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All correspondence and inquiries concerning publication, subscription and the institute should be directed to: The Associate Editor, Dr. John Ayo Oladapo, c/o Baptist College of Theology Igede Ekiti +234(0)8035608098.familylifeandsociety@gmail.com/johnayoladapo@gmail.com

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Contributors' Biographies

Stephen Oladele Ayankeye is a Pastoral Care and Counselling Psychology Professor in the Department of Practical Theology of the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastored churches in Nigeria and, as an astute writer, has published Books, chapters in books and journal articles nationally and internationally. He was the Chairman Counseling Association of Nigeria (CASSON), Oyo State Chapter.

Benson Ohihon Igboin is a professor focusing on the Philosophy of Religion, African Pentecostalism, African Religion and Culture at the Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria. He has authored Books, chapters in books and journal articles nationally and internationally.

Sharon Slater is the president of Family Watch International (FamilyWatch.org), a nonprofit organisation in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. She also chairs the UN Family Rights Caucus (UN Family Rights Caucus. org) and is a consultant to multiple UN Member States, including African and OIC countries, on human sexuality and family policy issues. Sharon writes a regular column for “The Family Watch,” an online publication read in over 170 countries.

Elijah Adeyinka serves as the Associate Pastor of Ola-Oluwa Baptist Church, Ogbomoso, Oyo State. He holds a Master of Divinity in Theology from the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary Ogbomoso, where he is pursuing his PhD with a specialisation in Christian Preaching. He is married, and the marriage is blessed.

Oluwakemi Olajumoke Amuda is a Baptist minister and theological educator. She is a lecturer at the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary and a researcher in the field of Christian Education. She is currently a PhD candidate at the NBTS, Ogbomoso and has authored different works.

Abosede Hellen Ayinde is a Faculty member at the Baptist College of Theology, Igede-Ekiti. She is currently a PhD Candidate at the University of South Africa and has authored Books, chapters in books and journal articles nationally and internationally.

John Ayo Oladapo, PhD is a Baptist minister and theological educator. He is a senior lecturer at the Baptist College of Theology, Igede-Ekiti. He is a researcher in the field of religion with a special interest in Ethics and Pastoral Care and Counseling. He has authored books, chapters in books and journal articles nationally and internationally.

Princess Omovrigho Idialu, PhD had all her tertiary education at the University of Ibadan – B. A. (Hons); PGDE; M. Ed., and PhD. She currently lectures at Wesley University, Ondo, in Ondo State, and she is the Head of the General Studies Unit, Director of Academics and Dean of Students' Affairs. She has published books and articles in reputable local and international Journals.

Raphael Akhijemen Idialu, PhD, is a Methodist Church Nigeria minister and currently the Rector of Methodist Theological Institute, Sagamu, Ogun State, Nigeria. He had his degrees in both Nigeria and oversea - B.A. (Hons) (Ibadan); M.A. (Birmingham, UK); M.A. (Oyo); PhD (Ibadan). He has published in local and international Journals in Applied Theology, Missions Studies, and Old Testament Studies.

Foluke O. Odesola, PhD is a faculty member at the Baptist College of Theology, Igede-Ekiti. She holds a Master of Divinity in Christian Education and an M.A. in Christian Education (NBTS). She has her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of South Africa.

Ogbeni, O. Sylvester is an educationist based in Lagos. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Religious Studies from Ambrose Ali

University, Ekpoma (1997), and a Master's Degree in Religious Studies from the University of Ibadan (2015). A postgraduate Diploma from Usmanu Dan Fodio University Sokoto (2010). He is currently a PhD student at the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, specialising in African Traditional Religion.

Otun Michael Oluwajuwonlo is a trained journalist at the International Institute of Journalism, Abuja, and holds B.A. in Theology, B.A. Christian Religious Studies, M.A. Christian Religious Studies (Philosophy of Religion), holds a Doctoral degree from NBTS, Ogbomoso. He is a PhD candidate in the Department of Religious Studies, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State, Nigeria. He is the pastor of Gateway Baptist Church, Basiri, Ado Ekiti, and lecturer at St. Enock Theological Seminary, Ado Ekiti.

