youths that are supposed to be the hope of their families and the society at large and useful to themselves have wasted their lives, all because of drugs and it has been a serious problem in Nigeria.

1.3 Aim of the Study

The aim of this study is to make the Nigerian youths to be aware of the dangers of drug abuse, to bring out the roles especially that of the church in controlling drug abuse in Nigeria and to direct the youths on the way to follow
to become useful to themselves, their families and to the Nigerian society at large.

To achieve this aim, the researcher is advocating that all hands should be on deck to curb this menace called drug abuse.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This work is significant because drug and its abuse were exposed here. The role of the church concerning drug abuse were also examined. Through this study, drug abuse among youths in Nigeria will be addressed with a view to finding lasting solutions to the problem.

This work will also be of great benefits to the Nigerian youths because it will make them know the implication of drug and its abuse.

If the church should really carry out their role towards drug abuse in Nigeria, it will be reduced or put to stop and Nigerian youths will turn over a new leaf and make positive contributions to their families and to the society at large.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The study is on the youths and drug abuse and challenges for the Nigerian churches on drug abuse in the Nigerian society.

Apart from the topic itself, many areas about drug abuse were treated in this research work.
1.6 **Research Methodology**

Materials for this research were from primary and secondary sources. The primary one are from oral interview, whereby people were interviewed especially people that have experience of drug abuse or people that were drug addicts and their close associates.

Secondly, books that were written on this topic and other relevant materials were used. It is very interesting to note that the books used helped immensely in giving the relevant information for this research. Texts were critically assessed and the relevant information were taken. In delivering the text the critical analytical method was applied.

1.7 **Definition of Related Terms**

The importance of definition of terms in any academic work cannot be over emphasized. It is therefore necessary to define some terms in this work.

**Youth:** Summer (2003:1920), defines youth as “the period of time when someone is young especially the period when someone is a teenager”. From Hornby (2000:1389), “youth is the time of life when a person is young, especially the time before a child becomes an adult”.

**Drug:** Hornby (2000:359), (1) “an illegal substance that some people smoke, inject, etc. to give them pleasant or exciting feelings”. (2) “a substance used as a medicine or used in a medicine”. Onah (1982:2) defines drug as “any chemical
substance that has an effect upon the body or mind, by modifying one or more of the terms”.

**Abuse:** “It is the use of something in a way that is wrong or harmful” (Hornby, 2000:5)

**Drug Abuse:** Onah (1982:2), Sees it as “It is an excessive or inappropriate use of a drug by a person; such use being considered or judged to be illegal (immoral) by the culture and also resulting in harm to the person or society”.

From Aka and Akunyili (2003:60), drug abuse refers to drug use mainly by self-medication in a manner that deviates from approved medical or social patterns”.

**Church:** Alan (1950:46), explains that “Church is generally derived from Greek “Kuriakon” the Lord’s house, a building for Christian worship”. Church in New Testament is translated to Greek “ecclesia”, which always means an assembly of people and cannot mean building. For Davis (1944:111), “Church is the Lord’s house and an organized community or people acknowledging the Lord Jesus Christ as their Supreme Ruler, and meeting steadily or as opportunities offered, for religious worship”. Okwueze (2003:152), defines it as an organized body of followers of Jesus. In the context of this research work, church has to do with people and not building.

**Therapy:** For Summer (2003:483), “therapy is the treatment of an illness or injury”. Hornby (2000:1241), defined therapy as “the treatment of a physical problem or an illness”.
**Alcohol:** Hornby (2000:26), “Drinks such as beer, wine, etc that can make people drunk or that colourless liquid that is found in drinks such as beer, wine etc and is used in medicines, cleaning product, etc”.

**Alcoholism:** Royce (1989:10), “The use of alcohol that results or interferes with personal life including school, job, family, friends, health, food, the law or spiritual life”.
CHAPTER TWO
LITERATURE REVIEW

Works earlier done on drug abuse are quite enormous. There was therefore a review of available literature so as to give this work a bearing.

The bible says;

\[ \text{Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may run after strong drink, who tarry late into the evening till wine inflames them! (Isaiah 5:11).} \]

The New King James version brought it clearer by calling it “intoxicating drink”. Probably the use of wine that time was that there was no intoxicating drugs and people were taken to intoxicating drinks. The Bible did not out-rightly condemn the use of wine rather it condemns being intoxicated by wine.

In Canaan in Galilee, Jesus Christ himself turned water into wine in a marriage feast (John 2:1-11). In doing this, it means that He did not condemn the use of wine but being addicted to it or being intoxicated by wine. To support this, the bible also says in Ephesians “And be not drunk with wine, wherein in excess; but be filled with the spirit”. (Eph. 5:18). In Titus 2:3, the bible says “bid the older women likewise to be reverent in behaviour, not to be slanderers or slaves to drink” In Prov. 20:1, “bible says wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler and that whoever is led astray by it is not wise”.

With this, one can see that the Bible is not against wine rather against taken it in excess because it is made clear that instead of taking wine in excess,
why not be filled with the Holy Spirit. Timothy was advised by Paul not only to
drink only water but to use little wine for his stomach’s sake and his frequent
infirmities (I Tim. 5:23)
The scripture warns thus;

   Be not among winebibber or among gluttonous eaters of
   meat; for the drunkard and the glutton will come to
   poverty and drowsiness will clothe a man with rags
   (Prov. 23:20-21).

Isaiah 5:22 says “Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine and
valiant men in mixing strong drink”.

The scripture describes an alcoholic thus;

   Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who
   has complaining? Who has wound without cause? Who
   has rudeness of eyes? Those who tarry long over wine,
   those who go to try mixed wine. Do not look at wine
   when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down
   smoothly. At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like
   an adder. Your eyes will see strange things. You will be
   like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, like one
   who lies on the top of a mast. They struck me you will
   say, but I was not hurt; they beat me, but I did not feel it.
   When shall I awake? I will see another drink (Prov.
   23:29-35).

This however implies that wine is symbolically used to denote intoxication in
its entirety. People rarely regard alcohol as a dangerous drug, but it is. The
scripture is warning against being an alcoholic, drinking to excess which is
abuse of wine. Alcohol reduces one to nothing. The scripture gives the characteristics of one who takes alcohol and warns that it is better that one is not tempted by the good sight of wine to drink to excess.

Agha (2003:90) had this to say:

*Drugs are commonly used in Nigeria that the parents of every teenager are worried lest their children are taking drugs. The problem of drug abuse has become one of urgent anxiety to youth leaders – the teachers, the church, medical practitioners and anyone else who is concerned with the well being of the growing generation.*

From his view, drug is a common thing in Nigeria. It is a frequently used substance and the problem of drug abuse has become the concern for those that bear the youths at heart. He went further to say that;

*A drug is a chemical substance used to alter deliberately mood, perception or consciousness. Its use for this purpose is generally harmful. However, this is not to say that the drugs cannot be used lawfully for beneficent therapeutic purposes.*

Drugs are addictive because they physically enslave, however, some are non-addictive. Drug addiction is a tragedy in Nigeria. Drugs were meant for the treatment, prevention or diagnosing of disease and it is a chemical or biological substance but the drug addicts are using drugs habitually for a purpose it was not meant for. Drug trafficking is gaining strength steady and drug abuse is a continual act in Nigeria.
In a contemporary world, there seems to be no genuine unified international strategy against drugs in operation, that is why the trafficking is gaining strength, thus the international cooperation against drug trafficking is steadily loosing strength.

In Nigeria, since the Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) was formed, there was no much improvement towards the eradication of drug trafficking and abuse, instead the rate is becoming higher everyday. As one listens to the news, one hears drug trafficking businesses. In Britain, alcohol and tobacco are means by which government gets money. They cherish them so much because they give them money and as for them such cannot be eradicated. Gifford and Louis (2007:424) had this to say:

*It is the liquor traffic that supplies revenue which enables the administrators to deal with many crying evils. To make head against all of them, a strong and independent administration is requisite, to maintain that administration revenue is necessary; could the liquor traffic be entirely and immediately done away with, and a sufficient revenue obtained from the other sources, for one would be very glad.*

There is an adage that says that “one man’s meat is another man’s poison”. In Britain, alcohol and tobacco bear heavy duties in the colonies, they are used as a source of income to government but in Nigeria, they are not. They are seen as evil in Nigeria as many indulge in drug abuse and drug business even though that government is against it. Those who are in support of liquor traffic
maintain that if the natives do not have money to buy the original alcohol, they will be manufacturing their own with a low cost. This was why Harris (1997:148), noted that “If the African has a right to drink something and it is wrong for him to drink European alcohol, then in the name of common sense and justice, he has a right to drink his relatively harmless native liquor”.

