

**EFFECTS OF DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ON SECONDARY SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN SIAYA TOWNSHIP WARD, SIAYA COUNTY, KENYA**

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DECLARATION

DECLARATION

Student's Declaration

This research project is my original work and has not been presented for award of a degree or for any similar purpose in any other institution.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AIDS:	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
GOK:	Government of Kenya
HIV:	Human Immunodeficiency Syndrome
NACADA:	National Authority for the Campaign against Drug Abuse
SAMHSA:	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
UNDCP:	United Nations Drug Control Programme

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

Behavioral Sanctions: a penalty applied to a pupil who exhibits inappropriate behavior.

Depression: A mood illness characterized by chronic melancholy and declining interest.

Deviant Behaviour: actions or behaviors that go against social norms or expectations.

Drug Abuse: the ingestion of illegal substances or the usage of over-the-counter or prescription medications for uses apart from those for which they are intended, or in excessive doses.

Drugs: are chemical substances that might obstruct one's brain's regular function and bodily functions.

Hard drug: a powerful illegal drug

Policies: course or principle of action adopted or proposed by an organization or individual.

Truancy: the action of staying away from his learning institution without valid excuse

ABSTRACT

Drug abuse, formerly known as drug misuse, is the usage of particular substances to produce pleasant sensations in the brain. Globally, there are more than 190 million drug users, and the issue is growing alarmingly, particularly among young persons under 30. In the last few years, stakeholders attempting to address the drug and substance abuse problem have intensified their campaigns for the prevention and reduction of drug abuse among the youth. The specific efforts have come through the establishment of such agencies as NACADA and the formulation of the Drug Control Master Plan. However, despite the huge efforts and resources committed to the cause, a high prevalence and rising rates of drug and substance abuse have been reported in Kenya lately. This study sought to evaluate the adverse effects of illicit substance and drug misuse among secondary school students in Siaya Township Ward, Siaya County. The study objectives included evaluating the role of drug and substance abuse on absenteeism, assessing its effects on academic performance, and analyzing its influence on truancy and school dropout among learners. Descriptive survey design was adopted in the study. The target population included secondary school students who were drug addicts. Stratified random sampling technique was applied to select respondents, ensuring representation from various demographic groups. The sample size constituted 171 respondents, determined using Yamane's formula. Questionnaire was used to collect data, and ethical considerations were observed throughout the process. The collected data was analyzed using descriptive statistics, with findings presented in tables, graphs, and pie charts. The findings revealed that drug and substance abuse led to non-completion of assignments, frequent absenteeism, and poor academic performance due to lack of concentration and loss of interest in schoolwork. The discussion highlighted how suspensions and expulsions exacerbated the issue, leading to school dropout and increased risks of social, psychological, cognitive, and behavioral issues. The study concluded that drug and substance abuse significantly affects students' educational outcomes and overall well-being. Recommendations included: MOE should consider developing counseling and rehabilitation programs for youth, especially secondary school students, to address drug addiction and facilitate reintegration into society. School administrations should adopt supportive approaches, such as counseling students and their parents/guardians, instead of using corporal punishment, suspensions, or expulsions, which may increase absenteeism and engagement in criminal behavior. The community, through religious leaders, local administrations, parents, and guardians, should initiate programs to educate adolescents on the dangers of drug and substance abuse and encourage behavior change.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter highlights the context of the study, identifying key issues of research which includes the background of the study, the problem statement, the purpose and objectives of the study, research hypotheses, and the conceptual framework. Additionally, it outlines the significance of the study, its scope, and the limitations encountered during the research process.

1.1 Background of the Study

According to Rees et al (2019), a drug refers to any solid chemical, liquid or an amorphous substance obtained from animals, plants or even mineral materials which is applied both internally and externally to create some desirable effects in the human body. When used properly and appropriately, drugs help in the general maintenance of people's quality of life and promotes their well-being.

Drug abuse, formerly known as drug misuse, is the usage of particular substances like drug to produce pleasant sensations in the brain. There are about 190 million consumers of drugs in the globe, and the issue has increasing at alarming rates, especially among young adults under the age of 30 (Steinberg, 2020).

In the global perspective, drug abuse has been identified as a major issue that has affected a huge population of students in learning institutions and young people across all spheres of life. The UNDCP highlighted that drug dependence is associated with psychoactive characteristics of persistently seeking the drug. This always leads to the pattern of treatment, recovery process and relapse which occurs most often. As a result of these occurrences, drug abuse has been perceived as a persistent recurrent illness (Grella et al., 2018).

According to Sikiru & Babu (2021), drug and substance abuse is an ever expanding problem and is recognized as a threat with serious effects on people's health, security, socio economic and cultural welfare. Domestic and international PIRLS results have also revealed that there is a high level of drug and substance usage among pupils with varying preference rates. A report from United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) revealed that 49% of students abuse alcohol.

This has made a significant contribution to the spread of HIV/AIDS since alcohol abuse can lead to risky sexual behaviour as it affects judgment and decision making.

The use of illegal drugs has extended itself very fast, and the existence of its presence and usage is detected in every part of the world. Consequently, not one country in Africa, and possibly the remaining parts of the planet, is capable of having become immune to the effects produced by medicines and substances. Throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, drugs pose a very big problem today and it is ruining the lives of many millions of people both the students in school and the general population. Trafficking of hard drugs like marijuana into developing countries within Africa's sub-Saharan region has led to school dropout and consequently wide ranging destruction of life and property (Kingala, 2019).

The emerging African nations, Kenya included, have been wedged up through the haphazard utilization, misuse and reliance on substances of diverse varieties. Africa has resulted to be a chief focal point for distribution of drugs. Information as per criminal justice agencies revealed that the Probation Service supervised 3,588 lawbreakers accused of misuse and trafficking of drugs, of which 406 were young individuals (Yamada et al, 2019). Similarly, in Kenya, the then National Agency for Campaign against Drug Abuse (NACADA) director, noted that offenses and violent behavior had been rising for the reason of drug abuse. The Kenyan nation is renowned to be a significant transportation spot for the southern African market. Mombasa Port and in Jomo Kenyatta International Airport are suspected chief entrance spots (NACADA, 2018).

Kenya has not been spared on drug and substance abuse and in most cases it has been as a transit point of hard drugs especially through Nairobi and Mombasa. Factors influencing students to drugs abuse in Kenya have been identified among them being parental influence whereby it has been noted that Children from drug-using families tend to copy their parents' behaviors, and as a result, they begin to use drugs. School factors can also influence students to drug abuse. How the institution's management handles student concerns may contribute to drug misuse. Tight handedness, lack of independence, and inability to handle educational concerns typically produce stress that can lead to abuse of drugs as depressors and this already has been seen in most secondary schools in Kenya (Ngesu *et al.*, 2018).

According to Fally and Roberts (2020), 22% of secondary school students have dropped out of school due to marijuana abuse and it has been found out that most of these students are male. Poverty also encourages drug abuse like marijuana among pupils as a result of their laziness and absence. As a result of zero money to cover educational expenses, with the accessibility of and exposure to drugs at the community kiosks, the inactivity may in some way support the high incidence of drug abuses amongst learners attending high schools. (Fally and Roberts, 2020). It is upon this background that the investigator carried out a study on effects drug and alcohol misuse on secondary school students in Siaya Township Ward, Siaya County.

1.2 Statement of Research Problem

In the last few years, stakeholders attempting to address the drug and substance abuse problem have intensified their campaigns for the prevention and reduction of drug abuse among the youth. The specific efforts have come through the establishment of such agencies as the NACADA and the formulation of the Drug Control Master Plan. However, despite the huge efforts and resources committed to the cause, a high prevalence and rising rates of drug and substance abuse have been reported in Kenya lately. This is probably an indicator that stakeholders do not understand the real contributory factors especially in areas where drug abuse is reportedly rampant (Johnston & O'Malley, 2019).

Drug abuse is responsible for mental, physical, emotional or social problems. At the worst, it leads to death among the abusers or crime commission by those under the influence of drugs. Despite the youth being sensitized about the hazards of the behavior, they continue to abuse the drugs. This leads one to assume that there have been little or no efforts to understand from the youth themselves how the problem of drug abuse by the youth could be addressed (Evans, 2021).

Most of the schools lack clear school policies on drug and substance abuse. This affects the school children leading to lack of concentration, high absenteeism and dropout rates which prevent children from realizing their full potential in education (The Standard Newspaper, 2018). Drug education has tended to focus on providing clinical information about drugs or employing scare tactics to portray the dangers of drug abuse. Neither approach has proved too successful. Students need to be aware of how drugs will affect them and what could happen in their lives. Successful drug education and awareness among students needs to address the realistic consequences of

abusing drugs since when they become addicted, the students are no longer in control (GOK, 2020). This therefore necessitates a study to establish the facts about the effects of medical drug and alcohol abuse on secondary school students in Siaya Township Ward, Siaya County.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

This paper aimed at finding out the impact that drug and substance abuse have on secondary school students in Siaya Township Ward, Siaya County.