Itakorode Olanrewaju Andrew has a Bachelor of Theology (2018) from the Baptist College of Theology Igede-Ekiti; he has B.A. Religious studies (2020) from Bowen University Iwo, Osun State. He is a Faculty member and Assistant Chaplain of the Baptist College of Theology, Igede-Ekiti.

Editorial Note

Undoubtedly, the human family is one of the most threatened units of our individual and communal existence. Many have argued that the family's failure or success reflects the order in the development of society. This unvarnished truth and the consequences of ignoring it account for establishing a journal devoted exclusively to family life - *International Journal of Family Life and Societal Development*. This journal, conceived as a means and avenue to express concern and interrogate pressing family issues and proffer solutions, is not a confessional one; it takes discursive and practical approaches to issues on family life from interdisciplinary perspectives.

In this maiden volume, Stephen Ayankeye argues that there is a nexus between family integration and societal development. Inversely, a disintegrated family will lead to the underdevelopment of society. He further argues that there are factors that engender family integration but that those factors are now being challenged. He recommends ways of ensuring that the challenges are tackled. Benson Igboin interrogates the effects of social media on family life. He argues that society is dynamic, and globalisation has ambivalent impacts on family life. While it is now practically impossible to insulate family life from social media, he concludes that reasonable and responsible deployment of social media will enhance family unity and connectedness. Sharon Slater's article examines the integration of family and the family's protection in Nigeria and Africa. Slater argues that the assault on children and families in Nigeria is propelled by the global sexual revolution, to which many parents in Africa have not given sufficient attention. She notes that this revolution should be viewed from a human rights perspective to challenge its causes and effects on African families, particularly young people. She thus recommends that parents and the African government have critical roles to play in safeguarding the sexual health of their children.

On his own, Elijah Adeyinka examines the effects of postmodernism on the African family system. He points out that postmodernism's tilt

towards relativism adversely impacts family life. In order to stem the tide of postmodernism's inroad into the family, he suggests that family life should be guided strictly by enduring biblical principles. Oluwakemi Amuda's article intervenes by highlighting the critical role of effective communication within the family. She argues that when there is adequate and mutual communication in the family, faith is developed, which results in the development of the whole person. For Abosede Ayinde, violence against the female gender in the family and society has remained unabated. Ayinde notes that contemporary society has been unable to arrest violence against the female gender. She also examines the biblical basis of violence against the female gender and recommends ways to ameliorate it. John Oladapo echoes the argument that the challenges of the modern family system directly link with societal development. He argues that the African family system is being critically neglected, and the consequences are dire and visible. He, therefore, recommends the need to pay urgent attention to those values that sustained the family system before modernity unleashed its forces on it. Princess and Raphael Idialu reaffirm the argument that effective communication in the family has a way of dispelling and resolving conflict. They examine effective communication skills to demonstrate that family health will be maintained and sustained when emplaced. Foluke Odesola articulates that parenting is critical to the healthy growth and development of the child. Effective parenting, she argues, leads to arresting juvenile delinquency. As a result, she recommends that effective parenting is a sine qua non for guiding the child through the challenges that the teenage period of development poses.

Ogbeni Sylvester examines the role of education in the development of the family. Although education costs are high and hardly affordable, he argues that education is essential to the family and society. He suggests ways through which parents could navigate the challenges the cost of education has posed in contemporary society. Michael Otun introduces the ethical and religious dilemma many Christian couples face in deciding whether or not to resort to IVF in

their quest to procreate. He argues that the decision is not easy because of many interpretations of scriptures and pressures that are brought to bear on couples. He thus concludes that couples should weigh the moral implications of IVF before taking their final decision. Finally, Andrew Itakorode Olanrewaju examines the causes and effects of drug abuse among youth. He argues that despite concerted efforts to discourage the youth from engaging in substance abuse, the reality on the ground shows an increase in the number of those involved. He recommends that parents and government should intensify efforts towards ensuring that the youth are dissuaded from abusing drugs because of their harmful effects on them and society.