There is an argument that the traditional drinks, e.g. palm wine, locally made gin (ogogoro or kai-kai, burukutu etc) are better than that of foreign alcohol. Whether local or foreign, they are all very dangerous to the body if taken habitually. Many youths in the remote places are prone to abusing drugs especially local made gin (kai-kai), palm wine and brukutu. Brukutu which is normally called BKT is an intoxicating drink that is found mostly in the northern part of Nigeria. It is a very strong and intoxicating drink made of guinea corn. Even though it is an intoxicating wine that is being abused, it is protenous. “It is often asserted that alcoholism would prevail among the natives even if there were no importation of spirit” (Albert 1995:125).

The indulgence of youths in drug abuse has caused a lot of problems in Nigeria even in our higher institutions. A person who is not intoxicated with drug can control himself or herself from quarrel but a drug addict cannot. So when they could not control the drugs in them, crisis will emanate. On the harvoc being caused by drug abuse, Sampers (1994:11) Lamented thus:

\[ I \text{ invoke the memory of the thousands of young people who, combating or consuming drugs, have lost their lives} \]
and also invoke the future of our children who are threatened by drugs and gins. I call on the solidarity of the world to commit ourselves to this formidable challenge of blocking the way to organize crime.

Drug abuse has been in existence and it’s havoc is going on. No society is free of drug and Nigeria is not an exception. Speaking on the dangers of drug called marijuana, Akah and Akunyili (2003:2) had this to say:

For a large number of people, however, the medical or recreational use of marijuana develops into a chronic pattern of substance abuse. This abuse leads to a variety of psychological disorders which take an appalling toll on individual well-being, and severally tax treatment facilities. Though marijuana abuse is believed to be a problem of the high class, investigations have revealed that it is being abused by all grades and strata of Nigerian society with the main focus on the masses, particularly the youths and adolescents.

Some harmful drugs are still medication. At the turn of the modern era, cannabis or marijuana was established as a medicament as described by Ashton (1987:141) thus;

*Its seed is used to make the genitals impotent. The juice from it drives out of the ear the worms and any other creatures that have entered them, but at the cost of a headache; so potent is its nature that when poured into water it is said to make it coagulate. And so, drunk in its water, it regulates the bowels of beast of burden. The root boiled in water eases cramped joint, gout too, and*
similar violent pains. It is applied raw to burns, but is often changed before it gets dry.

Dioscorides (1980:390) described it this way;

_Canabis is one of the most intoxicating drugs but useful._

It is used to make strong ropes and has a round seed which being eaten of much doth quench geniture, but being juiced when it is green is used for the pain of the ears.

Eze and Omeje (1999:1), Strongly believe that no matter the usefulness of drugs, that their harmfulness is more than it’s usefulness and that it affects the abuser and the people around him. They said;

_One thing that is salient in drug abuse is that it is hardly a personal problem, a problem that is owned, suffered or affected by the abuser alone. Rather it affects the abuser, people around him and a wide circle of individual._

It is quite obvious that some harmful drugs are still useful for the body but the harmfulness is more than the usefulness. Therefore it is the role of the family, community, school, government especially the church, to make the Nigerian youths know the dangers of drug abuse, so that they will be useful to themselves, their families and the society in general, knowing that they are the leaders of tomorrow.
CHAPTER THREE
DRUGS ABUSED IN NIGERIA

Drug abuse has been a scourge in our country Nigeria especially among the youths. As seen in the definition, it is the intentional misuse of a drug without a written prescription from a doctor. It is necessary to know those drugs that are being abused. So in this chapter, attempt will be made to write out with full explanation of most of the drugs, their uses, effects or consequences, causes of drug abuse etc.

3.1 Common Drugs that are Abused Substance

1. Alcohol: This is the commonly abuse substance. It is the drug of choice in our society and most people are taking it. People do not regard it as a dangerous drug because in Africa, especially in Nigeria, it is part of their daily life and they drink it often.

According to Agha (2003:86);

*Most Africans believe that wines, “ogogoro” local gin and spirits are believed to be a necessary passport to social acceptance. Beer is advertised daily as drink which makes a man truly masculine, lagers and light also are said to promote the feminine touch.*

Alcohol is most often viewed as a depressant, although it can be a stimulant and for some it is a hallucinogen. Alcohol includes the following: ethyl, methyl, prophyl, butyl and amyl. Each of them composed of one
chemical and has its industry. During the 1940’s and 1950’s, there was a view that alcoholism is a disease and that it can be cured as an illness. In 1957, the American Medical Association (AMA) came to a conclusion that alcoholism is a disease.

Alcohol abuse manifests as drinking becomes increasingly important and take priority over every other thing else. “Alcohol abuser or problem drinker or alcohol addict is a person who drinks too much on a regular basis” (Odejide: 230:25). Sometimes they try to control themselves from drinking but it has penetrated inside them so much that it takes time and the special grace of God to stop alcoholism. Alcohol abusers are at risk for continuing in alcoholism. Alcoholism can increase or emerge as a result of the death of a loved one, trouble, unemployment, dismissal from work, betrayal, retirement, family problem etc.

a. Uses of alcohol

i. Recreation

ii. Relaxation of mind or body or for sleeping

iii. Eradication of thinking and anger

iv. For protein (especially the local drinks e.g. burukutu known as BKT)

v. It serves as a ingredient in alcoholic beverage

vi. Chemical for manufacturing purposes

vii. It is medicinal

viii. It stimulates the body
b. Effects or Consequences of Alcoholism Abuse

i. Problem at work; continual lateness, missed days, continual mistakes etc.

ii. Difficulties at home; coming home late, sleeping a lot, forgetting duties or responsibilities, family problem and breakdown etc.

iii. Accident

iv. Financial problem

v. Breaking of relationships

vi. Academic problem: such like dropping grades, skipped classes, failure

vii. Weakness of the body

viii. Craving; an intense desire or compulsion for alcohol, loss of control of alcohol, inability to manage one’s alcohol consumption drinking despite its negative consequences.

ix. Mental disability

x. Unfruitfulness (as in child bearing)

xi. The addict becomes dishonest

xii. Unemployment

xiii. It can lead to dismissal from job

c. Treatment for (Addiction) Alcoholism

i. Gradual withdrawal with the help of a doctor, a wife, psychiatrist, priest or sympathetic friends.

ii. Treatment from the hospital with the company of sedation and nursing care. (Royce, 1989).
2. **Cannabis (Marijuana):** Aka and Akunyili (2003:1), says that “marijuana is the common name for the plant cannabis sativa. The plant has been used for centuries, primarily for its euphoric (mood altering) effects and is one of the leading drugs of abuse particularly among the youths”. This drug first emerged in the United States of America (USA) in the 1920’s. It is dangerous and addictive, by 1960’s and 1970’s it became popularly known by the youths till today day. It is an indigenous product, cheapest among drugs and most widely abused by the youths. (Abel, 1980).