1.4 Conceptual Framework

Dependent Variable

Independent Variable

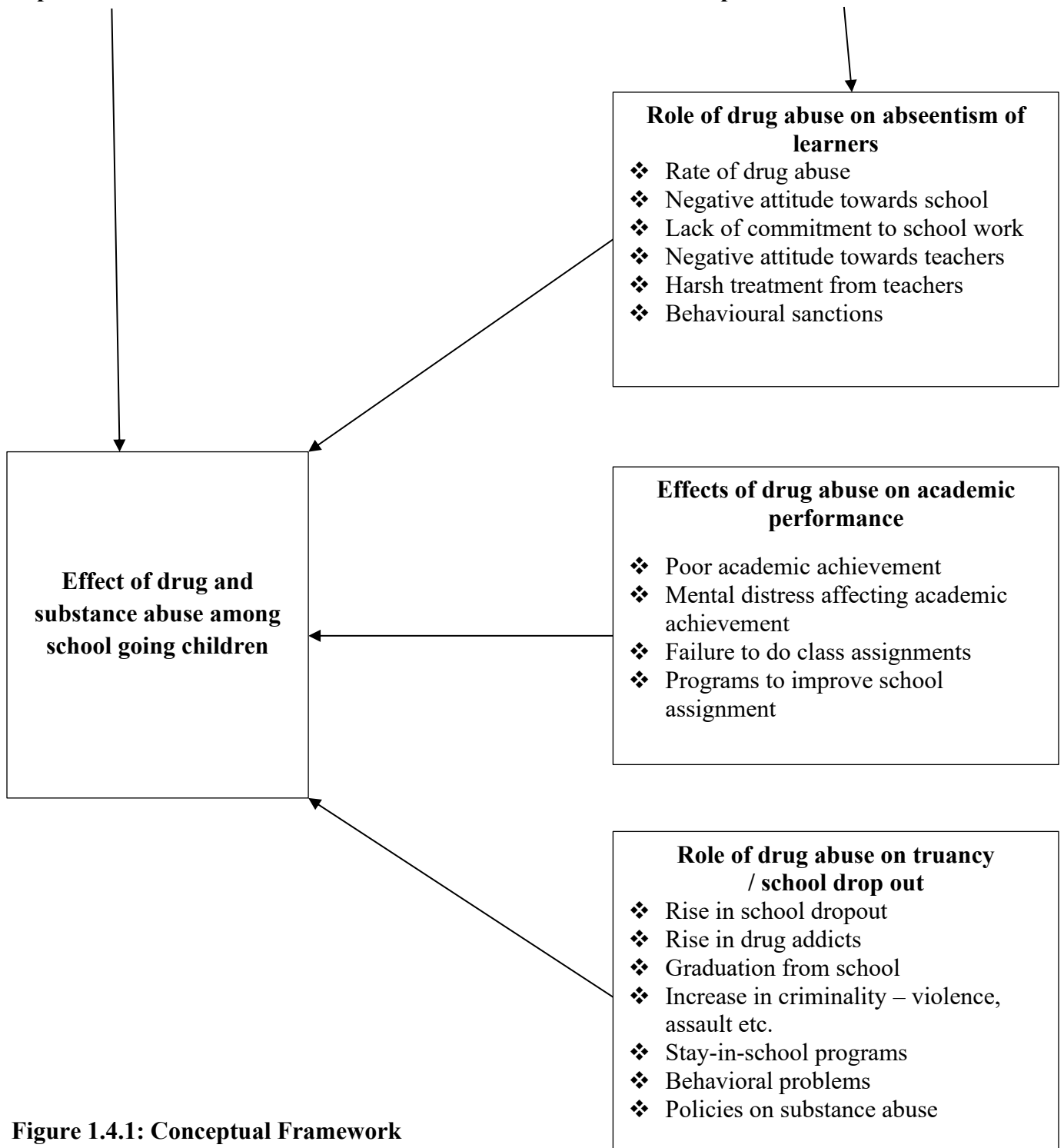


Figure 1.4.1: Conceptual Framework

1.5 Research Questions

1. What is the role of drug and substance abuse on absenteeism of learners in Siaya Township ward, Siaya County?
2. What are the effects of drug abuse on academic performance of learners in Siaya Township ward, Siaya County?
3. What is the role of drug abuse on truancy/ school drop out among learners in Siaya Township Ward, Siaya County?

1.6 Objectives of the Study

1.6.1 General Objective

To fund out the major effect of drug and substance abuse among secondary school students in Siaya Township ward, Siaya County

1.6.2 Specific Objectives

1. To evaluate the role of drug and substance abuse on absenteeism of learners in Siaya Township ward, Siaya County.
2. To evaluate drug and substance misuse affects students' academic achievement in Siaya Township ward, Siaya County.
3. To analyze the role of drug and substance abuse on truancy/ school dropout among learners in Siaya Township Ward, Siaya County.

1.7 Hypotheses of the Study

- H₀: Substance and drug addiction among secondary school students is more likely to lead to absenteeism among learners.
- H₀: Substance and drug addiction among secondary school students is more likely to lower their academic performance.
- H₀: Drug and substance abuse among secondary school students is more likely to lead to school dropout / truancy.

1.8 Significance of the Study

Many young people ignore the fact that drug and substance abuse may contribute in many undesirable effects. This is because they are not well educated about the effects. This research would benefit the students involved in drug and substance abuse to know the effects such as school dropouts, becoming drug addicts, poor performance, frequent absenteeism in school among others and this may make them change their attitude towards drugs and substance abuse. The study would also act as a warning to those who sell or supply drugs and substances mostly abused by students to stop with immediate effect. The study would be important to the parents and guardians to start monitoring their children behaviours and also counsel them appropriately on the effects of drugs and substance abuse. Community would have a responsible future generation. Other researchers who would have interest in the same area of study would use the study findings as a point of reference.

1.9 Scope of the Study

The study focused on effects of drug and substance abuse among secondary school students and it was confined to secondary school students residing in Siaya Township ward because of the limited resources (i.e. time and finances) to conduct the study. The study was carried out for one month.

1.10 Limitation of the Study

The amount used to conduct the study exceeded the budget allocated for the study. The researcher was therefore forced to source for funds elsewhere to enable her complete the research in good time.

Reaching the students was challenging since during the weekdays they were fully in except for the ones who were absent. Alternatively, She also consulted the community members to identify the secondary school students especially the ones known to be drug addicts and interviewed them.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The abuse of both legal and illicit drugs is a concern that affects the entire globe and remains a serious risk to one's life, the community, and politics stability and security in many countries. Africa has a large youthful and vulnerable population, and this has turned into the primary market for drug traffickers. This adds up to over 56% of the population having age range 14-19 years, which constitutes secondary school students. (United Nations, 2017). According to an international summit on drug misuse held in Nairobi, young people in consuming nations are the most vulnerable group of the population, especially those in the period of early and late adolescence who are mostly unable to resist peer pressure and start experimenting with drugs in schools or even outside school. The international conference pushed for quick forceful measures that would change the trend (Muthigani, 2020).

2.2 Empirical Framework

Drug and substance abuse's effect on observable consequences for secondary school students, namely absenteeism, academic performance, and dropout, are presented in the empirical framework. Insights are grounded on prior studies, correlational analyses and thematic observations as documented in the literature.

2.2.1 Role of drug and substance abuse on absenteeism of learners

Substance use has been found to have an impact on school absenteeism among adolescents. Several researches have indicated that reductions in substance use, particularly alcohol and drug use, are associated with increased school attendance. In one study, decreases in the frequency of alcohol, stimulants, and other drug use were each independently associated with higher likelihoods of school attendance (Kandel, 2018).

Teenagers that take drugs tend to have poorer relationships with their parents, stronger ties to their peers, poorer grades, more negative attitudes about school, and low self-esteem; in addition, they are more often absent from school, less religious, more depressed, more rebellious, and higher in risk-taking behavior and participate more frequently in delinquent activities (Brook et al., 2017).

School absenteeism has constantly been pointed out as a major problem associated with drug abuse, but we also perceive school absences to grade retention, learning difficulties as students' lack of commitment towards their formation. Despite public schools favoring the building of resilience in adolescents, they lack better structure, adequacy to curriculum matrices, more qualified teachers and better pedagogical approaches on this particular issues. School absenteeism associated with drug abuse requires a joint inter-sectoral and inter-professional collaboration to find more complete and complex solutions for the problem (Tavares et al., 2019).

