

Drug Abuse and the Nigerian Youth: An Empirical Review of Issues and the Need for Preventive Policy

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ABSTRACT This study examines secondary school students' perception of the consequences of substances - marijuana, alcohol, tobacco, tranquilizer, heroin and cocaine - reported to have been extensively abused in Nigeria. Subjects for the study were four hundred and fifty students drawn randomly from fifteen mixed sex as well as single sex secondary schools in Ondo State, Nigeria. The results, using a two-way Analysis of Variance, indicated that students' perception of the consequences of drug abuse does not prevent them from taking drugs. There is a significant difference between mixed and single sex secondary school students' perception of the role of school counselors. The positive perception of the role of school counselor in the prevention of drug abuse by the male drug abusers showed that school counselors were not making enough impact in the area of drug abuse and its prevention.