Cannabis was brought into Nigeria by slave traders and soldiers who returned from the world wars. This drug is widely used by millions of people because of its effectiveness in mood alteration. Through research, it has been revealed that it is being abused by all grades and strata of Nigerian society especially the youths and adolescents. This drug has been causing a lot of problem to the Nigerian youths till this day. (Aka and Akunyili, 2003)

**a. Processing for Use**

i. Cutting or harvesting the seed, dried, chopped and incorporated into cigarette mash by dissolving it in an organic solvent.

ii. Cooking together with food – The leaves are collected and put in a pot, adding water and a little ethanol, after boiling for sometime it will be allowed to cool and with a spoon the oily resin on the surface will be collected. It is popularly called a “charas or hashish oil” by the addicts. In the fume method, as the user draws the fumes which comprises mainly of
Tetra Hydro Cannabinol (THC), the active material in cannabis, the effect through diffusion is felt in the body through the blood stream and nervous system.

iii. Rubbing of the green leaves to produce a greenish liquid substance. The greenish substance will be moulded into a ball and wrapped with foil or polyethylene and allowed to dry for about 5-10 days. It is called “hashish or golden temple” due to the shining golden coating found on it.

iv. Grinding – The dried cannabis leaves are ground into fine powdery substances and stacking the stuff into sacks conceal as grain or cereal for export. It can be concealed in a drum or tank and can also be used as hair creams and ointments. This one is commonly used in Nigeria.

b. Uses of Cannabis (Marijuana)

i. Relieving of pains

ii. Stimulating production of milk

iii. Treating of asthma

iv. Treating of convulsion

v. Treating of diarrhea

vi. Treating of rheumatism

vii. It brings sleep and relaxation

viii. Treating of headache (migraine)

ix. Treating of infections

x. To reduce/treat fever
xi. To facilitate child birth
xii. To reduce fatigue
xiii. To promote/stimulate appetite
xiv. For oral medication for mothers and children
xv. For prevention of bleeding during child birth
xvi. For eye treatment
xvii. It is used for ointment in bandages
xviii. Mixture of cannabis with honey is used for ulceration in the lower back
xix. It is used in making incence
xx. It is used in production of textile
xxi. It is used in making hair cream and ointment
xxii. It is used to alleviate hunger.
xxiii. It brings courage.

c. Effects or Consequences of Cannabis or Marijuana Abuse

i. Mental disorder: It has an effect on the brain. It has destructive effect on the lives of teenagers and youths in general, that is why many of our young promising youths are insane today in Nigeria. “Cannabis may precipitate into latest psychiatric disorders or worsen existing psychiatric problem or do both” (Roland and Taste: 1958:694). Abuse of marijuana brings about continuous wandering from one place to another and eventual mental illness. According to Andreasson and Co. (1987:1483), “there are incidences of marijuana induced
toxic psychosis, which is a serious temporary disturbance of normal brain activity and the patience is disoriented and always experience hallucinations”.

“In Nigeria, incidence of drug induced mental illness in a psychiatric hospital revealed that 85% of the causes were marijuana-related and the majority of the patients were between 16 and 30 years”. (Ene, 1989:12). In our tertiary school, University of Nigeria, Nsukka as a case of study, mental disorder is seen and some of them are caused by marijuana abuse. Students that are the future of tomorrow, that will be of good use to their family and nation and make great positive impact in the society are wasting their lives in drug abuse, running amock because of effect of this drug abuse.

ii. **Crime:** A major social cost of relegating a substance to the illicit category is the criminal activity that often results following the use of marijuana. Sometimes people commit crime because of the influence of marijuana they have taken. Loss of control during cannabis intoxication may result in violence or other impulsive behaviour. The effects of cannabis may lead to stealing. Ames (1958:972), says that cannabis may provide persons predisposed to criminality with the courage to commit anti-social act.

It is quite obvious that some people who want to indulge in criminal activity like armed robbery, usually take marijuana in order to remove fear, tension and to empower themselves for the operation. In doing other anti-social activities like drug trafficking, prostitution, murder, child abuse etc, people do take marijuana.
iii. **Respiratory Problem:** It was discovered that smoking of cannabis for a long period leads to respiratory disorders. “Long term smoking of marijuana has long been associated with laryngitis, pharyngitis, cough, hoarseness, bronchitis, and asthma”. (Aka and Akunyili, 2003:46). Due to the deeply inhaling of the smoke longer in the lungs, it brings in a lot of tar into the lungs more than how cigarette does.

iv. **Effect on Sex and Reproduction** – Marijuana causes sexual urge and at the same time reduces sexual urge. Abel, (1980:37), “Marijuana has been dreaded throughout history because of its alleged powers to evoke uncontrollable sexual passions. At the same time, marijuana reduces sexual urge and causes impotence”. In Ancient Rome, Discorides (1980:25) wrote that:

*The juice of the marijuana seed was useful for treating low sexual urge or desire while Galen and Pliny warned that excess smoking of marijuana seed could cause sexual impotence. Several survey studies suggest that marijuana usage is unquestionably associated with increased sexual activity and enjoyment with many people, with the attendants promiscuity. There is no doubt that opportunities for sexual contact are likely to seem desirable under the influence of a mood enhancer like marijuana.*

Jackson (1925:97) observes that “cannabinoid compounds adversely affect male and female sexual organ weight and function. It inhibits sperm production and lowered concentration of testosterone in males”.
Habitual smoking of marijuana shrinks the sex organs, producing sterility and impotence.

Hollister (1995:30) said thus:

*Exposure of mother to cannabis during pregnancy, causes lower birth weight to the offsprings, shorter gestation periods and more mal-formations. There are also more meconium staining by the baby and longer labour offspring may exhibit persistent abnormal behavioural effects, which are most evident in terms of learning and response to stimulus.*

v. **Public Safety** – Marijuana has impact on public safety. Smoking of marijuana causes over speeding in driving which can lead to road accident. The use of marijuana causes armed robbery and killing. When someone is intoxicated with drug he can steal and kill human beings because he is pushed by drugs without thinking twice.

vi. **Social Problem** – Smoking of marijuana causes misunderstanding, fight, family breakdown, abortion, kidnapping etc.

vii. Marijuana causes health problems like heart, kidney, liver problems, glaucoma, vomiting etc.

viii. It also causes mouth odour on the addict over the years.
d. Marijuana Addiction Treatment

Those affected by marijuana addiction can be found in out-patient programs. Drugs can be prescribed to reduce marijuana addiction. Proper therapy and rest are usually the best practices for this particular addiction treatment. After about three to five days the desire for marijuana smoking will reduce. The affected individual will learn effective coping skills in order to resist marijuana smoking. These will help the victim to avoid drug use and have permanent recovery from abuse and addiction.
3. **Cocaine**: This is a stimulant. It is a white powder that is typically sniffed. In its original form, it is chewed as a leaf from the cocoa plant. Cocaine is a by-product of the resin of cocoa plant. The plant is mostly found in the South American countries like Peru, Chile, Columbia, Bolivia etc and was used initially to enhance physical endurance or by doctors as a local anesthetic before it’s abuse by addicts. (Barber, 1967).

Cocaine is abused when used in a wrong way. It is done by mixing the raw cocaine powder with sodium bicarbonate (Na$_2$Co$_3$) in a particular proportion. The mixture is poured into a conical flask with distilled water and heated over an unseen burner and the rock it will form is what the addicts use. They take it by combining it with other drugs. The powdery substance is injected or snorted by the addicts. (Hollister, 1995).

“Snorting is the process of inhaling cocaine powder through the nose, where it is absorbed into the bloodstream, smoking involves inhaling cocaine vapour or smoke into the lungs where absorption into the bloodstream is as rapid as by injection while injection, is the use of a needle to release the drug directly into the bloodstream” (Lauer, 1978:50). These three methods of cocaine usage can lead to addiction and other severe health problems.

**a. Effects or Consequences of Cocaine Abuse**

i. Regular snorting of cocaine leads to loss of the sense of smell,

ii. It causes nosebleeds and chronic running nose,
iii. Injecting cocaine can cause severe bowel gangrene as a result of reduced blood flow and it can bring about severe allergic reactions and increased risk for contacting HIV and other blood born disease.

iv. It causes irritability, restlessness and anxiety.

4. Heroin: This is a powerful illegal drug and it is made from morphine. There is a brown heroin that is obtained through the purification of opium and that brown substance is due to the dirt contained in the substance. At the end of the purification, the white heroin is gotten. The opium can be swallowed raw with water or licked. The brown powder can be mixed with cigarette. Heroin is one of the worst drug as it damages severely more than other drugs both physically and mentally. Heroin gives an addict pleasure when abused and he develops tolerance to the heroin and endangers the life of the addict.

a. Effects or Consequences of Heroin Abuse

i. Mental disorder: It causes malfunctioning of the brain.

ii. Liver problem: It causes malfunctioning of the liver that makes it not to clean blood affectively and not to produce enough bile.

iii. Kidney problem: It weakens the kidney, thereby causing malfunctioning of the kidney.

iv. Heart problem: It causes pain to the heart which can lead to heart failure or attack.

v. Problem in thinking: It makes one not to think properly.
vi. Restlessness: It makes one not to stay still or feel happy wherever the person is and that person cannot have a real rest.

vii. Odour on breath and cloth: If a heroine addict is breathing, it will be producing odour and there is always an odour in his cloths.
5. **Opium**: This is derived from juices of the opium poppy. It produces physical and psychological dependence. It is used in relieving of pains and inducing of sleep. It is licked, swallowed or put in a hot tea after cutting off the semi-molten opium resin into small bits. It is commonly prescribed to patients for the relieving of pains.