Benson Ohihon Igboin
Editor-in-Chief

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AMONG YOUTH AND ITS IMPLICATION FOR SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENT

Itakorode Olanrewaju Andrew F.
Baptist College of Theology, Igede-Ekiti.
itakorodeolanrewaju@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper seeks to bring out the adverse effect of substance abuse among the youth and its implication on societal development. This paper centred on substance abuse prevalent among youth in society. Society is deteriorating socially, economically, mentally and psychologically, and the causative factors of substance abuse are unemployment, illiteracy, lack of parental care, overpampering, secret cults and lots more. In the midst of all these, there are agitations which spring up from society on how to curb, reduce, or crop it out. The menace could not add value to the image of the society of which Christians are part but brings adverse effects of untimely Death, unwanted pregnancy, drug addiction and stealing. The paper induces that substance abuse among youth degrades society due to negative attitudes inherent in the youth. However, this study recommends that moral teaching be inculcated among youth and that counsellors be alive to their duties on behavioural modifications.

Introduction

In different communities, drugs are consumed to stir up some people who tend to see visions or have a connection with spirits. A renowned drug addict in the western world has an affinity with pop music culture during the late twentieth century governed by the Beatles and others. Society gave room for drug use, which became prominent around the 1960s. Many famous musicians at that period openly used drugs, and young guys in their hundreds of thousands followed suit. These youths became drug addicts (Norman, 2011, 48).

Some people make money from selling drugs to young and old because those who need them will try to contact the sellers. In the process, more young individuals are addicted to drug intake, while some become a nuisance and notorious in society. For example,

Norman (2011, 49) also described bandits, robbers and those who cause trouble or fight in public as a product of drug users.

Drug and substance abuse is constantly attributed to living miserably outside the home. Many youths who do not live with their parents and those who make 'life on the street' their second home represent uncultured adolescence and rebellion. In a nutshell, drug users think they escape from unwarranted situations like family break-ups, poverty, abuse and homelessness, which prevent their existence in some localities. Rocky (1994, 42) reports International Conference of American Public Health Association reports that youth engagement in substance ingestion is a reality and ascertained that young ones do not see drugs as part of the problem. They see drugs as a part of the solution and a coping mechanism. Some among the youth derive pleasure from the intake of drugs in society. They do not feel bad at all but feel good even when with their friends or colleagues.

Types of Substances Taken Nowadays

In this modern community, there are different types of substance people take and abuse in other countries. A few of these substances range from Amphetamines, Narcotics, Cocaine, Marijuana, Tobacco, Alcohol, Codeine and the like. The research noted that tobacco, marijuana, and alcohol usage could not be left out where substances are mentioned. Some implications are described here for better awareness about their properties and how they act on people.

Amphetamines

Amphetamine is a stimulant known as uppers or speed. It is commonly used on the streets as a white cross (pill), meth tabs (pill) and crystal meth (powder). The abuser can take significant amounts of speed a good number of times. Some abusers of this drug may inject more Amphetamines at once or even a dozen times in a single day. It could result in sudden Death. Amphetamines could produce a euphoric high, which diminishes within a few hours after the intake.

Narcotics: According to Phyllis (1997, 24), Narcotics comprise plant-based products ranging from opium and other drugs, Morphine, Codeine, and Heroin. Narcotics could also be derived from synthetic chemicals with morphine-like action known as Demerol and Methadone. There are infections and diseases in which unsterile solutions, syringes and needles can cause abusers of this drug. Diseases like; Scrum Hepatitis which is highly common. Other ones like inflammation of veins, congestion of the lungs and skin abscesses.

