

The Effects of Cultural Practices and Substance Abuse among Male Students at One South African College Campus

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ABSTRACT At tertiary institutions, where there are hostels, it is common for male students to cohabit and express their hegemonic masculinity. Guided by Broidy and Agnew's Gender Role Strain Theory, which is based on the idea that cultural norms influence male patriarchal attitudes, this paper investigated the effects of cultural practices and substance abuse among male students at one South African Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College Campus. In a descriptive, qualitative approach, ten Xhosa-speaking traditionally circumcised males (aged, 18-26 years) volunteered to be interviewed. To pursue trustworthiness, this study applied Lincoln and Guba's principles. Findings reveal that substance abuse is an underlying reason for male students to practice unsafe sex although some demonstrated positive self-esteem. Furthermore, the participants attributed their socially acceptable behaviour to authoritative parents and constructive peers. This study, therefore recommends that higher education institutions improve security and offer psycho-educational programmes to reduce drug use.