Schools Administration considerations pertain to how personnel responsible with managing student affairs are trained and equipped to plan, mobilize, allocate and instill the necessary control for the attainment of the institutional goals. Uncooperativeness of the school administration, harsh treatment, and lack of freedom on the side of teachers and students' failure to have their grievances addressed creates stress which can lead to the abuse of drugs that may eventually lead to frequent school absenteeism (Kaguthi, 2020).

Indeed, drug and substance abuse among students do lead to school absenteeism. Kimathi (2017) in his research on the consequences of abuse of drugs on the performance of students in Meru County established that there were many cases of reported absenteeism at school. Per the study, 89.9% of the students confirmed that during the past year they have faked permission to stay away from school due to drug/ substance abuse related reasons. This is a clear indication that there were many cases of absenteeism resulting from drug abuse. 92.2% claimed that they had taken a sick off at school after the weekend due to drug/substance abuse related reasons. The reason behind this might be the fact that most of the students were addicted to drugs and substance abuse (Kimathi, 2017).

Students' attendance at school and their lessons is essential to getting the intended outcome from education and training activities. To ensure the effectiveness of educational initiatives and improvements, students must first go to school. Among the major awareness and reduction of absenteeism-causing variables as well as the repercussions are among the responsibilities of education management on educational environments. The high absence rate is especially visible at the higher secondary school level. (Kose, 2018).

Therefore, absences are reported inside the student record by the class teacher who may then inform the school administration in secondary schools, and the administrators monitor them. The parents of the students, school administrations, and County directorates of national education, education inspectors and civilian administration Authorities are expected to ensure student attendance in line with regulations of Education Law. The school administration instantly notifies the parent of any kid who has entered the first lesson but does not attend the next one or more lessons without an excuse. (Ministry of Education, 2019).

Regulations on attendance in secondary schools are included in The Ministry of National Education's Regulation on Secondary Education Institutions. Accordingly, It is required that students attend school. Parents have a responsibility to make sure their children attend school. The major reasons for absenteeism among students can also be put forward as personal reasons for absenteeism, there are reasons such as dislike of school, academic failure, lack of purpose, and lack of self-confidence. Health difficulties are claimed to be the leading excuse for absence induced by the students themselves. (Sonmez et al., 2019).

2.2.2 Effects of substance misuse on academic achievement.

Abuse of drugs and other substances is one of the strongest predictor of poor academic performance among students. Some students use substance for good academic performance. Abuse of drugs and other substances is inversely proportional to academic achievement. Academic performance and drug abuse initiation in adolescents, shows three trajectories of academic performance which are; among persistently higher achievers 7.1% students were drug abusers, 15.1% were drug abusers among average academic achievers while 49.1% were drug abusers among unstable and low achievers (Stibby et al., 2022).

Drugs have a negative impact on pupils' concentration spans, causing ennui to set in much faster than it does for non-drug and substance users. The students will lose passion in institutions programs including extra curriculum activities. Most psychoactive substances influence the decision-making process of the students, thinking beyond the box and developing important life and social skills are hindered. Additionally, they interfere with people's understanding of their unique abilities and interests. Thus affecting their career development (Kikuvi, 2019).

Drug use among students has been found to have a significant impact on academic attendance. Studies have shown that high levels of drug and substance abuse are related to lower grade point averages and an increased likelihood of failing subjects. Additionally, binge drinking has been found to interfere with academics on specific days, leading to missed classes and decreased attendance. Excessive drug abuse has also been linked to a higher likelihood of discontinuing from studies and losing sight of academic ambitions. The negative effects of alcohol use on academic attendance are further supported by research that shows a clear relationship between alcohol consumption and poor academic performance (Kikuvi, 2019).

Substance abuse is becoming a major concern among students, the use of substance is known for its significant association with mental distress and consequently this mental distress can affect the students' academic performance negatively. Drug abuse depends on educational level; those who are more educated having less chances of being drug abusers and the study also showed that prevalence of drug abuse decreased with increase in educational level (Crum et al., 2020).

Drug and substance abuse is negatively associated with academic performance. Students with poorer grades had greater tendency to smoking than those who had good grades. Drug abuse predicated lower educational performance and lower school performance of adolescents predicated higher likelihood of their engagement in smoking behavior. Ten (10) percent of students with great academics reported weekly smoking, whereas 50 percent of students with poor marks did (Morin et al., 2018).

Studies have demonstrated that there a clear link between drug abuse and academic failure. Addicted minors may miss school more often and may have difficulty focusing on school when in class. Drug use can lead juveniles to become withdrawn from their peer group and can increase depression, which has a significant effect on a child's academic performance. According to research, kids who excel academically are not as likely to abuse drugs as classmates with lower grades and students who refrain from drug use receive higher marks than those who engage in drug and alcohol use. Drug abuse has been shown to cause cognitive and behavioral issues in minors which can interfere with academic performance and can create obstacles to learning from their teachers and from peers (Johnston et al., 2019).

Gottfredson (2017) suggested that schools should include programmes designed to improve students' social behavior and academic performance. The students who have poor academic planning may find themselves with so much problems to read few days to their examinations. They use drugs to keep them awake of night or to forget the anxiety and fears of the examination.

Use of cigarette from very early ages has been associated with poor academic performance which starts by impeding the victims' motivation in academics. Smoking leads to psychological and physical problems which in effect make it difficult for the students to concentrate in their studies, hence scoring poor grades. Missing of classes for example is a fairly typical scenario among tobacco addicts because they wish to stay away and have time to smoke, or simply because they cannot. Concentrate for long hours in classes without smoking (Turner et al., 2019).

2.2.3 Role of drug and substance abuse on truancy/ school dropout among learners

There have been even fewer studies, of the potential differences between terminal dropouts and People who attended school and got drop out but later on, acquired a GED or a General Education Development certificate. In particular, van Wormer and Toepler's research identifies that no study focuses on determining relationship between dropping out of school and drug use... The absence is even the more shocking given the significant growth in drug usage over the last two decades and the effects of drugs on young people is a source of major societal concern. The potential effects of drug use on leaving school remain to be established (Kandel 2020).

High school dropout rates have risen as a result of substance abuse. SAMHSA research shows that youths in 12th grade 16-18 years old who failed in school and did not graduate are more inclined towards cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, and other illicit substances as compared to other learners. Specifically, students who dropout indulge in more cases of illicit drugs than what would be expected compared to other students. (31.4 percent vs. 18.2 percent). Dropouts were more likely to be drug users than those in school (27.3 percent vs. 15.3 percent) and non-medical users of prescription drugs (9.5 percent vs. 5.1 percent). Adolescents who use marijuana or other drugs, smoke, drink alcohol, binge drink, or use other substances are far less probable than those who were not users to graduate from high school, enroll in college, or obtain a college degree (Johnston et al., 2019).

Evidence indicates a connection involving school dropout and unlawful conduct, such as assault, violence, and offences involving drugs. Due to this research, several writers propose that high school dropouts may experience higher risk for problems related to the use of nicotine, alcohol, cannabis, and other illegal drugs (Johnston et al., 2019).

Substance use disorders have significantly correlated with school dropout. It is well established that greater educational attainment is positively associated with health and wellbeing during adulthood. Research indicates a robust correlation between inadequate school attachment and drug abuse. Truancy is defined as deliberate and unreasonable absence. Absence from compulsory education, was associated with the higher risk of initiating alcohol, marijuana, and nicotine use among adolescents living in the cities and considered to be at-risk (Dishion et al., 2018).

In trying to understand how it might happen that dropouts are more likely to be substance users, the possibility should be considered that substance use has caused some people to drop out of school, as well as the possibility that some schools suspend or expel students for smoking tobacco, drinking alcohol, or using other drugs. By themselves, these circumstances could be enough to explain why high school dropouts are more likely to have taken illicit drugs or started underage smoking or drinking (Brooks, 2018).

In addition, when students drop out before graduating from high school, they often begin spending more time with older youths and adults, some of whom serve as role models for substance use and who may give the dropouts cigarettes or offer them opportunities to try alcohol or other drugs for the first time. As a result, not only is there the possibility that substance use may lead to dropping out, but it is also possible that dropping out may lead to substance use (Crum et al., 2020).

In the meantime, the broad range of unfortunate effects of leaving school early makes it important to sustain and increase the vigor of stay-in-school programs as well as outreach programs for youths people consistently miss school or who actually have dropped out before graduation. These initiatives might benefit young people individually, as well as their families and society at large, in a variety of ways in the preparation for adult life, but also reduce the amount of substance use in the teenage years, prevent the occurrence of alcohol and drug problems in adulthood, and possibly prevent other psychiatric disorders such as major Depression (Hawkins et al., 2021).

