

**An Evaluation of Detriments and Ramifications Associated with
Substance Abuse among Out-of-school Youths of
Rural Areas in South Africa**

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ABSTRACT Globally, substance abuse by youths in rural areas appears to hinder all efforts to reduce the prevalence of this social ill. The objective of this paper is to raise debates and discourses on the underpinnings of drug abuse among the out-of-school youths and suggest solutions or newer perspectives to tackle the quagmire. The experimental design of this paper is of a quantitative approach. Principal observation from the findings show that out-of-school youths in rural areas seem to end up resorting to drug abuse for solace and comfort due to factors such as lack of resources and employment opportunities, ignorance on the detriments of drug abuse and lack of recreation. In a nutshell countries should bolster health and well-being of rural communities through investments in rural drug prevention programmes in rural schools, extracurricular and recreational activities in rural areas and monitoring and evaluation of the programmes.