Cocaine: Cocaine is a type of drug obtained from coca bush around South American countries. Whenever a cocaine substance is injected or inhaled, it causes over-alertness and euphoria, and such a person may feel a kind of increase in power. It was noted that researchers do not support the idea that tolerance to cocaine can develop, but significant psychological dependence could result. As for speed (Amphetamines), depression can show after substance effects a no more visible. Such depression can be cured temporarily with the intake of more cocaine, and this is a contributing factor to cocaine addiction on the part of the abusers in their society. The use of heavy cocaine could lead to weight loss, anxiety and sleeplessness for the abusers of it in the community (Phyllis, 1997).

Marijuana: Marijuana is a substance that can be smoked, ingested and sniffed by abusers. A kind of active mind affects a substance in three forms of a drug called tetrahydrocannabinol (T.H.C.). The topmost part of the flower and leaves of marijuana has the highest percentage of T.H.C. concentration. Hash is a dark brown resin found on the top of marijuana. This is much stronger than crude marijuana because of the large concentration of T.H.C. Effects on the part of the abusers could be more intense, and the side effects may be more significant. T.H.C. could be considered a hallucinogen plus a kind of soothing property. It is noted that abusers are talkative and act silly, while others can be moody, boisterous and drowsy. The psychological effects of marijuana may be varied indeed. Abusers could report illusions, misinterpretations or unnatural sensations (Phyllis, 1997, 25).

Tobacco: A substance called Nicotine is derived from the tobacco plant. It originated in North America and could reach other parts of the world when it was discovered on that continent. Tobacco has spread widely, and the leaves have been smoked in pipes, such as cigars and cigarettes. This substance can be chewed as a snuff in its powdered state. It is noted that the Christians of the sixteenth century rejected tobacco, but later in Europe and America, it was socially acceptable to smoke, chew or be sniffed. Nicotine is highly toxic or poisonous. Tobacco causes a short life span for many people and causes heart diseases, respiratory diseases, and cancer of the lungs, throat and mouth. Abusers of it increase per day in society beyond measuring (Norman, 2011, 50).

Alcohol: The abuse of alcohol affects the person or people who fall in; such may be free from tension and relaxed. To some people, alcohol could be a stimulant to them. The more incredible amount of alcohol could depress brain activity and temporarily impair muscular coordination and memory. If the users take more quantity within a short time, it can cause a loss of control and dull the senses. If the user continues to heavy intake of it, it will anaesthetise the brain, making it in a coma and also causing Death. Intake of more quantities for an extended period could damage the liver, brain and heart. It could lead to permanent brain damage, whereby memory, judgment and aptitude for learning deteriorate gradually. Such a person will not be able to achieve purpose in life. (Phyllis, 1997, 27).

P.C.P. or Angel Dust: P.C.P., or phencyclidine, was derived around the late 1950s and was used as a human anaesthetic. It was noted that patients in the hospitals began to experience side effects. The substance was annulled. Now, the substance produced is being used for veterinary purposes. In its primary usage, it is used as an anaesthetic for large animals. The society's widespread P.C.P. was first showcased in 1967 in the metropolis of San Francisco. When P.C.P. became a product that could be quickly produced from illegal laboratories, it was readily accessible, and the substance spread out. P.C.P. could be taken orally, smoked, sniffed, and injected. The users of this substance may become non-communicative and moves to a

level of oblivion and fantasy. It can take hold of the user from four to six hours and be very talkative. The person may experience mild depression, irritability, isolation, and fear. Then after 24 to 48 hours, such a person will become normal again. (Phyllis, 1997, 26).

Factors Motivating Youth to Substance Intake and Abuse

The numerous reasons motivating the youth towards taking the substance in society cannot be exhausted here per se. However, Aderson (1995) posit that youths are depressed because of environmental pollution, disorderliness in government policies and other vices that can lead to substance intake. Invariably, since other reasons could lead youth to engage in substance abuse, why were some youth involved in substance intake and abuse but not experiencing various challenges and different obstacles in life? That puzzle requires investigation.