Many Punishment is the main emphasis of school regulations regarding drug use and possession by pupils. Punitive measures for all student behavior, not just the usage or possession of drugs – hurt academic outcomes and often lead to suspension and expulsion of students who need support. Such policies disproportionately harm students of color, they are more prone to disciplined than their white peers and prevent students from receiving the services they need. While supportive approaches to adolescent substance abuse lead to better academic results, punitive measures cause disruptions in the classroom and, in many circumstances, more often for youth of color – lead to involvement within the system of juvenile justice and a higher likelihood of dropout (Henderson, 2018).

Truants are a group of people who are considered to be at high risk because to their propensity for underage drinking, illicit drug use, and criminal activity, as well as their variety of social, psychological, cognitive, and behavioral issues. Adolescent drug use has been repeatedly linked by researchers to high rates of truancy and other indicators of subpar academic performance. Been linked to high rates of absenteeism and various indicators of subpar academic performance while individual students are more likely to initiate substance use in schools where truancy levels are high. The absence of these young people has been one reason why school studies are considered to underestimate the actual levels of drug maltreatment among young people. With the focus on early intervention in this day and age, truants are a crucial population to keep an eye on and comprehend with a view to developing selective prevention interventions (McCrystal et al., 2018).

2.3 Theoretical Framework

This study was guided by the Learning Theory. Learning theory contends that the lessons we absorb from our social surroundings, our upbringing, and our experiences with drugs and alcohol experiences. For instance, watching a parent or peer smoke or vape may have an impact on a young person's decision to start doing the same. Does the young person perceive substance usage as a happy or negative experience? These findings "can provide models that demonstrate how to obtain and use these chemicals and impart useful expedencies for their results. (Moos, 2017)

2.4 Summary of Literature Review

It's clear that drug and Substance misuse is becoming more prevalent among school going children. There had not been much study done in this field. Other than drug abuse, there were other

factors that were positively related to absenteeism, academic performance, school drop among others. However, the current research limited its study to drug and substance abuse and its effect among students. This does not disregard or purport that additional factors that could affect the dependent variable are irrelevant.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter highlighted the methodological details appropriate to the study. The methodology in this study was broken into the following sub sections; Study Design, Study Area, Target Population, Sampling Technique, Sample Size, Measurement Variables, Research Instruments, Validity of Measurements, Reliability of measurements, Data Collection Technique, Data Analysis, Logistical and Ethical Consideration.

3.1 Research design

Research design is a plan that shows how all the major parts of the research project work together to try to address the research questions. Descriptive survey design was adopted in the study since the researcher collected data from secondary school students within the community i.e. Siaya Township Ward on effects of drug and substance abuse by use of primary data that was obtained from the questionnaire

3.2 Study Area

The study was conducted in Siaya Township Ward, within Siaya County. Siaya Township Ward was chosen because it has the largest number of secondary schools within Siaya County and of late it has been pointed out with a lot of concern that many secondary students indulge in deviant behaviours associated with drug and substance abuse.

3.3 Target Population

The target population for this study consisted of 300 secondary school students in Siaya Township Ward, Siaya County. Stratified random sampling was used to ensure representation across different school years, genders, groups. These students were selected to assess the impact of substance abuse on absenteeism, academic performance, and school dropout rates.

3.4 Sampling Technique

Data collection was carried through stratified random sampling in order to encompass all minorities in the target population. The subjects were first categorized into strata with regard to school year, gender, and type of school. The sampling technique used was purposive sampling,

participants were selected from each stratum to make sure the each group was subjected in the sample by equal percentage. This method eliminated bias and improved the validity of the results and the conclusions made therein because it tailored the results to include a vast panorama of experiences and views on the use of drugs and substances among secondary school students in Siaya Township Ward.

3.5 Sample Size Determination

$$n = \frac{N}{(1 + N(e)^2)}$$

Where:

n = sample size

N = target population of the study (300 students)

e = the margin of error or confidence interval (5%)

Therefore;

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \frac{300}{(1 + 300 (0.05)^2)} \\ &= 171 \text{ respondents} \end{aligned}$$

3.6 Measurement Variable

Table 3.6.1: Measurement Variables

Variable	Measures / Indicator	Measurement Scale
Drug and substance abuse on absenteeism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Rate of drug abuse ❖ Negative attitude towards school ❖ Lack of commitment to school work ❖ Negative attitude towards teachers ❖ Harsh treatment from teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Number of drug abusers ❖ Number of school attendance ❖ Doing class assignments ❖ Relationship between students and teachers ❖ Teachers' reaction to students
Drug and drug misuse's effects on academic achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Poor academic achievement ❖ Mental distress affecting academic achievement ❖ Failure to do class assignments ❖ Programs to improve school assignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Performance in summative examinations ❖ Reaction of students while sober ❖ Home works and other assignments
Drug and substance abuse on school dropout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Rise in school dropout ❖ Rise in drug addicts ❖ Graduation from school ❖ Increase in criminality – violence, assault etc. ❖ Stay-in-school programs ❖ Behavioral problems ❖ Policies on substance abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Number of students who drop out of school ❖ Number who complete Form 4 ❖ Number of violence, assaults, vandalism etc. in school ❖ Deviant behaviours realized

3.7 Research Instruments

The use of a questionnaire was preferred instead of an interview because of the independence of the questions in the study context. During the data collection process some of the respondents were drinking and they could not attempt answering the questionnaires. Also, some of the respondents may lose or tear the questionnaires while others may not be in a position to fill the questionnaires but prefer to be interviewed. This way, the questionnaire consisted of both the close ended in addition to the open ended questions because the researchers needed to ensure that the questionnaires met the objectives of the study. The design of the questionnaire was kept consistent with the research objectives in order to collect the right information.

3.8 Validity of Measurements

The validity of the instrument was ensured by aligning the questionnaire with the study's objectives, making sure they effectively captured the experiences of students regarding drug and substance abuse. Both the interviews and questionnaires were designed to collect relevant data on absenteeism, academic performance, and school dropout rates. This approach allowed the research to gather accurate and meaningful information directly related to the research questions, providing valuable insights into the impact of substance abuse on students in Siaya Township Ward, Siaya County.

3.9 Reliability of Measurements

Structured questionnaire questions were asked and answered in the same manner to maintain reliability of the measurements. Both these tools were made to collect the required data repeatedly, and for this the same questions were posed to the respondents. This approach was useful since it created more reliability in the data collected from different participants to obtain similar results. This was key to ascertain that any determinations made by the research findings represented impacts of drug and substance abuse concerning students in Siaya Township Ward, Siaya County.

3.10 Data Collection Technique

After developing the data questionnaire, the researcher will do a pilot study to ensure that the questionnaire are eligible and based on the study objectives. The researcher obtained a research permit from the institution before embarking on the study. She then administered the research

instrument to the respondents. The collected data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and the statistical calculations were done using the MS Excel spread sheet programme.

3.11 Data Analysis

Data Analysis was done using descriptive statistics. Descriptive statistics was used by identifying the frequency of respondents on the key indicators based on the study objectives through scientific calculations to ascertain the impact of drugs and drug misuse. The findings from the tally were presented in tables, graphs and pie charts for discussion.

3.12 Logistical and Ethical Consideration

Before commencement of the study, the researcher defended the topic and its relevance for approval from the college. After approval, she proceeded with the study by first seeking permission from the area chief who allowed her carry out the study within Siaya Township Ward through the letter obtained from the learning institution. After which she obtained approval from the respondents who were secondary students who engaged in drug and substance abuse.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction

After data collection, the researcher analyzed the collected data, presented the findings in tables, graphs and pie charts and then discussed the findings based on the study objectives as shown in this chapter.

4.1 Demographic Information

Table 4.1.1: Age of respondent

Age in years	Frequency	Percentage (%)
14 – 17	108	63
18 - 20	51	30
Above 20	12	7
Total	171	100

Table 4.1.1 above indicates that most of respondents (63%) were aged between 14 – 17 years, 30% were aged between 18 – 20 years and the least (7%) were above 20 years of age.