People abuse this drug on the grounds that it is good for pain relief. Opium abuse begins when the patient starts taking medication on their own term, more frequently than what their doctor has recommended. It is not only used by the patients for their relief, opium abuse is even more prevalent in those who use it as a recreational drug.

**a. Uses of Opium**

i. Relieving of pain

ii. Inducing of sleep

**b. Effects or Consequences of Opium Abuse**

i. Muscle and bone pain

ii. Vomiting

iii. Restlessness

iv. Diarrhea

v. It causes craving (desire for the drugs)

**c. Treatment for Opium Abuse**

It requires admission into a residential drug rehabilitation center, especially one with an on-site detox program. The treatment is to find the treatment programme that best fits your need. (Eze and Omeje, 1999).
6. **Valium**: This is a drug that is used to reduce anxiety. It is commonly recommended CNS (Central Nervous System) depressant used to produce beneficial drowsy or calming effect in individuals suffering from sleep disorders or anxiety. If valium is used as prescribed by a doctor it is not addictive but when used as not prescribed by the doctor, it becomes addictive and an abuse.

a. **Uses of Valium**
   
i. Relieving of pain

b. **Effects or Consequences of Valium Abuse**
   
i. Headache: It causes severe and frequent headache.
   
ii. Confusion: It makes one not to know what to do or a state of disorder.
   
iii. Rashes: It causes rashes or unpleasant spots all over the body even on the mouth.
   
iv. Nervousness: It makes one to easily worried and sudden fright.
   
v. Problem of bladder: It weakens the bladder thereby making it not to collect much urine and it also causes pain while urinating.
   
vi. Muscle cramps (muscle pains due to tightening of muscle)
   
vii. Vomiting
   
viii. Urinary retention
   
ix. Tremor (slight shaking of the body)
   
x. Dizziness

(Hollister, 1995).
7. Methadone: It is a drug that is used to treat people that are trying to stop taking the illegal drug. Since its legalization in 1947, it has become a highly abused drug. It is used to break one’s addiction to another substance. It is effective in withdrawal symptoms that is causing pains in the patient. When it is taken incorrectly or against the prescribed direction, it can easily move from an abuse situation into a full edged addiction. It is available in tablets, liquid and injection forms. It is safely and carefully given/administered by a highly trained staff but the drug is rampant everywhere and it makes it one of the fastest addiction substance available.

a. Uses of Methadone
   i. Breaking of one’s addiction

b. Effects or Consequences of Methadone Abuse
   i. Drowsiness (a slight sleep)
   ii. Euphoria (short period of happiness)
   iii. Weakness
   iv. Dry mouth
   v. Slow breathing
   vi. Constipation (unable to get ride of waste material from the bowel easily)
   vii. Muscle spasms (painful tightening of the muscle)
   viii. Low blood pressure: It brings down blood pressure to abnormal state.
   ix. Tremor: It causes a slight shaking in the body.
   x. Stomach spasms (painful tightening of the stomach)
xi. Respiratory problem: It causes fast breathing.

xii. It can lead to coma: Abuse of methadone can lead to coma.

xiii. It can lead to death: Abuse of methadone can kill the addict.

(Barber, 1967).

8. Morphine: Morphine is a powerful drug made from opium that is used to reduce pain. It is being prescribed by doctors for its effectiveness in reducing pains in patients who are suffering from chronic illness like cancer. It can be used easily, even though it is used for health treatment. It is abused when it is being used habitually and recreationally without the prescription of the doctor. It can be administered in tablet form through injection. The longer one takes morphine, the more he needs to experience the same level of effect.

a. Uses of Morphine

   i. Relieving of pain

b. Effects or Consequences of Morphine Abuse

   i. Headache

   ii. Anxiety

   iii. High or low blood pressure

   iv. Rashes and itching

   v. Loss of memory

   vi. Tremor

   vii. Constipation
viii. Diarrhea

ix. Depression (dejection or sad mood)

x. Insomnia (unable to sleep)

xi. Abdominal pain

xii. Fluid in the lungs

xiii. Cold

xiv. Slow breathing

xv. Slow heart rate

xvi. It can cause coma

xvii. It can lead to death.

(Walter, 1974).

9. Percocet: This is a narcotic drug prescribed to patients by doctors for the management of mild to moderate post-operative pain. The medication which is a mixture of oxycodone and acetaminophen is part of the opioid family of drugs and as such it is highly addictive.

Percocet is abused when the patients do not follow the prescription as directed by the physician. The patient may take more than the prescribed number of pills at a given time or take the medication more often than what is recommended. The drug can be chewed or crushed and the powder sniffed.

a. Uses of Percocet

i. Reducing of pain
b. Effects or Consequences of Percocet Abuse

i. Dizziness

ii. Constipation

iii. Depression

iv. Rashes and itching

v. Slow breathing

vi. Nausea and vomiting

vii. Drowsiness

viii. Euphoria

ix. Low blood pressure

x. Heart attack

xi. It can lead to coma

xii. It can also lead to death.

(Laver, 1978).

10. Amphetamines: These are Central Nervous System (CNS) stimulants. They are used in medicine to counteract narcolepsy, sometimes to overcome drowsiness. It increases energy, dissipation of fatigue and loss of appetite. They can be taken orally in form of tablets and in form of injection through the vein. The injection form is efficacious more than that of tablet form because tablet form takes time to dissolve.
a. Uses of Amphetamines
   
i. It overcomes drowsiness
   
ii. It gives energy
   
iii. It dissipates fatigue or tiredness
   
iv. It induces appetite

b. Effects or Consequences of Amphetamines
   
i. Cancer of the heart
   
ii. Slow breathing
   
iii. Cough
   
iv. It can lead to death.

11. Vicodin: This is a narcotic drug, prescribed by doctors to alleviate all types of pain. Vicodin addiction creates a variety of negative consequences for every addict. It’s consequences can be costly, both physically and emotionally like many other drugs of it’s kind, it is caused by the desire to enhance ones mood.

   Vicodin is abused when it is taken without the prescription from a doctor. It is also abused when the problem for which it was initially taken is no longer in existence and it is still being used. Sometimes people abuse it unintentionally. They initially take it for pain alleviation as prescribed by a doctor. When the sickness is gone, they start to have craving for the vicodin even when the sickness has been cured. This causes the addict to go to any length in order to get the drug without the prescription from the doctor. Some people do not
observe the addiction until it is too late. Vicodin is very expensive and when you become an addict to it, having craving, it is likely that you will be spending much to satisfy your craving.

**a. Uses of Vicodin**

i. Alleviation of pain

ii. It induces appetite

**b. Effects or Consequences of Vicodin Abuse**

i. Family problem and breakdown because more money goes to it (for married men)

ii. Financial problem

iii. Weakness of the body and sleep

iv. Unemployment – it can lead to dismissal from work due to it’s symptoms

v. Kidney problem

vi. Heart attack

vii. Liver problem

viii. Shortage of blood

ix. Shortage of water from the body (dehydration)

**12. Pemoline:** This is a newly made drug. Others were in existence before it. It is coated in white colour and it has the same size with panadol and paracetamol. It is not costly and because of it’s cheapness, it is being abused by many people.
a. Uses of Pemoline
   i. It relieves headache
   ii. It relieves body pains

b. Effects or Consequences of Pemoline Abuse
   i. Muscle cramps
   ii. Rashes and itching
   iii. Diarrhea
   iv. Vomiting
   v. The addict exhales very nasty odour.