Scholars believe that substance abuse is known to be a family ailment. In other words, that problem could be transferred to others in the family through the bloodline or the environment they live in (Gardner and Young, 2000). Hayward, Cook and Thome (1994) noted the following views, which could lead youth prone to using a drug to the point of abuse. Some of them left school without any excuse, some experienced failure in academics, some attempted suicide, some experienced no parental care, and some had parents who were drug abusers. In addition to these, some youth in another context could have mental disorders or may be economically disadvantaged, sexually abused, or injured for a long time and being uncomfortable, and have been in detention through a criminal court case (Hayward, Cook and Thome 1994).

Also, the result of a study shows that parents who are hostile to their young ones at home have a greater tendency to misbehave later. Some may go into substance abuse to ease the tension from the home front (Statistics Canada 2015). It was discovered that some parents addicted to substance abuse and nagging and looking down on their young ones form a loophole for them to practice taking

substances to the extent of the abuse. In a society where peer intimidation thrives, curiosity among youth, media, and low self-esteem could also lead some youth to use and abuse the drug. Some youth can be victims of intimidation from colleagues and have access to substance use or move to abuse in some quarters, while loneliness could cause it (Anderson, 1995).

The factors influencing youth to the act of substance intake and abuse highlighted above are not to be handled with levity. If we are not going to deceive one another, society is filled with negative messages; the media portrays drinking, partying, and people living extravagant lives. However, people were informed about prevention and some treatment procedures that can make youth refrain from taking drugs, leading to abuse (National Drug Control Policy 2001). Few more factors that push youth into substance intake and abuse include the following:

Illiteracy

Illiteracy is not excellent and unacceptable in our generation today because of the attached negative effect. Steve Padilla, a Times staff writer, wrote about one man called Garry Sapp, who had a royal background. Sapp could view his past life whereby he became a drunkard and drug addict, and such addiction could be traceable to his illiteracy. Later on, for him to change from such a habit and rehabilitate completely, he began learning how to read at 36. 'Sapp' happened to be one out of one hundred personnel that could recover from drug addicts and alcoholics, which took place at Action Rehabilitation centre, where a kind of innovative-year-old program was put in place. At this rehabilitation centre, simple reading is part of the treatment used for the victims. They are tutored on how to read by some drug abusers who have passed through training in the centre and later became tutors.

Lack of Parental Care

Guardian's biological fathers and mothers are full of activities and never have time to oversee and care for their wards/children; unavailability of time to oversee their children makes such join bad gangs and thereby get addicted to drugs. It is noted that youths and

teenagers do go to night parties and social engagements without permission or permission from their parents. Such guardians, fathers and mothers thought their wards were socialising with the environment, but great harm or havoc has happened in their lives.

Over pampering

Some youth who indulge in drugs and alcohol continuously have a rough life from their teenage years. In their teens, they were exposed to social media, where they watched different sites that lure them into illicit drugs. Many of their parents do not monitor what their wards watch and listen to on social media. They were given a free hand to do whatever they liked and wished. For example, celebrities like Justin Bieber, Drake, and Cardi B post pictures when they drink alcohol on different platforms. So, young people were influenced to do so.

Secret cults

From time immemorial, some cult-like personnel sponsor the use of substances as a part of the ritual. So, in ancient Greece, for a case study, the usage of ergot, a fungus which grows on grains and brings out hallucinations. It is noted that this plays an essential role in the sacrifices of the Eleusinian mysteries, as celebrated in adoring goddesses Demeter and her daughter Persephone. When the youth indulge in this act, they go out and synthesise others to join their crew. So the number keeps on increasing over time.

Effects of Drug Abuse

Drug Abuse poses much damage to the users, ranging from an untimely death to dwindling health. Some could die instantly, while some may experience slow Death (Normal, 2011). The under-listed are some of the adverse effects drug abuse poses on the user

Untimely Death

Substance abusers in society are prone to untimely Death, according to Buck. There may be a few substance-related health hazards, like an increased issue of H.I.V. formed through intravenous substance use, importance-induced psychosis, killing attempts, and sicknesses from poor care (Buck, 1999).