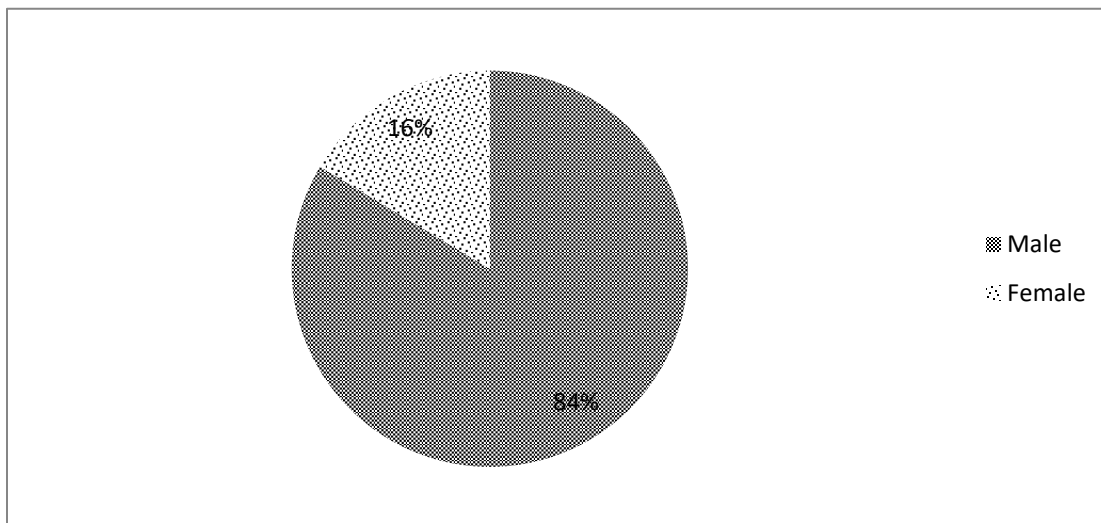


Figure 4.1.1: Gender of respondent

Figure 4.1.1 above indicates that majority of respondents (84%) were male while minority (16%) were female.

Table 4.1.2: Respondents' Classes

Respondents' classes	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Form One	7	4
Form Two	29	17
Form Three	88	51
Form Four	47	27
Total	171	100

Table 4.1.2 above indicates that most of respondents (51%) were in Form three, 27% were in Form Four, 17% were in Form Two and the least (4%) were in Form One.

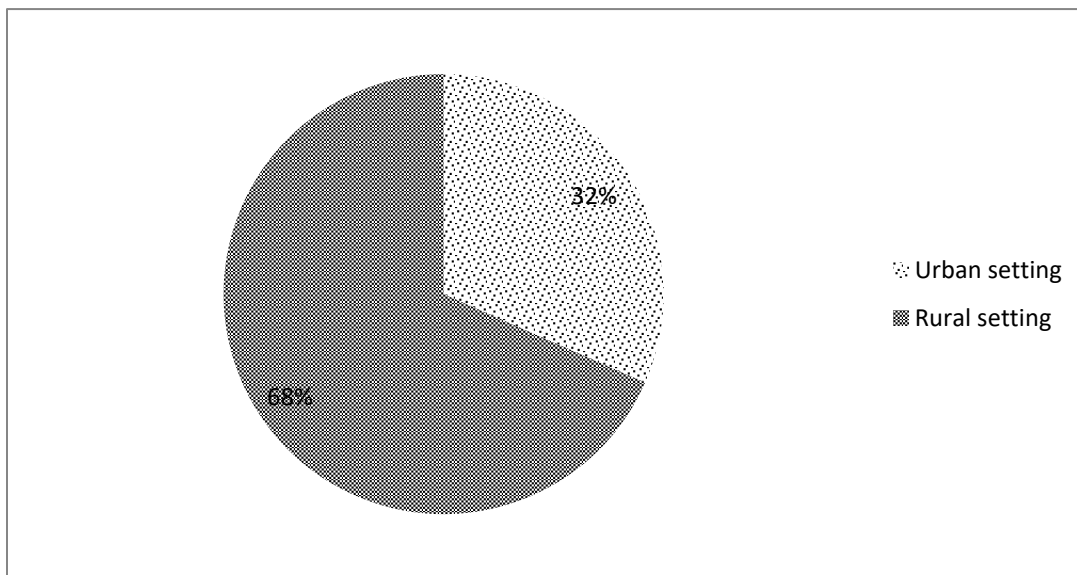


Figure 4.1.2: Respondents' place of residence

Figure 4.1.2 above indicates that majority of respondents (68%) resided in rural setting while minority (32%) resided in urban setting.

Table 4.1.3: Type of family respondents come from

Type of family	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single Parent	66	39
Both Parents	93	54
Orphan	12	7
Total	171	100

Table 4.1.3 above indicates that most of respondents (54%) had both parents, 39% had single parents and the least (7%) were orphans.

4.2 Role of drug abuse on absenteeism of learners

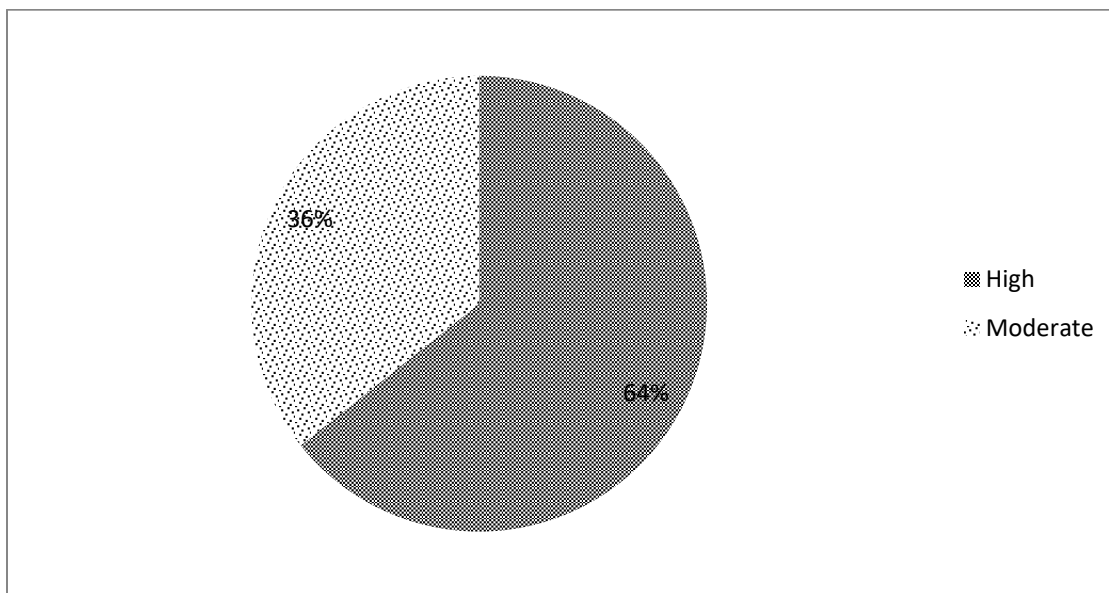


Figure 4.2.1: Rating of drug and substance abuse in the area

Figure 4.2.1 above indicates that majority of respondents (64%) said there is high rate of drug and substance abuse in the area. The finding is in line with (Tavares et al., 2019) who said school absenteeism has constantly been pointed out as a major problem associated with drug abuse.

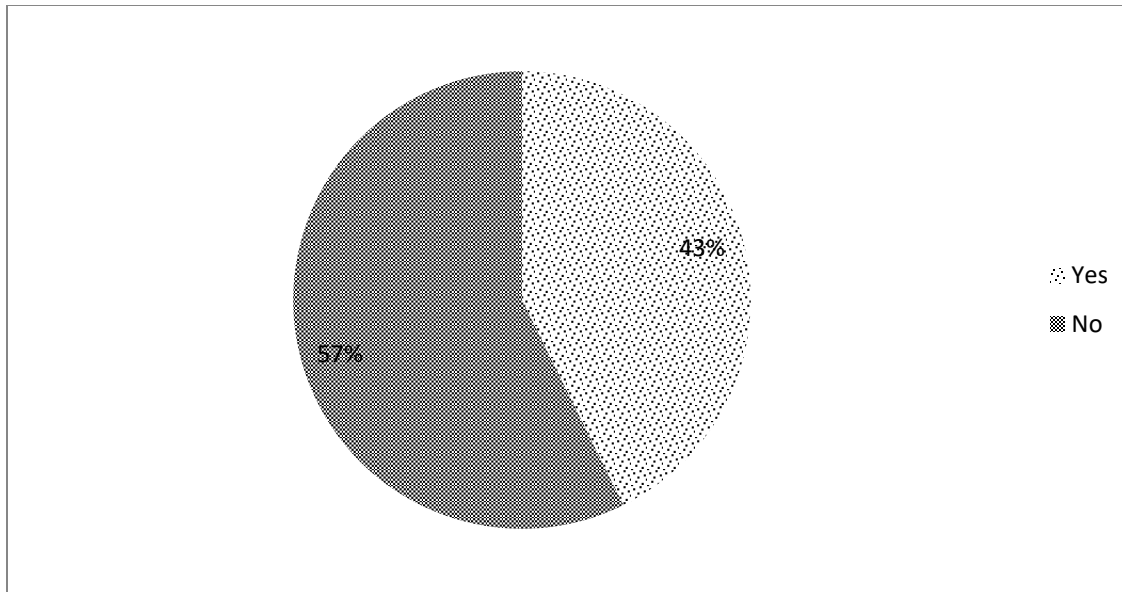


Figure 4.2.2: Respondents attend school frequently

Figure 4.2.2 above indicates that majority of respondents (57%) did not attend school frequently. The finding contradicts (Sonmez et al., 2019) who said regulations on attendance in secondary schools are included in The Ministry of National Education's Regulation on Secondary Education Institutions. Accordingly, It is required that students attend school. Parents have a responsibility to make sure their children attend school.