13. Sedatives: These are drugs that are used to induce sleep or to cause relaxation. They are barbiturate, capable of producing psychological and physical dependence. It is being abused when taken more than what is prescribed or without the prescription from a doctor.

a. Uses of Sedatives
   i. They induce sleep, calmness or relaxation

b. Effects or Consequences of Sedatives Abuse
   i. Hallucination
   ii. Weakness
   iii. Lateness to work
   iv. Sleeping at duty
   v. Loss of memory or thinking
vi. Drowsiness

vii. It can lead to dismissal of employment

viii. It can lead to coma

ix. It can lead to death

x. Poor co-ordination and speech

xi. Odour in breath and cloth

14. Hallucinogen: This drug affects people’s minds and makes them see things that are not really there or what they are or what they thought they are. According to the findings of the researcher, the word hallucination gave rise or brought about the name of this drug “hallucinogen”. “Halucination is the fact of seeming to see or hear somebody or something that is not really there, especially because of illness or drugs” (Hornby, 2000:535). This drug makes one to hallucinate. Examples of the drug are mescaline, psilocybin, lysergic acid, diethylamide etc. (Agha, 2003:90).

a. Uses of Hallucinogen

i. It causes sleep and relaxation

b. Effects or Consequences of Hallucinogen Abuse

i. It induced false sensory perception

ii. It disorganizes normal behaviour

iii. It causes hallucination

iv. It can lead to mental derange
v. Weakness
vi. Depression
vii. Paranoia (slight mental disorder)
viii. Odour on breath and clothing
ix. Panic
x. Disorientation
xi. It brings fluctuation in mood.

15. Crystal Methamphetamine: This is one the abused drugs. This drug is extremely dangerous but it induces sleep and appetite for food.

a. Uses of Crystal Methamphetamine
   i. It causes sleep
   ii. It develops appetite for food

b. Effects or Consequences of Crystal Methamphetamine Abuse
   i. Over or excessive sleeping
   ii. Excessive eating
   iii. Excessive drinking of alcohol
   iv. Depression
   v. Brain damage
   vi. Meningitis (infection of brain and spinal cord tissues)
   vii. Formicating
   viii. Severe paranoia (kind of mental illness)
ix. Hallucination
x. Delusions
xi. Muscle breakdown that can lead to kidney failure
xii. Intense sexual urge that can lead to the contracting of Sexual Transmitted Disease (STD)
xiii. Stroke
xiv. Dry mouth
xv. Heart failure
xvi. Tooth decay
xvii. Hypothermia (much lower of body temperature than the normal)
xviii. It can lead to coma
xix. It can lead to death.

c. Treatment of Crystal Methamphetamine Addiction

A crystal methamphetamine addiction should not be taken lightly, as immediate professional medical help should be looked for. Getting the right crystal methamphetamine treatment centre is a crucial first step in the recovery process. (Erikson, 1980).

16. Xanax: This is a commonly prescribed short term drug used to treat severe anxiety and panic disorders. The possibility of being xanax addict is extremely high especially after two months of use as tolerance to the drug builds over this
period of time. It is administered naturally with it’s pill or injecting into the vein.

**a. Uses of Xanax**

i. Treatment of severe anxiety

ii. Disordering of panic

**b. Effects or Consequences of Xanax Abuse**

i. Tiredness

ii. Inability to stay awake (always sleeping)

iii. Hypertension

iv. Mental confusion

v. Respiratory problem

vi. Depression

vii. Severe nausea and vomiting

viii. It can lead to diarrhoea

ix. Hallucination

x. Loss of memory

xi. Somnolence (inability to stay awake)

xii. It can lead to severe damage to the arteries

xiii. Odour on breath and cloth

xiv. It can lead to coma

xv. It can lead to death

(Okafor, 2000:40).
17. **Oxycotin**: This drug is commonly used in the medical field to treat chronic and other ailments of patients. It is used in treating severe pain and cancer. Oxycotin addiction is becoming more and more rampant as the use of the sustained release oxycodone is more readily available. It can be administered in tablet form but the common one is by crushing the tablet and inject them with needle or snort them to increase the effectiveness and to reduce the time taken to feel the hit of the drug. Often the oxycotin addict will ingest the large dose of oxycotin into his body. This can lead to a dangerous overdoes which can become fatal.

**a. Uses of Oxycotin**

i. Treating of severe pain

ii. Treating of cancer

**b. Effects or Consequences of Oxycotin Abuse**

i. Constant illness

ii. Shortage of blood and water

iii. It can lead to death

18. **Inhalants**: This includes glue and other similar toxic substance. They are poured or sprayed into a plastic bag, on a cloth etc and the fumes are inhaled. Intoxication starts after two or three deep breaths. With prolonged use, tolerance will increase and the addict will start to require more substance.
a. Uses of Inhalants

i. It induces appetite

b. Effects or Consequences of Inhalants Abuse

i. Odour on breath and cloth

ii. Redness and watering of eyes

iii. Appearance of alcoholic intoxication

iv. Disorientation

v. Brain damage

vi. Loss of memory or thinking

vii. It can lead to death.

(Agha, 2003).

There are many other drugs but these ones are popularly or commonly abused drugs. They are useful as seen but the effects or consequences are far more than their usefulness. There is an adage in Igbo that says, “Ihe nato uto n’egbu egbu” (something that is sweet kills). They have rendered and are still rendering people especially our youths useless. Thereby causing problem to their families and to the society in general. It is not only rendering them useless, but also killing them. It is good to be exposing these drugs and their effects so that ignorant abusers and others should know about them and their menace.
3.2 Causes of Drug Abuse

There are a lot of factors that cause drug abuse among the Nigerian youths.

a. Peer Group: This is one of the common causes of drug addiction and abuse. It is a form of societal influence on the affected youth. “Peer group is a group of people of the same age or social status” (Hornby, 2000:860). A lot of evil like drug abuse, armed robbery, rape, among our youths in Nigeria and beyond are caused by peer groups. Someone can be influenced to become a drug addict by his friends who are drug addicts. Some people are drug addicts today because they associate with drug addicts and they do not want to be called “Jew guys” by their friends. Some people are compelled by their friends to become drug addict. One would like to be identified with his friends or peer group and when one is addicted to a particular drug he or she will have the craving for that drug thereby loosing the sense of direction in his or her life.

b. Family: The parental background of a child can expose a child to all sorts of evil including drug abuse. This could be due to family problems like broken homes, polygamous family, poverty, cultural influence on children, having a father who is a drug addict etc. If a child has a father who is a drug addict, it is likely that the child will become a drug addict, “like father like son”. As the child watches his father there is every tendency that the child will become a drug addict or smoker and from cigarette smoker he will graduate to other hard drugs. There is an Igbo adage that says “Nne ewu nata agbara nwa ya ana ele
“ya anya n’onu” (As a she goat chews grass, the child will be looking at her mouth) P. O. Eze, (Personal Communication 26th April, 2009). “I was a drug addict before because my father was a drug addict and several times I used to see him snorting drugs into his nostrils, drinking the tablet form and injecting the drug into his body. In an interview with the researcher a girl of 20 years, she said, “I am a drug addict because I cannot behold and bear the enmity between my parents, any time they start their quarrel, I take drug to forget about them”. M. I. Ikenwa, (Personal Communication 28th April, 2009). Some parents who engage too much in the struggle for survival tend to neglect their responsibilities on their children.

A Nigeria drug abuse students’ activist had this to say;

Most parents in Nigeria today in their bid to make end meet, searching for greener pasture always abandon and neglect the proper welfare of their wards and children and expose them to the “unofficial” assistance of the so called house-maids. This ugly incidence will psychologically depress such children thereby given rise to CHILD ABUSE which is an off-shoot of DRUG ABUSE. Such youths will end up in taking solace in some illicit hard drugs gradually and systematically ruined uncontrollably, thereby destroying the moral values of the Nigerian society via her youth. Wasted generation of course. (Drug abuse activist).