Unwanted pregnancy: - National Drug Control Strategy (1997, 34) discovered that many youths who use substances or indulge in substances abuse as young girls do unwanted contract pregnancy. According to a study organised by the Guttmacher Institute, one in four young girls became pregnant around age twenty-one. These pregnancies occur through fallow or shallow understanding in the life of girls about new and intense unpredicted emotions or moods the demand comes from the male counterparts when both are high in the intake of drugs (Josh & Bob 1996, 28).

Drugs Addiction

The addicted person is in a state or condition whereby such a person cannot correct or put off the attitude in his life. The addict uses drugs concurrently, not minding the dangerous effects that can show forth in his life. He likes to take substances repeatedly with an appetite that no one can stop. The urge to induce himself is already created in him, having pleasure in doing it. Someone addicted to drugs could be seen as somebody who has committed a crime because addiction has been noted as a sin and a crime indeed. (Martin Paulus romancatholicinfo.com/catholic-answers/addiction)

Stealing

Many youths who use drugs were found to commit violent acts and other crimes. In a study of about 113 youths that is valuable found in state detention, 82 per cent were found to be heavy alcohol users even before they got to imprisonment; also, according to one verification around 1988 in washing D.C. It was discovered that youth who sold and used drugs committed crimes more than those who sold but did not use them. There was a breakdown of unacceptable acts among the youths: Drug selling 36 per cent, create assault 24 per cent, burglary- 24 per cent, and robbery 19 per cent. Youth who find themselves among other drug abusers eventually join their colleagues in stealing and robbery (Office of National Drug Control Policy, 2001, 35).

Recommendations

Moral Teaching: This could be seen as one tool for curbing drug abuse in society. Yoruba imparted moral values to the young through

proverbs, storytelling, myth, and religion, chanting that the Yoruba will not accept any act of indiscipline or rudeness from youth to an elder; however, this Yoruba way of curbing an act of indiscipline is popularly known as cognitive restructuring.

Counselling: Counsellors need to ascertain drug addiction and the adverse outcomes that come to play in the life of their clients. Behavioural, cognitive, dynamic, and experiential, which are very important, should be ascertained to effect behavioural change. Collaborative relationships, trusting, bringing up insights, feedback, reality testing, and the like should also be employed by counsellors to bring about therapeutic change.

Pastoral care: Pastoral care is one of the solutions that could modify the behaviour of substance abusers and reduce the activity in the community. Religious leaders should preach sermons that could help modify drug addicts' behaviour and ensure that follow-up is done for all new converts to disassociate themselves from peers and friends that could lure them to drug abuse.

Government Policy: The government should make drug education compulsory at all levels of our educational programme. This will reduce ignorance of what constitutes drug abuse and the likely causes and effects.

Conclusion

The discussion above reveals that substance abuse among the youth hurts society. The youth in society who could have been significant assets are now on the opposite side, thereby affecting societal growth. Youth are vulnerable to substance abuse, where the concept of drug abuse sensitises types of substances or drugs that youth see as something to play with, not knowing the danger in them. The paper pinpointed the causes of substance abuse: unemployment, illiteracy, lack of parental care, and overpampering, which have affected many lives. Youth in society began to experience a significant effect of drug misuse, whereby many died prematurely, and unwanted pregnancies on the part of females as teens or youth

that are unmarried; some were addicted to drugs too.

In that light, there are steps to take to address the menace of substance abuse in society. So, for the future of tomorrow's youth, be good and pleasant. Good pastoral care and counselling with moral teaching must be adopted to solve this problem in the youth's life. There and then, parents are to make an effort to love and care for their children. If all these suggestions can be properly and adequately considered, the lives of the youth will be preserved and they will develop society.

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