Table 4.2.1: Reasons why respondents don't attend school frequently

Reason	Frequency	Frequency (%)
Lack of interest in school work	56	57
Due to sick off	10	10
Influence of drugs	32	33
Total	98	100

Table 4.2.1 above indicates that most of respondents (57%) did not attend school frequently because of lack of interest in school work. The findings are in line with (Sonmez et al., 2019) who said The major reasons for absenteeism among students can also be put forward as personal reasons for absenteeism, there are reasons such as dislike of school, academic failure, lack of purpose, and lack of self-confidence.

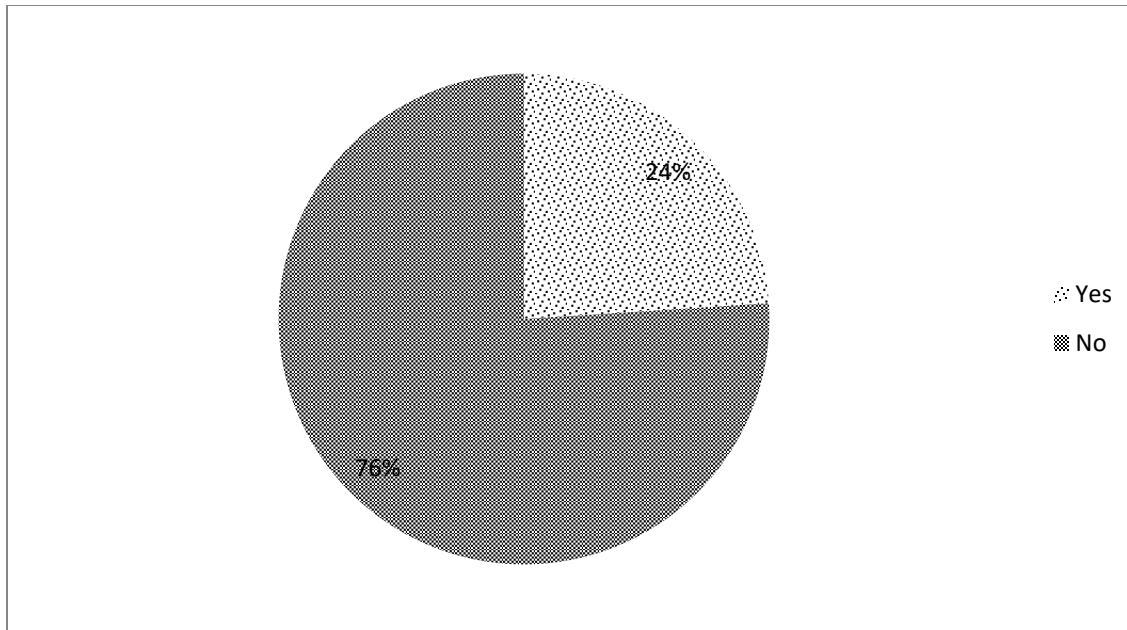


Figure 4.2.3: Respondents complete all the assignments given by teachers and in time

Figure 4.2.3 above indicates that majority of respondents (76%) do not complete all the assignments given by teachers in time.

Table 4.2.2: Reasons why respondents do not complete all the assignments given by teachers and in time

Response	Frequency	Frequency (%)
Frequent absenteeism	79	61
Lack of interest in school work	34	26
No follow ups done on assignments	17	13
Total	130	100

Table 4.2.2 above indicates that most of respondents (61%) did not complete all the assignments given by teachers in time due to frequent absenteeism from school. The findings are in line with (Kimathi, 2017) who established that there were many cases of reported absenteeism at school. 89.9% of the students confirmed that during the past year they have faked permission to stay away from school due to drug/ substance abuse related reasons. This is a clear indication that there were many cases of absenteeism resulting from drug abuse.

Table 4.2.3: Description of teachers who handle respondents in class

Description	Frequency	Frequency (%)
Arrogant and intimidating because they still practice corporal punishment in school	78	46
Careless to students since they only teach but do not do follow ups to students to ensure that all have gotten the concept	56	33
Student oriented because they are so committed to ensure that students pass their exams and are comfortable in school	37	21
Total	171	100

Table 4.2.3 above indicates that most of respondents (46%) described the teachers handling them in class as arrogant and intimidating because they still practice corporal punishment in school. The finding is in line with (Kaguthi, 2020) who stated that uncooperativeness of the school administration, stern treatment, and lack of freedom on the side of teachers and students' failure to have their grievances addressed creates stress which can lead to the abuse of drugs that may eventually lead to frequent school absenteeism.

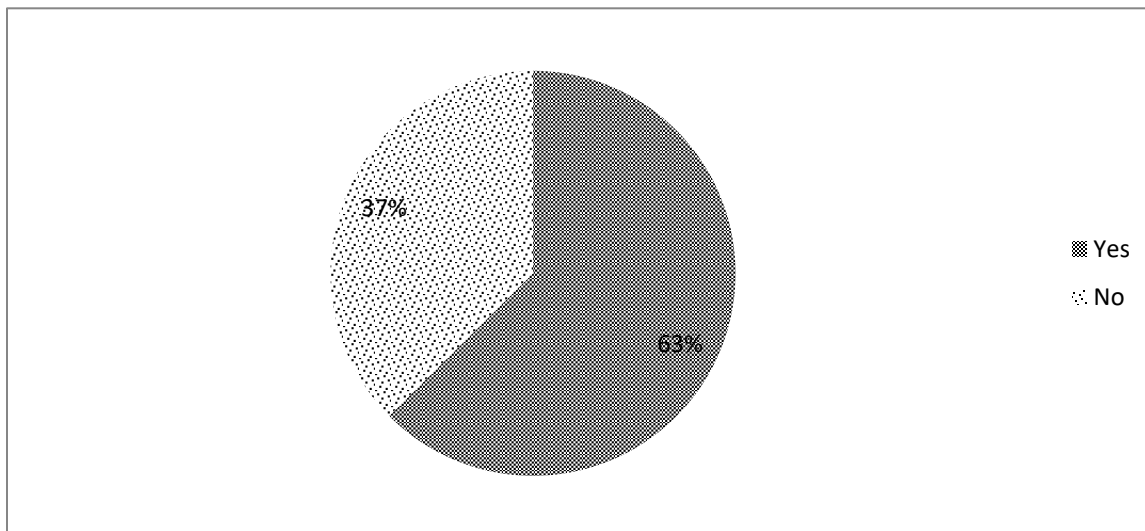


Figure 4.2.3: Respondents ever been suspended in school due to behavioural sanction

Figure 4.2.3 above indicates that majority of respondents (63%) had ever been suspended from school due to behavioural sanction. The finding relates to (Kaguthi, 2020) who stated that schools administration considerations pertain to how personnel responsible with managing student affairs are trained and equipped to plan, mobilize, allocate and instill the necessary control for the attainment of the institutional goals.

4.3 Drug and substance abuse on academic performance

Table 4.3.1: Drug and substance abuse is one of the strongest predictor of poor academic performance among students

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	84	49
Agree	61	36
Disagree	26	15
Total	171	100

Table 4.3.1 above indicates that majority of respondents (49%) strongly agreed that drug and substance abuse is one of the strongest predictor of poor academic performance amongst students. The finding concurs with (Stibby et al., 2022) who revealed that abuse of drugs and other substances is one of the strongest predictor of poor academic performance among students. Some students use substance for good academic performance. Abuse of drugs and other substances is inversely proportional to academic achievement.