When parents fail to carry out their responsibilities on their children, they are exposing the children to evils like drug abuse and others. The scripture says
“train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6). Eph. 6:4 says “And you fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord”. In proverb also the scripture urge to flog a child, that if you flog your child that he will not die. So many youths are drug addicts today because they were not brought up religiously or trained well by their parents.

c. **Emotional Stress:** Some youths are emotionally stressed but instead of looking for a proper medical attention they will embark on self medication, like taking drugs that are not prescribed by a doctor which leads to drug abuse. In this way they will be using hard drugs that are illegal and unwholesome for their body to stop the stress. Some youths desire coffee or other hard drugs in order to subdue sleep without knowing that nature cannot be cheated. When one is an addict to a particular drug, the craving for that drug will be high. The habitual use of this substance may lead to drug abuse.

d. **Frustration:** This is another fast and commonest factor that leads to drug abuse. Many youths are frustrated in our society today. Many of our youths’ desire or dreams are unfulfilled. Some are in the higher institutions without graduating because of references and other hidden things that are setting them back. Frustration can set in based on a number of factors such as graduating from higher institution without getting any employment, being disappointed by their loved ones, death of a dear one or bread winner, dismissal from job, conspiracy and accusation etc All these contribute to drug addiction and abuse.
According to an informant who suffered the ugly effect of drug abuse, he said; “I had many references and my girl friend I loved so much, whom I used to help financially in the school betrayed my love for her and I could not bear all these, I became a drug addict”. E. E. Okeh (Personal Communication 6th May, 2009).

Another person said, “I was a drug addict for 3 months when I could not get a job 6 years after I had finished serving my father land, what a country!” S. O. Eke (Personal Communication 20th May, 2009). Frustration has led the Nigerian youths into drug abuse.

e. Imitation: Children easily imitate things whether good or bad especially from someone they see as a model. For fathers that are cigarette smokers or drug addicts, children can easily imitate them unless they have not seen them in the act. In practicing or smoking with an ordinary paper gradually, they will become perfect in cigarette smoking or in drug addiction.

f. Search for a Dreadful Identity: This is commonly found on the streets, some secondary schools and in higher institutions. Some youths like to have bad look, they like to be identified as “bad guys” and to be feared. I. C. Ugwu (Personal Communication 1st June, 2009) “I did not fail any examination when I became a drug addict on campus eventhough I was not serious in academic, I do not even write all the exams, my countenance and appearance dreads students and lecturers. I was not a cultist but a drug addict”.

Some people are abusing drugs today because they want to have dreadful appearance so that people will be afraid of them.
g. Brain Charge/Sensation: Some people are drug addicts today, abusing drugs because they are seeking for sensation. They want to “charge” their brain. This is habitually done by criminals for carrying out their criminal acts like robbery, raping, thuggery etc. With the abusing of drugs they can carry out their crime without having human sympathy, taking human beings as nothing because their brains have been charged and they can kill their fellow human beings easily. In an interview with a criminal at Nsukka Prison, he says “If I take a wrap, my brain go charge well for action, I no go be person again, and person no go be person for me again” O. M. Enebe (Personal Communication 15th June, 2009).

3.3 Social Effects of Drug Abuse

Apart from the effects of drug abuse on a victim or an addict as already discussed, it also has social and economic effects.

i. Family Problem. Drug abuse is one of the causes of family problem. A lot of families are having problem because of drug abuse. A man who is a drug addict and who drinks to stupor can beat his wife and children to death especially when the children are still tender. Such man cannot take care of his family.

ii. Blood Transmitted Diseases: The society is at risk because of this menace called drug abuse. Many of the drug addicts are dying of blood transmitted diseases like AIDS because most of them indulge in the exchange of unsterilised injection equipment for injecting of drugs into their bodies. With
This the society is at risk because AIDS can spread in the society through them. They can contact AIDS through coitus because drugs urges for sex and someone can also contact from them.

There was an incident that happened at Jalingo between 1999-2000 where some of the prisoners were sharing injection needles in taking their drugs. When one of them was released due to illness, it was discovered through the medical test carried on him that he was affected with HIV VIRUS (AIDS). He died and all the inmates that used the same injection equipment died of aids. (Dauda, 2006).

iii. Violence/War: Drug abuse causes violence in the society. When one is engaged in drug abuse, he can carry out any evil act. In the higher institutions, most crisis are caused by drug addicts. If they are only cultists they can hold themselves and have human sympathy in time of crisis but because of the drug, they cannot restrain themselves. This can lead to violence and consequent maiming of lives, loss of lives and property.

iv. Insanity/Death: Drug abuse has disgraced and degraded our youths to the lowest ebb. It is quite obvious that most of the Nigerian youths that are insane today were drug addicts. In Nigeria, the number of youths that are insane are more than that of old people. Not only that they are mad because of drug abuse but they are dying of it. Many of our youths are school dropouts because they have gone mad due to the drugs they have taken. A society that is loosing her youths has no future and is in trouble.
3.4 Some Prominent Victims of Drug Abuse:

(a) Diego Maradona, a great Footballer from Argentina.

(b) Bob Maley, the Reggae musician who died of heart failure.

(c) Beat Johnson, a great runner from Canada.

(d) Gerd Muller, the great German Football ballestro.

(e) Samuel Okwaraji, a late Nigerian Footballer.

(f) Bob Hayas, a 100 metres gold medalist.

(g) Estaban De Jesus, the great boxer who became a drug addict and died of AIDS.

(h) Fela Anikulakpo Kuti, the great Afro beat regent.

(i) Timi Hendrix, the great Rock ‘N’ Roll exponent.

(j) Charles Sunny Liston, the black looking legend who died of drug abuse at the age of 38 years at Las Vegas in 1970.

(k) Arnaldo Ochoa Sanchez, Division general, Cuban Revolutionary Armedforces.

(l) Brenda Fassy, a great South African Musician, etc.

(Nyame, 2007).

3.5 Drug abuse prevention or control measures

Most people do not understand the effects of drug abuse especially on the youths. It is very necessary that drug abuse should be prevented or controlled.
Drug abuse is a growing problem and drug abuse prevention should also be a growing measure and stronger in order to over-power the cankerworm.

1. **Family:** The prevention of drug abuse should start first from the family. Family is a group consisting of one or two parents, their children and close relations. A family, whether nuclear (husband, wife or wives and children) or extended (husband, his wife or wives, grand parents, grand children, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews and nieces) has a role to play in preventing drug abuse. Family is the smallest unit of the society and it is the first to prevent or control this drug abuse. These are the major strategies of preventing or controlling drug abuse from the family;

a  **Religious Commitment:** Parents should be committed in their service to God. By religion, the researcher is talking about different types of religion because no religion is in support of drug abuse. Parents should be devoted and dedicated religious people. They should lead their children to God and make sure that they are committed in the service of God.

b  **Care and Supervising or Monitoring:** This is important. Parents should care for their children, meet their physical needs etc and also supervise or monitor them very well. They should monitor their movement to make sure that they are making good company. If they are keeping bad company, they should be corrected immediately. They should not be over-pampered. There is an adage that says “spare the rod and spoil the child”. Some parents are over-pampering their children, thereby sparing the rod and spoiling their
children, instead of sparing the child and spoiling the rod. They neglect punishing them as it should be.

Parents should not only educate their children on the dangers of drug abuse but they should establish and enforce family rules. They should also create an effective system of monitoring their children’s activities. As parents are seeking for money, they should also not neglect to seek for their children as in caring and monitoring them.

c **Family Discussion:** Parents should not neglect family discussion and it should be done from time to time. It is important for all the members of the family. It helps to understand each other and to solve each other’s problem in the family. Problems or burdens and ideas are shared together in family discussion. Problem which one may decide to seek for the solution from drug abuse especially from alcohol are solved at family discussion.

d **Warm Communication:** This is also an important way of preventing or controlling drug abuse in the family. The scripture says “a soft answer turns away wrath; but grievous words stir up anger” (Prov.15:1). The manner of approach in any situation is important. There is a way parents can talk to their child who is engaging in drug and he will stop but there is a way he can be approached it will worsen the situation. There should be humility and love in communication and correction in the family.
e **Appreciation:** There should be genuine appreciation in the family. Parents should always appreciate their children when they do well and parents should also appreciate each other.

2. **School:** This is a place of formal education where students go to be educated. School is the residence of drug abuse especially in our tertiary institutions. It destroys the image of our Universities and society in general. Drug abuse in tertiary institutions promotes evils like cultism.

    The bed-rock of the UNN crisis that started in 1980 to 1999 was drug abuse. Even though the people that were causing the crisis were cultists, but drug was the major stimulant to that crisis. A normal human being can hold himself in time of quarrel but a drug addict cannot, rather he or she will go ahead to quarrel. That was why the researcher said earlier that drug abuse promotes cultism in the tertiary schools. The crisis caused a lot of things at UNN like frequent dismissal of students, obstruction of studies and examinations, death of students and staff, stagnation, fear etc. Many uncompleted buildings in the University became a comfortable place for initiation of people into cultism. Other Universities like Benin, Ibadan, Calabar, Zaria etc. are also suffering from drug abuse menace up till this day. Infact drug abuse has taking hold of the Nigerian tertiary institutions. Thank God that it has been greatly reduced at University of Nigeria, Nsukka after the administration organized renunciation exercise from cultism.
School has an important role to play in prevention of drug abuse. Some of the roles are as follows:

a. To teach the students the dangers of drug abuse

b. Caring and monitoring the students

c. Organizing lecture/seminar for parents and students on the dangers of drug abuse.

d. Having workshops, conferences and symposia on drug abuse and it’s effects on students.

e. Counseling centres should be opened to discourage the students from even attempting to give it first trial.

3. **Community**: This is a group of people living in an area. Community has a big role to play in prevention of drug abuse. These are some of the roles;

a. Creating of awareness in the community on the dangers of drug abuse.

b. Provision of alternative to drug abuse like recreational activities etc.

c. Provision of job opportunities

d. Organizing teachings, seminars, workshops, symposium and conference to educate the youths on the dangers of drug abuse etc and how to resist drug.

e. Community should minimize the rate of alcohol sales and drinking or prohibition of alcohol and drugs.

f. Establishment of a drug and alcohol vigilante groups that will monitor and punish drug traders, drug addicts and alcoholists.
g. Embarking on mass media against drug abuse.

h. Embarking on campaign and demonstration against drug abuse.

i. Providing homes for homeless youths

j. Interrogating and calling the youths that are loitering in the community to order to know their problems and to solve it.

k. Meeting the needs of the family members in the community

l. Counseling centers should be provided.

4. Government: Nigerian Government also has a big role to play in prevention of drug abuse which they are playing already through NDLEA (National Drug Law Enforcement Agency) and other drug controlling groups like NAFDAC (National Agency for Food and Drug Abuse Control).

The existence of drug in Nigeria has been a big problem to the nation. At the initial time, drug was being abused by adults and wealthy people but now it is for the adolescents and youths of both sexes.

The increase in demand of drug has made the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) to deal with the traffickers and abusers. The demonstrating effect by the government in it’s search to make Nigeria a free nation from drug abuse is an encouragement and joy to the citizen. With the appointment of a military general as the head of NDLEA, a lot of progress and impact have been made in checkmating drug trafficking and abuse which was proved to be true by General Bamiyi’s wand in 1994. In 1994-1996 a total of 55.358.95 Kilograms of drugs were seized which represents over 248 percent
from 15.880.809 increase Kilograms of drugs seized between 1990 and 1993. The same 1994-1996, 2.678 persons were caught as against 1610 arrested between 1990-1993. As from 1990-1997 a lot of drug traffickers were caught and drugs seized.

The analysis of drug seizures, prosecution and arrested of 1994 are seen on pages 59-61 of this research work.

In 1995, 956 suspects of drug traffickers were apprehended, various types of drugs were seized. Out of the people that were arrested, 47 were for cocaine, 86 were for heroine, 25 were for other prohibited drugs 53 were caught about to export drugs from Nigeria, 14 were caught about to import drugs into Nigeria, then the remaining 731 were caught in different areas of Nigeria. Out of 956 people that were arrested, 900 were males while the remaining 56 were females.

Pages 63-65 of this research work are the analysis of drug seizure, prosecution and arrests of 1995.

NAFDAC (National Agency for Food and Drug Abuse Control) has never relented in their duty on drug central. This group has been working faithfully in checkmating drug and food in Nigeria. In the report from Abuja, the federal tertiary, in 2005 with this group with the leadership of Dr. Dora Akunyili, destroyed adulterated drugs worth 10.4 million naira. The drugs include Antibiotics, vaccines, analgesics, fruit juice etc.

The break-down analysis of drugs from 1995-1997 are seen below.

1st Destruction – 4th August 1995 (Lagos)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Kg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Cannabis</td>
<td>4.484.7778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>27.703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Heroine</td>
<td>3.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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2nd Destruction – 22nd September 1995 (Kano)

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<tbody>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Quinabarbitone</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>0.355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>0.045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Pethidine</td>
<td>53 AMPOULES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>696.551 + 53 AMPOULES OF PETHIDINE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**3rd Destruction – 2nd March 1996 (Akure)**

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</table>

**4th Destruction – 1st July 1996 (Yola)**

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<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>303.385</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**5th Destruction – 10th December 1996 (Akure)**

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<thead>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Kg</th>
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</table>
6th Destruction – 12th February 1997

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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pemoline</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ampethamine</td>
<td>3.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Diazepam</td>
<td>22.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1196.06</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Summary of Destructions – 12th February – 4th August, 1995 (Lagos)


B. (22nd September, 1995) – 696.551Kg + 53 AMPOULES OF PETHIDINE.

C. (2nd March, 1996) – 1580.5Kg.

D. (1st July, 1996) – 303.385Kg

E. (10th December, 1996) – 1141Kg

F. (12th February, 1997) – 1196.06Kg.

Grade Total – 9633.6428 + 53 AMPOULES OF PETHIDINE

Nigeria government has never relented in her duty or prevention of drug abuse but she should add more grease to her elbows because drug abuse is still in existence in Nigeria. Apart from the roles of the groups set up for drug control in Nigeria are playing in controlling of drug in Nigeria, government still has a role to play in controlling of drug abuse. Below are some of the roles.

a  Supporting or sponsoring the drug control groups in Nigeria.

b  Public enlightenment

c  Establishment of drug abuse education for schools (secondary and tertiary schools).

d  Establishing drug abuse education for all citizens of Nigeria. Organizing it in community by community or local government by local government or in any way it seems better.

e  Ensuring that there is guidance and counseling in all schools and counseling centres in towns.

f  Carrying out drug research in all areas of Nigeria.

g  Creating job opportunities

h  Forming other drug control groups

i  Giving homes for homeless youths

j  Always embarking on mass media, campaign, and demonstration against drug abuse.

k  Minimizing the rate of alcohol sales and drinking.

l  Provision of alternative to drug abuse.
m Organizing teachings and conferences on drug abuse, etc.

n Having discussions or talks on radio and television on drug abuse.

o Exposing drug abuse on newspapers, magazines and putting it in book form.

Government can carry out these roles creditably through all the existing drug control groups in Nigeria.
CHAPTER FOUR
THE CHURCH’S ROLE IN CONTROLLING DRUG ABUSE IN THE NIGERIAN SOCIETY

The church has a role to play in controlling or even eradicating drug abuse entirely. As earlier defined, church is the body of the followers of Christ. The followers of Christ are the Christ-like people, people that are living as Christ lived, the imitators of Christ. So as the imitators of Christ, they should not fold their hands and see drugs being abused by people because it is very clear that drug abuse is not good and the church knows that. So the church should try as much as possible to help to control or even stop drug abuse in Nigerian society.

The following are the roles of the church in controlling drug abuse in Nigeria.

4.1 Preaching: “Preaching is the public proclamation of good tidings or good news”. (Douglas, 1962:1023). The church should seriously and always preach against drug abuse. Through preaching, the church can reach to a wide range of people because it is not a religious discourse to a close group of initiates, but open and public proclamation. Preaching should not be hidden or done only in religious gathering, it should be public and carried out everywhere by the followers of Christ. The church should not only preach against drug abuse in the religious gathering, it should also be preached in television, radio, put in CD
and VCD, it can even further be put up in newspapers, magazines, tracts, books etc so that it can reach to a wide range of people.

The church should preach repentance and salvation to people. If an abuser of drug is morally regenerated, he should stop abusing drug. The sinful nature of man controlling the affairs of man needs spiritual change. By having the new spiritual nature, drug abuse would be put to a stop by the abusers. Drug addicts need the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. When people live by the spirit, they will not gratify the desires of the flesh including drug abuse.

So it is the role of the church to preach against drug abuse. As earlier said, the church should not preach against drug abuse only at the religious gathering rather it should go beyond that. The church can reach a wide range of people and with that, drug abuse can be reduced or even eradicated.