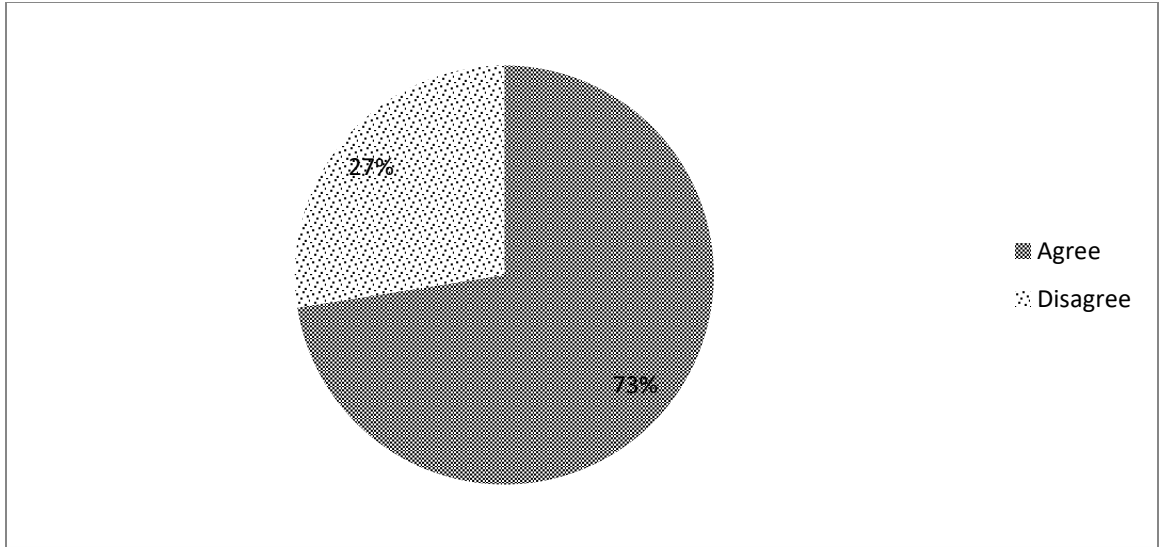


Figure 4.3.1: Drugs impact the pupils' much shorter attention span which is, the student loses interest in school work including extra curriculum activities.

Figure 4.3.1 above indicates that majority of respondents (73%) agreed that drugs impact the pupils' much shorter attention span which is, the student loses interest in school work including extra curriculum activities. This study agrees with (Kikuvi, 2019) who said drugs have a negative impact on pupils' concentration spans, causing ennui to set in much faster than it does for non-drug and substance users. The students will lose passion in institutions programs including extra curriculum activities.

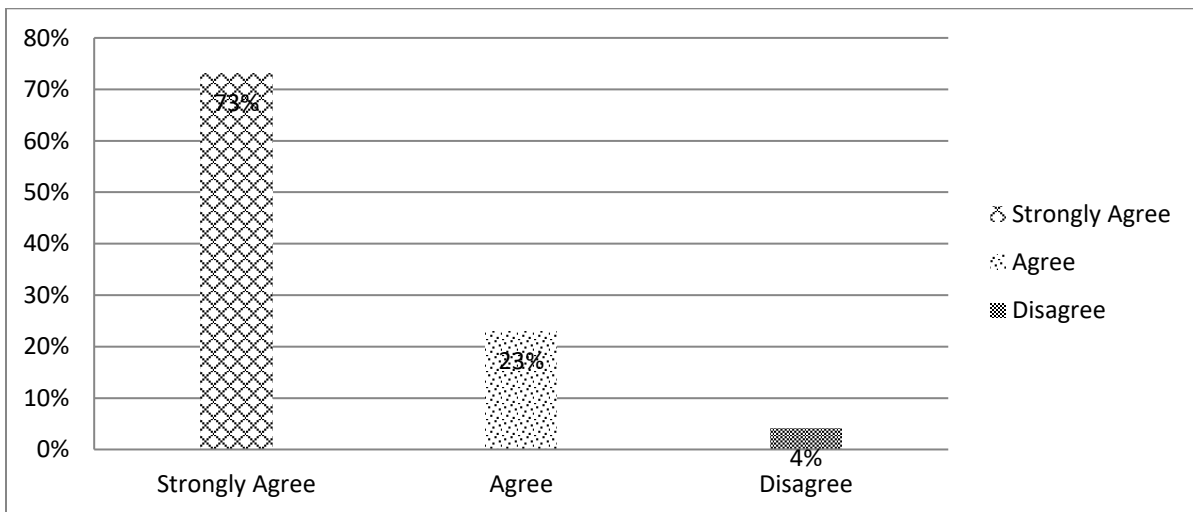


Figure 4.3.2: High levels of drug and substance abuse are related to lower grade point averages and an increased likelihood of failing subjects.

Figure 4.3.2 above indicates that most of respondents (73%) strongly agreed that high levels of drug and substance abuse are related to lower grade point averages and an increased likelihood of failing subjects. The finding agrees with (Morin et al., 2018) who revealed that students with poorer grades had greater tendency to smoking than those who had good grades. Drug abuse predicated lower educational performance and lower school performance of adolescents predicated higher likelihood of their engagement in smoking behavior.

Table 4.3.2: Drug use can lead juveniles to become withdrawn from their peer group and can increase depression, which has a significant effect on a child’s academic performance

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	171	100
Other	0	0
Total	171	100

Table 4.3.2 above indicates that all respondents (100%) strongly agreed that drug use can lead juveniles to become withdrawn from their peer group and can increase depression, which has a significant effect on a child’s academic performance. The finding agrees with (Johnston et al., 2019) who said drug use can lead juveniles to become withdrawn from their peer group and can increase depression, which has a significant effect on a child’s academic performance

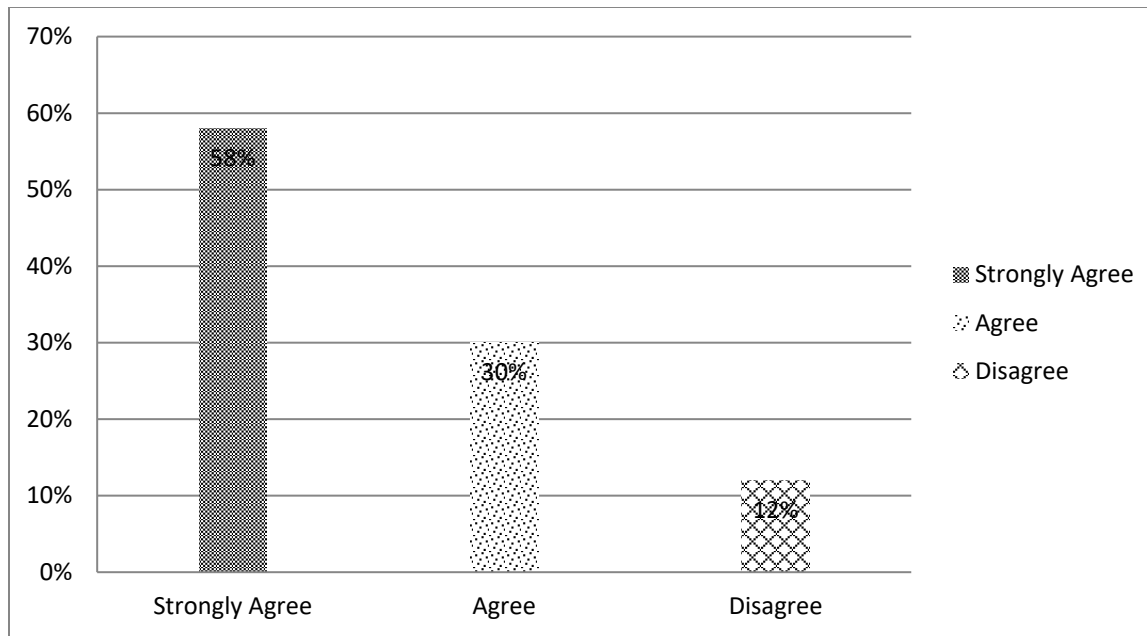


Figure 4.3.3: Drug abuse have been shown to cause cognitive and behavioral issues in minors which can interfere with academic performance and can create obstacles to learning

Figure 4.3.3 above indicates that majority of respondents (58%) strongly agreed that drug abuse have been shown to cause cognitive and behavioral issues in minors which can interfere with academic performance and can create obstacles to learning. The finding concurs with (Johnston et al., 2019) who stated that drug abuse has been shown to cause cognitive and behavioral issues in minors which can interfere with academic performance and can create obstacles to learning from their teachers and from peers.

4.4 Role of drug abuse on truancy / school dropout

Table 4.4.1: There is a drastic increase in high school drop out as a result of drug and substance abuse.

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Agree	171	100
Disagree	0	0
Total	171	100

Table 4.4.1 above indicates that all respondents (100%) agreed that there is a drastic increase in high school drop out as a result of drug and substance abuse. The finding concurs with (Johnston

et al., 2019) who said High school dropout rates have risen as a result of substance abuse. Youths in 12th grade 16-18 years old who failed in school and did not graduate are more inclined towards cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, and other illicit substances as compared to other learners.

Table 4.4.2: Drug and substance abuse may result in criminal behaviours like violence, assaults which eventually result in school dropout.

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Agree	171	100
Disagree	0	0
Total	171	100

Table 4.4.2 above indicates that all respondents (100%) agreed that drug and substance abuse may result in criminal behaviours like violence, assaults which eventually result in school dropout. The finding is in line with (Johnston et al., 2019) who revealed that evidence indicates a connection involving school dropout and unlawful conduct, such as assault, violence, and offences involving drugs.