4.2 Prayer: As the body of the followers of Christ, the church should be prayerful because Jesus was prayerful when He was on earth. Prayer is the word we say to God or it is the way by which one communicates to God or it is the way by which one tells God his or her needs. Prayer is an effective or essential role of the church in controlling or eradicating drug abuse. The church should always pray against drug abuse and the abusers so that God will touch their lives and cause them to stop abusing drugs. Prayer changes things Fomum (1988: 1), “the intercessor can accomplish the impossible on his knees, he can move the hand and the heart of God by prayer and God will in turn get people to
act according to His will”. Church should not relent in praying to God to change the life of drug abusers. Prayer can do all things, God may one day change and make them to act according to His will.

The scripture says “pray without ceasing” (I Thess. 5:17), which means that the church should pray without relenting concerning drug abuse. Divine intervention will stop drug abuse. The researcher believes that those that may be abusing drug under demonic influence or cause can be rescued through prayers.

4.3 Seminars/Teaching: The church should always organize seminars on drug abuse and expose drug abuse and its effects for people to know. Sometimes people are engaged in drugs abuse without knowing the effects on them but with the help of frequent seminars and teachings on drug abuse, people will be taught the effects or consequences of drug abuse and the way out. The church can organize this seminars within and beyond them. The church can organize it for schools, communities etc and drug abuse awareness can be created. There are people who cannot do without drug, it has become part of them but with frequent seminars and teaching on drug abuse, they can be delivered.

4.4 Recreation Centre: This is another measure through which church can use to control drug abuse in the Nigerian society. “Recreation is the fact of people doing things for enjoyment when they are not working” (Hornby,
Church should provide leisure or recreation centre where people will come to stay, play, relax and enjoy themselves after work. There should be enough equipments and the needed ones too in that recreation centre. Not only just a recreation centre, church should also use the avenue to tell the people especially the youths the dangers of drug abuse on their health and society and to advice them not to give it a trial.

4.5 **Employment:** There is an adage that says “an idol mind is the devil’s workshop”. When one, especially a youth, does not have a job, he will be moving about in the streets and evil thoughts will be coming into his mind. Most people that are abusing drugs today are jobless ones. In our society today, many youths are jobless. Some of them are graduates but not employed. Our youths are indulging in drug abuse, armed robbery, thuggery etc because they do not have a job.

The church should provide job opportunities like establishing of schools, building of hospitals, building of lock-up shops, printing centres, weaving centres, etc. and employ people especially youths.

4.6 **Reward/Punishment:** This point looks irrelevant but it is very relevant. The church should be given an order that anybody who is a drug addict that will stop abusing drug should be given a reward. This should not be done ones or twice but regularly. The reward should be a substantial reward e.g. employment,
huge amount of money etc. on the other hand, that anybody who is a church member and later become a drug addict should be punished. As the researcher earlier said, it should be a continuous package. With this, drug abuse will be controlled.

4.7 Connection with NDLEA or any other Drug Control Group: The church should try as much as possible to have connection with National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) or any other drug control measures. With the connection, the group will be given the church information about drug and it’s abuse and the church will be voicing it out to the congregation, by air, handbills, book forms etc, coupled with the efforts of the drug abuse control group, drug abuse will be controlled. Even if five or more denominations that are well recognized can have the connection, it will help to control drug abuse.

With these points mentioned, the researcher strongly believes that if the church can really carry it out, drug abuse will be controlled or put to stop.
CHAPTER FIVE
SUMMARY AND CONCUSSION

5.1 Principle Findings

Chapter one of this research is the introductory part, there was a little introduction on drug and it’s abuse among the Nigerian Youths. In the statement of problem, it was stated that the youths who are the future hope of the society and the leaders of tomorrow have taken to drugs. Many Nigerian Youths are drug addicts and peddlers and it has its ugly effects on them. A society that has lost her youths is a hopeless society and thus, drug abuse is a problem to the Nigerian society. The aim of this research was to make the Nigerian youths know the dangers of drug abuse, to bring out the roles especially that of the church in controlling drug abuse in Nigerian. The significance of this study was that drug, it’s abuse and effects were exposed and will hopefully be eradicated. This will help Nigerian youths to be useful to themselves, the individual families and society at large. The research covers the youths and the drug abuse and the roles of the church in controlling drug abuse in Nigeria.

In chapter two, which is the literature review, there was a review on the books written by scholars on drug abuse. In general the scholars are saying that drug abuse is not good and that it is a problem to the abusers and society.

Chapter three, which is the drug abuse proper, exposes everything about drug abuse. Also causes of drug abuse, roles of the family, school, communities
and government in controlling drug abuse. Many other things were also discussed in this chapter.

Then chapter four which is one of the main chapters of this research discusses the roles of the church to drug abuse. If the church will sincerely carry out the roles to drug abuse it will eradicate or curb drug abuse in our society Nigeria.

5.2 Contributions to Knowledge

This research work contributed immensely to knowledge on drug abuse. The researcher was able to carry out research extensively on this topic and the work contains a lot of knowledge on drug and it’s abuse. The researcher strongly believe that anybody that will read this work will have knowledge or more knowledge on drug and it’s abuse. It deals on drug abuse starting from the scratch.

The work contains definition of some terms that are connected with drug and it’s abuse, substances, social effects of drug, some victims of drug abuse, preventive measures or control of drug abuse, the role of the church in controlling drug abuse in Nigerian society and so on.

So this research work contains and gives a wide of knowledge on the youths and drug abuse in Nigeria. The researcher also strongly believe that anybody that handles this research work to lecture, teach, give seminar or write a research work on drug abuse will really make something out of it.
5.3 **Recommendations**

The recommendations to the menace of drug abuse among the Nigerian youths are highlighted below:

- Parents should train up their children in the fear of the Lord and they should re-orientate them on the adverse of drug abuse on their health, society and human dignity because charity begins at home as they say.

- The Ministry of Education (Federal and State) should add to their curricula “Drug Education” for both the primary, secondary and tertiary schools in Nigeria. They should always organize lectures, seminars, rallies, film show etc for the Nigerian youths on the effects of drug abuse.

- National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), National Agency for Food and Drug Abuse Control and other control groups should not relent in carrying out their responsibilities on drug abuse in order to make Nigeria a drug abuse free society with a special focus on the Nigerian youths because they are the future leaders of this great country, Nigeria.

- The Nigerian government as a whole should always be educating the public on the dangers of drug abuse through awareness, programme for the Nigerian youths etc.

- Finally the church should not fail in her roles prayer, preaching etc in order to control or stop drug abuse in the Nigerian society.
5.4 Suggestion for Further Research

As earlier said by the researcher, some places were not touched that would have elucidated this research. Some of the areas that were not touched are suggested for further research. They are as follows:

a Economic cost of drug abuse.
b The origin of drug abuse. (It is in this research but not in full.)
c Drugs and NDLEA (National Drug Law Enforcement Agency) in Nigeria.

5.5 Conclusion.

Drug is a substance that affects the function of a living cell, which is used to cure and prevent the occurrence of illness. A drug becomes a “medicine” when it is used to save life, it becomes “poison” when it causes death, it becomes “mis-use” when people indulge in self medication to cure illness and it becomes “abuse” when it is used indiscriminately. Due to the habitual use of drugs, drug addicts especially youths cannot do without it and it has been a problem to our country Nigeria and the world in general.

The impact of drug abuse among the Nigerian youths has been a stigma to the society. The effects of drug abuse especially among our youths and society are so devastating. Many of the Nigerian youths depend on one form of drug or the other. The rate at which youths abuse drugs is so alarming and worrisome. Many youths have tried one drug or the other and many of them are
drug abusers today. The family, church, community, school, Nigerian government have role to play in controlling drug abuse in Nigeria, Bamaiyi (1997:14) had this to say:

Certification or no certification, Nigeria must continue the drug war. In this hide and seek game, our primary objective is to salvage the nation from the scourge of hard drug.

Proverbs chapter 14 verse 12 says “there is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death”. In this regard, youths should reject drug abuse because it may seem good to them but it leads to doom.

Finally the researcher is pleading that all hands should be on deck to make sure that drug abuse is eradicated or curbed in our country Nigeria so that our youths should be useful to themselves, their individual families and our country Nigeria as a whole.
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