Table 4.4.3: Truants are a high-risk group of people who are known to have a variety of social, psychological, cognitive, and behavioural issues. They are also more prone to take illegal drugs and drink alcohol when underage.

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Agree	171	100
Disagree	0	0
Total	171	100

Table 4.4.3 above indicates that all respondents (100%) agreed that truants are a high-risk group of people who are known to have a variety of social, psychological, cognitive, and behavioural issues. They are also more prone to take illegal drugs and drink alcohol when underage. The finding is in line with (McCrystal et al., 2018) who stated that truants are a group of people who are considered to be at high risk because to their propensity for underage drinking, illicit drug use, and criminal activity, as well as their variety of social, psychological, cognitive, and behavioral issues.

Table 4.4.4: Much punishment is the main emphasis of school regulations regarding drug use and possession by pupils through suspension and expulsion of students who need support.

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Agree	171	100
Disagree	0	0
Total	171	100

Table 4.4.4 above indicates that all respondents (100%) agreed that much punishment is the main emphasis of school regulations regarding drug use and possession by pupils through suspension and expulsion of students who need support. The finding agrees with (Handerson, 2018) who said a lot of punishment is the main emphasis of school regulations regarding drug use and possession by pupils. Punitive measures for all student behavior, not just the usage or possession of drugs – hurt academic outcomes and often lead to suspension and expulsion of students who need support.

Table 4.4.5: Increase in the vigor of stay-in-school programs as well as outreach programs for youths who are chronically absent from school may reduce the rate of school dropout.

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Agree	171	100
Disagree	0	0
Total	171	100

Table 4.4.5 above indicates that all respondents (100%) agreed that increase in the vigor of stay-in-school programs as well as outreach programs for youths who are chronically absent from school may reduce the rate of school dropout. The finding is in line with (Hawkins et al., 2021) who revealed that the broad range of unfortunate effects of leaving school early makes it important to sustain and increase the vigor of stay-in-school programs as well as outreach programs for youths people consistently miss school or who actually have dropped out before graduation.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

The researcher summarized the following from the study findings:

5.1.1 Socio demographic Information of respondents

Most of respondents (63%) were aged between 14 – 17 years, majority (84%) being male. Many of them (51%) were in Form 3 and most of them (68%) resided in rural setting. Majority (54%) had both parents.

5.1.2 Role of drug abuse on absenteeism of learners

There was a high rate of drug and substance abuse among the secondary school students in the area and majority of the student did not attend school frequently because of lack of interest in school work. Most of them also did not complete all the assignments given by teachers in time because of the frequent absenteeism. Many of them described the teachers handling them in class as arrogant and intimidating because they still practice corporal punishment in school and majority had ever been suspended from school due to behavioural sanction.

5.1.3 Drug and substance abuse on academic performance

Majority of students strongly agreed that drug and substance abuse is one of the strongest predictor of poor academic performance amongst students. Many agreed that drugs impact the pupils' much shorter attention span which is, the student loses interest in school work including extra curriculum activities. Majority strongly agreed that high levels of drug and substance abuse are related to lower grade point averages and an increased likelihood of failing subjects. All of them strongly agreed that drug use can lead juveniles to become withdrawn from their peer group and can increase depression, which has a significant effect on a child's academic performance and lastly, majority strongly agreed that drug abuse have been shown to cause cognitive and behavioral issues in minors which can interfere with academic performance and can create obstacles to learning.

5.1.4 Role of drug abuse of truancy / school dropout

All respondents agreed that there is a drastic increase in high school drop out as a result of drug and substance abuse; that drug and substance abuse may result in criminal behaviours like violence, assaults which eventually result in school dropout; that truants are a high-risk group of people who are known to have a variety of social, psychological, cognitive, and behavioural issues. They are also more prone to take illegal drugs and drink alcohol when underage; that much punishment is the main emphasis of school regulations regarding drug use and possession by pupils through suspension and expulsion of students who need support and lastly, that increase in the vigor of stay-in-school programs as well as outreach programs for youths who are chronically absent from school may reduce the rate of school dropout.

5.2 Conclusion

From the study findings, the researcher concluded that;

Drug and substance abuse among students has led to non-completion of assignments given by teachers in time, suspension of the students and frequent absenteeism from school.

There is lack of concentration due to loss of interest in school work that eventually result in poor performance among students who engage in drug and substance abuse.

Suspensions and expansion among students who engage in drugs and substance abuse may lead to school dropout that make them be at risk of variety of social, psychological, cognitive and behavioural issues and eventually result in criminal behaviours like violence, assaults .

5.3 Recommendations

From the study findings, the researcher recommended that;

The Ministry of Education should consider coming up with programs for youths especially the ones in secondary schools on counseling them the dangers of drug and substance abuse and those addicted should be rehabilitated to help them change their behaviours in order to be accepted back in the society.

The school administration should adopt better ways of handling the students who engage in a drug and substance abuse e.g. through counseling them together with their parents / guardians and avoid corporal punishments including suspensions and expulsion from school since this may lead to their frequent absenteeism from school and engaging in criminal behaviours within the community.

The community through religious leaders, local administrations, parents and guardians should come up with programs in their various jurisdiction of teaching the adolescents and youths on dangers of drugs and substance abuse and its consequences and educate them on behaviour change.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Map of the Study Area

Study Area



Appendix 2: Questionnaire Schedule

I am a student at Gretsia University. I am carrying out a study on the effect of drug and substance abuse among secondary school students in Siaya Township ward, Siaya County. You have been selected in order to take part in the investigation. The result from the study will contribute to dissertation to be submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Community Development of Gretsia University. Confidentiality of information given will be highly considered. I therefore seek your consent for participation.

Participant consent

I hereby consent voluntarily to participate in this study. I have been given a copy of this form

Signature of the participant

Date

.....

.....

Section A: Socio demographic Information of respondents

1. Age of respondent in years

14 – 17 []

18 – 20 []

Above 20 []

2. Gender of respondent

Male []

Female []

3. Respondent's class

Form one []

Form Two []

Form Three []

Form Four []

4. Place of residence

Urban setting []

Rural setting []

5. Type of family

Single parent []

Both parents []

Orphaned []

other (specify)

Section B: Role of drug abuse on absenteeism of learners

6. How would you rate drug and substance abuse among students in the area?

High [] Low []
Moderate []

7. a) Do you attend school frequently?

Yes [] No []

b) If No in Q7a) above, why don't you attend school frequently?

Due to Sick off [] Dislike of school []
Other (specify)

8. a) Do you complete all the assignments given by your teachers and in time?

Yes [] No []

b) If No in Q8a) above, why don't you complete all the assignments given in time?

.....
.....

9. a) How would you describe your teachers who handle you in class?

Dedicated and passionate to their work []

Student centered []

Arrogant and intimidating to students []

Other (specify)

b) Give reasons for the above description of teachers who handle you in class

.....
.....

10. Have you ever been suspended in school due to behavioural sanction?

Yes [] No []

Section C: Drug and substance abuse on academic performance

Using the Likert scale whereby SA = strongly Agree, A = Agree, D = Disagree and SD = Strongly Disagree, please state your level of agreement with the following statements on role of drug and substance abuse on academic performance

No	Statement	SA	A	D	SD
11	Drug and substance abuse is one of the strongest predicator of poor academic performance among students.				
12	Drugs impact the pupils' much shorter attention span, which is the student loses interest in school work including extra curriculum activities.				
13	High levels of drug and substance abuse are related to lower grade point averages and an increased likelihood of failing subjects.				
14	Drug use can lead juveniles to become withdrawn from their peer group and can increase depression, which has a significant effect on a child's academic performance.				
15	Drug abuse have been shown to cause cognitive and behavioral issues in minors which can interfere with academic performance and can create obstacles to learning				

Section D: Role of drug abuse on truancy / school drop out

State your level of agreement with the following statements on the of drug abuse on truancy / school drop out

No	Statement	Agree	Disagree
16	There is a drastic increase in high school drop out as a result of drug and substance abuse.		
17	Drug and substance abuse may result in criminal behaviours like violence, assaults which eventually result in school dropout.		
18	Truants are a high-risk group of people who are known to have a variety of social, psychological, cognitive, and behavioural issues. They are also more prone to take illegal drugs and drink alcohol when underage.		
19	Much punishment is the main emphasis of school regulations regarding drug use and possession by pupils through suspension and expulsion of students who need support.		
20	Increase in the vigor of stay-in-school programs as well as outreach programs for youths who are chronically absent from school may reduce the rate of school dropout.		

Thank you for your cooperation